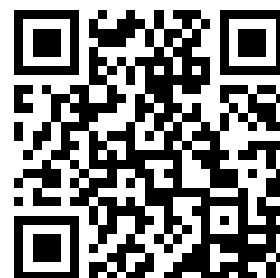


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**NON-CIRCULATING**











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COMMEMORATIVE  
HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD  
—OF—  
WOOD COUNTY,  
OHIO;  
ITS PAST AND PRESENT,

EARLY SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT; ABORIGINAL HISTORY; PIONEER HISTORY; POLITICAL ORGANIZATION;  
AGRICULTURAL, MANUFACTURING, COMMERCIAL INTERESTS, INCLUDING OIL AND GAS; HISTORY OF  
THE COUNTY, TOWNSHIPS, TOWNS AND VILLAGES; RELIGIOUS, EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL,  
POLITICAL AND MILITARY HISTORY, INCLUDING ROSTER BY TOWNSHIPS; STA-  
TISTICAL AND MISCELLANEOUS MATTER; BIOGRAPHIES AND POR-  
TRAITS OF EARLY SETTLERS AND REPRESENTATIVE  
CITIZENS, ETC.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

~ILLUSTRATED~

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## BIOGRAPHICAL.



**CAPT. LUTHER BLACK**, of Bowling Green, is one of the most prominent citizens of Wood county, throughout which he is known and esteemed, not only as a successful business man, but also for his high character, and his

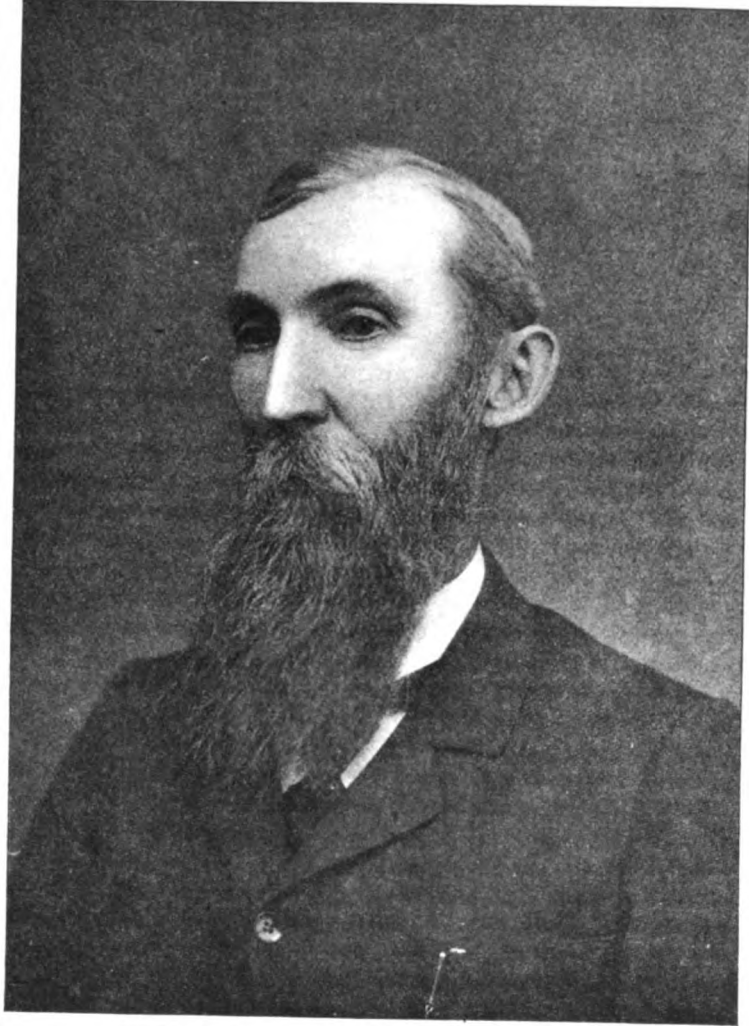
splendid record as a brave soldier in the war of the Rebellion. On his father's side he is of Irish descent, his great-grandfather having emigrated from Ireland to this country at an early day. His grandfather Black was killed by accident while raising his barn in Perry county, Ohio. On the mother's side the grandfather was of Pennsylvania-Dutch stock, while the grandmother, who was a Miss Oatley, was a native of Scotland. From these sturdy ancestors our subject has inherited the best traits—traits that have manifested themselves in his long career of useful activity.

Capt. Black was born in Washington township, Wood Co., Ohio, May 18, 1836, and is a son of John and Phœbe (Skinner) Black, the former of whom was born in Mercer county, Penn., when ten years of age moving with his parents to Perry county, Ohio. In 1831 he took up his residence in Wood county, and was one of the first three pioneers of Washington township, where at that time over one thousand Indians dwelt. While living in Perry county he married and had two children, and on removing to this county he took up some unimproved land which he cleared and converted into a productive farm, in the meantime experiencing all the trials and privations incident to the life of early settlers. In politics he was a Democrat, in religious faith an Old-school Presbyterian, and he was a man of irreproachable character. He died August 21, 1861, his wife passing away at Hull Prairie in 1883, and both are buried at Tontogany, Wood county. To this worthy couple were born seven children, of whom the following record is given: (1) William resides in Newport, Mich., where he has held the offices of deputy sheriff and collector of the port; during the Civil war he en-

listed at Olmsted Falls, Minn., and proved a brave soldier. (2) Elizabeth A. married A. P. Treadwell, and lives at Hull Prairie, Wood county. (3) Minerva J. became the wife of Joseph Jeffers, and died at Waterville, Lucas Co., Ohio. (4) Calvin lives at Washington, Kans. (5) Luther is the subject of this review. (6) Catherine married Dr. A. Eddmon, and lives at Tontogany. (7) Mary is the wife of Dr. E. R. Wood, of Belle Plaine, Kansas.

Luther Black grew to manhood on his father's farm in this county, attending the schools of that locality and those at Waterville, and also the seminary at Maumee. After leaving school, he for four years taught in the district schools of Wood county, and for two years in Champaign, Ill. About this time the whole world was electrified by the outbreak of the Civil war, and the patriotism of the young teacher induced him to lay aside his ferule for an army musket, and offer his services in defense of the stars and stripes. On April 27, 1861, he enlisted in Company B, 21st O. V. I., three-months' service, which was passed in Virginia, at the termination of which, his father having died in the meantime, he was obliged to return home in order to take charge of the family. There he remained until 1864, on May 4 of which year he organized Company B, 144th O. V. I., of which company he was made captain. While at Berryville, Va., he and seven of his men were taken prisoners by the Rebels and sent to Lynchburg, thence to Libby prison where they suffered the horrors of slow starvation, and where all except himself and one other fell victims to cruel treatment. Three months after his capture, Capt. Black was released by exchange, and his patriotic zeal being still unabated, in spite of the terrible scenes through which he had passed, he raised another company, of which he was also made captain. This was Company K, 185th O. V. I., which afterward saw much service in Kentucky in the vicinity of Cumberland Gap, where they had frequent skirmishes with the guerrillas. The regiment was mustered out at Lexington, Ky., in September, 1865.

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*L. Black*



His career as a soldier being ended by the cessation of hostilities, and the return of peace to the land, Capt. Black returned to private citizenship, and, having in the meantime purchased the old homestead, carried on farming there for two years. At the end of that time he engaged in the drug business, in Tontogany, which he conducted some eighteen years, and then, being elected county treasurer on the Republican ticket, he, in 1881, removed to Bowling Green. That responsible office he held for two terms, or four years, such being the limit of the law, fulfilling its duties in a most creditable manner. The Captain then established himself in the clothing business, and some six or seven years ago became interested in the oil wells of Wood county. On February 20, 1894, he sold out his clothing establishment, since when he has given all his attention to his oil interests. He is now a part owner in sixty-one wells in this county, and a member of various firms connected therewith, the most prominent of which is that of Black, Reese & Hazlett, who own a number of productive wells, and are doing an extensive business. He is also cultivating a couple of farms which he owns in the vicinity.

In 1860 Capt. Black was married to Miss Sarah J. Camron, a native of New York State, who died three years later, leaving one child, Frank H., who was killed by a railroad accident when fourteen years old. On January 16, 1873, the Captain married Miss Georgie A. Cooper, who was born in St. Lawrence county, N. Y., daughter of James and Almira (Brooks) Cooper, who were married in 1840. James Cooper traces his ancestry back to the year 1661, as follows:

(1) James Cooper, of Stratford-on-Avon, England, born in 1661, died in 1732; came to Philadelphia, Penn., in 1682; had eight children—Esther, James, Joseph, (2) Samuel, William, Benjamin, Isaac and Rebecca. James Cooper owned a lot on Chestnut street, Philadelphia, opposite Marble Custom-house. (2) His son William had six children—Rebecca, (3) Thomas, James, Joseph, Samuel, and Letitia. He died in 1736. (3) His son (3) James was twice married, and had fifteen children; by his first wife, Hannah (Hibbs), he had eight children—Susanna, (4) James, William, Letitia, Levi, and Benjamin; by his second wife, Elizabeth (Wager), (3) James had seven children—Amelia, Marmaduke, Meshach, Laodosia, Naboth, Noah and Alpheus.

(4) James Cooper, son of (3) James, and grandfather of Mrs. Capt. Luther Black, was born in Moreland, Montgomery Co., Penn., March 6, 1753; served in the navy and army of

Pennsylvania in the Revolutionary war, and participated in the battles of Monmouth and Germantown. He was married three times: first to Naomi Nelson, by whom he had three children—Hannah, Naomi and Caroline; by his second wife, Mary (Albertson) he had no children; by his third wife, Sarah (Comely), he had children—Courtland, (5) James, Henry, William, Nancy, Hamilton, George and Amos. The father of these died May 1, 1849, in his ninety-seventh year. He was a man of strong likes and dislikes, served as judge on the bench, and was a large land holder, owning property whereon a portion of the city of Philadelphia now stands. He and his wife were both Quakers.

(5) James Cooper, son of (4) James Cooper, and father of Mrs. Black, was born November 23, 1795, in Philadelphia. He was own cousin to James Fennimore Cooper, the distinguished American novelist. James Cooper was twice married; first time to Sarah Rice, by whom he had six children—Esther, Ezra, Ruth, Hannah, William and Alonzo; by his second wife, Almira (Brooks), he had two children—Georgie A. (Mrs. Black), and James B., an inventor who resides in Minneapolis. The sons, Ezra, Alonzo and James B., were all soldiers, making for themselves an enviable military record. The father of these was a man of superior education and acknowledged ability, for which, indeed, the entire family have been noted. He was a pronounced Abolitionist, and an outspoken advocate of the cause of freedom to all mankind. Migrating to Ohio about the year 1844, he settled at Waterville, Lucas county, where for many years he served as a magistrate. During his busy lifetime he owned several flouring-mills and saw-mills, doing an extensive business in both those lines of industry. He died there in 1868, honored and respected by all who knew him. His widow, who is now passing her declining years at the home of her daughter, was born, in 1812, in the town of Champion, Jefferson Co., N. Y., daughter of Joseph Brooks, a Revolutionary soldier from Massachusetts. She was a cousin of Amos Kendall, who was postmaster-general under President Jackson's administration, and when a young man taught in the family of Gen. Clay, afterward holding many offices of honor and trust. He became an able attorney at law, and was influential in the establishment of the first Deaf and Dumb Asylum at Washington, D. C.

To Capt. and Mrs. Black have been born two children: Marie C. and James L., the latter of whom at present is a student at Oberlin College. The Captain is a consistent member of the

Presbyterian Church, in which he is an elder; socially, he is affiliated with the F. & A. M., Wood County Lodge, No. 112; is a member of Crystal Chapter, No. 157, and of Toledo Commandery, K. T., at Toledo, Ohio. In politics he has always been an ardent Republican, his first vote being cast for Abraham Lincoln, and he has never failed to deposit his ballot, save twice—first when he was in Libby prison, and again, in 1880, when he was too ill to go to the polls. Capt. Black was delegate to the State Convention, and was honored with election as alternate delegate to the National Convention, to be held at St. Louis in June. He has served as president of the school board and of the gas board, and is a director of the American Foundry & Machine Co., also of the First National Bank, of Bowling Green. During the past year he has been interested in gold mining in California, being identified with a joint-stock company. In every relation in life, Capt. Black has borne an honorable part as an upright, patriotic, loyal citizen, and is justly classified among the social representative men of Wood county.

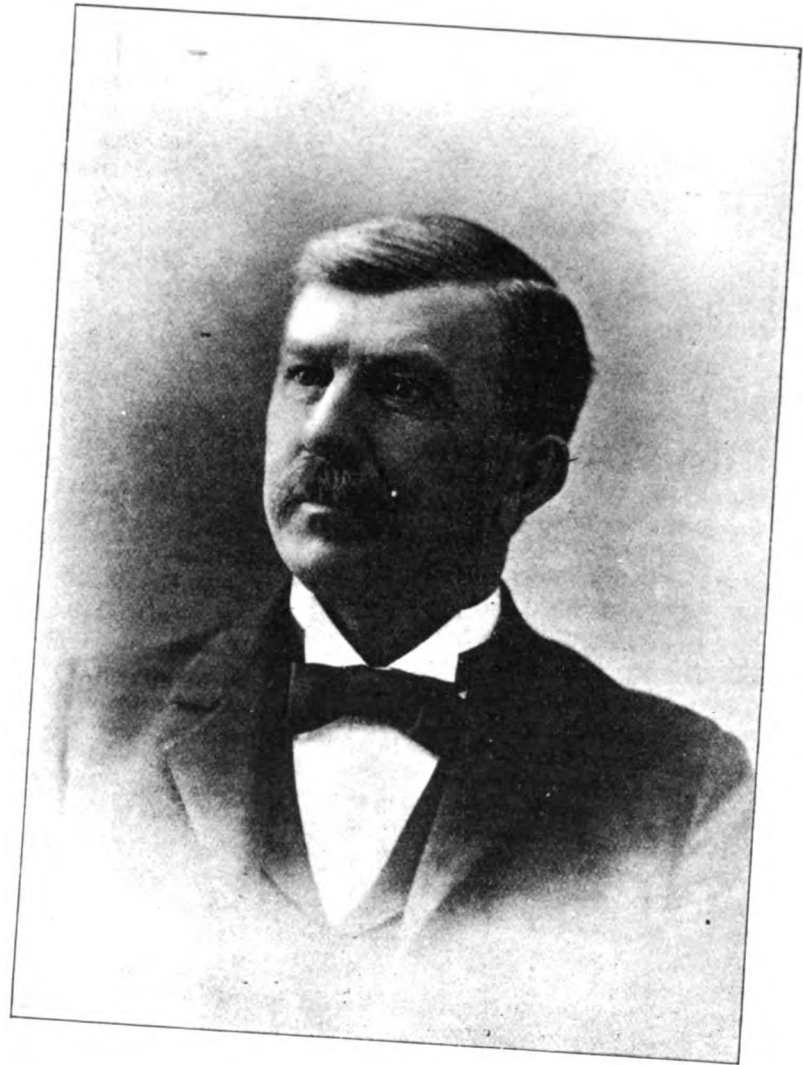
JOHN R. HANKEY, the well-known capitalist of Bowling Green, has, by his varied business enterprises, done much to develop the natural resources of this region, and to open up its commerce. In judgment of human nature, and statesmanlike manipulation of a complex situation, he has few equals; but his shrewdness is combined with rare kindness of heart, shown in many ways characteristic of the man. It has been said that if simple justice were to rule the business world, there would be no need for "charity," and the subject of this sketch is one of the first to try to bring this high ideal of human brotherhood into practical effect in his relations with his employes. In his large planing-mill at Bowling Green he inaugurated, some years ago, the co-operative system, issuing stock to his men and carrying it for them until such time as they could pay for it from their savings, and paying back money, so invested, at any time at the request of the shareholder. This plan has succeeded admirably, and to the lasting profit of all parties concerned.

The members of the Hankey family, living in Bowling Green, are descended from Louis Hankey, a native of Germany, who emigrated to America at an early day. It is related that he had just enough money to pay his way across the Atlantic and furnish his own provisions. The vessel he set sail in lost her course at sea, and the passage consumed so much more time than was antici-

pated. that his stock of food became exhausted long ere he reached land again, that he became indebted to the ship for part of his board. On reaching New York, he was "sold" by the ship's company, or agents, as was the custom in those days, they getting the money for his time, which he worked out with a farmer. He afterward became a minister of the Evangelical Church, and also followed agricultural pursuits. He married a Miss Less, whose father served in the Revolutionary war seven years, and our subject remembers hearing his grandmother often tell of how she could trace the path the soldiers took by the blood left on the ground from their shoeless feet. In later life Louis Hankey lived in both Stark and Summit counties, Ohio, in which latter he and his wife passed their last days. This estimable couple were the parents of seven children, as follows: John, father of the subject proper of this sketch; Catherine, married to John Himmelright, of Summit county; Jacob, who lived in Summit county, Ohio, near Akron; Lydia, married to Rev. Miller, a minister of the Reformed Church; Sarah, married to a Mr. Hawk; Louis, living in Wayne county, Ohio; and Samuel, a farmer, residing at Copley, Ohio.

J. R. Hankey is a native of Ohio, born in Wayne county, March 16, 1843, a son of John and Polly (Fostnight) Hankey, the former of whom was born in Schuylkill county, Penn., in 1814. He was a farmer and merchant by occupation, and early in life came to Ohio, first locating in Wayne county, during the war of the Rebellion moving to Medina county, where he died in 1868. He was three times married; first to Miss Polly Fostnight, who was born in Stark county, Ohio, in 1819, and by her he had seven children, as follows: Solomon died in infancy; Sarah married William Shammo, and is deceased; Lewis W. is a minister of the Evangelical Church at Tiffin, Ohio; John R., the subject proper of this memoir, comes next; then I. L.; two died in infancy. The mother of these departed this life in Wayne county in 1854, and Mr. Hankey subsequently married Miss Margaret Reach, who died fifteen months after marriage; she had one child that died in infancy. For his third wife he wedded Miss Sarah Strouse, of Richland county, Ohio, by which union there were two children: Isaiah S., of Bowling Green, and Sarah Katherine, wife of A. L. Sourwine, a farmer in Crawford county, Ohio.

Our subject lived on a farm until he was eleven years old, when he went to Marshallville. He received his education in the common schools, and when fifteen years old went to Wooster,



*John R. Heanley*



Ohio, where he entered the arena of business in the capacity of clerk in a clothing store. While so engaged the war of the Rebellion broke out, and at the first call by the President for three-years men to defend the Union, the lad, fired with the spirit of true patriotism, enlisted June 4, 1861, in Company E, 4th O. V. I., which was attached to the army of the Potomac, Gen. Sumner's corps, under Gen. McClellan ("Little Mac"). Private Hankey participated in many battles and skirmishes, and established for himself the record of a good, dutiful and brave soldier. He took part in the battles of Winchester, Port Royal, Port Republic, and in all the engagements in front of Richmond in 1862; was at the siege of Yorktown, the battle of Fair Oaks, the seven-days' retreat, battles of second Bull Run and Antietam, up to and including that of Fredericksburg. At second Bull Run he had a very narrow escape from death, his haversack being blown to pieces by an exploding shell. His personal injuries were not serious, but his rations were entirely lost, and for several days he had to depend upon the generosity of his comrades for food. After the battle of Fredericksburg Mr. Hankey was stricken with typhoid fever, necessitating his removal to the hospital, whence on his recovery he was transferred to the Invalid Corps, in which he served at different localities until his honorable discharge from the army, June 4, 1864, after an arduous and loyal service of three years, during which he never shirked his duty, but cheerfully and without a selfish thought risked his young life—amid shot and shell, in dreary and wearisome marches and counter-marches, in the trenches and at the storming of bastions—that the integrity of the Union might be preserved.

Returning to Wooster, Ohio, Mr. Hankey found his old position in the store awaiting him, and that his salary had recommenced from the day of his discharge. He did not remain much longer, however, with the firm, for on the first day of January, 1867, we find him engaged by a Philadelphia woolen-goods house to represent them "on the road," a line of life better suited to his natural energy and push, and no doubt palatable to a certain love he had for "adventure," inoculated into him by his army experience. With this firm he remained ten years, in all, during which time, in January, 1869, he and another established a clothing and merchant tailoring store in Findlay, Ohio (at the same time retaining his connection with the Philadelphia firm, as traveler), and they conducted the same conjointly till 1871, when Mr. Hankey sold out his interest to

his partner, and removed with his family to Wooster.

In August, 1874, he and Mr. White established a clothing business at Bowling Green, Wood county, under the firm name of Hankey & White, which they successfully carried on up to January 1, 1877, at which time our subject discontinued commercial traveling. On April 1, same year, he removed with his family to Bowling Green, where they have since made their home. In that city he has become identified with various undertakings, among them being the planing-mill already referred to; he has also been interested in gas and oil enterprises, the firm of Hankey Brothers being among the most extensive promoters in that line in this region. He assisted in organizing, and was a heavy stockholder in, both the Bowling Green and the Crystal Glass Works, formerly located at Bowling Green; and stockholder in the Foundry and Machine Shop. He was one of the founders of the First National Bank of that city, and is still vice-president thereof. He has been an extensive dealer in real estate, much valuable property in and about Bowling Green having changed hands with him. He built and owns the fine new Opera House block on Main street, the Hankey block, north of the Opera block, besides the National Bank and Exchange Bank buildings. Indeed, it can be truly said of him that he has stood ready with his energy and means to assist in any and every measure tending to the development of the industries of northwestern Ohio, more especially Wood county and the city of Bowling Green, whose present prosperity is due to him more than any other one person. For thirty-nine years he has not been a day idle, having been either in the employ of others, or in business for himself.

In 1867, at Wooster, Ohio, Mr. Hankey was united in marriage with Miss Emma T. Van Houten, who was born in Wooster, in 1846, daughter of the late Philo S. and Elizabeth (Bartol) Van Houten, and three children have graced this union: Rufus P. (married to Miss Nettie Long, of Bowling Green), Harry G. and Philo S.; of whom, Rufus P. and Harry G. have an interest in their father's planing-mill; Philo S. was employed in a bank at Bowling Green, but at present, owing to impaired health, is sojourning in the "Sunny South."

Philo S. Van Houten, father of Mrs. Hankey, was born in Marcellus, N. Y., December 25, 1810, and by assiduous industry, strict integrity and indomitable perseverance rose from comparative obscurity to be cashier of the Wayne County Bank (now the Wayne County National Bank),



Wooster, Ohio, an incumbency he filled with fidelity and ability for the long period of nearly a third of a century—in fact up to his death, which occurred April 9, 1881. He was a man of irreproachable private character, whose domestic life and habits were of that quiet and unostentatious kind so well calculated to endear him to family and friends.

On January 2, 1840, Mr. Van Houten married Miss Elizabeth Bartol, who was born in Elizabethtown, Lancaster Co., Penn., in 1820, daughter of Mathias and Elizabeth (Jontz) Bartol, both also natives of the Keystone State. They were the parents of three sons and three daughters—George and John (who died in Ohio); Abraham (who died in California); Elizabeth; Margaret (Mrs. William Still), and Sarah (Mrs. Michael Rahn), all now deceased. The parents moved to Wayne county, Ohio, in the summer of 1831, and there passed the rest of their honored lives. The father was called to his final rest in 1843 at the age of sixty-two, the mother dying in 1863, aged seventy-two. Mrs. Elizabeth Van-Houten was a girl of eleven years when her parents removed to Wayne county, and as will be seen was nineteen at the time of her marriage. Nine children were born to her and her husband, only four of whom survive, namely: Mary (Mrs. Wellington Curry, now of Chicago); Emma (Mrs. John R. Hankey); Edward, in California, and Anna (Mrs. Frank Eshelman), of Pittsburg, Penn. Those deceased are Jane (Mrs. Lee Scobey, who died in Wooster), Harry, Charles, John, and Caroline (who died in infancy). The mother of these was called from earth February 12, 1895. Like her husband she was a sincere and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church; was an ardent advocate of the cause of temperance, and a member of the organization known as the Evergreen Social Temple. By everyone who knew her she was justly held in the highest esteem, and is affectionately remembered for her many good qualities.

In his political preferences, Mr. Hankey is an uncompromising Republican, ever taking a lively interest in the affairs of the party as a recognized leader in its ranks, in Ohio, his ability, wealth and public spirit securing for him a powerful influence in the party councils. Never an office seeker himself, yet, such is his popularity and usefulness, he has oft-times been sought after to fill positions of honor and trust. He has served as township treasurer twelve years; as member of the school board; and as trustee of the State Blind Asylum, five years. In local politics he is

an honest but hard fighter, and his all-round influence enables him to assist a friend or effectually bar the way to any adversary. For years he has been one of the most zealous factors on the county executive committee, and, while honorably aggressive, has on all occasions proven himself to be a most liberal and generous opponent, true to his colors and promises, and securing alike the acclamation of his friends, and the respect of his rivals. In the fall of 1895 he was elected to the Thirty-third District of Ohio in the State Senate, the first time he has been called by election to any State office. Socially, he is a member of the F. & A. M., Royal Arcanum, I. O. O. F. and G. A. R. The family have an elegant home in Bowling Green, surrounded by an atmosphere of comfort and refinement, and enjoy the respect and esteem of a wide circle of warm friends.

ERASMUS D. PECK, M. D., deceased. Among the able and cultured people who came from the East in the early days, and settled in Perrysburg, giving to its society a notably refined and intellectual tone, none took higher rank than did the late Dr. Peck and his estimable wife.

The Doctor was born in Stafford, Conn., September 16, 1808, a member of one of the old Colonial families, and was educated in the schools of Munson, Mass., and at Yale College, where he was graduated from the Medical Department in 1829, and was well fitted for the leadership, wherever his lot might be cast. The Peck family is of English origin, and the first of the American line, William Peck, settled in Connecticut in 1720. Dr. Peck's father, Daniel Peck, was a prominent physician in his day, and married a descendant of a well-known New England family, Miss Persis Ladd, by whom he had six daughters and four sons. After his graduation Dr. Peck came to Ohio, for some time living in Portage county, but in 1834 he came to Perrysburg, where for over forty years he practiced his chosen profession. He formed a partnership, at first with Dr. E. T. Tremaine, and later with Dr. James Robertson, but in 1854 his nephew, Dr. H. A. Hamilton, joined him in practice. This partnership continued until Dr. Peck's death, which occurred December 25, 1876. A man of commanding influence in all lines of effort, Dr. Peck took a prominent place in the councils of the Republican party, which he entered on the disorganization of the old Whig party. He was a member of the Ohio Legislature in 1855-57, and in 1870 was elected to Congress, serving in the Forty-first and Forty-second sessions. He

then retired from active participation in politics, and resumed his professional work. He was married in 1834 to Miss Mary Thorndyke Lincoln, a native of Jeffrey, N. H., who was born in 1808 and died in 1873.

H. E. PECK, the only child of these honored pioneers, was born in Perrysburg, April 30, 1838. He was educated in the schools of his native place, and has made his home there except one year he spent in the South, and one year in New York State. For twenty-five years he was engaged in the mercantile business, and on retiring from that he served four years as deputy collector of customs of this district. In 1873 he was married to Miss Mary C. Robinson, who was born in Middlebury, Ohio, and they have two children: Charles L. and Augustus H., the latter of whom is at school in New York.

COLLISTER HASKINS. Among that dauntless set of Eastern men who, ambitious to carve out for themselves homes from the then wilds of the West, and who left peaceful firesides and braved the dangers and privations incident to a frontier life, is he whose name introduces this memoir. Born of good parentage at North Prescott, Mass., August 25, 1799, young Haskins was early educated to habits of virtue, morality, order, industry and economy, and was therefore well prepared for the task before him. He removed to the Maumee river, settling at Waterville in 1817, and, June 16, 1818, was married to Miss Fanny, daughter of Martin Gunn, of that place, the ceremony being performed by Seneca Allen, a justice of the peace. The mother of Collister Haskins, a woman of many virtues, was an own cousin to President Franklin Pierce. The parents of Mrs. Haskins—Martin and Sarah (Winslow) Gunn—were from Massachusetts, becoming early settlers in the Maumee Valley; the Gunns were of Scotch descent.

To the marriage of our subject and wife were born children, as follows: Two (a boy and a girl) who died in infancy; Delia, who died unmarried at Portage; Wealthy, the wife of John De Witt, a farmer of Wood county; Sarah, the wife of Joseph Clark, a resident of Missouri; Henry, a resident of Butler, Ind., whose first wife was Hannah Fernside, and whose present wife was a Miss Hutchinson; Chrissa, who married Isaac Van Gardner, and resides in Portage, Wood county; Cynthia, the wife of Capt. James W. Knaggs, who resides near Portage; Charles, deceased; Eunice, the wife of Jesse Lane Roller, a prominent druggist and business man of Toledo.

Pioneer Haskins, it will be observed, was only a boy of eighteen years at the time of his marriage; but, possessed of a good constitution, and being of a resolute and determined will, he at once set out to make for himself and family a home. During his stay on the Maumee river, he passed some three years on what is known as Granger's Island. In July, 1824, he entered, from the government, land in Section 12, Liberty township, this county, and in September following removed to the east half of the northeast quarter of the same section. When his cabin was ready to be raised, his friends came from Waterville, twelve miles distant, to assist him. This cabin was built of logs, and stood near the bank of a creek, not far from the old stockade made by Gen. Hull in 1812, and which was occupied by a few soldiers during the war, as an advance post on the "middle route" to the Foot of the Rapids. Here Mr. Haskins began trading with the Indians. He kept a variety store, being supplied with such goods as were then in demand, and purchasing his goods from Gen. John E. Hunt, of Maumee City. During the first four years of his residence in Wood county, Mr. Haskins' nearest neighbor was at Miltonville, twelve miles north, and his next, twenty-two miles south. Through his efforts a post office was established at "Haskins Place," in January, 1829. He laid out the village of Portage in 1836, and was an honored citizen of that place and vicinity throughout his life. For some years after Mr. Haskins settled on the site of Portage, the Indians still lingered in their old homes, retaining almost undisputed possession of their sugar camps and hunting-grounds, although the whites were rapidly appropriating the sites of their villages and their favorite fishing-grounds. A description of the Indians of this vicinity as they were from 1825 to 1840, which is of great interest, was given to history by our subject. The death of Mr. Haskins occurred at his residence in Portage, May 7, 1872, after a life of great usefulness to the pioneer people among whom he passed the vigor of his manhood. He had lived a pious life, and when death came it had no terrors for him, his last words being: "It is all right; glory to God."

With other early pioneers, Mr. Haskins passed through the hardships and privations incident to such a life, and performed the labors, which fell to his lot, with patience and cheerfulness, never murmuring at his misfortunes or losses, but ever laboring to make others happy, sacrificing his own means, ease and quiet for others without reserve. His enemies, if he had any, were few, and his

friendship was constant and sincere. He was a member of the Baptist Church. He was careful in his words and acts, calm in his demeanor, intelligent in his conclusions, and outspoken in his sentiments, when he deemed it duty to speak thus, yet always mindful lest he might needlessly give pain or offense. Such a character was not formed hastily, resembling rather the oak which is the growth of centuries. In the death of an old man, whose memory is retentive and pure, much that is valuable to society dies with him.

A. E. ROYCE. The successful career of this leading business man and capitalist, who now holds the position of president of the Commercial Banking Company, of Bowling Green, proves the truth of the old saying, "There is always room at the top." The story of the lives of such men can not too often be told, that it may become an incentive to others whose early opportunities were no greater, and whose chances for success are fully equal to those of the subject of this sketch.

Mr. Royce was born in Huron county, Ohio, July 25, 1844, and is the only child of William and Elizabeth (Scammon) Royce. His father was born in New Hampshire in 1822, removing from that State to New York, and thence to Huron county, Ohio, where he located in Fairfield township. The greater part of his life he spent in the lumber business. In 1871 he located in Bowling Green, where his death occurred in 1884. He was a Democrat, and a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Elisha Royce, the father of William, was a lumberman in New England, but after removing to Huron county followed farming until his death, which occurred when he was at an advanced age. The Royce family are of Scotch and Irish extraction. The mother of our subject was born in Cayuga county, N. Y., November 23, 1824, and is still living, strong in body and mind. She makes her home in Bowling Green.

Mr. Royce spent his boyhood days in Huron county, attending the common schools and working on his grandfather's farm in his leisure hours, the first money he ever earned being made in this way. On the death of his grandfather, however, the property was divided among the heirs, and he was thrown out of employment. He was then about seventeen years of age, and with the few dollars he had saved he went to Toledo, Ohio, to seek employment and to carve out his fortune. He began in a very humble way, hiring out as a common laborer, and carrying plank into a chair factory to be modeled by more skillful hands into

furniture, receiving for this work seventy-five cents per day. The grit and pluck of his sturdy Scotch ancestors were soon manifested in this young lad, for he made himself so useful that at the end of ten years he was still in the employ of the same company, but no longer as a common laborer. At this time he was the chief engineer, at a salary of \$110 a month.

It was during the latter part of his services in this factory, that what Mr. Royce regards as the most important event in his life occurred. Almost every evening as he went home from work, carrying his tin dinner-pail, he would meet upon the street the then opulent wholesale grocer, Peter Berdan, returning after his evening meal to look after the interests of his large business. The quiet demeanor of this successful merchant attracted the attention of our subject, and he philosophized that even Mr. Berdan must have started in an humble manner, and concluded that others with sufficient tenacity of purpose could do the same. Evening after evening he passed the old merchant in his regular walk to the store, and gradually Mr. Royce formed his resolution to give up his salary and position, and start in business for himself. Thus, without having the slightest knowledge of it, Mr. Berdan wielded a strong influence over our subject, who often points out this incident as an illustration of the unconscious power each individual in society exerts for good or evil upon the younger generation around him.

With the courage of his convictions, Mr. Royce resigned his position, and with money he had saved up, purchased a horse and wagon, made his own harness, and began business as a huckster. This he carried on in Toledo, then removing to Bowling Green, where he rented a vacant room and started a grocery store. He hauled his entire stock of goods, about \$150 worth, from Toledo at one load, in his one-horse wagon, put them up on the shelves of his room at night, and at early dawn had the doors opened to customers. Thus the first great step in the career of one of the most successful men in northern Ohio had been attained, and his first ambition, which was to have a business of his own, was gratified. It was on a small scale, to be sure, but from this humble beginning Mr. Royce has built up a large and flourishing trade. As his means increased he extended his operations in various directions, investing largely in property in Bowling Green, which then village he foresaw was destined to become a place of importance in trade in northern Ohio, especially as a grain center. He sold out his grocery stock



*A. E. Royce*



in 1884. Prior to this he had embarked in the grain business, buying a car-load of corn, had it shelled by hand, and shipped it to Tontogany on the little railroad which was at that time the only one running through Bowling Green. He was obliged to act himself as fireman in order to get this shipment to market at Toledo, and thus may well lay claim to being the pioneer grain shipper of that section of the county. Subsequently Mr. Royce built a small corn crib, which was afterward converted into an elevator, run by horse power, which he operated alone for some years, finally taking in as a partner Mr. J. J. Coon, of Toledo. The manner in which this business has succeeded is best told by its present condition, this firm now owning two large elevators, besides a mill in Bowling Green, and a mill in each of the following places: Tontogany, Custar, Hoyt's Corner, North Baltimore, and Dunbridge. Mr. Royce has entire charge of the business, and has enlarged it from that one car-load of corn, shelled by hand, to 110 car-loads per week.

Soon after selling out his grocery business, in 1885 Mr. Royce organized the banking firm of Royce, Smith & Coon, and opened a private bank in Bowling Green, which was re-organized in 1890, under the laws of the State, as a stock company with \$100,000 capital. This is one of the soundest financial institutions in Ohio, and Mr. Royce is its first and only president. He also owned the second oil well drilled in this county, but finding he had already all the business he could attend to, he soon disposed of his interests in that direction. He owns a large amount of property in Bowling Green, and erected what is known as the Royce Building.

Our subject was married October 31, 1867, to Elizabeth Curson, who died in 1877. One child was the result of this union, Maud, who was born November 29, 1871, and is the wife of F. E. Whitaker, a merchant of Bowling Green. The present wife of Mr. Royce, to whom he was married January 31, 1888, was Miss Hattie Cargo, and they have one child named Ethel. Mr. Royce is a Republican in politics, but in local affairs is not bound by party lines, voting for the men he considers the best for the offices. Socially he belongs to the I. O. O. F. and the Royal Arcanum, and is prominent in all philanthropic work and enterprises which have for their object the welfare of the community.

HON. ASHER COOK (deceased) was born in Luzerne county, Penn., May 3, 1823. In early childhood he came with his parents to Richland county, Ohio, and a few years later moved to

Perrysburg, in Wood county. After a few years residence there, the family removed to Chicago (then a mere village), but not liking the place they soon returned to Perrysburg, where the subject of this sketch spent the remainder of his life. The journey from Chicago to Perrysburg, about 250 miles, was overland, and Asher, who was a mere lad, traveled the whole distance on foot, driving a few cattle, which, with a team, constituted the bulk of his father's possessions. The father was a stone mason and plasterer by occupation, and the son learned and followed the same trades for a short time. He worked as a common laborer in the construction of the Mad River railway (now the Sandusky division of the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis railway); also served for a time as a common sailor upon the lakes. His ambition and thirst for knowledge, however, soon led him into a higher and broader sphere of usefulness. Without means, other than the earnings of his daily labor, he acquired a thorough knowledge of the common branches of learning, as well as several of the higher, and he had an especial liking for the study of languages. Without the benefit of a college training he was able to read, with ease, Latin, French, German and Spanish. His large private library contained no less than 275 volumes in those languages, and he spoke German and French almost as fluently as he did the English language.

Having acquired the necessary general education, he studied law, and in 1849 was admitted to the bar. In the practice he was associated with, and pitted against, the ablest lawyers in north-western Ohio, and was second to none of them in ability and knowledge of the law. The late Chief Justice Waite once said of him: "In knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles of law, Asher Cook has no equal in the Maumee Valley." Immediately on his admission to the bar, our subject was elected prosecuting attorney of his county, and in 1852 was elected probate judge.

In 1853, Judge Cook was married to Miss Amanda Hall, youngest daughter of Judge Jairus Hall, of Vermont. She died during the cholera epidemic, of 1854. Soon after her death Judge Cook went to Europe, and spent a year in study at Paris and Heidelberg, after which he returned to Perrysburg and resumed the practice of law. In 1858 he was married to Miss Sophia Hitchcock, eldest daughter of W. J. Hitchcock, then a prominent merchant of Perrysburg.

In politics, Judge Cook began life as a Democrat, and when his party became divided on the

Slavery question, he cast his lot with that branch of it known as the "Free Soil Party." He took an active part in the organization of the Republican party, being a member of the Pittsburg Convention, at which that party, as a National organization, had its birth. Several months before the Pittsburg Convention, a public meeting was held at Portage, in Wood county, at which resolutions were adopted embodying the principles contained in the Pittsburg platform. In calling this meeting, and in framing the resolutions which it adopted, Judge Cook was the leading spirit. The organization formed at that meeting is claimed, and believed to have been, the first of the local organizations out of which sprang the party which has cut so large a figure in American history. At the opening of the Rebellion, Judge Cook raised, and commanded Company C, 21st O. V. I., during its service under the first call for volunteers, and commanded his company at the battle of Carrick's Ford and in other engagements. He afterward raised and commanded Company F, 144th O. V. I. From 1862 to 1864 he represented Wood and Ottawa counties in the Fifty-fifth General Assembly of Ohio. He was a delegate to the Convention which nominated Gen. Grant for the Presidency in 1868. In 1873 he was elected to the Convention to revise the State Constitution, and was made chairman of its committee on education. He showed marked ability in the deliberations and debates of the Convention, and was recognized as among the best constitutional lawyers in that body of able men.

Throughout his professional and political career, Judge Cook's great ability, his unquestionable integrity, his genial courtesy and fairness won for him the profound respect and esteem of his associates and competitors. Fond of travel, he in 1879 spent a year traveling with his wife over Great Britain and Continental Europe, and in 1883 he did the same, extending his travels to Egypt and Palestine. As a Free Mason he was active and prominent, and in his daily life exemplified all that is best in the doctrines and teachings of the Order. His domestic and social life was full of tenderness and sympathy for others, and filled with unostentatious acts of charity which were known at the time only to himself and the recipients of his bounty. He continued in the active practice of his profession until his death, which occurred January 1, 1892.

W. M. RICHARD, one of the prosperous farmers of Perry township, is a descendant of that old pioneer family of Jacob Richard, who came from Ashland county, Ohio, to Wood county in

1851. That gentleman was the grandfather of our subject, and his parents were John and Catherine Richard. In Eagleville, this county, he was born July 13, 1857, and after completing his education at Pleasant Grove school in Perry township, he gave his entire time to the cultivation of the old homestead. There his first ideas of farming were obtained under the able direction of his father, and after the latter's death he took entire charge of the place, which he now owns and operates.

After the removal of his widowed mother to Bloomdale, where she now resides, Mr. Richard kept "bach" for several years; but on April 22, 1894, he was joined in wedlock with Mrs. Alice Black, widow of Lafayette Black, and daughter of John and Charity (Reigle) Sherwood. She was born in Wyandot county, Ohio, July 29, 1856, and by her former marriage has one child—May, born January 9, 1880.

Mr. Richard has been quite successful in his life work, and his neat farm shows the thrift and enterprise of the owner, who is an unassuming gentleman of excellent character, upright and honorable in all things. He is a member in good standing of the Church of Christ, at Eagleville, as are also his wife and daughters, and he uniformly supports the principles of the Republican party. On the 1st of March, 1889, he met with quite an accident while sawing wood, losing three of the fingers off his right hand, and, although handicapped to some extent, he has become able to perform almost all kinds of farm labor.

HARMON SWERLEIN, an enterprising young agriculturist, residing near Weston, was born in Wyandot county, Ohio, September 26, 1857, a son of John and Theresa Swerlein, both natives of Germany, and pioneer settlers of Wyandot county. Our subject was educated in the district schools of the vicinity of his birthplace, and worked upon his father's farm until he attained his majority. In 1880 he bought a farm of 135 acres, partly in Weston township and partly in Grand Rapids, which he has improved, remodeling the house and barns, and cultivating the land after the most approved methods.

In 1879 he was married to Miss Ellen Speck, of Wyandot county, who was born April 27, 1852, in New Pittsburg, Wayne Co., Ohio, the only child of John and Ann Speck, who were born in Chambersburg, Penn., the former of whom died in 1869, the latter in 1859. Mrs. Ellen Swerlein was a student of Heidelberg College, and for many years a prominent teacher of

Wyandot and Seneca counties. Our subject and wife have no children. Mr. Swerlein's industry, integrity and good sense have secured to him, in an unusual degree, the respect of his community. In politics he is a Democrat.

WILLARD V. WAY. We quote from the address of D. K. Hollenbeck, Esq., delivered at the dedication of the Way Library and its presentation to the people of Perrysburg, November 23, 1892 (and from which this sketch is taken), our subject being the donor, and to whom reference is made:

"We are now met to call to remembrance the acts, and in a fitting manner to do honor to the name of another, whom I believe I am fully justified, in the words of the poet, in designating as 'One of the few, the immortal names, that were not born to die.' I feel that upon us, as residents of this village by reason of the benefits and advantages, which do, and will, accrue to us personally in this instance as the 'favored few,' is imposed the duty, and to us is granted the pleasure and opportunity of recognizing in a befitting manner, one of the greatest benefactors our village has ever known, and 'one whom we should delight to honor;' and it has been deemed quite proper and appropriate that at the time of transferring this building to the care and custody of the council of this village, for the use and benefit of whose citizens it has been provided, some record be made of its origin and present condition, and also that proper recognition be awarded to him whose generosity has conferred upon the present and future residents of our village this library building, the several thousand volumes of books already provided and to be placed therein, and the many thousand more of volumes which as time passes will find places on these shelves.

"Willard V. Way was born in Springfield, Otsego Co., N. Y., August 3, 1807. His father, Samuel Way, was a farmer in very moderate circumstances, and the early life of the son was spent on the farm, he periodically attending the country schools, such as they were at that early date, as his condition of health would permit (he in his young days suffered from ill health). Before reaching his majority, the family were fully convinced of the fact that he would be unable to earn a livelihood, and his attention was turned to acquiring an education, hoping that by his head, so to speak, he might be enabled to accomplish that which he was precluded from doing with his hands. After taking a preparatory course in Hardwick Academy, one of the popular educational institutions of its class of that day, at the

age of twenty-three, he entered Union College, from which he graduated in due course, after being subjected to many privations and hardships in providing the means for his college expenses, made necessary by reason of his father's limited means. His case is but another one of the many thousands in proof of the old but true saying that, 'where there's a will there's a way.' On leaving college Mr. Way entered the law office of Bangs & Haskell in the village of LeRoy, in the State of New York, but his legal studies were completed in the office of Payne & Wilson, in Painesville, Ohio, and he was admitted to practice in this State in 1832, from which date he soon became and was widely known as an honored member of that most honorable profession. After having been thus admitted, and after having traveled over several of what were then known as the 'Western States,' Ohio included, in search of a location, in 1834, he settled in Perrysburg, no doubt to a greater or less extent drawn hither by the beautiful location of the village on the banks of the beautiful river now so aptly and appropriately called, the 'Hudson of the West;' and here he remained until his death, and he now sleeps in the cemetery at the foot of the granite shaft erected to designate his resting-place to future generations.

"Soon after his location in Perrysburg, Mr. Way was married to Miss Sophia Hodge, then living in Buffalo, N. Y., who survived him until September 20, 1892, when she departed this life at Mansfield, in this State, at the age of eighty-five years. Several years since, after her removal to Mansfield, as the result of a fall, Mrs. Way became and remained almost helpless, and a great sufferer until her final departure, and she is now at rest beside her husband—

Sleeping the sleep that knows not breaking,  
Morn of toil, nor night of waking.

"If there are any who were living in this vicinity at the time of Mr. Way's location here, we need not remind them that those were 'pinching times,' and Mr. Way was obliged, with the other pioneers of this then comparatively new country, to endure all the privations and hardships incident to that early day, and in the years immediately following, as the occasions were presented, like some of his cotemporaries who thought a position of affluence would thereby sooner be attained, than by a strict attention to the business of his chosen profession, he was lured into the whirlpool of speculation, and for the time being, financially ruined. But he 'would not down.' His reverses seemed but to incite him to more vigorous action, and to



create in him a more settled purpose and firm determination to recover the ground he had thus lost, and to attain that position for which he had been striving; and, as the result of after years of toil, privations and hardships, he found himself in independent circumstances, and we, his friends and neighbors, now know that all his labors and self-denials were not alone to accumulate means for his own self-gratification, but, as well, to advance our interests individually, as the interests of our village. Mr. Way's attachment for the home of his adoption seems never to have weakened or wavered, and the time that elapsed between the date of the execution of his will and the date of his death shows conclusively that the final disposition of his estate was not the result of any hasty conclusion, but rather made after calm and mature deliberation. If, in the words of another, I was asked—

Breathes there a man with soul so dead,  
Who never to himself hath said,  
This is my own, my native land?—

I would answer, possibly there does, but I am certain that, in the light of recent events, you would unite with me in the earnest protest that Mr. Way was imbued with an entirely different spirit.

“Mr. Way was a strictly honest man, and withal prudent and economical, and, while living, was sometimes charged by his more inconsiderate friends and fellow citizens with being inclined to carry his ideas of economy, at least in public matters, to that extreme, that the work in hand was sometimes weakened, rather than profited by by his suggestions. However, when one calls to mind the circumstances surrounding him in the early years of his residence in our village, and the struggles he then passed through, I think his peculiarity in this regard is very easily and satisfactorily accounted for, and subsequent events lead me to say that Mr. Way was evidently misjudged.

“Willard V. Way departed this life on August 25, 1875, now more than seventeen years since, leaving a Last Will and Testament, with the conditions of which, no doubt, you are all more or less familiar. After making certain bequests amounting in the aggregate to over \$15,000.00, by the 8th item in his will Mr. Way devises and bequeaths to this village all the remainder of his estate (except what is given for a public park), to be used in establishing a public library in this village for the use of its inhabitants under such regulations as may be prescribed by the council of the village, subject to the following conditions: \$15,000.00 of his estate shall be in-

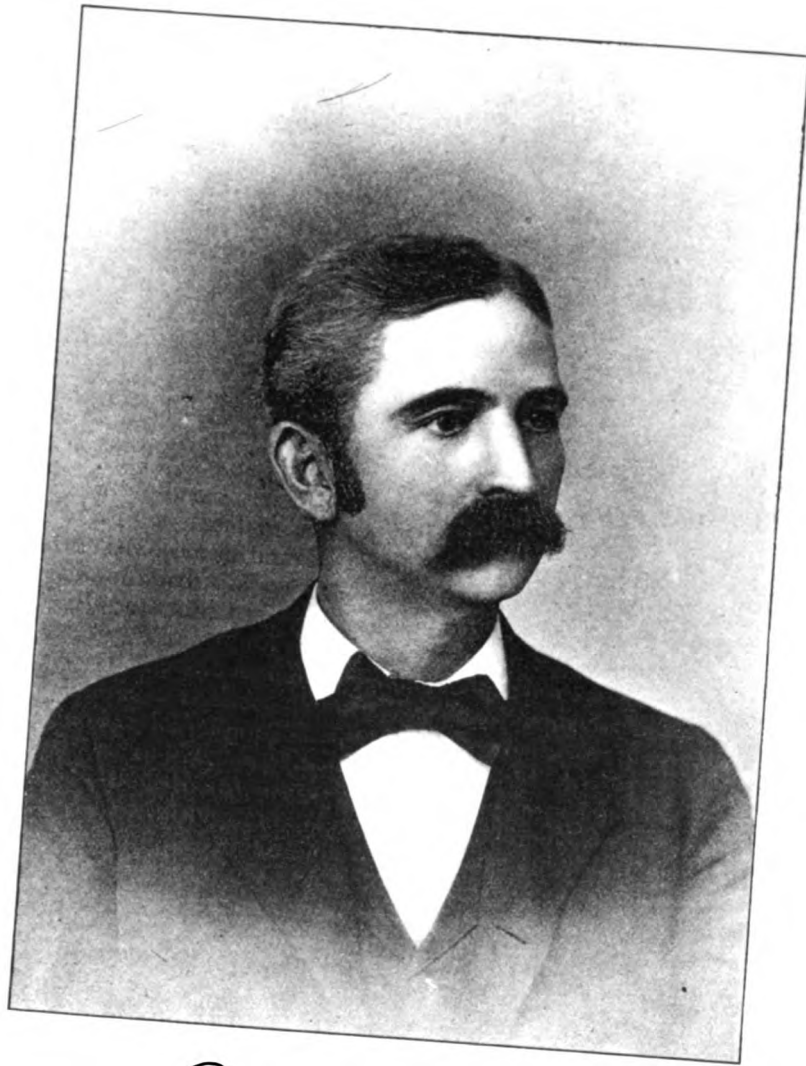
vested in safe public interest-bearing securities, to remain a perpetual fund belonging to said village, the interest of which, only, is to be used in the purchase of books and works properly belonging to a public library. The remainder of the bequest for the use of a public library may be used as the council of said village may deem most for the interest of the library in the purchase of a lot, and erection of a suitable building for the library and literary halls, and purchase of books, and for no other purpose. It was to give effect to the conditions in this latter clause that the council, on March 25, 1890, requested the executors to purchase a site and erect a library building thereon, and that duty having been performed, it now remains for them, and becomes their duty, to give some account of their stewardship.

“Mr. Way also left \$5,000, the interest of which to be used to defray the expenses of a scholar to any college he may choose, the scholar, to receive the benefits, to be the one from the graduating class of the Perrysburg High School standing the highest every fourth year. In politics, Mr. Way was a Democrat, and in his younger life he took quite an active part in political affairs. At one time he served the people of the county as prosecuting attorney.

“For many years prior to his death he was a confirmed invalid, and suffered greatly, although during those latter years he traveled a great deal, searching for some relief or specific whereby the hand of death might possibly be stayed ‘yet a little longer.’”

L. C. COLE, of Bowling Green, who has more than a local reputation as a lawyer, orator, politician, and business man, is a descendant of an old English family, the American branch being traced to three brothers—Joshua, Elijah and Ezekiel—who came over to Maryland in the time of Lord Baltimore. They were Baptists in faith, and did not remain in that colony during the struggles which resulted in religious toleration, but went to other sections, one to New England, one to Virginia, where his descendants still live, and the other, the ancestor of L. C. Cole, to Washington county, Penn., whence, as the country developed, later generations came west, settling in Ohio.

Thomas Cole, the father of our subject, was born in 1808, in Jefferson county, Ohio, where he spent his life in agricultural pursuits, and died in 1859. He married Miss Mary Jackman, a native of the same county, born in 1814, who survived him many years, dying in 1882. Four children were born to them: Caroline, who mar-



*S. C. Coe*



ried I. J. Jackman, of Wellsville; L. C., whose name introduces this sketch; Isaac, who died at the age of fourteen; and Elizabeth, the wife of W. P. Cooper, of Wellsville.

The subject of this sketch first saw the light September 14, 1849, and grew to manhood at the old home in Jefferson county. He attended college at Mount Union and Richmond, and afterward read law with Judge Robert Martin, of Steubenville, Ohio. In 1872, at Newark, Ohio, he was admitted to the bar, and began the practice of his profession at Massillon, Ohio, where he remained from June, 1873, to April, 1887, when he came to Bowling Green. His ability soon won him the confidence of the people of Massillon, and he was elected to various important official positions. From 1875 to 1880, he was city solicitor until his election in 1884 to the State Legislature, in Stark county, where he served two terms. Being an influential and outspoken Democrat, his side of the House nominated him for Speaker, and came within one vote of electing him.

Having become interested in the Bowling Green Glass Co., Mr. Cole decided to locate there, the better to look after that and other business enterprises. The glass factory burned down in 1891, and as the gas was exhausted in that vicinity the company did not rebuild. Mr. Cole is at present president of the Swayzee Glass Co., at Swayzee, Ind., and looks after the financial interests of that concern. He is a director of the First National Bank, of Bowling Green, and a member of several leading oil companies, operating in Wood county and in Tennessee. Aside from his prominence in business and professional circles, Mr. Cole is an enthusiastic Democrat, takes an active interest in political affairs, in which his influence as a leader in that party is widely recognized. He was a member and secretary of the State Central Committee six years; member of the Executive Committee four years, and secretary of the same during the memorable campaign of McKinley and Campbell, in 1891. Being urged by his political friends to permit himself to be nominated for probate judge of Wood county, in 1894, he consented—unwillingly on his part, on account of the extent of his private business—but at the election, though running well ahead of his ticket, he was defeated. Socially, Mr. Cole is a member of the F. & A. M., Order of Elks, Knights of the Maccabees, Royal Arcanum and K. of P. In religious faith he and his family are members and active workers in the M. E. Church.

In his amiable and cultured wife, formerly

Miss Martha J. Douglass, to whom he was married in 1872, Mr. Cole has a true helpmeet. She was born in 1849, in Richmond, Ohio, where they were fellow students, and where they formed an attachment in which intellect as well as heart found congenial companionship. They have had two children, Tom D. (aged sixteen) and Nellie S., the latter of whom died in June, 1895, at the age of fourteen. Mrs. Cole is the daughter of Thompson and Rebecca (Dougherty) Douglass, the former of whom was born at Pittsburg, Penn., and was a son of Robert Douglass, a native of Scotland, and, on his mother's side, a direct descendant of the Stuarts. Thompson Douglass was thrice married, first time to Martha Johnson, by whom he had one child, Emery Pyle, who served in the war of the Rebellion, and died in the army. The second wife of Mr. Douglass was Rebecca Dougherty, who bore him six children: Leonidas, who enlisted in the Union army at the age of eighteen, and died of sickness in 1862; Homer, deceased in 1881; Martha J. (Mrs. Cole); Mary, who died in 1882; Theodore, living at the old home in Richmond, Ohio; and Ida, wife of G. McIntyre, a farmer of Carroll county, Ohio. The third wife of Thompson Douglass was Emeline Wallace, now his widow, and still living at the old home.

Mr. Cole stands in the front rank of the leading business men of Wood county, and is one of the most prominent and prosperous. His fame as an erudite and accomplished scholar, a ripe lawyer, a brilliant orator and a close student of political economy, is not confined to the city of his adoption, but extends throughout the entire county, and even far beyond its limits.

JACOB RICHARD, deceased. Between 1740 and 1750 two distinguished families came from Europe and settled in southern and southeastern Pennsylvania—the paternal ancestors from Germany, the maternal from Switzerland. Fleeing from oppression and persecution in the Fatherland, they sought homes and happiness in the New World, where some of them joined their destinies in business and marital relations.

Jacob Richard was born July 31, 1803, near Pleasant Unity, Unity township, Westmoreland Co., Penn., the second child but first son of John and Mary (Poorman) Richard. His grandparents were Jacob and Polly (Radebaugh) Richard, both of whom were residents of Franklin county. His grandfather was married five times, and had children by four of his wives. The old homestead was in Letterkenny township, Franklin county, and is quite fully described in the public

records. He died upon it at the age of eighty-three. His children, in the order of birth, were: (1) John, the father of the subject of this memoir, born in Franklin county, and died there in May, 1835. (2) Mary (called "Polly") married Peter Poorman, of Hamilton township, same county. (3) George, who lived in Somerset, Perry Co., Ohio, and died July 31, 1864, in his eighty-fourth year; he was a wealthy, patriotic merchant, and a zealous Republican and Methodist. (4) Elizabeth, married to Jacob Humbarger. (5) Susannah, married to Jonathan Foltz, an uncle of M. A. Foltz, present proprietor and editor of the *Public Opinion*, of Chambersburg. (6) Jacob. (7) Sarah, married to Henry Snider. (8) Daniel.

John Richard, the eldest son, was married in 1800 to Mary Poorman. He died in May, 1835, and his widow in January, 1847. They had seven children, viz.: (1) Elizabeth, married to Jacob Mykrantz. (2) Jacob, our subject. (3) Catherine, married to Rudolph Sease. (4) Polly, married to Joseph France. (5) John, now living in Gratiot county, Mich. (6) George, who died several years ago in Pittsburg. (7) Margaret, married to George Bear.

Jacob Richard, the second in the above mentioned family, removed with his parents to Westmoreland county, Penn., sometime prior to 1811, and spent his youth upon the farm, acquiring the rudiments of an English education, consisting of reading, writing and arithmetic. The study of the New Testament and the reading of U. S. History were obligatory; English grammar and geography were not taught. On November 4, 1823, he was joined in matrimony to Rebecca, youngest daughter of Charles and Elizabeth (Stough) Richard. She was born in what is called "Culbertson's Row," Franklin Co., Penn., December 16, 1804. Her father, Charles Richard, was one of a family of two brothers, John and Jacob, a half-brother, Conrad, and three full sisters: Maria, married to a Sullenberger; Catherine, married to a Lose; and Rebecca, married to Henry Crow.

Charles Richard was born in Berks county, Penn., September 27, 1755, and died in Westmoreland county, same State, August 17, 1852, in his ninety-seventh year. He was married April 22, 1774, to Elizabeth Stough, who died January 13, 1826, in her sixty-ninth year. After his marriage he entered the Revolutionary army, and was with Washington at Long Island, White Plains, Trenton and Valley Forge. He crossed the Delaware with Washington, and aided in the capture of the Hessians, on Christmas Day, 1776;

passed through the siege and horrors of Valley Forge during the memorable winter of 1777-78. With a furlough in his pocket, and a pair of new shoes in his knapsack, he lay down on the night of December 23, 1777, intending to start home the next morning, but during the night his shoes were stolen. Undaunted, he started, as planned, and traveled fifty miles in his stockings, leaving bloody tracks to mark his route. From the marriage referred to sprang eight children, viz.: George; Charles; Molly, married to Henry Smith; William; Elizabeth, married to George Fortney; John; Sarah, married to Jonathan Fry; and Rebecca, who married Jacob Richard, and died May 6, 1881.

Returning again, Jacob and Rebecca had three sons born to them in Westmoreland county: John, July 14, 1825, deceased October 8, 1878; Reuben, May 23, 1829, lost on the ill-fated "Sultana," April 27, 1865; and Charles, October 3, 1831, now residing at Bloomdale, Ohio. In 1835 the family removed to Ashland county, Ohio, where they resided until March 26, 1851. Five other sons were born at Ashland, viz.: William S., a resident of Bloomdale; George, November 28, 1837, killed at the raising of a barn near Eagleville, May 18, 1861; Franklin, March 27, 1841, a resident of Bloom township; J. Fraise, a sketch of whom follows; and Simon, March 29, 1846, at present residing in Bloomdale.

In 1851, the Richard family was removed from Ashland county to Wood county, arriving, March 29, at their destination on what is now the farm owned by W. S. Richard, a mile north-east of Bloomdale. All was wilderness and discouragement. The little round-log, one-story cabin stood in the midst of a dense forest. Without, on every hand, were water, and frogs, and owls, and wild game—in short, all the elements of pioneer life in a new country. With brave heart and resolute will, assisted by a loyal wife and industrious boys, the father went to work to establish a home and hew out a fortune. Gradually, as by magic, the heavily timbered forest was converted into fertile fields and blooming orchards, and the very elements of discouragement became sources of rich development and substantial comfort.

Time passed on. The family of boys became one of men. Mr. Richard, the father, was honored by his neighbors with their confidence, and several times he served them in the responsible position of township assessor. The trying period of war came. Five sons went into the service of their country—Reuben in Company B, 102nd O. V. I.; John, Charles and J. Fraise

in Company B, 111th O. V. I.; and W. S. in Company E, 144th O. V. I. The first four entered the service in the autumn of 1862, and all returned except Reuben, who, as an exchanged prisoner from the Cahaba death-pen, was a victim of the "Sultana" disaster.

Jacob Richard was a man of good judgment, somewhat impulsive, but generous, kind, honest, industrious and law-abiding. Politically, he was reared a Democrat, and supported Douglas for the Presidency in 1860. When the war broke out, and his sons and neighbors entered the service of their country, he abandoned his old party and became first an ardent Unionist, and afterward, by necessity, a determined Republican. Religiously, he was reared a Presbyterian, but some five years prior to his death he was immersed and joined the Church of Christ, at Eagleville, in whose faith he peacefully expired on the night of April 1, 1891.

Rebecca, his wife, was reared a member of the Reformed Church, but during her residence at Ashland, Ohio, she became a member of the Presbyterian Church, of which her husband was a deacon at that time. She was kind, affectionate, industrious, devoted to her family, and a considerate and peaceable neighbor. She was known in the community as "Aunt Becky," and was universally beloved. She had no enemies. Her later life was saddened by several trying events: first by the sudden death of her son George, on May 18, 1861, by a falling plate in the raising of a large barn at the home of Robert Jacobs, two and one-half miles north of her home; secondly, by the enlistment of her five sons in the army; thirdly, by the tragic death of Reuben; fourthly, by the death of John, October 8, 1878, after enduring, unhurt, the experiences of an active soldier's life for three years; and, lastly, by the death of her life partner, as related.

It may not be amiss to note a peculiarity or two respecting these families. (1)—On the paternal side Jacob and John were favorite names. In the present instance Jacob had two sons whom he named John and Jacob. He was the son of John, who, in turn, was the son of Jacob, and so on. (2)—So far as the record goes, the two ancestral families were always law-abiding citizens, not one of them having ever been convicted of a heinous crime. (3)—On the maternal side three generations had representatives in three wars, all of whom were named Charles—all musicians: Charles Richard was a fifer in the Revolution, his son Charles in the war of 1812, and his grandson Charles in

the war of the Rebellion. (4)—All of them have been intensely American and patriotic in their sentiments. [Contributed by Prof. J. Fraise Richard, of Washington, D. C.]

PROF. J. FRAISE RICHARD, Educational Evangelist, historian and literary writer, was born near Ashland, Ohio, January 18, 1844, and is the seventh son of Jacob and Rebecca Richard.

At the age of seven our subject removed with his parents to Bloom township, Wood county, and his youth was spent in clearing up and working the farm which 'Squire W. S. Richard now possesses, near Bloomdale. His education prior to the war was secured in the district school known as "Hopewell," and included the ordinary English branches. His intense thirst for knowledge was not gratified, however, by simple school studies. He read all the books and papers which came within his reach, and did his most effective study in front of the fireplace whose light was furnished by burning chips and hickory bark. By these aids he was enabled to teach his first school at Eagleville, in the winter of 1860-61, he being then but sixteen years of age. The autumn of 1861 was spent by him at Seneca County Academy, under Prof. Aaron Schuyler, the prince of mathematicians, logicians and psychologists.

On the 5th of August, 1862, his books packed to return to the Academy, Prof. Richard responded to President Lincoln's call for troops, and enlisted as a member of Company B, 111th O. V. I., and went with his regiment to the field, serving in Kentucky and Tennessee. Unsolicited on his part, he was made postmaster of the regiment, and served successfully as chief clerk at brigade, division corps, army and department headquarters, a portion of the time for Gens. Cox, Foster, Stoneman, Schofield and Palmer. He was twice offered a captain's commission, the latter time as assistant adjutant-general in the regular army. All such military honors he declined, however, and in September, 1865; he returned to civil life, to enter upon his educational work which had been interrupted for three years. He attended the Northwestern Christian (now Butler) University, at Indianapolis, and after one year's study of language, mathematics and logic, transferred his studies to Lebanon, Ohio, where he graduated from the business, scientific and classic courses at the National Normal University, in August, 1869. He was an instructor in the institution until August, 1870, when he organized the Northwestern Normal School at Republic, in the building previously oc-

cupied by Profs. Thos. W. Harvey and Aaron Schuyler. This institution soon outgrew its facilities; and, the citizens neglecting to supply ampler apartments, it was, upon the request and assurance of Charles Foster and other citizens, removed to Fostoria in the autumn of 1874. The attendance the first year in the new site was 508 students, exceeding the facilities possessed. Owing to lack of suitable buildings, the school was consolidated, in the autumn of 1875, with the Normal School at Ada, which fact gave that school its strength and efficiency. The Republic school was the progenitor of the large schools at Valparaiso and Angola, Ind., and of others in the West. It was an educational leaven, whose influence has extended from ocean to ocean.

Prof. Richard superintended the public schools at Alliance, Ohio, in 1877-78; was principal of a flourishing Normal School at Mansfield from 1878 to 1882; lectured in institutes in a number of States from 1882 to 1885; spent his time in historical writing from 1885 to 1889; and since 1890 has been employed in the City of Washington (his present home) in official, educational and literary work. For thirty-five years he has been a writer for the secular, religious and educational press, his writings being published in mediums of general circulation.

On October 6, 1867, our subject was married, at Freeport, to Miss Emma D. Strong. From this union have issued two sons: Livy S., and Vernon I. The former is editor-in-chief of the Scranton (Penn.) *Tribune*; the latter is a mere boy, living with his mother in Ohio.

Prof. Richard's first vote was cast in 1864, at Knoxville, Tenn., for Lincoln and Johnson. Since then his affiliation has been with the Republican party. He is a staunch Republican, but does not belong to the party in a servile sense. Religiously, he has been identified with the Church of Christ since June 2, 1862. He has never smoked a cigar nor chewed a quid of tobacco in his life, nor has he tasted a drop of any intoxicants, even beer, since May, 1859. Indeed it can truly be said his life work has been a source of inspiration and encouragement to the young.

J. C. LINCOLN, M. D., who is one of the best known and most highly respected physicians and surgeons of Bowling Green, where he also carries on an extensive drug business, was born in Albany, N. Y., May 22, 1844.

Leonard Lincoln, the father of our subject, was also a native of Albany, where he was born in 1812, and where he was married, in 1835, to

Miss Ada Boughton. The Lincoln family were among the early settlers of New York State, as were also the ancestors of Mrs. Lincoln, among the latter being Maj. Reuben Boughton, a hero of the Revolution. Mrs. Lincoln was born in the same city and the same year as her husband, and was the only daughter among eighteen children, her father having been married three times. In 1844 Dr. Lincoln's parents came west, settling first in Watertown, Wis., where the father followed farming until 1852, when his wife died and he removed to Winona, Minn. There he resided about ten years, when he went to Marshalltown, Iowa, where he still lives. He belonged to the Democratic party until the war of the Rebellion, when he became a Republican; in religious faith he is a member of the Baptist Church.

Our subject is the youngest of two children. His elder brother Charles was born in 1841, and the story of his life reads like a romance, although similar to that of many who took part in the trying scenes of the war between the North and South. At that time the family was living in Minnesota, and he joined the first regiment of volunteers, going at once to the front and taking part in the first fatal battle of Bull Run. There he was taken prisoner, with a number of others, and carried first to Richmond, afterward confined in the terrible stockade at Andersonville, and later at Castle Pinckney, where he was finally exchanged and sent home. Three times during this period he made his escape, hiding in the forest, and for days living upon raw and parched corn. Each time he was recaptured, the last time when within only two or three miles of the Federal lines. This was a few days previous to his exchange, and when he was released he was sent to the hospital at Washington completely broken down in health, and a shadow of his former self, being reduced, by a course of slow starvation, from a strong young man weighing 190 pounds, to an emaciated invalid whose weight was but eighty pounds. When sufficiently recovered, he returned to Minnesota, and during the Indian troubles in that State, in 1863, he assisted in organizing the Second Minnesota Cavalry, of which he was made first lieutenant, afterward promoted to captain, and which was stationed at Fort Ridgely, where he died from the effects of hardships endured during his life in Confederate prisons.

Dr. Lincoln made his home with his parents, and had commenced the study of medicine when the Civil war broke out. After the battle of Bull Run, in which his only brother, above mentioned,



*J. C. Lincoln*





was engaged, and whose name was reported in the list of the killed, our subject determined to offer his services to the cause for which his brother had sacrificed his life. He accordingly recruited 347 men for the 1st Minnesota Regiment, the same in which his brother had served, and joined the command at Camp Stone as assistant surgeon. A year had passed since Charles had been taken prisoner, and the family was still under the impression that he was dead, as his letters to the members had been intercepted by the Rebel authorities. Dr. Lincoln was at this time camped with his regiment near Savage Station, when an officer informed him that a boat-load of Federal prisoners was being exchanged, and he received intimation that his brother was among them. The boat, however, passed out of sight just as he reached the landing, and he was unable to confirm the report. Some time later Dr. Lincoln was seriously wounded at the battle of Fair Oaks, and was sent to hospital in New York City, where he remained three months, it afterward transpiring that his brother was in the same city all the time, although neither knew of the other's presence.

On recovering from his wound, Dr. Lincoln returned to his home in Minnesota, after which he became a student in Lawrence University, at Appleton, Wis., remaining there three years. He then read medicine for a year with Dr. Ford, of Winona, after which he entered Rush Medical College, at Chicago, from which he was graduated with the degree of M. D. in 1871. In Franklin county, Iowa, he began the practice of his profession, but, the climate not agreeing with him, he came to Ohio and located near Fostoria, where he remained until 1873. Since that date he has been a resident of Bowling Green, where he has built up a large and lucrative practice, identifying himself also with the leading interests of the city, taking a leading place in all matters pertaining to its advancement. He has been a member of the city council and of the board of education; was medical pension examiner under President Harrison, and was the unanimous choice of Wood county for congressman some two years ago. He has large property interests in Bowling Green, among which is his handsome residence, one of the best in the city, built at a cost of \$14,000, and the fine brick structure occupied by his large and well-kept drugstore and office. He is also half-owner of the Lincoln & Tuller block, and it is chiefly due to his enterprise that these handsome structures have been erected. He is a member of the State Medical Society, and also of the American Medical

Association, and belongs to the I. O. O. F., the G. A. R., and F. & A. M.

Dr. Lincoln has been twice married, his first wife being Miss Emma Norris, of Fostoria, Ohio, who was born November 1, 1854, and died December 12, 1883. Two children were born of this union: John H., a graduate of the high school of Bowling Green, and now a partner in his father's drug store; and Eudora, who graduated from the Bowling Green High School, in 1895, and is now a student in Oberlin College. The second wife of Dr. Lincoln, who was Miss Nettie Willard, is a cousin of Miss Frances E. Willard, of W. C. T. U. fame. Dr. Lincoln and his wife are popular in society, and their charming home is the abode of refined and cultured hospitality.

E. B. BEVERSTOCK, a prominent agriculturist of Washington township, living near Tontogany, was born in Rutland county, Vermont, October 5, 1835.

His grandfather Beverstock came from England in the latter part of the last century, but of his history and that of his family but little is known. Daniel Beverstock, our subject's father, was born in Swanzey, N. H., in 1793, and during the war of 1812, he took charge of the family of his brother Silas, who entered the army. Among the family relics treasured by our subject are two artistically designed specimens of Indian workmanship, a peace club and a war club, captured from the savages by his uncle, Silas. Daniel Beverstock, who was a farmer by occupation, married Miss Sabrina Barney, a native of Vermont, and came to Ohio in 1855. After one year passed in Wood county, he located in Richland county, where he died in 1876; his wife in 1865. He had been a Democrat throughout his life, but his last vote was cast for Hayes. There were nine children in his family, namely: Alma S. is the widow of Asa Spaulding, of Richland county; Constant resides near St. Paul; Lyman W. died in Vermont; J. B. (deceased) was formerly a grain dealer in Richland county, and later in Huron, Ohio; Silas is a farmer at Lexington, Ohio; Fannie is the wife of Homer Wells, of Cass county, Mich.; Loraine, who never married, lives in Cassopolis, Mich.; our subject comes next; and Ann lives in Lexington.

E. B. Beverstock, to use his own words, "graduated out of a spelling book at the common schools of Vermont," and his parents being poor, he commenced working at the early age of eight years. He was nineteen years old when he came with his parents to Wood county, and for

some time worked by the month; but finally settled on a farm of his own on the confines of the present village of Tontogany, where he now owns 150 acres of land. On December 8, 1859, he married Miss Victoria Virginia Kuder, a native of this county, born June 12, 1839, a daughter of Solomon Kuder, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere. She died January 14, 1882, leaving seven children: Otis, a well-known resident of Bowling Green; Edward and Ella (twins), the former a rising young attorney of Bowling Green, member of the firm of James & Beverstock, while Ella is the wife of Reuben Johnson, of Tontogany; Arthur J., born March 24, 1866, and married March 1, 1890, to Miss May Klinepeter; Belle, born November 13, 1867; Clarence, born September 4, 1877; and Edna, born January 25, 1880, are all at home.

Mr. Beverstock entered the army in 1862, enlisting in Company G, 1st Regiment, O. L. A., assigned to the Army of the Cumberland, first in the Fourth, and later in the Fourteenth army corps. He took part in over thirty battles and skirmishes, among them the engagements at Stone River, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Franklin and Nashville. At Stone River he received two bullet wounds within five minutes—one in the ankle and one in the instep—on which occasion eight men and twenty-two horses were killed, twenty-two men wounded, and four guns and two caissons were taken by the enemy. Returning home, in June, 1865, he resumed the peaceful occupation of farming, which he still continues. His present residence, a fine building, was erected in 1878. A Republican in politics, he is a leader in his party. He served as county commissioner six years, and was one of the four appointed by the Judge of the Common Pleas court, in March, 1894, to act on the building and furnishing of the new court house, which cost in the neighborhood of \$300,000; for several years he also served as township trustee. Socially, he is a member of the I. O. O. F., K. of P., and G. A. R., has been president of the agricultural society and is now its treasurer. Mr. Beverstock is a man of superior intelligence, a great student of the Bible and of the better class of literature, and he takes an interest in all progressive measures, both at home and abroad.

EDSON GOIT (deceased), for many years a prominent and successful member of the Wood County Bar, and an extensive merchant and land owner, was born in Oswego county, N. Y., October 17, 1808.

While he was yet an infant his father died,

and during his boyhood he found but little time or opportunity to improve his mind by the aid of books, but such chances as presented themselves he availed himself of, and by the time he was twenty years old he was capable of teaching, and did teach a district school. Before he was of age he started for the Western country, as Ohio was then called, at which time, when there were neither railroads or canals, and but few wagon roads, a journey from New York thither was of no small magnitude. However, with all his worldly effects tied up in a bundle, young Goit surmounted all difficulties, "took the road," and soon found himself at Tiffin, in Seneca county. Here he worked at odd jobs, taught school both there and in Fremont, comparatively insignificant villages in those early days, in the meantime reading law with Abel T. Rawson. In due course he was admitted to the bar to practice law, and, being desirous of seeking the best possible place for a young attorney to establish himself at, he chose Findlay to commence business in, a village some thirty-five miles distant. Mr. Goit had but little money, but plenty of energy and muscle, so with his rather scanty wardrobe and a few law books tied up in a package, he set out on foot for his new destination. On his arrival at Findlay, then the small country town of Hancock county, which had recently been set off from Wood county, he took up his abode with the family of the late L. Q. Rawson, and became the pioneer of the legal profession in that part of the State. But there was no demand for his services; Blackstone and Coke were at a discount, and by the end of six months, nearly all his means being gone, he decided to leave the place. However, things suddenly took a turn for the better, prospects gradually brightened; business came, clients increased in number, and all thoughts of leaving Findlay vanished from his mind. Mr. Goit now went to board with William Taylor, who kept the tavern. While he was here Mrs. Taylor's sister, Jane Patterson, and brother, arrived from Pennsylvania on horseback, and not long afterward (February 21, 1833), Mr. Goit and Miss Patterson were married. From that time on his fortune seemed to be made. Frank, straightforward and generous, he made friends with all with whom he came in contact; settlers began to come in very fast, and business rapidly increased. By the year 1840 he had accumulated quite a competence, at that time owning nearly 2,000 acres of the best land in and about Findlay, besides having over ten thousand dollars in ready cash.

Owing to close application to business and

overwork, his health began to fail, so he decided to vary his occupation somewhat, which proved to be an unfortunate step. He engaged extensively in mercantile business, and, besides a large store in Findlay, he opened branch establishments in Bluffton, Gilboa and Ottawa, all of which he had to entrust largely to the management of clerks, for he was still carrying on considerable law practice, as well as much other business, and taking an active part in politics, and in every public enterprise in the town and county. He endorsed notes, and went bail for young men who were trying to get a start in business, than which nothing seemed to afford him more pleasure, for he was a man of broad generosity, and had a large confidence in his fellow men. Such, and other generous traits in his character, led him, unfortunately, into much pecuniary difficulty, and in 1857, when the financial panic swept over the country, he found himself but ill-prepared for it, and by the time the dark clouds had passed he beheld his fortune a mere wreck. In the midst of all this others as well as himself had been ruined, and where he happened to be bondsman, creditors fell back on him, so that he found himself harrassed from all sides. But he did not succumb to the storm, and at this point is where his manhood and sterling honesty shone brightest. He made no assignment, nor did he go into bankruptcy, but went to work with renewed power and energy. Every one had faith in his integrity, and as he went on converting his property into means whereby to pay debt after debt, dollar for dollar, he found himself at the end with but little of his former fortune left. It is a satisfaction to know that in spite of all his misfortunes, Mr. Goit had in his later days a comfortable competence left for himself and remaining family, and as he himself said a short time before his death, "After so many ups and downs in my life, I am glad that if I do not get well I shall at least die square with the world."

To the marriage of Mr. Goit with Miss Patterson were born Edson Goit, Jr., January 8, 1838; William, June 26, 1840; Laquirna, April 14, 1843, and Theodosia, April 8, 1846. Mrs. Goit's death occurred April 24, 1863, at Findlay, Ohio, and on December 19, 1865, Mr. Goit was married to Sara Ann McConnell, and to the marriage were born: Ida Mary, May 19, 1867—died June 29, 1869; and Theodoro E., September 11, 1869—died January 9, 1886.

Edson Goit, Jr., in 1885, was married to Mary Beck, and they are residents of Kincaid, Kans. William Goit, on January 27, 1861,

married Mary K. Freeman, and to them was born one son, L. C. William died September 1, 1896. Theodosia Goit, on March 29, 1866, was married to George W. Trichler, M. D. Dr. Trichler was a native of Bellefontaine, Logan Co., Ohio. He was a gallant officer of the 57th O. V. I. during the late Civil war, serving as captain of Company G, and after the war removed to Riga, Mich., where he practiced his profession for twenty-three years, and where he was actively and prominently identified with the affairs of the place. He served several terms as postmaster, and for years conducted a drug store. In 1889 he removed to Bowling Green, Ohio. His death occurred September 27, 1890. To the marriage of Dr. Trichler and Miss Theodosia Goit were born: W. S. Trichler, December 29, 1867, now a practicing physician, who, on October 9, 1893, was married to Theresa Thiel (born May 4, 1867), and to them was born, October 7, 1895, a daughter—Lucile; Alice, born September 30, 1871, was on June 23, 1890, married to E. C. Lossing, of Bowling Green, associate editor of the *Tribune*, and they have two children—Milton, born April 2, 1891, and Gladys, born September 20, 1894; and Theodosia May, born May 1, 1879.

It is said of Mr. Goit by all his clients, that he would not, for the sake of money, encourage litigation. In his professional capacity he was a peace-maker among men, always counseling the settlement of difficulties, without going into court, if it was consistent with the honor of both parties. He was a sincere friend, and in his most prosperous days never forgot those who were his friends at the beginning, when he was poor. He died in 1880, at the age of seventy-two years, revered and honored as an upright, earnest, honest man, with but few blemishes, few enemies, and almost numberless devoted friends. In religious faith he was a member of the Presbyterian Church; in social connection, he was affiliated with the I. O. O. F., subordinate lodge; in politics he was an ardent Republican.

Mr. Lossing, whose name is mentioned in connection with this family, is a native of the State of Michigan. He was engaged as a teacher for several years before coming to Bowling Green, some half dozen years ago. He was one of the practical men connected with the Glass Works, and since the establishment of the *Evening Tribune*, August 22, 1892, he has been identified with that paper, first as reporter, and since August, 1894, as associate editor. Mr. Lossing is a bright young man, and we predict for him a

future. He is a cousin of Benson J. Lossing, the historian.

A. J. MANVILLE, M. D., was for many years a well-known druggist of Bowling Green, and, in former years, a leading medical practitioner of that place. He first saw the light May 9, 1834, in Plain township, in what is now the city of Bowling Green, and was the second white child born in that township. His parents were Eli and Elizabeth (Maginnis) Manville, and his paternal grandparents were pioneers of Delaware county, Ohio, where his father probably was born.

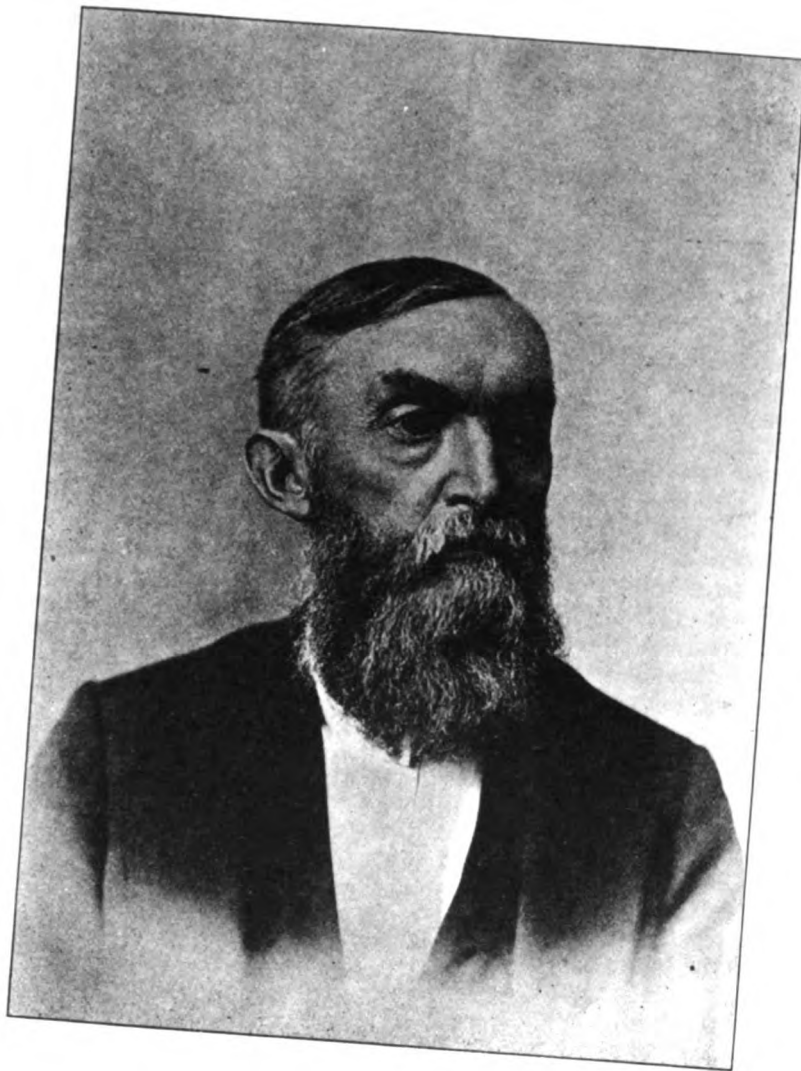
Eli Manville was also a physician, and took his first course in medicine at the medical college at Lexington, Ky., in the days when Henry Clay, then in his prime, was a patron of that institution. He subsequently was graduated and took the degree of M. D. from the Ohio Medical College, Cincinnati. His first permanent location was at Terre Haute, Ind., where he formed a partnership with an old-established physician, and practiced his profession for a short time. Dr. Manville was soon afterward elected a member of the Indiana Legislature, and became to some extent engaged in general business. He owned two flat-boats, which he loaded with all kinds of produce, shipping to New Orleans; this enterprise, however, proved a disastrous one, as both the boats and their cargoes were sunk in the Mississippi. This crippled him financially, and, returning to Delaware county, Ohio, he there resumed his medical practice, and shortly afterward was married to Elizabeth Maginnis. In 1834 Dr. Manville removed to Wood county, and settled on the prairie which was afterward the site of the township to which he gave the name of Plain. Here he practiced for a number of years; but as the place was sparsely settled, and the opportunities for making money were few, he joined the western tide of emigration, going to Illinois and locating in a small town, finally removing to Chicago, where he died in 1865.

The mother of our subject, who was of Irish descent, was born September 28, 1813, in Virginia, her parents having temporarily located in that State on the way from their home in Pennsylvania to their final destination in Knox county, Ohio. There were three children in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Eli Manville, namely: A. J., the subject of this sketch; Ann Maria, deceased wife of John Mears; and Amanda E., who died when about seventeen years old.

The early days of our subject were also the pioneer days of Bowling Green, which was then

but a small settlement, and his advantages for an education were only such as could be derived from the primitive schools of that time. At the age of fifteen, owning forty acres of wild land, worth about one hundred dollars, given him by his mother, he commenced life in earnest. He began by occupying his land, building a log cabin, and working as much as he was able at clearing off the heavy growth of timber with which it was covered, and otherwise improving it. By industry and economy he was enabled to purchase twenty acres of land adjoining the original forty acres. He continued the occupation of farming until November, 1863, when, by the advice of his mother, he commenced the study of medicine with Dr. G. J. Rogers, a pioneer physician of Bowling Green, who gladly accepted him as a pupil, and who proposed that they buy a small drug store which was then offered for sale. This they did, and the young student spent his time in reading up for his profession and in attending to the store, in the latter way acquiring a knowledge of drugs and the compounding of medicines so necessary to physicians. In October, 1864, he entered the Medical College at Ann Arbor, Mich., studying there for one year, then returning to the drug store for another year, after which he entered the Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York City, graduating from that institution in 1866 with the degree of M. D. During his course at the latter college he studied under some of the most famous professors in America, among them being Drs. Austin Flint, senior and junior, Surgeon-General Hammond, Lewis A. Sayers and Dr. Frank H. Hamilton, all of whom are of international repute.

After his graduation Dr. Manville returned to Bowling Green, and entered into partnership with Dr. Rogers, carrying on a drug store at the same time. He had an extensive practice from 1866 until 1875, when, on account of failing health, he was forced to gradually withdraw from active work in his profession, and from that time on devoted his time chiefly to the drug business, which was finally carried on under the firm name of Bolles & Manville. He was engaged in the drug business from 1863 until January 1, 1896, when he sold out his interest, and during part of that time was interested in two stores. Dr. Manville is one of the most widely known citizens of Wood county, and has always taken an active part in public affairs. He was instrumental in having Bowling Green made the county seat, and was treasurer of the Bowling Green & Toledo Railroad Company, which built the short line between Tontogany and Bowling Green. In pol-



*Andrew J. Manville, M.D.*

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itics he is a Democrat; socially he is a prominent member of the Masonic Order. He belongs to the Wood County Medical Association and the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association.

On January 17, 1872, Dr. Manville was married to Miss Alice J. Sholes. They have one child, Iona, born September 11, 1875, in Bowling Green, who is attending the female college at Glendale, Ohio, where she is taking a special course in art and music, and expects to finish her education; she is a most estimable young lady. The Doctor has always invested all his spare means in real estate, and in addition to his fine home in the city, which comprises one block, is the owner of several town lots and also some farm lands in the county. He spent the winter of 1895-96 in Florida.

EDWIN H. SIMMONS, an enterprising farmer of Perrysburg, is a native of Huron county, where he was born November 2, 1855. He came to Wood county when eight years old, and went to school at Thompson's school house, in District No. 3. He remained at home on the farm until 1883, and then went to Dakota and Wisconsin for a while to view the western country, subsequently returning to Wood county.

On January 25, 1888, Mr. Simmons was married to Miss Mary Hundley, whose birth took place in Perrysburg, September 22, 1865. Two children have been born to them, Alma, and Ray. After his marriage our subject settled down in Perrysburg, having bought forty acres of land, on which, in 1887, he built a substantial house. In politics he was a Democrat, and was elected trustee of Perrysburg township last spring, by the largest majority (180) ever given to the candidate for that office in that township. He is a member of Fort Meigs Lodge, I. O. O. F., at Perrysburg, and has been given the position of agent for the Lime City Farmers Mutual Fire Association. He is up to date in all matters pertaining to his business, and the Association has secured a valuable man in Mr. Simmons. He is energetic and progressive, and has numerous friends both in a business way and personally.

Robert Simmons, the father of our subject, was born in Cambridgeshire, England, May 10, 1832. In 1852 he was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Jane Van Sickle, who was born in Delaware county, Ohio, February 27, 1836. They came to Wood county in 1863, and Mr. Simmons bought a farm in Perrysburg township, then full of timber, and he had to clear a space large enough to build a house upon. Later he increased his property, and became an extensive

land owner. Mr. and Mrs. Simmons are both living, and reside in the town of Perrysburg. This couple had four children, namely: Edwin, our subject; Ira C., born June 18, 1860; Adelbert, born March 18, 1864; Florence May, born December 29, 1866. All are married except Florence.

Mrs. Simmons is a descendant of the Holland Dutch, who settled in New York State. The progenitor's name was Ferdinand Van Sickle, who was born in Holland about the year 1638, and came to America when a young man.

JOHN AULT, one of the leading citizens of Wood county, and a resident of Lime City, was born in Bavaria, Germany, March 1, 1843, and is the son of George and Anna (Pinsil) Ault. Both parents were also natives of Bavaria; where they married in 1841, coming to America in 1852. Four children were born to them: John, Anna, Joseph, and Martin.

Our subject spent his boyhood in Lime City, and attended the district schools, supplementing this education by three years at a college. He was married May 18, 1875, to Miss Barbara Munger, who was born in Perrysburg in 1847, and they had nine children, as follows: Mary, Elizabeth, George, Frank, Joseph, Bertha, Edmund, Helen, and William. Mr. Ault has always resided near Lime City, settling first on the old homestead of forty acres, which he afterward sold. He now has a substantial house on 200 acres of land adjoining his old home. His energies have been well directed, and he is recognized as one of the leaders in Wood county. For five years he has been a trustee of the township, and secretary of the Lime City Farmers Mutual Benefit Fire Association, of which he was one of the chief promoters. He is a member of the commission appointed for building the county court house. In religious faith he is a member of the Roman Catholic Church. Mr. Ault is intelligent and progressive, and an earnest worker in the interest of the community in which he lives.

CHARLES E. AUVERTER has led an industrious and useful life, and has worked his way upward step by step, until he now occupies a leading position among the substantial and prominent farmers of Wood county. He has spent his entire life in this county, his birth having occurred in Henry township, January 1, 1856. His parents, Michael and Rachel (Milbourn) Auverter, are now living retired in North Baltimore.



To the public-school system our subject is indebted for his educational privileges. At the age of nineteen he began to learn the carpenter's trade, but made his home under the parental roof until his marriage. On the 13th of February, 1883, in Henry township, was solemnized the marriage of Charles Auverter and Miss Della Beatty, who was born February 22, 1862, and is a daughter of Hiram and Delila (Willford) Beatty. The young couple began their domestic life upon their present farm, Mr. Auverter having purchased forty acres of land in the fall of 1882, and in the spring of 1883 he erected a pleasant dwelling. Farming, however, is not his chief occupation, as he gives the greater part of his attention to carpentering. He has also worked to a limited extent in the oil fields, and has been a very industrious and energetic man. Upon his own land he has developed ten oil wells, four of which are now running.

In his political affiliations, Mr. Auverter is a Democrat, and for some years has served as supervisor. He has also filled the office of school director, and the cause of education has found in him a staunch friend. In fact he is the champion of all movements that he believes calculated to advance the general welfare, and is therefore a valued citizen of the community.

JUDGE HENRY H. DODGE, a leading attorney of Bowling Green, and for many years Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, was born in the town of Pompey, Onondaga Co., N. Y., February 4, 1830.

His grandfather, Ezra Dodge, a native of Windsor, Conn., and a soldier in the Revolutionary war, removed to New York State in 1800, taking up a "Soldier's Claim" in the township of Pompey, where he died in 1816, at the age of sixty-two.

David F. Dodge, our subject's father, was born at Windsor, Conn., September 8, 1787, and when thirteen years old accompanied his parents to their new home, where he spent the remainder of his life, dying at eighty-two years of age. He was a Whig until that party disbanded, when he became a Democrat. During the war he joined the Union party. He married Ada H. Roberts, a lady of Huguenot descent, and a native of Windsor, Conn., where her father had located after being driven from France by the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. She was born in 1797, and died in 1878. Our subject's parents were both Presbyterians in early life, but in 1838 they were converted to the Catholic faith, to which their surviving children adhered. They

had three daughters and one son, our subject. Diane, deceased, was the wife of Francis Manahan, a hardware merchant of Utica, N. Y.; Mary, deceased, was the wife of Daniel G. Wheaton, a farmer of Pompey, N. Y.; and Cynthia became a sister of charity. She died in 1893 at Mount St. Vincent's Academy on the Hudson, in New York City, after more than forty years of devoted service. She was known as Sister Maria, and was one of the chief officers of the institution, performing the combined duties of secretary and treasurer for many years. For a few years before her death she held the arduous office of Prefect of studies in the school.

The Judge was educated in the old Pompey Academy, at Pompey Hill, until at the age of sixteen he was sent to St. John's College, New York City, where he was graduated in 1849. He spent the next two years working on his father's farm, and then began the study of law with Victory Birdseye, of Pompey. In the fall of 1852 he came to Perrysburg, Wood county, and finished his preparation for the bar in the office of Spink & Murray. After his admission in 1855, he went into partnership with James Murray, Mr. Spink having died, and continued in practice with him until Mr. Murray was elected Attorney-General of Ohio, in 1859. Our subject then formed a partnership with the late James R. Tyler, which lasted until 1869. Afterward he had as a partner, for a short time, Edson Goit, of Bowling Green, now deceased, and later was associated in the practice of law with Jasher Pillars. In 1877 he was elected Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. He was on the Bench for ten years, making an enviable record for judicial ability, and on his retirement in 1888 he resumed his law practice, taking as a partner John W. Canary.

In 1857 Judge Dodge married Sarah Wilkison, who was born December 20, 1837. Of their two children, the eldest, Mary, born in 1860, married Ernest G. Miller, and went to Creede, Col., where she died December 12, 1893, leaving two children, Hobart and Mary D., who now live with our subject. Frederick D., our subject's son, is the General Agent for Bloch Bros'. Tobacco Co., of Wheeling, W. Va. Judge Dodge is an influential member of the Democratic party, and has been a leader in many progressive movements in the community.

CAPTAIN DAVID WILKISON (deceased), of Perrysburg, was born at or near Buffalo, in February, 1800, and at an early age went on the Lake as a sailor. In 1815 he sailed up the Maumee river on the schooner "Blacksnake," commanded by

his uncle, Jacob Wilkison. This was a small craft to venture upon the lake, being but twenty-five ton burden. At that time nothing but a wild forest was to be seen where Perrysburg now stands. The "Blacksnake" brought up as passengers the family of Mulhollen, who later kept the noted tavern, "Vienna;" also a Mr. Hunter and family, Scott Robb, and a Mr. Hopkins, who settled on land above the present village of Perrysburg. At that time Fort Meigs contained about forty soldiers, who were taken to Detroit by the schooner on her return trip.

In 1817, the "Blacksnake" was in command of Capt. David Wilkison, and made several trips to the Maumee, bringing new settlers, goods, etc., and carrying back fish. In 1818, Capt. Daniel Hubbell bought a controlling interest in the schooner "Pilot," and Capt. Wilkison was placed in command, running between Buffalo and the Maumee Rapids. By that time the Valley of the Maumee began to produce a surplus of corn, and the "Pilot" was well loaded on her return trips with corn and fish. Capt. Wilkison continued upon the lakes, running in connection with the Maumee trade until 1828, at which time he removed his family to Perrysburg. Up to this time he had been in command, successively, of the schooners "Blacksnake," "Pilot," "Mary Jane," "President," "Superior," "Guerriere" and "Eagle," the latter being a schooner of sixty tons, built at Port Lawrence, now Toledo, in 1828, at a cost of \$3,000. The "Eagle" continued under the command of Capt. Wilkison until 1835, doing a profitable business, as was the case with all lake vessels at that period. Capt. Wilkison left the "Eagle" to take command of the new steamer, "Commodore Perry," continuing in charge of her until 1845, when he took command of the steamer "Superior," running between Perrysburg and Buffalo. He continued to run this steamer until the close of navigation in 1852, when he retired after having spent thirty-seven years upon the lakes, in all of which time he never lost a vessel or steamer, nor did he ever meet with any serious accident. His remarkable success as a navigator was owing to his superior judgment, his coolness under most trying circumstances, and his perfect knowledge of the lake.

After retiring from the lakes Capt. Wilkison devoted himself to the cultivation of his farm adjoining Perrysburg, until he lost his sight. Subsequently his sight was partially restored, and, some years prior to 1873, he was placed in charge of the lighthouse just below Manhattan, the duties of which he discharged until about the year 1872, when he returned to Per-

rerrysburg very much broken in health. In the prime of his life he possessed qualities of mind and heart which commanded the respect and secured the friendship of all who knew him, and no man sailed on the lakes who was better known. The Captain was an ardent Whig up to the time of the disruption of that party, and he then became a Republican. At the time of the great celebration at Fort Meigs in 1840, the Captain brought Gen. Harrison to the fort in his steamer Commodore Perry, and entertained a large number of visitors who came to take part there. Although somewhat bluff and a little austere in manner, Capt. Wilkison had the kindest of hearts, and no one ever appealed to him in vain for sympathy or aid in misfortune. His death occurred September 8, 1873.

The widow of Capt. Wilkison, Caroline M. (formerly Forbes), survived him, dying in 1877. He left five children, all but one of whom are still living. William D. Wilkison, the eldest son, was an invalid for many years prior to his death. John E. Wilkison was a partner of Charles Foster & Co., of Fostoria, until the disastrous failure of Mr. Foster carried the bank down with him. The failure was not in any manner owing to any mismanagement of the bank affairs, as the books showed that the bank was prosperous, and had been making money up to the date of the failure of Mr. Foster. Mr. Wilkison is now engaged in the Insurance business at Cleveland. Capt. Wilkison's eldest daughter is the wife of Isaac P. Thompson, and now resides in Perrysburg. Mr. Thompson was a part owner, and his partner, C. C. Roby, was the master of the steamer "Griffith," which was lost on Lake Erie in 1850, accompanied by a loss of life that spread mourning over the land. Sarah, the second daughter, is the wife of Judge Henry H. Dodge, and now resides at Bowling Green, Ohio. Caroline, the youngest daughter, is the wife of Earl W. Merry, the well-known banker of Bowling Green.

C. L. HUDDLE, proprietor and editor of the North Baltimore *Times*, is a native of Tiffin, Ohio, born October 23, 1866. He is the son of Louis and Ellen (Hershberger) Huddle, both of whom were born in Bloom township, Seneca Co., Ohio. Mr. Huddle lived with his parents during the early part of his life, and attended the Sidney (Ohio) High School. He then went to work in the office of the Shelby County *Democrat*, at Sidney, and learned the printer's trade, after which he was employed as foreman on the

Mt. Gilead *Sentinel* for a year, and then worked two years as foreman of the job printing department of the *Lima Republican*. At the end of that time the *Republican* and *Gazette* consolidated, forming the *Lima Republican-Gazette*, with which our subject still retained the position of foreman of the job printing department. In January, 1891, he accepted a position as foreman on the *Fostoria Times*, which he held until July 1, 1893, at that time moving to North Baltimore, where he secured control of the *North Baltimore Times*, which he has run successfully ever since. It is Democratic in principle, and is one of the most popular and extensively read papers in southern Wood county. Mr. Huddle is an energetic worker, knows what will interest the people of his community, and, as a consequence, has materially increased the circulation of the *Times* within the last two years.

The parents of our subject lived in Bloom township until 1871, when they went to Shelby county, going from there in 1886 to Lima, and thence to Fostoria, locating finally in Tiffin, where they reside at present. Mr. Huddle is a machinist by trade. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., and in politics upholds the principles of the Prohibitionists. Mrs. Huddle is a member of the Baptist Church. Four children were born to them: Hershel J. lives in Cincinnati, and is a stenographer for the Union Central Life Insurance Company; Benjamin C. is located at Gann Valley, S. Dak., where he is States attorney, C. L. is our subject; Adelma C. resides at North Baltimore, and is connected with the *Times*.

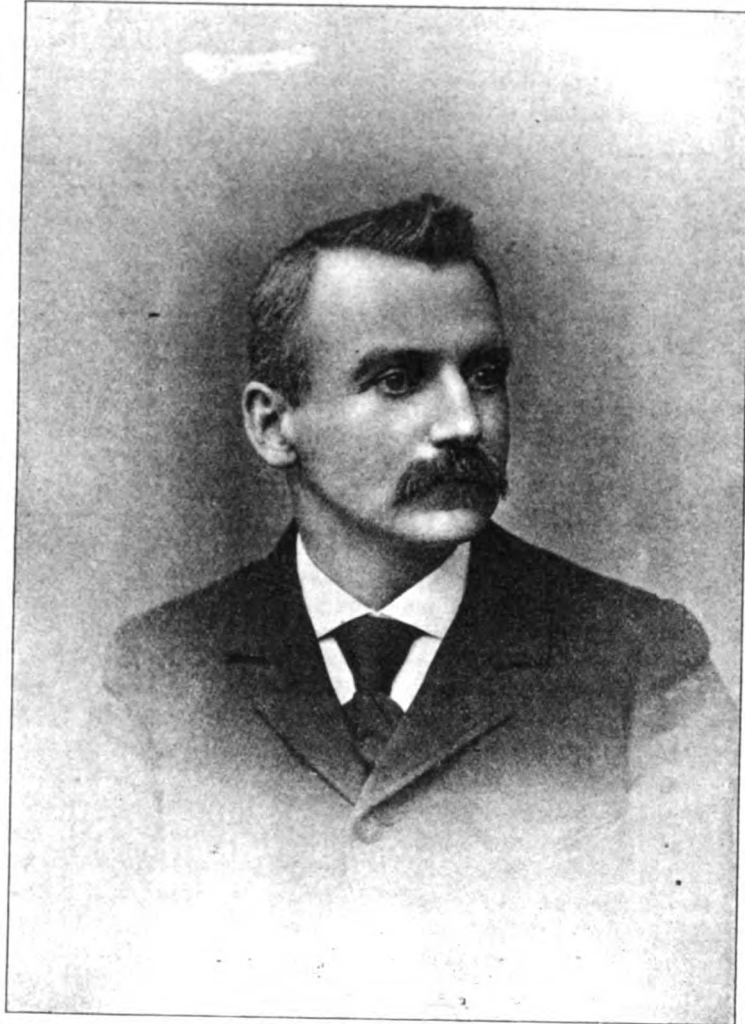
WILLIAM S. HASKELL, the popular and efficient retiring mayor of Bowling Green, and member of the well-known law firm of Mears & Haskell, has been a resident of the city some twenty years, and well deserves prominent mention in the pages of this volume.

Mr. Haskell is a native of Michigan, born in Detroit, April 11, 1850, and is a son of Rev. Samuel and Elizabeth (Granger) Haskell, who had five children, as follows: William S., whose name introduces this sketch; Samuel, deceased at the age of three years; Frank D., secretary of a paper manufacturing company, with residence at Kalamazoo, Mich.; Belle, who died at the age of eleven months; and Henry (married), chief clerk in the office of the Grand Rapids & Indiana railroad, with residence at Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Rev. Samuel Haskell, D. D., was born March 20, 1818, in Maine, where he was reared to early manhood, receiving a good common-

school education. At the age of eighteen, the then "Far West" presenting many attractions to youths of ordinary ambition, our subject set out, alone and on horseback, from his Eastern home for Illinois, arriving in due course at Cairo. Entering land from the government near Rock river, near where now stands the city of Rockford, he made his home there for some three or four years, then, selling out, returned to the East, Suffield, Conn., being his objective point. Here he prepared himself for college, in time entering Brown University at Providence, R. I., where he graduated in the class of '45. After this he commenced a course of study at the Theological University of Hamilton, N. Y., a Baptist institution, graduating in the class of '47, thoroughly equipped, intellectually speaking, for the pulpit or platform. Mr. Haskell was then called to the First Baptist Church, of Detroit, Mich., his first charge, where he remained from 1847 to 1852; from there he was called to the First Baptist Church, of Kalamazoo, which he served as pastor from 1852 to 1871, from the latter date up to 1888, filling a similar position with the First Baptist Church at Ann Arbor, Mich. Being now seventy years of age, Rev. S. Haskell resigned his pastoral labors, and was elected Professor of Biblical research at Kalamazoo College, which professorship he still retains, although he is now in his seventy-ninth year. A man of high literary training and attainments, he has left indelible footprints of his ability that will be visible long after the original has withdrawn from the arena of life. In 1895 he wrote a work on Heroes and Hierarchs, and during his active lifetime has issued many pamphlets, etc., including a "Pioneer History of the Baptist Church of Michigan," and "Pioneer Addresses on Michigan History," besides contributing a mass of literary matter to various Baptist periodicals and newspapers throughout the country. In his political preferences he was originally a Whig, and since the organization of the party has been an equally zealous Republican. Socially he is a member of college societies, and he is universally respected and esteemed. His wife Elizabeth (Granger), the mother of William S. Haskell, died in 1887 at Ann Arbor, Mich.; she was related to the Grangers of historic renown, one of whom was in President Harrison's cabinet in 1841, and the other served in 1801 under Jefferson and Madison; each was postmaster-general.

William S. Haskell, of whom this sketch more particularly relates, was two years old when his parents moved from Detroit to Kalamazoo, Mich., at the common schools of which latter



*W. S. Haskell*



city he received his elementary education, then taking a two-years' course at the high school. In 1865 he commenced studies at Kalamazoo College, taking the Freshman and Sophomore years, then taught two years, after which he entered the junior year at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, graduating there in the classical course in 1872. Mr. Haskell then commenced teaching school at Three Rivers, Mich., where he was superintendent one year, after which he taught at Middletown, Ind., from 1873 to 1877, in August of which latter year he came to Bowling Green. Here he served as superintendent of schools from 1877 to 1883, during which time he organized the present system, and graduated the first two classes—of '82 and '83. Desiring to retire from educational work, Mr. Haskell declined re-election to the office of superintendent of schools, and commenced the study of law in the office of Cook & Troup, passing his examination and being admitted to the bar in 1885. At once commencing the practice of his profession at Bowling Green, he continued in the same until 1887, in which year he was appointed secretary-treasurer of the Hankey Lumber Co., transacting all the legal business of that firm, in which he is now a stockholder. In July, 1894, he resigned his position with that company, in order to enter his present partnership with Mr. Mears, in the practice of law, Mears & Haskell being recognized as one of the strongest legal firms in northwestern Ohio, and enjoying a wide and influential clientele.

In 1875 Mr. Haskell was married in Vigo county, Ind., to Miss Eliza Weeks, who was born in Hartford, that State, daughter of Harvey and Mary (Piety) Weeks, the father a native of Kentucky, the mother of Virginia; he died in 1865, and she is now a resident of Terre Haute, Ind. To Mr. and Mrs. Haskell have been born four children, named respectively: Stella, Frank, Mary and George. Mrs. Haskell is a member of the Baptist Church, a member and president of the school board of Bowling Green, elected thereto in 1895.

A Republican in politics, our subject has been a life-long supporter of the principles embodied in the platform of that party. He has served in various offices of trust and honor; member of the school board two terms from 1884; member of the Wood county board of examiners two terms; member of the city council two terms, and while serving his second term was appointed mayor of Bowling Green to fill the unexpired term of A. B. Murphy. In 1894, such is his popularity and superior administrative qualifications, he was re-

lected to that incumbency which he filled with characteristic ability and zeal through the term. Socially, Mr. Haskell is a member of the F. & A. M., Wood County Lodge No. 112, and of the K. of P., Kenneth Lodge No. 158. By perseverance, energy and assiduous application, he has successfully surmounted many difficulties in the course of his career from boyhood, and has worked his way up steadily to an honorable position in professional life.

DANIEL WEBSTER LEVERS is one of the native sons of Wood county, born in Plain township, May 11, 1861. His parents were William H. and Liddy (Vernon) Levers. He obtained his education in the district schools of the neighborhood, and at the age of nineteen laid aside his text books to learn, in life's school, the difficult lessons of experience. Throughout his boyhood he spent his vacation months in work on the home farm, and was thus employed until his marriage.

On October 22, 1890, in Bowling Green, Mr. Levers led to the marriage altar Miss Della Bordner, who was born July 13, 1870. He purchased from his father forty acres of land, erected thereon a good substantial dwelling, and has made many other excellent improvements. In the spring of 1895 he purchased an additional forty acres, and now has a valuable farm which in return for his care and cultivation yields to him a good tribute. He is an intelligent, enterprising agriculturist who follows progressive methods, and is regarded as one of the substantial citizens of the community. In politics he is a Republican, and has served for three terms as supervisor, but has never been active in political affairs, preferring to devote his time and energies to his business pursuits.

CAPTAIN THOMAS MAWER, a prominent and well-known agriculturist of Washington township, was born in Montreal, Canada, March 14, 1835. His father, William Mawer, was born in Leeds, England, in 1789, and was a butcher by trade. He married Jane Thompson, and they had twelve children: William (1), who died in infancy; William (2), who lived in Illinois, and died in 1893, aged eighty-one years; Matthew (1), died in infancy; Matthew (2), who died in 1838, aged eighteen; John, died in 1839 at the age of sixteen; George (1), died in 1827, aged eight years; Septimus, a farmer in Washington township; Jane (1), who died in infancy; Jane (2), wife of Jacob Huff, of Milton Center; Margaret, who married Philip Smith, and after his death

wedded D. Lashley, but is now deceased; George (2), who died in the army, aged thirty-one; and Thomas. On October 7, 1830, the parents and six children took passage on a sailing vessel for Canada, and on reaching that country remained until 1837, then lived in New York State a year, and in 1838 came to Ohio, where the father engaged in the building of a canal, and, purchasing the Indian island from a board of missions, he there made his home until his death in 1843. His wife died in 1858.

Our subject acquired his early education in the old log school house near his home, in Washington township, Wood county. When a child of eight years his father died, and two years later he began work at four dollars per month; the following year he received five dollars a month, then took up the cooper's trade, which he followed while fitting himself for the profession of school teaching, to which he devoted his energies some two years. At the breaking out of the Civil war he was the first man in Washington township to enlist, becoming a member of Company B, 21st Regiment O. V. I., under Capt. Carr and Col. Norton. He enlisted in the three-months' service, and from Cleveland, Ohio, went to Charlestown, W. Va., and in August, 1861, returned home. On July 15, 1862, he re-enlisted, received a commission, raised a company, which became Company A of the 100th Regiment, O. V. I. For meritorious service he was promoted from the rank of second lieutenant to that of first lieutenant, then to captain. He was mostly engaged in skirmish duty and border warfare in Kentucky, and participated in the battles of Hickman, Ky., and Limestone, Tenn., at which latter engagement he was taken prisoner, and was held in captivity some fifteen months. He was in Libby prison at a time when the Union soldiers were given only one-fourth of the regular rations. From Richmond he was sent to Macon, Ga., where he was kept in a stockade during the months of May, June, July, until about August 1, 1864, and was allowed there two ounces of beef and two teaspoonfuls of beans for a meal. About August 1 he was removed and taken to Charleston, S. C., with 1,700 officers, and placed in different parts of the city for the purpose of protecting it from the bombardment of the Federal forces. "Here they were kept about three weeks, when the Union commander placed a like number of Confederate prisoners on the parapets of his fort, who would be kept there under fire as long as the Union prisoners were." Lieut. Mawer was first placed in the Charleston jail, but in a short time was removed to the jail yard,

which was enclosed with a high stone wall. While confined in the latter place a terrific storm occurred and the water stood a foot deep in the jail yard. He, with the other prisoners, was compelled to lie in the water (for it did not pass away for twenty-four hours) and sleep, if they could. "Owing to the exposure he experienced, Mr. Mawer was taken sick, and had to be sent to Rickerville hospital, when many of the patients had yellow fever, which he fortunately escaped. In November of that year he, with some others, was sent to Savannah, Ga., and there paroled." Lieut. Mawer was sent to Annapolis, Md., and placed in the hospital, and was so emaciated that he weighed but eighty pounds. His mind was so affected he hardly realized he was within the Federal lines; was afflicted with scurvy and other diseases common to prison life (was fifteen months a prisoner of war). He remained in the hospital about two months, then was sent home. In February, 1865, he was offered a lieutenant-colonelcy of a new regiment being organized at the time, but on account of not being exchanged he could not accept it. He returned to his command in North Carolina as soon as he was exchanged. During the time he was a prisoner he was promoted to the rank of captain, and on his return to the regiment he took charge of his company, and was present when Gen. Johnston surrendered, the 100th Regiment, O. V. I., taking charge of Johnston's arms and ordnance, and remaining until mustered out, June 22, 1865, thence was sent to Cleveland, Ohio, was paid, and discharged July 3, 1865.

On his return home in July, 1865, Capt. Mawer purchased 180 acres of land, forty of which he afterward sold. It was covered with timber and water, the former of which he cut into lumber and sold. He drained and tiled his land, and as fast as possible transformed it into productive fields. He now has a fine house upon the place, three acres in orchard, a good barn and tool house, a granary and a cooper shop.

On October 15, 1865, he was married to Helen Jane Batt, who was born in New York, October 29, 1843, a daughter of John and Ann (Watkins) Batt, natives of the Empire State, who came to Ohio in 1855. The father was a cooper by trade, which he followed for many years. He died in Waterville, Ohio, in 1891, his wife in 1890. They had five children: Levi, deceased; Mrs. Mawer; William, a cooper of Waterville; and John and Bert, deceased. Mrs. Mawer for seven years prior to her marriage engaged in teaching at Waterville, and is a lady of culture and refine-

ment. They have five children: John V., born May 24, 1867, married Harriet Roe, and operates the home farm; Anna, born October 27, 1868, is the wife of Erwin Ellsworth, a harness-maker of Oak Harbor, Ottawa Co., Ohio, and they have one son—Erwin; George C., born October 19, 1871, married Anna Lao, and is now a veterinary surgeon at Oak Harbor—a graduate of Ohio University—they have one child, Helen; Elbert C., born December 9, 1878, is at home; Frank, born October 6, 1881, died August 17, 1882. Capt. Mawer is a member of the Masonic fraternity and the Grand Army of the Republic. For three years he served as a justice of the peace, and then resigned; for fifteen years he was a school director; for fifteen years member of the township board, and has also been supervisor. In politics he was formerly a Republican, but is now a Democrat. In 1883 he ran on the Democratic ticket for representative, and, though defeated, ran ahead of his ticket; he also made the race for member of the State Board of Equalization, but was not elected.

OWEN W. MALONEY, the well-known tank manufacturer of Bowling Green was born in Crawford county, Penn., June 4, 1865. He is of Irish descent on the father's side, while his mother's ancestors were Scotch, and he combines in an unusual degree the best qualities of both races, his sound judgment and unyielding perseverance being accompanied by geniality and pleasing humor.

Henry Maloney, his father, was also a native of Crawford county, Penn., but now resides in West Virginia where he has been engaged in the milling business for many years. He is a Democrat in politics, and a prominent member of the Baptist Church. He married Miss Hannah J. Troutman, a native of Perrysville, Clarion Co., Penn., by whom he had four children: Mary, who died in childhood; Owen W., our subject; Carrie M. and William (twins), the former now the wife of Charles Silkes, of Sisterville, W. Va., an oil operator; the latter is in the mining business in Missouri.

Owen W. Maloney spent the greater part of his boyhood in Cabell county, W. Va., and attended the schools of Milton. His first business venture was in gardening, but after two years of this he went to Emlenton, Penn., and secured employment in the oil fields, as pumper. In 1888 he came to Wood county, and began the business of tank building at Cygnet, where he remained until 1891, when he transferred his business to Bowling Green. His time is now occu-

ried with his constantly increasing work in this line, manufacturing his tanks from the rough, and employing two men steadily, and eight during the busier seasons. He is also interested in an oil company now operating at Haskins. He was married July 29, 1889, to Miss Malinda Jolly, a native of Emlenton, Penn., born June 29, 1867, and they have three children: Roy, George and Wayne, all of whom are at home. Politically Mr. Maloney is a Prohibitionist, and he belongs to the I. O. O. F. and the K. O. T. M. Lodges.

JUDGE EDWIN TULLER (deceased) was one of the oldest pioneers of Wood county, and, as a leading factor in many events that have marked her progress, he has left the impress of his strong personality upon the history of this region. The family is of Scotch and English origin, the first of the American line being the Rev. John Tuller, who settled in New England at an early day. Roswell Tuller, our subject's father, was born near Simsbury, Conn. He was a soldier in the war of 1812, and took part in the battle of Fort Meigs and that of the Thames, at the latter being shot, bayoneted and left for dead on the field; but he recovered from his wounds, and finally came with his family to Delaware county, Ohio, where he was killed by lightning in 1824. His first wife was a native of Connecticut, and died in Ohio, leaving a large family of children. His second wife, Mrs. Sarah (Holcomb) Harrington, who was also born in Connecticut, was a widow with four children. Two sons were born of this union, George, who died in infancy, and our subject. The mother died in Monroe, Mich., in 1858, and of the three families of children, Judge Edwin Tuller was the last.

Our subject was born in Delaware county, Ohio, July 28, 1821, and after the death of his father accompanied his mother to Worthington, Ohio, remaining until the age of fourteen, when, in October, 1835, he came to Maumee City, and clerked in the store of a canal contractor. Later a half-brother and brother-in-law opened a store there, under the firm name of Harrington & Hunter, and he worked for them until 1840, when they sold out. After two years passed in the store of Horace Waite, he, in December, 1842, went to Otsego (where he had already bought land) with a stock of goods of his own, remaining two years, and then bought a farm and settled down to agricultural pursuits and milling for a time. He had already begun to read law, in the office of James Coffinberry, of Maumee; was active in local politics, and one of the participants in the famous mass-meeting at Fort Meigs in



1840, "hard cider and log cabin" campaign. He remembers meeting Henry Clay at Columbus, clad in his "Kentucky jeans."

On March 22, 1846, the Judge married Miss Catherine Kuder, who was born near Circleville, August 8, 1824, and six children came of this union: (1) Alice A., March 26, 1848, married Marshall F. Pennywell, and has two children—Maggie (who married John Losh, and has two sons—Arthur and Edwin), and Eva, the wife of Dr. Lee Willard. (2) Catherine C., August 12, 1850, married Adelbert L. Petteys, of this county, and has one son—Charles. (3) Martha Jane, born November 24, 1855, died October 3, 1860. (4) Flora M., February 6, 1857, married Lester Hoover, of Union county, and has two living children—Flossie and Eva. (5) Harriet Ellen, November 10, 1859, married John J. Donald, of Wells, Minn. (6) Melvinia, born November 17, 1861, died April 14, 1864. The mother of this family died in 1871; and on June 8, 1887, the Judge married Miss Nellie Paul, who was born in Rochester, N. Y., October 13, 1856, and was educated in Columbus, Ohio, where her parents were prominent people. She is an active worker in the Presbyterian Church.

In 1863 our subject was appointed probate judge, and was re-elected two terms; in 1865 he was admitted to the bar. During his third term as probate judge he resigned on account of impaired health. He then began the practice of law in connection with James R. Tyler, and resided in Perrysburg some eighteen months when he moved to Tontogany, where he continued his practice for many years. In political circles he was an influential worker, first as a Whig, and later as a Republican, and his well-known abilities caused him to be called many times to the service of the people. He was postmaster at Otsego for several years, and justice of the peace of his township some thirteen terms; was Internal Revenue assessor, appointed in 1861, and served till his appointment as probate judge in 1863. Since 1872 he has been a member of the F. & A. M. His death occurred August 29, 1896, at the age of seventy-five years, and a large circle of friends and acquaintances were left to mourn the loss of this grand old man.

JACOB EBERLY (deceased), a worthy member of the noble army of pioneers of Wood county, was a native of Pennsylvania, born in Huntingdon county, July 14, 1804, and departed this life in his Wood county home, on the Portage river, October 31, 1894.

When he was a boy of some eight or nine

summers, his widowed mother removed with her family from Huntingdon county, Penn., to Dublin, Franklin Co., Ohio, where she passed the rest of her days, dying March 14, 1868, at the advanced age of ninety-four years. Of her children, those who reached their majority were John, Jacob and Nancy—John by four years the senior, and Nancy two years the junior, of Jacob, all now deceased. Nancy married George Evans, and, as did also her brother John, remained at Dublin during her life. Hon. Eli P. Evans, now occupying the common pleas bench in Columbus, Ohio, is the fourth son of Nancy.

Jacob Eberly remained at Dublin, Ohio, until of age, and then set out to commence life for himself, first stopping at Fremont, Ohio, for a few months, then proceeding farther, reached Waterville (at that time in Wood county) on March 3, 1826. Here he made the acquaintance of Elizabeth Cox, whom he married October 28, 1827. In this "Village on the Maumee" Mr. Eberly remained, carrying on his trade of blacksmithing, until 1833, when he removed upon 127 acres of land pleasantly located upon the Portage river, one mile northeast of the town of Portage, in Wood county, where he thereafter resided. Here he also engaged at his trade, and for fifteen years or more applied himself with much energy, realizing a liberal income, for that day. A large factor in the success which attended his efforts, however, was the untiring energy, perseverance, ingenuity and economy of his faithful life companion. Through their joint labor, at the expiration of some fifteen years, aside from keeping up the excessive doctor bills growing out of the new and undrained condition of the country, and maintaining a large family, they had paid for and largely improved and drained, the homestead. As the avails of the farm increased, the cares and responsibilities grew lighter, so that during the balance of his life, aside from superintending the farm, Mr. Eberly devoted much time to reading, keeping well informed upon current events, and the political issues of the times. Personally quiet, even-tempered, generous and thoughtful, he enjoyed the esteem and confidence of his neighbors. In earlier life he was (though against his wish) elected township treasurer; served the term, and was re-elected for twenty-five years thereafter; was requested to become a candidate for more responsible places, but preferred the quiet domestic life he lived.

Over sixty-one of the sixty-seven years of the married life of this honored couple, and extending to the year 1894, were passed in peace and happiness upon the old homestead, in which year, on



**MRS. ELIZABETH EBERLY.**



**JACOB EBERLY.**







*Yours Truly*  
*W. S. Eberly*

the 31st day of October, Mr. Eberly passed away in his ninety-first year, and seventeen days thereafter, in her eighty-ninth year, his companion followed. Six children survive them: Joseph C., Matilda Johnson, William S., Elliott, Harriet E. Doud, and Benjamin C.

A graphic description of the homestead and its occupants at an early day is given by O. P. Jaques, a nephew of Mrs. Eberly, in a letter written to a member of the family a few days after the death of Mr. Eberly. Mr. Jaques, who is a prominent citizen of Warsaw, Ind., had made a visit at their home a short time prior to the death of Mr. Eberly, and this sketch will close with the following extract from his letter, which is dated Warsaw, Ind., November 7, 1894:

"When I last saw the dear old man, how plain was it to be seen that he was fast nearing the end of his long life; and I fancy that when he saw that Aunt could not recover, he did not care to live. A plain, good, honest man; a true and devoted father and husband has gone. \* \* \* What a remarkable married life! and how I am moved when thinking of them! Called back in memory, to the beginning as it were, of my life, one of the first places on earth impressed on my young mind, was the home of Aunt and Uncle Eberly, and although near sixty years have passed since that time, how visibly every feature of that pioneer home, with all of its environments at that time, presents itself to me now! A large two-story hewed-log house, with brick chimney; a double round-log barn; four or five small fields cleared out of the dense wilderness; a garden fenced with pickets near the house; another smaller log cabin near the steep bank of the creek; the well in the yard with the old-fashioned windlass. In the cabin near the creek was Uncle's smith shop, where he could nearly always be found so full of life and energy, happy and cheerful, and so industriously carrying on his business. In and about the house could always be seen the prominent figure of Aunt, surrounded by her large family of little children (the oldest but little older than myself), so full of vigor and perseverance, with her strong will-power, faithfully and industriously doing and discharging the duties of a true young wife and mother, in a new country. I love to reflect upon her noble traits of good, true womanhood."

WILLIAM S. EBERLY, senior member of the well-known firm, in Bowling Green, of Eberly & Son, merchants, was born near Portage, Wood Co., Ohio, December 19, 1836, and is a son of the late Jacob and Elizabeth (Cox) Eberly.

Our subject passed his boyhood days working on his father's farm during the summers, and attending the district school in winter time. At the age of twenty he began to teach, winters, thus securing means whereby he was enabled to avail himself of better schools, at the close of each winter term. He taught some four or five winters, attending Fostoria Academy for a time, and also Otterbein College; but his school course was interrupted by his acceptance of the office of deputy clerk of the common pleas court, which had been tendered him by the clerk. During the three years or more he was employed in this office, he at odd times studied law, under the preceptorship of Hon. Asher Cook, of Perrysburg, and he was admitted to the bar August 7, 1868. Opening a law office in Bowling Green, he continued for a short time, then removed to Fostoria, where he soon built up a good practice. Here, about the year 1874, he formed a partnership with Alex. Brown, attorney at law, but Mr. Eberly, after a few years, retiring from the partnership, returned to Bowling Green, and in the fall of 1877 was elected clerk of the common pleas court of Wood county, at the expiration of the term being re-elected—the two terms extending from February, 1878, to February, 1884. In the latter year he again opened an office at Bowling Green for the practice of law, but in a few days he was seized with a severe attack of pleurisy, from the effects of which, after a long prostration, he was partially restored to health, yet the effect upon his nervous system rendered him unfit to again engage in his profession, or, indeed, in any business, until the discovery of the great oil field of Wood county. Owning eighty acres of land in the heart of this field, his attention was for several years engaged in its development, since which time he has secured a lucrative income from its product.

Mr. Eberly and his son, Joseph F., under the firm name of Eberly & Son, are carrying on a leading retail boot and shoe business at Bowling Green, in a valuable brick block, of which our subject is the owner. He resides in a pleasant, commodious home, embracing eleven acres, and situated in the outskirts of the thrifty and progressive town of Bowling Green. A lover of reading, Mr. Eberly devotes much time to his extensive library of well-selected books, embracing history, biography, science, and all the subjects that interest modern thinkers.

Early in the summer of 1866 Mr. Eberly met and made the acquaintance of Miss Hattie A. Chubb, of Perrysburg, Ohio, upon her return from Delaware, where she had been attending

college. On the 30th of July, in the following year, they were joined in marriage at the home of her father, Rev. R. H. Chubb, then in Perrysburg. Educated, intelligent, graceful in movement, charming in conversation, refined by instinct and by discipline, beloved and venerated by her family, Mrs. Eberly lived her life of forty-seven years, when, after a long sickness, on August 5, 1893, she passed away. The children of this union all survive, viz.: Charles B., Lora O., Joseph F., Ralph J., and W. Neil.

ANDREW J. GARDNER, M. D., of Grand Rapids, was born July 19, 1827, in Hubbard, Ohio, which has been the home of his family since the year 1801, when his grandfather, John Gardner, a native of North Ireland, settled upon a farm in the then frontier region of Trumbull county. He married Elizabeth Pothour, a native of Pennsylvania, and their son Andrew, our subject's father, was born in Hubbard, in 1805. He married Emeline Roberts in 1826, also a native of Hubbard, whose parents came from Connecticut. She was born in 1804. He was an auctioneer, and later in life also followed farming. He (since 1860) was a Republican in politics, and he and wife, from early life, were united with the M. E. Church. He died at Hubbard January 26, 1868, and his widow still resides there at the age of ninety-two years. Of their six children our subject was the eldest; Lydia, next younger, resides with her mother; Harmon G. was a soldier in the artillery service during the Civil war, and died at Memphis, Tenn.; Caroline married Rev. N. G. Luke, and died in Pennsylvania; Mary Ann is the wife of J. F. Corll, of Hubbard; Dillon P. enlisted at Youngstown, in 1861, in Company B, 19th O. V. I., under Col. Beattie, and served four years. He now resides near Martinsville, Indiana.

Dr. A. J. Gardner lived at Hubbard until he was ten years of age, when he accompanied his father to Youngstown, and there attended school for several years. He read medicine for some time with Drs. Woodbridge and Garlick, and then entered the Medical Department of Western Reserve College, graduating in 1848. For a few months he practiced his profession in Sharon, Penn., and five years at Youngstown and Cleveland, Ohio. In 1853, he came to Grand Rapids, Ohio, where he has since resided, and for thirty-six years has conducted a drug store.

On May 5, 1850, the Doctor was married, at Cleveland, Ohio, to Miss Meribah S. Denison, a native of Norwich, Conn., born June 30, 1830. She passed away July 3, 1894, at Grand Rapids,

Ohio. There is one child, Lydia Leanora, now at home. In all measures for local improvement the Doctor has always been a leader. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church, as was also his wife. Politically he is a Republican, not particularly active, however, in party affairs in seeking office. He was a delegate to the State convention that nominated John Brough for governor. He is a Royal and Select Mason, belonging to Council No. 33, at Toledo.

MELVIN L. DEVORE is one of the enterprising merchants of Wood county. He was born at Tidioute, Warren Co., Penn., December 11, 1869, and is of French lineage. His grandfather, however, was a native of the Keystone State, and his father, Luke Devore, was born near Meadville, Crawford Co., Penn., where he was reared to manhood. In Warren county, he married Sophia A. Garret, who was born in Pennsylvania, and they have since lived in that county, owning there a farm of 138 acres. They have three children—Garret, a farmer of Warren county; Melvin L., and Alfred, at home.

Our subject first attended school in his native county, and completed his education by a collegiate course in Erie, Penn. Up to his sixteenth year he assisted his father in the work of the home farm, and then engaged in teaching school in Warren county for two terms. Subsequently he engaged in clerking in a grocery store in his native county for about four years, and in the fall of 1893 he came to Wood county, where he purchased a half interest in his present business, which is now conducted under the firm style of Devore & Otterback. He is an enterprising merchant, progressive in his methods, and keeping fully abreast with the times in all particulars.

Mr. Devore was married in Tidioute, Penn., in 1893, to Miss Evà Henry, who was born in Erie county, in November, 1870. Their only child died in infancy. Mr. Devore is a Democrat in politics, and a member of both the subordinate lodge and encampment of the I. O. O. F. of Tidioute. He and his wife occupy an enviable position in social circles, and are leading young people of the community in which they reside, while Mr. Devore occupies a prominent position in commercial circles.

ALFRED THURSTIN, who has the honorable distinction of being the oldest living pioneer of Bowling Green, Ohio, was born in Chenango county, N. Y., April 20, 1806, and is the son of Eli and Margaret (Koons) Thurstin.

Eli Thurstin was born in New York City, and

married in Livingston Manor. He came to Ohio in 1835, and subsequently bought a large tract of land in De Kalb county, Ind., and a portion of his family went there with him. He and his wife remained there awhile, finally returning to Ohio, taking up their residence with our subject and his first wife, near Bowling Green, where they eventually departed this life, he at about the age of sixty-seven years, and she when about eighty.

Alfred Thurstin, our subject, grew up in New York State, and came to the site of what is now Bowling Green, in October, 1833. He secured some land on which he built a log house, and then returned to New York where he married Miss Emily O. Pike. She accompanied him to his new home, where she died in 1879. To them were born the following children: (1) A. A., born in 1836, married, and lives in Bowling Green. He has one son, Frank; who is also married, and has a son, Myron. (2) Wesley S., born in 1838, and has had six children, all but one of whom are living: Jesse, Wilbur, Alice, Wesley, Ethel, Mattie, who is deceased. (3) Alfred Earl, born October 1, 1847, married Miss Edna Foot, who was born in Vermont October 18, 1855. Their children are: Nellie, wife of Andrew Shulson (their marriage took place February 20, 1875); Dora, died January 16, 1885, when seven years old; Alfred, died in 1887, when four weeks old. (Andrew Shulson is a contractor by occupation, and was in Florida for several years, but has recently returned to Bowling Green). (4) R. S., born in 1852, married Miss Ada Fairchild, and they have three children, Dora, Robbie and Ada. R. S. is with the Snow Flake Lime Co. Dora married W. B. Cornwell, and is deceased.

Our subject's second marriage took place January 11, 1888, his wife being Mrs. Martha Louise Van Tassel, a woman of education and intelligence, and unusual business capacity.

Mr. Thurstin's farm was located on the east side of what is now Main street. He laid out and sold the first lots, and built the first house in the town. The town now occupies the land used by him as a farm, on which he lived twenty-five years before Bowling Green was started. He, together with his sons and others, got up the first petition to have the county seat moved to Bowling Green. He was originally a Whig and afterward became a Republican, casting his first vote in New York for Governor DeWitt Clinton. He attended the great mass meeting held at Fort Meigs during the "hard cider" and log-cabin campaign.

J. H. WHITEHEAD, M. D. This prominent physician, and well-known citizen of Bowling Green, is a native of Wood county, his birth having taken place in Plain township, July 20, 1841.

The parents of our subject, John and Eunice (Purden) Whitehead, were natives of New Jersey, the former born in 1806, the latter in 1811. They were married in Brooklyn, N. Y., and had a family of five children, as follows: J. H., our subject; Daniel P., a farmer in Lucas county, Ohio; Theodore D., a carpenter, residing at Storm Lake, Iowa; Ellen F., wife of David Hartman, a farmer of Wood county; and Charlotte E., widow of John J. Parsons, who was killed at Deep Bottom, Va., in the war of the Rebellion. The mother of this family died in 1867, the father on May 12, 1895, at the age of eighty-four years. He was a carpenter by trade, and came to Wood county in 1833, locating at the old Mission, on the Maumee river. Later he removed to within a mile and a half of Bowling Green, where the subject of this sketch was born. He erected many of the residences and other buildings put up in the county in an early day, and was one of the prominent citizens of this community.

Dr. Whitehead attended the village schools during his early boyhood, and was a student in the high school at Bowling Green at the time of the breaking out of the Civil war. In 1861, at the age of nineteen years, he enlisted in Company H, 67th O. V. I., under Col. A. C. Voris, now Judge Voris, of Akron. The Doctor served throughout the entire war, was with Gen. Shield in the West Virginia campaign, with Gen. Gilmore in South Carolina, and with Gen. Ord at Appomattox. He participated in twenty-two battles and skirmishes, including the first battle of Winchester, siege of Fort Sumter, charge on Fort Wagner, Morris Island, and charge at Fort Gregg. In front of Petersburg, while under Gen. Butler, May 9, 1865, he was wounded, in consequence of which he was sent to Newark, N. J., and after an absence of some five months was promoted to lieutenant and adjutant. At Appomattox he was in command of a company, having risen by merit from private through all the grades, including corporal, sergeant, orderly-sergeant and first lieutenant. At the close of the war, in which he made an enviable record as a brave and faithful soldier, our subject returned home and resumed his studies in the school at Perrysburg, of which Prof. Ewing was then superintendent. After completing his course at this school, he engaged in teaching, a vocation he followed several years.



In 1871 the Doctor began reading medicine with Dr. John Osborne, of Portage, Ohio, subsequently entering the Cleveland Homeopathic College, from which he was graduated in 1874, and since that time he has been practicing in Portage and Bowling Green. For four years he was a member of the board of county school examiners, was also a member of the city council four years, and of the board of education three years. He is a member of the Ohio State Homeopathic Society, and local examiner for the Northwestern Life Insurance Company.

On July 2, 1867, Dr. Whitehead was married to Miss Susan Osborne, who was born, in 1842, in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, daughter of Dr. John and Julia (Buchtel) Osborne, the former of whom was born at Harpers Ferry, W. Va., the latter at Bethlehem, Penn. They had a family of six children, as follows: Timothy, a farmer of Wood county; Parsey, wife of J. H. McMahan, a stockman of Wood county; Lavinia, wife of G. F. Munn, a farmer and oil man; Louisa, wife of F. M. Carr, a farmer of Wood county; Susan (Mrs. Dr. Whitehead); and Catherine, deceased. Dr. Osborne died in 1887; his widow is yet living, now at the patriarchal age of ninety-six years. To Dr. and Mrs. Whitehead have been born two children: Kate, now the wife of Bert Case, and John, who was accidentally killed at the age of fifteen while hunting. The Doctor owns a business block in Bowling Green, besides numerous private residences, and has invested to some extent in the oil fields of Wood county. In his profession he holds high rank, has an extensive practice, and is highly regarded by his fellow citizens.

I. L. HANKEY, one of the successful oil producers of Wood county, and a director of the First National Bank of Bowling Green, was born in Wayne county, Ohio, July 7, 1849.

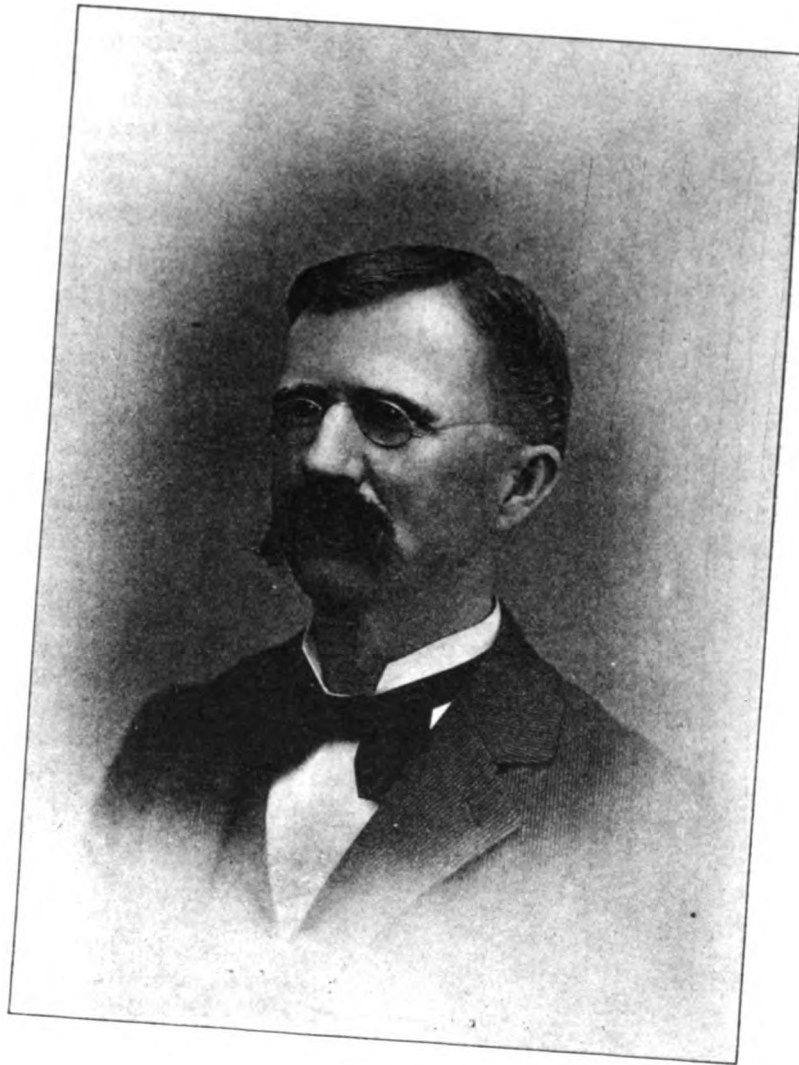
The members of the Hankey family living in Bowling Green are descended from Louis Hankey, a native of Germany who emigrated to America at an early day. It is related that he had just enough money to pay his way across the Atlantic, and furnish his own provisions. The ship lost its course at sea, and the passage consumed so much more time than was anticipated that his stock of food gave out, and he became indebted to the ship for board. On reaching New York City he was sold by the ship's company, as was the custom in those days, they getting the money for his time, which he worked out with a farmer. He afterward became a minister of the Evangelical Church, and also carried on farming. He married a Miss Less, whose father served seven years

in the Revolutionary army, and our subject remembers hearing his grandmother often tell how she could trace the path of the soldiers by the blood left on the ground from their shoeless feet. In later years Louis Hankey lived in both Stark and Summit counties, Ohio, in the latter of which he and his wife spent their last days. This estimable couple were the parents of seven children, as follows: John, father of our subject; Catherine married John Himmelright, of Summit county; Jacob lived in Summit county, near Akron, Ohio; Lydia married Rev. Miller, a minister in the Reformed Church; Sarah married a Mr. Hawk; Louis lives in Wayne county, Ohio; Samuel is a farmer, residing at Copley, Ohio.

John Hankey, father of our subject, was born in Schuylkill county, Penn., in 1814, and was three times married. His first wife was Miss Polly Fostnight, who was born in 1819, and died in 1854. She became the mother of seven children, viz.: Solomon died in infancy; Sarah married William Shammo, and is deceased; Lewis W. is a minister of the Evangelical Church at Tiffin, Ohio; John R. is fully represented elsewhere in this volume; I. L. is the subject of these lines; two died in infancy.

John Hankey followed farming until the death of the mother of these children, when he went into the dry-goods business with another man. He soon after bought out his partner, and a couple of years later sold out his store and purchased a stock of clothing with which he opened a store in West Salem, Wayne Co., Ohio, in 1859. In 1861 he removed to Burbank, in the same county, and some years later disposed of his business and went onto a farm in Medina county, Ohio, where he died in 1867. Like his father, he was an ordained minister in the Evangelical Church, but did not preach on account of bronchitis. Mr. Hankey's second wife was Miss Margaret Reach, who died fifteen months after marriage; she had one child who died in infancy. Mr. Hankey's third marriage was to Miss Sarah Strouse, of Richland county, Ohio, by whom he has two children: Isaiah S., of Bowling Green, and Sarah Katherine, who married A. L. Sourwine, a farmer of Crawford county, Ohio.

I. L. Hankey, whose name opens this sketch, is the architect of his own fortunes, and is a fine illustration of what can be accomplished by pluck and energy. His childhood was shadowed by the death of his mother, after which sad event he went to live with an uncle, Jacob Hankey. When his father was again married he returned home; but his happiness there was cut short by the death of his step-mother, and the next day



*J. L. Hawley*



he was taken back to his uncle's. There he remained until his father's third marriage, when he spent a short time with the family. After their removal to Medina county, our subject joined the family, and drove a team for his father during the construction of the Broad Guage railway through that county.

When about seventeen years old Mr. Hankey left home with one dollar in his pocket and went to Wooster, Ohio, where he found employment in a brick yard. He was next engaged in driving a wagon for a peddler, working for him some six or eight months, during which time he made a trip to Oil City, Penn., where for the first time he saw oil wells in operation. His next enterprise was to learn the trade of plumber and gas fitter, and from this he went to work on a farm, and later sold patent medicines through the country. He finally drifted into Bowling Green, where his first employment was as hack driver between Bowling Green and Haskins, and subsequently as a clerk in a grocery store.

On December 22, 1870, Mr. Hankey was married in Bowling Green to Miss Sadie Abbott, who was born in Huron county, Ohio, September 28, 1850. He then started a grocery store of his own, but this not proving a success, he began selling sewing and washing machines. In fact, he was a "hustler," and thoroughly tested anything at hand which seemed likely to lead to financial success. In 1874, Mr. Hankey established a clothing business, with his brother, J. R. Hankey, as partner, the firm name being Hankey Brothers. In this he was engaged for ten years, then sold out and went on the road for six years as traveling salesman for A. L. Gans & Co., of Philadelphia. During this time he became interested in the oil business in Wood county, his ventures being very successful. Four years ago Mr. Hankey gave up all other business to attend to his growing and valuable interests in this direction, and to-day he stands in the front rank of a few most successful oil producers in the Wood county field. He is connected with a series of gas and oil companies, and is also a director in the First National Bank of Bowling Green.

Mr. Hankey has taken an active part in all local affairs, and is a public-spirited citizen, whose worth is appreciated. He is a member from the Third ward in the city council, and has been a member of the school board. In politics he is a Republican, and socially he belongs to the I. O. O. F., Daughters of Rebekah, Royal R. A. C., K. O. T. M. He has always been very patriotic, and, when in his early manhood, was a member of the State Militia for five years. In

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1863 he ran away from home and tried to enlist at Wooster, Ohio, but was rejected on account of his youth.

Mr. and Mrs. Hankey have had four children, of whom three are living: Minne W., wife of Harry Cook, agent of the T. & O. C. railway, residing at Bowling Green; John W., who is a partner with his father in the oil business (he married Bertha Brown, and they have one child, Don Brown); Ralph Blaine, at home; and Olive Octive, who died when three months old.

Mrs. Hankey's parents, Sylvester B. and Maryette (Caswell) Abbott, were both natives of New York State, the father born in 1812, near the Catskill mountains, the mother in 1813. They were married in Ohio, whither she came with her parents, and seven children were born to them, viz.: Reuben, of Bowling Green; Elizabeth (Mrs. Bryan Niles), of Blissfield, Mich.; Melville, of Bowling Green; George, a farmer in Gratiot county, Mich.; Sadie (Mrs. Hankey); Alice (Mrs. S. Ordway), of Bowling Green; and Louis, a farmer, in Wood county. Sylvester B. Abbott was first married to Abzina Morrey, and their son, John Abbott, is a doctor in Illinois. Mr. Abbott was a lawyer by profession. He came to Wood county in 1853, owned a fine farm here, and died in Bowling Green in January, 1890. His second wife dying in December, 1875, he subsequently wedded Helen Robins, by whom he had two children: Grace (who died when eleven years old), and Jerry (a farmer of Wood county).

B. F. SPILKER. The subject of this sketch is one of the young enterprising farmers of Perrysburg township. He was born in Perrysburg October 28, 1866, and is a son of Christian and Mary Ann (Budt) Spilker, the former of whom was born in Germany, and came to Wood county when twelve years old. He married in this county, and began farming in Perrysburg township, which he made his permanent home and died there in 1888. The wife still resides on the old homestead. Their children were ten in number, as follows: Christian H., resides in Perrysburg; Mary A., his twin sister, is now Mrs. Libbin, of Toledo; Olive married Mr. John Henry, of Perrysburg; Thomas Jefferson is a telegraph operator, and lives with our subject; W. F. is married, and lives in Perrysburg township; B. F., our subject; Edward resides in Perrysburg; Charles Peter is at home; Carstin is a resident of Toledo; Flora is at home.

Our subject was reared in Perrysburg township, where he received his education. In 1889

he bought his present farm of forty acres, which he has cultivated and improved, and on which he erected his residence in 1891. He was united in marriage in Perrysburg April 16, 1891, to Miss Anna L. Schaller, who was born in Perrysburg township July 10, 1870, and is the daughter of Daniel Benedict Schaller, an early pioneer of the township. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Spilker, namely: May E., who died August 29, 1892; and Orcel Benedict. Mr. Spilker is affiliated with the Democratic party, and, with his wife, is a member of the United Brethren Church at Dowling.

FRANK KABIG, one of the most enterprising and successful of the self-made men of Bowling Green, was born in Plymouth, Richland Co., Ohio, October 19, 1852. His father, Anthony Kabig, was a native of Neuberg, Germany, and was married there to Miss Magdalen ———, with whom he not long afterward crossed the Atlantic to find a home in America. He was a butcher by occupation, and carried on that business in several towns in Ohio—Wooster, Plymouth, Bettsville, Fort Seneca—before finally locating in Bowling Green, where he died in 1886, at the age of seventy-two. His wife died in 1882. They were consistent members of the Lutheran Church from their youth. Their three children, Edward, Caroline (now Mrs. Christoph Lehmann) and Frank, are all living in Bowling Green.

Our subject's education was acquired in the public schools of the different towns in which his parents lived during his boyhood, and at the age of seventeen he began to learn the butcher's trade with Christoph Lehmann, then of Tiffin, now of Bowling Green. He worked for him ten years, and then entered into a partnership with him, which lasted for two years. In 1882 he bought a lot and built a market of his own, and for fifteen years has carried on a constantly growing trade, which has been developed by his own energy and rare business judgment. By careful investments in real-estate and other securities, he has greatly added to his wealth, and now owns 320 acres of land in Wood county, and many valuable pieces of property in the city of Bowling Green, including a half-interest in the Kabig & McKinsie block.

In 1880 he was married to Miss Fannie Mickle, a native of Wood county, born August 19, 1852. They have no children of their own, but are rearing a girl, who is now nine years of age. Mr. Kabig is a Democrat in politics, and takes a prominent part in all progressive local move-

ments, wherein his shrewd practical judgment has been no less effective than in the business lines, in which he has made such a marked success. Socially he is a member of the I. O. O. F. at Bowling Green.

CAPTAIN J. W. KNAGGS, a well-known agriculturist and oil operator residing near Portage, was born May 22, 1832, at Maumee City, Ohio. His paternal grandfather, Whitmore Knaggs, was a native of England, who came to America in Colonial times and located at Detroit, where he engaged in farming. He gained the confidence of the Indians in his vicinity, and at the time of Hull's surrender he was taken to Quebec and kept in close confinement—the British refusing to exchange him because they feared his influence over his savage neighbors. His farm near Detroit was stripped of everything portable, and his buildings burned, leaving his family destitute. In later years he was an Indian Agent under the U. S. Government. He died at his old homestead. He and his wife were Roman Catholics, and all their descendants are followers of the same faith. They had five children: Whitmore, deceased; George, who died at Maumee City, in October, 1866; James, now a resident of College Hill, Ohio; Elizabeth, deceased, who married a merchant at Detroit; and John W., our subject's father, who was born near Detroit in 1800, and in early manhood engaged in trading with the Indians of northwestern Ohio, and later locating near Toledo, where he owned four farms.

Our subject's father married Miss Melinda Gunn, who was born in 1810, at Salem, Mass., and died in Toledo, in 1889. Seven children were born to them: Mortimer, who died at three years of age; Eliza, who married Tim O'Connell, of Toledo, and died in 1842; Adaline, the wife of Dr. W. W. Jones, of Toledo; James W., our subject; Henry, a resident of Springfield, Mass.; Sophia, the wife of Henry Hitchcock, of Toledo; and Maria, who married Mr. Valentine, the editor of a paper in New York City.

Capt. Knaggs attended schools during boyhood in Toledo, and later assisted his father in the management of his farms. He came to Wood county in 1845 to see some land, and there met and married Miss Cynthia Haskins, who was born in Portage, February 6, 1832. After their marriage they spent one year at Toledo, and then returned to Portage where they have since resided. Their five children are all living. Lottie married G. Carlin; Forest, a

farmer in Portage, is not married; Ivy is the wife of Charles Vandenburg, and has one child—Ruth; Mortimer lives at home; and Wellington, a farmer at Portage, is married to Cora Gunn, and has one daughter, Myrtle, and one son, George. When the war broke out Capt. Knaggs enlisted in Company C, 21st O. V. I., and was commissioned 1st lieutenant; and at Nashville, in 1862, he was promoted to the rank of captain and placed in command of Company B. He was wounded at Stone River and discharged for disability, but after a short stay at home he returned to the front only to find that he could not endure the strain of active service. Coming home, he again engaged in farming and later in oil producing. He now owns 120 acres of land and four oil wells. A patriotic and popular citizen, he is a prominent worker in the Republican party, and shortly after his return from the army he was elected clerk of the court of Wood county. He is a member of the F. & A. M.

I. V. WIREBAUGH, a prominent physician and surgeon of Prairie Depot, has been remarkably successful in his chosen calling owing to his ability, professional knowledge and skill. He is a native of Ohio, born in Tod township, Crawford county, August 11, 1863, a son of John and Elizabeth (Horner) Wirebaugh, well-to-do and successful farming people, the latter now living. Our subject was reared like most farmer boys, assisting his father in the labors of the field, and attending the district schools of the neighborhood. In 1886 he began the study of medicine under the direction of Dr. Chesney, of Bucyrus, Ohio, and the next year attended a course of lectures at the Western Reserve Medical College, from which he was graduated in March, 1890, after completing the three-years' course and continuing his studies during vacations with Dr. Chesney. He began practice at Tiro, Ohio, where he also owned an interest in a drug store, but gave most of his attention to his profession. In December, 1892, he sold out his business there, and on January 31, 1893, he closed a deal for property in Prairie Depot, and on March 4, following, opened an office there, where he has since been successfully engaged in practice. He is a talented and skillful physician, and has attained his present honorable position among the medical fraternity by his own unaided exertions. He gives the closest attention to his business, and surely an honorable career lies before him in his chosen calling.

On June 10, 1896, Dr. Wirebaugh was married to Celia Sage, a prominent young lady of

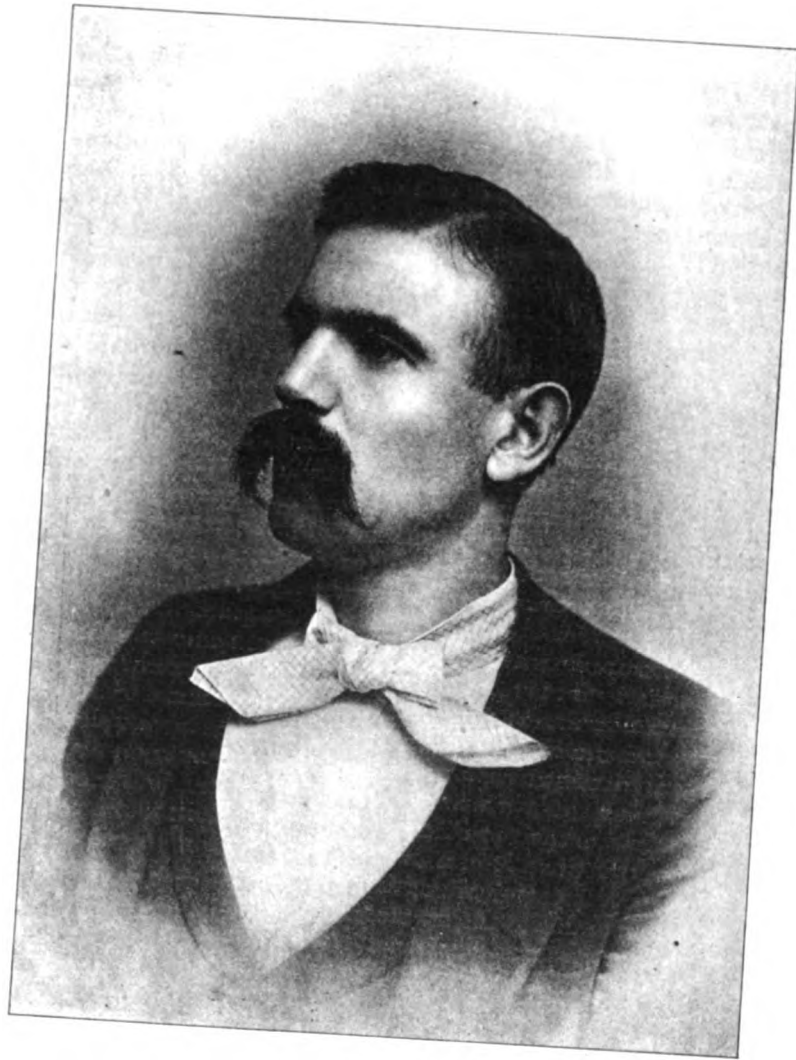
Prairie Depot, who was for several years a successful teacher in the schools of that place.

The Doctor takes quite an active interest in civic societies, belonging to the Knights of Pythias, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Knights of the Maccabees.

H. A. HAMILTON, M. D., of Perrysburg, one of the oldest and most honored members of his profession, is descended from a long line of physicians and surgeons. Of his ancestry the Centennial Edition of the Hartford County Medical Association says: "One of the most distinguished names upon the roll of physicians in our locality, whether during the last or the present century, is that of Hamilton. Early in the eighteenth century Josiah Hamilton, then a boy, came to Boston from Edinburgh, Scotland. He studied medicine and located for practice in the town of West Brookfield, Mass. He begat Josiah, Jr., who also became a physician, and followed his father in practice in the same town. About the middle of the century Josiah, Jr., begat Asa, who also studied medicine, and commenced practice at the age of seventeen or eighteen, so precocious was he in the art inherited from his father and grandfather. Dr. Asa Hamilton early left Brookfield and settled in Somers, Conn. He with his young wife and infant son made the journey on horseback. This Somers physician was the most distinguished of his family, and became an officer and surveyor in the Revolutionary army. He was a remarkably fine-looking man, physically, and exceedingly popular in his professional capacity. He was one of the early members if not a charter member of this society. Although he lived only about twenty years after he commenced practice, his reputation for skill in surgery became extensive. On one occasion his services were sought from East Windsor Hill, a village only eight miles from Hartford. He lived about twice that distance in the opposite direction, and this call was worthy of note because it shows that his reputation enabled him to encroach upon the domains of the surgeons of a capital city. This fact seems to us quite remarkable, for their reputation is now so pronounced that we surgeons eighteen miles away can hardly keep our minor surgery out of their hands.

"Horatio Arnold Hamilton, who when an infant rode into Connecticut with his father, Dr. Asa, on horseback, early in or just before the Revolutionary war, in due time studied medicine also, and practiced in Somers until his two sons, Horatio Asa and Erskine Erasmus, who also





*A. B. Murphy*





and Desire (Cook) Adams, came to Delaware county when that region was a wilderness. They were at first undecided whether to locate there on "Derby Plains" or at the present site of Columbus; but the finding of a peach tree growing in the woods at the former place turned the scale in its favor. They were devout Methodists, and their house was for many years a regular place of meeting for that society. Both lived to advanced age. Mrs. Adam's sister, Cassandra (Cook) Converse, was the mother of Hon. George L. Converse, of Columbus. Jay Cooke, the financier, was a relative of the family. John Adams and his wife reared a family of seven children named as follows: (1) Ursula, the widow of Dr. L. P. Sigler, formerly of Upper Sandusky, and later of Garden Grove, Iowa. (2) Calvin, a fruit grower in Placer county, Cal. (3) Abraham B., who married Mary Murphy, our subject's aunt. (4) Martha S. (Mrs. Murphy). (5) James, deceased, formerly a resident of Delaware county. (6) John, the recorder of Placer county, Cal. (7) Elijah, formerly recorder of Delaware county, and now a resident of Columbus. Our subject is the eldest of a family of eight children, the others being: (2) Lovett, now in Washington. (3) Delano, who died at the age of twenty-two. (4) Grant, at home. (5) Ernest, deceased at the age of twenty-one. (6) Farrah, a student in the Ohio State University at Columbus. (7) Gertrude, married to George E. Thrall. (8) Cora, at home.

Mr. Murphy attended the district school until he was twelve years old, and then entered the Sunbury High School, and two years later the Ohio Wesleyan University, where he graduated from the scientific course in 1885, with the degree of A. B. He was one of the editors of the college paper, *The Transcript*. In 1884 he won the college prize for oratory, and in February, 1885, took the second place among eight contestants in the State oratorical contest at Oberlin, Gov. McKinley being one of the judges. He began the study of law with John S. Jones, of Delaware, and in 1886 entered the senior class of the Cincinnati Law School, graduating the following year. He also engaged in oratorical contests there, obtaining second place. On the advice of J. D. Cox, Secretary of the Interior in Grant's cabinet, he came to Bowling Green in the fall of 1887, and engaged in general practice. In November, 1890, he was appointed mayor to succeed Andrew Mears, and in the following April was elected to that office. In 1892 he was re-elected, but resigned to take the office of prosecuting attorney January 1, 1894. He is acknowledged to be the

most polished speaker of his age in this part of Ohio. He is a close student, but occasionally breaks the routine of professional life by social diversions and hunting expeditions. Mr. Murphy is a Republican in politics; socially he is a member of the K. of P., the K. O. T. M., and the Phi Delta Theta.

On Thanksgiving Day, 1893, our subject was married to Miss Lizzie Kershner, a native of Liberty Center, Henry county, and they have one child, Nellie F., born January 28, 1895. Mrs. Murphy's parents, Andrew R. and Lanie (Andrix) Kershner, were natives of Pennsylvania, and were married in Ohio. They had eight children, viz.: Jennie and Alice, who both died in infancy; Kate, wife of Rev. W. P. Bender, a minister of the M. E. Church; Mrs. Murphy; George Washington, of Bowling Green; Zella, at home; Adaline, teaching in the Bowling Green schools; and one whose name is not given. The father was a hotel-keeper. He served in the 160th O. V. I., during the Civil war, and was wounded in the service. He died May 15, 1879; the mother resides at Fostoria. Mrs. Murphy was born August 16, 1868, was educated at Liberty Center under the superintendency of George H. Poulson, now of Cleveland, Ohio, and commenced teaching when sixteen. She taught four years in the Bowling Green schools.

GEORGE RETHINGER, of Custar, is a native of Ohio, born in Lucas county, February 13, 1848, a son of John and Mary C. (Long) Rethinger. Our subject passed his boyhood on his father's farm, receiving the usual winter school advantages, later taking a business course at Toledo. In early manhood he worked on a farm during the summer, teaching school in the winter season, till 1874, in which year he came to Custar, and entered the general merchandise store of Ingram, Keeler & Co., in the capacity of clerk and bookkeeper, remaining there some nineteen months, or until the firm was burned out. Mr. Rethinger then taught the parochial school of Custar for one winter, after which he embarked in the grocery trade, in course of time, in connection therewith, engaged in the grain and live-stock business, and expanding his grocery store into one of general merchandise. This he conducted some nine years, then selling out, and again taking up the profession of teaching, this time in the public schools, in which he continued for one winter. Once more he commenced general merchandising, including, as before, the grain trade, having a partner in the person of Abram Phenix; but at the end of one

year our subject purchased his partner's interest, and conducted the business for his own account until the winter of 1895, when he retired from it. He is now representing Southworth & Co., in the grain business at Custar, managing their elevator, and buying grain.

On June 8, 1876, Mr. Rethinger was married to Miss Catherine Dunigan, daughter of Manus and Bridget (Burns) Dunigan, the former of whom died in 1877, and the latter resides in Springfield, Ohio. To Mr. and Mrs. Rethinger were born ten children, as follows: Charles J., Lucy R., Mary P., Frederick J., Bridget A., George Leo, Lawrence I., Anna G., Andrew Raphael, and Agnes C. (who died July 26, 1895, at the age of eight months). The entire family, including the parents, are members of the Catholic Church; socially Mr. Rethinger is affiliated with the Catholic Knights of St. John, and the Catholic Knights of Ohio.

GILBERT T. KNAUSS. Devoting his energies to farm work is this native son of Ohio, who now owns and operates a farm in Middleton township. He was born in Medina county, June 2, 1852, and is a son of George Knauss, one of the early settlers of this locality. When only two years of age he came with his parents to Wood county, and attended school in Plain and Center townships. He worked with his father on the farm, aiding in its development, and also learned the trade of a blacksmith, which he followed for two years in Plain township. At the age of nineteen he came to Middleton township, where he owned forty acres of land, and at once began the development and improvement of his property. He has erected a comfortable country home thereon at a cost of \$1,500, built good barns, laid many rods of tiling, and set out an excellent orchard. In connection with the development of this property, he has also engaged in conducting a blacksmith shop, and has been quite successful in his business. His son now cares for the farm, while he is devoting his energies entirely to the work in the smithy.

Mr. Knauss was married on June 18, 1871, to Frances Grover, who was born in Ballville township, Sandusky county, September 3, 1848. They now have four children—George Franklin, born September 26, 1872; Nora M., born February 20, 1877, now the wife of Allen Ewing, of Plain township; Florence May, born November 19, 1878; and Edna M., born August 9, 1889.

Mr. Knauss has ever been a loyal citizen, a fact which he demonstrated when only eleven years of age by attempting to enlist in the army,

but on account of his extreme youth his father prevented him. He has for a number of years served as school director, and was instrumental in securing the establishment of a school near his home. In politics, he is a Republican, and in religious faith adheres to the United Brethren Church. He is a broad-minded man, possessed of excellent qualities, and is deservedly numbered among the leading citizens of the community.

FRANK A. REID, a well-known attorney of Bowling Green, was born at Ottokee, Fulton Co., Ohio, December 4, 1852. His grandparents, James and Priscilla Reid, were born near Edinburgh, Scotland, and a few years after their marriage they came to America, locating in Pennsylvania and later in Hancock county, Ohio, at a point since known as Reid's Corners, where Mr. Reid, who was a ship carpenter by trade, engaged in business as a housebuilder. He was also a justice of the peace for many years. Seven of their children grew to maturity; James, who lives in Van Wert Co., Ohio; William, a character *sui generis*, a carpenter, a shoemaker, a lawyer and world-wide traveler, who died at Sedalia, Mo.; John H., our subject's father; Raine, a resident of Paulding county, Ohio; Alexander G., living at North Baltimore, Wood county; Sarah P., the wife of Edward Koons, of Lawrence, Kans.; and Thomas C., who died at Bowling Green, Ohio, September 7, 1892.

John H. Reid was born in Pittsburg, Penn., February 11, 1823. Not being content with a common-school education and the carpenter's trade, he determined to enter Oberlin College, where, by working in the harvest field in summer, and doing odd jobs during term time, he succeeded in paying his expenses and graduating. He then read law in Findlay, and on being admitted to the bar located at Delta, Fulton county, where, in 1851, he was elected prosecuting attorney. There he remained until 1853, when he moved to Perrysburg, Wood county. He had previously married a native of this county, Miss Aurelia Augusta Howard, who was born at Grand Rapids January 30, 1826. On his appointment as postmaster in Perrysburg, his wife, a lady of fine mental ability, took charge of the office while he devoted his time to his profession. In 1863 he organized Company D, 86th Regiment, O. V. I., and went to the front as their captain. The company went through the campaign which resulted in the evacuation of Cumberland Gap, Capt. Reid receiving a severe sunstroke while in the mountains. His company had enlisted for

six months, but were kept on duty nearly a year. After returning home he again entered the army, this time as quartermaster of the 144th O. V. I., in the 100-day service. Shortly after the regiment went to the front Frank A. joined his father at Fort Dix, Md., and saw considerable of army life during that summer. They took part in the operations in the vicinity of Annapolis and Harper's Ferry. At the close of the war Capt. Reid resumed his practice at Perrysburg, and at the time of the contest over the county seat he was retained on the side of Bowling Green, whose interests he heartily espoused and earnestly defended in the highest courts of appeal. Victorious in spite of the array of learned counsel on the opposing side, he removed to Bowling Green, where he carried on his practice, the latter part of the time in partnership with our subject, until a stroke of paralysis gave warning of his approaching death, which occurred on November 1, 1885. As a judge he had few equals in soundness of logic and subtlety of analysis. As an advocate he was remarkably successful, and when occasion required he could rise to an impassioned yet graceful eloquence. So well balanced was he in his acquirements and gifts that it is difficult to make a distinction, and mention any leading characteristic. Before the war he was a Democrat, but studying the issues of that time he became a Republican.

He and his wife, who survives him and resides at Chattanooga, Tenn., were members of the Presbyterian Church. Of their children, five grew to adult age, of whom Frank A. is the eldest; J. Howard, born May 13, 1860, died September 30, 1886; James R. and Richard W. are clothing merchants at Chattanooga; Mary Augusta lives with her mother.

The Howard family, from whom our subject's mother descended, were prominent in the history of the Maumee Valley. Thomas Howard, our subject's great-grandfather came from Yates county, N. Y., in 1823 with his wife, a daughter, Sidney, who afterward became Mrs. Howard Davidson, and his three sons—Edward, Robert A., and Richard M. W.—with their respective families. Part of the family came by water, the rest taking the land route and driving their live stock. They first located at Fort Meigs, but later removed to the Rapids of the Maumee, Gilead, where they made their home for many years. Thomas Howard (who was born November 15, 1758), died there May 25, 1825. His son, Robert A. Howard, our subject's grandfather, was born November 10, 1798, and survived all the other members of the band of pioneers. His

last years were spent in what is now Pike township, Fulton county, where he died November 26, 1872. The *Toledo Commercial* of December 4, 1872, gave an extended obituary notice, and mentioned his valued services as a justice of the peace in Fulton county, an office which he held for many years, and used as a means of quietly adjusting difficulties, his kindly advice as a man of well-known impartiality being as potent in its influence as his judicial decisions. After Fulton county was established he was employed to transcribe the old records, and later was elected county recorder. His wife, formerly Miss Priscilla Nelson, was highly esteemed by all who knew her. After a half century of married life, they died within a year of each other. Of their nine children five are now living: A. A., of Mason, Mich.; Col. N. M., a prominent business man of Omaha; Edwin A., of Hillsdale, Mich., formerly an Indian agent in Dakota under President Grant; James W., of Fulton county, Ohio; and Aurelia Augusta (Mrs. Reid).

Frank A. Reid was less than a year old when brought to Wood county, and he received his elementary education in the public schools here. He then entered the Law School at Ann Arbor, where he was graduated in 1877. Until his father's illness he practiced with him, and since that time he has continued alone, conducting his extensive practice with unusual ability and marked success. He is an active and influential Republican, and during Garfield's campaign was organizer and president of the Garfield Club. On June 15, 1878, he was married to Miss Alice Lundy, born November 15, 1856, the daughter of Henry and Margaret (Smith) Lundy, who came from Pennsylvania to Wood county in 1836. Mr. Lundy was prominent among the pioneers of Wood county, was for years a director of the County Infirmary, trustee of Center township, and took a leading part in securing the location of the county seat at Bowling Green, contributing generously toward the new court house. Mr. and Mrs. Reid have two children: Earl A., born August 30, 1879, and Helen A., born March 27, 1881.

LEONARD DANIELS (deceased), who was a highly respected citizen of the county, born in New York December 5, 1811, died at his home in Middleton township in 1871, esteemed by all who knew him. He was one of a family of ten children born to William and Prudence (Prior) Daniels. In his early life he learned the carpenter's trade, and followed that occupation for some years.

On February 15, 1856, Mr. Daniels was united in marriage with Miss Martha Worth, a native of the Empire State, born on the 2d of May, 1817. She was one of a family of ten children, whose parents were Thomas and Mary Worth. By the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Daniels were born nine children, namely: D. W., a farmer of Washington township; Prudence, wife of G. A. Simmons, of New York; Amon J., who is operating the old homestead; Herbert R., who is in the West; Jesse M., a carpenter; H. C., who is living in Bowling Green; D. L., a farmer; Alice M., wife of E. H. King; and Inez M., wife of V. R. Porter, of Bowling Green.

The subject of this review continued his residence in the East until 1866, when he came with the family to Wood county, where he purchased 100 acres of land, on which the widow now resides. It was then wild and unimproved, but he at once began to clear it, and worked long and earnestly in transforming it into richly cultivated fields. He continued his work until 1871, when death relieved him of his labors. He was a man of sterling integrity and commendable worth, and had the confidence and good will of all who knew him.

After his death Mrs. Daniels took up the work where her husband laid it down, and, with the help of her sons, has succeeded in clearing the farm and bringing it under a high state of cultivation. Many rods of tiling have been laid upon the place, and, thus drained, it has been transformed into richly cultivated fields. A good residence and barns add to its value, and it is now highly improved. Mrs. Daniels deserves great credit for carrying on the work as she has done, and she is still, at the age of seventy-eight years, keeping house for her sons.

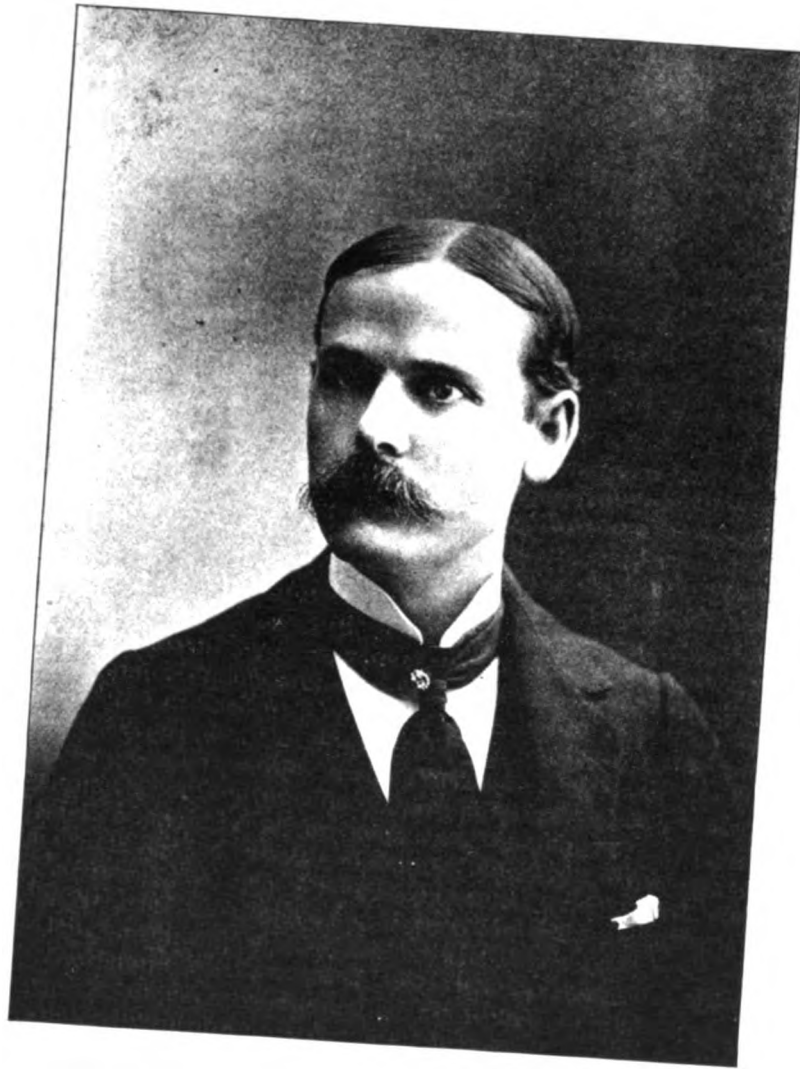
HON. BENJAMIN F. JAMES, a prominent young attorney of Bowling Green, of the firm of James & Beverstock, and ex-representative of Wood county in the State Legislature, was born near Mt. Gilead, Morrow Co., Ohio, April 30, 1863.

His paternal grandfather, Edmund James, a native of Wales, came to America when a young man, locating near Granville, Ohio, where he met and married Miss Esther Griffith. She had come from Wales in childhood with her parents, who settled at the "Welsh Hills," in Licking county. After their marriage they remained some years in the same locality, and then moved to Chesterville, in Morrow (then Knox) county, where they spent the remainder of their lives. They had ten children, among whom was William D. James, our subject's father, who was born

near Chesterville, December 22, 1815. He was a farmer and stock dealer by occupation, and an active politician, first in the Whig, and later in the Republican, party, being one of five in his locality to vote the latter ticket during the war. Strange to say, in 1894, each one of this little band was represented in the State Legislature; William D. James, by his son, the subject of this sketch; John McConica, by his son Senator Thomas H. McConica, of Findlay; Benjamin Philips and David Thomas (cousins of William D. James), by Senator Dudley B. Philips, of Manchester; while Hugh G. Rogers, one of the survivors of the quintette, was there in person as member from Morrow county.

Our subject's mother, Sarah (Meredith) James, was born in July 30, 1818, at Chester-ville, the seventh of the ten children of William and Mary (Farmer) Meredith. Their respective families had emigrated from England to America in 1800, and settled near Chesterville, where, after their marriage a few years later, Mr. Meredith and his wife also located upon a farm. Our subject's father died May 13, 1875, his mother on September 27, 1894. They also had ten children, of whom Benjamin F. is the youngest. Lucretia married T. H. Peterson, of Longley, Ohio. Milo, a private in Company D, Third V. C., died at Nashville, Tenn., September 10, 1862. Mary E. is the widow of Capt. James A. Moore, of Olathe, Kans., and now resides in Fulton, Ohio. James H. is a farmer in Fulton, Morrow county. Milton D. is the president of the Globe Building & Loan Association of Columbus, Ohio, and a prominent real-estate dealer there. Robert W., formerly a stock dealer at Marengo, Ohio, died May 9, 1883. Keturah is the wife of G. L. Donals, of Helena, Ohio. Jennie E. died July 9, 1883, the wife of A. A. Crawford, county commissioner of Morrow county. Ellsworth W., who died December 5, 1889, was a stock dealer in the same county.

Mr. James spent his boyhood upon his father's farm, and up to the age of fifteen was mainly employed in outdoor labor. But he was not one to be contented with the peaceful but monotonous life of a farmer, and he determined to secure an education and take a place in public life. The next six years were passed in different educational institutions, the Chesterville High School, the Ohio Wesleyan University, Dennison University, at Granville, and the Chicago University, where he was graduated June 11, 1884, at the age of twenty-one, with the degree of A. B. The following year he took the professorship in Latin and Greek in Burlington College, Burlington,



*Benj. J. James*



Iowa, which he resigned at the close of the year to enter Yale University, New Haven, Conn., although he was tendered the presidency of the college, which he declined. At Yale he took post-graduate and law studies, and on June 28, 1887, he received the degree of LL. B. In October of that year he began to practice his profession, first in partnership with Judge G. C. Nearing, and later with Edward Beverstock, his present partner. Although the firm of James & Beverstock is one of the youngest in the county, they already have an extensive practice, having law offices both in Bowling Green and Toledo, Ohio.

Mr. James is highly gifted as an orator, and his speeches at the bar and before public assemblies are regarded as masterpieces by competent judges. He is a born politician, and his abilities were promptly recognized by the older members of the Republican party. In 1890 he was chosen vice-president of the Ohio Republican League, and a year later a vice-president of the National League. In local politics he was also a leader from the first, and in 1890 he was elected city solicitor, resigning that office in 1891, after his election to the General Assembly. His first term gave him a reputation as a tireless worker, and a fearless champion of any measure which he believed to be right, and he was re-elected in spite of strong partisan opposition. He has the happy faculty of making friends, seldom forgetting a face or a name, and there are few other men in this county who have as wide a circle of acquaintances. He is a 32° Mason, holding his membership in the Cincinnati Consistory, and he belongs to the Zeta Psi, a college fraternity, as well as the Phi Delta Phi, a legal fraternity, having been the founder of the Yale Chapter during his attendance there.

CHRISTOPHER FINKBEINER, ex-recorder of Wood county, and one of the most prominent residents of Bowling Green, was born June 9, 1845, in Wurtemberg, Germany, where his ancestors on both sides had for many generations been worthy and industrious citizens. His parents, Friedrich and Mary A. (Audee) Finkbeiner, came to America in 1847, settling finally in Perrysburg, Wood county. The father was a miller by trade, but after coming to this county found more profitable employment as a carpenter and contractor. He took a hearty interest in the welfare of his adopted country, and sent three of his sons to the defense of the Union. Previous to the war he was a Democrat, and then became an ardent Abolitionist and Republican. He died Jan-

uary 17, 1863, aged forty-eight years, and his wife in 1865, at the age of fifty. Of their large family four lived to adult age: Frederick and John, who have been engaged in mining in Arizona and the West since the war closed; Christopher, our subject; and Mary, the youngest child, now the wife of Charles Church, of Toledo, Lucas Co., Ohio.

Our subject, who is the third son, was two years old when he came to this county, and his education was obtained in the common schools of Perrysburg. His first business venture was driving a dray, which occupation he followed until December 4, 1861, when he enlisted in Company E, 72nd O. V. I., under Gen. Sherman. During the advance upon Corinth, he contracted typhoid fever, and July 25, 1862, he was discharged for disability, and sent home. On July 1, 1863, he again enlisted, this time in Company L, 3d O. V. C., joining in time to take part in the battle of Chickamauga, the pursuit of Gen. Wheeler, and the engagements at Missionary Ridge and Knoxville. In the spring of 1864 his regiment joined Sherman's forces at Cartersville, Ga., and took part in his famous campaign. After the capture of Atlanta they followed Hood into Alabama, and in the last engagement with his troops, October 25, 1864, near Gadsden, our subject was wounded, necessitating the amputation of his right foot. Until March 16, 1865, he was a patient in various hospitals—at Rome, Chattanooga, Nashville, Jefferson Barracks, at St. Louis—and then declining to enter the Invalid Corps he came home. For a short time he worked in a stove factory in Perrysburg, later clerked in a store, and September 30, 1867, he opened a store of his own, dealing in books and notions. After four years he moved his stock to Napoleon, where he remained two years, and then sold out to take a position as traveling salesman for a firm of dealers in wooden ware. During the next seven years he visited in their interests points in Canada, and the northern States from Massachusetts to Colorado. Under Garfield's administration he was appointed postmaster at Perrysburg, and after four years and a half he opened a store for notions and gents' furnishing goods, which he carried on until his election to the office of county recorder in 1888. He served the people of the county in this capacity two terms, his faithful and efficient service having been rewarded in 1891 by a re-election.

On January 1, 1867, Mr. Finkbeiner was married to Miss Mattie A. Bellville, a native of Perrysburg, born November 8, 1847, and they have had four children: Fred J., born November 5, 1867,



is living at Bowling Green, Ohio; William A., born September 13, 1869, is a merchant at Perrysburg (he married Miss Winnie See, and has one son—Donald A.); Helen Gertrude is now at home; and Jessie Belle is also at home. Mr. Finkbeiner is one of the influential Republicans of Wood county, and he is a member of the I. O. O. F., the N. U. and the G. A. R.

HENRY S. CHAPIN, editor and proprietor of the *Democrat*, Bowling Green, is a native of Connecticut, born January 4, 1835, at Collinsville, Hartford county, a son of Ariel S. and Mary D. (Jones) Chapin, natives of Berkshire county, Massachusetts.

Ariel S. Chapin was a son of Amos and Rebecca (Sheldon) Chapin, who were also of Berkshire county nativity. Mary D. (Jones) Chapin was a daughter of Barnabas and Ada (Harmon) Jones, of the same locality in Massachusetts, and on both sides of the house they followed agricultural pursuits. Both families (Chapin and Jones) moved in 1836 from Massachusetts to Lenox, Ashtabula Co., Ohio, where they bought land and cleared up farms. Ariel S. Chapin, father of our subject, lived in Collinsville, Conn., for a time, being there employed in some of the manufactories of that place, though his occupation in the main was that of a farmer. The son, Henry S., was a year old when his parents came to Ohio, and but seven years of age when his father died at Lenox; the mother passed from earth, in 1893, at the home of our subject in Bowling Green. They were the parents of two children: Harriet, who married J. C. Frankeberger, of Sidney, Shelby Co., Ohio, and died there in 1868; and Henry S., our subject, who has never married.

Henry S. Chapin attended the common schools; also the Union school of Jefferson, Ashtabula Co., Ohio, and worked on a farm until he was seventeen years of age, when he commenced learning the printing business in the office of the *Weekly Telegraph*, Ashtabula. At the end of two and one-half years he left there, and during the succeeding two years attended the Union school at Bellefontaine, Ohio. Returning to the printer's trade, he, from 1856 to 1862, was a compositor on Cincinnati and St. Louis newspapers, and in October of the latter year, in connection with F. J. Oblinger, he purchased the Perrysburg *Journal*, which they jointly conducted two and one-half years. In 1864, Mr. Chapin went with Company E, 144th O. V. I., Capt. Asher Cook, on the "100-days' service." In the spring of 1865 he bought the

*Republican*, of Peru, Ind., and published the same until 1868, in which year he went to Toledo, and opened a job printing office, being associated therein with James Timmons. At Toledo, in 1872, he commenced the publication of the *Sunday Journal*, which later he sold to Sherwood & Canfield. On April 26, 1876, he commenced the publication of the *Toledo Daily Bee*, and had charge of that paper eight years, afterward becoming connected with the *Toledo Post*, which two years later was sold, and for a short time, in 1888, he was identified with the *Toledo News*. During the year 1889, and up to August, 1890, he was editor of the *Post*, of Columbus, Ohio, and on September 1, 1890, took charge of the Bowling Green *Democrat*, which he had purchased, and he has since conducted it with his well-known ability.

GEORGE WILLIAMS was born in Heistenbach, Province of Nassau, Germany, January 4, 1847. His father, Ludwig Williams, a native of Germany and a farmer by occupation, was twice married, first to Katharina Danzer, by whom he had two children, Anton and Clara. For his second wife he married Louisa Fischer, and to this marriage one child was born, George, the subject of this sketch, who remained at home until the age of fourteen years, attending school from the age of six until fourteen. November 1, 1858, the father died, and the widow and son were left with but little, and the former was of necessity compelled to work hard from day to day in order to make ends meet. March 15, 1861, when in his fourteenth year, himself and mother left the old home in Germany, and came to Washington township, Wood Co., Ohio, and made their home with a half-brother of the son, Anton Williams, who had come to this country several years before. The first three years after his arrival George remained with Anton, working on the farm, then for four years he worked for Anton Opperman, and one year for Nelson Kuder, farmers of the same township. Following this in 1869, he rented forty acres of land in Middleton township, on which himself and mother made their home for five years.

On October 5, 1873, at the age of twenty-seven, Mr. Williams was married to Emma Hartman, of Middleton township, and the union was blessed with one son, George Frederick, born April 2, 1884. March 1, 1874, he bought seventy-three acres of land near Haskins, Middleton township, at fifty-four dollars per acre, paying \$800 down. The land was in a poor condition, only a few acres being cleared, and the improve-

ments—buildings, fences, ditches, etc.—were poor indeed, and Mr. Williams was required to work hard to clear and improve this land, and under the burden of 12 *per cent.* interest part of the time. The present buildings on the place are good and substantial, and the other improvements correspond. This simple record of actual achievements shows better than praise the industry and enterprise of the man. July 27, 1874, the mother died at the age of sixty-one years, having lived only four months and twenty-seven days with them in their own home. The wife's mother, aged seventy-four years, is spending the evening of her life with them. Mr. Williams is a member of the Lutheran Church, of which he is a trustee, and he has been superintendent of the Sunday-school since the organization of the Church, at Haskins, twenty-three years ago. He has been a school director for two terms, and assessor also for two terms.

Faithful in the discharge of every duty, energetic, and possessed of an unusual measure of common sense, Mr. Williams has won the esteem and confidence of all who know him.

JOSEPH E. BURNHAM, M. D., one of Wood county's rising young physicians, and junior member of the well-known firm of Sage & Burnham, of Prairie Depot, belongs to the homeopathic school of medicine. A native of New York, he was born at Pottsdam, St. Lawrence county, May 1, 1865, a son of Aaron and Sarah (Nesbit) Burnham, the former born at Augusta, Maine, and the latter in New York. The father was a citizen of Pottsdam, where he died at the age of seventy-two years, but his wife is still living at that place.

The Doctor is the third child and eldest son in the family, and was reared to manhood in his native town. His elementary education was obtained in the public schools, where he learned rapidly, and at the age of sixteen years entered the Pottsdam Normal School, an advanced institution, where he pursued his studies for two years and a half at different times, his attendance being interrupted by school teaching, which he followed very successfully. The illness of his father necessitated his leaving the Normal, where he had intended to take a full course, and then followed the profession of teaching in the West.

In 1889 our subject entered the office of Dr. H. D. Brown, of Pottsdam, one of the most successful practitioners of northern New York, and there began the study of medicine. In the fall of 1892 he became a student in the Cleveland Medical College, from which he was graduated with high honor in the class of 1895, standing

second in a class of forty-two. He began practice at Port Clinton, Ohio, but on November 18, 1895, he located at Prairie Depot, and has since been associated with that successful old practitioner, Dr. Sage. He is a thorough student of his profession, keeping well informed on the recent discoveries in science, and his worth and merit have been justly recognized. Politically, he is identified with the Republican party.

W. H. WOOD, the well-known ex-surveyor of Wood county, and a prominent resident of Bowling Green, is a native of this county, born at Tontogany, July 13, 1836.

The family is of English origin, and the founders of the American line were early settlers in Virginia, where his grandfather, Judge Joseph Wood, was born about 1768. He removed to Marietta, Ohio, where he surveyed the first seven ranges that were officially located in Ohio, being accompanied by a guard to keep the Indians at bay. In later years he served as probate judge of Washington county.

His son Emilius, our subject's father, born in 1793, was the third white child born in the old fort at Marietta. He was educated at the university at Athens, Ohio, and became a surveyor, and for twelve years was county surveyor of Perry county where he married his first wife, Miss Addie Fuller, who died in 1833 leaving two children—A. J., now in Oklahoma, and E. R., a resident of Belle Plaine, Kans. His second wife was Miss Sarah North, who was born in Philadelphia, Penn., in 1817, and came with her parents, Joseph and Catherine North, to Wood county in 1828, to settle in the wilderness. Her mother, after their arrival, was lost in the woods for three days and nights, staying in a tree at night to keep out of reach of the wolves. She found her way home by following a small stream to the river. Our subject was the eldest of eight children by the second marriage. The others were: Adeline Amelia, Caroline Aurelia (deceased), Catharine Lucelia, John R. (deceased), Josephine Adelia, Emeline Ophelia, and Angeline Fidelia. Our subject's father came to Wood county, in 1834, and settled at Tontogany, and for many years was engaged in surveying the wild and unbroken forests. During his later years he followed farming as an occupation. His death occurred in 1875 while on a visit in Iowa. (His wife had died in 1871 at the age of fifty-four). In politics he was a Republican, and he took a leading part in all the progressive movements in the community. The first Masonic lodge in the county was organized in his house where the

lodge met for six years, and he was the second to hold the office of Master. At one time he rode to Zanesville on horseback, once to Marietta and once to Columbus, to attend Grand Lodge meetings.

Our subject's early education was acquired in the district schools near his home, and in the high school at Waterville and Maumee City. He taught for five terms, and in the intervals worked on the farm. In 1862 he enlisted in Company D. 111th O. V. I., and served in the army of the Cumberland. For some time he was detailed as hospital guard, having been sick and unfitted for more serious duty, and here his fine abilities as a musician were found useful. During the first and last years of the war he was with his regiment, and marched across Kentucky and Tennessee, taking part in the engagement at Fort Saunders, Tenn. He was mustered out at Salisbury, N. C., June 27, 1865, and discharged at Cleveland, Ohio, July 13, 1865. After the war closed he spent eighteen months in Missouri, and then returned to Wood county, where he has since been engaged in his profession. He has laid out over 15,000 miles of ditches, not to mention other work. He was elected county surveyor in 1871, and held the office for four terms, to the satisfaction of all concerned. In 1865 he married Miss Josepha R. Hoskins, who was born in Portage county, Ohio, in August, 1844. She is of the family of Morse, the inventor, and her grandfathers were in the Revolutionary war. Mr. Wood has for many years been the organist of the M. E. Church. He is a Republican, and a member of the G. A. R., No. 46, Wiley Post, and of the I. O. O. F.

R. S. PATTY, a highly esteemed citizen of Bowling Green, is one of the most extensive oil operators in the country, his interests being located in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Indiana. He began work in the oil fields when quite a young man, being first employed as a driller and pumper. Later he became a contractor for drilling wells, first doing business for himself as a member of the firm of Patty Brothers, their wells being located near Bradford, Penn. This firm afterward extended their operations to West Virginia, Indiana, and Kentucky, and in 1889 to Ohio.

Of late years the firm of Patty Brothers has also engaged in the gas business, and is at present conducting extensive plants at Weston, W. Va., under the name of the Weston Natural Gas & Fuel Co., and at Logan, Ohio, as the Logan Natural Gas & Fuel Co. The latter supplies the

Boys' Industrial School at Lancaster, and is preparing to extend their line into Circleville and to Chillicothe. At Weston, W. Va., they supply, among other public institutions, the State Insane Asylum with light and heat. Our subject and his brother were the promoters of these companies, and now control them.

The subject of this sketch was born in Armstrong county, Penn., June 16, 1852, and was reared there, his education being limited to the common schools. He was married December 15, 1876, to Mary E. Smathers, who was born in Clarion county, Penn., March 15, 1859, daughter of Isaac (a lumberman) and Harriet (Reed) Smathers, both yet living, who are parents of eight children: Sarah, Lawson (who died when a young man), Mary E., Malinda, John, Robert, Amelia, and Palmer (deceased when young). Mrs. Patty is descended from the Hulling family, and her great-great-grandmother was a sister of Daniel Boone. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Patty: Harry L., Roy Levern, who died when young, and Eddie R. The family occupy a palatial residence in Bowling Green, whither they removed in 1889, Mr. Patty's main office being in the *Times* building, Pittsburg, Penn., where he directs the affairs of his extensive business. He is essentially the architect of his own fortune, a genial gentleman who has won his way to success by energy and enterprise, and to-day is conceded to be one of the best business men, and most successful operators in the oil fields of this or any other State. In his political predilections he is a stanch Republican, but has no time to spare for office hunting or office holding. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church, of Parkers City, Penn.; Mrs. Patty of the Church of the same denomination at Bowling Green.

The parents of our subject, James (a carpenter by trade) and Nancy (Speer) Patty, were both born in Pennsylvania, the father, in 1800, in Westmoreland county, of Scotch-Irish descent, the mother, in Armstrong county, in 1817. Both passed away in the latter county, she in 1864, and he in 1882. The father of James Patty, also named James, was a native of Westmoreland county, Penn., and one of the early settlers of Gettysburg, that State. Our subject was one of five children, namely: James, who was a member of the oil firm of Patty Brothers, and died in 1894; R. S.; Belle, who was a prominent school teacher in Armstrong county, Penn., and is now deceased; George, who, it is supposed, was murdered while drilling wells in the West; and Elizabeth, the wife of Samuel Blakely, of Marion, Indiana.



R. S. Patty



T. T. ROSENDALE, M. D., one of Fostoria's rising young physicians and business men, is a native of West Millgrove, Wood county, the son of that well-known and successful practitioner, Dr. Charles R. Rosendale. His early education was obtained in the district school of his native village, his first teacher being Miss Sally Buckingham. In 1887 he entered the Northern Indiana Normal School, where he remained three years. He had previously read medicine with his father and Dr. C. A. Henry, of Fostoria, and in 1890 he entered Western Reserve Medical College at Cleveland, from which he was graduated with the degree of M. D. in 1893. In 1892 he made a trip to Europe in the interest of his profession, and immediately after graduation entered into active practice, taking an office in the opera block at Fostoria, where he is still located. In common with all young professional men he found it no easy matter at first to compete with older practitioners, but each year has found him steadily gaining in the confidence of the people, and he now enjoys a practice highly creditable for one of his years and experience. In 1894 he attended the University of California, where he pursued post-graduate work, giving special attention to dissecting.

On September 10, 1895, the Doctor was married to Miss Madge P. Harris, a native of Virginia, who is the daughter of V. H. and Augusta P. Harris. Mrs. Rosendale was graduated from the Fostoria High School in 1885, and in the scientific course from Buchtel College, Akron, Ohio, in 1889.

Dr. Rosendale is one of the wide-awake, progressive young men of Fostoria, seeming to inherit the business tact and shrewdness of his father, whose success in life has but few parallels in Wood county. In addition to his practice he has extensive business interests, which receive careful attention. In 1895 he erected on Perry street one of the finest houses in the city, where he and his wife entertain their large circle of friends in a delightful manner. Politically he is a staunch Republican, taking an active part in the politics of the city.

**CAPTAIN J. B. NEWTON**, one of the most prominent citizens of Bowling Green, with the chief interests of which city he has for many years been identified, was born September 10, 1837, in Chenango county, New York.

His grandfather, Daniel Newton (1), a native of New England, born May 9, 1786, settled in Chenango county, N. Y., in early manhood, and married Miss Patty Bell, who was born in Con-

necticut, July 8, 1788. Their son, Daniel Newton (2), born October 12, 1810, married Miss Sarah Burdick, also a native of Chenango county, born February 10, 1810. They were married January 12, 1834, and six years later came west, located in Wood county, Ohio, first in Center township, and later (eight years afterward) in Bowling Green. In 1864 they removed to Roachton, but in 1876 they came back to Bowling Green, there to pass their declining years. They were both earnest and consistent members of the M. E. Church, and faithful workers in every line of Christian duty. Mr. Newton was originally a Whig, later a Republican, and was an intelligent student of public affairs. He died March 20, 1881, his wife having preceded him to the grave, November 18, 1872. Of their six children, three grew to adult age: Louis M., born October 8, 1834, now a leading resident of Garnett, Kans.; J. B., our subject; and Jennie, who married L. D. Stearns, now of Willapa, State of Washington. The deceased are: Jeremiah C., born September 20, 1842, died August 19, 1849; James L., born August 9, 1846, died December 4, 1846; and Chloe E., born July 21, 1847, died July 31, 1847.

Capt. Newton's early education was restricted to an attendance at the district schools near his home. When the Civil war broke out he was among the first to enlist for the three-years' service, in August, 1861, joining Company A, 14th O. V. I. His regiment was assigned to the 14th Corps, army of the Cumberland, commanded by Gen. Thomas, and served through the campaigns in Kentucky; Tennessee, Mississippi, and Georgia, taking part in the historic march to the sea, and was present at the surrender of Johnston. Capt. Newton was promoted from private through the grades of corporal, sergeant-major, second lieutenant, first lieutenant, to the rank of captain; as second lieutenant he was detailed as adjutant, and served in that capacity until promoted to captain. During the latter part of his service he was detailed mainly on brigade staff duty. At the close of the war he went to Washington and participated in that "Grand Review," and was finally discharged at Cleveland, Ohio, in July, 1865. He was never wounded, and never absent from his command, except once, by reason of sickness, in 1862.

In 1868 he married Miss Maggie Blackwood, who was born in Oakland county, Mich., January 23, 1844, and four children came of this union: Welles B., born April 17, 1869, now a druggist in Toledo; Clyde B., born May 22, 1874, a student at Alma, Mich.; Earl W., born June 8,

1881; and Mary Belle, born November 27, 1882. Soon after his return from the army, Capt. Newton was elected county auditor, and served three terms of two years each. He then engaged in agricultural pursuits in Center township some fifteen years, during which time he did an extensive business in feeding and shipping stock. When the gas boom came to Bowling Green, the Buckeye Glass Co. was among the first to utilize the new product, and selected him to manage the financial affairs of the company. The Ohio Flint Glass Co. was incorporated in 1891 for the manufacture of table glassware, and the attendant lines common to that branch of the business. When the natural gas, for fuel for manufacturing purposes, failed at Bowling Green, the company decided to remove their plant to the gas fields of Indiana. They selected Dunkirk for their location, and entrusted Capt. Newton with the management of the affairs of the company. In 1895 he was elected president thereof, and given charge with general management of its affairs, retaining his residence in Bowling Green. Politically he votes the Republican ticket, is very influential in party affairs, and takes a leading place in all public movements; he has always been ready to assist in any movement tending to advance the interests of the city, and was one of the early clerks of the corporation as soon as he became of age. Socially he is a member of the G. A. R., Wiley Post, No. 46; of the I. O. O. F. and Encampment, and a member of the Loyal Legion in the Ohio Commandery.

COLONEL M. F. MILES, a representative farmer of Montgomery township, was born in Chesterville, Morrow county (at that time Knox county), Ohio, December 10, 1838, and is a son of Davis and Julia A. (Denman) Miles. His grandfather, Enos Miles, was born in Chester county, Penn., July 3, 1786. He married Miss Elizabeth Frame, who was born April 3, 1790. They came to Ohio in an early day, bought up tracts of land, and Mr. Miles named Chester township, also Chesterville. A man of means, he erected a large brick hotel and other buildings, one of which he fitted out as a school and boarding-house; but his ideas were far too advanced for those days, and his venture involved him in financial difficulties. Mr. Miles died in Chesterville, May 18, 1840, and his wife on August 18, 1871. Their children were Davis, Euclid, Enos, Jane and Catherine.

Davis Miles, the father of our subject, was born in Chester county, Penn., in 1814, came to Ohio with his parents, and was married in Ches-

terville in 1837. His wife was a daughter of Joseph Denman, a farmer. At the time of his father's death, Davis took charge of his affairs, which were much involved; but he took an extension of time, and was able to hold the property. He conducted the hotel business successfully, and when the property was divided it was not by a forced sale. At the organization of Morrow county Mr. Miles was chosen first sheriff. He owned considerable land adjacent to the village of Chesterville, and hired almost all of his work done, although in early life he was an active farmer. He was a man of excellent judgment and common sense, and possessed a strong natural intellect. He was a staunch Republican, a prominent man in his community, and served two terms in the Ohio Senate. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Miles were as follows: M. F., our subject; Enos W., a traveling salesman, of Mansfield, Ohio; and Mary C., who died young. Mr. Miles passed away August 6, 1865, and Mrs. Miles in 1876, and both are buried at Chesterville. They were members of the Baptist Church, in which, later in life, Mr. Miles took an active part; socially he was a member of the Masonic fraternity.

The early schooling of our subject was obtained in his native village schools. At the age of twenty he entered the Ohio Wesleyan University, at Delaware, where he remained one year. For two years he was a student in the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, and while there enlisted in the students' battalion, whose services were rejected on account of the quota of men being already filled. Mr. Miles returned home, and on September 14, 1861, enlisted in Company B, 43d O. V. I., under Gen. C. Smith, and went into camp at Mt. Vernon, Ohio, where he was appointed sergeant. On January 9, 1862, he was promoted to the rank of second lieutenant, and assigned to Company A, 49th Regiment, then camped at Green River, Ky. On February 14, 1862, the regiment was ordered to Bowling Green, Ky., and thence to Shiloh, advancing to the assistance of Gen. Grant. His regiment participated in that battle, and with other forces held their position from 11 A. M. to 4 P. M., when the enemy was obliged to retreat. The other battles in which our subject took part are as follows: Corinth, Lawrenceburg, Stone River, Liberty Gap, Crab Orchard, Chickamauga, Murfreesboro, Mission Ridge, Rocky Face Ridge, Cassville and Pickett's Mills. In the battle of the last mentioned place, which occurred May 27, 1864, the 49th entered the fight with 560 men, and lost 224. After the fall of Atlanta our

subject returned with his regiment to Nashville, participating in the battles of Franklin and Nashville. On June 15, 1865, it was taken to Texas in order to quell any continuance of the Rebellion, it forming a part of the 4th Army Corps. On September 30, 1862, Mr. Miles was promoted to first lieutenant, and assigned to Company B, 49th Regiment. On March 2, 1863, he was made adjutant of the same regiment, and was then transferred to Company H, and promoted to the rank of captain of that company. On October 4, 1863, he was made major, and March 29, 1865, promoted to lieutenant-colonel. On June 26, 1865, he was mustered out, but in November of the same year he was sent to Victoria, Texas, and was not finally discharged until December 31, 1865.

After the close of the war, Col. Miles engaged in the lumber business at Logansport, Ind., for some time, and then went to Chicago and started in the retail drug trade on State street, at the corner of Taylor. He had a previous knowledge of this business, but failing health compelled him to give it up and return to Wood county. Here he was married, October 11, 1866, to Miss Maggie E. Diver, a native of Montgomery township, born June 30, 1843, the daughter of Osman and Esther F. (Robinson) Diver, the former of whom was born August 23, 1809, and the latter April 2, 1818. Mr. Diver was twice married, his first wife being Miss Margaret Kinnaman, who bore him three children, two of whom — Franklin and Laura — grew to maturity; by his second wife, Mr. Diver had three children — Maggie, Osman A., and Harriet M.

Col. Miles began the business of flour-milling in West Millgrove, Wood county, in 1868. The mill burned down in 1872, and he and O. A. Diver built on its site the present structure, with which our subject was connected for twelve years. Since retiring from that business he has resided in Montgomery township, in Section 29, where he has a comfortable home and carries on farming, having over 377 acres under his direction. He has always been a Republican, and in 1887 was elected sheriff of Wood county, serving two terms, but retaining his residence in Montgomery township during his service. Both he and his wife are members of the Christian Church, in which he has been an elder for many years. He is also secretary and treasurer of the 19th District Ohio Christian Missionary Society. Socially he belongs to the Masonic order in Fostoria, and to the G. A. R. Col. Miles, as he is always called, is a prominent citizen of Montgomery township, is a man with a keen concep-

tion of right and wrong, loyal and trusted, and a strong supporter and earnest advocate of whatever is for public good.

Mrs. Miles is State president of the Christian Woman's Board of Missions, an auxiliary to the Christian Church, which is a grand organization. She went to school at Fostoria, Ohio, and at Oberlin, later graduating at the Seminary at Mt. Vernon. She is a woman of considerable literary ability, her writings being mostly on religious subjects, which have been printed in the leading publications of that character.

GEORGE C. STEVENSON, a member of the firm of Matthews & Stevenson, leading grocers of Bowling Green, who is even better known as a breeder of blooded horses, was born June 2, 1844, in county Down, Ireland.

His grandfather, James Stevenson, was an officer in the British army, a quartermaster under Sir John Moore, and while in Ireland on a recruiting expedition he was so charmed with the beauty of the country that he resolved to return there to live, if it were possible to do so. Some time afterward, having been wounded in the battle of Waterloo, he was retired from service, and he purchased an estate in county Down, whereon he spent the rest of his life.

William Stevenson, the father of our subject, was born in Spain, eight days before the battle of Coruña, in which Sir John Moore was killed. His early life was passed mainly in Ireland. At the age of nineteen he came to America, but returned to Ireland, where he was married to Miss Jane McAlpine, a descendant of one of the oldest and most powerful of the Scottish clans. In 1851 he came to America again, bringing his family, and located first at Pittsburg, Penn., and finally settled in Ashtabula county, Ohio, where he engaged in the lumber business. Our subject was second in order of birth of six children: James, the eldest, lives in Seneca county, Ohio; Margaret is the wife of Charles Scoville, of Ashtabula; Mary (deceased) was the wife of V. L. Chapin; W. J. is a resident of Williams county, Ohio; William died in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

Our subject was educated in an academy at Ashtabula. When the Civil war began the martial spirit inherited from both paternal and maternal ancestry impelled him, though a boy in years, to join in the struggle. On August 20, 1861, he enlisted in Company K, 83d P. V. I., and served throughout the war, receiving his final discharge June 18, 1865. He was in the battles of Big Bethel, Yorktown, Malvern Hill, Cold



Harbor, Spottsylvania, North Anna, Chancellorsville, Gaines Mills (where he was slightly wounded), Laurel Hill and Charles City Cross Roads. In 1862, at Malvern Hill, he was shot through the right lung, and the night after the battle his captain, who had hunted him up, got the surgeon to examine and dress his wounds; but Mr. Stevenson was then informed that he could not live till morning, as he was bleeding internally. Thus confronted with death, this worthy descendant of heroes declared that, having done his duty, he was satisfied. He could die in no better cause. About 7 o'clock the next morning, however, a negro discovered him, and, lifting him up, gave him a drink of whiskey, which so revived him that he managed to walk or crawl some five miles, when he was picked up and taken to Harrison's Landing. Thanks to his wonderful constitution, he recovered, and at the end of eleven months re-enlisted in his old company. At Cold Harbor, in 1864, he fell on the field with two wounds. At Laurel Hill he was rendered unconscious by the concussion of a shell, and when found by his lieutenant he was bleeding from the mouth, nose and ears, but he soon had his external wounds dressed. After the close of the war, Mr. Stevenson engaged in the lumber business in Ashtabula county and that vicinity, and in 1874 located in Dunbridge, Wood county. In 1886 he began breeding fine horses, roadsters and trotters, a business in which he still continues, and he owns a fine stock farm in Middleton township. On May 22, 1895, he bought an interest in a grocery store in Bowling Green, formerly owned by Henry Hughes.

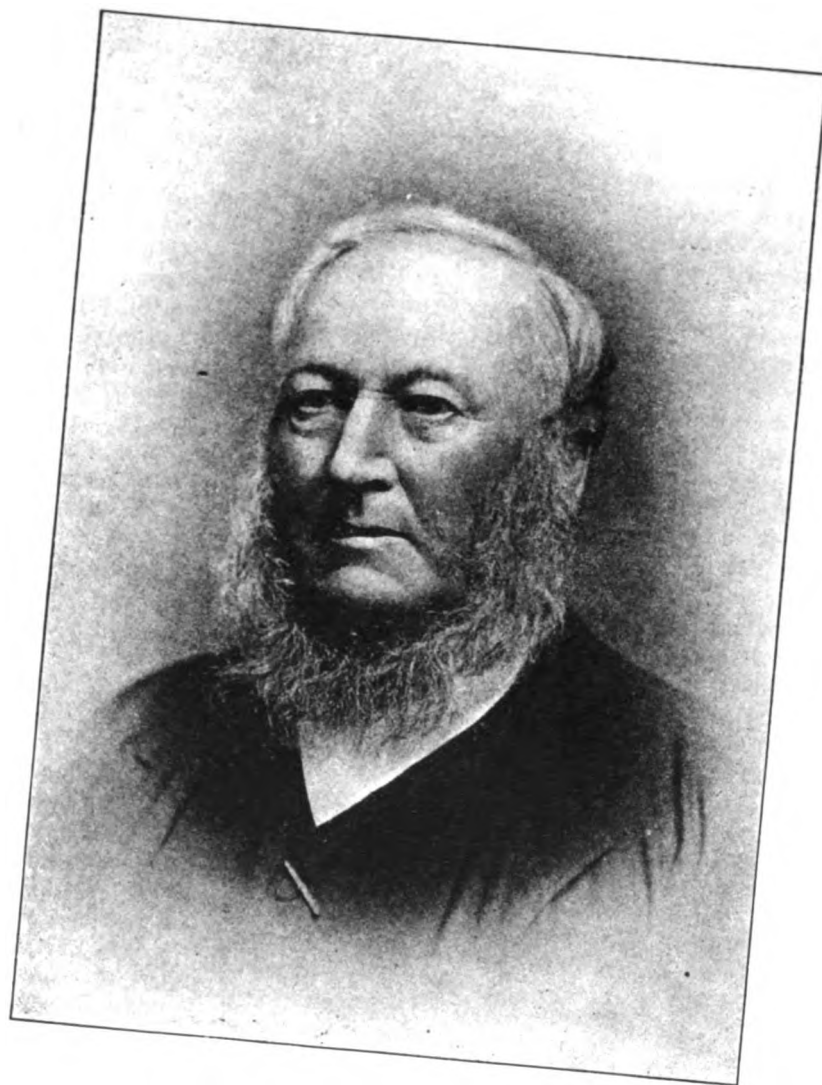
In 1866, Mr. Stevenson married Miss Viola L. Reeve, who was born in Ashtabula county, August 2, 1850. They have six children: E. K.; Jennie, who married O. N. Grover, a teacher at Dunbridge, and has one child—Genevra; Lamira L.; Ethel A.; George R., and Clyde V. The family reside at Bowling Green. They are members of the Presbyterian Church, and active in various forms of philanthropic work. Mr. Stevenson is a leading worker in the Republican party in this county. He served two years as trustee of Middleton township, and also as member of its board of education, of which he was president one year. Fraternally, he is a member of the F. & A. M., and of Kenneth's Lodge No. 158, K. of P., of Bowling Green; he also belongs to Robert Stewart Post No. 690, G. A. R., of Dunbridge. The Reeve family came from Connecticut. Mrs. Stevenson's parents, H. A. and Lamira (Peck) Reeve, were born in Ash-

tabula county, Ohio, where they were engaged in farming. The father is still living; the mother died in 1871. They had five children, three sons—Wells H., Ellsworth S. and Wilson—and two daughters—Viola L. (Mrs. Stevenson), and Celia Adele. The Reeves were noted Abolitionists in ante-bellum days, their home being a station on the famous "Underground Railroad." Capt. James Reeve, Col. Arthur Reeve, Harrison F. Reeve (all three of whom died in the army during the Civil war), and Capt. L. C. Reeve, Mrs. Stevenson's uncles, were valiant defenders of the Union cause.

DANIEL MERCER (deceased), who in his lifetime was one of the most prominent of the pioneer citizens of Bowling Green, better known as "Uncle Dan" throughout his wide circle of acquaintances, was born August 3, 1826, in Columbiana county, Ohio, where his ancestors were among the earliest settlers. He was of mixed German, English and Irish blood, and manifested the best qualities of each strain.

His father, William Mercer, was born in Columbiana county, and was there married to Miss Margaret Ikirt, a native of Pennsylvania. They came to Portage township, Wood county, in 1836, and settled in the woods where they made their first dwelling out of brush supported by a couple of trees. Our subject was ten years old at that time, and can well recall the howling of the wolves around them, and his fear lest they should break through the frail shelter. A log cabin was built later, and the land prepared for crops, the father seeking work after the seed was planted, in order to supply his family with food. He died at the early age of forty-three, and his wife at thirty-seven, the lives of both having been shortened by the privations and exertions of pioneer life. Of their fifteen children, twelve grew to maturity, our subject being the eldest: Elizabeth married Josiah Milburn; Elizabeth married W. Johnson; Pierce was a farmer in Liberty township; Mary Ann married Cornelius Simons; Harriet married George Babcock; one son, Bielby, lived in Indiana; Margaret and Martha (twins), the former was Mrs. Robert Johnson, and the latter is now Mrs. Frederick Amos, of Portage township; Rufus is a farmer in Henry county; Euphemia married Russell Chilcote, of Perry township, and Caroline married John Boozer, of Bloom township. None of this large family are now living except Daniel and the four younger children.

Uncle Dan's early educational advantages were limited, but he made the most of them, and



*Daniel Mercer*



at the age of seventeen gained an insight into the principles of arithmetic in seventeen days. He was twice married, first time at the age of twenty to Miss Susan Roberts, who died August 22, 1865. Ten children were born to this union. (1) Emeline, married Sheldon Welton (now deceased), formerly of Liberty township; they had twelve children—Emmett, who married and has one child; Norton; Lillie, who married and has one child; Della; Daniel; Myrtle, who married George Brubaker, and has one child, and John, Edna, Ruth, Clayton, Anna and Clarence, the six last being still at home, except Ruth, who is deceased. (2) Delascos lives in Liberty township; he married Louisa Donsey, and has five living children—Lucy, married to James White, and has one child; Eddie, a student at Bethany (W. Va.) College; Clarence, Tillie and Abraham G.; two others died in early life. (3) Apalinda first married Samuel Whitaker (now deceased), and had two children—Thomas E. and Ella E.—both attending Bethany College; she afterward wedded John Knight and had two children, one of whom, Deyo, is living. (4) Alcenus is a farmer in Liberty township; he married Ella Ducat, and has four children—Rosa, Libbie, Normia and Lloyd. (5) Elmira married Robert Place, of Liberty township, and has two living children—Alfred, a student at Bethany College, and Alta. (6) Eugene married Jerusha Bay, and has three children—Mable, Virnie and Edith. (7) Ruth married Robert Marbel, of Bowling Green, and has one son—Leonidas. (8) Cyrenus married Alice Dubbs, and has one son—Ira. (9) Flora and (10) Florence (twins) are married, Flora to Milton Tellers, of Plain township, and Florence to Clarence Griner.

Mr. Mercer was married the second time, June 24, 1866, to Mrs. Lucy A. Aller, who was born in Genesee county, N. Y., July 23, 1828, daughter of Asahel and Lucy (Johnson) Martin. By her former marriage with Zacheus Aller she had nine children, of whom seven are living: (1) Margaret, married to Porterfield Mercer, and has five children—Frank, Ethel, Manley, Marian and Emma. (2) Nelson (now deceased), married to Julia Lowe (now deceased), and had three children—Millie, Leory and Porterfield. (3) Zerelza, married to James Miller, and has four children—Ernest, Grace, Royal and True. (4) Elliott, married to Cora Hunt, and has three children—Ernest, Bertha and Lucy. (5) Henry, married to Addie Swartz, and has two children—Elmer and Blanche. (6) Amos, not married. (7) Rebecca, married to Dowling Mercer, and has three children—Lorenzo, Ina and Hazel.

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By his second marriage "Uncle Dan" had two sons: (1) Leonidas, pastor of the Christian Church at Ravenna, Ohio; was educated at Bethany (W. Va.) College and Chicago University, and ordained in 1891; he is married to Jessie Green, of Alliance, Ohio. (2) Robert, a farmer near Bowling Green; he completed his education in Hiram College, Ohio, and is married to Miss Millie De Lano; like his father, he is an ardent Prohibitionist. All of these nineteen children have been reared together by our subject, and all are members of the Church. He lately gave each of them \$2,000, making \$4,000 in all to each, he having previously given \$2,000 to each one.

About two years after his second marriage Mr. Mercer bought a farm of 400 acres in Liberty township, where oil was afterward discovered, and at the time of his decease he had an income from sixty-five wells. In 1889 he retired to Bowling Green, there to spend his declining years, and he employed his time devising new ways to do good with his money. He was a liberal patron of the Christian Church, of which he had been a member some fifty-three years, and an elder for thirty years. He took the lead in the financial affairs of the Bowling Green society, and made large donations in other places, helping to build more than twenty churches. He also gave generously to Bethany College, Hiram College and other educational institutions, and was extremely liberal to Churches, regardless of creed. Politically, he was formerly a Democrat, but in later years was a Prohibitionist, taking an active interest in all temperance work. Daniel Mercer, the subject of this sketch, died September 23, 1896, and was buried in the cemetery at Rudolph.

MURRAY P. BREWER, one of the proprietors of the Wood County *Sentinel*, and editor of the same, is a native of Ohio, born November 23, 1849, and received his schooling at Westerville.

In 1868 he went to Toledo and engaged in the printing business as a practical printer, and in 1870 came to Bowling Green, here taking a position on the Wood County *Sentinel*—the official organ of the Republican party. In 1873 he became sole proprietor of the *Sentinel* by purchase from C. W. Evers, later selling to Rudolph Bros., and was then for one year one of the proprietors of the *Wauseon Republican*. In 1884 he again became one of the proprietors of the *Sentinel*, and has been its editor ever since. He is one of the ablest writers in Ohio, and always alert to the interests of his town and county. He has

been mayor of Bowling Green two terms (1882 and 1884), and served ably and well on the school board many years, also in the city council 1877-1879-1881-1885-1886-1894-1895 and 1896.

On January 8, 1873, Mr. Brewer was married to Miss Luella G., daughter of Norton and Ella R. (Wells) Reed, natives of Ohio and New York State respectively, the father being of Scotch origin. To our subject and wife have been born children as follows: Charles R., John W., Harry and Dixie.

E. L. SPAFFORD, the well-known young civil engineer of Bowling Green, is a descendant of one of the earliest pioneers of this region, his great-great-grandfather, Major Amos Spafford, who was born in Sharon, Conn., April 11, 1753, having been for some time deputy revenue collector at Perrysburg. The Major's eldest son, Samuel Spafford, our subject's great-grandfather, was commissioner of Wood county, from 1822 to 1828; he died at Perrysburg in 1831, at the age of fifty-six. Amos Spafford, the grandfather of our subject, went to California during the "gold fever" of 1848-49, and was never heard from afterward. His son, Ara C. Spafford, our subject's father, was born in 1835, and in 1861 enlisted in Company C, 21st O. V. I., and served in the army of the Cumberland until he was stricken with yellow fever, from which he died October, 1864, at Camp Sorghum, South Carolina.

On the maternal side, also, Mr. Spafford is descended from a family which has held a prominent place in the history of northwestern Ohio, his mother, formerly Miss Amanda M. Baird, being the daughter of G. W. Baird, a man of recognized influence in business and political circles, and a representative in the Legislature from this District, in 1841-42. E. L. Spafford is the second in a family of three children. The eldest, Clifton A., lives in Providence, R. I.; the youngest died in infancy. His mother, who was born September 18, 1838, is still living, and has contracted a second marriage with F. H. Thompson, of Perrysburg; they have had two children—L. A. and Edward.

Our subject was born at the old homestead in Perrysburg July 8, 1861, and received his early education in the schools of that town. The foundation, thus laid, has been added to by subsequent reading and observation, until he has become noted for his broad and accurate information. His technical studies in engineering and surveying were pursued under the able guidance of Prof. Hubbard, at Perrysburg. At the age of

nineteen he began teaching, and, after seven years of successful work in this county, he engaged in the practice of his chosen profession, working as an assistant to the county surveyor. His ability and skill, combined with absolute fair dealing in disputed cases, has brought him an extensive business in this and adjoining counties.

On May 4, 1894, Mr. Spafford was married to Miss Mildred Kramer, of Bowling Green, who is a worker in various philanthropical movements, and an active member of the M. E. Church. One son, James Francis, born January 1, 1896, has blessed this union. Mr. Spafford is a straight Republican in politics; socially, he belongs to the I. O. O. F. Lodge No. 77, of Perrysburg.

PROF. J. N. BAKER, a prominent educator, of Wood county, now residing in Bowling Green, was born near New Lisbon, Columbiana county, Ohio, May 9, 1843.

His father, Abraham Baker, was born in 1808, in Adams county, Penn., and came to Ohio, with his parents, when a little boy; his mother, who was Miss Elizabeth Cope, before her marriage, was a native of Harper's Ferry, Va., and came to this State, with her parents, at the age of eighteen months—both families settling in the vicinity of New Lisbon. Poverty was no obstacle in the eyes of lovers in those days, and in 1830 our subject's parents were married, although they had nothing to live upon but the young husband's wages as a day laborer. In 1850, they bought a farm of ten acres, which they sold four years later, when they removed to a farm in Section 31, Bloom township, Wood county. Here they spent the remainder of their days. They were Quakers in religion, with all the sterling moral qualities of that sect. Mr. Baker died May 27, 1888, aged eighty years; his wife August 15, 1894, aged eighty-six years. Of their six sons, five served in the Civil war, and the other had a willing spirit, but failed to pass the examination. Their two daughters married men who volunteered and went to the front. John C., the eldest son, enlisted in the 47th O. V. I. He now resides at the old homestead. Sarah A. married J. R. Slaughterback, of Hancock county, a private in Company E, 21st O. V. I. Joshua C. was drafted, but was discharged on account of physical disability; he now resides in Hancock county. Elisha M., served in Co. D, 5th Mo. Cav. during the war, and now lives in Auburn, Nebr. Jason C., a private in Co. E, 21st O. V. I., under Gen. Sherman, was killed at Vining Station, Ga., July 9, 1864. Isaac P. served in Co. G, 21st O. V. I., and died in the

hospital at Nashville, February 6, 1863, of pneumonia, caused by exposure during the battle of Stone River. Mary C. married Frank Pattee, of White Beach, Wisconsin.

Our subject was the sixth child in this patriotic family. He was about twelve years old when his parents came to Wood county, and he received his early education in the district schools of Bloom township, and in the high school at Findlay. Before completing his course, the war broke out, and August 9, 1862, he enlisted in Co. G, 99th O. V. I., taking the rank of corporal. He served under Buell, Rosecrans, and Sherman, and took part in the battles of Perryville, Ky., Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Buzzard's Roost, Resaca, Ringgold, Dalton, Dallas, and others of the Atlanta campaign. He was wounded at Kenesaw Mountain, June 21, 1864, and sent to Regimental Headquarters, but returned to duty in three weeks. After the capture of Atlanta, his regiment formed part of the force under Gen. Thomas, sent against Hood, and took part in the two-days' struggle at Nashville, in which that campaign ended. The 99th was then consolidated with the 50th Ohio, and transferred to the East, and was engaged at the capture of Wilmington. They re-joined Sherman at Goldsboro, and were discharged from the U. S. service at Salisbury, when the war closed, and finally mustered out at Camp Dennison, Cincinnati, in June, 1865.

Returning to Findlay, Prof. Baker resumed his studies, finishing the course in the Findlay High School, in 1866. He has ever since been engaged in educational work, teaching two years in the A Grammar Grade at Findlay; three years as superintendent at Carey; two years at home, where he bought a farm and spent his spare time in cultivating it; nine years as superintendent at Portage; three years as superintendent at North Baltimore, and seven years in the A Grammar school at Bowling Green. He then resigned, intending to retire from professional work, but was prevailed upon to take charge of the schools at Tontogany, where he spent last year. He is now resting. While attending school at Findlay, he taught three winters' terms in the country, making, in all, thirty years of work. He married Miss Lévinia Shellabarger, one of his pupils at Carey, who was born in that town, November 3, 1852. She has been a true helpmeet, sympathizing heartily in all his plans, and has taught with him in the schools of Portage, North Baltimore, grammar grade, and Bowling Green, in the A Primary grade. Prof. Baker has been a member of the board of county examiners for four

years. He is a Republican in politics, and a member of the G. A. R., Wiley Post, of which he has been commander for two terms.

**ROBERT STEWART DAVIDSON.** The Davidson family is of Scotch origin, and the subject of this sketch, a prominent business man of Scotch Ridge, Webster township, traces his genealogy back to Robert Davidson, who was a farmer, born in Linlithgow, Scotland.

His son, Robert Davidson (2), grandfather of our subject, was also born in that country, and was one of seven children. He came to America in 1834, and settled at Perrysburg, Ohio. A few months later, going to Pennsylvania and buying a large tract of land. While on his journey homeward he died, when four miles from Fremont, on the Maumee and Western Reserve Pike. His wife was a Miss Margaret Murdock, also a native of Scotland. Nine children were born to them: Robert, who is now a retired farmer, living at Scotch Ridge; William; Jeanette; James; Walter, father of our subject; Anna; Andrew; Thomas and Margaret.

Walter Davidson married Jane Stewart; both were natives of Scotland, born in 1822. They came to America in 1832, when children. For a time they lived in Perrysburg, Ohio, afterward removing to Webster township. Their family consisted of the following children: Robert Stewart, subject of this sketch; Maggie, born in 1845, married Thomas Shanks, and lives in Webster township; Mary, born in 1847; Sarah, born in 1849, married Frank Stevens, of Webster township; Andrew died when about two years old; Thomas, living in Webster township; Mattie is the wife of Charles Muir, of the same township. The father was county commissioner for six or seven years. He died April 14, 1891, aged sixty-nine years; his wife died some four years previous.

Robert Stewart Davidson was born in Scotch Ridge, Webster township, this county, April 1, 1843. He attended the district school, which in those primitive days was held in a log school house with rough slabs for benches, a puncheon floor, and a slit in the side of the walls, covered with greased paper, doing duty as a window. When eighteen years old his patriotic impulses were stirred by the call to arms, and he offered his services to assist in putting down the Rebellion, enlisting on October 22, 1861, in Company H, 67th O. V. I., his regiment being assigned to the Eastern Division of the army. His term of service expiring, he re-enlisted in February, 1864, and remained until the close of the war,

being mustered out December 7, 1865. Mr. Davidson took part in some of the most noted engagements of the war, among them being the battles of Winchester, Va.; two battles at Fort Wagner, Chester Station, Va.; Bermuda Hundred, two battles at Wier Bottom Church, Va.; Petersburg and Appomattox. He was wounded at Fort Wagner and Chester Station, and has the record of a brave and faithful soldier, of which he may well be proud.

Mr. Davidson was married August 14, 1872, to Miss Alice Stevens, who was born January 28, 1850, in Monroeville, Huron Co., Ohio. Eight children have blessed this union, namely: Jennie May died when eighteen months old; Walter is in business with his father; Maggie; Daisy; Bruce, died when two years old; Frank, Arthur and Laura. Mr. Davidson established a general merchandise business in Scotch Ridge, in 1872, being at the outset in partnership with his father, under the firm name of Davidson & Son, and which style is still used, although the senior partner died some years ago. Mr. Davidson erected the large building which he now occupies, in 1883, and has built up an extensive trade by his strict attention to the details of his business, his well-known integrity, and genial personality also attracting to him many warm personal friends. He has been greatly prospered during the twenty-three years of his active business life, and is one of the highly esteemed residents of the township. Mr. Davidson has always taken an active part in politics, in which he affiliates with the Republican party. He has been treasurer of Webster township for twenty-four years, first being elected in 1869, and serving for twelve years; after an interval of two years he was again re-elected, and has held the position ever since. He is the treasurer and a stockholder in the Pemberville Creamery, and is the treasurer of the United Presbyterian Church, of which he is a member, and is now treasurer of the Wood County Farmers' Mutual Fire Association, which has an assessable stock of \$1,000,000.00, and is steadily increasing. He is also a member of Wiley Post, G. A. R., at Bowling Green, and is prominent in all public enterprises. He owns a farm of sixty-two acres near Scotch Ridge, on which he resides, where he has a delightful home.

FRANK W. DUNN, a well-known resident of Bowling Green, was born on the east coast of England December 18, 1841, and is the eldest in the family of four children born to John F. and Miriam (Wright) Dunn.

The mother and two of the daughters died in

1847, and a few years subsequently the father emigrated to Canada, bringing with him his two remaining children—the subject of this sketch and his brother Robert. Members of the family on the paternal and maternal sides had previously emigrated from the mother country, some of them having settled in Canada, others in the United States. For a time, Frank lived with his uncle on a farm near Toronto, and afterward with an old friend of his father. After a residence of about two and a half years in Canada, the father and his two sons came to Ohio, settling in Bloom township, this county, on a tract of land adjoining the village of Eagleville, where some of his father's relatives were then living. The land purchased was covered with heavy timber; the surrounding country was new; money was a scarce commodity, and a good deal of hard work was necessary to make a comfortable home.

With a view of earning money to assist his father in paying for and improving his land, our subject went to Lorain county, in the spring of each year, for several seasons, and worked on a farm, during the summer months, returning to Wood county in the fall. In September, 1862, while employed on a farm in Lorain county, he enlisted, for three years, in the Hoffman Battalion, afterward merged into the 128th Regiment, O. V. I. He remained in the service until June, 1865, and was honorably discharged, by reason of the termination of the war. In September, 1865, he went to Alpena, Mich., then a very small village, and spent the winter in the pineries north of that place. Returning to Ohio in the spring of 1866, he followed the pursuits of a farmer for several years, in Perry township, Wood county, and was twice elected assessor of the township, at the second election receiving every vote cast in the township. In the winter months, he usually taught a term of district school, in either Bloom or Perry township. In 1873 he came to Bowling Green, and has resided here ever since, excepting two years spent in western Kansas.

For several years Mr. Dunn was deputy sheriff of Wood county, and at intervals has been employed in all the various offices of the county. In 1880, he was one of the United States census enumerators, and was clerk of Center township, for two years. While living in Kansas he was elected and served as county recorder.

In the spring of 1888, our subject was married to Miss Emma J. Loomis, the eldest daughter of Daniel Loomis, of Bowling Green. She was deputy clerk of courts, in Wood county, for several years, and has the distinction of being the first lady legally appointed to an office in the



*Frank W. Quinn.*





county, the late Judge Pillars making the appointment. Subsequently she filled the office of deputy recorder of the county. Mr. Dunn is a member of the firm of Robert & Frank W. Dunn, abstracters of land titles, who have made a specialty of this work for more than twenty years.

GEORGE W. GAGHAN, auditor of Wood county, and one of the most capable and popular business men of Bowling Green, was born in Whitehall, N. Y., May 3, 1850.

His parents, George and Mary (Finney) Gaghan, were born in Ireland, the father in 1816, the mother two years later. They came to America in 1849, settling in Whitehall, where they lived some eight years, in 1857 removing to Toledo, where they remained two years. In 1859 the family removed to Medina, Medina Co., Ohio, where they also resided two years, thence removing to West Millgrove, Wood county, where, in 1865, they rented a farm near Tontogany. Here they lived three years, at the end of that time buying a farm in Milton township, where Mr. Gaghan died. Politically he was a Democrat. An upright citizen, and an energetic worker, he never spared his strength when he set himself a task to accomplish. His life was extended beyond the limit of three-score and ten, his death occurring September 23, 1892. His wife, and six sons and daughters survive him, of whom our subject is the eldest; Catherine is the wife of J. Dubbs, of Milton township; Mary married Nate Corhell, of Jackson township; James lives at the old home in Milton township; Rosa married Wesley Sharp, of Hammansburg, Wood county; Myrtle is the wife of Caleb Roe, of Jackson township.

G. W. Gaghan acquired the rudiments of his education in the common schools near his home, and at about the age of fifteen came to Bowling Green, to find or make for himself a place in the business arena. For two years and a half he clerked in the general store of C. F. Button, and for four years with S. L. Boughton, in the same line. Possessing in a marked degree those innate qualities of character which win public confidence, he had by this time gained a host of friends, and on venturing to invest his savings in a stock of dry goods, his enterprise found ready support. He continued in business with a growing trade until late in the year 1887, when he was burned out with a loss of \$3,500. He then engaged in the oil business, in which he continued some two years. In 1888, he rebuilt the Gaghan Block, which is a fine property. In 1889, he was appointed postmaster of Bowling Green, re-

ceiving the appointment from Harrison without solicitation on his part, and held the office until January 1, 1894, when he gave it up, having been elected to his present position the previous November. Since October 15, 1894, he has ably discharged the duties of county auditor, to which office he was re-elected in November, 1896. He did not come to this work an untried and inexperienced official, having held many minor offices in which the public had learned his worth. As township clerk, and for ten years treasurer of Center township, and as a member of the city council for twelve years, his integrity, good judgment, energy and public spirit had been fully proven. What Mr. Gaghan lacked in collegiate training has been made up by close observation and private study, the love for which college life does not always develop. He has always been a recognized leader in the local ranks of the Republican party, for whose interests he has devoted both his time and means. He has served on the County Central Committee, and is regarded as one of the party's best men in Wood county.

Mr. Gaghan was married, March 14, 1872, to Miss Alice A. Pike, who was born in Bowling Green in 1853, and they have two children, Byrdie and Mabel. He is a member of the K. of P. and Modern Woodmen of America.

JOHN GAGHAN, who is one of the agriculturists of Jackson township, has lived an honorable and upright life. His career, however, is unmarked by events of thrilling experience, but is that of a man who has faithfully performed his duty. He was born in Wood county, January 15, 1868, of parents George and Mary (Finney) Gaghan, who for a time resided at West Millgrove, then in Washington and Milton townships respectively. In the latter our subject began his education, acquiring a fair knowledge of the English branches. He was brought up as a farmer's boy, and his training in that line of labor was not meager. He early displayed an industrious, energetic nature, and these qualities are among his marked characteristics, and have been important factors in his success.

Mr. Gaghan remained at home until twenty-four years of age, and then removed to his parents' farm, comprising eighty acres of land which was given him by his father. He was married in Milton township, Thanksgiving day, 1892, and at once took up his residence on his land where he has since had a comfortable and pleasant home. The work of improving the property has all been accomplished by him, for it was an unbroken

wilderness when it came into his possession. His characteristic energy, however, has transformed it into a fine farm, and he now has a valuable and richly improved tract of land.

Mrs. Gaghan bore the maiden name of Sarah Srohl. She was born in Ottawa county, Ohio, in January, 1873. By her marriage she has become the mother of one child, an interesting little daughter, Myrtle, born July 20, 1894. The parents are widely and favorably known in this locality, and have many warm friends. In politics, Mr. Gaghan is a Democrat, unswerving in his support of the principles of the party.

DANIEL W. HUFFMAN, farmer and fruit grower, Washington township, was born September 12, 1841, in Dauphin county, Penn., the third son of John and Nancy Huffman.

Our subject's boyhood was passed on his father's farm, which he assisted in clearing up, while in the winter months he also attended the district school. He was seven years old when he accompanied his parents from Pennsylvania to Weston township, Wood county, and when he attained his majority, he began to work for his father on wages. In 1867 he bought his first land, forty acres, and, when he had improved it to a considerable extent, sold it and bought sixty acres. On disposing of this last property, he bought eighty acres in Washington township, and has transformed it into a valuable farm, highly improved. In 1872, he bought eighty acres adjoining, and now has a quarter section, all under a high state of cultivation. Thereon he erected a comfortable country residence, at a cost of \$2,000.00, and has built commodious barns and other necessary out-buildings. In addition to the cultivation of grain he raises some fine varieties of fruits, which find a ready sale on the market. For the past ten years he has also engaged in stock raising.

On May 2, 1864, Mr. Huffman enlisted at Tontogany, in Company B, 144th O. V. I., under Capt. Black and Col. Miller. The regiment went to Columbus, Ohio, thence to Baltimore, Md., participated in the battle of Monocacy, July 9, 1864, and August 13 following, our subject was taken prisoner, by Col. Mosby, while he was guarding a wagon team *en route* from Harper's Ferry to Winchester. It was the more aggravating to Mr. Huffman, as on that very day his term of enlistment had expired, and he fully expected he would be sent home as soon as the wagon train should arrive in Winchester. After capture, he and three fellow prisoners (two of whom were John Phillips, of Tontogany, and

Hugh Stewart, also of Wood county) were placed on mules and started off, under guard, to join the Rebel army at Culpeper, Va. At the end of some forty-eight hours' ride, however, Mr. Huffman succeeded in effecting his escape by hiding in the bush, his guard being not over ten feet from him when he made his dash for liberty. This was on a Monday morning, and the following Saturday night he found himself within the Union lines, near Alexandria. During the nights he tramped along with great caution, in daytime keeping close or resting himself, never once stopping at any house for fear of capture, but living on green apples and anything else he could find in the woods. He suffered much from hunger and exposure, which resulted in an attack of rheumatism. On September 14, 1864, he was honorably discharged at Columbus, Ohio.

In 1866, Mr. Huffman was married to Carrie Phillips, who was born April 27, 1844, a daughter of John Phillips, of Washington township. They had four children: Arthur, who died in infancy; Alice, wife of Charles Bassett, of Weston township, by whom she has three sons—Wayne, Clyde and Cecil; and Eva and Howard, both at home. The family is one of considerable prominence in the community, and the home is noted for its hospitality. Mr. Huffman has been school director for a number of years, and clerk of the board. He was also supervisor for some years, and is now serving his fourth term as trustee. He belongs to Walter A. Wood Post, G. A. R., of Tontogany, and in politics is a Republican. His possessions have been acquired entirely through his own efforts, and his career demonstrates what can be accomplished through earnest labor.

NORTON REED, a prominent capitalist and real-estate holder of Bowling Green, has been a conspicuous factor in the growth and development of the commercial interests of this region. Coming to this county in 1865 with ample means, his energy and financial ability soon made him an acknowledged power. In the removal of the county seat from Perrysburg, he gave noteworthy evidence of those qualities which insure success in the business world.

Mr. Reed is of Scotch descent, his grandfather, Samuel Reed, having come from Scotland to America in the last century, locating in Connecticut. His son, Samuel (2), our subject's father, was born in Hartford, in that State, in 1791, and in 1814 came to Ohio, settling first in Erie county, but finally in Huron county, where he died in 1865. He married Miss Hannah

Brown, who died in Milan, Erie county, in 1884. They had six children: Mary, the widow of the late Volney Beverstock, of Milan, Ohio; Edwin, a resident of Toledo, Ohio; Norton, our subject; Helen Jane, the wife of Thomas J. Butman, of Milan; Harriet, Mrs. Thomas Bradley, of Milan, Ohio, and Samuel, who lives at Carthage, Missouri.

Our subject first saw the light in Erie county, Ohio, January 18, 1821, and received his early education in the district schools there, and in Huron county. He was married in 1845 to Miss Ellen R. Wells, who was born September 4, 1823, in New York. Their three daughters are all married: Julia, born October 14, 1848, is the wife of W. C. Martin of Bowling Green and the mother of four children—Martia, deceased, Norton, Jo., and Frank. Helen W., born May 18, 1850, married George Wooster, of Bowling Green, and has one daughter—Carrie. Luella G., born September 6, 1851, married M. P. Brewer, editor of the *Sentinel*, of Bowling Green, and has four children—Charles R., John, Harry, and Dixie.

Mr. Reed followed farming as an occupation for some time after his marriage, first in Ridgefield township, Huron county, and then in Oxford township, Erie county. Since 1865 he has had his home in Bowling Green (with the exception of two years spent in Fulton county), and his fine brick residence is an ornament to the city. Mr. Reed takes a philosophic view of life, and enjoys the privileges which his wealth bestows. He spends a portion of each year in travel, and of the last nineteen winters, one has been spent in California and the rest in Florida, where he owns a large tract of wild land. His first vote was cast for James K. Polk, and he has remained a Democrat to the present time.

**JOHN S. MAHONY.** This gentleman, who spent his early manhood in active labor, and mainly in agricultural pursuits, is now living retired in Fostoria, Ohio, but still owns some valuable oil land in Montgomery township. A man of great energy and more than ordinary business capacity, his success has been largely due to his own efforts and sound judgment, by which he has been enabled to make wise investments and take good advantage of his resources.

Mr. Mahony was born at Liverpool, England, December 31, 1828, and is one of the four children—two sons and two daughters—of Thomas and Ellen Mahony. His father, who was a successful grain merchant, died when our subject was only four years old, leaving his fam-

ily in comfortable circumstances, and they continued to carry on the business. In the common schools John S. Mahony received a fair education, but at the age of thirteen years he formed the acquaintance of a sea captain who took a liking to him, and, despite the pleadings of his mother, he shipped on the "Mary Gray," where he was chore-boy. They sailed for Brazil, but the voyage ended with a shipwreck on the Falkland Islands, while *en route* for Valparaiso, Chili, where they lived for a month on a desert island, but were finally taken by a schooner to Port Egmont, and later were taken on board a New Zealand vessel, the "Bolena," which came to that port for water. He and another boy appealed to the governor of the Falkland Islands for passage home, but were refused. Finally, however, by working his passage, he got back to London, and then, after an eighteen-months' absence, to his home in Liverpool, where he found the family mourning for his supposed death. Mr. Mahony then clerked in the American wholesale house in Liverpool of James McHenry & Co. until the hard times caused him to lose his position, and then he went as a sailor to New Orleans, whence he went to Havre, France, and on that trip returned to New York with immigrants. For a time he sailed along the Atlantic coast and to the West Indies, but, on January 26, 1849, he left New York for San Francisco, having been taken with the gold fever, and arrived there the following August. He became part owner of a small boat engaged in rafting on San Francisco bay, and remained in California until June, 1854, engaged in rafting and mining. He returned to New York by way of the Panama route.

Before leaving the Golden State, Mr. Mahony had been told, by a fellow-worker, of the "Black Swamp" in Wood county, Ohio, where he proceeded after his arrival in New York, and purchased 120 acres of partially improved land in Sections 3 and 10, Montgomery township; but before he located thereon he made a visit to his mother in England, who died the following year. Farming was entirely a new business to our subject, who, under many difficulties, secured a knowledge of the business, and his first attempts at plowing will never be forgotten. He also made several runs on the lakes in the fall after the farm work was done.

On February 21, 1855, in Montgomery township, Mr. Mahony was married to Miss Lorinda F. McFerren, a native of Wood county, and a daughter of Ezekiel and Hannah McFerren, and they have become the parents of five children—

Ellen A., now Mrs. R. C. Canfield, of Washington; Kate E., wife of E. D. Tandy, of Colorado; Clara E., wife of Charles A. Whaley, of Washington; Mattie G., at home; and John F., a hardware merchant of Fostoria, Ohio.

Resolving to aid his adopted country in her struggle to preserve the Union, Mr. Mahony enlisted in 1861, leaving his plow standing in the field, and became a member of Company K, 21st O. V. I. He was in all the battles in which his regiment participated until September, 1863, when, after the battle of Chickamauga, Ga., he, with his regiment, was taken prisoner, and for seventeen months he was confined at Richmond, and in other Confederate prisons. Was mustered out May 15, 1865. He has never regained his former health. From private he received one promotion after another until after the battle of Stone River, when he was given a commissioned office, and later received a first lieutenant's and captain's commission. He was mustered out May 15, 1865, when his services were no longer needed, and returned to his home with an honorable war record.

Until 1893 Mr. Mahony continued the cultivation and improvement of his excellent farm, and then removed to Fostoria, where two years later he built his elegant residence on West Fremont street. He comes from a good English family, and he has given to his children excellent advantages. In religious belief he is a Congregationalist, while his estimable wife belongs to the Presbyterian Church. He is a charter member of Hamilton Post, G. A. R., of Bradner, Ohio, in which he served as its first adjutant. He is a stanch Republican, a firm believer in high protection, and is one of the most progressive and enterprising men of the county, who has here secured a comfortable competence and the regard of all with whom he comes in contact.

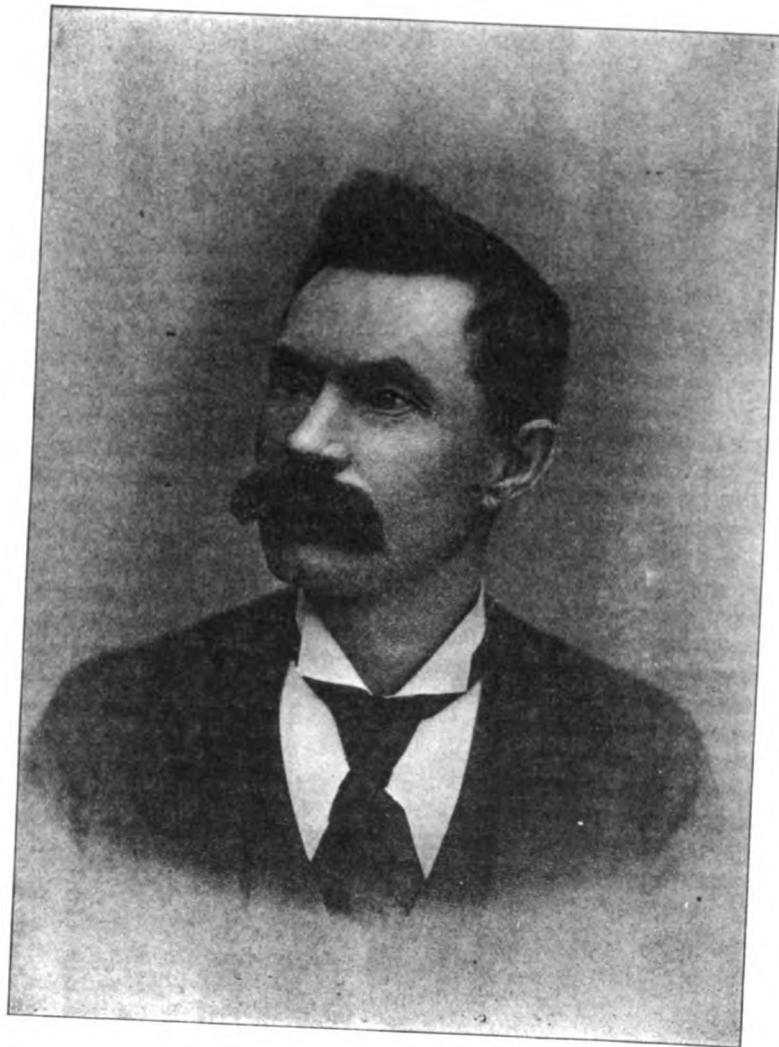
W. M. TULLER, M. D. Among the physicians of Bowling Green none bears a higher position in the respect and esteem of the community than does the subject of this sketch, who well merits the confidence the public reposes in him, and who has attained to success in his professional career by his force of character and devotion to his work.

Dr. Tuller was born in Delaware county, Ohio, July 7, 1848. On the paternal side he is of Dutch descent, John Tuller, the original American ancestor, having come from Holland some two hundred years ago. Roswell Tuller, the grandfather of our subject, was born in 1794 in Connecticut, was a lifelong farmer, and died

in February, 1866, in Delaware county, Ohio. He married Nancy Thompson, who was born in 1797 in New York State, and died in 1876. Roswell Tuller was a soldier in the war of 1812, in which his father, also named Roswell, served as captain.

Alvin Tuller, the Doctor's father, was a native of Delaware county, Ohio, born August 5, 1817, was married, and engaged in farming there until after the birth of all his children, who were five in number, viz.: Adelbert D., a farmer in Wood county; Mary A., the widow of Isaac W. Yoakam, who was killed in Franklin county; one who died in infancy; W. M., and Milo A., living in Wood county, Ohio. Mr. Tuller subsequently removed to Franklin county, and in 1893 to Bowling Green, where the family still reside. His wife, whose maiden name was Elvira Maynard, was born in Franklin county October 30, 1819, and was there married. Her parents, Stephen and Mary (Philips) Maynard, were both natives of Massachusetts, the father coming to Franklin county, Ohio, when he was nineteen years old. He was a farmer by occupation, and lived to be eighty-three years old. The mother died at the age of thirty-nine years. They had four children—Matilda, Elvira, Darwin and Augustus. The Maynard family is of English and Scotch descent.

Until sixteen years of age our subject remained at home, attending the common school and assisting his father on the farm. He then entered Central College, in Franklin county, Ohio, and after completing the course taught school for six years, after which he began reading medicine with Dr. H. Hendrickson, of Columbus, Ohio. He subsequently took a course in the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery, from which he was graduated in 1876, coming immediately thereafter to Bowling Green and beginning the practice of his profession, in which he has ever since been engaged. When Dr. Tuller first took up his residence in the place the town was composed of small wooden buildings, and was primitive in all its surroundings. He has been a witness of its growth and prosperity, and his practice has grown and prospered with it. For the past eight years he has been the physician and surgeon for both railroads passing through Bowling Green—the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton and the Toledo & Ohio Central. Of late years Dr. Tuller has confined his practice more especially to consultation and office business, in which he has a large clientage, being known far and near as a man of deep learning and great skill. He is a member of the



*Willis M Fuller M. D.*



Northwestern Ohio Medical Association, the American Medical Association, and also of the National Association of Railroad Physicians and Surgeons. Socially he affiliates with the Subordinate Lodge and Encampment, I. O. O. F., with the K. O. T. M. and the Woodmen of the World, and although prevented by his arduous professional duties from attending as much as he would like to, he is an enthusiastic supporter of these fraternal organizations.

Financially Dr. Tuller has been very successful. He was one of the number who drilled the first gas well in this locality, and has ever since been connected with the company as an organizer, it proving a very profitable business. He is a stockholder in the First National Bank at Dunkirk, Ind. In politics he is a Republican, has held the offices of mayor and member of the city council, and has also been one of the board of city examiners of schools. In every relation of life he has borne his part well, and he is one of the representative men of the county.

On July 4, 1871, Dr. Tuller was married to Josephine Mott, who was born July 24, 1846, at Rockaway Beach, L. I., daughter of Henry Mott, who was a sea captain. Their union has been blessed with five children: Willis Ray and Lillie May, living, and Jessie, who died when five and a half years of age; Bertha, who died when two and a half years old, and one that died in infancy.

**CHARLES J. SAGE.** The subject of this sketch was born in Washington county Va., April 11, 1836, and was one year old when his parents moved to Erie county, Ohio. He attended the common schools of his time, but his opportunities were limited and much inferior to those of the present day. The death of our subject's father, when the former was a little over four years old, lost to him a valuable friend. Fortunately he had a good mother and older brothers—the latter, though young, seemed competent to discharge the duties thus thrown upon them. When our subject was eleven years old his widowed mother and her family came to Wood county, and located a short distance west of Prairie Depot, where Charles attended school. In the summer of his sixteenth year he left home and was employed as driver on the Wabash canal at a salary of \$12 per month. The following summer he again worked at that business and received \$15 per month. When eighteen years old he began to learn the trade of a carpenter under his eldest brother William, of Huron. He spent some time with him and then went to Coldwater,

Mich., where he worked with his brother-in-law, M. H. Parker.

In the summer of 1856 Mr. Sage went to Chicago, where he worked awhile, and then returned to Michigan, and Ohio, until 1859, when a desire to go west possessed him, and he went to Atchison, Kans., hired out as a teamster and drove an ox-team of six yoke through to Salt Lake City, Utah, from which place he went on to Sacramento, Cal., which he reached after a journey of four months. He hired out to a rancher, and later worked at his trade. In the spring of 1861 he went to Nevada, in the vicinity of Virginia City, where new mines had been discovered. Here he followed his trade and bought a blacksmith shop in the mountains; not being a blacksmith himself, he hired a smith, and he did the wood work. This proved to be a good business, and Mr. Sage stayed in the Far West until the fall of 1865, when he returned to Ohio and spent the winter of 1865-66, and in the spring of the latter year returned to his business in the mountains, which he subsequently sold out, and went to work for the government at Fort Churchill, Nev., as wheelwright, until the fall of 1867, when he again went back to Ohio.

Mr. Sage was married in Perrysburg November 17, 1868, to Miss Marian C. Benjamin, of Montgomery township, a native of Summit county, Ohio, where she was born February 3, 1845. Her parents were Aaron and Laura (Markham) Benjamin, the former of whom was born in New York State and the latter in Massachusetts. They were married in New York, and went to Tuscarawas county, Ohio, losing their money on the way, by robbery. Mr. Benjamin bought a farm in Tuscarawas county, and from there moved to Summit county, and, when Marian was nine years old, they went to Scott township, Sandusky county, and finally to Montgomery township, where Aaron died February 4, 1883, nearly eighty-four years old. His wife died March 22, 1895, over eighty-seven. Their family consisted of six children: Nelson lives in Florida; Aaron was a blacksmith and shoemaker by trade, but followed farming much of his later life; and all living but one.

At the time of our subject's marriage his finances were reduced very low; but being a good mechanic, he could always find something to do, and eventually got a start. In 1872 he located on the lot where he now lives, and where, in 1889, he completed an elegant house, arranged after his own ideas and under his personal direction. To him and his wife two children have been born, namely: Celia, an educated young lady,



is a teacher in the Prairie Depot schools; Charles B. is at home. Mr. Sage is a staunch Republican, and has served four years as township clerk, six years as justice of the peace, councilman for one term, and mayor of Prairie Depot for one term. Mr. Sage is a well-known mechanic of considerable skill, he has a comfortable home, an excellent family, and is highly respected and one of Prairie Depot's best citizens.

**J. C. EBERLY.** The subject of this sketch is a farmer of Portage township, and has the distinction of being the first white child born in that locality, his birth taking place March 18, 1834.

Jacob Eberly, the father, was born in Huntingdon county, Penn., July 14, 1804, and moved to Franklin county when but a child. He learned the blacksmith's trade, and when a young man came to Northern Ohio and worked at his trade in Upper Sandusky, Fremont and Toledo. He was married in Waterville, Lucas county, to Miss Elizabeth Cox, daughter of Benjamin Cox, who was born September 20, 1806. Mr. Eberly began life as a poor boy, and early in the '30s he came to Portage township and took up eighty acres along the Portage river, in Section 6, which was then in a wild state, the forests being full of game, large and small. Mr. Eberly made a clearing, in which he built a cabin 16 x 20 feet, and a blacksmith shop. It was strictly a pioneer settlement, and the earliest in the township. The farmers would come from a distance of eight and ten miles to have work done for them, which they would engage to be done for days ahead. In this way he became well known by the farmers for miles around. He was a Whig and later a Republican, and served a longer term as treasurer of Portage township than any other incumbent of the office. He died October 31, 1894, at the advanced age of ninety years, his wife following him to the better land November 17, of the same year, and they both rest in the Portage cemetery. They were the parents of the following children: Jane, born October 6, 1828, died August 14, 1830; John, born June 3, 1830, died December 17, 1850; Mary, born June 2, 1832, married Elisha Prescott, and died November 24, 1858; Martha, married Allen Hampton, and is deceased; J. C., our subject; Matilda, born April 2, 1835, married John Johnson, of Toledo; William, December 19, 1836, is a merchant of Bowling Green; Elliott, September 10, 1838, lives in Center township; Harriet B., March 17, 1841, became the wife of L. L. Dowd, of Norwalk, Ohio; Benjamin C., January 11, 1843, is a resident of Bowling Green; Lucy, January 8, 1845,

married John Sargent, and later wedded Albert Goumont. She is now deceased.

Mr. Eberly was a great hunter, and had but one superior and he was "Squire" McMahan, in hunting deer in his section of the county. He was compelled to give up his trade when forty years old, and spent the remainder of his life upon the farm. His death had been predicted forty years before it occurred.

Our subject was reared as a farmer's boy, and attended the district schools in Portage township, and for one term he went to the graded school at Waterville. He began to learn the carpenter trade, but gave it up and returned home where he remained until August 7, 1862, when he enlisted at Portage in Company A, 100th O. V. I., under Capt. John A. Shannon. They camped for a while at Toledo, and then went to Covington, Ky., where our subject was confined in the hospital for a time, and then rejoined his regiment at Lexington. During an engagement at Resaca he was struck by a fragment of a shell, and was sent to the hospital at Chattanooga, where he remained for several weeks. After the fall of Atlanta, he went there and again joined his regiment, with which he remained until it reached Newbern, N. C., when he was taken with typhoid fever and confined in the hospital at that place, and later was removed to Fort Schuyler, N. Y., where he recovered, and was finally discharged from the service there.

Mr. Eberly returned to Portage after the war, and went to work on a farm. December 2, 1866, he was married to Miss Martha L. McFerren, who was born in Montgomery township, March 21, 1842, and who was the daughter of Ezekiel and Hannah (Lloyd) McFerren, both of whom were born in New York. Mrs. Eberly was a school teacher in her younger days. Our subject located in Section 7, on eighty acres of land which was owned jointly by himself and his brother William, and only a few acres of which was cleared at that time. Our subject later bought out his brother's interest, and became sole owner. He now has ninety-five acres. Mr. and Mrs. Eberly had two children, Grace, born August 20, 1880, died November 20, 1883; and Hazel, born November 3, 1883, now living at home. Mr. Eberly is a staunch member of the Republican party, and in former years was one of Portage's greatest workers in the cause. He never held office, being in politics not from selfish motives but to assist in the success of his party. In 1894, he built a fine home where he dispenses hospitality to all his friends, of whom he has a large number. His wife is a member

of the United Brethren Church, and they contribute freely to its support.

HIRAM ADDISON CRAW is one of the early pioneers of Wood county, and for many years one of its prominent agriculturists. He is now, after many years of active labor, spending the evening of his life in quiet and ease at his home in Bowling Green. He was born in Fairfield, Franklin Co., Vt., March 9, 1829.

His parents, John and Laura (Boardman) Craw, the former of whom was born in Suffield, Suffield Co., Conn., October 25, 1787, and the latter in West Corinth, Orange Co., Vt., November 14, 1789, were married December 14, 1809, in West Corinth, and lived in Fairfield, Franklin Co., Vt. In the fall of 1835 they came to Ohio, settling in Ridgefield township, Huron county, where they bought a farm and lived until 1851, then removing to Wood county and locating in Plain township, four miles north of Bowling Green. The father died in that city July 7, 1883, the mother having passed away March 13, 1871, while living on the farm. The mother early in life was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, but in February, 1858, with her husband and one of her daughters, Almira Gregory, and her husband and the subject of this sketch and his wife, all fully believed and indorsed the Seventh-Day Adventist faith, and commenced to observe the Sabbath of the Lord according to the Scripture and Bible plan, and have observed it ever since. But the organization of the Church did not take place until October 6, 1861, at Battle Creek, Mich., by a conference, by the vote of which it was recommended that the Churches enter into organization, adopting the following as a Church covenant: "We, the undersigned, hereby associate ourselves together as a Church, taking the name Seventh-Day Adventists, covenanting to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ." All of the above-named family united with this body, and are still connected with it, except the father of the subject of this sketch. He was as firm a believer in the truth and practice of it as any one of the family to the day of his death, and felt assured that he would have a part in the first resurrection at the second coming and appearing of the Blessed Master. In accordance with the views of this sect the Sabbath begins at sundown on Friday evening, and ends at the same hour on Saturday evening. Mr. Craw, Sr., while a religious man and an earnest Bible student and believer in its doctrines, never united with any Church. He was originally an old-line Whig,

subsequently becoming a Republican, was a man of much intelligence, and was highly esteemed by all who knew him.

This worthy couple were the parents of six children, of whom the following record is given: Matilda, born October 14, 1810, married Addison Fay January 19, 1832. They settled in Fairfield township, Franklin Co., Vt.; in 1834 came to Ohio, and for a number of years lived in Huron county, and in 1850 came to Plain township, Wood county, adjoining Bowling Green, where Mrs. Fay died October 27, 1864, and her husband in 1892; Prudence D., born May 20, 1814, was married May 21, 1834, to Peter Hathaway (they lived in Milan township, Huron county, but after some years the county was divided, and Milan and where Mr. Hathaway lived on the Huron river became a part of Erie county, and they continued to live there until he died, when she sold out and moved to Adrian, Mich.); Almira, born June 26, 1817, was married in Fairfield township, Franklin Co., Vt., December 29, 1834, to Levi S. Gregory, and they now reside in Bowling Green; Horace B., born October 7, 1820, died in infancy; Boardman, born June 29, 1826, also died in infancy; Hiram A., our subject.

The paternal grandfather of the latter was Reuben Craw, one of the early settlers of New England, who died in Vermont. His maternal grandfather, Amos Boardman, was born in England, November 17, 1764, and was married February 4, 1789, to Prudence Chapman, who was born March 3, 1768, in Corinth, Vt. They were farmers, and lived in West Corinth, Orange Co., Vt., where he died July 31, 1854, and his wife July 21, 1851. Their family comprised the following children: Laura, the mother of our subject, born November 14, 1789; Betsy, born October 16, 1792, died August 15, 1802; Erastus, born August 3, 1795, died January 25, 1842; Almira, born December 5, 1797, died July 4, 1876; Edna, born December 10, 1799, died November 3, 1827; Direxa, born September 19, 1801, died October 5, 1802; Electa, born March 17, 1803, died in West Corinth, Vt., in 1892; Hiram, born October 3, 1805, died April 14, 1871; Direxa (2), born March 20, 1808, died January 6, 1812; Hatsel, born January 2, 1811, died April 13, 1851.

Hiram A. Craw lived in Huron county, Ohio, where he attended school and assisted his father upon the farm until the removal of the family in 1851 to Wood county. He was married June 2, 1853, to Miss Ann Hall, who was born in Olivesburg, Richland Co., Ohio, June 19, 1833, and is

the daughter of James and Jane (Ralstin) Hall. Mrs. Craw's grandfather Hall was a hatter by trade, and on one of his expeditions after furs it is presumed he was killed by the Indians, as he never returned. After his death the mother bound out her two children, of whom one was the father of Mrs. Craw, to families in Pennsylvania. The people who took the sister moved away from the State, and the two were separated for the remainder of their lives. Mrs. Craw's father was married in Pennsylvania and came to Ohio, settling first in Richland county, afterward living in Hancock county, two and one-half miles north of Findlay, and finally, in the fall of 1843, taking up his residence in Wood county. He was a wheelwright by trade, but later in life turned his attention to farming. He died in Bowling Green, February 3, 1883, when about eighty years of age. His wife died in Plain township, in 1863. Their family consisted of four children, namely: Olivia, who was married December 12, 1850, to F. E. Meagley, and lives in Middleton township, Wood county; John R. was married April 26, 1853, to L. R. Gregory, and lives in Bowling Green; Ann, wife of our subject, and her twin sister, Jane, the latter of whom died at Findlay when seven years old; Juliett, born July 9, 1836, was married August 16, 1851, to John T. Sweet (deceased), and lives in Bowling Green.

Our subject first settled on a farm in Plain township, where he owned 120 acres of land. This he cleared up and improved, adding to it at various times until he had three hundred acres in one tract. Here he carried on general farming until his removal, on Thanksgiving day, 1882, to Bowling Green. He still owns 160 acres of this land, which he rents out, and is also the owner of four city lots. When Mr. Craw first settled in this county everything was in a primitive state, and he has been a witness of, and an important factor in, its growth and development. Among his early recollections are those of the school he attended in his boyhood days, which was in an old log school house in the Webb settlement, Ridgefield township, Huron county. He still has in his possession, and in a good state of preservation, the old Elementary Speller and English Reader, which were the text books in those days, the latter of which was given to him April 5, 1836. These antiquated volumes, with their coarse paper and coarse wood cuts, are a real curiosity in these days of handsome printing and illustrations.

When Mr. and Mrs. Craw returned from their wedding tour in Huron county, Ohio, all he had was fifty cents in cash; but, as they both say, they

were willing to work. The following children have blessed their union: Laura Jane, born February 25, 1854, died March 15, 1861; Prudence D., born October 4, 1855, married Herbert L. Denman, and has one child, Blanche; John B., born May 1, 1857, married Miss Ada Boardman, and lives on his father's farm (they have four children, Lorin, Iva, Howard and Cressa); George S., born May 23, 1860, married Anna Loomis, and has one child, Roland; Hiram O., born February 3, 1862, died January 6, 1885; Ira Lemon, born December 1, 1863, married Mazie Whetstone, and has two children, Eva and Hazel A.; and two younger children who died in infancy. Our subject and his wife have been members of the Adventist Church for some thirty-eight years, and have taken an active part in Church work. He is a man of high moral character, and holds an honored place in the community. Mr. Craw has been a leader in local affairs, and has held some responsible offices. He was supervisor of his township for six years, was constable for two years, and assistant postmaster at Lovett's Grove for fifteen years, afterward being appointed postmaster and serving two years, when the post office was discontinued. Progressive in his ideas, he saw at an early day the advantage of draining the soil, and has used tiling on his farm for a number of years.

The great-aunt of Mr. Craw, Jemima Mitchell, had fourteen children, and each of these had fourteen (making one hundred and ninety-six grandchildren), who, with their children, brought the number of her immediate descendants to two hundred and twenty-six.

**ROBERT S. PARKER.** If history teaches by example, the lessons inculcated by biography must be still more impressive. We see exhibited in the varieties of human character, under different circumstances, something to instruct us in our duty, and to encourage our efforts, under every emergency. As an illustration of the results of youthful enterprise and earnest effort, the life of this prominent attorney and successful man of Bowling Green cannot fail to be of interest, especially to the ambitious young man still struggling on the lower rounds of the ladder.

The Parker family, to which the subject of this sketch belongs, is of English origin. In the history of Westford, Massachusetts, by Rev. Edward R. Hodgman, A. M.; Cutler's History of Jaffrey, New Hampshire; the Genealogy of John Parker, of Lexington, and his descendants, by Theodore Parker, and other authorities, his ancestors may be traced by clear and unbroken



*R. S. Parster*



records as far back as 1470, and by less perfect records to a much earlier date. In these records we find many divines, the most notable being Matthew Parker, seventy-first Archbishop of Canterbury and Primate of all England (1559-1575). The Thirty-nine Articles were passed by convocation under his presidency in 1562. There were also many lawyers in the family in England, and it is a somewhat curious and striking fact that among the lawyers were several bearing the name of Robert.

Mr. Parker is thoroughly American and democratic in his tastes and sentiments, and therefore lays no store by the titles, knightings, coats of arms and the like which are noted in these records; but he respects and reveres his ancestors because they proved themselves God-fearing, law-abiding, self-respecting and honorable men and women—having the solid virtues of the substantial yeomanry of the country. He is especially and pardonably proud of the honorable record made by his family as patriots in the Revolutionary war. Of this family was Jonas Parker, a typical "minute man," who, after being wounded at the battle of Lexington, disdained to retreat from the "Red-coats," though cautioned to fall back by his commanding officer, but kept his ground, and was bayoneted by the British soldiers; he being the first Revolutionary soldier thus slain. In the celebrated painting, "The Battle of Lexington," which hangs in the Lexington town hall, he appears as the central figure. Of him Edward Everett said: "History, Roman History, does not furnish an example of bravery that outshines that of Jonas Parker." His is one of the names of the eight martyrs for American independence cut in the granite monument erected on the Common or Green at Lexington by a grateful people to their memory.

Capt. John Parker, also of Lexington, who was in command of the "minute men" on that occasion, and who fired the first shot that was fired at the British soldiers, was a full cousin of said Jonas Parker; and there were in the company, and in the fight, Corp. Ebenezer Parker, nephew of Jonas; and Thaddeus Parker, a brother of the Captain. Later in the day, on the march to Concord to intercept the British, Capt. Parker's company was reinforced by troops from Woburn, with which were two of his nephews—Edmund and Josiah Parker; and from Reading came seventeen more who bore the name of Parker, under the command of Capt. Brooke, and they also took part in the hot fire which was poured in upon the enemy's column during the remainder of that eventful day.

In the rosters of the Continental troops enlisted in Middlesex county, Mass., in the Revolutionary war, are found a great many Parkers who served as officers and privates, more of that name than any other, unless the Fletchers and Proctors may equal them in number. These three families were related by many intermarriages; representatives of all these families removed to Windsor county, Vt., soon after the close of the Revolutionary war, and their descendants are quite numerous in that State at the present time, as well as in Middlesex county, Massachusetts.

Theodore Parker, the famous Unitarian divine, was of the same family. In the war of 1812, and in the war of the Rebellion, this family displayed the same spirit of patriotism as in the Revolutionary war.

At the time of the war of the Rebellion the subject of this sketch and his only brother were mere boys, too young to enter the military service, but his half-brother, Edwin, enlisted at an early period of the war, and served until near its close, when his left leg was shattered by a shot, and he was compelled to retire from the service. Three of his half-brothers, of the family name of Robinson (his mother's children by her first husband), were also in the Union army. When Cincinnati, Ohio, was threatened by Morgan's raid, and volunteers were called for, Abel F. Parker, the father of Robert S., though verging on three-score-and-ten, enlisted to assist in the defense of that city, and his children keep and prize the "Squirrel Hunter's Discharge," which he received at the termination of that service.

The first ancestor of Mr. Parker in America was Abraham Parker, who was born in Marlborough, Wiltshire, England, in 1612. The exact date of his coming to America is not known, but it was about 1634. He first settled in the town of Woburn, Middlesex Co., Mass., where he married Rose Whitlock in 1644. He removed to the town of Clemsford, same county, upon its incorporation in 1653. His son Moses was born in Clemsford about the year 1657; he married Abigail Hildreth, daughter of Richard Hildreth, and removed to Westford, same county, where his son Aaron was born in 1689. Samuel, second child of Aaron, was born in 1717; he was married in 1739 to Sarah Fletcher, daughter of Deacon Joshua Fletcher.

Leonard, the fifth child of Samuel, was born at Westford in 1745; he married Mary Foster in 1768. Early in this century he removed with most of his family to the Holland Land Purchase, in the vicinity of Arcade, Wyoming Co.,

N. Y., and the large tracts of land which they there took up and improved are still owned and occupied by some of his descendants. His son Abel was born in Westford in 1773, was married to Catherine Edgar, and removed with her to Cavendish, Vt., where in the year 1800 their eldest child, Abel Foster Parker, the father of the subject of this sketch, was born.

About 1818 Abel Parker also removed with his family to the vicinity of Arcade, N. Y., at which place Abel Foster was married, in the year 1824, to Maria Strong. The children of this marriage were Edwin (mentioned above), who died at Findlay in 1883; Julia Ann, unmarried, residing at Findlay, Ohio; Lucy, married to John Martin, and residing at Lima, Ohio; and Albert, who died in infancy. In 1836 Abel F. Parker removed with his family to Findlay (then called Fort Findlay), Hancock Co., Ohio, where he spent substantially all the remainder of his lifetime, and where he died in 1881. His wife Maria died in the year 1849, and in 1852 Mr. Parker married Mrs. Sallie Ann (Gail) Robinson, who was born in Wyoming county, N. Y. She was a daughter of Rev. Samuel Gail, a pioneer of western New York, many of whose descendants are living in Erie county, N. Y., where he died. The children of this union are Frederick Foster, a business man of Conneaut, Ohio; Robert S.; and Dora Alice (unmarried), who lives at Findlay, Ohio. By her marriage with Mr. Robinson, her first husband, Mrs. Parker had seven children, all but one of whom are still living, namely, Samuel G., a farmer in Hancock county, Ohio; Benjamin Oscar, a farmer and manufacturer of brick and tile in Putnam county, Ohio; John Edgar, formerly a locomotive engineer, and now employed at the Hamilton County (Ohio) Court House; Henry Harrison, a market gardener, of Findlay, Ohio; William Franklin, a locomotive engineer of Bellaire, Ohio; Mrs. Eleanor Woodruff, of Findlay, Ohio; and Elizabeth, who died in infancy. Mrs. Sallie Ann Parker died at Findlay, Ohio, in 1864.

While a resident of New York, Abel F. Parker was agent for the Wadsworths and other owners of the Holland Land Purchase; upon his removal to Findlay, Ohio, he was for a time principal of the Findlay schools, but, applying himself to the study of law, he was soon thereafter admitted to the bar, and, until his health gave way, devoted most of the remainder of his life to the practice of that profession in Hancock and adjoining counties. He ranked with the leading members of the bar in that part of the State, in his day. He was a public-spirited man, taking a

prominent part in politics, and in all enterprises that tended to promote the interests of the people of his section. In political sentiment he was originally a Democrat, and held high rank in the councils of his party; served as postmaster under President Pierce, and for three terms held the office of prosecuting attorney of Hancock county, Ohio. In 1860 he severed his connection with the Democratic party, and supported Abraham Lincoln for the Presidency, and thereafter ardently and loyally championed the principles of the Republican party. He was a gentleman of the old school, courtly and deferential in his manner, faithful in his friendships, and universally esteemed for his personal worth and integrity. He was a charter member of the Masonic Lodge at Findlay, and a member of the I. O. O. F. He was a great reader of good books, also a close observer of events, and consequently was possessed of extensive general information, which, united with a cheerful and vivacious disposition, fluency of speech and forcible style of discourse, enlivened by wit and humor, made him an entertaining and instructive companion.

Robert S. Parker, whose name introduces this biography, was born March 8, 1855, in Findlay, Ohio, where he attended the public school until he was twelve years old. In early youth he learned the cigar-maker's trade, which he followed seven years, during part of which time he also attended school, and when not attending school he pursued his studies at home. In 1874 he commenced the study of law in Findlay with Shaffer Brothers, with whom he continued one year, and the following year read law under his father, meanwhile supporting himself by working at his trade, his father and sister reading to him while he made cigars. The mother having died, our subject and his father kept "bachelor's hall," the son doing the cooking and other housework. In April, 1876, just after attaining his majority, Mr. Parker was admitted to the bar, and immediately thereafter opened an office in North Baltimore, Ohio, where he remained several months, practicing in partnership with William H. Anderson. In September of the same year he came to Bowling Green, where he has ever since been engaged in the active duties of his profession. The first year he practiced alone, and then became associated with Col. John A. Shannon, under the firm name of Shannon & Parker, this connection lasting for about two years, when it was dissolved. Mr. Parker practiced alone from that time until 1890, when he and R. B. Moore established the firm of Parker & Moore, which continued some five years, since the end of which

time Mr. Parker has practiced with E. M. Fries, under the style of Parker & Fries.

Our subject has been eminently successful in his profession, and holds a leading rank among the lawyers of Wood county and vicinity. During his twenty years of active professional life he has never missed a term of court in Wood county, and has a large and lucrative practice, principally in the northwestern counties of the State. For two terms he served as prosecuting attorney of Wood county, and he was nominated by the Republican party for judge of the Court of Common Pleas, but shared the fate of others of his political faith in the "Foraker landslide;" in three of the four counties of the judicial district, however, he ran ahead of his ticket. In the fall of 1894 he was indorsed by the Wood county delegation for representative in Congress, but was defeated in the convention by James H. Southard, of Toledo, at present representing that District in Congress.

On May 1, 1879, Mr. Parker was married to Miss Susan Thomas, who was born November 5, 1859, in Bowling Green, Ohio, daughter of George H. Thomas, who was a native of New York State. He was a carpenter by trade, but in his later years was proprietor of the "Thomas House" (now the "Russell House"), and was widely known in Wood county; he died in 1890; Mrs. Thomas is still living. Mrs. Parker had two sisters: Emma, deceased wife of William H. Rudolph (also deceased), and Flora, widow of Edward Fryberger, of Bowling Green. Two children came to Mr. and Mrs. Parker: Edward Foster, born January 31, 1880, and Julia Alice, born June 8, 1887. In religious connection the family are Presbyterians. Mr. Parker is a member of the I. O. O. F., being connected with Centennial Lodge No. 626; also of Green Encampment, Bowling Green, and is Colonel of the 4th Regiment, Department of Ohio, of the Patriarchs Militant. He is a director of the First National Bank of Bowling Green. Highly popular, and held in much esteem by his neighbors and fellow-citizens, he occupies an enviable social as well as professional position.

JONATHAN W. MYERS, who was called from earth September 21, 1892, is remembered by the people of Wood county as one of its most worthy and useful citizens. His birth occurred in Trumbull county, Ohio, December 11, 1810, a son of John and Rachel (Wolfecale) Myers, the former born August 8, 1783, and the latter October 28, 1787. The names and dates of birth of the brothers and sisters of our subject are as follows:

Mary Ann, March 30, 1809; Robert C., October 30, 1812; John, October 2, 1814; Reason, September 16, 1816; Pleasant, December 21, 1819; Elizabeth, February 25, 1822; Jacob B., September 2, 1824; Rachel M., May 2, 1827; Agnes J., August 3, 1829; Margaret, May 11, 1833; Robert C., died November 9, 1834, John, July 12, 1842, and Rachel M., October 11, 1844.

On April 3, 1834, Mr. Myers, of this review, led to the marriage altar Charlotte Hull, who was born February 5, 1812, and they became the parents of four children, namely: Henry B., born January 7, 1835, making his home in St. Louis, Mo.; Mary Ann, born September 24, 1836, is the wife of G. M. Barnd, of Bloomdale; Caroline, born November 27, 1838, is the wife of Benson Clayton, of Van Buren, Hancock Co., Ohio; and John A., born January 5, 1847, makes his home in Hancock county. The mother of this family died in 1849, and was buried in Hancock county.

In Bloom township, on December 30, 1849, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Myers and Miss Elmira Robbins, a daughter of Daniel and Rhoda (McCarty) Robbins, and a native of Franklin county, Ohio, born October 23, 1827. To this union three children were born—Rachel L., who died in infancy; Ella E., widow of L. D. Hatfield, of Bloomdale; and Jonathan E., of Campbell county, Tennessee.

Daniel Robbins, the father of Mrs. Myers, was one of the first settlers of Bloom township, Wood county, locating near Bloomdale, when it was still a wilderness. He was born September 5, 1795, in Fishing Creek township, Columbia Co., Penn., and was a son of Thomas, and a grandson of William Robbins, a resident of New Jersey. Thomas Robbins lived and died in Fishing Creek township, and by his marriage with Elizabeth Kline, became the father of nine children—William, Abraham, Thomas, Daniel, John, Mathias, Isaac, Charity and Mercy. In eastern Pennsylvania, the parents of Mrs. Myers were married, and the mother, who was born October 17, 1802, was a daughter of John and Sarah (Thomas) McCarty, the former born November 8, 1773, and the latter in May, 1776. In their family were the following children—Mary, Rhoda, Margaret, Phoebe, James, Martha, Samuel, Sarah, and Elida. After his marriage Daniel Robbins lived in eastern Pennsylvania until 1825, when he removed to Franklin county, Ohio, but in October, 1833, came to Wood county, locating on what is now the northeast corner of Main and Vine streets, but was then an unbroken forest. His was the third family to find a home in Bloom township, and their first



dwelling was a rude log shanty with a blanket hung up for a door. There they lived for six weeks when a more substantial log house was erected. Mr. Robbins died January 7, 1879. His wife had passed away in the fall of 1874, and they now sleep side by side in the cemetery at Fostoria. In 1834 Mr. Robbins and wife assisted in forming a Religious Society at the Vicker's home, and taught singing at private houses. Mr. Robbins held the office of justice of the peace for several years. He was formerly a staunch Whig, but on the organization of the Republican party he joined its ranks. In the family were seven children—Ellinda, born in Columbia county, Penn., married Joseph Urie, and died in Bloomdale in 1892; Jackson died in the same city, July 27, 1892; Elmira is next in order of birth; Rhoda A. married John Bolan, and died in Indiana; Margaret is the wife of G. W. Locke, of South Bend, Ind.; Russell B. died in Iowa; and Minerva is now Mrs. Peter Bussey, of Fostoria, Ohio.

In the fall of 1844, Mr. Myers located in Bloom township, and his first purchase made him the owner of 160 acres, now comprised within the corporate limits of Bloomdale. To that tract he later added 100 acres, all of which was an unbroken forest, but he cleared his land, making it one of the best farms of the county. He was entirely self-made, having started out in life at the tender age of ten years, and assisted his widowed mother in paying for the home place. By good management and close attention to the details of his business, he left at his death a good property, and Mrs. Myers still resides on the home farm. For forty years she has been a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to which her husband also belonged. He now rests in the cemetery at Fostoria, and an acquaintance of forty years thus writes of him: "He was industrious, always busy—not a lazy drop of blood coursed in his veins. He was honest. This was one of his peculiar traits of character. He deigned to stoop to nothing groveling or low. He was generous, as the unfortunate always found in time of need."

Jackson Robbins (a brother of Mrs. Elmira Myers) was born in Franklin county, Ohio, March 17, 1826, and was but a small boy when his parents removed to Wood county where he grew to manhood, and November 9, 1848, was married to Miss Mary A. Beam. To this marriage were born eight children, namely: Emma, Jacob, William, Mary, Richard, Clement, and two who died in infancy.

Mr. Robbins owned forty acres of land in this

county, on which he erected a dwelling, but soon after the Civil war sold the place to W. H. Redfern (now deceased) and purchased eighty acres north of Findlay, Ohio, where his wife died June 18, 1884, and on July 9, 1887, he was married to Clara May, and to them was born a daughter. During the Findlay boom Mr. Robbins sold his farm to some capitalists of that place for a goodly sum, and moved to Bloomdale, where he purchased a home, which was within several hundred feet of the place where his first days in Wood county were passed, under a shanty made by driving some forks into the ground, the covering of which consisted of bark and blankets. His death occurred July 27, 1892. His pastor, Jason Young, officiated at his funeral. His remains rest in the cemetery at Findlay. He was greatly endeared to his sister (who wrote this brief sketch) and to all who knew him. He was a good citizen and an excellent neighbor. He was a Methodist, and in politics an unwavering Democrat.

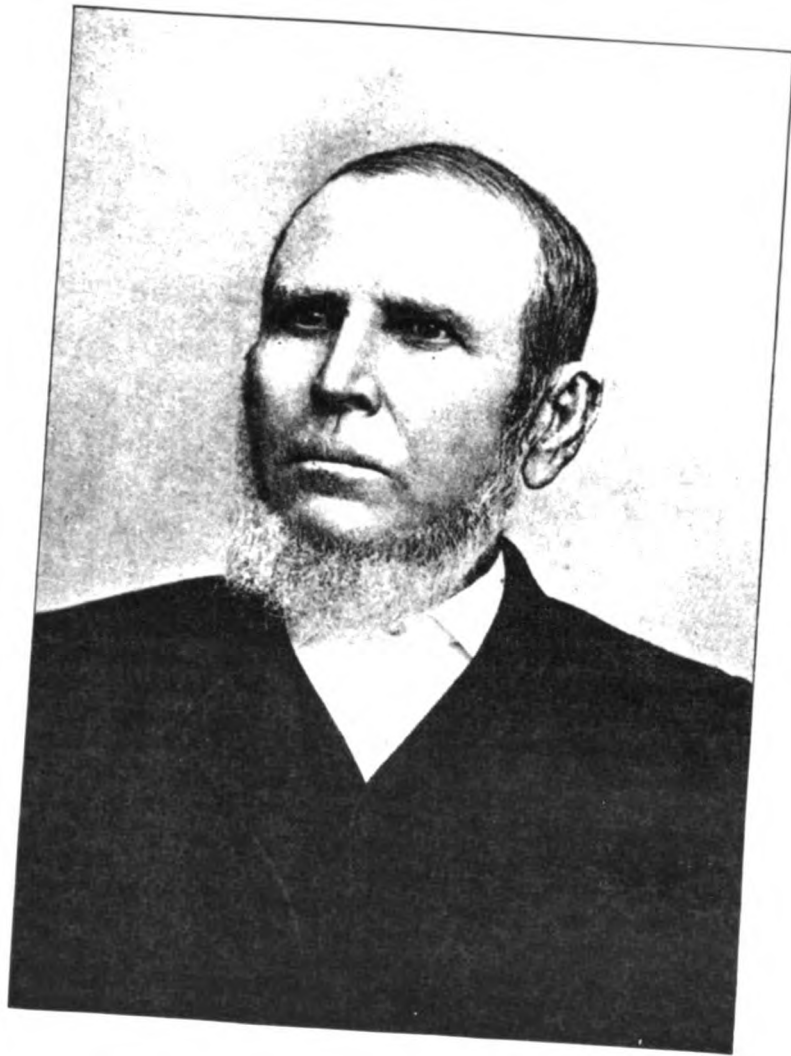
CAPTAIN OMAR P. NORRIS, a leading agriculturist of Perry township, with residence near "Norris" Station, T. & O. C. R. R., post office Longley, was born in Wayne county, Ohio, November 18, 1838, and comes of English and Scotch ancestry.

Hon. John Norris, father of our subject, was born April 22, 1813, in Fort "Findlay," Wayne county, Ohio, and became one of the most prominent and influential citizens of Perry township, Wood county. Amos Norris, his father (grandfather of our subject), was born October 16, 1779, in Huntingdon county, Penn., and was married to Mary Shaver, of the same nativity, born February 16, 1788, of English descent, a daughter of Maj. John Shaver, who served in that rank during the war of the Revolution. Amos Norris and his wife moved from their native county to Ohio in 1802, making their home in Wayne county until 1814, when they removed to Ashland county, being the first white settlers in the neighborhood, at which time the Indians were troublesome, some of them, after Hull's surrender, murdering three families in Wayne county, so that the pioneers had to build a fort in which they and their families could take refuge. This fort was named "Findlay," and in it was born Hon. John Norris. Amos Norris and his wife both died in Orange township, Ashland county, he at the age of sixty-five, and she, when seventy-six years old. He assisted in the organization of that township, and was one of the rugged old pioneers well adapted by nature for the work of pioneer days. A brief record of their family of five sons and three





*Capt. O. P. Morris*



*John Norris*



daughters is as follows: John (deceased) was the eldest; Vachel was drowned at the age of twenty-one, near Orange, Ohio; Nancy married Marsham Bowman, and died in Ashland county, Ohio; Temperance wedded W. J. Rigby, of Fostoria, Ohio; William, a farmer, died in Orange, Ohio; Amos was a lawyer and State Senator of Minnesota sometime in the "fifties," and afterward in the "seventies" judge of courts in Florida, whither he had gone for the benefit of his health, and died there; Andrew, who was a Doctor, died in Farmer City, Ill.; Sarah, the youngest of the family, was twice married, and died in Ashland county, Ohio.

Hon. John Norris was reared in Wayne county, Ohio, attending school "off and on" in what is now Orange township, Ashland county, until he was fourteen years of age. Having accidentally cut his foot, so badly that he was unable to move about, he took that opportunity to learn the trade of a shoemaker, which he picked up so readily, and was so industrious at, that he made a pair of shoes the first day he worked. After he learned his trade he taught several terms of school, during the winter months only, receiving for his services eight dollars per month, meanwhile "boarding round" at the homes of his scholars. With this exception, he remained under the parental roof until his marriage, March 19, 1834, in Wayne county, Ohio, to Miss Rebecca Cuthbertson, who was born May 28, 1815, in Washington county, Penn., a daughter of Thomas and Margaret (Brownlee) Cuthbertson, both natives of Scotland, the mother born in Glasgow, the father a stocking weaver by trade. After marriage the young couple commenced house-keeping in Orange, Ashland county, Ohio, but soon afterward they took charge of his mother-in-law's farm in Wayne county, and continued thereon until 1843, in the fall of which year they came to Wood county, settling on 160 acres of unimproved land in Perry township, no clearing having been done until after they moved on the place. Mr. Norris had previously visited the locality, and built a common log cabin on the premises, which originally comprised 240 acres. In 1845 he sold eighty acres, with the proceeds of which he paid off some of the indebtedness he had incurred in the purchase. In April, 1880, retiring from the labors of the farm, and also on account of the burning of his home in Perry township, he moved to Fostoria, and here passed his declining years. The family born to John and Rebecca Norris were as follows: Omar, who died in infancy, in Wayne county, Ohio; Thomas C., who entered the service as captain of Com-

pany B, 111th Regiment, O. V. I., was promoted to major and commissioned lieutenant-colonel, mustered out with the regiment as major, and died in Fostoria, Ohio, in 1867, from injuries received in 1865, near Salisbury, N. C., in jumping from a flat-car that was off the rails, in a train carrying the regiment of which he was then in command; Amos was killed by the premature discharge of a cannon while celebrating July 4, 1863, at West Millgrove, Ohio; Omar P., the subject proper of this sketch; Mary, married to W. H. Kiger, of Prairie Depot (P. O.), or Freeport, Wood county; William B., who was a fine scholar in his younger days, and died at the age of forty-two; James H., who served in Company H, 49th O. V. I., was promoted three times for bravery—twice in the company, and promoted to sergeant while in the signal corps, which he voluntarily left to please his captain—and was killed in the battle of Pickett's Mills, or Dallas, Ga., May 27, 1864, while leading his company as sergeant; Jane, who married Capt. Thomas H. Chance, of Fostoria; Fanny, married to Andrew G. Yates, of Perry township; Annie, wife of C. H. Stewart, of Fostoria; Emma, who was the wife of Dr. J. C. Lincoln, and died at Bowling Green; John H., a prominent physician of Fostoria; and Frank M., a farmer of Perry township.

The mother of this family was a daughter of Scotch parents who were born and reared in the land of Wallace, Bruce and Burns, coming to this country at an early day. After a wedded life of half a century she passed from earth March 17, 1884, at Fostoria, Ohio, aged sixty-nine years, and was buried on the anniversary of her wedding. She and her husband joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, at their marriage, and remained consistent members of the same. She died in the triumph of a living faith in Christ, her Redeemer. She wanted and took Him for her all-in-all, in Time and Eternity. She was a very conscientious woman, and when her sons enlisted to go to the war, she stood up in a large audience and exclaimed: "Boys! It almost breaks my heart to see you go; but do your duty. Your country demands your help; be brave, and die with your face to the foe, and be men." She and her husband commenced in the woods twice during their married life—once in Wayne county, where they cleared up heavily-timbered land, some fifty-seven acres, then after ten years moved to Wood county, and here also cleared up heavily-timbered land, about 200 acres.

In 1885 Hon. John Norris married his second wife, Lydia A. Crum, of Columbiana county, Ohio, who survives him, living in a fine home he

deeded her. Here he passed the declining years of his life, dying May 23, 1896, of blood poisoning, aged eighty-three years and one month, a useful member of society all his life. In his political preferences he was originally a Whig, later a Republican, and was one of the staunchest supporters of the party in Wood county. In 1843 he was appointed township clerk, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of U. M. Corey; was then elected to the same office two terms; then as treasurer two consecutive terms; then as trustee two terms; then as justice of the peace two terms of three years each; then as assessor three terms. In 1872, when the county was for the first time entitled to a representative the people selected Mr. Norris to represent the county in the Sixtieth General Assembly, as a Republican. This was the first of the three-years' fight between Bowling Green and Perrysburg, as to which should be the county seat, Bowling Green in the end winning the prize. He was renominated for a second term as representative, but was defeated at the polls, on account of the county-seat fight; but he did not sour, or leave the party, or its principles. In religious faith he was for over sixty years a member of the M. E. Church, toward which he contributed liberally, and held office in the same. As a farmer he was systematic and progressive; as a public official he was straightforward and honorable; as a man no one was better known or more highly honored. He was hale and hearty up to the illness that caused his death, and not long before the final summons came, he said: "I wonder why it is that I am living, and so many former friends and acquaintances gone forever from this world! But I bide my time."

Capt. Omar P. Norris during boyhood attended the district schools near his home, and after studying for a term in an academy at Republic, taught for three winter terms. He then entered Prof. Turner's school at Fostoria; but the war breaking out before his term was finished, he joined the army, as did every other male student in that school. Our subject enlisted, in April, 1861, in Company H, 21st O. V. I., three-months' regiment, and was rejected at Camp Taylor, Cleveland, Ohio. In June, same year, he re-enlisted, this time in Company G, 25th O. V. I., soon rose to the rank of sergeant, and was in all the marches and engagements of that regiment up to and including the battle of Greenbrier, W. Va., was honorably discharged for disability November 21, 1861, and returned home. In August, 1862, he entered Company B, 111th O. V. I., and served until the end of the war, coming out with the rank of captain, having

served in every intermediate rank except that of corporal. He and fifty-two men of Company B, of whom he was in command as first lieutenant, were sacrificed, while on picket duty, to let a division get "out of a hole," on midnight of November 15, 1863, near Lenoir Station, East Tenn., when the Rebel general, Longstreet, crossed the Tennessee river with his army, *en route* for Knoxville. Lieut. Norris and his men were surrounded and taken prisoners early on the morning of November 16, 1863. They were all stripped of their hats, overcoats and shoes, by the Rebels, and sent to Atlanta, Ga., thence to Richmond, Va., where he and his men were separated, Lieut. Norris being sent to Libby Prison, and his men to Belle Isle. Of those fifty-two men, thirty-six died in Rebel prisons. [See "Ohio in the War."] Lieut. Norris was in Libby Prison until May, 1864, when he was sent with all other officers, confined in Libby at that time, to Salisbury, N. C., from there to Augusta, from there to Macon, and from there to Savannah, Ga., where he lay at the point of death for several days, and was reported as dead in the New York papers, by chaplains who were exchanged at Savannah, and mourned as dead by his parents and friends at home. From Savannah he was sent to Charleston, S. C., where, for twenty-nine days, the Federal prisoners were under fire of the Union guns at Morris Island, and where, too, the yellow fever was raging among the prisoners confined in the city jail yard, among whom was Lieut. Norris. From Charleston he was sent to Columbia, S. C., where many of the officers died of yellow fever, among them being Capt. William Bender, 123d O. V. I., of Fostoria, Ohio, and Lieut. Asa Spafford, 21st O. V. I., of Perrysburg, Ohio. Lieut. Norris escaped from Columbia, traveled over a hundred miles, and was then tracked up by blood-hounds and recaptured, taken back to Columbia and out to Prison Camp, where he soon afterward escaped again, at a great risk of his life. After traveling thirty-four nights, he reached the Union lines at Sweet Water, E. Tenn., December 27, 1864, having passed through many hardships and privations, and experiencing narrow escapes. He rejoined his regiment at Washington, D. C., February 8, 1865, and returned to the seat of war by the old ship "Prometheus," that narrowly escaped foundering off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. His regiment landed near Fort Fisher, N. C., and engaged in the North Carolina campaign. Here Lieut. Norris was promoted to captain of Company I, to date November 17, 1864. Capt. Norris was in all the marches and

engagements of the North Carolina campaign, and received his final discharge July 12, 1865, at Salisbury, N. C. [See History of the Regiment, by Capt. W. S. Thurstin, 111th O. V. I., Toledo, Ohio.]

After his return home he sold goods for ex-Gov. Foster, of Fostoria, for two years, then traveled a year selling a patent-right of his own invention, and then settled upon his farm in Perry township, where he has since carried on the business of stock raising, giving special attention to sheep. He has been twice married, first time, in 1869, to Miss Frona Patton, a school teacher, a daughter of Lieut.-Col. John J. Patton, O. V. I. She was born January 1, 1850, in Quincy, Logan Co., Ohio, and died December 9, 1876, leaving three children: Ida, a school teacher, who married George E. Reed, enrolling clerk of the 72d General Assembly, and now editor and proprietor of the *Prairie Depot Observer* (they have two children—Frona and Mary); Emma, a school teacher, who now lives at home; and Belle, a successful teacher of the county. For his second wife Capt. Norris married Miss Libbie Yates, daughter of John W. Yates, first sergeant Company H, 49th Regiment, O. V. I., of Crawford county, Ohio, who was killed December 16, 1864, in the engagement at Nashville. Mrs. Libbie Norris was born September 9, 1857, and was a teacher in Wood county for some time. Three children were born of this union: Omar, Fannie and Thomas.

A man of broad views and liberal judgment, Capt. Norris wields great influence in the community, and so fully does he enjoy the confidence of the public that he has been elected to the office of chairman of the board of education of Perry township. He has served two terms as treasurer of Perry township, also two terms as justice of the peace (refusing to serve longer), and was also a candidate before the county convention for commissioner. In 1895 he was elected to represent Wood county in the State Legislature (Seventy-second General Assembly). He was the author of two general Bills, which passed the House; one Bill was defeated in the Senate; the other, the "Anti-treat Bill," was smothered in the Senate committee. He also introduced three local Bills, all of which became laws. Capt. Norris took an active part in the Presidential campaign just closed. He delivered eight speeches in favor of the election of McKinley, protection to American industries, reciprocity and a 100-cent dollar, and is now happy over the election of Major McKinley as "President of our greatest nation on earth."

D. A. HAYLOR, the efficient and popular superintendent of the public schools of Bowling Green, and one of the prominent educators of this State, was born February 14, 1851, in Yorkshire, England.

His father, John Haylor, and his mother, Ann (Marshall) Haylor, were both natives of the same locality. As a mechanic and merchant, the father was successful and well-to-do, but came to America with his family in 1866 for the better opportunities it afforded. The family lived for two years in Oberlin, Ohio, and then removed to a farm in Henrietta township, Lorain county, afterward moved to one in Russia township, where they remained until the father's death in 1891. They were leading members of the M. E. Church, with which they united in early life. Of their nine children all are living, and five have settled in or near Oberlin, where their mother now resides. Sarah married Jacob Hales, of Ridgeville, Ohio; Henry is a dry-goods employe at Canton, Ohio; D. A., is the subject of this sketch; John is a farmer near Oberlin; William is in business in that city; Herbert, merchant and farmer, living at Irving, Kansas; and Anna, Mrs. Fred Papworth; Clara, Mrs. John Papworth; and Walter, all reside in or near Oberlin.

Our subject attended an excellent private school in England until the age of thirteen. After coming to America he continued his studies in the district schools of Lorain county, working at the same time with his father on the farm, and at the shoemaker's trade. So well did he improve his opportunities that he received the position of teacher in the same place where he had been a pupil, and there and elsewhere he taught during the winter terms until the age of twenty-three, when he entered Oberlin College to fit himself for a professional teacher. He supported himself during five years of study, earning over one thousand dollars and completed a seven-years' classical course. He took the degree of B. A., and has also finished a professional course for teachers. He ranked among the first in a class of fifty-five, and received the president's recommendation for the first place among their applications for teachers. During his senior year he was engaged as a tutor in mathematics. Since graduation he has been continuously and successfully engaged in educational work; one year in Seville, Medina county; two years in Perrysburg, Wood county; six years in Bryan, Williams county, and from 1889 to the present time he has been superintendent of schools in Bowling Green, and is a member of the city board of ex-



aminers. He has been an active institute instructor and lecturer. In each of the above places the schools secured under his management a reputation for thorough work and judicious control that has never been questioned, but has brought to him and the communities both honor and permanent good.

He was married in 1882 to Miss Netta G. Lawrence, of Perrysburg, and has three children, Ruth, Vida and Janet. His high scholastic attainments and fine natural abilities give him an influential place in intellectual circles. He and his wife are leading members of the Presbyterian Church, and generous supporters of all educational and philanthropical movements in the community. In politics he is a Republican.

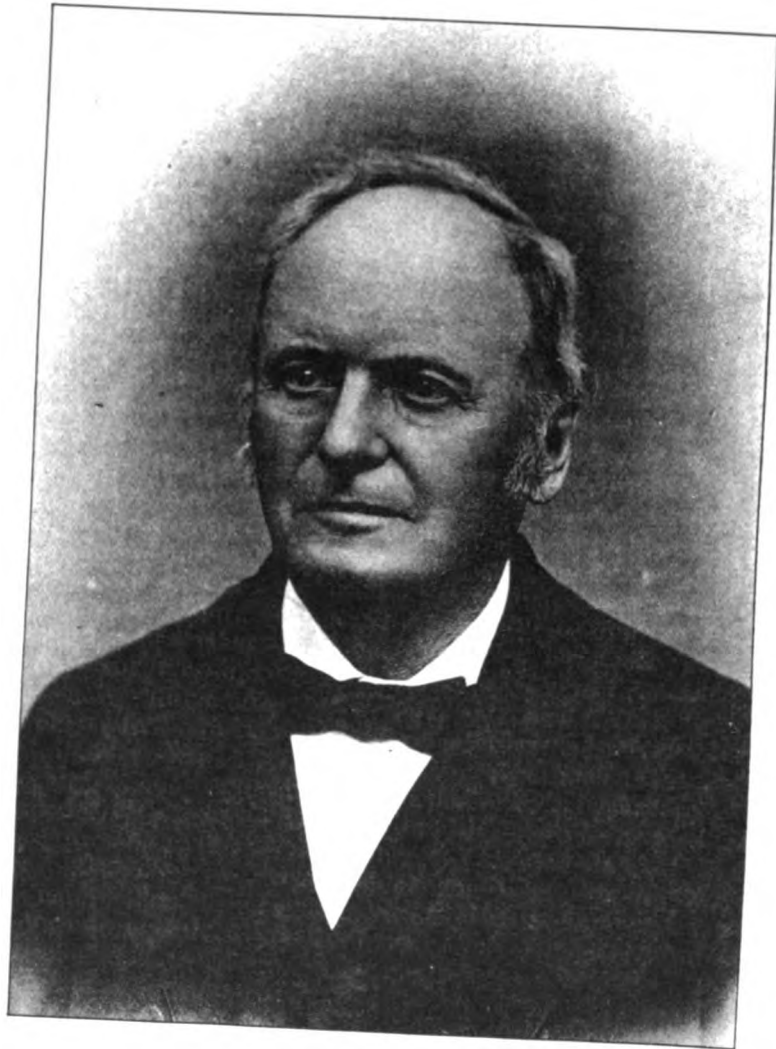
EDWIN R. SAGE, M. D. No man in Wood county is better known or has a larger circle of warm friends than this popular physician, who for over thirty years has ministered to the sick and suffering of Montgomery township. He was born at Windham, Conn., January 18, 1825, and is a son of George and Lucy (Davis) Sage.

The early education of our subject was obtained in the district schools of Erie county, Ohio, whither his parents moved when he was eleven years of age. The father dying when Edwin was fifteen years old, he was thrown upon his own resources, and at eighteen began learning the trade of a shoemaker at Berlin Heights, Ohio. At this he worked for three years, being paid at the rate of \$30, \$35, and \$40 per year, out of this paying for his board and clothing. When twenty-one years of age he was sent on horseback to Prairie Depot for a yoke of oxen, and while there was urged to start a shoe-shop, as there was none in the village at that time. He returned to Berlin Heights, and soon afterward took the stage to Lower Sandusky (now Fremont), from which place he walked, carrying his kit of tools, to Prairie Depot. This was in 1846. In the office of Dr. Hutchins he found the only available space for his bench, the use of this place being tendered him by the Doctor, who took a great liking to him. This was a fortunate crisis in his life, for he had a craving for scientific study, and, being surrounded by medical books and appliances, he took up the study of medicine.

Six months later Dr. Sage returned to Berlin Heights, where he spent the winter of 1846 and 1847. In the latter year his widowed mother, with his brothers and sisters, removed to Wood county, where he had procured a lot of land, he himself remaining in Berlin Heights until 1848, in which year he cast his first Presidential vote

for Martin Van Buren, the Free-soil candidate. In 1850 he went to Chagrin Falls, Ohio, where he worked at his trade until the summer of 1857, at which time he took up his permanent residence in Wood county, at Prairie Depot, and the following year "hung out his shingle" as an M. D. During his stay at Chagrin Falls Dr. Sage had read medicine with Dr. H. W. Curtis, and had seen some practice, answering calls for his tutor, which the latter was unable to personally attend. On October 8, 1858, Dr. Sage was married at Perrysburg, Ohio, to Miss Sarah M. Yant, who was born in Bethlehem, Ohio, December 12, 1835, a daughter of John and Dorothea (Usher) Yant, the former a hotel-keeper, whose death took place in Crawford county. Three children have been born to the Doctor and his wife, namely: Rose D., the wife of F. B. Hill, of Chicago Junction, Ohio; Eddie, who died when two years old; and Edward R., who is in the United States railway mail service (on January 20, 1896, he married Evelyn Wingar). At the time of his marriage Dr. Sage was a poor man, and for many years had a "hard row to hoe." His patients were also poor, as they were mostly people coming in and settling on new farms, who had little or no money for doctors' bills. He, however, was energetic and hopeful, and struggled on until times were better, and his practice became lucrative. Dr. Sage has thousands of dollars in fees that many physicians would have collected, but his kindness of heart would not allow him to insist upon payment from people he knew were unable to spare the money. In all his thirty-one years of practice, he has never refused to answer a call because his patient was poor. Dr. Sage is to-day one of the most successful practitioners in Wood county, is well known for miles around, and his many acts of benevolence and liberality have endeared him to the hearts of the people. No man ever doubts his word, and his patients have the most implicit confidence in his ability as a physician.

Politically Dr. Sage was formerly a Democrat and a Free-soiler, and voted for Gov. Wood, the Democratic candidate for that office. After the formation of the Republican party, however, he adopted its principles, and has ever since been one of its staunchest adherents. He served as clerk of Montgomery township for one term, and in 1875 was elected to the State Legislature, at the close of his term being re-elected. Socially he is a member of the Masonic order. Dr. Sage has 108 acres of excellent land near Prairie Depot, from which he derives a comfortable income. When the call on the Ohio National Guards was



*Edwin R Sage*



made, Dr. Sage was a member of Company K, 144th regiment, Col. Miller commanding. At Berryville, Va., thirty-one of the company were taken prisoners, two killed, and two wounded, Dr. Sage being one of those taken prisoner. He was in the Lynchburg, Va., prison, and also in Libby, at Richmond, Va. He served as second lieutenant, and experienced some severe hardships, as he was on the march most of the time. No man stands higher in the community, or is entitled to higher respect from his fellow citizens than Dr. E. R. Sage.

JOHN MEILY HOFFA, editor of the *Wood County Tribune*, was born December 9, 1854, at Myerstown, Lebanon Co., Penn., a son of Levi and Susan (Meily) Hoffa. Mrs. Susan (Meily) Hoffa, mother of our subject, was born July 21, 1831, a daughter of Henry and Margaretha (Vogt) Meily, the latter of whom was born October 24, 1792, and died November 29, 1847. She was a daughter of Mathias Vogt, who was born February 24, 1756, and died March 2, 1839; his wife Sophia, was born December 12, 1767, and died October 9, 1855. This long-lived couple had three sons and two daughters, our subject's grandmother, Margaretha, being one of them. To Mr. and Mrs. Henry Meily were born children as follows: Two sons died in infancy; John married Kate Zinn, and died in Lebanon county, Penn.; Catherine, now deceased, was the second wife of Thomas Bassler, and had one child; Rebecca is the wife of Isaac Stoner, and they reside in Franklin county, Penn; Mollie is the wife of Christian Strack, who resides near Myerstown, Penn.; Eliza is the widow of Jacob Bixler; Fanny is the deceased wife of Henry Glick; Mary is the wife of Henry Seltzer, and makes her home in Dauphin county, Penn.; Sallie is the wife of Samuel Noll, she resides in St. Joseph, Mo.; Susan, the mother of our subject, comes next; she has her home in Lebanon county, Pennsylvania.

Levi Hoffa was born at Myerstown, March 9, 1827, and was a son of Philip and Elizabeth (Blecher) Hoffa, also natives of Lebanon county, the former of whom was a tailor by trade, which occupation he followed up to the time of his death. To them were born children as follows: (1) Levi, father of our subject. (2) Cyrus Samuel, a graduate of Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Penn., and who was a German Evangelical Lutheran minister; shortly after the breaking out of the Civil war, in 1861, he enlisted in the 90-days service, and after his term of enlistment had expired, re-enlisted, this time in Company F, 4th

Penn. Cav., was taken prisoner, and died in Andersonville. (3) Sarah, wife of Henry Wagner, resides at Lebanon, Lebanon Co., Penn. (4) Mary M. is deceased; (5) Catherine; (6) Melinda, born June 25, 1836, died May 27, 1857; by occupation she was a school teacher. (7) Leah Amelia, born February 6, 1839, married Henry Wise, and died March 27, 1860; she was also a school teacher. (8) Maurice J. (now deceased) was the youngest of this family. Levi died May 8, 1856, the father of two children: Mary Alice, born October 14, 1853, is now the wife of George W. Umberger, by whom she has one son, Herbert (they reside in Lebanon county, Penn.); and John M., our subject. There is also another son in the family, William Gurten Hoffa (a child of Mrs. Levi Hoffa by her second husband, Cyrus Samuel Hoffa), born August 24, 1864, and now a wholesale dealer in barbers' supplies at Philadelphia.

John Meily Hoffa, whose name introduces this sketch, received his education in Pennsylvania, in part at the district schools and an academy, in part at the "College Palatinate," at Myerstown, which institution had been organized out of the academy. On leaving college he, in 1872, commenced to learn the trade of a printer in a job office at Myerstown, and in 1874 opened a job office in the same town, which he carried on until 1876, in that year moving to Palmyra, Penn., where he continued in the same line of business until 1878, when, in connection therewith, he established the *Londonderry Weekly Gazette*. In the course of about a year he sold out, and in 1880 removed to La Rue, Marion Co., Ohio, and bought the *News* of that place, the publication of which he continued until 1882, when he disposed of his interest therein. In 1883 he moved to New Carlisle, Clark Co., Ohio, and bought the *Sun*, publishing the same until 1890, in which year he disposed of his property there up his residence in Ottawa, Putnam Co., Ohio, and bought the *Ottawa Gazette*. In 1893 he sold this out, and purchased a one-fourth interest in the *Wood County Sentinel* (Daily and Weekly), at Bowling Green, which interest he still owns. In the fall of 1895 he also purchased stock in the *Daily and Weekly Tribune*, at the same place, consisting of 92½ shares, and in March, 1896, he assumed the editorial management of that paper, his present incumbency. Later he purchased more stock, and now owns nearly half of that plant. These papers are a success, having few, if any, equals.

In 1875, John M. Hoffa was married at Palmyra, Penn., to Miss Ida J. Zimmerman, who

was born January 3, 1859, at that town, a daughter of Abram and Maria (Kieffer) Zimmerman, the former of whom, a stonemason by trade, was born May 13, 1831, a son of John Peter, a farmer, and Sarah Zimmerman. The latter couple were the parents of children as follows: Henry; Abram; Daniel; Elizabeth, wife of Henry Miller of Annville, Lebanon Co., Penn. (they have three children—John, Joseph and Catherine); Sarah, wife of Mr. Farling, of Lebanon county, Penn.; and Kate. Mrs. Maria (Kieffer) Zimmerman was a daughter of John Kieffer, who was also born in Lebanon county, Penn., and who married Sarah Horstick, born August 10, 1817, and by her had two children, viz.: Maria (Mrs. Abram Zimmerman), born April 24, 1840; and Reuben, a coal dealer at Annville, Lebanon Co., Pennsylvania.

To Abram and Maria Zimmerman were born children as follows: Ida J. (Mrs. Hoffa), born January 3, 1859; Lizzie Loretta, born in 1861, married Joseph Horstick, and they reside at Palmyra, Lebanon Co., Penn., and have no children; and Anna Lenora, married Albert Detwiler, and they reside at Harrisburg, Penn. (have two children). The father of this family died November 2, 1886; the mother is now living at Hummelstown, Dauphin Co., Pennsylvania.

To our subject and wife have come four children, to wit: (1) Mary J., born May 6, 1876, married to Clarence W. Griswold, at Ottawa, Ohio, where he is agent for the Findlay, Ft. Wayne & Western railroad and the American and National Express companies; they have two children—Ella Meily and Linn. (2) Meily Valentine, born February 14, 1878, died of typhoid fever October 29, 1891, at Ottawa, Ohio; (3) Harry Levi Marcellus, born April 6, 1881; (4) Abram Zimmerman, born September 21, 1886, at Ottawa. Mr. and Mrs. John M. Hoffa are members of the Lutheran Evangelical Church. Socially he has been affiliated with the P. O. S. of A. since he was eighteen years of age, joining Camp No. 192 thereof at Palmyra, Penn.; he held the position of State master of forms and ceremonies, and for one year was State trustee in Ohio; also was district president at large. At La Rue, Ohio, he organized a camp of the P. O. S. of A. and also united with Day Lodge No. 28, I. O. O. F., at La Rue, and is a past noble grand, and still retains membership in that society. At Richland he joined the Encampment, there being none at La Rue. He became a member of La Rue Lodge No. 463, F. & A. M., and affiliated with New Carlisle Chapter No. 57 and New Carlisle Council No. 30, both at New

Carlisle. While residing at Ottawa, Ohio, being within the jurisdiction of Lima, he became a member of Shawnee Commandery No. 14, Knights Templar, and on moving to Bowling Green he associated with the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of the Valley of Toledo, being a member of Miami Lodge of Perfection, Fort Industry Chapter Rose Croix, at Toledo, and Northern Light Council, Princes of Jerusalem. He also belongs to Lake Erie Consistory, at Cleveland, Ohio, which includes the 32nd degree in Masonry. At Palmyra he became a member of Castle No. 7, Knights of the Mystic Chain; at New Carlisle he joined the Knights of Pythias Lodge; while at Ottawa he united with the K. O. T. M. and the National Union. A Republican in politics, Mr. Hoffa served as corporation clerk at New Carlisle, and on the board of health until he removed from that place. He was a member of the Building and Loan Association there, a director for two terms, also vice-president until he removed, and at the present time is vice-president of the Building and Loan Association at Bowling Green, which is a branch of the Cleveland Indemnity and Loan Association.

F. T. HEDGE, the senior member of the well-known firm of F. T. Hedge & Co., is at the head of the largest tile factory in Wood county, and is one of its most successful and enterprising business men. He is a native of Ohio, born in York township, Medina county, May 5, 1853, and is the second son and third child in the family of George B. and Kate (Crawfoot) Hedge. He was quite small when brought to Wood county, where he acquired his education in the district schools, and previous to his seventeenth year worked upon the home farm and in his father's mill. At that time Mr. Hedge began learning the saddler's trade with Andrew Emerine, at Fostoria, Ohio, where he worked for two years, when failing health caused him to abandon that trade for a time, though he later followed it for several years, in fact, until 1885. In the early "eighties" he began brick and tile making in Montgomery township with his brother G. W., buying an interest in the business of Russel Morgan. His father afterward became a partner in the enterprise, but later sold his share to another brother, H. W., and the firm assumed the present title, that of F. T. Hedge & Co. They are now extensively engaged in the manufacture of tile, having a large plant erected in 1892, the main building being 40 x 98 feet, four stories in height, with a wing 36 x 82 feet. Our subject thoroughly understands the business in all its

departments, the arrangement for drying being originated by him, and very economical.

At the home of Harlow Hill, in Montgomery township, on February 13, 1887, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Hedge and Miss Martha Caskie, who was born near Carey, Ohio, May 3, 1858, and is the daughter of James and Matilda (Smith) Caskie. They began housekeeping in Montgomery township, on Section 18, and in 1892 remodeled their residence, and now have a comfortable and pleasant dwelling. The home has been brightened by the birth of two children—Jay C., born January 19, 1889; and George B., born October 9, 1892. Mr. Hedge uses his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Democratic party, but takes no active part in political affairs; socially he is a worthy member of Petroleum Lodge No. 499, K. of P., of Prairie Depot; of Prairie Depot Lodge No. 646, I. O. O. F.; and Crystal Encampment No. 271. Like all of the members of the well-known Hedge family, of Montgomery township, he is prosperous and well-to-do, his success being mainly due to his own ability, enterprise and industry, and as the result of his efforts he has secured a comfortable competence, which is justly merited.

B. L. ABBOTT, a prominent attorney at law of Bowling Green, was born in Townsend township, Huron county, July 5, 1850. His grandfather Abbott came at an early date with his family to Huron county, from Trumansburg, Yates county, New York.

Our subject's father, James R. Abbott, was about seventeen years old at the time of this removal, and he at once devoted his energies to serving the best interests of the people among whom his lot was cast. He united with the Baptist Church before he had attained his majority, and supplying the deficiencies in his education by private study, he prepared for the ministry. His first charge was in Huron county, where he remained many years. He then preached at Reading, Mich., for seven years, after which he moved to Grand Rapids where his active usefulness was cut short by a stroke of paralysis, caused by overwork. The last twelve years of his life were spent in the home of our subject at Bowling Green. He was married in 1842 to Miss Caroline Smith, who was born in 1824, and is now residing with her son, Fred E. Abbott, at Bowling Green, the youngest of her five children. The others were Amanda (deceased), who married Daniel Howe, of Crawford county, Ohio; James R., a resident of Montcalm county, Mich.; B. L.,

our subject; and Ida, the wife of Frank S. Joels, of Fredonia, New York.

Our subject's early life was spent in Michigan, where he acquired a knowledge of vocal music which afterward served him well. In 1871 he came to Bowling Green and studied law with an uncle, Philander S. Abbott, a well-known lawyer. He had intended to take a course in literature and law at Michigan, but the illness of his father compelled him to become the "bread winner" for the family, and in the emergency he resorted to the teaching of vocal music. His professional studies were postponed for several years, but after his marriage, in 1876, to Miss Mary L. Marshall, he resumed them, and August 13, 1878, was admitted to the bar. His wife is a native of the Buckeye State, born September 20, 1854, and she is an admirable helpmeet, cultured and sympathetic. They have five children: Floyd L., Henry L., Emergene L., Lilah Belle, and Lorene.

Mr. Abbott began to practice law with a former preceptor, Edson Goit, and the partnership lasted until the death of Mr. Goit. He has a good civil practice, and has been unusually successful in the conduct of business entrusted to him. Recently he engaged in oil producing, has sunk three paying wells and has others under way. Politically he is a Republican, and he has held several important official positions. In 1886 he was elected mayor, and for more than thirteen consecutive years has been a justice of the peace. About two years ago his friends were surprised at a new departure, seemingly out of his line, when he announced his discovery of a cure for baldness, which he christened "Baldoline." His well-tryed integrity lent credit to his claims for the new remedy, however, and the test of experience has abundantly confirmed them in every case where the treatment has been properly given.

HON. ROBERT J. COLLIN, mayor of Tontogany, and a leading druggist of that town, was born July 21, 1849, in Medina, Ohio. His parents Ephraim and Matilda (Hall) Collin, were both born near Ely, Cambridgeshire, England, his father in 1825, and his mother in 1828. They were married there, and in 1848 came to the United States making their home near Medina, Ohio, until 1853, when they came to Wood county; but in the following year, owing to the breaking out of cholera in that section, they returned to Medina county, and bought a farm at Chatham Center. They sold this in the fall of 1860, and in the spring of 1861 they came to

Wood county, where they purchased wild land near Perrysburg, which they cleared and improved, converting it into a fine farm. Here they remained until the fall of 1874, at that time selling out their possessions in Wood county, and once more returning to Medina county, where they now reside. Mrs. Collin is a faithful adherent of the M. E. Church. Mr. Collin was an early Abolitionist, and one of the first in his locality to unite with the Republican party. They are the parents of four children: Robert J., our subject; Sophia, wife of Joseph Carpenter, of Perrysburg; Charles, a farmer in Medina county; and Wilson, deceased at the age of sixteen years.

Robert J. Collin, the subject proper of this sketch, received his education in part at the country district schools of Medina and Wood counties, three years at the high school of Perrysburg, and one year at Berea, graduating in 1875, at Valparaiso, where he had been studying two years. When he came to Wood county, in 1853, bears and wolves abounded, and around on his father's farms near Perrysburg, in 1861, deer were frequently seen in droves. He taught five terms in district schools and two years in Miami schools, and then began to read medicine in Perrysburg, in 1876, a year later coming to Tontogany, where he bought an interest in a drug store since carried on under the firm name of Davis & Collin. This is one of the most substantial business enterprises in the vicinity. In addition to his drug business he is interested in farm land, owning property in Washington township, also in Kansas.

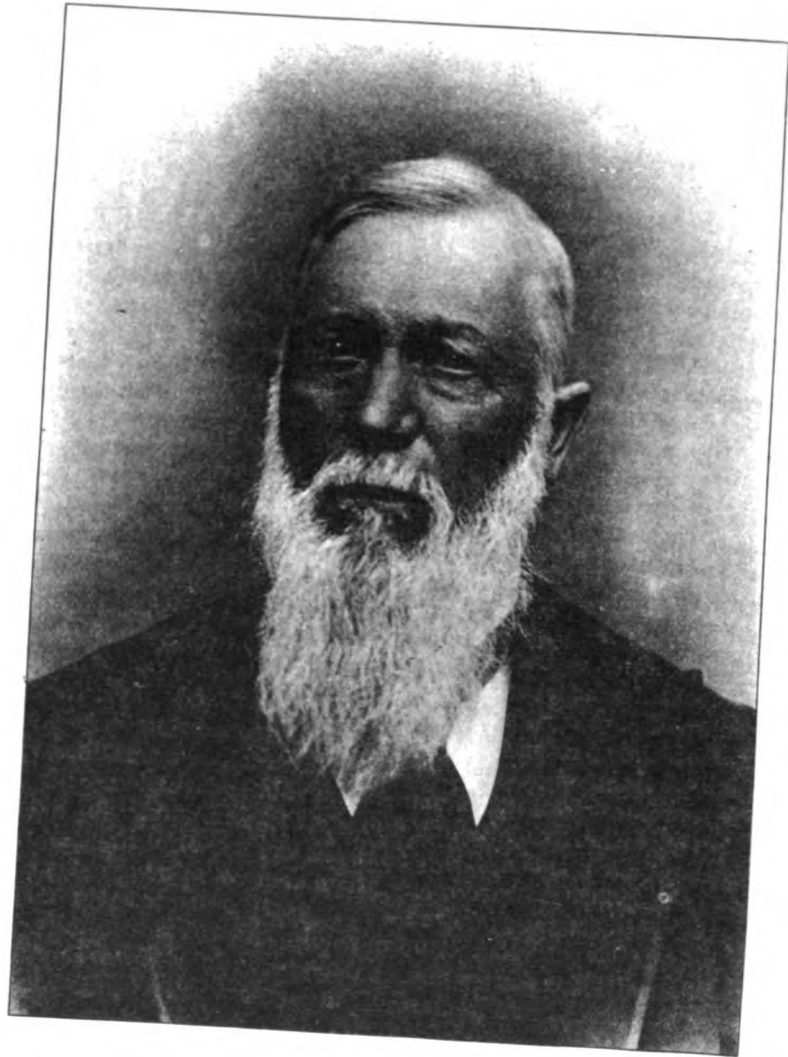
On June 24, 1879, Mr. Collin married Miss Alice Hannah, a native of Ottawa county, Ohio, born August 28, 1854, and they have two children: Arthur, born September 16, 1880, and Harry, born December 4, 1885, who have already given their allegiance to the church of their ancestors, the Methodist, of which Mr. Collin has been a prominent member for years. For the past eighteen years he has been superintendent of the M. E. Sunday-school. The same sterling characteristics which have led to Mr. Collin's success in other lines of effort, have made him a favorite candidate for official position, as he is now serving his third term as township clerk, and was in April, 1895, elected to the office of mayor of his town. Socially he is a member of the F. & A. M., Tontogany Lodge No. 451.

EDWARD R. SAGE, one of the most highly respected citizens of Montgomery township, is descended from an old New England family, and is

a representative of the seventh generation from David Sage, who was born in Wales, in 1639, and came to Middleton, Conn., in 1652. The grandfather of our subject, George Sage, was born in 1772, and his wife, Harriet, in 1774. The father of our subject, also named George, was born July 4, 1801, in Middleton, Conn., and was married in Chatham, Conn., June 26, 1821, to Miss Lucy Davis, also a native of Connecticut, born November 4, 1799.

The father of our subject was a manufacturer and dresser of cloth, and followed that business for a time in Connecticut. In 1838 he removed with his family to Washington county, Va., where he settled near Glade Springs. He rented a fulling-mill and carding-machine, which he operated some ten years. He then came to Ohio, traveling all the way in wagons, camping out most of the time at night, and occupying four weeks on the road. He settled in Vermilion township, Erie county, where he remained one winter, then going to Harts Grove, Ashtabula county, where he bought 160 acres of land in partnership with another man. On this farm was a fulling-mill and carding-machine, which was run by water-power, and they subsequently built a gristmill on the same stream. Mr. Sage's partner proved to be dishonest, and two years later the firm failed. Mr. Sage had nothing left but a team of horses and eighty acres of land in Cook county, Ill., which latter proved upon examination, by a person sent for that purpose, to be of so little value that it was not worth the taxes. Mr. Sage was obliged to return to Erie county, where he died of bilious fever, July 22, 1840. He was naturally a robust, hearty man, and his early death was a great blow to his wife who was left with nine children to care for. Mr. Sage had but a limited schooling, but was a man of much natural ability, honest and industrious, a member of the Episcopal Church, and an old-time Democrat. His wife was a Methodist. She lived to be seventy-five years of age, and died in Huron, Ohio, and both are buried at Berlin Heights.

The children of this worthy couple were as follows: William G., born in Windham, Conn., October 26, 1822, lives in Huron, Ohio; Edward R. and Edwin R. were born in Windham, Conn., January 18, 1825; Harriet M., born in Windham, February 10, 1827, is the wife of M. H. Parker, of Coldwater, Mich.; Orrin W., born in Washington county, Va., September 1, 1829, enlisted, in 1864, in Company K, 144th O. V. I., and was taken prisoner with his entire company (only nine of whom escaped) at Berryville, Va. (he died in the Rebel prison at Salisbury, N. C.); Elizabeth



*Edward H. Stage*





J., born in Washington, Va., December 26, 1831, is the widow of Timothy Gould, of Prairie Depot; Louise, born in Washington county, Va., March 9, 1834, is the wife of Byron Case, of West Toledo, Ohio; Charles J. was born April 11, 1836, in Washington, Va.; James M., born in Harts-grove, Ashtabula Co., Ohio, April 21, 1838, died in childhood.

Edward R. Sage, the subject of this sketch, had a limited education in the common schools of his day, whose curriculum seldom extended beyond the "three R's." His father's early death left the family dependent upon their own exertions for a livelihood, but they managed to keep together, the boys learning various trades and the mother working at weaving. When sixteen years old Edward began learning the shoemaker's trade under Isaac Fowler, who had a country shop between Vermilion and Huron. For four years the lad worked in this place at a salary of \$4 a month, out of which he kept himself and had money left to give his mother. After his uncle was elected sheriff of Erie county, Mr. Sage started a shop of his own, which he carried on for a time. In the meantime his twin brother, Edwin R., had come to Wood county and bargained for 108 acres of land, and the family decided to follow him and locate on the property. Accordingly, in 1847, the mother, with six of her children—Edward R., Orrin, Elizabeth, Lucy, Charles, and James—came by team and settled in Montgomery township, making their home temporarily near the land mentioned. About a month afterward they were given possession, and a log cabin was their first home. This property was school land, and was bought in the name of William, the eldest son, it being intended as a home for the family, and that all the sons should aid in paying for it. The mother lived there for a short time, and then returned to Erie county, where she died. The three brothers—William, Edward, and Edwin—worked the farm together until it was paid for; about 1860 our subject purchased the property from his brothers, and has lived there ever since. Since that time he has sold a portion of it for town lots, and has now about ninety-five acres remaining. Most of the improvements on the place have been made by him, he having, in 1858, built the house which he now occupies.

On October 2, 1851, Mr. Sage was married at Freeport, Ohio, to Miss Caroline Yant, who was born in Stark county, Ohio, June 30, 1828. Her parents were John and Dorothea (Usher) Yant, and her father was a hotel-keeper. Of this union five children have been born, namely: Roswell E., who died in childhood; Lucy D.,

now Mrs. Frank King, of Prairie Depot; John, residing with his parents; Charles, living at Prairie Depot; and William E., who is farming with his father. Mr. Sage, who is a self-made man, with the assistance of his good wife has prospered in the world, and is one of the substantial farmers of the township. He was in former days an Abolitionist, but has for many years been a staunch Republican. He has held a number of important local offices, being for eight years treasurer of the township, for six years justice of the peace, and also township assessor. He has served two terms as mayor of Prairie Depot, and has been a member of the city council. He and his wife are members of the Congregational Church. A man of genial disposition, who preserves the vigor and enterprise of youth, he is exceedingly popular with all who have the pleasure of his acquaintance. No citizen stands higher in the community or is more deserving of the esteem and respect in which he is held.

H. A. LEASE, a well known and leading citizen of Bowling Green, was born in Seneca county, Ohio, July 16, 1835. His parents were Joseph and Delilah (Olmstead) Lease, the former of whom was born in Frederick county, Md., in 1806. He followed farming until coming to Bowling Green, when he took up gardening as an occupation. He was a man of unusual mental powers, a great student of the Bible, which he knew by heart, although a free-thinker in his religious views, and looked upon life through the eyes of a philosopher. In politics he was a Democrat. He was a Scotchman by descent, and was a thrifty and industrious man. His death took place in Bowling Green, November 12, 1884. His wife was born in Frederick county, Md., in 1812, and died April 28, 1891. Their two children were H. A., and Mary E., the wife of R. Gust, a capitalist of Fostoria, Ohio.

Our subject was reared to manhood in his native county, where he attended college for seven months, afterward teaching school and reading law at the same time. In September, 1858, he went to California where he taught school and mined until 1860. In 1861 he was admitted to the bar in the Supreme Court of California; was appointed district attorney of Colusa county, by the county commissioners, and served in that incumbency one term; was made assistant sergeant-at-arms of the Legislature of that State, in 1861, and served as copying clerk for the same body in 1863-64. He then went to Eldorado county, where he was employed as clerk in the office of the Placerville route of the Pacific

railway until 1866, when he returned to his home in Ohio. In 1867 he was admitted to the bar in Ohio. In 1869 he located in Bowling Green, and in the winter of 1870 was made enrolling clerk of the Ohio Senate, which position he filled for two sessions of the Legislature (1872-73), being at the same time engaged in the practice of law. Owing to ill health Mr. Lease has been obliged to give up active work, and now devotes much of his time to literary pursuits, a most congenial occupation, as he is a man of remarkably bright intellect, keen observation, and retentive memory. Upon the organization of the Bowling Green & Toledo Railroad Co., Mr. Lease was elected attorney for the same, and continued an official of the company as either attorney, director, auditor or general manager until the road was sold to the C., H. & D. R. R. Co. In politics he is a Prohibitionist, and uses his influence in promoting the interests of that party, believing it to be the best means by which our country can be free from the curse of intemperance. He is an active member of the Presbyterian Church, and in all public enterprises does his part as a loyal citizen. He has been quite successful in business, owning considerable property in Bowling Green, among which is that known as the Lease Building. Mr. Lease is unmarried, "and for free silver."

REV. HENRY DOTY, one of the leading ministers of the United Brethren Church, now the pastor of the congregation at Bowling Green, has shown in the twelve years since his ordination a rare combination of practical business talent, with spiritual power as a preacher. Although well fitted to make his way to financial success in worldly lines, he abandoned a prosperous business in early manhood (the management of a mill belonging to his father-in-law), in order to devote his energies to the Church, and while his earnest exhortations and convincing logic have turned the thoughts of many to the truths of religion, some trace of the natural financier is to be found also in churches built or repaired, or old debts paid, in every place where he has been stationed.

Mr. Doty was born October 30, 1851, near Findlay, Ohio. His parents, John and Margaret (Walters) Doty, were both born in Fairfield county, Ohio, his father on October 20, 1816, and his mother in November, 1823. On the maternal side he is descended from an old Virginia family. His parents still occupy the same farm upon which they located fifty-two years ago, and attend the same Church with which they then united.

Their eight children are all living: (1) Margaret J., the wife of Thomas Cole, of Hancock county; (2) W. C., a resident of the same county; (3) Elijah, a lumber dealer at Leipsic, Ohio; (4) Henry, our subject; (5) Edward, a farmer in Hancock county; (6) John L., who lives at the old homestead; (7) H. Walter, a prominent young attorney at Findlay; and (8) Flora Emma, the wife of Rev. W. R. Arnold, the pastor of the U. B. Church at Bascom, Ohio. Our subject improved the educational opportunities afforded by the public schools of Hancock county, and then entered the Union Biblical Seminary at Dayton, graduating in 1888. He had previously been ordained at Helena, Ohio, September 21, 1883. His first charge was on Hoytville circuit, where during a two-years pastorate he had 175 accessions, and built a church. At North Baltimore he spent two years, received 195 new members, built one church at a cost of \$4,000, and repaired two others. He then came to Bowling Green, where he found the Church in a discouraging state; but with the help of the faithful and energetic women of the Society he raised between five and six hundred dollars, and purchased a bell and other needed supplies. During his one-year's stay at that time eighty-five new members were received. In the two years following, on Sycamore circuit, he received 200 new members, and built a brick church costing \$5,000, repaired two others and contracted for a parsonage. He then went to Dayton, where for three years he pursued a course of study in the Union Biblical Seminary, having charge during the last two years of his stay there of Miami Chapel (the old Mother Church of his denomination in Dayton), and taking into fellowship 200 new members. Here \$1,800 was raised for repairs, and sundry debts to former preachers and presiding elders were paid, among them some of ten years' standing. His next charge was at Chicago Junction, where some debts were settled, and a parsonage built and paid for and 175 new members enrolled. In September, 1891, he returned to Bowling Green, where he has well sustained his reputation as an earnest worker. About 350 members have been added, and the church has been repaired at a cost of \$4,000, all of which, except the amount raised by Bishop Cassel at the rededication, was solicited and collected by the pastor. On September 23, 1895, at the Sandusky Annual Conference, he was elected presiding elder of the Fostoria District, and is now serving his second term as P. E. of the same District.

In all his arduous efforts our subject has been ably seconded by his wife, who was formerly Miss

Sarah E. Bishop, a native of Hancock county, born January 27, 1856. They were married May 30, 1872, and have two children: Eva B., born January 13, 1874, who is a student in Otterbein (Ind.) University, and John D., born October 11, 1878, who is at home, and is now attending the high school. Our subject is independent in politics. Fraternally he is a member of the I. O. O. F. Lodge at Bowling Green.

EDWARD BEVERSTOCK, the junior member of the well-known law firm of James & Beverstock, Bowling Green, was born in Tontogany May 8, 1862. As one of the brightest of Wood county's sons, the people of this locality look upon his success in his chosen profession with pride, and regard his future as assured. Reared upon a farm, his educational advantages were limited to an attendance at the neighboring district school until January, 1883, when he entered Oberlin College, where he completed the classical course and graduated in 1889, with the degree of A. B. Having determined to enter the legal profession, he took the course offered by the Cincinnati Law School, defraying his expenses while there by acting as librarian of the School and secretary of the Faculty. The degree of LL. B. was conferred upon him May 27, 1891, and he was admitted to the bar a few days later.

In August of the same year Mr. Beverstock entered the office of Hon. Benjamin F. James, and in November they formed a partnership which still continues, with an office also at Toledo, Ohio. This firm has become better known, and acquired a larger practice, than any other has done in an equally short time in this county. Mr. Beverstock is a close student and is remarkable for his well-balanced abilities. With a clear insight into legal principles, and the power of ready application, he possesses also a high order of practical talent. In politics as well as in legal affairs his advice is valued, and he was chairman of the Wood County Republican Central Committee for the year 1894.

Mr. Beverstock was married July 7, 1891, to Miss Elizabeth Ferguson, who was born in Oakland county, Mich., February 1, 1866. They have two daughters, Mary V. and Helena I. Mr. Beverstock and his wife are prominent members of the Presbyterian Church.

A. M. RUSSELL, the deputy auditor of Wood county, and a prominent resident of Bowling Green, is an official whose worth has been proven in various positions of public trust. He comes of sturdy Scotch-Irish ancestry, and pos-

sesses many of the admirable traits of character which distinguished that race.

His father, James W. Russell, was born in Washington county, Penn., in 1784, and came to the Western Reserve in early life, locating upon a farm in what is now Mahoning (then a part of Trumbull) county, where he married Miss Jane A. Wolfcale, a native of Virginia, born near Harper's Ferry, in 1792. She died in 1847; her husband lived at his old farm to an advanced age, and died in 1870 at the home of a son in Paulding county. They reared a family of ten children, as follows: Nancy, born in 1812, married John Cushman, and lives in Michigan; John, born in 1814, died in Wood county in 1884; Robert, born in 1816, died in Bowling Green in 1860; Caroline, born in 1818, married Davis Randolph, and lives in Mahoning county; James M., born in 1821, died in Paulding county, in September, 1879; Jonathan W., born in 1824, died in Trumbull county in 1855; Betsey, born in 1826, married John Williams, of Trumbull county; Abraham W., born in 1829, lives at Ithaca, Mich.; Martha Jane, born in 1832, is the widow of John Moore of Mahoning county; and our subject, the youngest.

A. M. Russell was born March 7, 1835, and remained at home until the age of fifteen. He attended Antioch and Oberlin Colleges for some time, and later engaged in teaching and clerking in a dry-goods store. On the breaking out of the Civil war he enlisted at the first call to arms, and went to the front as first lieutenant of Company G, 14th O. V. I. At the end of his three-months' term of service he returned home, and being injured on the way, at Columbus, did not re-enlist until 1863, when he went as a private in Company C, 68th O. V. I., and served until the end of the war, receiving by well-earned promotion the rank of sergeant-major. His regiment was attached to the army of the West, and took part in the battles at Atlanta and Bentonville, besides many other lighter engagements. After being mustered out, July 10, 1866, he came to Bowling Green as deputy treasurer, and later clerked in a hardware store at Perrysburg until his appointment as county treasurer in September, 1868, to serve out an unexpired term. So well did he perform the duties of the office that he was elected on the Republican ticket for the succeeding term, serving until 1871. For the next four years he was in the drug business at Perrysburg, but sold out in 1875, and a year later began clerking in different offices in the county court house. In 1879 he was again elected county treasurer, and since his term ex-

pired, in 1881, he has served as deputy auditor under three administrations.

Mr. Russell has been twice married, first time in 1861, to Miss Rachel A. Carey of Paulding county, who died in less than a year afterward. His second wife was Miss Alta Sullivan, who was born in Defiance county, July 7, 1843. They have two children living: (1) Charles H., born June 21, 1867, is a druggist's clerk at Bowling Green (he is married to Miss Charlotte Morrison), (2) Maude, born September 23, 1875, a young lady of fine social gifts, lives at home. Mr. Russell is a member of the G. A. R., and of the Masonic fraternity.

HON. ELIJAH P. EMERSON, of Bloomdale, is one of the representative citizens of Wood county, a business man and farmer, having won a distinguished success in every line of effort which he has entered. He is a self-made man, who as a boy walked into Ohio, accompanying the slowly-moving wagons which conveyed his parents and their household goods to their new home on the frontier.

Mr. Emerson was born January 23, 1834, in Berkeley county, Va. (now W. Va.), which had been for many years the home of his father's family. His grandfather Emerson was a slaveholder, but his father, Noble Emerson, being opposed to this, in early manhood determined to seek a home in a free State. He had been employed in boyhood as a boatman on the Potomac, and as a steersman on the Chesapeake & Ohio canal, but later he learned the cooper's trade, which he followed throughout life. He married Miss Mary Keesecker, and had ten children, of whom three were born in Ohio. In 1833 the family removed to Beaver county, Penn., and in May, 1848, they came to Mexico, Wyandot Co., Ohio, traveling in a small two-horse wagon, our subject with others walking most of the way, a tedious journey for even a healthy lad of fourteen. One day his feet became sore, and mounting one of the horses he rode for a few miles; becoming weary, he fell asleep, tumbled off the horse without waking up, and narrowly escaped being run over. The father had but limited means, and on reaching Mexico found employment at his trade, later buying the shop, the trade in potash and in pork barrels furnishing him a good business. In 1859 he moved to Sycamore, where our subject's mother died December 7, 1862. The father survived her thirty years, dying September 10, 1892, at the age of eighty-three, and their remains now rest in the cemetery at Sycamore. Two years after

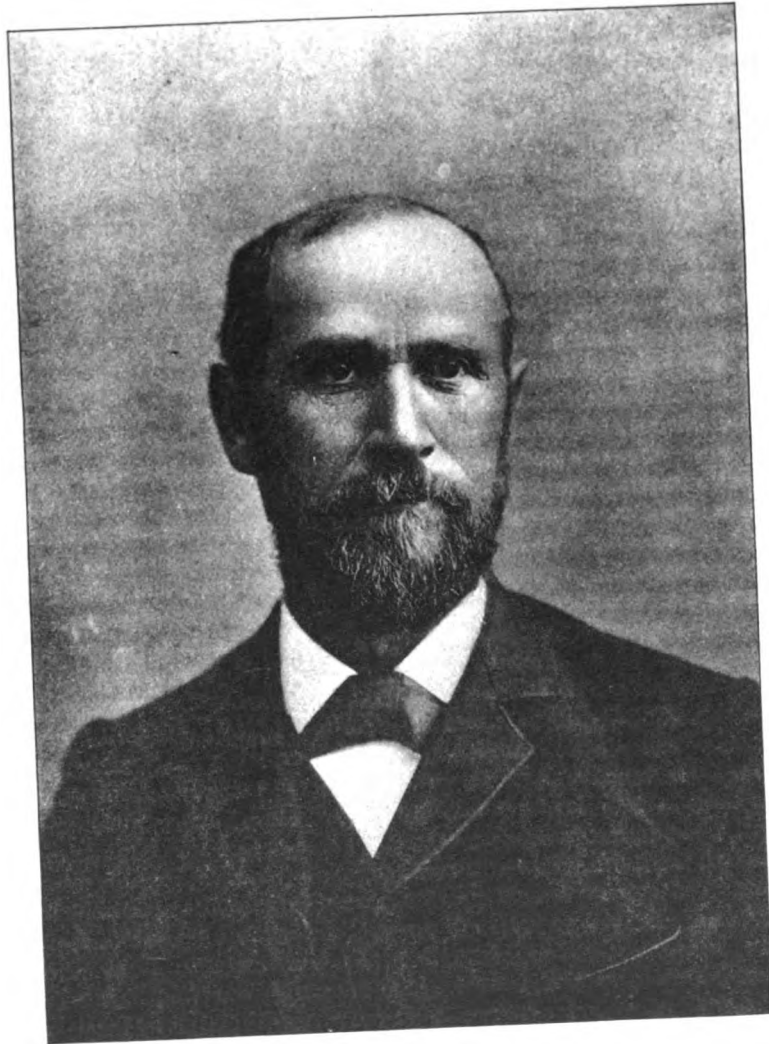
his wife's death he moved to Pike county, Mo., and bought a farm, which he sold later. He worked at his trade for some time, and in 1871 came to Eagleville to live in the home of our subject. He was a man of industrious habits, was over six feet two inches tall, and was spare in flesh. While he was no politician he took an intelligent interest in all the questions of his time and was a regular voter, being a Whig in his early years and later a Republican.

Our subject is one of six surviving children of the following family: Samuel B. died in Ohio, a wealthy man, after many years spent in the practice of medicine at Eagleville; Elijah P. comes next; John M. enlisted in Company G, 123d O. V. I., and it is believed is one of the many who perished in Andersonville prison; Rachel A. died in Virginia; William W. lives in Bloomdale; Enoch died in Virginia; Mary J. is the wife of Rufus W. Lundy, a hardware merchant of Myrtle Point, Ore.; Milton L. is a prosperous resident of Sycamore, Ohio, a blacksmith by occupation; Frank N. lives in San Francisco; Rufus A. is a merchant at Bloomdale.

Elijah P. Emerson attended the subscription schools of his time until he was fourteen years old, and after coming to Ohio availed himself of the privileges afforded by the district schools. Later he studied for three terms at Heidelberg College, Tiffin, and one term in the Seneca County Academy. At the age of twenty he began teaching, and was very successful; he taught thirteen terms in Wyandot and Seneca counties, and spent his vacations making shingles, owning a complete outfit, shaving-horse, drawknife, froe and brake. He received twenty-five cents per hundred when the timber was prepared, and \$3.75 per thousand when the wood was taken from the stump, white and red oak being used principally. In March, 1865, he went to Pike county, Mo., and taught there for a short time. On April 17, 1866, he was married at Crawfordsville, Ohio, to Miss Catherine Smalley, and they began housekeeping at Eagleville, where Mr. Emerson previously fitted up a home. His brother, Dr. Emerson, who was then practicing there, had pointed out an opening for a mercantile business, and, as our subject had several hundred dollars saved, he made the venture. The cost of goods was high after the war, and his stock was small, but trade increased year by year, bringing him prosperity.

In 1874, when Bloomdale was only a cross-road, he built a store there, which was conducted by his brother R. A., and in April, 1877, he sold it to him and another brother. In the spring of





*E. P. Emerson*



*Kate Emerson*





1878 he sold his Eagleville store. In 1882 he opened a dry-goods store in Bloomdale, but sold it after a few months; in 1889 he bought a hardware store in Bloomdale for a son, but subsequently sold it. He has been engaged in farming since 1876. He was then the owner of eighty acres in Bloom township, but had not given much attention to it, and one day, at a sale of the "French farm" of 232 acres, he made a bid merely to enliven the proceedings, and the farm was "knocked down" to him. The business was new to Mr. Emerson, but that could be said of all his other enterprises, and, despite the predictions that his uniform good fortune would desert him if he tried farming, he ventured, and succeeded. He now owns 352 acres in Bloom township, and fifty-eight and one-half acres in Hancock county, which he works in a thoroughly systematic and progressive manner.

Politically Mr. Emerson has been identified with the Republican party nearly all his life. He cast his first Presidential vote for John C. Fremont, and continued to vote regularly with that party until 1890, when, feeling fully convinced that nothing would be done by the Republican party to seriously interfere with the whiskey traffic, he began to enter his protest to the manufacture and sale of intoxicants by voting with the only party that makes public declaration of its intention, if clothed with power, to close the saloon by stopping the manufacture and removing the national sanction of partnership in the business, viz.: the Prohibition party. He has never aspired to office, but has been chosen to different positions. At one time he was clerk of Bloom township, declining a second term; from January 1, 1867, to 1875, he was postmaster at Bloom (now Ted), and when the office was transferred to Bloomdale he became the first postmaster there, serving until 1877. In 1883 he was elected to the Legislature as Wood county's representative, and filled the place four years.

He served four months in the Civil war, enlisting April 22, 1861, in Company G, 15th O. V. I., with Capt. Tyler, in the 100-days' service, being sent to West Virginia. On his return home he prepared to go again, helped to raise a company for the 123rd Regiment, and was one of the three men whose activity in recruiting was to be rewarded by positions of honor in the company. Mr. Emerson was elected by the men to the office of second lieutenant, but through some manipulation of the County Central Committee he was not appointed.

A prominent feature of Mr. Emerson's

charming home is his library, filled with well-selected books which he finds pleasure in perusing. He and his wife are leading members of the Church of Christ, in which he has been an elder, and for many years he was superintendent of the Sunday-school. He contributes also to the support of other Churches in the locality. Their nine children were as follows: John J. died in infancy; Scott S. is a farmer in Bloom township; Olive L. married Benton Leathers, of Bloom township; Horace W. is at home; Dow P. died in infancy; Howard H. is at home; Elijah P., Jr., died in childhood; Lola E. and Florence E. are at home. Socially, Mr. Emerson was for some years a member of the I. O. O. F., but on moving to a distance from a lodge he "dropped out," and for the same reason he has withdrawn from active membership in Urie Post No. 110, G. A. R., of Bloomdale.

Mrs. Kate (Smalley) Emerson was born August 20, 1844, near Rowsburg, Ashland Co., Ohio. She was the sixth child born to Isaac and Elizabeth (Smith) Smalley, whose family was subsequently augmented to the number of seventeen—eleven sons and six daughters—of which number but seven grew to manhood and womanhood. At the age of nine years Mrs. Emerson was brought by her parents to Wyandot county, Ohio, and settled on a farm adjoining the village of Crawfordsville, near the site of the memorable spot where Col. Crawford was burned by the Indians. Her father was classed among the progressive farmers of his day. He was strongly imbued with the belief that a well-raised child—one to whom the parents had faithfully discharged their duty—should be sent out to combat the realities of life, fully panoplied in head, heart and hands for whatever position fate held in store or whatever condition circumstances might develop. Hence Mrs. Emerson was early sent to the district school, and during the intervals between terms was schooled by the mother in the duties pertaining to housekeeping. Not infrequently she was also found in the field with her father, dropping corn—at which she was an adept—digging potatoes, and aiding in gathering corn and storing fruit, etc. Early in her 'teens she commenced teaching in the district schools, at which time she assumed all charges for clothing, and also managed by economy to pay her expenses at a select school in Carey for three terms. Mrs. Emerson was during the war of the Rebellion an active sympathizer in the cause of the Union, and spent much time in soliciting and forwarding supplies for the sanitary and commissary departments of the army. She is nat-

urally inclined to faith in the teachings of Christianity, and early in life united with the Methodist Church, of Carey, Ohio. When she removed to Wood county with her husband, not finding near her home a Church of her first connection, she united with the membership of the Church of Christ, at Eagleville, and has remained a consistent Christian and constant attendant at the various services, and a helper in the many labors of the Church up to the present. She served as superintendent of the Sunday-school several years, and in the Church diligently labored to unite the congregation with the missionary wing of the Church.

During the period of her teaching she met Mr. Emerson—her subsequent husband—at a teachers' examination. An attachment—mutual—was formed, that afterward culminated in their union for life, which was sealed April 17, 1866. Together their life barque has floated down the stream of time for over thirty years. Of the nine children born to Mrs. Emerson, six remain to bless her life—three having passed to the silent beyond. Like nearly all mothers she is devotedly attached to her children, and no sacrifice of time or labor is withheld when duty calls. Her father and mother are dead. Her brothers and sisters have all been married, and are living in their own homes. The elder brother, Allen, is known as Judge Smalley, and M. A. has recently been appointed and confirmed as U. S. marshal of northern Ohio. The distinguishing characteristics of Mrs. Emerson's life are patient industry, devotion to home, family, kindred and friends, and a conscientious regard for the rights and feelings of others.

FRANK A. BALDWIN, a leading attorney of Bowling Green, whose abilities and attainments won for him at an early age a high standing among the legal fraternity, was born near Geneva, N. Y., July 30, 1854.

His parents, Sanford and Juliette (Smith) Baldwin, were also born in New York State, the father December 7, 1825, at Saratoga Springs, and the mother October 12, 1827, at Seneca Falls. Soon after their marriage they came west, in 1846 settling at Perrysburg, Wood county, where Mr. Baldwin soon became a prominent and influential worker in municipal affairs, holding various official positions during his residence there. In 1860 he moved to Weston and opened a hotel, which he conducted some twelve years. He then transferred the active management to other hands, and he and his wife settled down in Weston to spend their declining years

free from business cares; there he died August 1, 1895. They had twelve children, five of whom grew to maturity: Mary, the wife of W. R. Worth, who manages the hotel at Weston; Hattie, the wife of Judge Young, of Bowling Green; Frank A., our subject; Nellie, the widow of Dr. G. W. Pennington, of Weston; and Lulu, a bookkeeper for J. W. Long & Co., of Weston, who lives at home with her parents.

Our subject attended the public schools at his home during his boyhood, and later studied in the high school at Toledo, and the Eastman Business College, at Poughkeepsie, N. Y. Under the direction of J. R. Tyler, of Perrysburg, and McCauley & Pennington, of Tiffin, he prepared for the bar, and was admitted April 12, 1877. In June of the same year he began the practice of his profession at Weston, and a few months later he received an extraordinary evidence of the esteem of his fellow citizens in an election to the responsible office of prosecuting attorney of Wood county; as he was the Democratic candidate this is the more remarkable, Wood county having been a Republican stronghold ever since the Civil war. Retiring from this office at the end of two years, he engaged in practice at Bowling Green. An able advocate, his professional efforts have been attended with uniform success, and at the present there are but few cases of importance in which he is not retained on one side or the other, this being especially true of those which involve questions of criminal law. Mr. Baldwin is at present a member of the building committee for the Wood county court house. In 1879 he was married to Miss Clara Foote, who was born April 22, 1855, in Washington township, where her father, Joel Foote, was a prominent resident for many years. He died February 22, 1896.

D. H. HILL, the deputy recorder of Wood county, and one of the most able and hard-working officials in the service of the county, was born in Milton Center, June 30, 1841.

His father, William Hill, was born in eastern Ohio, and in 1836 came to Wood county, locating in Milton Center upon wild land which he cleared and cultivated. He was prominent among the pioneers of his neighborhood, and was a Whig in politics. He raised a family of twelve children—two girls and ten boys—the subject of this sketch being the youngest. Only three of the twelve are now living, viz.: Mrs. Eliza Stewart, wife of Robert Stewart, of Bowling Green, Ohio; Joseph B. Hill, of Piqua, Ohio; and the subject of this sketch.

Our subject attended the district school in boyhood, and afterward learned the carpenter's trade. In May, 1862, he enlisted for three months in Company K, 84th O. V. I., and went to the front. He returned home October 1, of that year, and three weeks later joined Company G, 10th O. V. Cav. for three years; was appointed sergeant January 18, 1863, and first sergeant in September, 1864. His regiment was assigned to the army of the West, and did gallant service under Kilpatrick. In May, 1865, our subject was promoted to the rank of second lieutenant of Company C, but was wounded during a skirmish at Ringgold, Ga., was sent to the hospital, and was mustered out with his company, July 24, 1865. After his return he followed farming at Milton Center, and for some years was postmaster there. Since September 2, 1895, he has held the office of deputy recorder, giving faithful and efficient service. In 1889 he was married to Miss Susan Masks, a native of Wood-county, and they have one child—E. A. Hill, of Custar, Ohio. Politically our subject is a Republican; socially he is a member of the G. A. R.

G. W. HELFRICH, the efficient manager and secretary of the Wood County Tribune Company, was born in Tiffin, Ohio, February 14, 1854. His grandparents, John and Barbara Helfrich, came from Germany to America in 1832, and died in Pennsylvania at an advanced age.

His father, Adam Helfrich, was a native of Darmstadt, Germany, born May 4, 1828, and when four years old came with his parents to Franklin county, Penn. In early manhood, in company with some other young men, he walked to Tiffin, Ohio, where he secured work in a grist-mill at ten dollars a month. He was married there to Miss Margaret Ruch, and not long after he bought eighty acres of school land near McComb, Ohio, to which he removed. Not being a skilled chopper of trees, and lacking money to hire help, he was obliged to resort to primitive methods of preparing logs for his new dwelling, burning them into proper lengths, after "pacing them off" for want of a better way of measuring them. However, he built the house. After a year he sold that property and bought twenty acres in the same county, six miles east, lived there ten years, then bought 116 acres within one-half mile of the first eighty acres, where he made his permanent home. During the Civil war he enlisted in Company G, 21st O. V. I., assigned to Gen. Rosecrans' army, 14th Army Corps, commanded by Gen. Thomas, 2d Divis-

ion, commanded by Gen. James S. Neegly, 2d Brigade, Col. John F. Miller. At the battle of Murfreesboro he was captured and taken to Libby prison; but was released on parole eleven days after, having had nothing to eat in the meantime but some "hard tack." Taken to Annapolis he there contracted the smallpox, and lay for seven weeks in the hospital. Returning home, with his health ruined, he never received a pension because, having never been ill for a day before entering the army, he had no "family physician" who could certify to his physical condition previous to that time, as required by the pension office. Politically, he was a Jacksonian Democrat, and in religious faith was a member of the U. B. Church. His death occurred September 29, 1892. His wife who was born in Canton, Stark county, Ohio, September 2, 1831, died December 11, 1895, at her home at Deweyville, Ohio. Our subject is the eldest of their nine children; the others being B. F., a butcher and stock buyer at North Baltimore, Ohio; Mary L., the widow of E. L. Ward, Findlay, Ohio; Jacob R., who is engaged in the real-estate business at Eldon, Mo.; Amanda Cordelia, who died when sixteen months old; Permillia J., the wife of E. O. Dexter, of Chicago, Ill.; Calista A., who married John Arnold, of Findlay, Ohio; Charlotte Elizabeth, the wife of M. Brooks, of Shawtown, Ohio; and Caroline May, the wife of Byron Powell, of Benton, Ohio.

G. W. Helfrich was educated in the district schools near McComb, also in the high school at Findlay, and at the age of eighteen began to teach. After two terms he secured employment in a drug-store, and shortly afterward bought a half-interest in a harness shop, investing his entire capital, thirty-five dollars. This concern was closed by the sheriff two weeks later for old debts contracted prior to his entering the business. With most men this would have ended the matter, but a certain indomitable perseverance which is characteristic of our subject revealed itself, and he determined to go on, with no money, no tools, no stock, no custom, and no knowledge of the business. He borrowed a few tools, and as he was opening the shop a tanner called to collect an old bill for leather. After discussing the situation Mr. Helfrich obtained credit for forty-eight pounds of leather, which he brought on his back from the tannery, ten miles distant. He had never watched any one make a set of harness, but he was not to be daunted by a trifle like that, and he proceeded to manufacture one according to his own ideas. As trade came in he gradually learned the business, being assisted

usually by the well-meant advice of his customers. This proved vexatious at times, and wishing to perfect himself in the trade, he went to Ottawa, Ohio, where he worked under special instruction for seventeen months, and then returned to his old shop, from which time it was distinctly understood that the proprietor would accept no suggestions as to his methods of work. He established a fine trade, and in 1882 sold a half-interest to his brother, who took charge of the shop, while our subject opened a store for the sale of agricultural implements. Nine months later a fire destroyed everything he owned except a small dwelling house, he having no insurance, and was \$2,000 in debt. He then went "on the road" as a salesman for different firms, and in a short time paid every cent he owed, besides \$800 security for others. With the exception of a short interval in the grocery business, and, later, in a real-estate and life insurance enterprise at Bowling Green, he continued to travel until January 1, 1894—in all ten years—when he assumed the duties of his present position, of which he is making a great success. Previous to that time the liabilities of the *Tribune* were \$4,000 more than the assets; in less than two and a half years the *Tribune* was out of debt under his management, and a steady increase in circulation and advertising patronage promises rich rewards in the future.

Mr. Helfrich was married, in 1875, to Miss Mary M. Hardy, who was born in McComb, March 27, 1856. They have had three children: Myrtle Pearl, born February 15, 1876; Edward Earl, born June 27, 1878; and Hazel Lurain, born February 21, 1891. Our subject and his wife and children are members of the Presbyterian Church, and actively interested in its work. In politics he is a Republican, and he is a member of the K. of P., the I. O. O. F. and T. T. M. A. of Toledo, in all of which he is an enthusiastic worker. In and out of the Lodge rooms, no society or business is lowered any by having Mr. Helfrich as one of their number, but are bettered, morally, socially and financially.

LEWIS W. McCRORY. There is in the character of this gentleman some of the qualities of the Scotch-Irish ancestry from which he is descended—the thoroughness and unflinching purpose of the former, and the adaptability to circumstances of the latter. His fellow-townsmen recognize him as a gentleman of sterling worth; for his life has ever been an honorable one. He was born in the town of Wooster, Wayne Co., Ohio, November 5, 1835, and is a son of Samuel

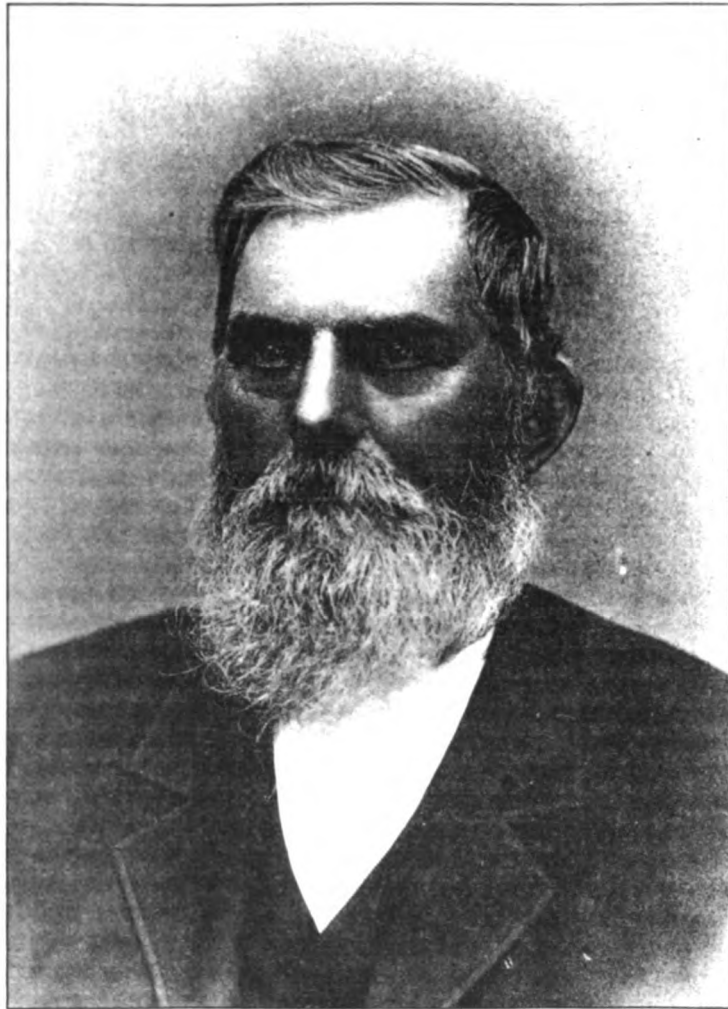
and Hannah (Pennypacker) McCrory. His father was born in Mifflin county, Penn., May 7, 1795, and was reared as a farmer boy. Subsequently he removed to Wayne county, Ohio, locating on a farm near Wooster, where he resided for twelve years. On October 6, 1836, he came to Wood county, and purchased eighty acres of wild land in Henry township, on which he erected a small log house. His death occurred in 1866, that of his wife on July 3, 1845. Their children were: John, who was born November 20, 1819, served as a soldier in Company H, 21st O. V. I., and died February 6, 1873; Mary, who was born March 19, 1820, became the wife of Reason Whitacre, and died in Bloom township; James, born March 13, 1823, died in Liberty township; Elizabeth, born May 15, 1825, became the wife of Isaac Whitacre, and died in Bloom township; Jacob, born March 14, 1827, died at the age of four years; Hannah, born March 7, 1829, married John Otterbach, and died in Liberty; Samuel, born April 12, 1831, died on the old homestead in Henry township; Daniel, born February 17, 1833; Lewis W., our subject, comes next; and Liddy Ann, born December 26, 1837, became the wife of Jefferson Shinebarger, and died in Liberty township. The mother of this family having passed away, the father married Eliza Shaffer, and they had four children: Eliza Jane, born January 13, 1847, died in Henry township; Philander, born November 20, 1848, a merchant of East Toledo, Ohio; Lucinda, born July 19, 1853, died in girlhood; Nancy, born in 1850, now the wife of Frederick Sheron, of Portage township. The mother of these died December 28, 1859.

Lewis W. McCrory was only a year old when his parents removed to Wood county. He was educated in the district schools near his home, and in the usual manner of farmer lads was reared to manhood. He was married in Portage township, February 10, 1856, to Caroline Lucy Gorton, a native of Bloom township, whose parents came from Rhode Island to Wood county at an early day. They began their domestic life on a farm of twenty acres of wild land in Liberty township, and Mr. McCrory continued its cultivation until June 9, 1862, when he enlisted at Portage in Company A, 100th O. V. I. Soon after the regiment went to the front, and was assigned to the army of the Cumberland. He participated in the important battles of the campaign of that year, and September 8, 1863, at the battle of Limestone Station, was captured by the enemy and conveyed to Lynchburg, whence he was afterward first taken to Libby prison,





*Mrs. L. W. McGrovy*



*L. W. McCrory*





then to Belle Isle, lastly to Castle Thunder; he was at the last two on two different occasions, and March 13, 1864, was conveyed to Andersonville, where he remained until March 27, 1865; until April 24, he was at Vicksburg, and on April 27, he was put on board the "Sultana." When the vessel was within seven miles of Memphis the boilers exploded, and 1,700 men lost their lives. Mr. McCrory clung to the wreck for hours, but it finally took fire and he was obliged to let go his hold. He was also in the water nine hours before he reached the shore, and narrowly escaped drowning. At length he was taken to Memphis in a boat, from there to Cairo, Ill., on the steamer "Silver Spring," and was discharged at Columbus, Ohio, May 21, 1865.

In the meantime the news of the terrible disaster had spread northward, and Mrs. McCrory was told that her husband was dead. When he appeared before her alive and well, the shock was too great for her, and caused her death seven days later. Their children were, Melissa, born December 10, 1856, now the wife of George Gorton, of Providence, R. I.; Silas Augustus, who was born October 13, 1858, and resides in Portage; Frances Imogene, born September 6, 1860, wife of William George, of Liberty township; and Lewis La Fayette, born August 5, 1862, now in North Baltimore, Ohio. Mr. McCrory was again married, this time on March 11, 1866, to Julia A. Taylor, who was born November 7, 1840, in Ashland county, Ohio, a daughter of David and Eliza (Myers) Taylor. They have always lived on their present farm, Mr. McCrory having in the fall of 1865 sold his first purchase and bought eighty acres in Section 25, Liberty township. They have four children: Florence May, born January 20, 1867, wife of E. C. Marvin, of Liberty township; Mary Gertrude, born September 30, 1868, died November 10, 1883; Tryphena, born December 25, 1870, died January 27, 1874; Delia May, born February 4, 1874, now the wife of Albert Roberts, of Liberty township.

In his business interests, Mr. McCrory has prospered, and is known as a man of unquestioned integrity and honorable dealing, his success being well merited. He has greatly improved his place, and has recently erected upon it a handsome residence, wherein hospitality reigns supreme. In politics he is a staunch Prohibitionist, and in religious faith he is an active member of the Disciples Church, in which he is serving as deacon. Since the fall of 1874 he has also been a member of Whitney Lodge No. 589, I. O. O. F., of Portage.

JAMES HUGHES, one of the oldest and most highly respected residents of Bowling Green, known to young and old as "Uncle Jimmey," was born in the County of Sussex England, July 26, 1819. His father, James Hughes, was also a native of Sussex, born in 1799, and previous to his emigration to America, in 1857, he was a farm laborer. His wife, whose maiden name was Sarah Bachelor, was born in the same county, in 1801, and both spent their last years on a farm near Tontogany, Wood county, where Mr. Hughes, Sr., died in 1876, Mrs. Hughes surviving him until 1890. While living in England they were members of the Established Church, and, in this country, of the Episcopal Church. The subject of this sketch is the eldest of their four children, the others being Charlotte, who died in youth; Harriet, the widow of James Ellis, of Wood county; and Ann, who married James Challen, of Tontogany.

Our subject was married in England, December 31, 1844, to Miss Ann Evans, who was born November 8, 1829, the groom being twenty-five years of age, the bride a little over fifteen. The father of Mrs. Hughes, James Evans, was a farm laborer at Malsey, Sussex county, and several generations of her family had been tenants of the same house in which she was born. He was a man of regular habits, and a devoted adherent of the Church of England, often walking ten miles to hear a favorite preacher. He married Jane Greenfield, also a native of Malsey. He had no brothers or sisters, and his wife was the only one of four children to live to maturity. Fifteen children were born of this union: Maria, who married William Challen, and came to Wood county, Ohio, in 1857, had also fifteen children; James came to America, and died after his return to England; William and the twins, Hannah and Samuel, all died in England; Elizabeth (deceased), married A. Mead, and lived near the old home; Jane, now Mrs. Phillips, lives in England; Ann became Mrs. Hughes; Sarah is the widow of Luke Marsh, and the mother of twelve children; Ellen (Mrs. White), lives in England; Alfred is a resident of Sussex, England; two whose names are not known; Susan, and Mary Cornwell. The youngest child was born when her mother was fifty-two years old. She married, and has a son who came to this country and now lives in Bowling Green. Mrs. Hughes' father died at the age of eighty, her mother when seventy-two.

After their marriage our subject and his wife lived near the old home for ten years. In 1854, they came to America on the sailing vessel "Southampton," which was five weeks and three

days on the voyage. For over two years they lived in Erie county, and then settled upon a farm in Plain township, Wood county, which he still owns. Of their eighteen children twelve grew to maturity, and eleven are still living: James lives in Bowling Green; he married B. McMillen, and has three children—Mina, Rollo and Bertha. Harriet is the wife of Todd Brown, of Plain township, and has five children—Carrie, Jesse, Howard, Blanche and Ethel. Rose married Albert Avery, of Wood county, and has three sons—Harley, Homer and Allen. Hugh, who lives in Bowling Green, married Kate McCaulley, and has one son—Harry. Henry is a merchant in Bowling Green. John married Racy Bowerman, and is a resident of Bowling Green. Orlando married L. English, and also lives in that city; they have four children—Viola, Arthur, Gertrude and Flossie. Frank married Bertha Mearing, and lives in Plain township; has one daughter—Helen. Adonna married Albert Huffman, and has two children—Harrison and Aleta. Emma married Henry Ostrander, of Chicago, Ill., and has one son—Harry. Burton married Chloe Rader, and lives in Bowling Green; they have two children—Florence and Floyd. Sarah Ann married Henry Newton, of Perrysburg, and died leaving three children—Adonna, Willard and Coy—of whom, Adonna married George Haskill, of Columbus, Ohio, and has one child—Gladys; Willard married Gertie Hartman, and lives in Toledo; Coy is married and lives in Toledo. Mrs. Hughes passed away January 26, 1896.

Mr. and Mrs. Hughes visited England in 1866, and again in 1882. The last time the trip out was made in eight and one-half days, a striking contrast to their first voyage; but coming back the ship struck a sand-bar near Sandy Hook, and they were detained for three days just outside of New York harbor. Mr. Hughes has not united with any Church since coming to this country. In politics he is a Republican.

EDWARD ROE (deceased), who at the time of his death was a wealthy retired farmer of Bowling Green, was one of the fortunate men whose fertile acres have of late years given up their long-concealed treasures, and enriched their owners by copious supplies of oil. He was born May 12, 1838, in Monroe county, Mich., where his father, Dominick Roe, was also born, in the year 1784.

The family is of French-Canadian descent, and are counted among the early settlers of Michigan. Dominick Roe was a typical pioneer, robust and powerful, and possessed of perfect

health, never knowing a day's illness until death came to him in 1861. His first wife was a lady of French-Canadian stock, Miss Lucy Bumean. For some years they lived in Michigan, but in 1847 they came with their family to Liberty township, and settled in the swampy woods among the muskrats, deer and bears. Here, in time, a large farm was cleared and a comfortable home made. Eleven children were born of the first marriage, of whom the following lived to maturity: Dominick and John (now deceased); Lucy, living near Detroit; Olive (now deceased); Stephen, living in Lucas county, Ohio; Victoria, the wife of Peter Malask; Jane (now deceased); Justus, now living in Michigan; and Edward, our subject. Three others died in childhood. Our subject's father was married, second, to Miss Viana Leveret, by whom he had three children: Margaret (now Mrs. L. Garno); Mary, the wife of David De Sadler; and Eliza (the wife of Frank Ducat).

Edward Roe was about nine years old when he came to Wood county. He grew to manhood upon the old farm which he helped to clear, and November 14, 1860, he married Miss Margaret Ducat, a lady of French descent, born in Michigan December 30, 1841. Her father, Anthony Ducat, was born April 20, 1815, in the same State. He died May 8, 1892, in Wood county, where he had located fifty years before. His wife, Margaret Renardo, died in early womanhood. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Roe lived upon a farm in Liberty township, removing some years later to another in Portage township. Ten children were born to them: Caleb, August 26, 1861, married Myrtle Gaghan; Robert, August 20, 1863, married Miss Addie Elder and had two daughters—Emily and Cora; Eliza, January 29, 1865, died at the age of fourteen months; Sherman, January 22, 1867, a farmer in Portage township, married Miss Bertie Creps, a native of Wood county, born October 15, 1871, and has two children—Burtzell and Floyd; Hiram, September 5, 1870, married Miss Myrtie Miller, and has two children—Loren and Harry, the younger of whom died in infancy; Alfred and Albert (twins), died at the same time and were buried in the same coffin; Louis, December 18, 1875; Lucetta, September 28, 1878; and Guy, April 7, 1880, are all at home.

After many years spent in farming his 280 acres, Mr. Roe began testing for oil with encouraging results, and he owned ten wells at the time of death. A few years ago he and his wife came to Bowling Green to secure for their younger children advantages of education and society denied

the dwellers in rural districts. During the Civil war Mr. Roe served for eleven months in Company A, 182d O. V. I., and took part in the engagement at Nashville. In politics he was a Republican. He passed from earth August 22, 1896.

ALBERT FRONEY, senior member of the leading dry-goods firm of A. Fronee & Co., Bowling Green, has been a resident of that city since the commencement of its progressive period. He is a distinctively self-made man, one who took the tide of fortune at its flood, and carried himself to one of the highest places attainable in the commercial circle of Wood county.

Born in the kingdom of Hanover, Germany, September 23, 1842, he was, in 1847, brought by his parents, Augustus and Caroline (Gyer) Fronee, to America, landing at New York on the first day of July that year. For a time the family lived at Buffalo, N. Y., then removed to Elmore, Ohio, at that time a mere village in the wilderness, where the parents both died in 1873, within a few days of each other, the father at the age of seventy, the mother when sixty-four. They had a family of five children as follows: Henry, now a resident of Bay City, Mich.; Rachel, wife of George Gossman, of Elmore; George, a farmer at Kewaunee, Wis.; Albert, subject of sketch; and Sophia, wife of Daniel Eckert, of Elmore.

Albert Fronee received his education at the public schools of Elmore, and at the age of sixteen, in 1859, commenced his business career as clerk in a dry-goods store at Pemberville, Wood county, his salary at first being sixty dollars per annum. In this connection, with the exception of a four-months' experience in the army during the war of the Rebellion, he remained until December 1, 1865. So valuable were his services in the store that before the end of the first year his salary was raised, and five years later he became a partner in the concern. On May 2, 1864, he enlisted in Company C, 144th O. V. I., was appointed first sergeant the same day, and served until the muster-out of the command August 31 following, after a short but useful campaign in Maryland and the Virginias.

In December, 1865, Mr. Fronee embarked in business, and soon won not only popularity but also success in the village where he first entered on his life's mission. He was one of the petitioners for the incorporation of Pemberville of 1876, treasurer of the town in 1877, and a watchful guardian of the public interests of the ambitious village of Pemberville. Elected treas-

urer of Wood county, he came to Bowling Green in 1886, took possession of the office and served one term, refusing point-blank to accept a second election on the grounds that the salary attached to the office did not warrant the financial risk carried by the incumbent. This political diversion was based on business principles, without any sentiment attached, and the experience of one term was quite sufficient to show him that mercantile life suited him better than official life. In 1889, selling out his business in Pemberville, he set out on a four-months' trip to Europe, visiting his birthplace and other points of interest. Returning to Wood county, he established in Bowling Green his present business, along with Mr. Boughton, under the firm name of Fronee & Boughton, and with the exception of a four-months' trip through the Western States, his family accompanying him, the business thus established has claimed almost all his working hours, down to the present time. In 1892 he built a business block on South Main street, and in 1895 he erected his present three-story store building, 42 x 125, the first and second floors of which are occupied as the store proper, the third floor being utilized as a store-room. The store is equipped with all the latest improvements and accessories to be found in a first-class establishment of its kind, and filled with a large and well-selected stock of dry goods, carpets, etc., to the value of over \$50,000, employment being given to some dozen clerks. Mr. Fronee's sole partners now are his son, B. J., and son-in-law, Mr. Moore, each of whom, like the senior member himself, holds an important place in the commercial and municipal economy of Bowling Green.

Politically Mr. Fronee has been an ardent Republican since the formation of the party, and has well served his adopted county and city in various capacities, being a man of great public spirit, and taking a generous interest in every measure tending to benefit the community at large. In 1891 he was elected a member of the common council of Bowling Green, and in 1892 was a member of the City Hall building committee. A reference to the chapter on Plain township, to the political chapter of the general history of the county, and to the sections of the chapter on Bowling Green, dealing with municipal affairs, will disclose the fact that once in a while Mr. Fronee is drawn into public affairs, perhaps not infrequently against his inclination. With the leading institutions of Bowling Green he is closely identified, and he was one of the organizers of the First National Bank, of which he is a director. In addition to the business

blocks, etc., already mentioned, he built a hotel and some private residences at Pemberville, also two stores, besides his residence in Bowling Green, two of the finest in the city.

On October 24, 1863, Mr. Fronev was married to Miss Sarah J. Pember, who was born at Pemberville, July 8, 1842, a daughter of James Pember, the founder of that village, and one of foremost pioneers of the county; he never ran for office, but he possessed great influence in political circles, and took an active interest in the movements which resulted in the formation of the Republican party. He lived to the age of seventy-five years. To Mr. and Mrs. Fronev were born four children, as follows: Augusta, who died of diphtheria at the age of thirteen; B. J., a partner with his father; Florence, at home; and Stella, wife of Fred Moore, also a member of the firm of A. Fronev & Co. The family attend the Presbyterian Church, and are held in the highest respect. Mr. Fronev is broad-minded and liberal in his ideas, is charitable to the poor and needy, and in his unusually successful business career has developed the industry, sound judgment and frugality so characteristic of the German-American.

WILLIAM W. HILL, M. D., one of the leading physicians and surgeons of Weston, is a native of Ohio, born in the township where he now resides, September 6, 1845, and is the eldest in a family of ten children born to John and Hester (Crom) Hill. The birth of the father occurred September 9, 1822, in Stark county, Ohio, where he lived until 1831, when with his father, William Hill, he came to Wood county, locating in Milton township, where his father purchased some government land, and with the help of his sons began the arduous task of clearing and cultivating the same. William Hill came to this country from England after the Revolutionary war.

John Hill remained upon the farm of his parents for several years, but after his marriage to Hester Crom he removed to Weston township, where he purchased a farm and immediately set about making the necessary improvements. In early life he was a member of the United Brethren Church; but after his removal to Milton township, Wood county, where there was no Church of that denomination, he united with the Christian Church. At the end of an exemplary Christian life he passed peacefully away August 10, 1887, at the age of sixty-four years.

The mother of our subject was also a native of this State, born in Harrison county, January 5, 1821, and with her parents moved to Wood coun-

ty, in 1831, locating in Washington township, where she lived until her marriage. Her father was an early pioneer preacher, who traveled through this country when it was inhabited mostly by Indians and wild beasts of all kinds. Like her husband she was first a member of the United Brethren Church, and afterward joined the Christian Church. Her death occurred November 9, 1894, when she was seventy-three years of age.

At the early age of ten years our subject started out in life for himself. As his father was in limited circumstances, and the family large, it became necessary that the older children should do all in their power to assist in maintaining the others. Although young, William was strong and willing to work, and soon found employment on a neighboring farm, where he was hired by the month. When a little past fifteen years of age he enlisted in Company G, 10th O. V. C., with which he served for three years. On May 13, 1864, he was slightly wounded in the left hip by a piece of shell at the battle of Resaca, Ga., but as the wound was not serious he did not go to hospital; again, at the battle of Kenesaw Mountain he received a slight flesh wound in the right leg while supporting a battery. On August 20, 1864, he was again wounded, this time at the battle of Jonesboro, Ga., the ball striking him in the left leg about half way between the ankle and the knee, shattering both bones very badly. He was sent to Kingston field hospital, where he contracted gangrene in the wound, which proved very serious. Being granted a furlough in October, 1864, the Doctor returned home and remained at Perrysburg, Wood county, under the care of Drs. Peck and Hamilton for three months. When able to walk on crutches, he was ordered to report to David's Island, in New York harbor, where he remained until the close of the war, being honorably discharged, June 12, 1865. After his return home, he did not recover from the effects of his wound. For seventeen years he was a constant sufferer, being at times compelled to walk on crutches, and in 1886 his life was despaired of. As a last resort his leg was amputated, since which time he has enjoyed good health.

After his return from the war Dr. Hill attended the Weston schools for a time, there receiving a fair education, after which he was engaged in teaching. Later he became clerk in a store, but after a short time decided to adopt the medical profession as a life work, and in 1874 he began reading medicine. In 1880 he entered the Western Reserve University at Cleveland, Ohio, and in 1883 entered Toledo Medical College, from which he was graduated. July 11,



*William W. Hill M.D.*



1883, the Doctor began practice in Weston, where he was reared from childhood, and from the start met with success. His practice is now large and rapidly increasing in the town and throughout the country, and he is known as one of the leading physicians and surgeons of Wood county.

On August 25, 1869, Dr. Hill was married to Miss Elvira A. Hathaway, and by this union there are two sons: (1) Charles E., born March 10, 1872, is a prominent young business man of Toledo, Ohio, where he is working for the large firm of Armstrong & Co.; he was married November 20, 1895, to Helen Gibson Canary, and they now make their home in that city. (2) Fred M., the younger son, was born March 31, 1874, and is also a thorough business man, having charge of the telephone business of Bowling Green, Ohio, where he now makes his home. On April 11, 1894, he wedded Florence E. Holbrook. The family are members of the M. E. Church.

Dr. Hill is a member of the Wood County Medical Association, the Northwestern Medical Society and the Ohio State Medical Association. Having started out in the world with nothing, and at the same time being a cripple, the prominence to which he has attained is due to his own individual efforts and perseverance. In all matters pertaining to his profession he is interested, and in addition to his duties as a general practitioner he does a large amount of surgical work.

In politics the Doctor is an ardent Republican, believing in the principles of true government, free schools, free speech and above all the right of franchise to all, irrespective of race or color. He has never actively entered into political affairs, but has filled the offices of mayor, clerk and member of the board of health. He is an earnest supporter of the temperance cause, as he himself never smokes or chews tobacco, or drinks anything stronger than tea or coffee. He gives his aid to anything that will build up the town or advance the interests of the community. The Doctor has been a Mason twenty-eight years, being a member of the Grand Rapids Lodge No. 289 and Crystal Chapter No. 157, Bowling Green. He is also a member of Neibling Post No. 20, G. A. R., of Weston; of Kenilworth Lodge No. 340, K. of P., of Weston; and also of Anthony Wayne Tent No. 140, K. O. T. M., of Weston, in all of which he has been active, especially in the Masonic Order, having filled most of the Chairs in the Blue Lodge.

Mrs. Hill is the youngest in the family of

eleven children born to Elihu and Anita (Mallory) Hathaway, both of whom were natives of Queensbury, Warren Co., N. Y., the former born November 18, 1797, and the latter on July 1, 1804. They were married February 23, 1820, at Westfield, Medina Co., Ohio, and the father was a pioneer farmer in Lorain county, where the mother died October 31, 1865. The father subsequently came to Wood county, where he passed away March 12, 1876. She was a member of the M. E. Church, he of the Baptist; in politics he was a Democrat of the Jacksonian type. Daniel Mallory, Mrs. Hathaway's father, was a merchant in New York State; he was murdered while on his way to enlist in the war of 1812.

GILES C. ROCKWOOD, a prosperous farmer and oil producer of Plain township, was born in Jefferson county, N. Y., August 19, 1819. The paternal grandfather of our subject lived for many years in the State of New York, and there died. Three of his sons were: Asa, who lived and died in Pittsfield, Lorain Co., Ohio; Roswell, who spent the most of his life in Champion, N. Y.; and David, the father of Giles C.

David Rockwood was born in 1777 in New Hampshire, and was reared to farm life. When a young man he came with some of his older half-brothers to Cherry Valley, N. Y., and, as they kept "bachelor's hall," he was their cook. In later years their parents came to New York State, also locating in Cherry Valley, and David and his half-brother William moved into Jefferson county, N. Y., and bought land. David was united in marriage in that county with Miss Ruby Rounds, a native of Westchester county, N. Y., and while living in that State they became the parents of six sons and one daughter, namely: Henry, a resident of Elyria; Benjamin S., who went west many years ago and has never since been heard from; Emeline, widow of David Gott; F. W., a prominent farmer of Lorain county, Ohio; Giles C., the subject of this sketch; David P., of La Grange Centre, Ohio; and Almon A., residing in California. Another child, Pauline, now the widow of Hiram Buswell, was born in Lorain county, Ohio. Mr. Rockwood was a well-to-do farmer in New York, and traded his farm there for 600 acres in La Grange township, Lorain Co., Ohio, for which place he set out in June, 1826, driving a team of horses.

Five sons and the daughter came with the parents, the other son traveling by the water route with the household goods. Asa Rockwood, a brother of David, came at the same time. The journey to New York occupied ten days, and



they came by Cleveland, where at that time there was no bridge across the Cuyahoga river, and where Mr. Rockwood was offered land, now the site of the public square, at four dollars an acre, or land on the west side of the city at twenty shillings an acre. However, they pushed on to Elyria and thence to La Porte, where the family remained while the father went out to look over the land he had bargained for at La-Grange. Upon seeing this he was so disappointed that he concluded to return to Cleveland and invest in land there, but was dissuaded from this by Belden, Ingersol and Mennels, three of the leading men in Grafton township, who induced him to remain in La Grange in order to more thoroughly settle up the country. He remained on the 600-acre farm, a portion of which he traded to Nathan Clark for a like amount in Lot No. 49, and built thereon a rude house of logs, covered with elm bark, into which he moved. This was shortly after supplanted by a better one.

Mrs. Rockwood died and was buried in La-Grange township, and Mr. Rockwood married for his second wife Miss Polly Graves, who bore him five children, all of whom died young. He was always a farmer, and after moving on his farm in the northwest corner of La Grange township sold some of it, giving it out for work on other parts of the tract. He was stirring, energetic and active up to the age of sixty-five, when he retired from business. His death, which occurred in 1877, when he was 100 years and one month old, was the result of old age. In politics he was originally a Whig and later a Democrat, and in religious connection he was a member of the Christian Church.

G. C. Rockwood, subject of this sketch, came to Lorain county with his parents when he was about eight years old. His boyhood days were spent in a manner common to the lads of those pioneer days in the West, but of which the present generation can know but little. His services were required at an early age to help chop the timber, clear away the underbrush, and prepare the primitive soil for cultivation. School houses were few and far between, and such as they were were built of logs, the chinks daubed with mud, the floor, generally the bare earth, and the seats and desks of slabs. In these, school was held during the winter months, when out-door work was almost impossible, and happy the boy who could attend even for that limited season and get a smattering of "three R's." Yet from these rude temples of learning have come some of our brightest and most powerful intellects, men who

have made their mark in the history of our country.

When old enough Mr. Rockwood learned the trade of cabinetmaker and also of a house-builder, which occupations he followed for a number of years. In 1852 he went to California, where he remained eleven months, going and coming via the Panama route, after this making his home in Lorain county until 1864, when he removed to Wood county and located on his present farm of ninety-one acres. On this place he has five oil wells, some of which have been running for two years. He also has the lease of some oil producing land, and has, at this writing, just drilled a fifteen-barrel well. His operations so far in this line have been very successful and bring him in a handsome income.

Mr. Rockwood was married May 30, 1845, to Miss Laura A. Wack, who was born in Dorset, Vt., February 19, 1819, and who is still living. Three children have been born to them, namely: Emma V., who is the wife of Judge Guy C. Nearing, of Bowling Green, Ohio, and has one child, Charles; Hoyt O., married Miss Lucia Miehle, July 4, 1872, and died when about twenty-seven years old, his wife also dying soon afterward, leaving two children; Frank died when an infant. Mr. Rockwood took charge after his son's death of the two orphan children and reared them as his own. The elder of these, William P., was a bright, studious, ambitious young man and his death, which occurred July 3, 1892, when he was twenty years old, was a sad blow to his grandparents. The other child, Ernest, makes his home with his grandfather. Mr. Rockwood is a man of strong character and of high principles, and is worthy of the esteem in which he is held. For many years he was an infidel, but later accepted the belief of the Spiritualists and finds much comfort in their doctrines. He was at first a Republican in his political affiliation, and for a time was with the Greenback party, but afterward joined the Democratic ranks.

ALLAN W. RUDULPH, a leading real-estate dealer of Bowling Green, was born in Center township, Columbiana county, Ohio, September 19, 1853, and is the son of Joab and Mary A. (Wheatley) Rudolph.

The father of our subject was born in Scott county, Ky., June 26, 1820, and the mother in Wheeling, W. Va., July 4, 1824. They were married at New Lisbon, Ohio, and lived at that place, and in the vicinity, until 1855, when they came to Wood county and settled on a farm in Middleton township. They made this their home

until 1867, when they took up their residence in Bowling Green, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Mr. Rudolph was a merchant, and was engaged in business until 1890, when he retired from active life, his death occurring two years later, in October, 1892. He was a prominent man in his community and helped to organize the Republican party in his State. He held various township and city offices and was a leading member of the Swedenborgian Church. To this worthy couple twelve children were born, of whom the following record is given: William H., deceased, formerly deputy sheriff of Wood county; Emma A., deceased, was the wife of Frank C. Culley; George W., Sarah, Harriet and Adelbert died in infancy; Alice I. became the wife of J. D. Dolles, a druggist of Bowling Green, and died in 1874; Ernest E. married Addie F. Close and died in 1871; Allan W., our subject; James W., a physician, died in Bowling Green in 1881; Herman J. resides in Bowling Green; Mary May, the wife of R. B. Moore, a lawyer of Bowling Green, died in February, 1896.

Titan K. Rudolph, the paternal grandfather of our subject, resided at different times in Columbiana and Carroll counties. He moved temporarily to Kentucky and while there left home on horse back, intending to go to Atlanta Ga., but as he was never heard from, it is supposed that he was murdered in the mountains. The name Rudolph is of German origin, but the family has been known in America since an early day. Our subject's great-uncle, Michael Rudolph, went from this country to France, and is supposed to be identical with Marshal Ney, who played such a prominent part in the history of that nation.

Mr. Rudolph's maternal grandfather, Charles Wheatley, was born and reared in Maryland, going thence to Wheeling, W. Va., where he engaged in buying and selling stock, driving cattle over the mountains to the New York and Baltimore markets. He also met an untimely death, being murdered for his money while on one of his trips, and his wife dying soon after their children were left to the care of strangers. At the time of her parents' death Mrs. Rudolph was a mere child and she and our subject's father were married at a very early age, he being nineteen and she fifteen years of age. Allan W. Rudolph was only eighteen months old when his family came to Wood county, and thirteen years of age when they settled in Bowling Green. He attended the public schools of that city for one year, when he left home and went to Michigan where he learned the trade of printer with F. C. Culley, at Eaton Rap-

ids. He early developed the instincts of a newspaper man, and at the early age of nineteen years was both editor and proprietor of *The Sentinel*, published at Bowling Green, which he conducted for twenty years, a part of the time in connection with C. W. Evers and M. P. Brewer. During this time, however, he had for a short period disposed of his interest in the paper, and was engaged in the drug business, and in 1887 was appointed clerk of the court to straighten out the affairs of the previous occupant of the office, who had proved a defaulter. Mr. Rudolph finally retired from the newspaper business September 15, 1893, since which time he has been dealing in real estate, and is one of the most active and enterprising men in Wood county.

Our subject was married February 25, 1875, to Libbie A. Kitchen, who was born in Center township, Wood county, February 15, 1856. Two children have been born to them, Gerald Kitchen and Katie Wheatley. Mr. Rudolph is one of the organizers and a member of the board of directors of the Equitable Building & Loan Co., and is also secretary of the Water Works Co. He belongs to the I. O. O. F., Encampment and Subordinate. In politics he is a Republican, and takes an active interest in all public enterprises.

WILLIAM WEDDELL, deceased. The subject of this sketch was one among the foremost of the able and enterprising men who have redeemed Wood county from its original state and established modern ways of life throughout its borders. He was born at Perrysburg March 20, 1839—his father, William Weddell, a Scotchman by birth, having settled there in 1832. He married Miss Margaret Dunipace, who was also born and educated in Scotland, and had three children: George, deceased, formerly the clerk of Wood county; William, our subject, and Margaret, deceased. The father of our subject was a contractor and builder by occupation. In politics he was a Republican, and he was a staunch and consistent adherent of the United Presbyterian faith. His sterling character speedily gained for him the confidence of the people, and his death, which occurred in 1840, was felt as a loss by all who knew him.

Our subject received his early education in the common schools of Webster township, and worked on the homestead until he was twenty-six years of age. He was married on Thursday, December 29, 1864, to Miss Isabell Zimmerman, who was born July 22, 1846, a daughter of William and Isabella (Householder) Zimmerman, a well-known resident of Webster township. Five

children were born of this union, whose names are as follows: (1) Minnie, who was educated in the Pemberville High School, the Normal at Ada, Ohio, and Valparaiso, Ind., is now a successful teacher in Wood county; (2) Margaret is also a school teacher; (3) Sarah J. married J. G. Hurr, a telegraph operator at Bellevue, Ohio, and has had three children—Max, George (deceased), and an infant daughter; (4) William L., and (5) Isabell. On August 26, 1861, Mr. Weddell enlisted in Company K, 21st O. V. I., under Capt. Canfield, but was discharged January 9, 1862, on surgeon's certificate. He was a member of the Ohio Militia, being commissioned lieutenant of Company G, 1st Regiment.

Previous to his marriage he bought 160 acres of land in Webster township, near Pemberville, and built a handsome brick residence costing \$3,000—one of the finest in the township. He was a good financier and was highly respected, not only for his ability, but for his integrity and manliness. He was a Republican in politics, and was justice of the peace and supervisor for a number of years, and school director from 1864 to the time of his death, which occurred July 11, 1895. He was a prominent member of the United Presbyterian Church at Scotch Ridge, as are also his wife and daughters, Minnie and Margaret, and a generous supporter of every good cause. He belonged to Benedict Post, G. A. R., No. 26, of Pemberville, in which he held for a number of years the office of Commander.

THOMAS W. KNIGHT, M. D., who is successfully engaged in the practice of medicine, in Portage, was born in Taunton, England, January 8, 1855, and is a son of Thomas W. and Eliza (Warren) Knight.

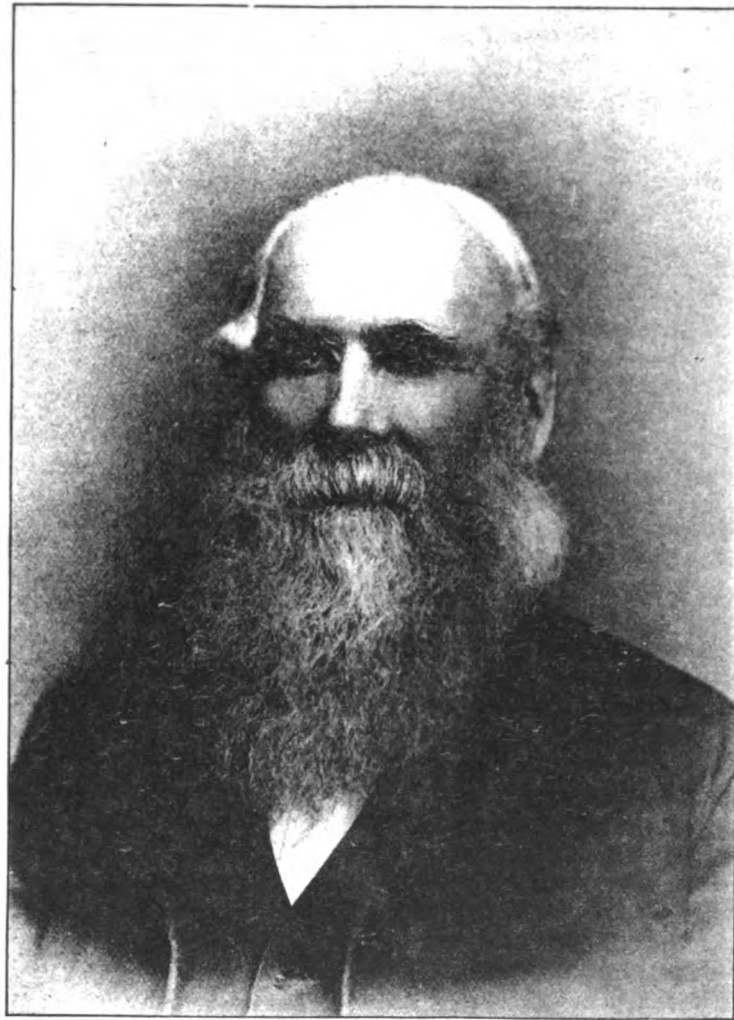
The father of our subject was a native of Somersetshire, England, born April 7, 1821, a son of Richard and Ann (Warren) Knight, the former of whom was a well-to-do farmer, owning 1,053 acres of land whereon his death occurred in 1828; his wife survived until 1855. They had a numerous family, no less than twenty-two children, including the following named: Amy; Ann; Richard, a wealthy wool-grower, who died in Australia; William and Anna, who died in England; Samuel, who died in London; John, who died in England in early manhood; Elizabeth, who passed away in the same country; and Thomas W. The parents of our subject had a family of nine children: (1) Sophia, born March 3, 1851, is the wife of Henry Lucal, of Sandusky City, Ohio. (2) John, born September 1, 1852, married Appelinda

Mercer, widow of Samuel Whitaker; he now resides in Wood county. (3) Our subject comes next. (4) Fred, born September 25, 1856, died at the age of twenty-five years. (5) Samuel, born July 10, 1858, married Ella Hostetter, and is living in North Baltimore. (6) Eliza Jane, born January 14, 1860, married John Robertson, and after his death wedded Manning Goddington; they are now living in New Jersey. (7) Amy, born January 31, 1862, is the wife of John Groh, of Wood county. (8) Ellen, born December 27, 1864, is the wife of Jacob Sommers, of Wood county. (9) William Henry, born January 5, 1867, died at the age of nine months. (The three youngest children were born in America).

The parents of this family were married May 22, 1850, in Plymouth, Devonshire, Eng., where Mrs. Knight was born March 23, 1825. Prior to his marriage, Mr. Knight worked in a grocery store for seven years. He afterward embarked in merchandising on his own account in Taunton, but disposed of his business in 1856, and with his family removed to the Isle of Guernsey. There he rented a farm and remained until 1861, when he came to America, sailing from Southampton, England, September 29, 1861, and after a voyage of fifteen days landing at New York. For eighteen months Mr. Knight and his family resided in Sandusky City, and then went to Ottawa county, Ohio, where he engaged in farming and grape-growing. After three years he returned to Sandusky City, locating on a farm near there, which he operated for seven and a half years, when he disposed of that place, and removed to another farm where he engaged in fruit culture. In March, 1876, he came to Wood county, and purchased the Mungen farm, which was his place of abode until the spring of 1884, when he sold, and has since lived with the Doctor. His wife died June, 1873, and lies buried in Clyde cemetery. The father was a staunch Republican in politics, served as trustee of Portage township for three years, and is honored and esteemed by all who know him.

Our subject, as will be seen, was an infant when his parents removed to the Isle of Guernsey, and attending a French school there he learned to speak that language very fluently. He also continued his literary education in the public schools of Sandusky City, Ohio, and afterward taught school for a number of years in Wood county. The study of medicine he took up under the direction of his mother, who for many years was engaged in practice, and in 1890, he entered upon a four-years' course in





*Thomas W. Knight, Sr.*



*Yours Respt  
Thos. W. Knight M.D.*



Hahnemann Medical College, Chicago. On his graduation he came to Portage, where he has since successfully been engaged in practice, and now has a large and lucrative clientele. In addition, he owns twenty acres of land and four dwelling houses in Mungen, one house and three lots in Portage, and a quarter interest in eighty acres in Liberty township, a quarter interest in the one-sixth royalty of thirteen oil wells in Liberty township, and oil wells in Portage township.

On December 14, 1884, Dr. T. W. Knight was married to Christina Sommers, who died March 9, 1889, leaving one son, Walter A., born June 24, 1886. Our subject was afterward married, April 4, 1893, to Miss Maud Book, who was born June 27, 1871. They have one son, Roy, born November 28, 1895. The Doctor and his wife are well known in their locality, and have many warm friends who esteem them highly. In politics he is a Republican, and a strong advocate of temperance. He has served his township as clerk for one year, and for nine months was township trustee, filling out an unexpired term caused by a removal.

JOHN E. CARSON, deceased. The honored pioneer agriculturist of Grand Rapids township, whose life forms the theme of this biography, was born in Pennsylvania in 1826, the son of John E. and Jane Carson, both of whom were natives of the same State. He was the eldest of their six children, the others being Elisha, James M., Margaret, Oliver and Elija.

The family came to Wood county in 1835, locating on Beaver creek, in what is now Grand Rapids township, and here John E. Carson received his education. He supplemented his district-school course by private reading and study, and fitted himself for teaching; for several winters he taught in this county, working in the intervals upon the homestead, of which he took entire charge after the death of his father, caring for his widowed mother. He was married March 30, 1854, to Miss Sarah McCabe, a lady of Scotch descent, born April 17, 1836, and the seventh daughter in the family of twelve children of James McCabe, a well-known farmer of Lucas county, Ohio, who was born in Pennsylvania, and married there to Miss Sarah Uhler, who was also a native of the Keystone State, of German parentage. Mrs. Carson's father died at his home in Lucas county, August 20, 1878, and her mother survived him ten years, passing away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Rebecca Mower, October 6, 1881, aged seventy-seven years.

A year after his marriage Mr. Carson bought 160 acres of land near Grand Rapids, to which he removed, having built a log cabin and made other improvements. He cleared 140 acres and continued to cultivate it until his death, which occurred March 13, 1878. Fourteen children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Carson, ten of whom were twins. (1) Emma, born April 21, 1855, married John Stephens, of Grand Rapids. (2 and 3) Jennie and James (twins) were born June 21, 1857; the former married Albert Whitney Weston; the latter died in childhood. (4 and 5) Luther E. and Lucy W. (twins) were born March 18, 1861, and the former now manages the homestead for his mother; he married Miss Lula Gestice and has three children; Lucy W. died in infancy. (6) John J., born October 8, 1862, is a farmer in Weston township; he married Miss Mary Judson. (7) Harriet E., born June 11, 1865, married L. D. Judson, of Grand Rapids. (8) Addie, born August 20, 1868, died at nineteen years of age. (9 and 10) Dora and Leonard (twins) were born October 12, 1870; the former married Harris Heath, of Portage, and the latter died in childhood. (11 and 12) Nellie and Florence (twins) were born February 21, 1873; the former married John Ducat, of Sugar Ridge, and the latter died when nine months old. (13 and 14), also twins, died in infancy.

Mr. Carson was for a time a soldier in the late war, enlisting in the one hundred days' service in 1861, in the 144th O. V. I. But ill-health compelled him to return home where he sustained the cause of the Union to the best of his ability, giving liberally to secure troops, and hiring a substitute, John D. Gestice, whose daughter Lula is now the wife of Luther Carson. [To him he gave ten dollars a month in addition to the pay allowed by the government.] Mr. Carson was a man of unusual ability and influence, standing high in the esteem of his neighbors. A kind husband and father; his death was a sad loss to the home circle, but in his wider sphere of usefulness he was sincerely mourned. He was an elder in the Presbyterian Church, in which Mrs. Carson has also been a leading worker for many years, especially in the Home Missionary Society. He was a Republican in politics, and was supervisor for two terms, and also served as school director, and was at all times ready to help forward any measure tending to benefit the community. After his death Mrs. Carson conducted the estate, displaying marked executive ability, and adding many improvements, including a tasteful and commodious dwelling



house. Of late years, however, she has delegated the care of the estate largely to her son.

... JOHN W. BROWNSBERGER, the well-known furniture dealer and undertaker of Weston, was born in Perrysburg, Ohio, March 24, 1843. His parents were both natives of Lancaster and Cumberland counties, Penn., the father, John Brownsberger, born March 27, 1800, in Lancaster county, and the mother, Barbara (Failor) born August 30, 1804, in Cumberland county. They were married November 18, 1824, and in 1833 they came to Wood county, locating on a farm four miles east of Perrysburg. John Brownsberger was a weaver, having been bound out in childhood, after the death of his father, as an apprentice to that trade. He made much of the linen and woolen cloth, used by his family, from flax and wool grown on his own farm, for some years, and also filled occasional orders from outside parties. For twenty years he kept the toll-gate on the Maumee and Western Reserve pike. After the death of his wife on March 18, 1878, he moved to East Toledo, where he died June 2, 1885. He was a Democrat before the war, then becoming a Republican, and he and his wife were both members of the Evangelical Church. They had nine children, eight of whom grew to maturity: Joseph, born August 20, 1825, was killed by accident at Toledo October 3, 1879; William, born September 6, 1827, was a shoe dealer at Maumee and Toledo, and died at the latter place December 23, 1892; Ann E., born February 24, 1829, married Benj. F. Myers, (since deceased) and now resides in Toledo; Mary, born February 28, 1833, married Henry Girkins, of West Toledo; Andrew J., born January 28, 1835, was a soldier in Company A, 100th O. V. I., and was fatally wounded at Limestone Station, Tenn., September 8, 1863. (His brother, John, our subject, carried him off the field, and he died in the hospital September 26, following, at Knoxville, Tenn.); Caroline, born January 28, 1839, married John Farley, of Toledo; John W., our subject; Sidney, born September 20, 1845, lives near Sheboygan, Michigan.

John W., whose name opens this sketch, obtained his education in the district school near his home, in the high school at Perrysburg, and the high school at Maumee, where he completed the business course. He clerked in a grocery store at Maumee until August, 1862, when he enlisted in Company A, 100th O. V. I. His regiment was assigned to the army of the Ohio, served in Kentucky and Tennessee, until after the Atlanta campaign then participated in the

battle of Nashville, Tenn., after which they went to Wilmington, N. C., and fought to Goldsboro, N. C., where they joined Gen. Sherman's forces, then returning from the sea. Mr. Brownsberger was taken prisoner on the same day that his brother was wounded, and spent the next six months and a half at Libby prison, Belle Isle, and Castle Thunder. He was company clerk throughout his service, and at Franklin, Tenn., was promoted for gallant conduct to the rank of corporal. June 20, 1865, he was mustered out at Greensboro, N. C., and after the disbanding of his regiment at Cleveland a few weeks later he returned home. During the following winter he took a business course at Toledo, and in March, 1866, opened a store in Weston, dealing in groceries, boots and shoes and other commodities. An attack of small-pox interfered with his plans, and he disposed of the business and for some time clerked in the largest store in Toledo. He then went to work for Earl W. Merry in the recorder's office, where he made out a set of geographical abstract books for all the land of the county. He afterward worked in the county clerk's office, and during the latter part of C. W. Evers' term as sheriff, he served as deputy so acceptably that in October, 1868, he was himself elected sheriff. After serving two terms of two years each, he returned to Weston, and built a planing mill which he sold a year later. For ten months he was record keeper for the county probate court at Bowling Green, and for six years following was deputy county clerk. From 1882 to 1895 he was engaged in various enterprises, in the undertaking business at Toledo, and with the Clover Leaf railroad as conductor, and later as express agent and baggage master. In May, 1892, he opened his present establishment in Weston, where, if energy and integrity count for anything in business life, he should make a success.

He was married February 24, 1869, to Miss Lucy J. Bonney, who was born in Penn Yan, N. Y., February 19, 1850. Their only son, John L., was born June 2, 1870, and died October 30, 1873. They have two daughters, of whom the elder, Bessie May, born August 1, 1872, was educated at Bowling Green and in the high school at Toledo, where she graduated in 1891; she taught for one and a half years with unusual success, but left the profession to become the wife of C. K. Merrill, of Toledo. Mabel Bonney, the younger daughter, born February 1, 1879, is attending school at Toledo.

Mrs. Brownsberger is of English descent. Her parents, Lester and Caroline (Merritt) Bon-

ney, were natives of New York State, the father born in 1813 in Yates county, the mother in 1826 in Hammondsport, N. Y.. They were married in New York in 1842, and had a family of six children: William A.; Sarah L. (Mrs. John E. Clark, of Weston); Lucy J. (Mrs. Brownsberger); Jethro, who was killed on the railroad when twenty-six years old; Merritt H., residing in Weston; and James F., who died in infancy. In 1863 the Bonneys came to Ohio, where the father engaged in agricultural pursuits. He died in Weston in 1883; the mother is still living. She is a member of the Presbyterian Church, to which he also belonged. In politics he was a Democrat.

Mr. Brownsberger is a man of high spirit. His friendship is steadfast and his enmity impetuous. During his service as sheriff of Wood county he was known as a man who was absolutely fearless in the discharge of the duties of the office, and his ability and trustworthiness in that capacity are still spoken of by his fellow citizens. In the first year of his term, on July 3, 1869, a murder was committed at Bowling Green, and the mob attempted to lynch the murderer, the notorious Dave Phillips; Mr. Brownsberger was at Perrysburg, which was the county seat, but he reached Bowling Green on horseback within an hour, and rescued the man, although the rope was already around his neck. On various other occasions he displayed rare courage and coolness, and his official record is indeed one of which he may be proud. Mr. Brownsberger is an influential worker in the Republican party. Socially he is a member of the G. A. R., the U. V. U., and the F. & A. M. In religious connection he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian Church, and take great interest in Church work.

SAMUEL E. VAIL, editor of the *Sentinel*, of Bowling Green, was born May 3, 1863, at Findlay, Ohio, the youngest born of the three children of Samuel B. and Eliza Vail. The other two are Frank B. (unmarried), born October 3, 1861, at present a compositor on the *Chicago Record*; and Cora M., born February 28, 1862, married to C. C. Potter, of Bowling Green, by whom she has one son—Rolland—and two daughters—Myrtle and June.

Samuel B. Vail, father of our subject, during the Civil war, enlisted February 2, 1864, as a member of Company A, 49th O. V. I., and was ordered to Chattanooga, Tenn. On May 27, same year, during the preliminary movement of Sherman's march to the sea, Mr. Vail was killed

at the battle of Pickett's Mills, and was buried by the Confederates, who were left in charge of the field. He was twenty-eight years old at the time. After the close of the war the widowed mother, with her three children, removed to Bowling Green.

On the paternal side, Samuel E. Vail is of Scotch origin; on the maternal side his ancestors were of Pennsylvania-Dutch stock. Edwin Vail, paternal grandfather of our subject, came in an early day from Connecticut to Ohio, locating first in Cleveland, but soon thereafter removing to Hudson, Ohio, where he married Hannah Post, also a native of Connecticut (she was one of a family of thirteen children). To Edwin Vail and his wife were born five sons—Cyrus, Alfred, George W., Samuel B. and Charles—and two daughters—Harriet and Mary. Some time during the "forties" the family moved to Findlay. Cyrus died in 1895, at Arlington, Ohio, where he had lived many years; Samuel B. was killed in battle as above related; Harriet (Brower) died, in 1896, at Hudson, whither she had removed from Bowling Green fifteen years previously; Mary (Mungen) died at Findlay in 1894. Of the sons now living, Alfred still resides in Bowling Green; George W., is a physician at Port Angeles, Wash., and Charles has his home in Findlay, Ohio. The father of this family died at Findlay in 1868; the mother passing away at Hudson in 1883.

Enos P. Lease, the maternal grandfather of our subject, was born in Pennsylvania; Catherine Oswald, the grandmother, was born in Girard, Trumbull Co., Ohio. The father of Enos P. was a soldier in the war of 1812. During the "forties" the family removed to Hancock county, locating in the vicinity of Arlington, soon after which the father died; the mother survived until 1874. The children who grew to adult age were: sons—Henry, Nelson, Ferris, George and Enos Lease; daughters—Clara (Reel), Eliza (Vail), Rebecca (Fabun), Lucy (Holmes), and Mary (Long). Nelson died in 1890, at Warren; George in 1886; Enos in 1878; Clara in 1861. Rebecca, Lucy and Mary still reside at Arlington, while Eliza, who is now sixty-one years old, makes her home in Bowling Green.

To return now to the life history of the subject proper of these lines, Samuel E. Vail. In 1870 he was admitted to the Ohio Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans' home, where he remained until 1876, at which time he entered the Bowling Green schools, attending same two years, in 1878 commencing the printing trade in the office of the *Wood County Sentinel*. Five years later,

at the age of twenty, he went to Lawrenceburg, Ind., where, associated with others, he conducted a daily newspaper; soon afterward he located at Toledo, and until 1886 "worked at the case" on various daily newspapers of that city. In the fall of that year he accepted a proposition from Brewer & Co., and became manager of the *Sentinel*, of Bowling Green; four years later bought an interest in the firm (Brewer & Rudolph), the new firm becoming Brewer, Rudolph & Vail. Upon Mr. Rudolph's retirement in 1893 the firm became Brewer, Vail & Hoffa, and by a change in the present year (1896) is now known as Brewer, Vail & Co. Mr. Vail's connection with the *Sentinel* has been for an almost uninterrupted period of eighteen years.

On September 8, 1884, Mr. Vail was married to Miss Elsie D. Long, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob F. Long, who in 1867 had removed from Sandusky county to Center township, Wood county, and to Bowling Green in 1871; they were the parents of three children: Frank M., at present engaged in the dry-goods business at Bowling Green; Elsie D. (Mrs. Vail); and Nettie, wife of R. P. Hankey, of Bowling Green. To Mr. and Mrs. Vail was born December 19, 1885, one son named Merl De Witt. Seven years ago Mr. Vail built himself a pleasant home on the corner of West Wooster and Maple streets, Bowling Green, where he still resides.

BENJAMIN F. KERR is descended from a family who were pioneers in the country east of the Alleghanies, and married into one of the families who were forerunners of civilization in the beautiful Valley of the Maumee. Inheriting and imbibing, by such connection, that desire for an independence which made him self-reliant, industrious and economical, and which led to the success in life he has attained, a rank among the foremost business men and men of means in Wood county, and among the leading merchants of Grand Rapids.

The ancestors of Mr. Kerr were of Scotch origin. His great-great-grandfather, James Kerr, accompanied by his wife, came from Scotland to this country with their family in 1765, settling in the State of New Jersey, and near the city of Philadelphia, Penn. A son of these pioneers, Joseph Kerr, was married in New Jersey, and soon afterward, in 1782, in company with several other families, moved to Western Pennsylvania, settling in Beaver county. Here he and his neighbors, among whom were Adam and Andrew Poe, whose names have gone down in history, had many thrilling adventures, and many narrow

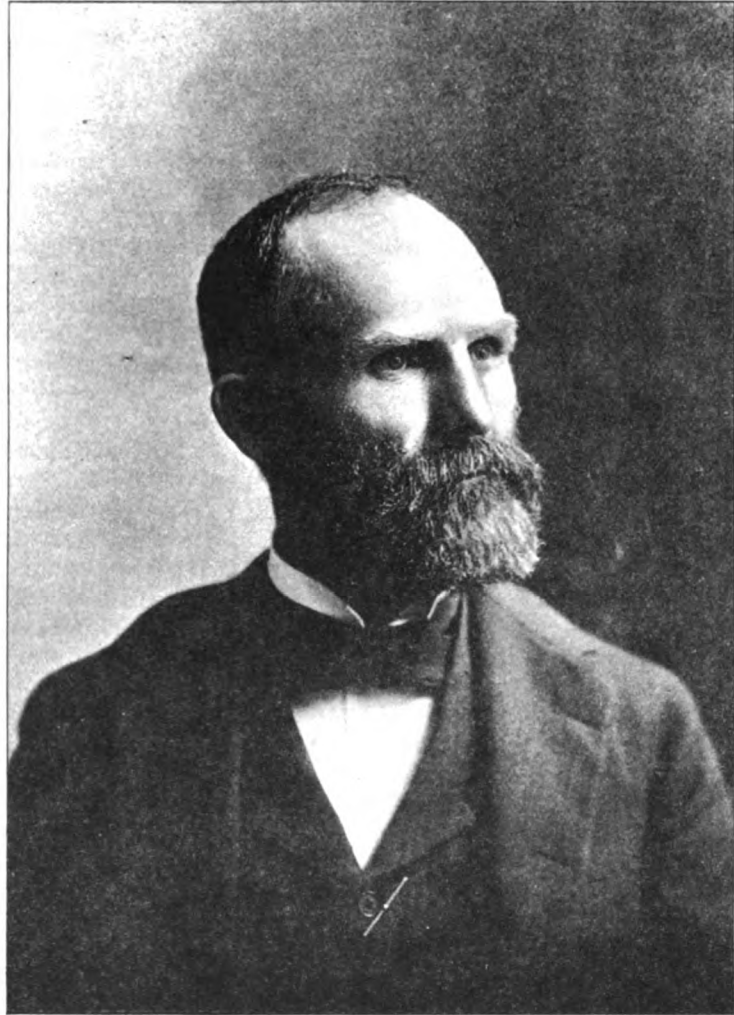
escapes, while fighting the Indians, who were troublesome and treacherous in those times. At this place, in 1785, a son, David, was born to Joseph and his wife, grew to maturity, and in 1824 with his family moved to Richland county, Ohio.

Jesse, the father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Beaver county, Penn., March 4, 1817, and at the age of six years came to Ohio with his parents. He grew up in the country, assisting his father to clear up a farm, received a good common-school education, and when a young man taught school during the winters. On September 14, 1837, he was married to Miss Eliza Evans, and in 1848 they moved to Lucas county, Ohio, where Jesse Kerr bought land and cleared up a farm. In politics he was a Whig, later a Republican. His death occurred July 2, 1862.

Eliza (Evans) Kerr was a descendant of Thomas Evans, who came to this country with his family from Wales in 1796, making his home for a time in Philadelphia. Subsequently he removed to Cumberland county, Penn., where his death occurred. David, a son of Thomas Evans, was married in the State of Pennsylvania, and with his wife and children moved to Ohio in 1824, settling in Richland county. Eliza, the mother of our subject, was a native of Cumberland county, Penn., born May 24, 1818; her death occurred in 1892.

To the marriage of Jesse and Eliza (Evans) Kerr were born ten children, four of whom died in infancy, the others being: John W., a resident of Lucas county; Benjamin F.; Nancy Ann, the wife of Jeremiah Walter; Thomas B., a resident of Zanesville, Ohio; William E., a merchant of Grand Rapids; and Charles F., who is in the United States postal service in Texas.

Benjamin F. Kerr was born in Richland county, this State, February 7, 1843, and was five years old when the family settled in Lucas county. He received a good common-school education at Maumee, and, on the breaking out of the Civil war, was among the first to offer his services to his country, enlisting in August, 1861, when eighteen years of age, in Company I, 14th O. V. I., commanded by Col. James B. Steadman. During the winter of 1861-62 this regiment was in service through Kentucky, and, owing to the exposure and hardships to which the men were subjected, the command sustained a great loss of men, and Mr. Kerr was discharged on surgeon's certificate of disability, August 22, 1862. In February, 1864, he returned to the army, accepting a clerkship with Capt. S. H.



*P. H. Kern*



Lunt, a disbursing quartermaster, then at Knoxville, Tenn. Mr. Kerr remained with the army in this capacity until November, 1865, serving in the Atlanta campaign. After hostilities had ceased he assisted in removing the dead from the battlefields of Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge to the National Cemetery at Chattanooga, this work being in charge of the Quartermaster's department. He had saved some money, and on leaving the service, in November, 1865, he purchased an interest in a general store at Chattanooga. Here he remained in business until in April, 1866, when he disposed of his interests and returned home.

On October 24, 1867, Mr. Kerr was married to Miss Ann S. Pratt, the youngest daughter of Jonas and Susan (Reed-Griffith) Pratt. Jonas Pratt was a son of William and Bertha (Brown) Pratt, natives of Massachusetts, who came to Ohio in June, 1818, and settled near Perrysburg, in what subsequently became Wood county.

William Pratt was born and raised in Boston, Mass., and was the son of Amos Pratt, a native of Wales, and a ship-builder by trade. William Pratt learned the ship carpenter's trade, and worked with his father in Boston. At the beginning of the war of 1812 he had a ship-yard in Canada, and employed a number of men. To avoid being impressed into the British army and compelled to fight against his native land, he fled from Canada to the United States, leaving a vessel on the stocks and all his property (which was afterward confiscated by the British Government). On arriving at his former home in the United States, he recruited a company of cavalry and entered the service of the United States as a captain of cavalry, and remained in the service until the close of the war.

Mr. Pratt then built a small sailing vessel on Rundecroix creek, near Rochester, N. Y. When completed, he loaded into this vessel his household goods, a supply of provisions, his family and a crew, sailed down the creek into the Genesee river, then into Lake Ontario, up the Niagara as far as they could go and then took the vessel out of the Niagara river and transported it around the Falls with oxen. Launching the boat in the river again, above Niagara Falls, they came through Lake Erie to Orleans (now Perrysburg), Wood Co., Ohio, arriving there in June, 1818. This boat was afterward used in the trade between Orleans and Buffalo for a good many years.

Jonas Pratt owned a farm near Perrysburg, and for a time he served as sheriff of the county. In 1836 he sold his farm and moved on a quarter section of land he had bought in Henry county,

two miles up the river from Grand Rapids, on which Mrs. Kerr was born June 13, 1846. Here Jonas Pratt died in 1852. Susan (Reed-Griffith) Pratt was born near Utica, N. Y. (later moving to Rochester, N. Y.), and was a daughter of Amos and Mary (Smith) Reed, natives of Connecticut, the former of whom, who was a well-educated man, and a graduate of Yale college, died in Rochester, N. Y., in 1810, leaving a widow and several small children to fight life's battles alone. The widow and children (except the eldest son, Amos, Jr.) came to the Maumee river in 1815. Susan Reed was first married to William Griffith, of the firm of Gibbs & Griffith, who carried on a general store on the Perrysburg side of the river. Mr. Griffith died in 1828, and in 1831 the widow was married to Jonas Pratt. A short time after the death of Mr. Pratt his widow and the children moved to Gilead (now Grand Rapids), where the widow resided the rest of her life, dying at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Kerr, September 19, 1893, aged ninety years, eight months and one day.

In September, 1866, our subject succeeded Messrs. Laskey & Bro. in a general merchandise and grain business at Gilead. Their predecessors were Laskey & Co., who in 1851 were the successors to Frank Hinsdale, who in 1838 succeeded Nicholas Gee, who established the business in what is now Grand Rapids in opening the first store in the village in 1833. Mr. Kerr is therefore in direct line of succession from the first business opened up at that point. He will soon have rounded up a thirty-years' career of business here—almost a third of a century—a period covering nearly that of all his predecessors combined, quite a span of years of devotion to active business; but the reward has come, for although he has not made any rapid stride on the road to wealth, he has by close application to business, careful management, and by industrious and economical habits, accumulated quite an estate. He has built one of the finest residences in this section of the country, a building modern and complete that would be a credit to any city. Crowning a beautiful hill, it commands a grand view overlooking the river and charming Maumee Valley. He possesses several fine farms in the vicinity. Verily he is the architect of his own fortune.

To Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin F. Kerr have been born seven children, two of whom died in infancy, the others being: Carrie, who married J. K. Williams, of Delphos, and has a son, Clifton F., born January 9, 1896; Clifton C., a student at Oberlin; and Jessie May, Frank E. and Glen B.,

all three yet at home. Both Mr. and Mrs. Kerr are identified with the Presbyterian Church, and every progressive and helpful movement in the community finds in them generous support. Mr. Kerr is a member of the G. A. R., was one of the charter members of Bond Post No. 24, of Grand Rapids, and in all respects is a thoroughly representative American.

COLONEL A. B. PROBERT, of Bloomdale, one of Wood county's most prominent citizens, has been for many years a leader in military circles in the State.

He is of English descent, and his grandfather Probert was a gentleman of wealth and culture, but reverses came, and our subject's father, James Probert, who was born in England November 16, 1802, was obliged to make his own way from the early age of eight years. He was married in his native land in 1829 to Miss Sarah Davies, and in 1831 came to America with his wife's brother, David Davies, and his own family, which then included two children. They had but little money when they landed in New York, and the wife and little ones were left there while the two men made their way by river, canal and lake to Cleveland, Ohio, having twenty-five cents left on their arrival. They found work and soon sent for Mrs. Probert and the children. In January, 1835, they moved to Pittsfield, Lorain county, then a pioneer section, a roadless wilderness, where a home was made on wild land after great labor with unsatisfactory tools. The mother on one occasion walked, carrying the son George, from their home in the wilderness to Cleveland, a distance of thirty-eight miles, to obtain urgent necessities for the family. Land advanced in price and a competence was gained and retained. His farm of 200 acres was in one square tract, a beautiful property. In 1852-53 he visited England, and was loud in the praises of his adopted country, "the land of the free." The questions as to the thousands of slaves here, always cut him deeply, and he replied with a sense of shame. He was a Democrat at that time but the attitude of his party on this question caused him to vote for Fremont, and he was from that time a Republican. When taunting remarks were made by his former associates, his answer was, "I have not left the old party; they have left me. I stand yet on the one time Democratic platform." Although a regular voter and earnest student of public affairs he was not an aspirant for office. He was a man of fine mental ability and was well-informed although he had had practically no schooling. His later

years were passed in Oberlin, where he died May 5, 1876, at the age of seventy-four years. While he was of light build he was active and wiry, and bid fair to live twenty years longer, but an acute attack of pneumonia brought his life to a sudden close. His wife survived until December 17, 1892, when she died at the age of ninety-one years and six months, and the remains of both are at rest in Pittsfield cemetery. (Our subject's grandfather on the mother's side, and grandmother on the father's side, each lived to be upward of a hundred years.) Of their seven children our subject is the youngest. Eliza married Calvin C. Freeman, of Russia township, Lorain county; John was a farmer and later a merchant in Oberlin, where he died about 1891; George now owns and conducts the old home farm; James died at home in 1865; David G. resides in Oberlin; and Sarah V. married John Watkins, of Pittsfield.

A. B. Probert was born at the old homestead, October 15, 1844, and was reared as a farmer boy, attending the neighboring district schools. In 1861 he did his first independent work, hiring out to a farmer in the vicinity. The following year he entered the preparatory school at Oberlin, but the urgent calls for recruits for the army appealed to his patriotism, and his studies were given up. October 6, 1863, he enlisted in Company F, 12th Regiment O. Cav., but on account of a disturbance on Johnson's Island, near Sandusky, where 3,500 rebels were imprisoned, his regiment was divided and he with others cheerfully accepted the assignment to infantry duties there. While there he had an attack of measles, from the effects of which he has never fully recovered. They remained until February, 1864, and then rejoined the cavalry troops, leaving Camp Dennison in May, 1864, and taking up the work of fighting bushwhackers on the border between Kentucky and Ohio. Gen. Sherman, having seen this regiment, telegraphed Secretary Stanton asking that it be assigned to him, which was impossible under the circumstances, and the refusal caused deep regret on the part of the regiment. Their first actual battle was at Mt. Sterling, although they were continuously engaged in light skirmishes. Three months after Mr. Probert's enlistment he was promoted over eight corporals to the rank of sergeant, having displayed rare military ability and skill in the saddle, although but a boy in years. He was not wounded, though he was always on duty up to the time of his discharge on June 8, 1865, save a time when on leave of absence on account of illness. He resumed farm work on his return home, and in

the fall of 1866 entered Oberlin College, but failing health compelled him to again relinquish his studies; however, he has always been a great reader, and is thoroughly posted on the topics of the day.

Mr. Probert was married, December 24, 1869, to Miss Chastina M. Worcester, a native of Pittsfield, daughter of Joseph W. Worcester, who was born in Vermont in 1812 and was for years a citizen of Oberlin; he is now deceased. Three children were born of this union: Merton A., an expert stenographer, who is serving temporarily in the superintendent's office of the Adams Express Co. at Columbus, and is taking a medical course in Starling Medical College, of that city; Jessie, who died aged two years, and Oliver M., now at home.

After his marriage and two years of farming, our subject engaged in teaming in Oberlin for several years. Later he worked fourteen months as baggage agent at Oberlin for the L. S. & M. S. railroad, and was also for some time a brakeman. He then went into the grocery business with his brother John, under the firm name of Probert Bros., and carried it on profitably for five years. Selling out in 1881, he came to Bloomdale, where he has since resided. He bought eighty acres of timberland in Perry township which he cleared and now owns, and later he bought an interest in a drug store, disposing of that to buy a hardware and grocery business which he conducted for seven years under the firm name of A. B. Probert & Co.; in 1889 he retired from mercantile business. He is an active and influential Republican, and was the first mayor of Bloomdale, an honor conferred for his efforts as agent of the citizens in securing the corporation charter, and he has served in other positions of trust. In 1894 he was elected to his present office of justice of the peace.

Col. Probert has a natural talent for military work and organization, and was captain of the first known mounted torchlight company, so strong at Oberlin in the Garfield campaign. During the Blaine campaign he organized a torchlight company at Bloomdale, which created much enthusiasm and led to the formation in 1885 of Company H, 2d O. N. G., with Col. Probert as captain, he having been the leader in the organization. This was a fine body of soldiers, ranking among the foremost in the State and embracing men of wealth, influence and position, and its appearance overcame Asst.-Adgt.-Gen. Dill's objections to its acceptance as a part of the State militia. In 1886 Capt. Probert was promoted to the position of lieutenant-colonel of

the 2d Regiment, which he held five years. He is a leader in G. A. R. circles, and at the National Encampment in Columbus in 1889, when fourteen G. A. R. posts of Wood county appeared in the parade as a regiment, he was chosen colonel of the organization, and was re-elected the next year. During the great parade the Wood county batallion was one of the few to remain intact from the start to the disbandment. Later our subject was elected brigade commander of the Fourth District, G. A. R., of Ohio. He was also chosen to represent one district of five counties of Northwestern Ohio, at the National G. A. R. Encampment in Boston. He is now serving his fourth term as commander of Urie Post No. 110, of Bloomdale. He was admitted to practice as a pension attorney in 1892, and has met with great success. In the Masonic Fraternity, which he joined in 1867 at Oberlin, he has held several official positions.

H. L. BYINGTON, M. D., the oldest practicing physician of Risingsun, and one of the most successful men of his profession in the county, is a notable example of a self-made man. He is of English descent.

His grandfather, Nathaniel Byington, was a farmer in Vermont, during the greater part of his life, and was a hard-working man, often earning his slender income by shoe-making; but never accumulated a competence. The old homestead was near Weybridge, where his son, Edmund H. Byington, the Doctor's father, was born, the youngest of a family of four sons and one daughter. He married Miss Helen M. Langdon, a native of New Haven, Vt., and the daughter of Ward Langdon, who was at one time a member of the Vermont legislature. This family was also of English origin. The young man had but limited means, yet he and his bride started for the new lands in the West, as the frontier lines in Franklin county, N. Y., was then called, and locating upon a small tract of land in the woods they toiled on through all difficulties until prosperity dawned upon them. Their success was not won by self denial, but by industry and good management; they now own two farms containing more than 250 acres of valuable land. They have fortunately both been spared to enjoy the fruits of their labors, and are among the most highly respected citizens of their vicinity. Mr. Byington is one of the staunch supporters of the Democratic party, has always been prominent in public affairs, and has served creditably in numerous township offices. The last years of his father, who lived to be over eighty years old,



were made comfortable in his home, and four children were reared to maturity: Alice (Mrs. Jason J. Carpenter), of North Yakima, Wash.; Harlan L., our subject; Emerson, a farmer in Franklin county, N. Y.; and Jennie (Mrs. Theodore Fitch), of the same county.

Dr. Byington was born on a farm in East Constable township, Franklin Co., N. Y., April 22, 1851, and passed through the usual experiences of a farmer's son, attending the district schools and helping at home with the "chores" and on the farm. Later he studied at Franklin Academy, and at eighteen began to teach, following the profession successfully some four winters. He then pursued more advanced studies at Malone, N. Y., and, as he always had a desire to follow the medical profession, took especial interest in anatomy and hygiene while there. He was too proud to ask his father for money to continue his studies in this direction, and, shortly after attaining his majority, he started for Omaha, Neb. He had only ten dollars in his pocket when he left home, as his father was a believer that a little hardship would be good for him, and this sum was soon exhausted. He stopped, while *en route*, in Erie county, Ohio, where an uncle lived, and found employment as a locomotive fireman on the Sandusky division of the B. & O. R. R., and later fired on the construction train on the main line of the same road, which was then being laid west from Chicago Junction, the completed portion at that time reaching Attica, Ohio. He then began teaching in Perkins township, Erie county, and determining to study medicine he took a preliminary course with Dr. Knestrick, of Bloomingville. During the summer he studied in the mornings, and worked on a farm in the afternoons in order to pay his expenses. In the fall of 1874 he entered the Physio-Medical College at Cincinnati, and was graduated in February, 1876, standing third in the class. His professional career was begun in Fostoria in the fall of 1876, against a formidable array of old practitioners. As a total stranger he experienced the usual trials of a young physician, but he succeeded in establishing a good practice. In the fall of 1880 he removed to Risingsun where speedy recognition of his abilities brought him a large and lucrative practice. The Doctor successfully removed eight pieces of skull-bone from the left temple of George Jonas which had been thrust into his head two inches by the kick of a horse, and covered the opening with a silver plate, which he prepared from a coin he took from his purse, it being nearly as large as a silver dollar. He also performed several

successful delicate and difficult perineal operations, and others of a general nature, by which he gained an enviable reputation as a surgeon.

On September 6, 1882, Dr. Byington was married in Fostoria to Miss Emma E. Shaw, a native of Hancock county, Ohio, and a daughter of Thomas and Eliza Shaw. She is a lady of fine mentality, was well educated in the schools of Findlay, Ohio, and taught successfully in Fostoria. The Doctor has a pleasant home and office, built by himself. Of their three sons the second died in infancy; the others are Warren S., born June 17, 1885; and Ralph, born September 26, 1895.

The Doctor contributes liberally toward the Churches of his locality, although not a member of any, and he is always ready to encourage and assist movements for the benefit of the thriving little city where he has made his home. As a citizen, not as a politician, he served six years as a member of the Risingsun council, but he has frequently declined nominations to political positions. In August, 1893, he was appointed a member of the Board of Pension Examiners, and still holds that office. In principle he is a Democrat, but occasionally supports men of other parties. A man of practical ideas in business as well as in professional life, he has acquired a fine competence, and is regarded as one of the substantial men of the place, owning extensive interests in oil holdings, and engaging largely in loaning money, and buying and selling notes. Despite his varied lines of work, he is fond of travel, recreation and hunting; has been in sixteen different States, Canada and old Mexico, and several seasons have found him in the game haunts of the West and South. Socially he was a charter member and first chancellor commander of Lodge 329, K. of P., at Risingsun.

WILLIAM ECKERT, one of the intelligent, progressive agriculturists of Portage township, was born April 20, 1847, at Buffalo, N. Y., son of Martin Eckert, a native of the "Fatherland," who was born February 2, 1808.

Martin Eckert came to the United States when a young man, lived for a time in Eastern Pennsylvania, and made his first permanent location in Buffalo, N. Y. Here he married Margaret Zimmerman, who was born in Alsace, Germany, and came to the United States, where her parents also passed their remaining days. Mr. Eckert had learned shoemaking in Germany, and he followed his trade in Buffalo, also engaging in market gardening, in which he continued for a number of years. They lived near Cold



Wm. Eckert



Wm. Eckert



Spring, a suburb of Buffalo, and their produce was taken to Washington Street Market. In the panic of 1857, however, Mr. Eckert lost much of his property, and in the fall of 1861 he came west to Ohio, living in Scott township, Sandusky county, where he rented land. He was a large active man in his younger days, and after coming to Ohio he engaged in farming, but from 1867 until their deaths he and his wife made their home with our subject. He died at the latter's home in Portage township in February, 1891, his wife preceding him to the grave in April, 1882, and both are buried in Bradner cemetery. They reared a large family, all of whom were born in Buffalo, as follows: Jacob, who is a farmer of Portage township; Ellen (Mrs. John V. Hall), of Buffalo, N. Y.; George, a carpenter, who died in Boston, Mass.; Martin, Jr., of Montgomery township, Wood county; Sarah (Mrs. William Wilson), who lives in Buffalo; Charles, who died of cholera in Buffalo; Louise (Mrs. Jacob Bowers), of Scott township, Sandusky Co., Ohio; and William. Mr. Eckert was originally a 'Whig in politics, but on the formation of the party he became a Republican, and was an ardent supporter of its principles.

William Eckert received all his education in the schools of his boyhood home, and was thoroughly trained to farming, remaining at home, with one month's exception, until his enlistment in the Union army, on March 26, 1864, at Rollersville, Ohio. He became a member of Company I, 72nd O. V. I., the regiment at that time being home on veteran furlough, and returned with them to the field, seeing his first active service at Paducah, Ky. He participated in the battles of Brice's Cross Roads (or Guntown), Tishomingo, Tupelo, Oldtown Creek, Abbeville, Little Harpeth, Nashville, Spanish Fort, and Mobile, the command marching from that city to Montgomery. *En route* they learned of Lee's surrender, and soon after of Lincoln's assassination. They remained in the service, doing guard duty and repairing railroads, until September 11, 1865, when they were mustered out at Vicksburg, and received the final discharge at Columbus, Ohio. Mr. Eckert is now a member of Randall Post No. 53, G. A. R., at Freeport. During his service our subject was never absent from duty on account of injuries or sickness, but he was separated from his regiment a short time after the battle of Brice's Cross Roads, in which they were defeated; he and many others worked their way through the woods to Memphis, and during the journey it was, naturally, difficult for them to keep together.

In the spring of 1866, Mr. Eckert began to do farm work for others, and after six months rented a farm in Montgomery township, Wood county, from Conrad Shefler, which he worked for two years, and after that rented more land, until he bought his present farm in Portage township. At the time of his marriage he had \$200, besides a limited supply of farming implements, and he lived on different places in Wood and Sandusky counties until April 20, 1878, at which time he settled on his place of eighty acres in Section 15, Portage township, which he had bought four years previously, and which he had improved to some extent after it came into his possession, it being new land when he bought it. He now owns 160 acres, ninety of which are under cultivation, and which he has taken from its primitive condition. He has improved the land with buildings, and has placed over 1,200 rods of drain tile in the land, which has increased its fertility considerably. He is known as a most thorough, systematic farmer, and has the respect of all who know him for his industry and integrity. He is a thoroughly self-made man, having commenced life with no capital but his own energy and ambition, and he is now in prosperous circumstances, and able to support his family in comfort. In 1892 he built a fine barn, 40 x 72 feet in dimensions, and all the other improvements on the place are in keeping.

On November 30, 1871, Mr. Eckert was married, in Scott township, Sandusky county, to Miss Lenora Sheseley, a native of that township, who was born March 30, 1850, daughter of John Sheseley, who came hither from Pennsylvania. Children have been born to this union as follows: Clarence R., September 9, 1872, who is a teacher; Adda, January 26, 1874; Mabel, November 20, 1875 (died in August, 1879); Laura, April 28, 1877; Wilmer, August 18, 1878; Rolland W., July 23, 1883; Ralph E., January 26, 1885; Florence M., January 20, 1889; Floyd H., August 12, 1890; and Benjamin F., February 9, 1893. Mr. and Mrs. Eckert are members of the Methodist Protestant Church, in which he holds the office of trustee. He is a Republican in politics, and never fails to cast his ballot; but aside from that takes no active part in politics or public affairs, although he has served as school director in District No. 9. Socially he is a member of I. O. O. F., Prairie Depot Lodge, No. 646.

EXEA DUCAT, one of the most prominent of the retired agriculturists who have made their home in the pleasant city of Bowling Green, was born of French-Canadian parentage, on the

Ohio and Michigan line, near Toledo, February, 18, 1828.

His parents, Joseph and Victoria (Jacob) Ducat, were born in Detroit, Mich., the former in April, 1805. Eleven children were born to them, our subject being the second. Joseph, the eldest, is now living in East Toledo, at the age of sixty-eight. The third, Alexander, born in 1830, died June 27, 1874. Julius, born March 10, 1834, died September 12, 1895. John is a resident of Rudolph, Wood county; Gilbert, of Bowling Green; Theodore, of Toledo; Marshall, of Bowling Green; Frank, of Ducat, Wood county; and the two youngest, Frederick and Victoria, died in childhood. Mr. Ducat's parents moved to Liberty township, Wood county, in 1851, and settled upon a large tract of land which is now very valuable. His mother died in Ottawa county in 1864, his father at the homestead in Liberty township, in May, 1871.

Our subject enjoyed the usual experiences of a healthy country boy during his youth, and became in time one of the most successful farmers in the locality, cultivating a tract of 200 acres of land which he still owns, although of late years he has left the active work to other hands. He was married May 6, 1851, to Miss Elizabeth Momee, of Toledo, who was born February 8, 1836. They have had nine children, as follows: Elizabeth, born June 1, 1852, died August 27, 1858; the second, born June 1, 1853, died the same day; Mary V. born April 15, 1854, was married December 4, 1873, to Paul McCrory, and died November 8, 1874; Peter Exea, born June 8, 1856, married Josephine Mantal, and has one son—Clarence; Thomas Jefferson, born March 12, 1859, married Emma Gano, and has four children living; Charles Henry, born October 14, 1863, died aged fifteen; Matilda Jane, born November 26, 1864, married Quincy Mercer, of Wood county; Lucy Ann, born June 7, 1871, died a year later; Fulton Daniel, born May 4, 1874, married Alta V. Bordner, and has one daughter. Mr. Ducat is a highly esteemed citizen, and uses his influence in quiet but effective ways to forward every measure which has for its object the good of the community. He is a leading member of the Christian Church, and in his political preferences of late years has been an ardent Prohibitionist.

NATHANIEL L. HANSON. New Hampshire was first visited by Europeans in 1614, the first settlements being made at Cochecho (Dover) and Portsmouth, in 1623. Thomas Hanson, senior, was among the early settlers and lived at Coche-

cho (Dover), was taxed 1654-55, received from the Crown, or Protector, a grant of one hundred acres of land near Salmon Falls, N. H., dated November 11, 1658, was admitted a freeman, April 5, 1661, died 1666, and his will was approved June 27, 1666. His widow was taxed 1666-1672, and killed by Indians, June 28, 1689. These people were English. Their children were Tobias, Thomas (2), Isaac, Timothy and two daughters. Of the last four no record is left. Tobias was killed by the Indians May 10, 1693, his wife having been made captive June, 1689, at the time his mother was killed.

Thomas Hanson (2), second son of Thomas, Sr., was born 1643, first taxed 1664 to 1677, at Cochecho (Dover), and his will bears date February 10, 1710. His children, of whom any record is left, were Thomas (3) and John (1). Thomas (3) was born in 1680, built a house at "Knox Marsh" near Dover in 1700 (still occupied—1883—by William Twombly). His children were (by Margaret Maul) Thomas (4), Robert, Timothy (2) (see "Timothy hay," Standard dictionary), Maul, Jonathan and Samuel; (by Hannah Newell) Solomon, Ebenezer and Abigail. He died 1728, his will bearing date September 18, 1728, and it shows the ownership of slaves in New Hampshire at that date.

John (1), brother of Thomas (3), married Elizabeth Meador, May 23, 1703, and lived at "Knox Marsh." His children were Hannah, Sarah, Elizabeth, John (2), Isaac (2), Daniel, Ebenezer (2), Caleb, Mercy and Abigail. On June 27, 1724, their home was attacked by Indians; John (2), Isaac and the father being in the field, and Hannah, being at church—all escaped harm. Ebenezer and Caleb (youngest of the boys) were dashed against a stone and killed. Sarah, Elizabeth, Daniel, Mercy (fourteen days old), the mother and the nurse were all taken captive, and, by forced marches for hundreds of miles through the then unbroken wilderness and swamps of the wildest section of our land, were taken into Canada. Pursuit proved fruitless. Without doubt the boys were killed because too young to make the march, and too large to carry, while the mother was spared for the larger ransom expected. Though still feeble, she was compelled to carry her fourteen-day-old babe, but was treated with some barbaric tenderness, sharing the chief's food, and by night his tent, and allowed to prepare nourishment for her babe when no longer able to nourish it herself. The following year the husband and father proceeded to Canada, and ransomed his wife and three of the children. He returned to Canada again in 1727

to redeem the remaining child, Sarah, and perished at Crown Point, N. Y., on his return. Mercy Hanson, the fourteen-day-old captive, born to John (1) June 13, 1724, was among these ransomed children, and lived to marry one Nathaniel Hanson (1), and became the mother of seven children, viz.: Paul, John (3), Nathaniel (2), Ebenezer (2), Caleb (2), and two daughters. Of these children, Ebenezer Hanson (2) was born April 12, 1759, married Abigail Caverno September, 1789, lived in Strafford, N. H., and died May 26, 1826. The children of Ebenezer (2) and Abigail Hanson were Caverno, Paul, John (4), Ebenezer (3), Hannah, Judith, Nathaniel (3), Caleb (3), Abigail, Sarah and Jeremiah. All these lived to an advanced age.

Nathaniel Hanson (3), father of our subject, was born in Strafford, N. H., May 11, 1807, married Marjorie Evans, of the same place, dwelt at Barnstead and died October 5, 1891, his wife having preceded him on March 9, of the same year—both having lived more than four-score years. The old home stands in shadow; the sunshine falls less sweetly among the many reminders—the reverently folded garments, the hat, the cane, and the old family Bible that lay on the stand. The immediate family of Nathaniel (3) and Marjorie E. Hanson, consisted of eight sons and one daughter, viz.: John (5), Caleb W., Levi H., Nathaniel L., Ebenezer, Lewis F., Joseph B., George and Jennie B.

Nathaniel L. Hanson, fourth of the above named brothers, submits this genealogy by request, interesting chiefly in the fact that it covers a period of nearly three hundred years, embracing eight generations inclusive of his own family, and in that it shows something of the trials of the earliest settlers of our land. The names of those constituting the collateral branches of the family in the different generations, as gathered by him from court and other records, are here omitted.

The names of his own children are George Murray, Myra Hamilton, Elizabeth Murray, Fred Green (died in 1876), Raymond Evans, Luther N. and Ralph Trowbridge.

Our subject, Nathaniel L. Hanson, was reared in New Hampshire, quit the farm at fifteen years of age, and the shop at eighteen, was privileged to attend the public schools but twenty-five months in all this time, and one or two terms at the "select" school. In 1857 he entered the academy at New Hampton, N. H., taking the Latin and Greek course, having made a good start in the former in the shop, without an instructor. He graduated from this academy in June, 1860, second in a class of thirteen

gentlemen, all but two of whom entered college. In the fall of the same year, with just funds enough in hand to meet the expenses of the first term, and obliged to rely absolutely upon his own resources, he entered upon a four-years' course at Dartmouth College, Hanover, N. H., having been admitted on examination prior to graduation at the academy, taking the 25th position in a class of eighty-one members, which by later accessions enrolled an even hundred. Divers causes, chiefly the Civil war which broke out the following spring, left but fifty of this class to answer roll-call on graduation day, four years later, Mr. Hanson being among them. He had already been elected principal of the Grammar schools at Troy, Ohio, and came west soon after graduating in 1864. The following summer he was elected superintendent of schools at Sidney, Ohio, which position he filled for three years. In 1868 he was elected principal of the State street schools, Columbus, Ohio, succeeding T. C. Mendenhall, now president of Worcester (Mass.) Polytechnic Institute, and formerly at the head of the U. S. geodetic coast survey. At the holidays of this year Mr. Hanson received what he regards as two flattering propositions, viz.: An addition of \$500 in salary (\$1,700 per annum), to take the principalship of the Ludlow street schools, Dayton, Ohio; and the hand of Miss Lida McC. Murray, of Sidney, Ohio, in marriage; both of which he accepted, retaining the latter to this day (1896), and the former until the fall of 1871, three years, when a coveted opportunity to go into business presented itself, and he came to Perrysburg, Ohio, to accept a subordinate position in the Exchange Bank, then just starting under the auspices of Dr. E. D. Peck, as president, and F. R. Miller as cashier. He continued with this firm until the spring of 1879, when, Dr. Peck having deceased, the firm retired from banking, and Mr. Hanson established the Citizens Bank, continuing the business under that title until the spring of 1892, when it was reorganized as a State Bank and incorporated as the Citizens Banking Company, with a subscribed capital stock of \$50,000.00; he became the cashier and responsible manager, and continues such to the present time.

In politics he is a Republican, and in religious belief is a member of the Presbyterian Church. He is a member of the Greek letter fraternity, Delta Kappa Epsilon, is a member of the board of education, is serving his second term as a member of the city council, and is, and has been for ten years, a member and the

Ohio and Michigan line, near Toledo, February, 18, 1828.

His parents, Joseph and Victoria (Jacob) Ducat, were born in Detroit, Mich., the former in April, 1805. Eleven children were born to them, our subject being the second. Joseph, the eldest, is now living in East Toledo, at the age of sixty-eight. The third, Alexander, born in 1830, died June 27, 1874. Julius, born March 10, 1834, died September 12, 1895. John is a resident of Rudolph, Wood county; Gilbert, of Bowling Green; Theodore, of Toledo; Marshall, of Bowling Green; Frank, of Ducat, Wood county; and the two youngest, Frederick and Victoria, died in childhood. Mr. Ducat's parents moved to Liberty township, Wood county, in 1851, and settled upon a large tract of land which is now very valuable. His mother died in Ottawa county in 1864, his father at the homestead in Liberty township, in May, 1871.

Our subject enjoyed the usual experiences of a healthy country boy during his youth, and became in time one of the most successful farmers in the locality, cultivating a tract of 200 acres of land which he still owns, although of late years he has left the active work to other hands. He was married May 6, 1851, to Miss Elizabeth Momee, of Toledo, who was born February 8, 1836. They have had nine children, as follows: Elizabeth, born June 1, 1852, died August 27, 1858; the second, born June 1, 1853, died the same day; Mary V. born April 15, 1854, was married December 4, 1873, to Paul McCrory, and died November 8, 1874; Peter Exea, born June 8, 1856, married Josephine Mantal, and has one son—Clarence; Thomas Jefferson, born March 12, 1859, married Emma Gano, and has four children living; Charles Henry, born October 14, 1863, died aged fifteen; Matilda Jane, born November 26, 1864, married Quincy Mercer, of Wood county; Lucy Ann, born June 7, 1871, died a year later; Fulton Daniel, born May 4, 1874, married Alta V. Bordner, and has one daughter. Mr. Ducat is a highly esteemed citizen, and uses his influence in quiet but effective ways to forward every measure which has for its object the good of the community. He is a leading member of the Christian Church, and in his political preferences of late years has been an ardent Prohibitionist.

NATHANIEL L. HANSON. New Hampshire was first visited by Europeans in 1614, the first settlements being made at Cochecho (Dover) and Portsmouth, in 1623. Thomas Hanson, senior, was among the early settlers and lived at Coche-

cho (Dover), was taxed 1654-55, received from the Crown, or Protector, a grant of one hundred acres of land near Salmon Falls, N. H., dated November 11, 1658, was admitted a freeman, April 5, 1661, died 1666, and his will was approved June 27, 1666. His widow was taxed 1666-1672, and killed by Indians, June 28, 1689. These people were English. Their children were Tobias, Thomas (2), Isaac, Timothy and two daughters. Of the last four no record is left. Tobias was killed by the Indians May 10, 1693, his wife having been made captive June, 1689, at the time his mother was killed.

Thomas Hanson (2), second son of Thomas, Sr., was born 1643, first taxed 1664 to 1677, at Cochecho (Dover), and his will bears date February 10, 1710. His children, of whom any record is left, were Thomas (3) and John (1). Thomas (3) was born in 1680, built a house at "Knox Marsh" near Dover in 1700 (still occupied—1883—by William Twombly). His children were (by Margaret Maul) Thomas (4), Robert, Timothy (2) (see "Timothy hay," Standard dictionary), Maul, Jonathan and Samuel; (by Hannah Newell) Solomon, Ebenezer and Abigail. He died 1728, his will bearing date September 18, 1728, and it shows the ownership of slaves in New Hampshire at that date.

John (1), brother of Thomas (3), married Elizabeth Meador, May 23, 1703, and lived at "Knox Marsh." His children were Hannah, Sarah, Elizabeth, John (2), Isaac (2), Daniel, Ebenezer (2), Caleb, Mercy and Abigail. On June 27, 1724, their home was attacked by Indians; John (2), Isaac and the father being in the field, and Hannah, being at church—all escaped harm. Ebenezer and Caleb (youngest of the boys) were dashed against a stone and killed. Sarah, Elizabeth, Daniel, Mercy (fourteen days old), the mother and the nurse were all taken captive, and, by forced marches for hundreds of miles through the then unbroken wilderness and swamps of the wildest section of our land, were taken into Canada. Pursuit proved fruitless. Without doubt the boys were killed because too young to make the march, and too large to carry, while the mother was spared for the larger ransom expected. Though still feeble, she was compelled to carry her fourteen-day-old babe, but was treated with some barbaric tenderness, sharing the chief's food, and by night his tent, and allowed to prepare nourishment for her babe when no longer able to nourish it herself. The following year the husband and father proceeded to Canada, and ransomed his wife and three of the children. He returned to Canada again in 1727

to redeem the remaining child, Sarah, and perished at Crown Point, N. Y., on his return. Mercy Hanson, the fourteen-day-old captive, born to John (1) June 13, 1724, was among these ransomed children, and lived to marry one Nathaniel Hanson (1), and became the mother of seven children, viz.: Paul, John (3), Nathaniel (2), Ebenezer (2), Caleb (2), and two daughters. Of these children, Ebenezer Hanson (2) was born April 12, 1759, married Abigail Caverno September, 1789, lived in Strafford, N. H., and died May 26, 1826. The children of Ebenezer (2) and Abigail Hanson were Caverno, Paul, John (4), Ebenezer (3), Hannah, Judith, Nathaniel (3), Caleb (3), Abigail, Sarah and Jeremiah. All these lived to an advanced age.

Nathaniel Hanson (3), father of our subject, was born in Strafford, N. H., May 11, 1807, married Marjorie Evans, of the same place, dwelt at Barnstead and died October 5, 1891, his wife having preceded him on March 9, of the same year—both having lived more than four-score years. The old home stands in shadow; the sunshine falls less sweetly among the many reminders—the reverently folded garments, the hat, the cane, and the old family Bible that lay on the stand. The immediate family of Nathaniel (3) and Marjorie E. Hanson, consisted of eight sons and one daughter, viz.: John (5), Caleb W., Levi H., Nathaniel L., Ebenezer, Lewis F., Joseph B., George and Jennie B.

Nathaniel L. Hanson, fourth of the above named brothers, submits this genealogy by request, interesting chiefly in the fact that it covers a period of nearly three hundred years, embracing eight generations inclusive of his own family, and in that it shows something of the trials of the earliest settlers of our land. The names of those constituting the collateral branches of the family in the different generations, as gathered by him from court and other records, are here omitted.

The names of his own children are George Murray, Myra Hamilton, Elizabeth Murray, Fred Green (died in 1876), Raymond Evans, Luther N. and Ralph Trowbridge.

Our subject, Nathaniel L. Hanson, was reared in New Hampshire, quit the farm at fifteen years of age, and the shop at eighteen, was privileged to attend the public schools but twenty-five months in all this time, and one or two terms at the "select" school. In 1857 he entered the academy at New Hampton, N. H., taking the Latin and Greek course, having made a good start in the former in the shop, without an instructor. He graduated from this academy in June, 1860, second in a class of thirteen

gentlemen, all but two of whom entered college. In the fall of the same year, with just funds enough in hand to meet the expenses of the first term, and obliged to rely absolutely upon his own resources, he entered upon a four-years' course at Dartmouth College, Hanover, N. H., having been admitted on examination prior to graduation at the academy, taking the 25th position in a class of eighty-one members, which by later accessions enrolled an even hundred. Divers causes, chiefly the Civil war which broke out the following spring, left but fifty of this class to answer roll-call on graduation day, four years later, Mr. Hanson being among them. He had already been elected principal of the Grammar schools at Troy, Ohio, and came west soon after graduating in 1864. The following summer he was elected superintendent of schools at Sidney, Ohio, which position he filled for three years. In 1868 he was elected principal of the State street schools, Columbus, Ohio, succeeding T. C. Mendenhall, now president of Worcester (Mass.) Polytechnic Institute, and formerly at the head of the U. S. geodetic coast survey. At the holidays of this year Mr. Hanson received what he regards as two flattering propositions, viz.: An addition of \$500 in salary (\$1,700 per annum), to take the principalship of the Ludlow street schools, Dayton, Ohio; and the hand of Miss Lida McC. Murray, of Sidney, Ohio, in marriage; both of which he accepted, retaining the latter to this day (1896), and the former until the fall of 1871, three years, when a coveted opportunity to go into business presented itself, and he came to Perrysburg, Ohio, to accept a subordinate position in the Exchange Bank, then just starting under the auspices of Dr. E. D. Peck, as president, and F. R. Miller as cashier. He continued with this firm until the spring of 1879, when, Dr. Peck having deceased, the firm retired from banking, and Mr. Hanson established the Citizens Bank, continuing the business under that title until the spring of 1892, when it was re-organized as a State Bank and incorporated as the Citizens Banking Company, with a subscribed capital stock of \$50,000.00; he became the cashier and responsible manager, and continues such to the present time.

In politics he is a Republican, and in religious belief is a member of the Presbyterian Church. He is a member of the Greek letter fraternity, Delta Kappa Epsilon, is a member of the board of education, is serving his second term as a member of the city council, and is, and has been for ten years, a member and the



secretary of the board of managers of the Way Public Library. Mr. Hanson is a citizen of high standing, and a leading man in his community, and although rather reserved in disposition, is found on nearer acquaintance to be a most genial and companionable man. He is very domestic in his tastes, and although giving much time and attention to the details of his business, and to matters concerning the public welfare, he finds his greatest happiness when surrounded by his books and family in his pleasant home.

GEORGE W. WILKINSON, one of the self-made men of Ohio, a prominent editor of Wood county, and a worthy representative citizen of North Baltimore, is a native of the State, having been born March 15, 1859, in Logan county.

At an early age he was left an orphan, his father having died when he was an infant, succumbing to exposure experienced at the battle of Pittsburg Landing, in 1862; after which, until he was eighteen years old, young George made his home with his grandfather, John G. Wilkinson, during which period he acquired a common-school education. Fully realizing he was not yet properly equipped in an educational point of view, for suitable life work, our subject, on leaving the home of his grandfather, went to Sidney, Ohio, where for three years he attended the public schools, at the end of which time he took up the profession of teaching, which he followed several years. For one year he had charge of the grammar department of public-school work at Deshler, and for two years he served as superintendent of schools of that place. During the year 1885-86 he leased and conducted the Deshler *Flag*, and then purchased the *Beacon*, of North Baltimore, which, under his able management, has become one of the leading journals of Wood county.

Politically, Mr. Wilkinson is a Republican, and a representative in his party. For several years he has been a member of the County Central Committee, of which he has been chairman and secretary. He has also been several times a member of the executive committee, serving now in that capacity; is also serving as member of the County Election Board, by appointment from the Secretary of State, and is chairman of that board. Mr. Wilkinson has served four terms as trustee of the North Baltimore Gas Co., during which time he was its secretary. At this writing he is president of the board of examiners of teachers, for the city of North Baltimore. He is also serving his second term as secretary of the Buckeye Press Association, of Ohio, an organization

of printers and editors, consisting of about two hundred members, he being one of the originators of the association. He is a practical, artistic printer, and has one of the finest and best equipped offices in the State.

In 1885, Mr. Wilkinson was united in marriage with Miss Ella M. Thomas, daughter of Rev. A. C. Thomas, of North Baltimore, born April 21, 1868, and educated in the common schools of Ohio. Mrs. Wilkinson is a valuable assistant to her husband, being in perfect sympathy with his work, and taking editorial charge during his temporary absence. To their union have come two children, namely: Gerald T., born in 1889, and Claire W., born in 1892. Mrs. Wilkinson is a member of the M. E. Church, at North Baltimore, and she and her husband enjoy the highest regard of the best citizens of the community in which they live.

GILBERT DUCAT, a wealthy retired agriculturist of Bowling Green, and a descendant of a well-known French-Canadian family, was born in Michigan, near the Ohio line, July 10, 1839.

His father, Joseph Ducat, was born in Detroit, Mich., in 1805, and on arriving at manhood he married a native of the same city, Miss Victoria Jacob. He was a farmer by occupation, and some years after his marriage came with his family to Ohio, locating first in Wood county, later removing to Ottawa county, where Mrs. Ducat died in 1864. The family soon after returned to Wood county settling in Liberty township, and here, in 1871, the father died. Both parents were devout adherents of the Roman Catholic Church. Eleven children were born to them: Joseph, a resident of East Toledo; Exea, of Bowling Green; Alexander, deceased; Julius, deceased; John, of Rudolph, Wood county; Gilbert, our subject; Theodore, residing in Toledo, Ohio; Marshall, in Bowling Green; Frank, in Ducat, Wood county (named in honor of this family); and Frederick and Victoria, who both died in infancy.

Gilbert Ducat, our subject, spent his early life chiefly in Wood county. The conditions of pioneer life were not favorable to education, and he received no schooling; but good natural abilities enabled him to overcome in a measure this lack of opportunity for learning. On November 25, 1865, he was married to Miss Amelia Ganger, a lady of French-Canadian descent, who was born March 31, 1844, in Michigan, the daughter of Lewis and Olive (Roe) Ganger. At the age of thirteen she came with her parents to Rudolph, Wood county, where her father still lives at the



*Geo. W. Wilkinson*



age of seventy-seven. Her mother, who was born in 1818, died in 1890. Mrs. Ducat was the second of their eleven children. The eldest, Victoria, now deceased, was the wife of Julius Ducat. The third, Harriet, is the wife of Paul Groneau; Mary married Victor Puye; Matilda married. Fred Crostalker, of Bowling Green; Ellen is the wife of Lewis Sanglier; George lives in North Baltimore, Wood county; Daniel, in Liberty township; Cyril, near Rudolph; and Napoleon; the youngest child died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Ducat settled upon a farm in Liberty township after their marriage, where four children were born to them, none of whom lived to maturity except the third, Napoleon, who was born August 21, 1868, and is now at home. The names of the others with the dates of birth and death are as follows: Henry, born January 30, 1867, died February 9, 1868; Louis Franklin, born November 6, 1873, died in May, 1875; Abraham, born in 1869, died in 1882. Fortunately for our subject his farm lies within the "oil belt," and some years ago four wells were sunk upon it from which he has since derived a good income. In 1889 he retired from active business and removed to Bowling Green. He and his wife are faithful members of the Roman Catholic Church, as all their ancestors have been, and their wealth enables them to take an active part in many worthy enterprises. In politics Mr. Ducat is a Democrat.

ABNER CUMMINGS (deceased) was a prominent and representative citizen of Wood county, highly esteemed by all who knew him. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, April 23, 1829, and acquired his education in the public schools of that city. He afterward removed to Tontogany, Ohio, where he learned the carpenter's trade, and later entered eighty acres of land from the government in Washington township, and bought an additional eighty acres. This he operated and improved for a time, and then sold eighty acres and purchased the Crum farm of eighty acres. On selling this property, he removed to Haskins, where he purchased a farm of similar size, which is now the abode of his widow.

In 1855 Mr. Cummings was united in marriage with Christina Cameron, who was born in Caledonia, N. Y., a daughter of James and Maria (Davis) Cameron, of Scotch and English descent. Our subject and his wife became the parents of six children: Helen, born June 29, 1858, now the wife of G. A. Repass; Lillie, born December 19, 1861, now the wife of Edward Centurg, a railroad man, Toledo, Ohio; Lucy, born April 9, 1864;

Annette, born August 28, 1866; Fred, born March 12, 1870, and in 1892 married Jennie Jenson, by whom he has two children, the eldest, Lenore, born April 30, 1893, and Delos Abner, born August 28, 1896; and Mary, who was born December, 1867, and died in 1869.

During the Civil war, Mr. Cummings enlisted in Company B, 144th O. V. I., under Capt. Black, and participated in a number of engagements. In politics he was a Republican, served as trustee and supervisor of Weston township, and for a number of years was school director at Tontogany. He was a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was superintendent of the Sunday-school, and his many excellent qualities gained him high regard. He died in 1878, respected by all who knew him. His widow still resides on the old homestead, and the family is one of prominence in the community. Mrs. Cummings is a member of the Methodist Church at Tontogany; her daughters are members of the Baptist Church, and their circle of friends is limited only by the circle of their acquaintances.

AMOS DEWESE, a well-known resident of Weston township, was born August 18, 1823, in Paris township, Stark county, Ohio. The first ancestor of the family of whom a record is given was Carl, the great-grandfather of our subject, who lived in Berks county, Penn., and was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. He had seven children—John, William, Elizabeth, Samuel, Powell, Thomas and David. His son Samuel became a captain in the Revolutionary army, and also served in the war of 1812, a biography of his life being published previous to his death.

Thomas Dewese, who was the grandfather of our subject, was born in Berks county, Penn., May 4, 1770. He was a school teacher in early life, and later became a farmer. He was married to Miss Catherine Bessey, who was born May 18, 1767, and they emigrated to Stark county, Ohio, in 1808; where they both died at advanced ages. Their children were as follows: (1) Lutice, was married July 7, 1808, to Jasper Daniels, who was a preacher in the Disciples Church. They emigrated to the West, and he died in Illinois; (2) Samuel, the father of our subject; (3) Elizabeth was married July 18, 1815, to John Wickerd (he died in Hancock county, Ohio, and she in Michigan); (4) Catherine became the wife of Thomas Ebe September 7, 1817, and both died in Wayne county, Ohio; (5) Sarah was married March 19, 1820, to Andrew Livingstone, and both died in Wayne county; (6) Martha W. married Christian Shiveley October 30, 1821, and both died in

Wayne county; (7) Uriah married Mary Snyder February 22, 1824, and died in Stark county; (8) Rebecca married Isaac Kelley August 23, 1827, and she was accidentally burned to death (her husband removed to the West); (9) Thomas was married October 6, 1830, to Sarah Watkins. Thomas Dewese and two other families were the first pioneers who settled in Paris township, Stark county, Ohio.

Samuel Dewese, father of our subject, was born in Bucks county, Penn., March 5, 1793, and emigrated with his father's family in 1808 to Stark county, Ohio. On May 13, 1814, at the age of twenty, Mr. Dewese enlisted at the village of Canton, under Capt. James Drennan, for the war of 1812, and served under Gen. Harrison until the expiration of his term of service. He was discharged at Detroit, Mich., May 14, 1814. When first enlisted he went to Cleveland, Ohio, and from there to Fort Stephenson, now Fremont, arriving there the day after the battle, when the fort was so gallantly and successfully defended by Major Croghan. From this place his regiment was sent to Fort Ball, and from there to the mouth of the Portage river; there the command took flat boats and crossed over the lake to Detroit. While at Detroit in the winter of 1814, Mr. Dewese was sent by order of Gen. Harrison as a scout to the Thames river. The mission was a difficult and dangerous one, but the young man accomplished his object. After his discharge Mr. Dewese returned home and labored on a farm. On May 16, 1815, he married Miss Sarah Boyer, who was born in Stark county February 19, 1798, and died August 6, 1824. They had six children, as follows: Margaret, born February 20, 1817, married Asa Hutchinson, and was the mother of thirteen children, and died in Wood county; Thomas, July 26, 1818, died in Canton, Ohio, July 20, 1892; Caroline, May 10, 1820, was postmistress in Fork Top, Mecosta county, Mich., and was the oldest incumbent of that office in the State, when she lost the position in 1894; Amy, December 26, 1821, married James Hutchinson, and died in Bowling Green March 14, 1891; Amos, the subject of this sketch; the sixth child died in infancy. Mr. Dewese was married, a second time, November 16, 1828, taking for his wife Miss Annie Switzer, of Stark county, who died after the birth of twelve children, and was buried at Weston, Ohio. The children of the second marriage are as follows: Jesse died in Wood county, and left a family; Dennis died when a boy; Franklin died in childhood; Mary Ann married John Wade, and died in Wood county; Noah died in childhood; Samuel

was a soldier in the Civil war, and resides in Michigan; Uriah, a farmer of Weston township, was also a soldier in the Civil war; Parmilla married W. Wade, and lives in Iowa; Gurselda is the wife of Charles Bassett, and lives in Weston; Chauncey died while a prisoner at Danville, Va., November 6, 1864, during the Civil war. The other two children died in infancy.

Amos Dewese, the subject of this sketch, received but meager school advantages before coming to Wood county, and of his first experiences in this wilderness let the following article, written by him, for the *Weston Herald*, and published in 1883, speak for itself:

DEWESE CORNERS, February 17, 1883.

"*Ed. Herald:* As this day is my fortieth anniversary in Wood county, I will, with your permission, give your many readers a brief sketch of my first year of pioneer life in the county. I came here February 17, 1843. The snow was eighteen inches deep when I started from Hancock county without one cent of money, but a few clothes, and a dry chunk of bread constituting my pack; my shoes out at the toes; and carrying a few books. In the evening I crossed the line and saw a hunter riding an old horse, to the tail of which was tied a large deer. I followed a trail and came to a Mr. Robbins', of Bloom township, where I stayed all night. Early next morning I started for Mr. Frankfanter's, at Bloom Centre, found my old friend Joseph Shelia, and made my home with him, and went to chopping to get me a pair of boots. Mr. S. and I rode through the woods to Ridsen and Rome (now Fostoria), for an axe. We found a few, but as they wouldn't trust either of us, we had to return without it. Then I went back to Hancock county, got my axe, and was rich. I took a job of a Mr. Buisey to chop seven acres, for which he gave me a rifle and some second-hand clothing. I finished the job on March 24, when the mercury was twenty degrees below zero, that winter being still known as the 'hard winter.'

"I began work for Mr. Solether April 1; snow and ice on the ground, and sleighing. He gave me a watch. While working there a Mr. Jonathan Stull came into the clearing. He had a bag on his shoulder with a peck of ears of corn that he had got from a Mr. Daniel Milbourn. Mr. Stull was much depressed and discouraged on account of the terrible hard winter. We talked of Adventism, as the Millerites said the end of the world was at hand. Mr. Stull said he prayed for it every day, as he had seen all the trouble he had wanted to see. He said he had

eight head of horses, and all had died; twenty-eight head of cattle and two hundred and sixty head of hogs, and all were dead. I had to pass Mr. Stull's cabin often. He told me that he had been married twelve years, and they had ten children, all of whom were almost nude. Not one had a full suit of clothes. They hadn't a bed nor a window in the house. He was the owner of a three-quarter section of good land. 'There,' said Mr. Stull, 'I have one peck of ears of corn in this sack, and when I take it home and grind it in the hand-mill, and mix it with water, bake and eat it with my wife and ten children, God knows where the next will come from. They must starve.' He wept like a child. [Mr. Stull was the founder of Jerry City.]

"During my stay with Mr. Buissey I had to go to and from Mr. Shelia's. I had to pass a number of cabins, forsaken and uninhabited. They looked gloomy enough, surrounded by ice and water and the dismal swamp. A number of wild hogs had taken possession of a new one which had belonged to a Mr. John Ford. They had piled in on top of each other, and there perished from cold and hunger. When out hunting for coons and minks, whenever we found hogs they were invariably dead. I next worked for Mr. Whitaker two weeks, and received \$3.25 in June. Then I went to Milton Center, and cleared five acres for James Hutchinson for a pair of two-year-old steers. In July I went to James Bloom's, worked for Bloom and Henderson Carothers, helped cut forty-five acres of wheat, and cut and haul a hundred tons of tame prairie hay, for which I received one pair of boots and fifty cents in money—a sum total in money for the year, \$3.75. In the beginning of the winter of the year 1843 I went to Ralph Keeler's to work for my board and go to school in the old log school-house in Weston. Mr. Keeler took sick, and as I had to take care of him and his stock, I lost the benefit of the school. I worked for him three months for twenty-five dollars, to take my pay out of the store.

"I will attempt to describe the old Taylor school house. It was located in the back part of the lot now owned by Mr. Henry, on Main street. It was true pioneer in style, with punch-eon floor, benches and desks made of the same. Round logs cut off, with ribs and weigh-poles to hold down the clapboards; windows, one row of glass, each eight by ten; writing desk, punch-eon laid on pins driven in the wall. The teacher, Mr. Jesse Osborne, of New York State, received twenty-five cents a day, or five dollars a month. The scholars were Miss Mary Taylor, George,

Lewis, Thomas and William Taylor; Samuel McAtee, who lived with Andrew Moorhouse; Olmsted, Amelia and Melicent Keeler. The teacher was paid by the parents, there being no school fund at that time. Mr. Taylor lost about forty-five head of cattle; Mr. Keeler seventy-five head, while the Sargents, Elsworth, Saulsbury and Green lost about the same proportion during that terrible winter, never to be forgotten by the old settlers. Many had to move out of the Black Swamp before spring. So ended my first year as a PIONEER."

The vicissitudes of Mr. Dewese's early life were relieved by the sports of the hour, and he often engaged in the hunt and the chase when heavy game was abundant in the Black Swamp. He was not content, however, and yearned to cast his fate with the possibilities of the "Far West." He had all the preparations made to take a Western trip, when his father came to Wood county, entered land, and prevailed upon our subject to do the same and remain with him. True to a strong impulse of family unity that has been handed down to the latest generation of the Dewese family, he allowed the parents' advice to prevail, and on March 1, 1851, he entered the land which forms a portion of his present magnificent estate. On this he built a log house and commenced to make general improvements, and for two years kept "bachelor's hall." On November 3, 1853, Mr. Dewese was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Green, who was born August 17, 1829, in Liverpool, England, and came to this country with her parents in 1834.

Of this marriage three sons were born, of whom the following record is given: (1) William, born March 21, 1856, was married January 25, 1887, to Miss Caroline Elizabeth Sautter, who was born in Huron county, August 17, 1866. They have two children, Donald R., born September 17, 1891; and Floyd M., born May 4, 1893. (2) George J., born April 30, 1858, was married November 29, 1881, to Miss Lucy Lee, whose birth took place January 7, 1864. They have one child, Sarah E., born January 20, 1887. When twenty-three years of age George J. entered the mercantile business in Weston under the firm name of Oswald & Dewese, they being the successors of A. J. Munn. Two years later he sold out his interest and went to farming, which he carried on until June, 1885, when he was appointed postal clerk, his run being between Toledo and Cincinnati. He held this position for about fifteen months when he returned to agricultural pursuits, in which he finds

this most congenial occupation, and now resides in a pleasant home on a portion of the Dewese estate, close to the suburbs of Weston. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at the latter place. (3) Amos R., the youngest son of our subject, was born August 24, 1865. He is unmarried, and assists his father in the management of his estate.

Of the many pioneer couples whose names link the present advanced state of affairs in Wood county with its most primitive conditions, none have taken a more active part in the progress made than Mr. and Mrs. Dewese, and but few have been spared to such a ripe and healthful old age as this worthy pair, who still retain all their faculties and evince that eager interest in passing events which they manifested in the vigor of life. The following account of their silver wedding is taken from a Toledo paper:

"At an early hour last evening, November 7, 1878, the many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Amos Dewese began to gather at their elegant residence, about two miles north of Weston, until about from seventy to ninety guests had assembled to participate in the festivities of the occasion, and to congratulate the happy couple upon the joyful return of the twenty-fifth anniversary of their wedding day. We must say that a more pleasant company it was never our good fortune to witness. Every one seemed to catch and imbibe some of the happiness of the bride and groom. As we wandered through the elegant home of our hosts, and noticed the gentlemanly deportment and manly bearing of their sons, and the marks of comfort and luxury on every hand, and thought that twenty-five years ago the then young bride and groom, in what was then almost a wilderness, with no other fortune than brave, honest and willing hands, with no other wealth but industry, integrity and economy, had grappled as pioneers with poverty and nature's unbroken soil, we could not refrain from admiring the work of a quarter of a century, and almost envied the wedded pair their joy as they looked back over the twenty-five years of their happy union. After an hour and a half spent in social greetings, friendly congratulations and kindly expressed wishes of future happiness for the bride and groom, the company assembled in the parlors, and the Rev. M. L. Donahey invoked upon the happy couple the blessing of God, and in a neat and appropriate speech, in behalf of the donors, presented to them the many beautiful gifts of their friends, to which Mr. Dewese, with his wife leaning upon his arm (with as much of happiness and less of doubt than twenty-five years before), re-

sponded with a grateful acknowledgement. After some good music and singing, the company gathered around the bountifully spread tables and partook of a repast, which they all seemed to enjoy. Then, after a little more chatting, a little more visiting, a little more singing, and (alas in some instances, we are informed) a little more flirting, the guests scattered to their respective homes, each one saying, 'What a pleasant time we have had;' 'How nicely everything passed off.'"

Honorable citizenship with financial independence has been the ambition of Mr. Dewese, and that this has been more than satisfied is easily learned in Wood county. There is no name in the county better known than his, nor is there a home more abundantly filled with the choicest products of the earth. The hospitality of the Dewese family is known far and near, and as agriculturists they are accepted authorities for miles around. Two of the sons live with their parents on the old homestead, which is a palatial residence erected in 1877. The harmony that exists in the family is remarkable; the interest of one is the interest of all, and although each of the sons has an individual property of his own, the main estate is held in common. The sons of Mr. Dewese received only a common-school education, as did their father, but the breadth and scope of their reading, and their original manner of thinking, make them among the best informed people of Wood county. As samples of physical manhood, these men have certainly no equal in any one family in the county, the father having the frame of a giant, and the smallest of the three sons weighing one hundred and ninety pounds.

Mr. Dewese was formerly a Republican, but he says he watched the evils of protection as they gradually gained a hold upon the country to the detriment of the agricultural masses, he asserted his right to think for himself, disavowed allegiance to the Republican party, and became a Democrat. Party organizations have tried to whip him back into the Republican ranks, but in vain, as he is firm in his belief that he is on the right side of the question.

B. L. PETERS, a prominent pioneer of North Baltimore, and an active business man and property owner, was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, July 13, 1830, and was the son of Abraham and Edith (Runyan) Peters.

Abraham Peters, the great-grandfather, came with his wife from Germany in Colonial days, and located in Rockingham county, Va., where he took up 900 acres of land under what was



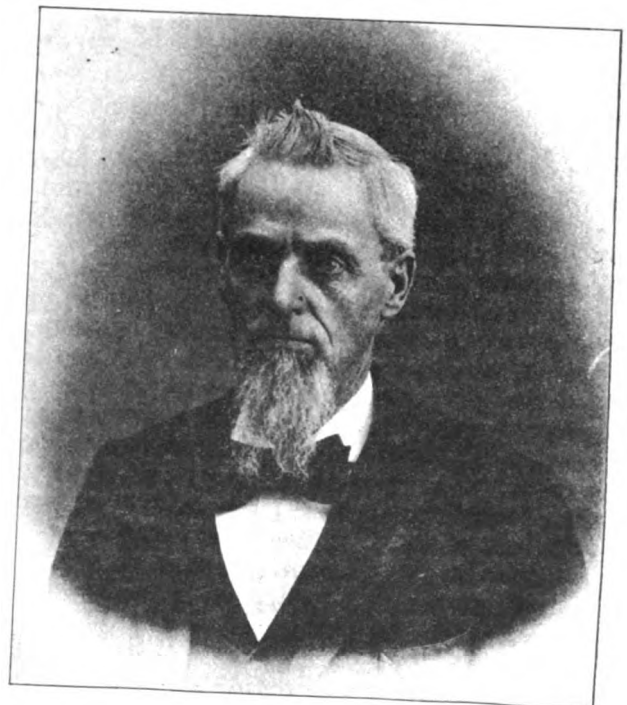
*D. C. Peters*



*Tillie Peters*



*Hammy Peters*



*B. L. Peters*





known in the English law as "Tomahawk Right." The land followed up the narrow strip along one stream a great distance, and down another. The old people died there, and the estate passed into the hands of our subject's great uncle. The grandfather, also named Abraham, was raised in Rockingham county, Va., where he married a Miss Catherine Zircle, and, after remaining in Virginia for a while, they came to Guernsey county, Ohio. They had the following children: Abraham, Isaac, Solomon, Reuben and Daniel. They all settled in Guernsey county before Ohio became a State, and the old people died there.

Abraham Peters, father of our subject, grew to manhood in Guernsey county, and after his marriage remained there until 1834, when he moved to Richland county, bought a farm, and lived there until the fall of 1847, at which time he came to Henry township, Wood county. He bought land one mile and a half north of what is now North Baltimore, made his home and reared his family there. He died in February, 1879. His wife was born in Berks county, Penn., September 8, 1808, and died in Henry township February 1, 1895. They were the parents of nine children, as follows: B. L., our subject; William; Sarah, who married D. Hough, and died in Michigan; Mary E., deceased; John C., who lives in Henry township; Angeline, married to Jacob Ackerman; Franklin living in Henry township; Edith A. and Emily J., twins (Edith married Joseph Grove, and they live in Michigan; Emily is unmarried).

John Brown, the maternal grandfather, was born in New Jersey, of English parents, and was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. All of our subject's ancestors were longlived. His grandmother was 112 years old at the time of her death, and his paternal grandfather was 103.

B. L. Peters was about eighteen years old when he came to Wood county. He attended school until sufficiently qualified to obtain a teacher's certificate, which he secured, and then began teaching. Most of his learning was obtained at home by diligent study, which he carried on at night with the aid of a blazing log and hickory bark, in an old-fashioned fireplace; but he was ambitious to learn, and succeeded, even under all the existing difficulties. He had a special talent for mathematics. For about seven years he alternated between teaching and working on a farm, in the meantime being married March 24, 1853, to Miss Fanny Ackerman. Their children were as follows: William L., deceased when two and one half years old; David

E., whose sketch appears elsewhere; Sarah C., who married Joel Rogers, by whom she had two children—Arthur and Louis (after her husband's death she married J. B. Todd, of Bowling Green, and two children were born to them—Lee and Fanny); Bassett H., a merchant in North Baltimore, who married Florence McLaren, daughter of Dr. McLaren; Fannie J., who died when eight years old; Lydia, now the wife of J. C. Solether, one of the county school examiners, and superintendent of Jerry City High School; Hallie; Loren; Pliny; Harry; and McClellan, who is employed in a store in North Baltimore (he married Miss Ollie Genter, and they have two children—Don and Lenora).

Mr. Peters settled on a farm in Henry township until the fall of 1873, when he assisted in laying out the town of North Baltimore. He started the first store, and owned and edited the first newspaper in the place, the *North Baltimore Enterprise*, which he subsequently moved to Bowling Green, where it is known as the *Bowling Green Democrat*. After disposing of the paper, Mr. Peters devoted his time to the development of North Baltimore. His work in that direction was most important, and it is largely due to his efforts that the town is in its present flourishing and prosperous condition. He owned a great part of the land on which the town is now situated, helped to organize the First National Bank, was interested in the first sawmill, owned the first store, was the first agent on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, and was a heavy dealer in grain; he is now engaged in the real-estate and insurance business. He upholds the principles of the Democratic party; is a member of the United Brethren Church, and is strictly temperate in his habits, although he never took the pledge. For thirty years he has been a notary public and justice of the peace. Mr. Peters' importance to North Baltimore cannot be estimated, and he is justly considered the pioneer father of the town. He has served as mayor of the city four years, and has held one or another of the township offices of trust ever since he was twenty-three years old.

Mrs. Fanny (Ackerman) Peters was born October 7, 1832, in Lancaster county, Penn., near Harrisburg, the eldest daughter of David and Catherine Ackerman, who moved to Wood county, Ohio, in May, 1838, settling on wild land. Here Mr. Ackerman cleared up a new farm, and became one of the most prominent men in the community. He served as township trustee for many years, and held other offices of trust. His wife was one of the most industrious and perse-

vering of women, ever ready to give a helping hand in time of need or sickness, and her daughter Fanny seems to have inherited her mother's good qualities. While quite young she was beloved and respected by all who made her acquaintance. In 1859, she and her husband identified themselves with the United Brethren Church, and she has been a prominent member of that society ever since. Having purchased a portion of the old homestead, on which oil was afterward discovered, she has become worth several thousand dollars in her own right. She is one of the pioneer women of Wood county, and has done much to make North Baltimore the prosperous town it is. Always cheerful and contented, not easily discouraged, ever ready to assist the poor and needy, Mrs. Fanny Peters is held in great respect by those who know her best.

D. E. PETERS, assistant cashier and director of the First National Bank of North Baltimore, was born in Henry township, Wood county, October 16, 1855.

Our subject's early years were spent on a farm, and in attending the public schools. He then worked in his father's store, and, when the newspaper then known as the North Baltimore *Enterprise* (now the Wood County *Democrat* at Bowling Green) was organized, without previous experience or preparation, demonstrated his natural abilities in that line by taking charge of it. The paper, which was a thoroughly popular Democratic weekly, was moved to Bowling Green, our subject retaining the management of it, and remaining with it until it was sold, when he returned to North Baltimore. He soon afterward formed a partnership with Jeff. Richcreek as retail carriage dealers, and after continuing in this business two years closed out and clerked for one year in a dry-goods store in North Baltimore. In 1885 Mr. Peters moved to Charlotte, Mich., and engaged in the wholesale and retail grocery business. Two years later he returned to North Baltimore, and entered the insurance business with his father, continuing in that until the opening of the First National Bank, of which he became one of the stockholders and accepted the position of assistant cashier. He is still identified with his father in the insurance business, and is also secretary of the Home Savings & Loan Association. He is a stanch believer in the principles of the Democratic party. Socially he is a member of the Knights of Pythias.

Mr. Peters was married, November 13, 1876, to Miss Tillie Crosser, who was born in Henry township, March 6, 1857, and received her edu-

cation in the public schools of Denver, Wood county. Two children have been born to this union, Pearl and Deloy. Mrs. Peters is a daughter of Daniel and Nancy (Archer) Crosser, both of whom were born in Richland county, Ohio, the former in 1806, the latter in 1816; the father died in 1871 in Wood county, the mother in 1890. They are buried in the "Ten-Mile cemetery." They became the parents of eleven children, nine of whom are living. They were pioneers of Henry township, Wood county, and entered their land from the government. Mr. Crosser was a great hunter.

C. G. McCAULEY, proprietor of the marble works at Bowling Green, and a prosperous business man of that city, was born in Stark county, Ohio, May 24, 1854. He is a son of Joseph and Ruth (Reed) McCauley. Joseph McCauley was born of Irish parents, in Chester county, Penn., August 8, 1820. He was married, in 1844, in Salem, Columbiana Co., Ohio, removing to Lima, Ohio, where he died. His wife, Ruth Reed, was born in Salem, in 1824, and is now residing in Lima.

The subject of this sketch obtained his education in the public schools, and when thirteen years old began learning the trade of a marble cutter, in which he served an apprenticeship of five years. He worked for a time at his trade at Lima, and at Fort Wayne, Ind., where for two years he was also employed as fireman of an engine on the C. H. & D. railway. He then became a commercial traveler for J. D. Halter, of Lima, Ohio, selling monuments, etc., which occupation he followed for two years. In 1877 he located permanently in Bowling Green, and on April 15 of that year established his present business, in which he has been successfully engaged ever since.

Mr. McCauley possesses the advantage of a thorough acquaintance in all the details of his business, being not only a stonecutter and marble finisher of the highest order, but also a firstclass salesman, and it is due to his ability in this direction, as much as anything else, that his trade has grown so rapidly and has spread over such a large extent of country, his goods being placed on the market not only in Ohio but in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Indiana as well. He is a man of untiring energy and industry, and has an enviable reputation among the business men for square dealing and honest methods.

Mr. McCauley was married June 4, 1879, to Miss Florence E. Reid, who was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, January 10, 1856, her parents

being Thomas C. and Margaret M. Reid, who removed to Wood county, Ohio, in 1866. Five children have blessed this union, namely: Ina, Arthur (died October 10, 1885), Florence, Reid, and Floyd. Our subject is a Republican, and while not a politician in the ordinary sense of the word, takes an interest, as every good citizen should do, in affairs relating to his own county and State. Socially he belongs to Centennial Lodge, No. 626, I. O. O. F.; Canton Alpine, No. 26, I. O. O. F., at Bowling Green, Ohio., and Lodge No. 53, of the Elks, at Toledo. He holds a high place in the regard of his fellow men, and is one of the worthy citizens of Wood county.

S. S. HOPKINS. Among the substantial and prosperous citizens of Bowling Green, must be classed the man whose name opens this sketch, and who commands the respect of the community as a man of enterprise, and also as a brave soldier of the Civil war. He was born in Huron county, Ohio, February 23, 1839, and is the son of George and Hannah (Smith) Hopkins. The Hopkins family is of Irish and Welsh ancestry. Moses Hopkins, father of George Hopkins, and grandfather of our subject, died in Erie county, Ohio.

The father of our subject was born in Genesee county, N. Y., in 1802, and came to Erie county, Ohio, in 1823, walking all the way. At that time there was only one house where the city of Cleveland now stands, and everything was in the most primitive condition. Mr. Hopkins was a wagon maker by trade, and he was offered every inducement to remain there, but he was bound for the then "Emporium of the West," Milan, Erie county, and would not be persuaded to stop short of his destination. He remained at Milan until 1844, when he went to DeKalb county, Ind., and seven years later returned to Ohio. In 1824 he crossed Lake Erie on the first and only steamer plying on that lake, and was in Detroit, Mich., when its population numbered only two hundred souls. He died in 1864. His wife died at Napoleon, Henry county, when ninety years of age.

Of the nine children born to George Hopkins and his wife, eight grew to maturity, as follows: Mary Ann, wife of L. Weaver, of Napoleon, Henry county; Smith, who died in Henry county, Ohio; Charles B. lives in Illinois. He is an architect and was superintendent of the construction of the State building in Tokeka, Kans. (during the war he served in a mechanics' regiment, building bridges, pontoons, etc.); Harriet became the wife of L. Smith, and died in 1874 in Iowa;

Carolina married Milton Stout, of Henry county; Homer P. lives in South Bend, Ind. (he served in the army of the Potomac from its organization until Grant captured Richmond); George resides in Cincinnati, Ohio (he enlisted when but fifteen years old, and served through the entire war, going with Sherman to the sea); S. S. is subject of this sketch.

S. S. Hopkins spent his younger days in Henry county, where he attended school and learned the trade of a blacksmith. He was married August 20, 1863, in Henry county, to Miss Mary E. Reynolds, who also was born in Baltimore, January 18, 1845, and four children have blessed their union: John G., born September 15, 1864, married Miss Flora Van Tassel; Laura is the wife of A. Peters, of Bowling Green; Edward, born November 25, 1868, married Nettie Phenix, and they have one child, Fern; Mina May, born August 4, 1870, is the wife of Oliver Shearer, of Plain township.

Mr. Hopkins began his married life in Henry county, and followed his trade in the town of Florida, until 1865, when he removed to Napoleon, where he remained for ten years, and in 1875 returned to Florida. From the latter date until 1884, he lived successively in Defiance, Napoleon, and Toledo, coming to Bowling Green in the latter year. Since making his home in Bowling Green Mr. Hopkins and his sons have carried on a large business, doing not only horse-shoeing but carriage work and painting. He is an energetic, active man, remarkable for his youthful appearance, and is to-day seemingly not over forty years of age. He is a consistent member of the Presbyterian Church, and is prominent in the I. O. O. F., in which he is a past grand, and at present is past chief patriarch in the order at Bowling Green. When the Civil war broke out, Mr. Hopkins was the first man to enlist from Erie county, Ohio, going out with Company D, 8th O. V. I., for three months. At the expiration of his term of enlistment, he returned home to care for his aged parents, who had been left alone by the enlistments of the other three boys.

PERRY G. EMMETT, one of the oldest and most respected of Wood county's agriculturists, now residing near Fenton, Webster township, is a native of Lincolnshire, England, born April 26, 1820. It is supposed that the family are descended from the famous Irish patriot, Robert Emmett.

His father, John V. Emmett, a sailor by occupation, married Miss Martha Banks, of Cranuel, England, and reared to adult age a family of

seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the eldest. The others are—Thomas; Charles; Martha, the wife of Thos. Yarwood, of England; Elizabeth, wife of Charles Roper, of Fenton, Ohio; Ann, the wife of G. Graves, of Paulding county; and George, a resident of Buffalo, N. Y. Four other children died in early infancy. The later years of Mr. Emmett's parents were passed upon a farm in England, his father leaving the sea for agricultural pursuits some years before his marriage.

Mr. Emmett received a limited education in his native country, and was sent out to work at an early age, tending sheep for his board and clothes. At twelve he began working on a farm at one shilling a week, and continued farm labor until the age of twenty-one, when he secured employment on public works. As soon as he had saved enough money, he came to America, landing at Quebec, in 1844. After remaining in America about six months, he returned to England, and remained there five years, returning to this country in July, 1849, landing at New York, thence going to Chicago, where he engaged in brick making. In 1850 he bought eighty acres of land in Huron county, which he cultivated for a short time, and then sold, moving to Erie county, remaining until 1858 when he came to Wood county. His first purchase was a tract of forty acres; but his thrift and enterprise have enabled him to add to it until he now has one hundred acres under cultivation. His attention is given chiefly to stock and grain raising, and he was the first to introduce Lincolnshire sheep into this county.

On October 26, 1851, Mr. Emmett, married Miss Emily Hunt, a native of Franklin county, N. Y., born April 28, 1830, the daughter of John and Nancy (Lloyd) Hunt. Six children were born of this marriage: Martha, the wife of Isaac Dent; Perry, born June 19, 1854; Isaac, born April 26, 1856; Mary E., the wife of Henry Williamson; George W., who manages the old homestead, and Elizabeth, who died in infancy. Mr. Emmett has always taken an active interest in public movements, and in politics he is an independent voter.

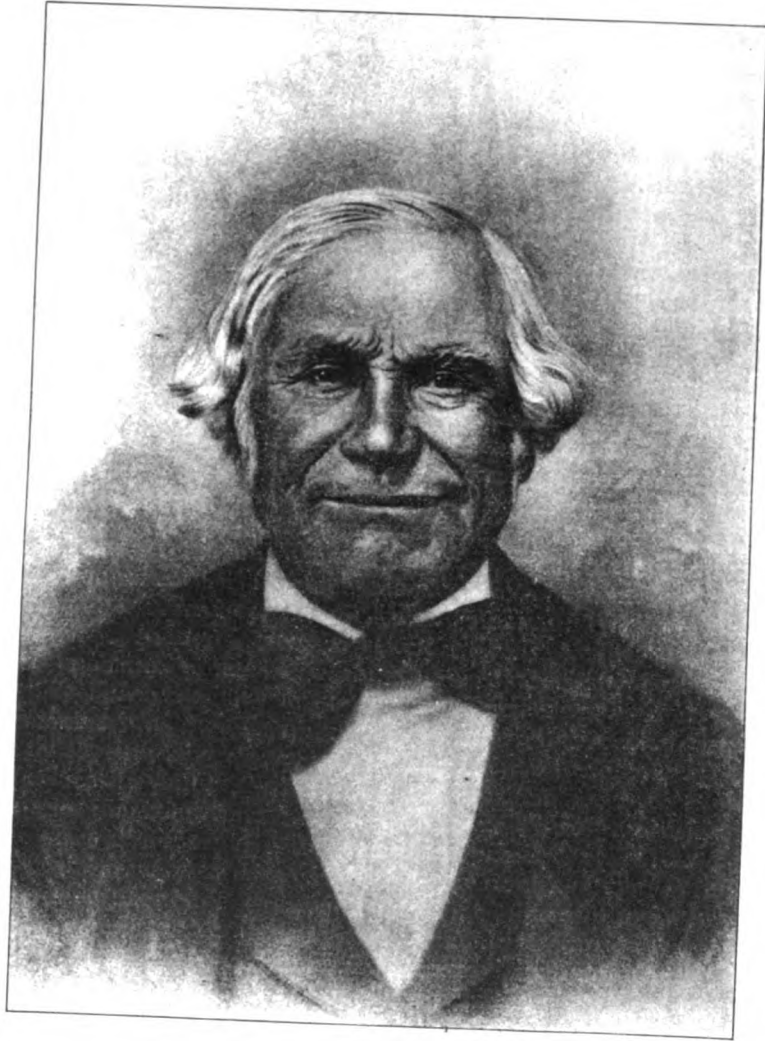
George W. Emmett, our subject's youngest son, was born in Webster township, Wood county, September 10, 1871. He was educated in the schools near his home, and has always been his father's assistant, in later years relieving him entirely of the work of the farm. Industrious, sober, and clever, he is a worthy descendant of this honored family, and his genial manners make him popular wherever he is known.

On July 26, 1894, he married Miss Ruby Coger, who was born in Elmore, Ohio, February 4, 1877, the daughter of Orlando and Katie (Boland) Coger, prominent residents of Troy township.

**SOLOMON KUDER**, deceased. The subject of this sketch, one of the honored pioneers of Wood county, and for many years a farmer near Tontogany, was born near Lancaster, Penn., September 4, 1790. In early manhood he entered the service of his country as a soldier of the war of 1812, and served one year.

He was married December 22, 1816, at Circleville, Ohio, to Miss Catherine Row, who was born near Philadelphia, Penn., April 7, 1800. Her parents came to Ohio across the mountains in a wagon. In 1821 Mr. Kuder moved to Tiffin, where he engaged in milling, and in 1836 he came to Wood county and entered a tract of 1,100 acres of land at the government price, with a view to stock-raising; but his cattle being afflicted with murrain, he abandoned that enterprise and engaged in agriculture. He was prominent among the early settlers, having resided near Tontogany about thirty-seven years, and previous to the Civil war was a member of the Whig party, later becoming a Republican. His wife died June 15, 1870, and on Friday, August 15, 1873, at 2 P. M., Mr. Kuder passed to his long rest, aged eighty-two years, eleven months and eleven days, after many months of suffering.

Fifteen children were born to this union, of whom only three are now living. The names, with dates of birth, and of death of those deceased, are as follows: John, October 3, 1817, died September 3, 1818; Elizabeth, March 25, 1819, died September 25, 1819; Malinda, October 13, 1820, died August 2, 1888 (she was formerly the wife of Alexander Alcorn); Nelson, August 21, 1822, died April 30, 1888 (he was a farmer); Catherine, August 8, 1824, was the wife of Judge Tuller, of Tontogany, and died in 1870; Margaret Ann, July 17, 1826, is the widow of John McColley, of Tontogany; Josiah Hedges, July 16, 1826, died July 6, 1882 (he was a farmer here); Mary Jane, April 30, 1830, died September 13, 1850; Eliza, December 25, 1831, married Barnard Phillip, of Washington township; Wellington, November 18, 1833, died April 7, 1841, having met his death by accident; Sarah M., February 2, 1836, died March 9, 1890 (she had been a teacher in early life); Martha Hortensia, October 13, 1837, never married, but with her sister Sarah remained at home and was the mainstay of her parents, caring for



*Solomon Fuder*



them tenderly in their declining years; Victoria Virginia, June 12, 1839, died January 14, 1882 (she married E. B. Beverstock); Harrison, November 14, 1840, died November 13, 1854; and Caroline, born September 16, 1842, married E. Ketcham, and died December 10, 1869.

Mr. Kuder divided his choice lands among his children as they reached maturity, and he and his wife had the satisfaction of seeing them settled near them, and of receiving in old age their affectionate care. He was a pensioner of the war of 1812, and received also a land warrant for his services at that trying period. Miss Martha Kuder has in her possession, among other valuable relics, her father's pension papers, and a deed made to him which was signed by the hand of Andrew Jackson.

A. L. MUIR, president of the Wood County Tribune Company, and editor of both the daily and weekly editions of the *Tribune*, was born in Webster township, Wood Co., Ohio, January 5, 1857. Thoroughly identified with the best interests of his native county, he takes a conspicuous part in public affairs, and it is to his competent editorial management, that the growing popularity of the *Tribune*, with the reading public, is due.

John Muir, grandfather of our subject, was born in Scotland, and came to America in 1832, locating at Perrysburg, Wood county, and moved to Webster township, where he built the first Presbyterian church out of logs. Notwithstanding the hard work and privations of pioneer life, he lived to the ripe old age of ninety-six. His wife, in her maidenhood was Mary Prentiss. John Muir, Jr., our subject's father, was born on a farm near Aberdeen, Scotland, in 1824, and was eight years old when his parents established their home in this county. He received no regular schooling in his boyhood, and was engaged in agricultural pursuits from early years. During the Civil war he served for three years and three months in Company L, 3rd O. V. C., under Gen. Kilpatrick, army of the Tennessee, holding rank as corporal and sergeant. He is one of four living children out of a family of seven, all of whom lived to the age of forty and over. He is an ardent Republican, and has taken an active part in local affairs, serving for some time as director of the County Infirmary. He married Miss Catharine C. Pember, a member of the old pioneer family for whom Pemberville was named. Her father, Carlisle Pember, was a native of Pennsylvania, and came in 1832 to Wood county, where he located on the "Dutch Fields" at the

forks of the Portage river, now Pemberville, and erected sawmills and gristmills. He married Elizabeth Radabaugh, and reared a family of four children. Our subject's parents have been for many years leading members of the U. B. Church at Pemberville, where they still reside. Seven children were born to them: Elizabeth, the wife of James H. Muir, of Pemberville; John, a guard in the penitentiary at Columbus; Robert, a collector at Toledo; Mary, the wife of Frank Cook, of Chicago, Ill.; A. L., our subject; Charles, a farmer in Webster township, and James P., the assistant superintendent of schools of Pemberville.

Our subject acquired a good education in early life in the Maumee Seminary, and the academy at Fostoria, which he has supplemented by continuous reading and observation. He followed teaching as a profession for thirteen years, and in 1887 was elected clerk of the county courts, being at the time the youngest official ever elected in Wood county. He filled this position for six years and six months, to the complete satisfaction of the public, and on his retirement in 1894 he bought an interest in the *Tribune*, where his abilities and knowledge find a constantly widening field of usefulness. He was married, in 1889, to Miss Addie Thurstin, who was born near Bowling Green, April 12, 1869. They have had two children: Ruth and Wallace. Politically Mr. Muir is a Republican, and he is prominent in the various fraternal societies, the K. of P., I. O. O. F., and is a Master Mason in Wood County Lodge.

N. R. HARRINGTON, a prominent attorney, of Bowling Green, was born August 27, 1860, in Pickaway county, Ohio, of English descent. His grandfather, William Harrington, was one of the early settlers of Trumbull county, coming from Vermont, and locating there in 1819. He died at the age of ninety-one.

W. A. Harrington, our subject's father, was born in Trumbull county, in 1829, and died there June 5, 1893. From 1858 to 1880 he followed farming in Pickaway and Madison counties, but he returned to his native place to spend the remainder of his days. He was a justice of the peace in Trumbull county for many years, and took an influential part in the local work of the Republican party. He married Miss Helen M. Ross, who was born in New Hampshire in 1835, and died in 1883. They were both active members of the Presbyterian Church, and leading spirits in the various progressive movements in their society. They had four children, our subject be-



ing the eldest; two died in infancy, and the other, Minnie M., is now the wife of Orlo Woodruff, of Rock Creek, Ohio.

Our subject received excellent instruction during his boyhood in the public schools of Warren, Ohio, and started in business life as the book-keeper for the Lima Paper Mills, of Lima, Ohio, and later was made secretary and superintendent of the works. He resigned in 1884 to study law, in the office of his uncle, C. A. Harrington, of Warren, a partner of William T. Spear, now justice of the supreme court of this State. While reading law he served as deputy clerk of court, for some time. He was admitted to the bar in March, 1887, at Columbus, and in the following May began the practice of his profession in Bowling Green. In 1888 he formed a partnership with Robert Dunn, in law and abstracting, which continued until 1890, when he went into business with his present partner, Frank Baldwin. In 1888 he was elected city solicitor on the Republican ticket, and made a fine record; but since the expiry of his term he has devoted himself to private practice, in which his marked abilities have already won him a high reputation. Mr. Harrington was married January 1, 1887, to Miss Laura Belle Case, of Trumbull county, and has three children: Edward A., Helen M. and Frank A.

REV. ANDREW HAYS, one of the most widely and favorably known citizens of Wood county, has for over half a century been engaged in the work of the ministry. He was born in Hanover township, Beaver Co., Penn., May 6, 1818, and is a son of Henry and Hettie (Marshall) Hays, the former a native of Maryland, and the latter of Hancock county, W. Va. They were the parents of seven children—Louisa, who became the wife of John Wade, died in Richland county, Ohio, and was buried at Plymouth; Marshall, a tailor, of Fostoria, Ohio, died in 1890; James, who also died in Fostoria, was for forty-nine years a successful school teacher; Andrew is the next in order of birth; David is a wealthy citizen of Fostoria; Thomas, who died in that city, was the proprietor of the "Hays House;" and Sarah A. died while young. The mother of this family died in Pennsylvania, and in Beaver county, that State, the father wedded Jane McCormick, by whom he had a son—John, who passed away in Charlotte, Mich., after reaching manhood.

Henry Hays owned a good farm in Beaver county, Penn., where he was regarded as one of the substantial farmers of that section; but in the spring of 1834, resolved to come to Wood county, where with his family he arrived on May

1, making the journey in a covered wagon, where the boys slept at night. While *en route* the family stopped in Richland county, Ohio, with a married daughter, Mrs. John Wade, and the father came on to enter his land. He secured 240 acres in Sections 20 and 29, Perry township, and then returned for his family. Nature was still undisturbed in this locality, and they had to cut their way through the dense timber to their home, where Mr. Hays died April 10, 1837, and was buried near Olive Branch church, in Hancock county. The funeral sermon, which was delivered by Wesley J. Brock, was among the first preached in the neighborhood. After it was over the minister offered to conduct services every two weeks if a place could be secured, and Mrs. John Chilcote offered her cabin home for the purpose. From that humble beginning sprang the beautiful edifice of Union Church, in Perry township. The father had served in the war of 1812, was a member of the convention held in Perry Center that organized Perry township in 1835, and was a Democrat in politics. He belonged to the Presbyterian Church, as did also Andrew's mother.

Andrew Hays was sixteen when he came to Wood county, and his primary education was secured in the district schools of his native county. When he left Pennsylvania he was but an ordinary scholar, but, as work was quite plentiful in those pioneer days, he did not continue his literary studies for three or four years. After his conversion at the age of nineteen years, he began reading some, and his first instruction here was in the South Ridge school. Later he attended a more advanced school taught by Lemuel L. Gorsuch, and for one year was a student in the seminary at Norwalk, Ohio, which was among the first Methodist schools in the State. While there he was licensed as an exhorter, and in the winter of 1844-45 was licensed to preach, since which time he has been a local minister, the year 1895 ending his fifty-third year as an expounder of the Gospel.

At Fostoria, Ohio, October 24, 1844, Mr. Hays was united in marriage with Miss Caroline Thomas, who was born in Chartiers township, Washington Co., Penn., August 23, 1823, and was a daughter of Joseph Thomas, a pioneer of Hancock county. Four children blessed this union: Edwin R. and Lorin N. were both attorneys of Knoxville, Marion Co., Iowa, where Edwin died February 26, 1896; Celestia died at the age of twenty-three years; and Emma B. is the wife of Edward Myers, of Tennessee. The mother of these children departed this life Sep-

tember 28, 1872, and was buried in Fostoria. In that city, on October 17, 1873, Mr. Hays wedded Mrs. Jane Thomas, widow of Cyrus Thomas, who was killed during the Civil war. She was born January 8, 1843, and bore the maiden name of Jane York, daughter of Cyrus York, who was a native of Hardin county, Ky. By his second marriage Mr. Hays has a son, Norman M., born May 28, 1877.

Our subject went to housekeeping in a small log cabin on his farm, but it was a happy home, where good cheer always abounded, as it does in the more comfortable home of his later years. For many terms he taught school, receiving fifteen dollars per month, and as low as twelve dollars, barely enough to supply the common necessities of life. However, he now has a good farm of 117 acres. During the war he supplied pulpits for miles around, has probably married more couples than any other minister in Wood county, and has officiated at over 1,000 funerals. He is well preserved for one of his years, both mentally and physically, has a very wide acquaintance throughout this territory, and is held in the highest regard by all who know him. His first Presidential vote was cast for William Henry Harrison, the Whig candidate. Being an Abolitionist from principle, he joined the Republican party on its organization, and now on account of his views on the temperance question he is a staunch Prohibitionist, believing it his Christian duty to do all in his power against the liquor traffic. He made the first Prohibition speech in Perry township, and probably in Wood county, and for three or four years cast the only Prohibition vote in Perry township.

ADELBERT D. TULLER is one of the leading agriculturists of Center township. His farm, with its tasteful and substantial buildings, its neat fences and general air of thrift and comfort, forms one of the most attractive spots in the landscape of the township. As a citizen and business man, our subject stands high in the estimation of his neighbors. In the various enterprises inaugurated for the advancement of the community, he has been a cheerful and ready assistant, and takes a lively interest in the progress of the people around him.

Mr. Tuller was born in Liberty township, Delaware Co., Ohio, September 26, 1839, and is a son of Alvin and Elvira (Maynard) Tuller, and brother of Dr. W. M. Tuller, of Bowling Green. His early life was spent after the manner of most farmers' sons, his education being carried on in the district schools during the winter, while in

the summer he aided in the work of the fields. He remained with his father until 1864, when he enlisted in Company D, 20th O. V. I., at Delaware. From there the troops proceeded to Camp Chase, then to the Mississippi and Black river. For a time they were stationed at Cairo, Ill., and participated in the Atlanta campaign. Mr. Tuller was in all the engagements in which his company took part, and at the close of his service was honorably discharged at Louisville, Kentucky.

On returning to Ohio, our subject worked on the old homestead in Delaware for a time, and then removed to Licking county with his parents, where he operated eighty acres of land. He next went to Franklin county, where he farmed 110 acres for fourteen years, at the expiration of which time he came to Wood county, locating in Center township. In connection with the cultivation of the eighty-acre farm belonging to his brother, the Doctor, he also owns eighty acres, which was entirely unimproved at the time of his purchase.

In Delaware county, Ohio, in October, 1867, Mr. Tuller was united in marriage with Martha E. Smith, who was there born on March 27, 1845. She was called to her final reward December 17, 1869, and Mr. Tuller was subsequently wedded to Elizabeth A. Shanholts, of Licking county, born in 1849. Five children graced the second union, namely: LeOda, born April 26, 1872; LeElda, who was born November 12, 1874, and is the wife of Azro Perrin; Linden, born March 23, 1876; Olland, born February 12, 1878; and Worthy R., who died in infancy. The mother of these children died August 10, 1891, leaving many friends to mourn her loss. In politics Mr. Tuller is identified with the Republican party, being a strong believer in its principles. He is numbered among the honest, industrious and enterprising citizens of the township, and is respected throughout the community for his sterling worth and unbounded liberality.

RUFUS B. MOORE, attorney at law, formerly the junior member of the well-known firm of Parker & Moore, Bowling Green, was born March 30, 1860, in Hancock county, Ohio, and is a son of Levi and Margaret (Line) Moore. His father was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1824, and his mother in the same county in 1826. They were married December 1, 1844, and celebrated their golden wedding in 1894, on their farm in Wood county. Mr. Moore, Sr., was reared upon a farm in the north part of Fairfield

county, and received his education in the academy at Lythopolis, teaching for one year before his marriage, and for the same length of time afterward. He then entered the ministry of the United Brethren Church, becoming an itinerant, and was presiding elder of Sandusky Conference for a number of years. He was also for a time financial agent of Otterbein University, at Westerville, Ohio. In pursuit of his calling he made his home at various places, among them being Fostoria, Galion, Green Springs, Westerville, Elmore, and Bowling Green, retiring from active work about two years ago.

Five children were born to the parents of our subject: Melissa, who married A. H. Berry, and died at Galion in 1880; Alida, who is at home with her parents; Flora E., who is a graduate of Otterbein University, married the Rev. P. B. Lee, and lives at White Cloud, Kans.; Rufus B.; and Cara A., who after teaching in the high schools of Hicksville and Fostoria, is now a stenographer in her brother's law office.

The subject of this sketch was graduated from the high school at Galion, Ohio, in 1878, with the highest honors of his class, and also with the same grade from Otterbein University, in 1883, where he took a full classical course. His father being in moderate circumstances, Mr. Moore paid nearly all his school expenses by teaching during the vacations, and during part of the school terms. After finishing his college course, he taught for one year in the grammar school at Bowling Green, then going to Cowley county, Kans., where he was superintendent of schools and high-school teacher at Burden for two years. During the summer vacation of 1885, he went out on the western prairies about fifty miles from any railroad, and into a new country, built himself a sod house, and took up a claim of 160 acres from the government, which he duly proved up, and for which he received a deed. In 1886 he returned to Bowling Green and studied law with R. S. Parker, being admitted to the bar in June, 1888, and immediately after formed a partnership with that gentleman under the firm name of Parker & Moore. This partnership was continued until January 1, 1895, when Mr. Moore opened an office, and has since been doing business for himself. In the spring of 1887 he was elected township clerk, and has been re-elected at the end of each term ever since. In the spring of 1892 he was elected city solicitor of Bowling Green, and is now serving his third term in that office, having been re-elected in 1894 and 1896. He is a young man of more than ordinary intelligence and business ability,

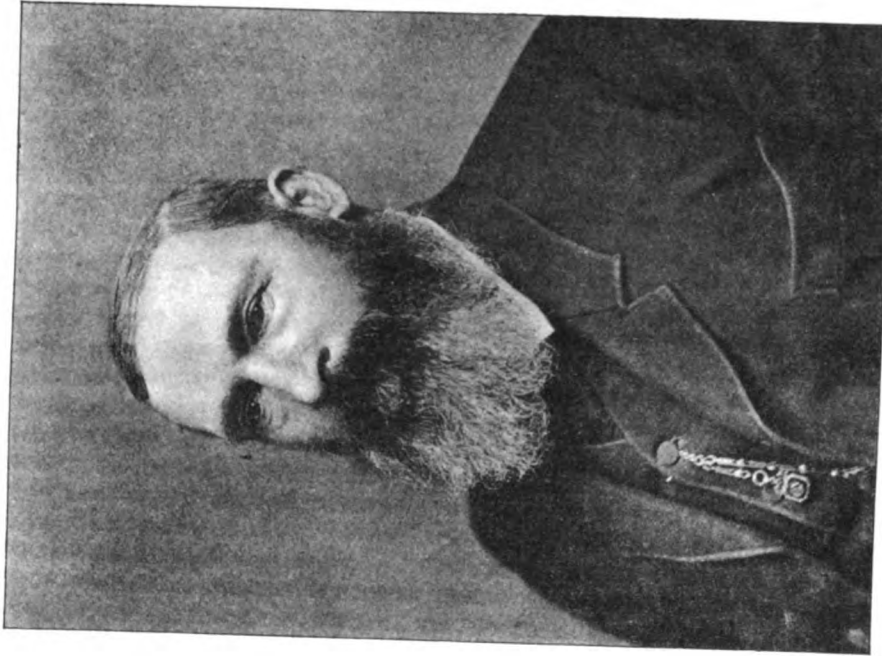
and in the important positions he has held has gained the confidence and esteem of the entire community. He is popular with all classes of society, and has a brilliant future before him.

Mr. Moore was married January 1, 1889, to Miss May Rudolph, youngest daughter of J. R. and Mary Rudolph, who was born in Wood county, May 5, 1864, and died February 19, 1896. They have three children: Murton R., Donald R., and Harold B. In politics Mr. Moore is a Republican, and fraternally belongs to the K. of P. and I. O. O. F. He is a member of the United Brethren Church of Bowling Green, and does his share in supporting all public and philanthropic enterprises.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, Levi Moore, was born near Hagerstown, Md., in 1779, and came to Ohio in 1799. He married Miss Sarah Bright, and his sister Debbie became the wife of Major Bright, whose descendants are numerous in Hancock county. Levi Moore settled near the present site of the city of Columbus; removing from there to the northern part of Fairfield county, he took up land which is still in possession of the family. He died in 1858, and his wife in 1861. The Moore family is of English descent.

GEORGE KNAUSS. The history of this leading farmer and prominent citizen of Plain township, if written out in full would be an interesting story of the trials and hardships of pioneer life in the early days of this great State, and also an illustration of what may be accomplished by a strong will and persistent energy in the face of all obstacles.

Mr. Knauss was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, March 21, 1830, and when a young man of eighteen years came with his parents to America. He had obtained a good education in the excellent schools of his native land, but could not speak a word of English. On November 23, 1852, he was married to Miss Catharine Hirsch, also a native of Germany, born May 23, 1829. They settled on a rented farm in Medina county, Ohio, and from there came, in 1854, to Wood county, where our subject worked for his father for two years, receiving for his services thirty-three and one-half acres of land. On this the young couple settled in a log house which Mr. Knauss built, and then the hard work of his life began. During the daytime he worked for neighboring farmers at fifty cents a day, and at night cleared his own land, and made such improvements as he was able. Many a time the sound of his axe was heard, while the blaze of his fire,



*George Marx*



*Catharina Kuangs*



burning the brush, was seen long after midnight, and daylight of the next morning found him up and ready to go to work again for the small pittance which supported himself and wife.

In 1856 Mr. Knauss rented a piece of prairie land, broke it up, and raised a good crop by which he cleared \$600. This was his first real start in life, and this money was made under the greatest difficulties, for he was afflicted with that scourge of the early settlers, chills and fever, and worked straight on when really not able to be on his feet. Often when his wife brought his dinner to the field, so that he could eat while the ox-team was feeding, she would find him lying on the ground too sick to taste the food. Yet in spite of all this he persevered, and soon was on the high road to prosperity. A man with such pluck and endurance is bound to win in the end; and now Mr. Knauss, with his fine farm of 500 acres, his handsome home, one of the best in the county, and filled with all the comforts and luxuries one could wish—surrounded by affectionate children and grandchildren, and with the loving companionship of his faithful wife who with him has borne the burden of care—can look back upon the hardships of his early years with complacency, and spend the remainder of his days in peace and contentment.

Ten children have blessed this happy home, of whom the following record is given: (1) Katie W., born September 5, 1853, is the wife of August Kaeding; they have seven children—George, Martin, Bertha, Edward, Adolph, Minnie, and Meta L. (2) George G., born May 23, 1855, is unmarried, and lives with his parents. (3) Mary J., born October 13, 1857, is the wife of John Hilt, of Fremont, Ohio, and has two children—George and Theodore. (4) Matilda B., born December 16, 1859, is the widow of William Friedrich, (5) Adolph C., born March 9, 1862, married Mary Knettle (they live in Wood county, and have one child, Katie). (6) Anna E., born November 20, 1864. (7) Fred C., born May 13, 1867. (8) Helena C., born December 16, 1869, married James Brim, and they have three children—Walter, Ethel and Mabel. (9) Louise M., born February 2, 1873, died July 21, 1875. (10) Bertha O. L., born February 9, 1876. These children are all members of the Lutheran Church, and were educated in the district school.

Our subject's parents were George and Elizabeth (Barbera) Knauss, both born in Wurtemberg, Germany, the former on January 23, 1803, and the latter on February 12, 1809. They were married in Germany, and came to America in 1848, locating first in Medina county, Ohio,

and in 1854 removing to Wood county, where the father died at Bowling Green April 10, 1879, and the mother on October 29, 1880. Fifteen children were born to them, of whom five grew to maturity, as follows: George, the subject of this sketch; John, a farmer in Wood county; Amelia, wife of C. Heiser, of Riga, Mich.; Paulina, married to Levi Linegar, and living in Nebraska; Gilbert, a farmer in Wood county.

Mr. Knauss is known throughout the county as a progressive, public-spirited man, in favor of public enterprises, and always ready to assist in projects for the welfare of the people. He was the chief advocate of the stone road north of Bowling Green, and contributed time and money for building the same. He gives it as his opinion that the chief reason why the German born citizens, who located in this part of Ohio, have outstripped the native-born farmers in the accumulation of wealth, is because of the superior education of the Germans in agricultural matters, they having a better knowledge of the proper methods of tilling the soil, drainage, etc., and being able to make their land produce all it is capable of. Mr. Knauss is a well-informed man, a capable manager, and is highly esteemed by all who know him. In his political predilections he is a Democrat, but in voting he selects the man who, in his estimation, is best fitted for the place. He and his family are all members of the Lutheran Church.

JOSEPH E. BAIRD, clerk of the courts of Wood county, and one of the most courteous and popular officials at the county seat, was born November 12, 1865, at Perrysburg, where his parents still reside. Proud of being a "Wood county product," he has thoroughly identified himself with the interests of this locality, and in return the community has bestowed upon him a hearty indorsement at the very outset of his career.

C. C. Baird, his father, was born in 1830 in Stark county, Ohio, and came at an early age with his parents to Wood county, where he grew to manhood. He engaged in the hotel business at Perrysburg, and has also been prominent in the political work of the Republican party, holding various offices, from constable to sheriff of the county. He was elected to the latter position in 1872, and served for two terms, after which he returned to Perrysburg. In 1858 he was married to Miss Elizabeth Croft, who was born at Cleveland, Ohio, in 1838.

Our subject, who is one of ten children born of this union, was obliged to depend upon his

own exertions for an education, and was still further handicapped by the loss of a leg when he was ten years of age. But his worthy ambition was supported by fine mental gifts, and the resistless energy which a life of high moral ideals and correct habits develops, and he triumphed over every obstacle. After graduating from the high school at his native place, he taught for some years with marked success, was also assessor for two terms in his township, being elected on the Republican ticket in a strongly Democratic neighborhood. Entering the Law department of the University of Michigan, he was graduated therefrom in 1893. In August of that year he became the candidate of his party for his present position, and three months later was elected by 1,638 majority, being 319 more votes than were cast in his county for the head of the ticket, Governor McKinley. His native town usually gives a Democratic majority of 175, but he carried it by 275 votes. The universal esteem in which he is held is largely due to his excellent principles and good habits, as well as to his recognized talents. Socially, he is a member of the K. of P., and the I. O. O. F. lodges, both of Perrysburg.

LEWIS C. EDGAR, attorney at law, and the popular mayor of Prairie Depot, Montgomery township, was born in Stark county, Ohio, December 18, 1846, and was a child of two years when his parents came to Wood county. Robert Edgar, the father of our subject, was born in Cork, Ireland, and came to America when eight years old. He was married in Pennsylvania to Miss Jeannette Perrine, a lady of Scotch extraction. He was a poor man, and made his living by his trade, which was that of a carpenter, when he settled in Section 13, Montgomery township; later he came to Prairie Depot, where he died at about the age of eighty; his wife passed away when over seventy-six years old. They were the parents of thirteen children, our subject being the youngest, all but one living to maturity. In politics Robert Edgar was first a Whig, later a Republican.

Our subject received a limited education. He lived at home until his enlistment in January, 1864, when but a little over seventeen years old, at Freeport, in Company C, 72nd O. V. I., under Capt. Samuel J. Snyder. The first engagement was at Paducah, Ky., and the next with Sturgis' raid, in which our subject was taken prisoner near Ripley, Miss., and conveyed to Andersonville and other Southern prisons, where he remained nine months. He was then paroled and

went to Camp Chase, where he was discharged in June, 1865. Returning to Prairie Depot, he attended a select school, later going to Lebanon, Ohio, where he taught for awhile, and then attended school for two terms at Oberlin. In all he taught for thirty-five terms, eighteen of which were at Prairie Depot, and all, with the exception of one, in Wood county. In 1873, Mr. Edgar began to read law with Lockwood & Everett, in Toledo, and later with Haines & Price. His study was interrupted by his teaching, but, in 1880, he resumed his reading with Brown & Guernsey, of Fostoria, and in the spring of 1882 was admitted to the bar and opened an office in Bowling Green, where he remained until 1887, when he returned to Prairie Depot, and has lived and practiced there ever since.

On January 2, 1876, Mr. Edgar was married, in Montgomery township, to Miss Ida Gould, who was born in Scott township, Sandusky Co., Ohio, August 29, 1855, a daughter of John and Harriet (Cook) Gould. Mr. Edgar is a Republican; in his younger days was clerk of Montgomery township, and also served as a member of the board of education. In 1889 he was appointed mayor to fill an unexpired term, and with the exception of one term, has served continuously since. He is a charter member of Petroleum Lodge No. 499, K. of P., at Prairie Depot, and he and his wife are members of the Church of Christ, in which he is an elder, and she is superintendent of the Mission Band. She is also a member of the Y. P. S. C. E., and the C. W. B. of M. Mr. Edgar gives his entire attention to his professional and official business.

W. J. WHITE, secretary and treasurer of the Zihlmann Glass Company, was born in Monroe county, Ohio, May 28, 1864. His parents, William and Mary (Schindler) White, were both born in Ohio, the father dying in Monroe county when our subject was about five years old. Mrs. White resides at Switzer, in the same county. To this couple were born three children, namely: Our subject, W. J.; Charles E., who lives at Switzer; Tillie C., who married C. E. Smith, and lives in Cumberland, Maryland.

Mr. White remained in Monroe county until eleven years old, when, being obliged to make a living, he went to Powhatan, and clerked in a store during the summer and attended school in the winter. He learned the German language, which he reads and speaks as well as he does English. In 1886 he gave up his position in Powhatan and went to Cumberland, Md., where he secured a situation as shipping clerk in the

Cumberland glass factory. He stayed with that company until the Zihlmann Glass Company was incorporated, in 1889, when he came to North Baltimore and accepted the position of shipping clerk. He soon proved himself to be a capable, energetic business man and was rapidly promoted to various offices until, in 1892, he was given the responsible position of secretary and treasurer, besides attending directly to the shipping, which is quite extensive, as they ship material all over the United States, to Canada and to Mexico. Mr. White is not married. He is a Republican in politics, a member of the I. O. O. F., the Encampment, and the Canton Alpine, of Bowling Green. He is also captain of Co. K, 2nd Infantry, Ohio National Guards, and the company's success and prosperity are largely due to his energies in its behalf. Mr. White is a thoroughly competent business man, and has the entire confidence of his employers. He is a director in the Zihlmann Glass Company, and also is one of the owners of the Columbia drug store, which is doing a flourishing business.

Mr. White's grandfather lived for awhile in Rome, Italy, where he spent his childhood. He was a butcher by trade, and died in Monroe county, Ohio. The maternal grandparents were from Switzerland, and the grandmother died at the extraordinary age of one hundred and four years. Mr. White is a leader in society, where his sincerity and genial nature have made him popular with all with whom he comes in contact.

JAMES G. HICKOX, the well-known and popular cashier of the Exchange Bank of Bowling Green, one of the oldest and most reliable financial institutions of northern Ohio, was born in Washington, Conn., August 9, 1861, son of C. L. and Mary R. (Grant) Hickox. Our subject's early education was obtained in the schools of his native town. Coming west in 1881, he found congenial employment in Toledo, Ohio, with the banking firm of Raymer, Seagrave & Co., and later with the First National Bank of Toledo, with which he was connected for some years. Seeing an opening in the real-estate and loan business with George Ketcham & Co., he invested his means with that firm, and, resigning his position in the bank, gave his attention to their interests.

On July 1, 1890, he became connected with the Exchange Bank at Bowling Green, as partner and cashier, and his energy, experience and ability have contributed largely to the growth and development of its already extensive business.

Genial, cultured, and possessed of admirable social traits, Mr. Hickox is popular with all classes. He is a ready and influential supporter of any progressive movement in his locality, taking special interest at present in the Wood County Fair Association, of which he is treasurer, and a leading stockholder.

WILLIAM W. DUNIPACE, ex-commissioner of Wood county and a well-known pioneer of Webster township, residing near Scotch Ridge, is a native of Wood county, born in Webster township January 7, 1842. He is of Scotch descent; his grandfather, William Dunipace, was born in Scotland, and Robert Dunipace, our subject's father, was born in 1809, near Edinburgh, in Cregmille castle.

In 1834 Robert Dunipace emigrated to the United States, and for four years resided at Perysburg, building boats for Lake Erie and the Maumee river. He moved to Webster township about 1839, where he entered 160 acres of land, which he cultivated during the remainder of his life. He married Jane Muir, a native of Scotland, and had eleven children, of whom our subject is the eldest living. Of the others, the survivors are Margaret, Robert, Samuel, and Jane; Mary, Mary P., James, John and George are deceased. John died April 20, 1871, from injuries received while in defense of the Union cause, having served in Company I, 144th O. V. I. Our subject's parents were faithful and consistent members of the United Presbyterian Church, to which our subject and his family also adhere. The father was for many years an elder in the Church. He was an influential Whig in early days, and took part in the great mass meeting at Fort Meigs. An honest, industrious, kindly man, his death in February, 1882, was deeply lamented by the entire community.

William W. Dunipace began his education in a log school house in his district with Miss Martha Gilbert for his first teacher. June 30, 1863, he enlisted in Company D, 86th O. V. I., Capt. John H. Reed commanding. His first service was in Morgan's raid, when he took part in the capture of John Morgan, and acted as guardsman on the way to Columbus. His regiment was later assigned to the force under Gen. Burnside, and was at the surrender of Cumberland Gap, September 9, 1863. Mr. Dunipace was discharged at the expiration of his term of service, being mustered out with his company February 10, 1864, returned home, and for some time attended the Normal School at Maumee. He



then learned the carpenter's trade, and began the construction of bridges on contract in different parts of the county. He taught school in 1868, and the same year he bought eighty acres of land in Webster township, to which he has since added until he owns 180 acres of choice land, chiefly devoted to stock raising.

On December 31, 1868, he married Miss Lizzie Adams, who was born in Montgomery township, Wood county, September 20, 1845. Her parents were Thomas and Mary (McGill) Adams, who came from Scotland in 1831 and settled upon a farm of 240 acres in Montgomery township, where Mr. Adams died in 1878, his wife surviving him until 1891. They had eleven children: James, John, Robert and Jennie (twins), Lizzie, Helen, Cornelius, Thomas, George, Frank and Minnie.

Mr. Dunipace and his wife have had eight children, whose names with dates of birth are here given: Mary, April 25, 1870, is a school teacher in Montgomery township; Robert, February 16, 1872, is a student at Ada, Ohio; John, August 20, 1874, a graduate of the Fostoria Academy, is now engaged in teaching; Bertha, January 30, 1878, William, October 10, 1879, Hazel, December 19, 1886, Harley, April 8, 1888, are all at home; and George, who was born October 22, 1884, died at the age of three years. Mr. Dunipace possesses the honesty, energy and thrift so characteristic of his race, and stands high in the esteem of his neighbors. He has held various offices, having been township clerk, school director, member of the board of education, assessor, and in 1886 was elected county commissioner on the Greenback ticket. He is now a Populist in politics. He belongs to the G. A. R., Benedict Post, of Pemberville.

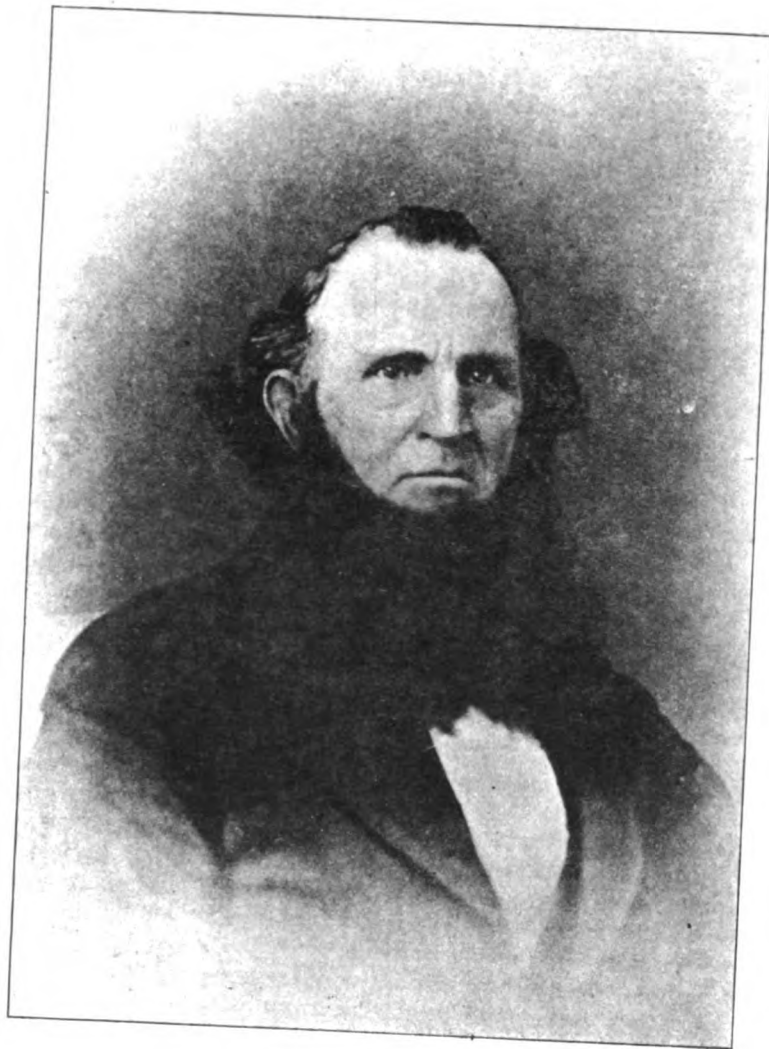
**WILLIAM PERRIN**, deceased. In a brief sketch of any living citizen it is difficult to do him exact and impartial justice, not so much, however, from lack of space or words to set forth the familiar and passing events of his personal history, as for want of the perfect and rounded conception of his whole life, which grows, develops and ripens, like fruit, to disclose its true and best flavor only when it is mellowed by time. Daily contact with a man so familiarizes us with his many virtues that we ordinarily overlook them, and commonly underestimate their possessor. Nevertheless, while the man passes away his deeds of virtue live on, and will in due time bear fruit, and do him the justice which the pen fails to record.

Mr. Perrin, who during life was one of the

most prominent farmers of Center township, was born in Madison township, Franklin Co., Ohio, January 1, 1816. His father, Joseph Perrin, was born and reared in Pennsylvania, where he wedded Mary Fletcher, and from there, in 1812, rode to Franklin county, Ohio, on horseback. They were the parents of the following children: Barbara, Jacob, Jonathan, John, Susan, Mary and William, all of whom have passed away, except Susan, and the father and mother both died in Franklin county; the former was drowned.

Our subject was but eight months old when his father died, and he was adopted by his uncle, William Perrin, who gave him good educational advantages. On his farm William grew to manhood, aiding in its cultivation, and caring for his uncle during his declining years. For several years after the latter's death he still continued the operation of that farm. On November 14, 1839, he was united in marriage with Mary A. Breckenridge, and to them were born five daughters: Margaret J., born October 28, 1840; Eliza J., born May 16, 1847, now the wife of A. B. Ebright, of Columbus, Ohio; Susan, born July 29, 1850, now the wife of P. H. Stevenson; Theresa A., born July 31, 1853, now the widow of William Wade; and Mary A., born December 1, 1856. The mother of this family died May 29, 1858, and for his second wife Mr. Perrin chose Miss Rhoda M. Needels, who was born April 28, 1833, a daughter of James Needels, a farmer of Madison township, Franklin Co., Ohio. By this marriage there were six children, namely: William, born September 3, 1860, and died in 1861; Sarah W., born October 13, 1863, now the wife of John Ralston, by whom she has a son, Le Roy, born in 1892; Frank F., born February 8, 1865, a farmer of New Mexico; Azro S., born September 15, 1868, and married Le Elda Tuller, by whom he has one child, Ray T.; Jonathan A., an oil operator, born February 13, 1871, and married to Mary English; and Minnie R., born April 21, 1874.

In 1866, Mr. Perrin disposed of his property in Franklin county, and removed with his family to Center township, Wood county, where he purchased 320 acres of partially improved land, which he ditched, tiled and fenced, making it one of the most valuable tracts in the township. Besides his own fine residence he erected two other dwellings upon the place, and gave a large portion of his farm to his children, though his widow still retains forty acres, the cultivation of which she superintends. The cause of education ever found in Mr. Perrin a warm friend and supporter, he donating the land for a school house near his



*Wm Perrin*



home, also furnishing the stone for the foundation, and superintending the construction of the building. For several years he held the office of supervisor, and was also trustee of his township. He was a man of progressive and enterprising ideas, which he endeavored to carry out, and gave his support to all objects calculated to benefit his township or county. He laid aside life's cares after a pure, honorable and useful career, actuated by unselfish motives, prompted by patriotism and guided by truth and justice, passing away March 25, 1895, leaving a loving wife and children to mourn the departure of a kind and indulgent husband and father. His death was deeply regretted throughout the county, for he was widely and favorably known. His political support was given to the Republican party. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he was a member for over fifty-one years.

Mrs. Perrin was one of a family of fourteen children, of whom seven are now living: Cyrus F., a farmer of Franklin county, Ohio; Curtis L., of Columbus, Ohio; Mrs. Perrin; Mrs. Rebecca E. Brown, of Franklin county; Mrs. Mary Ann Brown, of Franklin county; Mrs. Jennie L. Wilkins, of Wapakoneta, Ohio; and Mrs. Lizzie N. Kile, of Columbus. The parents, James and Sarah A. (Stevenson) Needles, were both born in Franklin county, Ohio, the former in 1808. They died in 1860, and December 4, 1874, respectively. Philemon Needles, his father, was born in Delaware, and when a young man settled in Franklin county, where he owned a large property. Mrs. Perrin's parents were noted for their purity and good deeds. Their industry and economy brought forth abundant fruit, hence there was a competency during their lives, and a heritage for their children.

Mrs. Perrin spent two years at Delaware (Ohio) Wesleyan Female College, thus laying the foundation for an intelligent, useful life. She has never ceased to be a student. What she learned last year did not satisfy her. She is up to the times, and takes an interest in the advancement and enterprise of the day. When she came to this vicinity there was no school, Sabbath-school or literary privileges. Mr. Perrin's efforts were ably seconded by her to secure a school district, and the first election of officers was held in her best room. When the school house was completed, she did not cease her efforts until there was Sabbath school, and no assistance she could give was ever considered grievous. Through shade and shine she was in her place, doing anything assigned her, teaching infant or Bible class, or in the absence of the superintend-

ent, filling his office creditably. Her work has not been a failure.

When her children and others were advanced far enough to be benefited by literary exercises, she urged the young people to organize for that purpose, and at their request wrote a constitution and by-laws for them, became a member, and made it a rule to be prepared for any duty assigned her. In her reading, if she saw anything either in poetry or prose suitable for any one to read or speak, it was carefully put by. The young ladies and gentlemen soon learned where the supply might be found, and the smaller ones where to get good pieces. "Little acts of kindness, little deeds of love," have been the factors which have bound old and young in loving cords to their friend and neighbor. She is an humble follower of Christ, and has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church since she was eleven years of age. Her children rise up and call her blessed.

B. F. DAVIS, M. D., a prominent physician and druggist, of Tontogany, was born at Painted Post, Steuben Co., N. Y., October 11, 1836, of old New England stock—his great-grandfather Davis, and grandfather, Arthur Davis, having both been born in Rhode Island.

J. P. Davis, father of our subject, was a native of Norwich, Chenango Co., N. Y., born in 1810. There he married Miss Mary Darby, who was born in December, 1809, near New Berlin, N. Y., a daughter of Rufus Darby, a farmer who was of English and Scotch ancestry, although her family had long been residents of New England. For some years after their marriage, our subject's parents lived on a farm at Painted Post, and in 1837 they came to Ohio, settling on an eighty-acre farm near South Bloomfield, Morrow county. Here Mrs. Davis died in 1859, leaving seven children, namely: B. F., our subject; Harriet E., since deceased, who married N. H. Patton, of Bryan, Ohio; William R., living in retirement at Traer, Iowa; Arnold, who was a soldier during the Civil war in the 20th Regiment, O. V. I., was killed at Atlanta, and buried there in the National Cemetery; Albert L., deceased, who graduated in the Medical Department at Ann Arbor in 1871, and was in practice with our subject until his death, in January, 1877, when he was aged thirty years; Morgan, residing at Mount Liberty, Ohio; and Malon R., a traveling salesman and resident of Toledo. By Mr. Davis' second marriage with Miss Joanna Bishop, three children were born: Minnie, the wife of N. D. Huddleston; Cora Converse; and Ella. In 1864, J. P.

Davis moved to Mount Liberty, where he died three years later. Politically he was a Democrat until the Slavery question became a party issue, when he joined the Republican ranks.

Our subject attended the district schools until he was sixteen, and then a select school at Centerburg. At the age of nineteen he began to teach, and afterward studied one term in college at Iberia, Ohio, and one term in Delaware. In the spring of 1859 he entered the office of Drs. Russell & Thompson, of Mount Vernon, Ohio, where he studied medicine, and then in the winter of 1861-62 attended lectures at Ann Arbor, Mich., and the winter of 1862-63, at Starling Medical College, Columbus, graduating in February, 1863. In 1861 he enlisted in the three-months' service, in Company B, 4th O. V. I., Capt. H. B. Banning (afterward a general) commanding, and in the fall of 1862, when Cincinnati was threatened by Kirby Smith, he was one of the "Squirrel Hunters." On March 11, 1863, he was commissioned assistant surgeon of the 44th Regiment, O. V. I., which served in the 23d Army Corps, under Gen. Scofield, Gen. Burnside commanding the department. In February, 1864, the regiment veteranized, and was made the 8th O. V. C., after which it served in the Lynchburg raid under Gen. Averill, and took part in the campaign in the Shenandoah Valley, under Sheridan. The Doctor was at the battle of Winchester, and was an eye-witness of the historic ride which turned at Cedar Creek the fortunes of the day. Part of his regiment was captured at Beverly, W. Va., in January, 1865, taken to Richmond, and released on parole. On being mustered out in 1865 Dr. Davis located in Tontogany, and has since followed his profession with marked success. In 1872 he and his brother opened a drug store in Tontogany, conducting the same jointly until the death of the latter in 1877, after which our subject carried it on alone till the fall of that year when R. J. Collin became associated with him in business, under the firm name of Davis & Collin.

Dr. Davis has been twice married, first in 1865 to Miss Elizabeth White, who was born in Delaware county, in 1846. She died in 1878 leaving three children, the first born having died in infancy. The names and dates of birth of the younger three are: Hattie E., born August 11, 1870; Frederick W., March 7, 1873; and Bernard Francis, July 22, 1875. Dr. Davis married, second, Mrs. Sarah A. (Carpenter) Ross, who was born in Maumee in 1845. In politics the Doctor is a Republican, and he is an influential worker in all measures for local improvements. He is a

member of the G. A. R., of the F. & A. M., No. 451, Tontogany, and of the Wood County Medical Association.

**LE ROY VAN TASSEL.** From Holland to America came the founders of the Van Tassel family in 1795, and settled in the beautiful valley of the Hudson, where their descendants lived for several generations. Luke Van Tassel, the father of our subject, was born on the banks of that river, and at the age of seventeen years became a fifer boy in the war of 1812. He subsequently removed to Lorain county, Ohio, afterward to Indiana, and was engaged in making castor oil, and later became a resident of Wood county. In 1836 he took up his residence in Plain township, near Bowling Green, whence he removed to Missionary Station farm. He afterward lived at Waterville, and later at Turkey Foot Creek for two years; also two years on the Hedges farm. In 1849, he purchased sixty acres, on which our subject now resides. He was married in 1818, at Chautauqua, N. Y., to Sallie Richmond, and they became the parents of eleven children, namely: Amelia, first the wife of Francis T. Lane, deceased, then the wife, of A. H. Plant, deceased; Lyman; Ann, wife of Josiah Kuder; Silas, of McClure, Ohio; Isaac, and Olive, deceased; Harriet, wife of Hiram West; Sidney; Le Roy; Luman and Reuben. The father of the subject of this sketch died December 2, 1869, on the farm in Washington, township, and the mother on September 29, 1894.

Our subject was born in Lorain county, Ohio, May 11, 1834, and was educated in the district schools. He became a mechanical engineer, and for fifteen years was employed as head sawyer in some of the principal sawmills of his and adjoining counties. The pursuits of civil life, however, were interrupted May 2, 1864, by his service as a member of Company B, 144th Regiment, O. V. I., in the Civil war. He was discharged on August 31, following, and on his return home engaged in farming.

Mr. Van Tassel was married July 20, 1862, to Martha Alcorn, and to the union were born seven children, as follows: Carrie, born July 5, 1863, now the wife of James McWilliams, by whom she has three children; Willard, born October 10, 1864, is a resident of Toledo, Ohio; Helen, deceased; Effie J., born October 4, 1867, now the wife of William Hariman; Laura E., born February 8, 1869; Florence, born September 27, 1870, wife of Herbin Gill; and Lulu, born December 24, 1889.

Mr. Van Tassel is a warm friend to the cause

of education, and for six years served as school director. He is a member of the Grange, of which he served as master one year, and chaplain two years. In politics he is a Republican, and socially is connected with Neibling Post, No. 20, G. A. R., of Weston. He and his wife are members of the Baptist Church, and are most highly esteemed people. They have a pleasant home in the midst of a highly improved farm, and their friends throughout the community are many.

William W. Hariman, who married their third daughter, was born in Plain township, July 25, 1854, and is the only son of Jonathan and Ann (Wickham) Hariman. In 1890 the marriage of the young couple was celebrated, and their union is now blessed with two children—John L., born January 22, 1891; and Homer L., born August 3, 1893. In 1891 Mr. Hariman purchased his present farm of forty acres, which has been tiled and drained, and is now a very valuable property. He is a member of Kenilworth Lodge, K. of P., of Weston, and a Democrat in politics. He and his wife attend the United Brethren Church.

CHARLES O. IRELAND, a reliable and intelligent young agriculturist of Liberty township, residing in Section 25, was born in that township in 1869. His parents, Thomas and Laura (Newberry) Ireland, were born, reared and married in Clermont county, Ohio, whence in 1864 they removed to Liberty township, Wood county, where the father purchased eighty acres of unimproved land, which he at once began to develop, making his home thereon until his death, in 1884. In politics he was a Democrat, and served his township as supervisor; in religious belief he was a faithful member of the Disciples Church. His widow still lives on the old homestead. Their family comprised six children: Mrs. Nancy Steel, of Liberty township; Edward, who died in Clermont county; George, who is married, and makes his home in Liberty township; Alex, who died in that township in 1866; Charles O.; and Mrs. Mary Schrader, who resides on the old home farm.

The subject of this sketch has spent his entire life in Liberty township, and received the rudiments of his education in the district schools, which he has supplemented by considerable reading, and is well posted on the current topics of the day. He is the owner of a good farm of twenty acres of highly productive and fertile land, which by industry and good management he has brought to a high state of cultivation.

His income is increased not a little by the product of three oil wells upon his place, which bring him from \$120 to \$140 per month.

In 1888, in Liberty township, Mr. Ireland was married to Mrs. Sarah R. Robinson, widow of Joseph Robinson. She was born in Clermont county, Ohio, and is a daughter of A. M. Lang, of Liberty township. Mr. Ireland has never taken a very active part in politics, although keeping well informed upon matters of general interest, and uniformly voting the straight Democratic ticket. Socially he is a member of Wings-ton Lodge No. 553, K. of P., and he is classed among the most respected representative citizens of the community.

GEORGE B. SPENCER, M. D., a leading physician at Weston, was born in Cayuga county, N. Y., December 16, 1844.

The Spencer family originated in England, and the ancestors of the American branch came to this country in Colonial times. William Spencer, our subject's great-great-grandfather, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war on the side of the colonies, and afterward settled in New Jersey where he passed the remaining years of his life. His son Nathan, and grandson John, the grandfather of our subject, were lifelong residents of New Jersey.

Nathan Spencer, the father of our subject, was born there in 1817, and in early manhood removed to New York State, where he married Miss Louise Barhite, a native of Schenectady, N. Y., born in 1822. He came with his family to Ohio, in 1848, locating in Huron county, and there his wife died in 1850. They were members of the Presbyterian Church, and staunch Abolitionists. During the days of the "Underground Railroad" they fed and helped many an escaping slave on his way to Canada, and Mr. Spencer was an influential worker in the Republican party from its beginning. He died in Olena, Huron county, in February, 1888. Our subject was the second of a family of three children. Melissa, the eldest, married Lewis Toan, of Weston, and died in 1892. The youngest, Mary, is the wife of Randall West, of Little Sioux, Iowa.

George B. Spencer's boyhood was passed in Huron county, where he availed himself of the educational advantages offered by the district schools. In September, 1861, when but little over sixteen years of age, he enlisted in Company F, 3rd O. V. C., and served three years and two months, receiving his discharge in November, 1864, before he was twenty. He served in the army of the Cumberland, and took part in the

battles of Pittsburg Landing, Stone River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Atlanta, and many minor engagements. He was captured three times and twice escaped from the hands of the enemy. On January 15, 1863, he was captured by Morgan's men, and was paroled by Morgan. He still retains the parole he received from him, as a relic of those stormy days. In the Kilpatrick raid around Atlanta, in 1864, he received a slight wound while charging a bridge, and he had several close calls during the course of his service; at Stone River his cap was shot off, and on another occasion bullets pierced his clothing.

After his return from the war he entered Oberlin College, where he remained one year, and then began the study of medicine with Dr. Sykes, of Plymouth, Richland county. He finished his professional course, in Western Reserve Medical College, graduating in 1867 with honors, being made valedictorian of his class. He at once engaged in practice, first in Tiffin, where he spent a year and a half, and later in Shiloh, Richland county. In 1870 he located permanently in Weston. Here he soon became popular, not only as a physician but as a citizen, and he has held different offices of public trust. He has taken great interest in local and educational affairs, having been a member of the Weston board of education, member of the council, a county school examiner for nine years, and for the past three years clerk of the school board. He has been a trustee of the cemetery at Weston for some time, and is now clerk of the board, and takes considerable pride in fitting it up and improving it; an ornamental fountain has recently been erected there through his exertions, and he is at this time working for the erection of a soldiers' monument, that will be not only an honor to all soldiers, but a splendid ornament to the cemetery. In the fall of 1887 the Doctor was elected a member of the Legislature for Wood county, an office which he filled for two terms with fidelity and ability. He was chairman of the committee that built the Soldiers' Home at Sandusky, and was secretary of the committee on insane asylums during both terms.

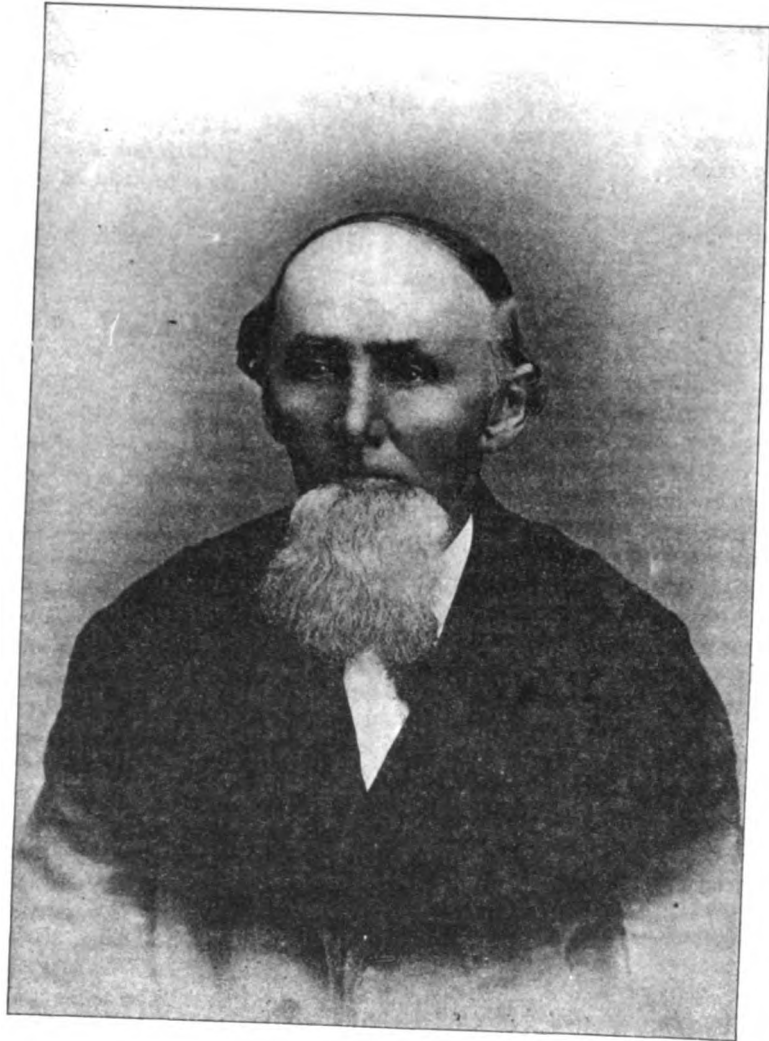
In 1868, Dr. Spencer married Miss Sarah K. Strong, who was born in Plymouth, Ohio, June 1, 1849. They have three children: William H., the eldest, graduated in pharmacy from the State University at Columbus, was married in 1893 to Miss Rena La Dow, of Plymouth, Ohio, and now conducts a drug store at Oberlin; George, who was married in 1893 to Miss Grace Pugh; and Mary. Dr. Spencer is a broad-

minded man, taking an intelligent interest in all the questions and movements of the day. He is a member of the Wood County Medical Society, and, being a member and health officer of the board of health of his village, meets every year with the Ohio State board of health. Socially, he affiliates with Kenilworth Lodge No. 340, K. of P., with Weston Lodge No. 560, A. F. & A. M., and with Neibling Post No. 20, G. A. R., Weston, of which he was second commander, serving two years in that capacity. He has been taking considerable interest in horticulture for several years, and now has a fine fruit orchard of ten acres just north of town. He was for several years editor of the Weston *Free Press*, a weekly newspaper, and gained quite a reputation as a writer of comic sketches and locals.

PHILIP W. HEYMANN, a prominent retired agriculturist of Grand Rapids township, Wood county, was born June 22, 1822, in the village of Kaltenholtzhousen, Province of Nassau, Germany.

Mr. Heymann received his education in his native land, and, in 1847, came alone to America, the voyage, which occupied fifty-two days, being made in a sailing vessel. He landed at New York with but two dollars in cash, he having loaned a friend on board the vessel some forty dollars, which, by the way, was never returned. In New York, however, Mr. Heymann found a friend of whom he borrowed eight dollars, and with this small sum he was enabled to travel west to Sandusky City, Ohio, from there proceeding to Huron county, where, in Lyme township, he bought on credit a farm of 198 acres, which he improved. In the following year his parents, John G. and Mary (Opperman) Heymann, emigrated to this country, bringing with them the rest of their family, and twenty-five hundred dollars in cash, with which the father bought a farm in Lyme township. Here the parents passed the rest of their pioneer lives, the mother dying in 1872, the father nine years later. They were leading members of the German Reformed Church. Their family numbered ten children, as follows: Jeannette, Anna, Philip W. (our subject), William, George, Henry, John P., Catherine, William F., and Margaret, all yet living except Jeannette, Anna, William and Margaret.

When the subject of these lines left the parental roof, in 1852, his father gave him a team and two hundred dollars, and bringing his wife and two children (for in the meantime he had married) Philip came to Wood county, settling on his present farm of 160 acres in Weston (now Grand Rapids) township, at that time all unim-



*P. W. Heymann*





proved woodland. Their first home in this wild spot was a little log cabin, with neither doors nor windows, and from this humble beginning Mr. Heymann has evolved a valuable estate, having ditched and tiled it thoroughly, planted thereon a fruitful orchard, and erected commodious and comfortable buildings. He and his worthy wife reared their family of children well, and helped each to secure nice homes, Mr. Heymann preferring to do so during his lifetime, and when his children really needed such aid, to allowing them to wait until his death, at which time the property would be divided up, though, it may be added, he has still a good residue to leave. He now enjoys a well-earned leisure, leaving to others the active work of his estate.

On October 9, 1849, Philip W. Heymann was married at Sandusky City to Miss Mary Morehead, who was born October 9, 1832, a daughter of George Morehead, one of the early settlers of Huron county, born in January, 1795, in Harrison county, W. Va. When a mere boy of seventeen Mr. Morehead enlisted under Gen. Harrison in the struggle of that day with the British and Indians along the Maumee river, but was taken ill and sent home. He married Miss Charity Paton, and by her had three children: Mary (Mrs. Heymann), Emily (wife of Joseph Morris, of Nebraska), and Andrew J. (a prominent resident of Huron county). Mr. and Mrs. Heymann have had five children: (1) Louisa, born August 18, 1850, married to William Ross, of Weston township. (2) G. Albert, born November 5, 1851, is a farmer of Grand Rapids township; he married Sarah Dull, who died December 11, 1888, the mother of four children; G. Albert afterward married Mrs. Jennie Pratt, a widow, and by her has one son. (3) Lester W., born August 17, 1857, is also a farmer in Grand Rapids township; he married Stella Roland, and has four children. (4) Anna L., born August 18, 1859, died at the age of eighteen; and (5) Flora May, born March 14, 1862, is the wife of J. F. McKee, a prominent resident of Grand Rapids township.

Mr. Heymann is one of the most intelligent and progressive citizens of his locality, and by his integrity, geniality and good judgment has won the friendship and esteem of a wide circle of acquaintances. He has been school director for a number of years, and is a ready and generous promoter of any worthy cause. In politics he was originally a Democrat, afterward becoming a Republican, but of late years has been a staunch Prohibitionist. In Germany he served in the German army four years. Ever liberal supporters of the United Brethren in Christ, he and his

good wife are unceasing in their works of philanthropy and charity, and none stand higher in the estimation of the community in which they live.

**HENRY C. FEARNSIDE.** One does not have to carry his investigations far in the Wood county history to find that the Fearnside family has been prominent in its development and upbuilding, and a worthy representative of this family is the present subject of our sketch. He was born in the town of Washington Hollow, Dutchess Co., N. Y., October 20, 1833, and is a son of Thomas and Ellen (Robinson) Fearnside. His father was born near Leeds, Yorkshire, England, in 1792, was a self-educated man, and possessed superior business ability. He worked in a woolen-mill, owned and operated by his father, until eighteen years of age, when he removed to Scotland and was employed by his uncle, Benjamin Fearnside. His wife was born in Fochabers, in 1795. In connection with his brother, Mr. Fearnside rented and operated a factory for the manufacture of woolen goods. About 1821 he went to Liverpool, and took passage on a sailing vessel bound for New York. When out only a few days they encountered a severe storm, and the ship lost most of its rigging; but after a long and perilous voyage of ninety days they reached their destination. The food supply, however, gave out, and the passengers for some time only had one biscuit per day. Mr. Fearnside rented a building on Manhattan Island, where he engaged in the manufacture of woolen goods. He was there joined by his wife and family a year later, and carried on business for about six years, when he removed to Glenham, N. Y., and later to Dutchess county. Subsequently he went to Clark county, Ohio, and prepared a home for his family, who came to the West a year later. After seven years he removed to Wood county, and purchased 105 acres of wild land in Liberty township, where he carried on agricultural pursuits until his death. He passed away in January, 1871, and his wife died May 4, 1889.

Mr. and Mrs. Fearnside were the parents of the following named children: Thomas, who died in California; Mrs. Martha J. Corey, of Urbana, Ohio; James, of Michigan; William, who died in southern Illinois; George, a merchant of Oregon; Hannah, who became the wife of Henry Haskins, and died in Kendallville, Ind.; John, of Toledo, Ohio; Henry C.; and Benjamin, who died at the age of two years. Our subject was a youth of fifteen when his parents came to Wood county. No event of special importance occurred in his childhood, and he remained at

home until his marriage, which was celebrated in Liberty township, April 25, 1865, Miss Anna E. Sizer, of Huron county, Ohio, becoming his wife. She traces her ancestry back to Antonio de Sozier, who located in Massachusetts soon after the landing of the Pilgrims. The orthography of the name was changed to its present form by the Massachusetts Legislature.

Mrs. Fearnside was born in Woodstock, Ulster Co., N. Y., May 31, 1843, and is a daughter of Franklin and Abigail (Bloomer) Sizer, the father born in Hampden county, Mass., in 1806, the mother in Greene county, N. Y. He was a carpenter by occupation, and on his marriage located in Greene county, N. Y., whence he removed to Greenwich, Huron Co., Ohio. In 1858 he settled in Liberty township, Wood county, where the mother died in 1883, the father in 1888. Their children were Clarissa C., wife of Anson B. Abbott, now of Weston, Wood county; Daniel W., who died in Waterville, Ohio, in 1876; Abraham F., who served in the Civil war in Company A, 14th O. V. I., and was accidentally drowned July 29, 1862, at Pulaski, Tenn., while bathing in the river; and Mrs. Fearnside.

On their marriage our subject and his wife located on the old homestead, and he has since given his entire attention to farming. Their union has been blessed with four children: Martha, wife of William Haskins, of Waterville, Ohio; George W., assistant cashier in the Commercial Bank of Bowling Green; William F. and Benjamin, at home. Mr. Fearnside is a stalwart Republican in politics, but has never been an office seeker. He belongs to the Methodist Church, and is an intelligent, well-read and popular man, highly esteemed by many friends.

**THOMAS N. BIERLY.** No citizen of Pemberville has contributed more to the development of its highest interests than has the subject of the following paragraphs, who is well known throughout northwestern Ohio as an able attorney and a man of superior business qualifications. With but limited means, when a young man, and with no influence to assist him, he nevertheless, by indefatigable energy and tireless determination, has gained a position of importance among the professional men of the locality, and occupies an influential place in the legal fraternity of Wood county.

Before presenting in detail the events that have given character to the life of Mr. Bierly, some mention of his ancestors may appropriately be made. The family has been identified with

the history of America for a number of generations, and its members have invariably been patriotic and honest men. He traces his lineage to Prussia. His great-great-grandfather, who was born in that country, participated in the conflict usually known as the Thirty Years war, in which he was severely wounded. On coming to America, he settled in Pennsylvania, though it is not known whether his home was in Bucks or Lancaster county. For many years he led a secluded life, and his last days were spent on the top of Blue Mountain, where he died unattended by any friends.

Anthony Bierly, the great-grandfather of Thomas N., was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, serving through the entire period of the conflict. His house and all of his property were destroyed by the Indians; but, undaunted by the misfortune, he worked his way once more to prosperity and success. He was a man of some education, and was looked up to as a leader among the early settlers of Center county, Penn. His son Nicholas was born near Sunbury, Penn., in 1775, and married Miss Lucinda Buchtel, a native of Center county, and a descendant of German ancestors. Her father was obliged to work seven years in payment for his passage from his native country to America. Aside from this fact, but little is known of the early history of that branch of the family. The last days of Nicholas Bierly were spent in the home of his son, George, to whom he bequeathed the farm.

The father of our subject, George Bierly, was born in Center county, Penn., July 17, 1819. His character is in some respects unique. Possessing no educational advantages except four months in school during his boyhood days, he nevertheless became one of the best posted men in his locality. He has been a thoughtful reader of ancient and modern history, and is particularly posted concerning current historical topics. In early life he learned the trade of a wheelwright, and later adopted the occupation of an agriculturist. Possessing the brave and patriotic spirit of his ancestors, he enlisted in the army during the Mexican war, but saw no active service. For seven years he was connected with the Pennsylvania militia. In 1857 Mr. Bierly came to Ohio and settled on a farm near Bradner, where he still makes his home. A Republican in his political belief, he has advocated the principles of that party since the time of President Lincoln's first election. Among the pioneers of Wood county he was a leader, and by his fellow citizens he was often selected to occupy positions of trust and honor. His wife, Sarah, born January 21,

1821, is a daughter of James Magee, who was born in Londonderry, Ireland, but was of Scotch descent.

Two years before the family removed to Ohio, the subject of this notice was born in Center county, Penn., February 21, 1855. He grew to manhood in Wood county, and has known no other home than this. Even in boyhood he was prominent among his schoolmates on account of his superior talents and recognized ability. Being a diligent student, he availed himself of every opportunity to acquire knowledge, and early laid the foundation for the broad fund of information he possesses to-day. At the age of seventeen he took an examination for a West Point cadetship, and stood fourth in his class of twenty-three, with an average of over seventy-seven per cent. He attended the Normal School at Republic, Ohio, and taught several terms of school. When the time came for him to select a life occupation, Mr. Bierly chose the profession of law, and carried on his readings with the late Hon. James R. Tyler, of Perrysburg. Immediately after his admission to the bar, in 1877, he opened an office in Pemberville, where he has since conducted an increasing and profitable practice. As a member of the Democratic party, he has been active in local politics, and is a leader in the councils of his party. He has served as mayor several terms, has been president of the school board, and was a candidate for prosecuting attorney, to which he would have undoubtedly been elected had it not been for the large Republican majority in the county.

The landed possessions of Mr. Bierly are extensive and valuable, including residences in Pemberville and three well-improved farms in Wood county, besides the "Crystal Hotel" at Bradner and other real-estate interests. His dwelling, one of the most attractive homes in Pemberville, is situated on the east side of the river, and is a substantial frame structure, a model of architectural beauty, and surrounded by a wide-spreading and well-kept lawn. Into their pleasant home Mr. and Mrs. Bierly welcome their hosts of personal friends, and extend a cordial greeting to the stranger within their doors. Mrs. Bierly was, in maidenhood, Miss Jennie Furbush, and is a native of Wood county, where her entire life has been spent. Four children bless the happy home, Clarence, Lulu, Everett and Neva.

Possessing a generous and philanthropic nature, Mr. Bierly has made a fortune, not for the purpose of hoarding it, but that he may do good, and render the lives of others happier. He contributes liberally to the support of his par-

ents, whose declining years are made comfortable through his thoughtful attention; and he is also generous in aiding other members of the family who need assistance. His benefactions, however, are not limited to the circle of his relatives, but extend to all worthy enterprises. The public library of Pemberville is a standing monument to his generosity; most of the books and shelving were donated by him, and he has taken the liveliest interest in the success of the work. On Christmas of 1894 he presented each of the Sunday-schools of the city with one hundred books as a free gift. Fraternally he is connected with the Odd Fellows and the Royal Arch Masons, and for some time served as master of the Masonic lodge at Pemberville. On April 1, 1895, Mr. Bierly moved to Toledo, Ohio, where he opened an office at No. 310 Valentine Building. He has recently purchased a fine residence at No. 1521 Twenty-second street, where the family now reside.

CAPTAIN A. W. ADAMS, postmaster of North Baltimore, and a veteran of the Civil war, is a native of Seneca county, Ohio, born November 28, 1838. He is the son of Martin and Martha (Dillon) Adams, both of whom were born in Jefferson county, Ohio, the former in 1800, and the latter in 1807. They were the parents of the following children: George W., who is in the insurance business in Chicago, Ill.; Thomas, a dentist in Springfield, Ohio; Henry Clay, a lieutenant in the 25th Kansas Regiment, who was killed during the Civil war; Pollie, deceased, wife of — Hall, of Pueblo county, Colo.; Andrew J., deceased; A. W., our subject; Francis Marion, who was killed in Colorado; Rhoda D., who died in Nebraska; Eli R., residing in Toledo; Peter C., living in Springfield; Campbell, who died in Troy, and Jennie, living in Columbus.

Capt. Adams remained in Seneca county during his childhood, attending the district and graded schools. In the fall of 1861 he enlisted in Company K, 49th O. V. I., and contributed his mite in the cause of preserving the Union. He was promoted through the various ranks to the position of captain, receiving his commission at Nashville, Tenn., and served in that capacity during the remainder of the war, being mustered out of service November 30, 1865. The Captain participated in all the battles with his company, among them being those of Chickamauga, Stone River, Nashville and Franklin. He took part in twenty-eight pitched battles and numerous skirmishes, and was fortunate enough to

escape without receiving a wound. At the close of the war Capt. Adams returned to Tiffin, Ohio, and was engaged in the shoe business for one year. Selling out in 1868 he went to St. Paul, Minn., and after a short residence there to California, where he engaged in the lumber business. From California he went to Nevada, where he remained a year, afterward spending another year in Minnesota before he returned to Ohio, coming first to Toledo, in this State. He finally settled on a farm in Bloom township, Wood county. This place is situated in Section 28, and comprises 240 acres, on which there are three oil wells, which produce 180 barrels per day, he receiving a royalty of one-sixth. In 1886 the first gas well was drilled on this farm. In 1893 Capt. Adams was appointed postmaster at North Baltimore, and in this capacity has made himself one of the most popular citizens of the town. He adheres to the Democratic party, and is a staunch believer and admirer of its principles.

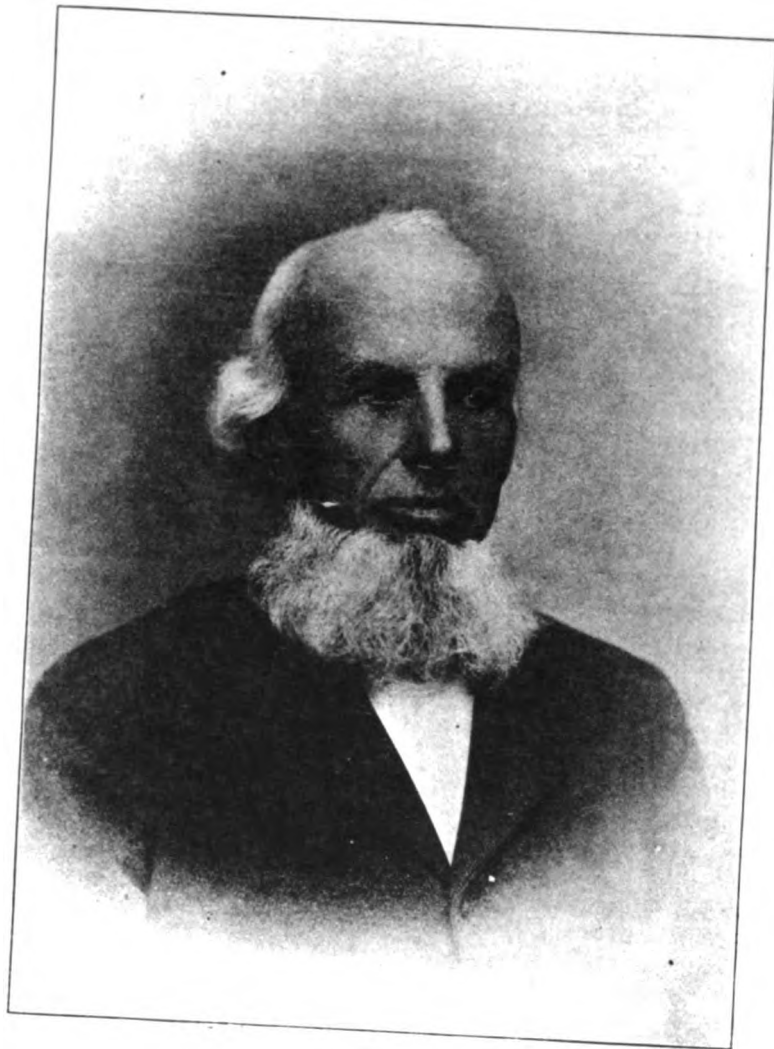
Capt. Adams was married in Toledo, December 22, 1874, to Miss Minnie K. Maybee, who was born in Monroe county, Mich., March 14, 1849, and they have two children, Grace M. and Maude; the former graduated from the public schools of North Baltimore May 29, 1896; Maude is now in the class of 1898, same school. The Captain is of distinguished appearance, a most genial companion, his many and varied experiences making him an interesting conversationalist, and his travels have given him an excellent insight into human nature, with a power of self-restraint that makes him an admirable public official.

SOLOMON FRIES, ex-commissioner of Wood county, and one of the substantial agriculturists of Bloom township, furnishes a demonstration of what right ambitions, hard work, wise management and an economical wife will enable one to accomplish. He was born November 24, 1824, in South Whitehall township, Lehigh Co., Pennsylvania.

His family is of English origin, the first to come to America being John Fries, his grandfather, who settled near Philadelphia. He died there suddenly, of cholera, leaving five children penniless. They were sent to relatives in Lehigh county, and there Abraham Fries, our subject's father, was reared, attending school but little and learning the shoemaker's trade at an early age. He married Miss Mary Smith, a daughter of Henry Smith, a well-known resident of Lehigh county, and of their family seven grew to adult age: Gid-

eon, of Lehigh county, Penn.; Mary, deceased wife of John Acker, of Lehigh county; Solomon, our subject; Amos now living in Lehigh county; Samuel, who died in Alabama about 1885; Violetta (now Mrs. Ezra Hildebeitel), of Allentown, Penn., and Elias, who resides in Bowling Green. Abraham Fries won creditable success in life, without the aids upon which so many others have based their progress. He and his wife were devout adherents of the Reformed Church; in politics he was a Democrat, but took no active part in public affairs. His death occurred in 1858, when he was seventy-six years old, his wife having passed away some years before, aged fifty-six. Her parents came from Scotland, and settled near Philadelphia.

The subject of our sketch attended a German subscription school, the only one of any kind in his neighborhood, which itself was German. In May, 1841, he began to learn the trades of bricklayer, stonemason and plasterer. His mother had died three years before, when he was fourteen, and his father, being consumptive, had early impressed upon his children the necessity for their becoming self-supporting. Three years were spent by young Solomon Fries as an apprentice, during the first of which he received nothing; during the second he received his board, but no wages, and for the third he got his board and twenty-five cents per day. His trade he followed continuously for ten years, and although Allentown, Penn., was burned about that time, and labor was in demand, he never received more than seventy-five cents per day, and sixty-five was considered good wages. In the fall of 1851 he came to Tiffin, Ohio, traveling by the Erie canal to Buffalo and a lake steamer to Sandusky. From that point he took the Mad River railroad (now the Big Four), arriving October 28, 1851, at his destination, where he was welcomed by some old friends named Strauss. Work was scarce and money scarcer, and, winter coming on before any regular employment was found, he offered to work for his board. Still unsuccessful, he determined to make the most of his time by attending an English school, although he was twenty-seven years old at the time, and this he attended only twenty-two days. After he paid his tuition, on April 1, 1852, he had only the small sum of \$1.84 left. He would have returned to Pennsylvania had he been able to secure the means, but things soon took a turn for the better, and he found some work at carpentering, and, later, steady work at his trade. During the dull season in winter he would chop wood for twenty-five cents a day and board, the highest price he ever received being thirty-five cents per cord.



*Salomon Lries*



On February 21, 1856, Mr. Fries was married in Tiffin to Miss Louisa C. Steckel, a native of Lehigh county, Penn., born April 29, 1836. Her father, a blacksmith by trade, came to Ohio in 1840 with his wife Caroline (Leisenring) and their two children. They located first in Butler county, but later, in 1844, moved to Seneca county. On October 10, 1860, Mr. Fries bought 160 acres of land in Bloom township, Wood county, partly cleared, with a small barn and a log cabin, to which he brought his family April 16, 1861. He had saved enough money to begin farming to good advantage, and it was not long before he had his farm in good condition. For some time he worked at his trade, but later he gave his entire attention to his estate, to which he has added until he now owns 743 acres, much of which is the best land in that vicinity. In 1876 he built a model barn, and in 1882 he erected the finest brick farm house in the township, and one of the best in the county. He has done the most of this work himself, and his fine orchard was planted by him, with the help of his wife, who has been an able assistant to him in all his efforts. Seven children were born to them: Zenobia is at home; William A. is a farmer of Bloom township; Jennie died at four years of age; Selinda married Albert Ickes, of Webster township; Edward M. is a lawyer at Bowling Green; Anna married Frank Slotterbeck, of Bloom township, and Cora is at home.

In local affairs and in the work of the Republican party Mr. Fries is prominent, his sound common sense and well-known integrity having gained him the entire confidence of a wide circle of acquaintances. For twenty-two years he was a member of the school board of his district, and has also been trustee and supervisor of Bloom township. In the fall of 1881 he was elected county commissioner, and held that office for six years following, with credit to himself and satisfaction to the public. He and his amiable wife stand high in the esteem of the community.

**MARCUS A. MCKENDREE, M. D.** Among the many excellent physicians residing in Bowling Green may be found the subject of this sketch who, with his estimable wife, also a member of the medical fraternity, holds a leading place in both professional and social circles.

Dr. McKendree is the son of James and Elizabeth (Baldwin) McKendree, the former of whom was born in 1801 in county Antrim, Ireland, and came to America when eighteen years of age. His parents were natives of Scotland, who removed to Ireland, and there died. The

wife of James McKendree was born in 1818 in Pawlet, Vt., and their marriage took place in Erie county, Penn., where for some years they carried on farming. In 1856, when the subject of this sketch was three years of age, his father removed with his family to Ohio, and kept what was called the "State Line House," an old-time country inn, which stood on the State line between Ohio and Pennsylvania, between Ashtabula and Erie counties, Mr. McKendree owning land on both sides of the line. There they lived for twenty years, the father dying in 1874. The mother of our subject resides in Erie, Penn. Her parents came from Rutland county, Vt., and settled in Erie county, Penn., where they both died, the mother surviving her husband for twenty years, and living to the good old age of eighty-four years.

Mr. McKendree, Sr., was a prominent Mason and Odd Fellow, and his son has many of the emblems which he wore in the high degrees of the former order. In politics he was a Democrat, and was a highly esteemed citizen. He was twice married, his first wife being a Miss Snow, by whom he had two children, James, a farmer in Rulo, Neb., and Nancy, who became the wife of George Nash and lived in Erie county, Penn., both now deceased. By his second marriage seven children were born, namely: William J., living in Lima, Ohio; Albert, in Erie, Penn.; Irvin P., in Conneaut, Ohio; Helen and Robert E., residing in Erie county, Penn.; Josephine E., married to Frank Colman, and also living in Erie, Penn.; and Marcus A.

The subject of this sketch was born in Erie county, Penn., July 19, 1853, and his boyhood days were spent in the old inn which his father kept on the State line. He remembers sundry amusing incidents which occurred during his residence there, the house being the scene of many romantic weddings. At that time no marriage license was required in Pennsylvania, and many couples would come to the "State Line House" to be married, as the parlor and sitting room were in that State. The literary education of our subject was obtained at the Conneaut High School, after which he commenced reading medicine at home, and later with Dr. Schooley, of Weston. After teaching school for a time he entered the Eclectic Medical Institute at Cincinnati, from which he was graduated in June, 1884, and for two years thereafter was associated with Dr. Schooley in the practice of medicine at Weston. He then took up his residence in Bowling Green, where he has since been successfully engaged in general



practice. He has been connected with the Pension Board since September, 1893, and is at present its secretary. He is a member of the State Eclectic Medical Society and of the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association. Socially, he is a prominent member of the Encampment, Uniform Rank, I. O. O. F., and is the physician for the Order of the Maccabees in Bowling Green.

Dr. McKendree was married December 25, 1876, to Lydia Walford, who was born in New York City, December 8, 1858. Mrs. McKendree graduated from the Toledo Medical College in March, 1893, after having read medicine for some time with her husband, and has a large practice. She makes a specialty of the diseases of women, and is very successful in her treatment. She is the medical advisor of the L. O. T. M., in Bowling Green. Both she and her husband are popular members of society.

JOHN D. MUIR, a leading agriculturist of Webster township, Wood county, was born in that vicinity, January 15, 1841. His father, James Muir, was born in Scotland, and in 1832 came to Wood county and entered 160 acres of land in Webster township, where he died April 18, 1857. He was a Republican in politics, and one of the earliest supporters of the United Presbyterian Church at Scotch Ridge. He married Miss Marion Dunipace, a native of Scotland, and had twelve children, of whom our subject is the eldest. Margaret, Jane and James reside with their mother at the old homestead; Mary married John Hagamier; Susan married H. C. Swan; Jessie married Charles Greiner; William, Isabel, Frances, and Alice are deceased.

Mr. Muir went to school during boyhood in an old log house in District No. 4, Webster township, his first teacher being Miss Carruthers. He worked upon the farm until 1861, when he enlisted in Company K, 21st O. V. I., under Capt. S. S. Canfield. He participated in a number of hard-fought battles, and in January, 1863, received an honorable discharge. Soon after he re-enlisted for five years in Company G, 64th battalion, which consolidated with a battalion from Wyandot county, forming the 144th O. V. I. (Col. Hunt commanding). After the consolidation, Lieut. Muir was transferred from Company G to E. He was ordered to Toledo September 16, 1863, where he was commissioned second lieutenant, and then sent home, September 19, to order his company to report at Camp Lucas, Toledo, Ohio. A collision occurred September 20, on the D. & M. R. R., while the new recruits were on their way to Toledo, and several

were killed and injured. Among the latter was Lieut. Muir, who was unable to go to the front for some time, but finally, in May, 1864, rejoined his regiment at Wilmington, Del. He returned home at the close of the war, and in 1866 bought forty acres of land, and built a log cabin with only one window and one door, and to this primitive abode, on May 2, 1866, he brought his bride, formerly Miss Eliza Loomis, a daughter of Dudley and Mary (Wallace) Loomis. Five children were born of this union, whose names with dates of birth are as follows: Philinda, December 30, 1866, was for ten years a successful teacher in the public schools, and now travels as saleslady for a Kansas firm; Dudley J., June 2, 1868; Minnie, September 20, 1870, married Charles Urban; Fannie, July 15, 1874, married July 18, 1896, to Byron H. Callin; Mabel, August 2, 1875, is at home. Mr. Muir is now living in Toledo, having retired from active business. He is a Republican in politics, and has held various offices of trust, having been school director for twelve years, and also trustee and supervisor. He is a member of the F. & A. M., No. 516, of Pemberville; of Manateau Club, and A. P. A., of Toledo, and of Benedict Post G. A. R., No. 26, of Pemberville, of which he is commander. DUDLEY J. MUIR, our subject's son, was born at the old homestead in Webster township, near Scotch Ridge. He was educated in the schools of that neighborhood, and for a time was employed as traveling salesman for a firm in Chicago. On October 7, 1890, he married Miss Kaddie Beard, daughter of Alex and Mary (Shoemaker) Beard. She was born March 25, 1870, in Perrysburg township. They are leading members of the U. B. Church. Mr. Dudley Muir is a Republican, and a member of Camp A. Jolly, Sons of Veterans, No. 301, of Pemberville.

FRANK W. ROGERS, M. D., specialist in diseases of the eye, ear and throat, although still a young man, stands at the head of his profession, and is one of the most successful practitioners in the State. He is a native of Ohio, born in Norwalk, April 3, 1863, and is the son of Samuel J. and Fanny M. (Wilson) Rogers.

Dr. Rogers is the youngest of four children—three sons and one daughter—all of whom are living. During his boyhood he attended the schools of his native town, after completing the course in which he began reading medicine under Dr. Gill, of that city. For two years he was a student in the medical college at Ann Arbor, Mich., after which he entered the Chicago Homeopathic College, Chicago, from which he was

graduated in 1888. He began the practice of his profession in Bowling Green, and after a time took a course in the New York Post-Graduate School. In the colleges both at Chicago and New York he made a special study of the diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat, in which line he has achieved a wonderful success. He is a fine scholar, devoted to his work, of which he is very fond, and is popular with his brother practitioners. He has recently established an elegant office in the Spitzer Building, Toledo, Ohio, thereby giving his patrons the advantage of better railroad facilities, and gaining a central location for all northwestern Ohio.

Dr. Rogers has been successful not only in his professional career, but also financially. Dependent on his own exertions and his ability and energy, he has acquired a nice competence, most of his interests being located in Bowling Green. He owns the block on West Wooster street, in which he has the finest suite of offices in the county, and is one of the four partners in the Swayzee Glass Company, located at Swayzee, Ind. This company does a large business in the manufacture of fruit jars, oil cans, bottles, etc., and employs about one hundred men; they own their own gas wells. Dr. Rogers is a Republican in politics, and is one of the most popular young men in the city. On February 4, 1895, he was married to Alzora M. Downer, daughter of Wellington and Mary (Marlatt) Downer, of Mitchell, S. Dak. She is a lovable woman, a friend to every one, domestic in her life and an invaluable companion.

Samuel J. Rogers, the father of our subject, was born in Watertown, N. Y., November 14, 1826, and was the third in a family of twelve children. When eight years of age he came with his father's family to Norwalk, Ohio, where he was married January 26, 1851, to Fannie M. Wilson, who was born in the latter city January 31, 1833. He was a cooper by trade, but after his marriage he took up farming and made a comfortable fortune. In his early days he exchanged half of a cravat for two oak trees, worked them up into barrels which he hauled to Huron to sell, thus making his first start in business. Politically he was a strong Abolitionist. He was a descendant of Gen. Harper, who was in command at the battles of Bunker Hill, Lexington, and other noted engagements in the Revolutionary war. Frank W. Rogers, a brother of Samuel J., enlisted in the Third Ohio Cavalry during the Civil war, and died at the hospital at Louisville, Kentucky.

Mrs. Rogers was a member of the Methodist

Church. Her parents were Levi and Lucy (Kellogg) Wilson, the former of whom was born at Scranton, Penn., of Scotch and German ancestry, and settled in Norwalk in an early day, where he was married and lived until sixty-three years of age. In early life he was a cooper, but he afterward followed the occupation of a farmer. He was a large, powerful man, a giant in strength and endurance. Until the time of the Civil war he was a Democrat in politics, but he became an ardent Republican during that period. His wife was one of the twelve children of Martin Kellogg, one of the leading pioneers of Norwalk, who died in 1892 at the advanced age of one hundred and six years.

EDMUND G. BAKER. There are numerous fine farms in this county which will compare favorably with any others in the State as regards production, and, also, as to the improvements which have been made upon them. Many of these places are owned by men comparatively young in years, who started in the world with but little more than an unlimited amount of energy and perseverance, and who are succeeding to an eminent degree in building up a comfortable home in Wood county. As a representative of this class of agriculturists, great pleasure is taken in presenting the name of the subject of this notice, who is living on a good farm of ninety-nine acres in Troy township, which was first opened up by Henry Baker, of Pemberville, Ohio. Our subject bought the place in 1888, and the following year moved thereon. He now devotes his time to its cultivation, and also to stock dealing, making a specialty of handling sheep.

Mr. Baker made his advent into this world September 1, 1858, in Woodville township, Sandusky Co., Ohio, at the home of his parents, Sandford G. and Phoebe (Osborn) Baker. His father was born in 1817, in Vermont, and with his father, Elijah Baker, came to Wood county, in 1838, locating on a farm in Troy township, near Luckey. The latter's wife bore the maiden name of Lavina White, and was a native of Vermont. After residing on that farm for some years, the grandfather removed to Woodville township, Sandusky county, where he bought a farm of Sardis Burchard, on which the father now lives. His death occurred in that township in 1864, in his ninetieth year, and his wife died in September, 1862.

In 1840, in Troy township, Sandford G. Baker was united in marriage with Miss Almira Webster, a native of Connecticut, and a daugh-

ter of Joseph Webster, one of the honored pioneers of Troy township, who died in Hillsdale, Mich. Mrs. Baker died in 1856, leaving three children who yet survive: Mrs. Helen Morse, of Missouri; Mrs. Emily Osborn, of Iowa; and John W., who resides at Burgoon, Sandusky county. In Woodville township, Sandusky county, the father again married, his second union being with Miss Phoebe Osborn, and their wedding was celebrated in 1857. The lady was born in Erie county, N. Y., and is a daughter of Joseph and Catherine (House) Osborn. Her father died in the Empire State, after which her mother moved to Sandusky county, Ohio, where she later became the wife of Mr. Benedict, but both are now deceased. In his younger days, Mr. Baker was a great hunter, and at that time had ample opportunity to indulge in that sport all over Wood county. For two years he kept a public house at Lemoyne, and then removed to his present farm in Woodville township, Sandusky county. By his second union he had eleven children, ten of whom are still living, namely: Edmund G., whose name introduces this review; Ida, who is taking a literary course at Ann Arbor, Mich.; George, a teacher in the public schools in Kansas; Mrs. Belle Price, who previous to her marriage also engaged in teaching; Rose, at home; Sanford, an attorney at law of Seattle, Wash.; William P., who is studying electrical engineering in the University of Michigan; Arthur, who is studying medicine in the same institution; and Kate and Charley, both at home.

After pursuing his studies for several years in the district schools of Woodville township, Edmund G. Baker entered the normal at Valparaiso, Ind., where after two years he was graduated with the class of 1882, and on returning to Sandusky county served as superintendent of the Woodville school for two years. His marriage was there celebrated December 3, 1884, Miss Linda Herman becoming his wife. She is a native of that county, born January 27, 1860, educated in Woodville, and is a daughter of Henry and Clarinda (Webster) Herman, early pioneers of Sandusky county, who still make their home in Woodville township. By this union three sons have been born: Mark, born October 18, 1885; Roscoe, born April 17, 1888; and Ralph, born January 29, 1893.

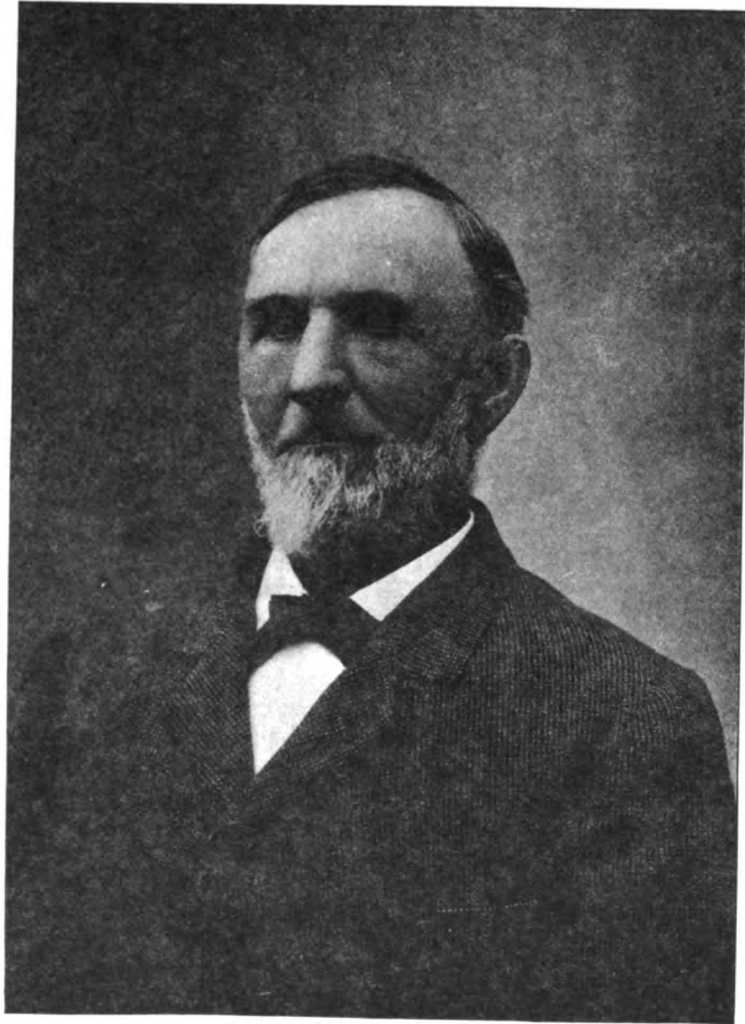
F. H. THOMPSON, ex-county commissioner, farmer and fruit raiser, of Perrysburg township, was born in Rutland, Vt., July 28, 1839, a son of Augustus M. and Ann Maria (Slawson) Thompson.

Augustus M. Thompson was born near Poughkeepsie in 1814, and first came to Perrysburg in 1832, settling there permanently in 1836. He afterward took up farming on the Stone road, and then returned to mercantile business in Perrysburg, where he died in 1875. Politically he was a Whig. Mrs. Thompson was born in Rutland in 1814, and died in Perrysburg in 1891. Six children blessed their union, namely: Helen, who died when five years old; F. H., our subject; Arrietta, now Mrs. Charles Dustin, of Toledo; Charles A., who lives in Massachusetts; Emma, the wife of W. S. Weed, of Toledo; and John P., residing in Perrysburg.

Our subject was an infant when his parents came to Perrysburg, where he went to school for a short time, and then left to work in his father's store. Later he was employed on a railroad in the positions of brakeman and conductor, respectively, on a freight train. In 1863 he was agent for the C. H. & D. R. R., at Perrysburg, in which position he remained for over a year, then resigning to take a situation in a dry-goods store. In April, 1861, he enlisted in Company C, 21st O. V. I., and served nearly four months. On December 21, 1865, he was married to Mrs. Spafford, whose maiden name was Amanda Baird. For a year after his marriage he clerked, and then came to a farm in Perrysburg, where he has sixty-seven acres of land, forty-five of which are laid out in apple trees, to the cultivation of which he has devoted much of his time. From these apples he makes cider, and he has an extensive custom trade.

Mr. Thompson is a Republican, and was for two years trustee of the township. In the fall of 1886 he was elected county commissioner and served two terms—six years—consecutively. He has made a wide reputation as a county officer; he is a clear thinker, a natural student of human nature, and has posted himself so thoroughly on the law pertaining to the duties and powers of county and township officials that he has become the recognized authority on all technical questions. He has a mind naturally adapted to research, and is too cautious to proceed blindly with a project, but prefers to stick to the old adage: "Know first that you are right, and then go ahead."

By her first marriage, Mrs. Thompson had three children: Clifton Amos, who married Grace Cooper, and has two children—Grace and May; Elmer, a civil engineer in Bowling Green, who married Mildred Kramer, and has one child—James Francis; and Waldo, who died when two years old. Two sons were born of her marriage



*F. M. Thompson*



with Mr. Thompson: (1) Leland Albert, born March 15, 1868, at present in charge of the water supply on the Clover Leaf R. R. (he married Miss Carrie Pierce, and they have one child—Esther M.); and (2) Edward A., born March 21, 1870.

F. M. YOUNG, cashier of the Commercial Banking Co., of Bowling Green, and a leading citizen of Wood county, was born September 12, 1845, in Mercer county, Ohio. Until sixteen years of age Mr. Young made his home at Wapakoneta. Soon after the breaking out of the Civil war, although only a boy, he decided to offer his services in defense of the old flag. He accordingly enlisted, August 7, 1862, for three years, in Company K, 99th O. V. I., and served throughout the war, being mustered out with his regiment June 26, 1865, at Salisbury, N. C., with the rank of orderly sergeant. He was sent to Camp Dennison, Ohio, and received his discharge July 17, 1865. The regiment to which he belonged was assigned to the Western division of the army, and participated in every battle of the campaign, twenty-four in all, besides many skirmishes. After the fall of Fort Fisher the regiment was assigned to the Eastern division, and marched through the Southern States, taking part in all the engagements in that section. The 99th went into service with 1,021 men, but lost so heavily, in killed and wounded, that although several times recruited, it was so reduced in number that it was finally consolidated with the 50th O. V. I., and it was as sergeant in that regiment that our subject was serving at the time of his discharge.

After the close of the war Mr. Young settled in Plattsburg, Mo. Here he was employed in the office of the clerk and county recorder until 1871, when he returned to Ohio for the purpose of assisting his father, who was then in feeble health. He located in Weston, where, in 1872, he was married to Miss Hattie Baldwin, who was born in Perrysburg, Ohio, August 8, 1852. Three children have blessed this union: Mabel, Charles and Robert. After his marriage Mr. Young was engaged in the insurance business until 1877, when he was appointed to a position in the U. S. Revenue office at Toledo, and removed his family to Perrysburg. He was "civil serviced" out of position for participating in politics, and returned to Weston. Having been elected probate judge in 1884, he removed to Bowling Green, which has since been his home. In 1892 Mr. Young was made secretary of the American Foundry & Machine Co. On December 15, 1892, he was appointed cashier of the Commercial Banking Co., which

responsible position he continues to hold to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Mr. Young is a strong Republican, and as may be inferred from his war record, is an active member of the G. A. R., of which he founded the first post under the new rules in Wood county, at Weston. He is also a member of the Masonic Order, I. O. O. F. and Royal Arcanum. He is deeply interested in whatever pertains to the welfare of his community, and is one of its most highly respected citizens.

T. J. Young, the father of our subject, was born in 1820 in Shelby county, Ohio, where for many years he followed farming. He was subsequently made postmaster at Wapakoneta, which office he held from 1852 until 1863, removing in the latter year to Wood county. His death took place in 1888 at Celina, Ohio. He was a staunch Democrat. He married Lydia A. Shipman, who was born in 1826 in Mercer county, Ohio, the daughter of Herman and Sarah Shipman, both of whom were of Dutch descent; the former was born in New Jersey, the latter in Pennsylvania. Mrs. Young died in 1872. Their family comprised three children, namely: Lenora, who married J. S. Bodkin, now of Spencerville, Allen Co., Ohio; Sarah, who became the wife of H. H. Keil, of Weston, Ohio; and our subject.

John Young, the paternal grandfather, was a native of Kentucky. He was a great hunter, and his brother William was a friend and companion of Daniel Boone. The Young family is of Scotch origin.

JAMES H. LA FARREE, the efficient manager and secretary of the Bowling Green Natural Gas Co., enjoys in a marked degree the confidence of the stockholders in that prosperous enterprise, and has won, by his energy, integrity and good judgment, an enviable reputation throughout the community. He is a native of Wood county, born September 26, 1837, on his father's farm, near Stony Ridge.

His grandfather, David La Farree, came from the vicinity of Strasburg, which then belonged to France, over a hundred years ago, and settled near Chambersburg, Penn., where his son, James La Farree, our subject's father, was born January 9, 1797, and spent his youth. Arriving at manhood, James La Farree married Miss Elizabeth Sifford, who was born in Maryland March 12, 1800. Her father, Christian Sifford, was a prominent citizen of Frederick City, Md., and had been an under-professor at Heidelberg University previous to his coming to America. She was one of a large family, of whom six—John,

Louis, Daniel, Ann, William and herself—lived to old age.

After their marriage, our subject's parents came to Ohio, locating at Lancaster, in 1820. Later they went to Maryland, where they remained two years, and then returning to Ohio, again settled at Lancaster. In 1832 they moved to Perrysburg, Ohio, and bought government land near Stony Ridge, in Wood county. At that time the old Western Reserve and Maumee turnpike was not built, and these courageous pioneers had to make their way through the woods as best they could. Mr. La Farree was a cabinet maker by trade, and carried on that business for some time in addition to his farm work. He was a Democrat, as every member of the family has always been, and he had at first only two fellow-partisans in the township. He and his wife were members of the M. E. Church. He died of cholera, August 2, 1852, his wife surviving him until September 10, 1888, when she died at the old homestead. They had seven children: John, born March 20, 1820, was a resident of Troy township, and died December 12, 1888; Augustus, born March 5, 1826, was a soldier during the first years of the Civil war, and died August 3, 1865; Cornelia, born March 31, 1831, is the wife of M. B. Richmond, of Crawfordsville, Ind.; Samuel, born March 22, 1834, lived at Umatilla, Oregon, and died May 16, 1866; James H. is the subject of this sketch; George W., born February 9, 1841, lives in Perrysburg; Frances, born April 12, 1844, is the wife of Samuel Swope, of Troy township.

James H. La Farree was educated in the district schools near his home, and in the public schools of Perrysburg. Not content with these opportunities, he has followed an extended course of private study, and kept well posted on the subjects which interest the best minds of the day. At the age of fifteen he learned the cooper's trade with a neighbor, Joshua Chappel, and afterward taught school for some time. He then engaged in bridge building, and later became foreman of the planing-mills at Perrysburg, holding that position thirteen years. In July, 1880, he came to Bowling Green, and became foreman in a planing-mill; but on becoming connected with the Natural Gas Co., he undertook the management of that business. Since July 1, 1886, he has had exclusive control of their interests.

In April, 1861, Mr. La Farree enlisted for three months in Company C, 21st O. V. I., and served in West Virginia; but after two months' service, being taken sick, he came home, and was sick for nearly two years. In February,

1865, he re-enlisted, in Company G, 189th O. V. I., and served several months in northern Alabama and Tennessee, being discharged in September, 1865, with the rank of orderly sergeant.

In 1863, Mr. La Farree was married to Miss Ella G. Norton, who was born in Perrysburg May 12, 1846. They have six children, all living in Bowling Green: Lloyd, Erne, Alice, Kate, Daisy and Rex. Another daughter, Winifred, died in 1880, at the age of four years. Since 1863 Mr. La Farree has been a Mason, and he is a member of Phoenix Blue Lodge, Perrysburg, and Crystal Chapter, Bowling Green.

Chester Willis Norton, Mrs. La Farree's father, was in his day one of the leading men of Wood county. He was a native of Henderson, N. Y., born about 1820, and came in an early day to Perrysburg, Wood county, with his father, Chester Norton, who was a merchant. Chester W. Norton was married in 1842 to Theresa Curtis, who was born in New York State about 1827, daughter of Jairus and Susan (Alexander) Curtis, natives of Vermont who settled at Perrysburg in a very early day.

JOHN MCMAHAN. The subject of this personal narrative is one of the most successful stock raisers and progressive farmers within the borders of Perry township, owning a good homestead of eighty-five acres in Section 11. He has made his special field of industry an eminent success, and is highly esteemed and respected by those who know him best. A native of Ohio, he was born in Spencer township, Hamilton county, January 14, 1816, and is the eldest of the four children of Hugh and Elizabeth (Stump) McMahan, the others being Mary, wife of John McCloy, of Cincinnati, Ohio; Andrew, who for over forty years ran a sawmill, and died in Cincinnati, in August, 1894; and Jane, wife of Edward Collins, also of the same city. When only a boy, his father died, but his mother kept the family together, living in a small house given her by her father. She passed away in Hamilton county in 1836.

John McMahan attended the subscription schools, paying fifty cents a month tuition, and the wood used for fuel was also contributed by the pupils. He followed various occupations during his youth, and as he lived near where the Little Miami river flows into the Ohio, he often made a few cents by catching minnows for the gentlemen who came out from Cincinnati to fish. At the age of twenty-two, he began to work at the carpenter's trade, at which he was able to

earn \$1 per day, and followed that business for many years.

In Hamilton county, in August, 1843, Mr. McMahan wedded Miss Martha Matthews, a native of Indiana, and a daughter of George Matthews. To them was born a son—Walter, who died in Florida, in February, 1894. After the death of his first wife, our subject married Sarah Seaman, who was a daughter of William Seaman, and was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, where she departed this life, leaving one child—Martha, now Mrs. Lewis Beckman, of Perry township.

In March, 1857, Mr. McMahan came to Wood county, walking from Tiffin to Fostoria, and on his arrival in Perry township erected a house for Nathan Hatfield. In the following October he was united in marriage with Miss Jane A. Hatfield, a native of Ashland county, Ohio, and a daughter of Nathan Hatfield, and they became the parents of the following children—Sarah J., who was born November 4, 1859, and became the wife of Charles Shunk, of Perry township, where she died; Nathan E., who was born December 26, 1861, and died while young; Hugh, who was born December 6, 1865, and is a farmer of Perry township; Louisa, who was born March 16, 1864, and died at the age of nineteen years; William H., who was born February 2, 1869, and lives at home; Warren P., of Perry township, born September 7, 1874; and Minnie D., born February 18, 1877. After ten weeks of illness, the mother of this family died August 2, 1895, and her remains were interred at Fostoria, Ohio. She held membership with the Evangelical Church.

In the fall of 1857, Mr. McMahan went to Cincinnati, where for two years he worked with his brother in a sawmill, but in March, 1860, returned to Wood county, purchasing forty acres of new land in Section 33, Perry township, only a few acres of which had been cleared. He erected a two-story frame house upon the place, 18 x 32 feet, with a kitchen, 14 x 16 feet, and one story in height. For sixteen years he was employed in the sawmill of Nathan Hatfield, but in April, 1878, removed to his present farm in Section 11, Perry township, where about half of his eighty-five acres had been cleared, and on the place stood a small log house, a short distance east of his present home. The neat and orderly appearance of the property manifests to the most casual observer the thrift and care of the proprietor, and shows conclusively that he understands his business thoroughly. He has erected all the buildings upon his farm, and, besides general

farming, has been very successful in the raising of hogs, never having lost a single one by cholera, when they were dying all around him. His first vote was cast for William H. Harrison, later he became a Democrat, but for nearly twenty years has now voted with the Republican party. On that ticket he was elected justice of the peace in Perry township, where he served for three years. He joined the I. O. O. F. in Cincinnati, with which he held membership for a number of years, and for fifty years has been a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

J. B. WILSON, of Bowling Green, the well-known deputy treasurer of Wood county, holds in a marked degree the esteem of the public as an able and energetic official, having served the county in several responsible positions. He is a native of Wood county, born in Grand Rapids, December 31, 1853.

His father's family was originally from Germany, but his grandfather, John Wilson, was born in Pennsylvania, and in early manhood came to Ohio, where he was prominent among the early settlers. He died in Stark county September 27, 1866, at the age of seventy-five years. His son Matthew, our subject's father, was born in Fayette county, Penn., February 12, 1812. After coming to Ohio with his parents he married Miss Elizabeth Blythe, who was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, October 31, 1823, the daughter of a leading pioneer, Samuel Blythe, later of Weston, Wood county. He was of mixed English and Scotch blood, and his parents settled in Jefferson county during the territorial period. Our subject's parents lived in Wayne county for four years after their marriage, and then moved to Grand Rapids, Wood county. From 1853 to 1867 Mr. Wilson, Sr., was employed in a store as clerk. They returned to Wayne county to spend the remainder of their lives, and died there—Mr. Wilson on January 27, 1887, and his wife on December 7, 1891. They were devout adherents of the Methodist Church.

Our subject was the youngest of their three children. David, the eldest, lives in Wayne county, and C. H. in Chicago, Ill. With the exception of a few years in Wayne county during boyhood, Mr. Wilson has spent his life in Wood county. In 1879 he was made principal of the schools of North Baltimore, holding that position until 1881, when he resigned to accept the office of deputy auditor of Wood county. His faithful service was appreciated by the people, and after six years as deputy he was elected auditor, being re-elected on the expiration of his



first term. He has recently accepted the appointment as deputy treasurer. He was married December 31, 1878, to Miss Catherine Simon, a native of Wood county. They have four children—Milo D., Cecil B., Charles and Gladys. Politically he is a Republican, "dyed in the wool," his father having been an early supporter of that party. He was a delegate to the National Republican Convention at Minneapolis in 1892, and voted for Hon. Wm. McKinley for President. He is a member of the I. O. O. F. and the K. of P.

**DERASTUS LEE.** It is an undisputed fact that Bloom township contains some of the leading farmers of Wood county, and among the foremost of these is the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch. He is the representative of one of our pioneer families, those who endured the hardships, privations and difficulties attending a settlement in the "Black Swamp" in the early "forties," and whose labor transformed the heavily timbered wilderness into productive fields. He passed his youth in the midst of the most primitive surroundings.

His grandfather, Lemuel Lee, was born in Connecticut. He was compelled to make his own way in the world from an early age, owing to the death of his father and the scattering of the family, and when a young man he came to Ohio, locating in Columbiana county. At that time Ohio had not yet been admitted as a State; within its limits was to be found much land upon which no "pale-face" had ever set foot, and in fact it was only along the eastern border that it was safe for a white man to take up his abode. Lemuel Lee married a Miss Jackson, and they had a large family, of whom six sons and two daughters lived to adult age. He was not a man to accumulate property, and in his circumstances there was but little opportunity to do so, but he made an honest living. He died about 1854.

George J. Lee, one of the older sons, born in 1806, was our subject's father. Reared on a frontier farm, his schooling was very limited; indeed, to use his own expression, he was "educated with the grubbing hoe." During his boyhood but few schools were to be found, and they were the subscription schools patronized by the well-to-do classes. He was a large boy before he ever attended one, and then the humiliation of reciting in classes composed of children much smaller than he almost drove him to leave school, which he would have done had it not been for the encouragement of the teacher, his

uncle, James Gordon. This one term of three months was the limit of his educational advantages. On February 4, 1830, he married Miss Hannah Wollam, a native of the same county, born in 1805. Her father, Henry Wollam, was a well-to-do farmer of that neighborhood, owning an excellent farm which he had redeemed from its primitive state, and improved with some unusually good buildings for that time. Before his marriage George Lee had learned the tanner's trade; but an attempt to engage in it met with little success, and he settled upon a farm on Beaver creek, where our subject first saw the light. As time passed, and the future of his children became an important problem, he decided to go farther west where land was cheaper, and September 25, 1841, he started for Wood county with his household goods in a large wagon, on which his wife rode with the younger members of the family, which then included six children. This conveyance was drawn by two oxen, with two horses as leaders. Ten days later they arrived in Montgomery township, having made a short visit in Richland county with friends, and a temporary home was made with John Vosburg until a suitable location was found. Mr. Lee entered 160 acres of land, which was in its primitive condition—not one tree having been cut upon it—and his first work was to clear a spot for the building of his log cabin. His brother, Henry, had accompanied the party, and he entered eighty acres adjoining, then returned home, where he died a few years afterward, having no direct heirs, and a one-third interest fell to our subject's father, who later bought the remaining two-thirds. He also bought another tract of forty acres, and at the time of his death owned 280 acres. He was a man of influence in his community, Democrat of the "Jacksonian stripe," and he took great interest in public affairs. For many years he and his wife were members of the Protestant Methodist Church. This venerable pioneer couple lived several years beyond their "Golden Wedding Anniversary"; they died within two and one-half years of each other, both having passed four-score years, and their remains rest in West Millgrove cemetery.

Ten children were born to them as follows: Henry, January 10, 1831, living in Jerry City; Derastus, April 27, 1832; Samuel, August 29, 1833, died in Bloom township, May 16, 1855, of consumption; Mary J., April 7, 1835, married Adam Graham, of Montgomery township; Jackson, June 19, 1837, enlisted August 15, 1861, in Company H, 49th O. V. I., was wounded at





*Derastus Lee*



Mary E Lee



Chickamauga, September 19, 1863, and died the next day, his body never being recovered; Milo, March 15, 1839, died in Bloom township, April 30, 1858, of consumption; Sarah A., October 18, 1840, married Philip Brubaker, of Bloom township; Susanna, May 9, 1842, is the wife of Benton Musser, of Gratiot county, Mich.; John H., September 11, 1844, died of consumption, January 13, 1862, in Bloom township; and Benjamin F., October 27, 1846, died March 23, 1847.

Derastus Lee was about nine years old when he came to this county, but there was plenty of work upon his father's farm, and even at that age he could "pick brush" in the clearing. With no modern machinery and but few tools, and those of the rudest sort, the work of the farm and household required the help of all, and schools were but little thought of, so that his educational opportunities were very limited. After he attained his majority he for one term attended the select school taught by Alfred Kelley, the pioneer teacher of West Millgrove. His own experience has given Mr. Lee a great desire to see facilities for education brought within the reach of everyone, and he is the ardent supporter of any improvement in the schools of to-day. On September 25, 1858, he married Miss Mary E. Vallance, a native of Ashland county, born June 22, 1837. Her parents, James and Elizabeth (Brubaker) Vallance, came to Wood county in September, 1849, settling in Perry township. She had fared no better than her husband in educational advantages, attending the schools of her day for about three months. At the time of his marriage Mr. Lee had by work and "dickering" secured a team of horses, a wagon, a plow, and a harrow, the first horse, which he bought of his uncle, Lemuel Lee, being paid for by \$30 in money and the chopping of ten acres of timber. With this outfit he started in business on his own account, taking the old homestead on shares. His residence for the first eleven years was in an old log school house which he had fitted up. There were many days of toil and but few of recreation in those years; but he and his wife were young, strong and ambitious, and their mutual affection made their old cabin a happy home. During this period Mr. Lee bought 160 acres of timber land in Section 12, Bloom township, which he still owns although he has never lived there. In the spring of 1871, he purchased eighty acres in Section 10, to which he moved. For twenty years he was engaged in threshing, in addition to farming, sometimes with a partner, sometimes without. His work was always faithfully done,

and while thus employed he gained a wide circle of friends in different parts of the county. He did not spare himself over his tasks, and frequently when he had been busy up to a late hour of the night, he has crawled up to the side of a straw stack to sleep till morning. He has added to his land at various times until he now has nearly 800 acres, making him one of the largest landowners in Wood county, and most of his property is good farming land, which can not be said of some other extensive holders. Probably there is not another instance in Wood county of a poor boy becoming, through his own efforts, the owner of so large an estate. Industry, wise and economical management, and shrewd bargaining have made this progress possible, his estimable wife deserving, also, a large share of credit.

Of their ten children, eight are now living in Bloom township. The names of all, with dates of birth, are as follows: James W., February 17, 1860, is a prosperous young farmer; Laura E., March 3, 1861, married Abraham Loe; John F., September 25, 1862, is a well-to-do farmer; Jacob E., July 31, 1864, is at home; Charles W., October 11, 1867, died February 2, 1868; Hattie E., February 6, 1869, married Samuel Dennis, of Bloom Center; Perry M., March 12, 1871, is a progressive young farmer; Florence, June 4, 1873, married Elza Wright, of Bloom township; Mary Ettie, October 1, 1875, died March 21, 1876; and Rhoda V., December 25, 1878, is at home. Among the foundation stones of Mr. Lee's tasteful and commodious residence is a relic of pioneer times — the top stone of an old hand-mill once belonging to his father's neighbor, Peter Painter, and many a time during his boyhood did Mr. Lee walk through the woods which lay between the two farms, carrying corn which he converted into meal with the aid of that stone.

Coming from a family in which consumption has claimed several members, Mr. Lee's death has been often predicted, yet he is hale and hearty, and bids fair to live many years. At the age of sixty-four he can perform a day's work which would do credit to one twenty years his junior. In October, 1894, he met with a serious injury. While nailing a board on a fence the nail broke and a flying piece struck him in the left eye, entirely destroying the sight. He is a good neighbor, kind-hearted, out-spoken, and a man of strict integrity. In politics Mr. Lee is a Democrat, and he is one of the chief counselors of the party in his locality. He formerly attended conventions and caucuses with great regular-

ity, but he has never been an office seeker, and, although he has served creditably as trustee of his township, he has often declined to become a candidate for other positions. He once led the "forlorn hope" against the overwhelming Republican majority in the county, having been selected by his party as the candidate for county commissioner, and he succeeded in reducing the majority—a notable achievement, as things stood.

FREDERICK YEAGER, a prominent citizen of Perrysburg, and a brave veteran of the Civil war, was born in Perrysburg, Wood Co., Ohio, February 22, 1844, a son of John J. and Elizabeth (Helfrich) Yeager. The grandfather, also named John J. Yeager, was a soldier in the French army, and died in France. The grandmother, whose maiden name was Margaret Liber, came with her second husband, Lorenze Hirtzel, to this country in 1854, and both died of cholera at Perrysburg eight weeks after their arrival. Mr. Hirtzel had also been a soldier in the French army. The maternal grandparents of Mr. Yeager were farmers in Lucas county, Ohio, where they died and were buried. They were members of the Roman Catholic Church.

John J. Yeager, father of our subject, was born June 7, 1821, in Alsace, France (now in Germany), and was married to Elizabeth Helfrich, a native of Germany, born November 19, 1819, in Hessen-Darmstadt. In 1840, prior to their marriage, they came to America, becoming acquainted at Perrysburg, where their wedding took place May 16, 1843. He was a farmer by occupation, and was thus employed until the breaking out of the Civil war, when, loyal to the interests of his adopted country, he decided to offer his services in defense of the government. Accordingly he organized a company, of which he was made captain, and which became a part of the 111th O. V. I. He entered the service in the fall of 1862, remaining therein some eighteen months, during which time he was present at the siege of Knoxville and in other noted engagements. In February, 1864, he was taken so ill that he was obliged to resign his command and return home. In 1868 he was made commissioner of Wood county, which office he held until 1871. His death took place at Perrysburg April 27, 1891. In religious faith he was a Methodist, in politics a Republican, and he was a most worthy citizen. His wife died January 16, 1890, leaving their only child, the subject of this sketch.

Frederick Yeager attended the common schools of his native village during his boyhood,

and had entered Baldwin University at Berea when Gov. Brough called out the 100-day men to serve in the war of the Rebellion. The patriotic impulses of the young student would not allow him to remain inactive at a time when the youth, as well as the grey-haired men, of his State were pressing to the front, and, like his father, he joined the Union forces, enlisting in Company F, 144th O. V. I., in which he served until August 24, 1864. On October 5, same year, he re-enlisted, this time in Company E, 181st O. V. I., and took part in the battles of Murfreesboro, Decatur, and Nashville, after which he became a member of the 23rd Army Corps, 2nd Division, 3rd Brigade; he was present at Raleigh, N. C., where Johnston surrendered to Sherman, April 20, 1865. He was honorably discharged at Salisbury, and returned to his home at Perrysburg, where he carried on farming for three years, embarking in mercantile business, in which he was engaged for the succeeding twenty-two years.

In politics a Republican, he has filled public positions of honor and trust, including township clerk (one year), to which office he was elected in 1870, though the township is strongly Democratic; township treasurer four years, from 1877 to 1881; was on the school board eleven years, and mayor of Perrysburg two years. In 1891 he was elected county treasurer, and was the second man born in the county to hold that office. In 1893 he was re-elected, and has filled the responsible position to the satisfaction of the public, and with credit to himself. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is prominent in the G. A. R., filling all the chairs in that order. On December 5, 1865, he was married at Perrysburg to Miss Fidelia E. Kreps, who was born September 1, 1844, and four children have blessed this union, as follows: Minnie E., born January 16, 1867, now the wife of S. H. Sanford (both are teachers in Little Rock University, Little Rock, Ark.); John O., born April 6, 1870, employed in a mercantile house in Toledo (he married Sarah Lindsey, and they have one child—Madeline); Merton F., born September 12, 1873, still at home; and George Legrand, born July 7, 1876, also at home. Mr. Yeager has always held a prominent place in the community, and is highly esteemed as a loyal and public-spirited citizen.

HON. E. F. DAY, mayor of Risingsun, is also one of the most prominent business men of that vicinity, being the head of a well-known firm of contractors and builders, and of the oil company known as Day, Burnett & Winchell.

His grandfather, Dr. Stephen F. Day, was a successful physician in Wayne county, Ohio, where he continued his practice to an advanced age. His wife, Elizabeth (Strause), a native of Pennsylvania, died in her seventy-sixth year in Montgomery township, Wood county, at the home of their son, Stephen F. Day, Jr., our subject's father. He was born in Wayne county, February 28, 1827, and came to Wood county at the age of fifteen. He lived near Longley until his marriage, in September, 1849, in Scott township, Sandusky county, to Miss Mary A. Phillips, who was born in Stark county, Ohio, October 26, 1828, the daughter of David and Mary A. (Bates) Phillips. The young couple began housekeeping near Risingsun, upon an uncleared tract of eighty acres, which Mr. Day sold after making some improvements. In the fall of 1860, he purchased 150 acres in Scott township, Sandusky county, and lived there until 1883, when he moved to a farm in Gratiot county, Mich. Later he went to Coffee county, Tenn., but, not liking the place, he only remained one winter, and returning to Wood county traded it for forty acres in Section 1, Perry township, where he now resides in a comfortable home. When a young man he worked at the carpenter's trade, but farming has been his chief occupation. Of his family of ten children all are married and well settled in life. They are—Emily, Mrs. Martin Shively, of Risingsun; Ezra F., our subject; Charles H., of Risingsun; David, of Seneca county, Ohio; Jane, Mrs. Edwin Ballinger, of Risingsun; Emanuel, a resident of the same town; the twins, Rosetta (Mrs. William Bovie, of Scott township, Sandusky county), and Rosanna (Mrs. Charles H. Williams, of Risingsun); Willis, who also lives at Risingsun; and Effie, Mrs. Eli Holtenbaugh, of Seneca county, Ohio.

Mr. Day first saw the light September 3, 1852, in Section 25, Montgomery township, and his early education was such as the district schools of that day and locality afforded. He was stout and active, and helped his father to clear up two farms during his boyhood; but at twenty-one he began to learn the carpenter's trade, for which he had already shown remarkable aptitude. Under the training of Adam Shively, of Scott township, Sandusky county, he readily mastered the details of the business, and then continued for two years as a partner. After this he engaged in contracting and building, and he has put up some of the finest residences in that locality. His ability as a mechanic is of the highest order, and he draws his own plans after a system which is unexcelled for simplicity and effectiveness. In

the spring of 1896 his brother C. H. became associated with him in the business.

On January 17, 1878, Mr. Day was married in Tiffin, Ohio, to Miss Charlotte Riley, the daughter of Thomas and Hannah (Mossgrove) Riley. They began housekeeping in Risingsun, in a very comfortable home which he had previously prepared, and here six children were born to them: Alfred J., Ada L., Bessie E., Homer F., Ethel, and Minnie. All are at home, and the first two are members of the class of 1896, Risingsun High School. Their mother departed this life November 17, 1891, and her mortal remains were consigned to earth in Trinity cemetery, Sandusky county. Mr. Day has since formed a second matrimonial alliance with Miss Ida Mills, of Ohio county, W. Va., the daughter of James Mills.

As a financier, Mr. Day has shown marked ability. His earlier years were by no means prosperous, and he was obliged to borrow money for the first ham that he ever had in his house; but his industry and shrewd management have brought a good reward. He owns eighty-three acres of land in Seneca county, and some very valuable town property for residence and business purposes, in Risingsun, and his oil interests and other enterprises now bring him, under his constant and judicious care, a fine competence. In principle he is a Democrat, but party lines are secondary with him to the public welfare. No man commands more fully the confidence of his fellowmen, and he began his public service at the age of twenty-one as clerk of Scott township, Sandusky county. He was the first mayor of Risingsun, and has since been elected several times, this being his fifth term. His decisions have never been reversed in the courts, and it may be said that he displays rare legal talent, all the more remarkable from his lack of early training. He has drafted ordinances and documents such as other incumbents of the office have not attempted; as an enemy to the disorderly element he has the esteem of the better classes. His popularity is proven by his repeated election to this office, and he has also served as treasurer of the village, and has been a member of the council every year except one since the incorporation of the town. Socially, he is a member of the I. O. O. F.

JUDGE GUY C. NEARING, of Bowling Green, now (1896) serving his second term as judge of the probate court of Wood county, has for nearly twenty years been a prominent member of the legal fraternity in the county.



He comes of old pioneer stock, and is of German descent. His grandfather, Guy Nearing, left central New York in 1817 to settle in Perrysburg, Ohio, where he died in 1840 at an advanced age. He was a contractor by occupation, interested in canal construction, and in a number of important buildings, among them the old court house and jail at Perrysburg, and a mill on the river. He was twice married; by his first wife he had three sons—Horatio, Zepheniah and Neptune (our subject's father)—and by his second wife he had two daughters, and three sons—Freeman, Henry and Emilius; of these Freeman died in infancy; Henry lives near Tontogany; and Emilius (who was deaf and dumb), followed the carpenter's trade in Fulton county until his death, in August, 1890. Of the daughters, one married, and died in Wood county; the other died in infancy.

Neptune Nearing, our subject's father, was born in New York State in 1808, and died in Wood county in 1844. He learned the cabinet maker's trade in his youth, but was engaged chiefly in assisting his father on his contracts. For a few years he conducted a hotel at Texas, Ohio, and then retired to his farm in Plain township. He returned to New York State for a wife, and married a distant relative, Mrs. Stella Nearing Parsons, who was born in Vermont in 1809, and died in 1890. Of their three children, the eldest, Scott, died in infancy; Sarah Rosetta is now the wife of J. Hayes, of Chicago, Ill.; our subject being the youngest.

Guy C. Nearing was born at the old farm in Plain township March 12, 1843, and had the ordinary educational advantages of a country boy of his time. In 1861 he enlisted as a private in Company B, 6th O. V. I., was first sent to West Virginia, was later transferred to the Ohio region, and finally to the army of the Cumberland. He was in several noted battles—Shiloh, Stone River, Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge—and after three years' service received an honorable discharge, leaving the army with the rank of sergeant. In December, 1862, he was wounded at Stone River, and fell into the enemy's hands. He was sent first to Nashville, and later to Louisville, and was absent from his command until the following May.

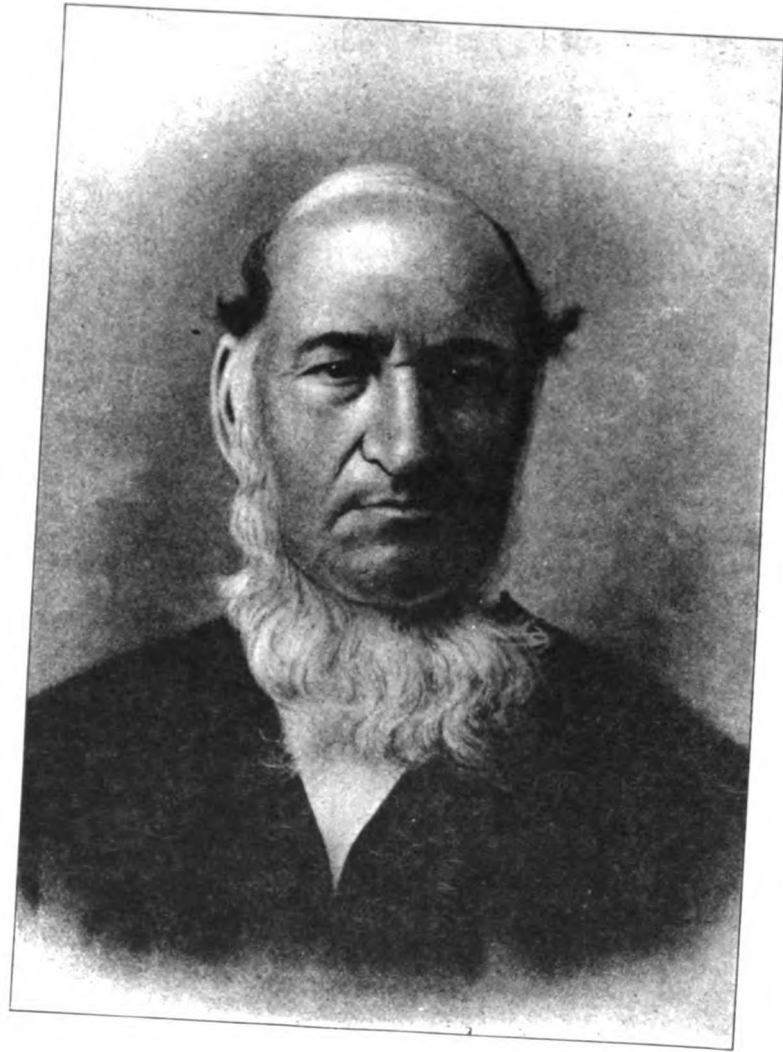
On his return home he attended school for a short time in Perrysburg, and then engaged in teaching during the winter time, though he was a farmer in summer. Thus he continued until 1873, when he began to study law. In 1876 he was admitted to the bar, and opened an office in Bowling Green, where his strong vitality and

commanding presence, his gift of accurate and rapid analysis of legal principles, and his untiring energy, brought him quick recognition in professional circles. He is also interested in various commercial enterprises, being a director in the First National Bank, having extensive investments in the oil fields of Wood county, and owning a farm of 120 acres in Center township. Politically he is a Republican, and he is regarded as a leader in county and municipal affairs, holding various offices. He has been a member of the city council, city solicitor, clerk of Center township, and since 1891 has been probate judge, having been re-elected to this second term by a large majority over an able and active competitor. He is a member of Wiley Post No. 46, G. A. R., and also takes an active interest in fraternal organizations, being a prominent Mason, a valuable member of the Blue Lodge, in which he has filled all the chairs, and a Royal Arch Mason; he also affiliates with the subordinate lodge, I. O. O. F., in which he has passed all the chairs.

On December 13, 1865, our subject married E. V. Rockwood, a native of Lorain county, born January 27, 1846, and they have one son, Charles R., who is deputy probate judge. As leading members of the M. E. Church, they take a prominent part in the social and philanthropical movements of that progressive body, and are also ready friends of every worthy enterprise outside of denominational lines.

Giles C. Rockwood, father of Mrs. Nearing, was born, in 1819, in New York State, and was a carpenter by trade. He came to Ohio with his parents in 1829, and was here married, in 1845, to Laura C. Wack, by whom he had three children: E. V. (Mrs. Nearing); Hoyt O., who died in October, 1877, leaving two sons—William P. and Ernest C.; and Frank P., who died in infancy. In 1849 Mr. Rockwood went to California, and was absent ten months. Mrs. Rockwood was born, in 1819, in Vermont, and in 1834 came to Ohio with her parents, Frederick W. and Hannah Wack, the former of whom was born in Colchester, Conn., and moved to Vermont. Frederick W. Wack was the only child of Frederick Wack, who came to this country from Germany when a boy, and died while serving in the Colonial army in the Revolutionary war.

SYLVESTER ABBOTT, in whose death the community lost one of its most valued citizens, was born July 13, 1812, near Boston, Mass., and at the age of five years came to Greene county,



*Sylvester B Abbott*



N. Y., where he acquired his education and learned the trade of carpenter and joiner, following that pursuit until his removal to Ohio, in 1833. He located in Huron county, where for a time he again engaged in carpentering, and then fitted himself for the legal profession, being admitted to the bar at Toledo.

In Huron county he was married, January 25, 1836, to Alzina Morey, by whom he had one child, John, born October 27, 1836, who is now a physician in Illinois. The mother died January 27, 1837. On May 3, 1838, Mr. Abbott wedded Maryette Caswell, and they became the parents of eight children, namely: Reuben, born April 11, 1839, of Bowling Green; May Elizabeth, born April 10, 1841, now the wife of Byron Niles, of Michigan; Melvin L., who was born June 2, 1843, is a merchant of Bowling Green; George M., who was born August 26, 1847, is a farmer of Michigan; Sarah, born September 28, 1850, is the wife of I. L. Hankey; Alice E., born April 20, 1855, is the wife of Sylvester Ordway, of Bowling Green; Lewis, born December 1, 1857, is a farmer of Wood county; one died in infancy. The mother of this family passed away November 24, 1875, and for his third wife Mr. Abbott, on March 22, 1876, wedded Helen Robins, a lady of culture and refinement, who successfully followed school teaching. She is a daughter of Eliakim and Susanna (Brown) Robins, the former a carpenter of Huron county. To this union have come two children: Celesta G., who was born July 24, 1879, and died February 23, 1891; and Jerry B., born June 4, 1881, still at home.

Mr. Abbott practiced law in both Huron and Wood counties, coming to the latter in 1853, at which time he purchased 160 acres of land in Center township. In connection with law practice he carried on agricultural pursuits, planting an orchard and making many other excellent improvements, while the well-tilled fields yielded to him a handsome income. He continued farming until his death, which occurred January 16, 1891. For several years he served as justice of the peace, discharging his duties with most conscientious fidelity. He was ever faithful to a trust reposed in him, whether of a public or private nature. His business career and his home life were alike above reproach, and he had the warm regard of many personal friends. Mrs. Abbott is still living on the homestead in Center township, and is an intelligent lady of genial manner and kindly disposition, who is held in the highest esteem by her neighbors and the community at large.

LORIN SMITH, one of the most prominent and highly respected farmers of Montgomery township, was born October 11, 1822, in Kiltzheim, Baden, Germany. In his native country his name was spelled Lorentz Schmitt. His parents were John J. and Anna M. (Bauman) Smith, the former of whom was a farmer in Baden, and owned a nice little home of twenty-six acres, where he lived in comfort, and was considered well off.

The parental family consisted of the following named children: John J., Jr., Emily, Frank, Frances, Margaret, Eva, and Lorin. As they grew up the question of finding homes for them was a matter of concern to the parents, and, as glowing reports of the wealth and land of the United States had reached the old country, it was decided to send the eldest son, John, and his sister, Emily, who had then reached the years of maturity, to investigate the truth of these stories of the New World. They accordingly came to the United States, and at Stockbridge, Mass., soon found employment, the son in a hotel. Emily was married soon after her arrival in this country. The reports sent back to the family were so satisfactory that two years later Frank and Frances joined their brother and sister, and were so pleased with the success with which they met that it was decided best for the rest of the family to come also. In 1830, the parents and other children left their old home, driving to Paris, France, with their own team. There the horses and wagon were sold, and they went by boat down the river Seine to Havre, where they took passage for the United States on a three-masted vessel, "The Baird," which had formerly been a mail vessel, and was taking her first trip as an emigrant boat. Their destination was New York, and they were fifty-two days on the ocean, during which time they had a narrow escape from capture by pirates.

At New York City the family was met by the son, John J., and they concluded to come to Ohio, then considered the "Far West." This western trip had been under consideration for some time by those of the family already in the United States, and was one of the motives which induced the parents to emigrate. The journey was made up the Hudson river to Albany, thence over the Erie canal to Buffalo, and by lake to Cleveland, Ohio, where a house was rented and a temporary home made, while the father and eldest son looked about for suitable land to purchase. Land could be bought where the great city of Cleveland now stands, for eight dollars per acre; but learning that there was better land

farther west they set out on a journey which ended in Peru township, Huron Co., Ohio. The incident which caused them to locate here was a common one in the history of the western States. Halting at a spring to drink they found the water exceptionally cool and clear, the land in the vicinity and the location on the ridge between the sources of the Huron rivers favorable to health and industry. The physical features of the country corresponded with their correct ideas of agriculture, and they lost no time in obtaining the land, which had been somewhat improved, and on which an excellent orchard was then growing. This farm was known as the "Old Johnson Farm" at the time of their purchase. The family were moved to Huron county from Cleveland with an ox-team.

The Smith family had a fair amount of money on their arrival in America, as their property in Baden had brought in considerably over \$1,000, and they were able to begin life in this country in a very fair way. After a few years residence in Huron county the father began to look around for more cheap land. A large portion of Wood county was then government land, but it was known as the "Black Swamp," and did not tempt many settlers. The father was a good judge of land, and seemed to think that Wood county had a great future. He entered, after looking around, 162 acres in Section 5, Montgomery township, and the deed, signed by Andrew Jackson, bears the date of December, 1835, and is now in the possession of our subject. A few years after the family located in Huron county, the other members of it came west from Massachusetts, except Emily, who had married Joseph Keller, and died in Boston. Of the other children, John J., Jr., died in Huron county, Ohio; Frank died in the same county in 1872; Frances died in Freedom township, Wood county; Margaret married Peter Stang, and died in Huron county; Eva is the widow of Joseph Addleman, and lives in Huron county; our subject is the youngest of the family.

Lorin Smith had studied in the schools of his native land, and was a very bright boy, being able when seven years of age to both read and write the German language. After coming to Huron county he attended school there and obtained a good education. He worked on the farm with his father, and, being an obedient son, the latter showed his appreciation by giving him 162 acres of government land in Montgomery township, Wood county, out of which, however, he was to give his sister Frances fifty acres, which he did. This was in 1841, and two years

later Mr. Smith visited his land, and made some improvements on it. In the fall of 1844 he built a cabin of hewed logs, 20 x 30 feet, which had a shingle roof, the shingles for which he himself cut from oak trees. Being thus provided with a home, the young man secured for himself a wife in the person of Miss Mary T. Addleman, to whom he was married in Huron county, January 7, 1845. Mrs. Smith was born March 19, 1824, in the same village in Baden as her husband, and is the eldest child and only daughter of John P. and Mary Addleman. Her parents left Baden in the spring of 1831, and drove with their own team to Paris, where they waited two weeks for the horse market to open. Selling their horses, they went by boat to Havre, sailing from there on the vessel "Henry III," which landed them at New York City after a voyage of fifty-four days. They spent the winter of 1831-32 in Buffalo, and in the spring of the latter year bought a farm three and a half miles from that city, where they lived until the fall of 1836. In that year they moved to Huron county, two and a half miles southwest of Norwalk, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Their family consisted of four sons and one daughter. On January 14, 1845, our subject and his bride started to their new home in Wood county. Three teams were necessary to haul them and their goods, the roads through the timber being very bad. Two days were occupied in the journey, which was a rough and tedious one. They at once began to make improvements upon the place. Their cabin was a good one, but sparsely furnished, and the country about them was in a primitive condition. Many of their friends had predicted their failure to put up with such a pioneer life. This, however, only aroused their determination, and instead of disheartening them inspired them to new effort. A plentiful supply of provisions had been brought, which sufficed until the land produced its first crops of wheat and corn. Maumee was the nearest milling point, and it required two days under the most favorable conditions to make the trip. In June, 1847, the aged parents of our subject came to make their home with them, and on September 21, of the same year, the mother died and was buried upon the farm. She was sixty-seven years of age. The father lived with our subject until 1853, when he returned to Huron county, and there died at the age of eighty-four years. This worthy couple were consistent members of the Catholic Church, and were honest, industrious German people. The father was never naturalized, and consequently never voted, but in all things was loyal to his adopted country.

In the course of a few years the results of Mr. Smith's long days of hard work were manifest in the fertile fields and blooming orchards into which the land had been transformed. He bought eighty acres additional; but when the Civil war broke out, and it was very hard to procure sufficient help, he disposed of this property. The old log house continued to be the home of the family, and in it all the children were born. These are as follows: Mary T., born October 27, 1845, is now Mrs. Peter Hettel, of Wapakoneta, Ohio; Caroline J., born November 22, 1847, is the wife of James Fish, of Freedom township, Wood county; Louisa A., born April 25, 1850, is the wife of William Davidson, of Center township, Wood county; John L., born April 13, 1854, died December 21, 1885; F. B., born October 31, 1856, was married October 22, 1895, to Miss Julia Shepler, of Bradner, Ohio (he is a farmer in Freedom township); Charles L., born April 4, 1859, was married December 19, 1889, to Miss Nellie Brandeberry, of Pemberville, Ohio; Frances A., born May 4, 1862, was married October 29, 1889, to George Adams, of Montgomery township. In 1869 Mr. Smith built his present elegant brick residence, which is the finest farm house in Montgomery township, and one of the best in the county. He has added to his original property at various times until he now owns 276 acres, and he has given his sons 170 acres. The land is rich in oil, and is admirably adapted to farming purposes.

The life of Mr. Smith presents an excellent example of what industry, perseverance and good management can accomplish. No man has worked harder than he, and many a moonlight night, in his early days, has found him toiling away until a late hour. He has become a master of the art of agriculture, and is able to procure the best results from his work. He has developed his splendid farm from its primitive condition, and in doing so has spent the best years of his life. With his excellent wife, who has shared in all his labors and privations, he deserves the greatest credit for the success to which he has attained. This estimable couple have passed their fifty-first year of married life; have reared a large family, of which they may justly be proud, and have accumulated a handsome competency in an upright, straightforward manner. No one can accuse Lorin Smith of dishonesty, or question his integrity. In all his business dealings he has never been sued, and he is to-day a man whom everyone respects. He became a naturalized citizen in 1843, but though a loyal Democrat has never been an office seeker. Both he and

his wife are members of the Catholic Church, although not able to attend the services on account of the distance. Notwithstanding the many trials and years of toil through which Mr. Smith and his wife have passed, they are well preserved, and Mrs. Smith, although over seventy-two years of age, is still able to do her own house work. Their life has been full of usefulness, and in the evening of their days, which they are enjoying in ease and comfort, they can look back over the past years with the consciousness of duties well performed.

HIRAM JOHNSON, an honored veteran of the Civil war, who is now living retired in Liberty township, was born in Lisle, Broome Co., N. Y., July 27, 1837. His father, Stephen Johnson, was also a native of the Empire State, and when a young man learned the trade of wood turning, which he followed until his marriage to Eunice Thurston, also a native of New York. Several years later they removed from Broome county, to Bradford county, Penn., where Mr. Johnson took up land, and followed farming in connection with his trade. In 1855 he located thirty miles northwest of Chicago, in Lake county, Ill., where his death occurred about 1865, and his wife survived him only two years. Their children were Liddy, deceased wife of Peter Tanner, of Iowa; Girard, who became a farmer in Minnesota, but has not been heard from for ten years; Hiram; and Edwin, a farmer of Wisconsin.

Mr. Johnson, of this review, was educated in the schools of New York and Illinois, and at the age of twenty-two began learning the mason's trade, which he has followed through much of his life in connection with farming. During the Civil war he manifested his loyalty to the government by enlisting, in 1862, in Kankakee, Ill., as a member of Company K, 76th Ill. V. I. He participated in the battle of Shiloh, then went down the Mississippi river to the Gulf and to Mobile, Ala., participating in the battle at that place and the siege at Fort Blakely. Being taken ill, he was sent to the hospital in New Orleans, where he remained until honorably discharged in 1865, when he at once returned to his home in Paxton, Illinois.

Mr. Johnson was married in Ford county, that State, in 1859, to Liddy Metzger, who was born in Ohio, in 1837, and for twelve years they lived in Paxton. In 1871 they came to Wood county, taking up their residence on six acres of land in Liberty township, which he still owns. For many years he followed his trade, and since 1892 has derived a good income from two oil wells that he has sunk upon his place, and which are excellent

producers. This has enabled him to lay aside active business cares. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have three children—Corbin, of Lucas county, Ohio; Edgar and Clarence, at home. In politics, Mr. Johnson is a Republican.

NARCISSE SANGLIER, deceased, was one of the most prominent residents of Liberty township, Wood county. He was born October 24, 1827, in Loir-et-Cher, France, and was a son of Jacob Sanglier, a merchant, who died in that country. Our subject was one of a family of seven children, namely: Virginie, who died in France; Pascal, a scholar and linguist, who married an heiress, and died in Egypt many years ago; Narcisse, subject of this sketch; Adrian, now living in France; Victor, a resident of Tiffin, Ohio; Ovid, still living in his native land; and Adeline, who died in France.

For ten years after attaining his majority our subject was employed as a baker in Paris, and then crossed the Atlantic to America. He landed in New York, made his way to Cleveland, and for one year was employed in the Berea Stone Quarry. He then removed to Milton Center, Wood county, and after a year took up his residence in Liberty township. He was married in Milton Center to Lucine Kubler, who was born in Switzerland February 8, 1838, daughter of Howard and Celestine (Kuinn) Kubler. Her parents were both born in 1810 in Canton Berne, Switzerland, and came to America in 1853, locating in Cleveland, Ohio. The father followed farming in his native land, but worked as a laborer after coming to this country. He died in 1858. Both were members of the Roman Catholic Church. In their family were four children—Mrs. Sanglier; Louise, who died in Cleveland; Joseph, who died in January, 1895, in Denison, Texas; and Christopher, who went west several years ago, since which time no news has been received of him.

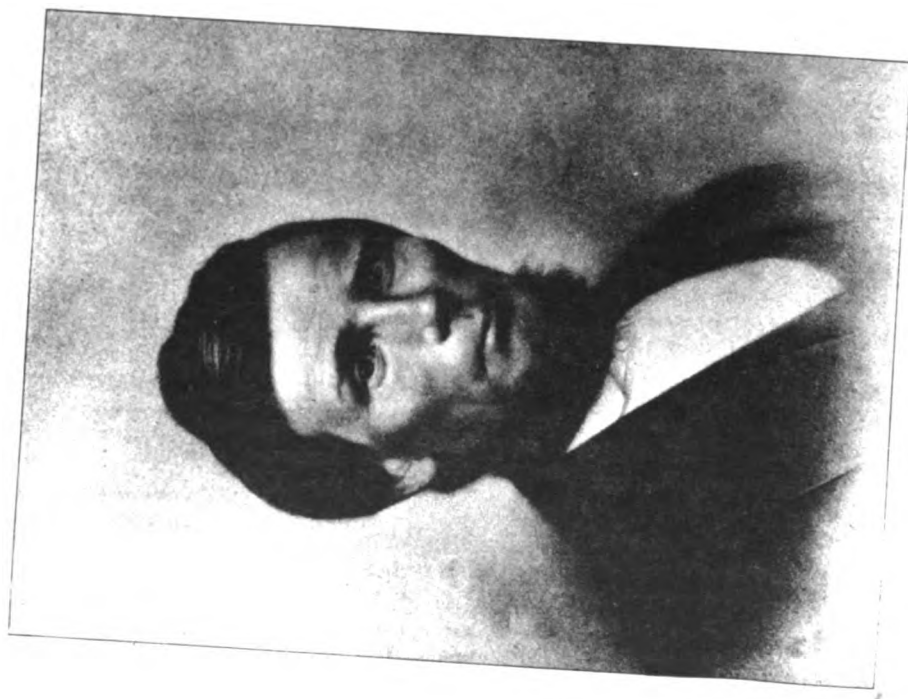
Upon their marriage, our subject and his wife located in Liberty township, where he carried on agricultural pursuits. He first purchased twenty acres, wild and unimproved, but he added to his farm from time to time until he became the owner of a valuable property, which he continued to cultivate until his death, May 3, 1894. In 1887 the first oil well was drilled on the farm, which now contains fifteen wells, and these are a good source of income to the family. Mr. Sanglier was a capable business man, and by his well directed efforts acquired a handsome property.

In the family were ten children: Mary, at

home; Nelson, who died at the age of twelve; Justin O., whose sketch follows; Ashel; Louise; Martha, who was married September 3, 1895, to C. C. La Point, of Erie, Mich.; Lucy, deceased; Rose; Maggie and Alice. ASHEL SANGLIER, who operates the farm, was born October 6, 1867, and throughout his life has aided in the work on the old home place. He acquired his education in the district schools, is a young man of excellent business ability, and now owns 140 acres of land on which are two oil wells. The landed possessions of the family aggregate 1,020 acres. Ashel Sanglier was a member of the Democratic Central Committee for four years, and also served on the executive committee for one term. In April, 1896, he was, by the choice of his friends, nominated for trustee, and was elected by a majority of thirty-three votes, thus overcoming a Republican majority of 120, and is also a member of the county board of election. No better recommendation could be given a young man than this flattering compliment. The entire Sanglier family are members of the Roman Catholic Church.

LUCY SANGLIER, now deceased, was born on the old Sanglier homestead in Liberty township, September 17, 1874. She grew up under the care of her parents, and at an early age manifested unusual mental activity. As she budded into womanhood her rare qualities of mind and heart crystalized into an ambition for education. She attended the district school until 1894, when she entered the Ursuline convent, in Toledo, Ohio, where she completed the full course of study required by that institution, giving special attention to vocal and instrumental music. Having mastered the elements of education essential to a full round complete womanhood, she returned to her home, where she continued to discipline herself; and by that subtle knowledge, known only to a woman of culture and refinement, wound herself around the hearts of her old associates, and made herself doubly dear to the members of her immediate family.

She became revered as a companion, and respected as a model for others. Her high degree of mental and personal culture was only equaled by her zeal in practice of religion. She had aspired to make herself something more than ordinary as an individual, and had attained much of her ambition; but that Mighty One "That doeth all things well," called her to immortality at a period when it was least expected—just when she had attained full maturity of womanhood, and when she was most dear and most useful to



**NARCISSE SANGLIER.**



**MRS. LUCINE SANGLIER.**





all who knew her. September 26, 1896, was the fatal day when the silent hand of the Divine Master stole through the lattice of her room, and with His magic power beckoned the spirit forth, leaving all that was mortal of Lucy Sanglier like a waxen figure—white and motionless.

Those who mourn and miss her have the sacred consolation of knowing that if it is possible for the human soul to attain the ideality the Christian sees through the eye of faith, then, e'er her last pulsation ceased, the halo of a glorious eternity crowned her.

JUSTIN O. SANGLIER, one of the wealthiest and most enterprising farmers in Plain township, was born in Liberty township, Wood county, March 2, 1865, the son of Narcisse and Lucine (Kubler) Sanglier.

Mr. Sanglier was brought up on his father's farm, attending the district school, and assisting in work at home until his marriage, on February 7, 1893, to Miss Adaline Cousino, whose birth took place in Michigan, July 31, 1867. Three children have been born to them: Martha B., Clara L. and Louis C.

Mr. Sanglier is now the owner of one of the finest farms in Plain township, comprising 120 acres of highly cultivated land, upon which are many improvements, and a very large brick residence, in which the family make their home. The Sanglier family is well known throughout the county as wealthy and influential people, and our subject, by his industry and progressive methods, is rapidly adding to his already large possessions. He is popular throughout the community. In religious belief he is a devout member of the Catholic Church. Politically he is a staunch Democrat.

JESSE HAGER, one of the most prominent representatives of the commercial interests in this county, was born March 22, 1865, in the town of Bloomville, Seneca Co., Ohio, and is a son of Christian and Mary (Snyder) Hager, the latter of whom is now deceased.

Our subject was only a boy when his parents came to Wood county, and he was reared on the old family homestead in Jackson township. There he assisted his father in clearing and developing the eighty acres of land, and otherwise improving the property. His education was acquired in the district schools of the neighborhood. At the age of twenty-one he left home and entered the employ of the W. F. Dewey Company, of Hoytville, with whom he remained or about a year. He next secured a clerkship

in the company's store, where he remained about three years, when he was promoted to the position of bookkeeper, and also made manager of the store. Since that time he has done all the buying for the store, paid all the employes, and has not only gained the confidence of the company but also won a high position in commercial circles, and is now one of the stockholders and directors in the business. He has the faculty of ably managing and directing others, and his just treatment has gained him the respect of his employes, and the confidence of his patrons.

On June 20, 1880, in Hoytville, Mr. Hager was united in marriage with Miss Emma J. Dennis, who was born in 1870 near Findlay, Ohio. They made their home in Hoytville, and occupied a high position in social circles, making many friends, and Mrs. Hager's decease, which occurred April 20, 1896, after an illness of four years, was widely mourned. She was buried in the McComb (Hancock county) cemetery.

In addition to his other property Mr. Hager owns a third interest in the Hoytville opera house, and a half interest in a large grain elevator. He is truly a self-made man, and has not a dollar that he has not himself honestly earned. His political support is given to the Democratic party, and he is a wise counselor and able leader in its ranks. He has been honored with a number of local offices, for four years capably served as mayor of Hoytville, has also been township clerk and township trustee, and is now the efficient postmaster, and treasurer of the corporation, also of the school district and township. Socially he is connected with the Knights of Pythias fraternity of Hoytville.

I. S. BOWERS, M. D., one of the leading physicians of Perrysburg, was born in Canada West, now the province of Ontario, December 14, 1856. Jacob Bowers, his grandfather, was a native of Pennsylvania, and by occupation a lumber dealer, owning large tracts of land in this country and in Canada, and operating a number of saw-mills. He made frequent trips to Canada, and at one time took up his residence there, and passed his last years in Ontario, where he died. His son, Isaac W., our subject's father, was born in Pennsylvania in 1824, and on arriving at maturity engaged in his father's business, to which he succeeded at the death of the latter. He married Miss Jane Camp, a Canadian lady, who was two years his junior, and for some years they resided in that country, removing to Michigan when our subject was four years old. In 1876 he came to Perrysburg, where the family resided until

1887, in which year he moved to Ypsilanti, Mich., where he died suddenly September 22, 1893. He was a highly esteemed citizen, a consistent member of the M. E. Church, and in politics a stanch Democrat. He left a widow and six children, viz.: Parmelia, the widow of A. F. Shepard, formerly of Toledo, Ohio, who was killed in a railway accident at that city; Cordelia, the wife of W. M. Thompson, of Owosso, Mich.; Frances Mary, who married Edward Harris, of Monroe county, Mich.; I. S., our subject; Freeman E., a prominent young attorney of Perrysburg; and Estella J., one of the most popular young ladies of the best circles of Perrysburg social life.

Dr. Bowers received his elementary education in the Michigan district schools, later attending the high schools at Perrysburg and Monroe. At an early age he commenced the study of medicine with an uncle at Fond du Lac, Wis., but on his father's removal to Perrysburg he became associated with him in the "wood-pulp" business, which he continued for two years, when he resumed his studies under the direction of Dr. Rheinfrank, of Perrysburg. He was graduated from the Detroit Medical College in 1881, and at once located at his home, where his wide acquaintance and high standing gave him an advantage not to be found among strangers. He had previously practiced as an under-graduate with his preceptor, and from the first he has met with encouraging success, his practice increasing in value and extent each year.

Our subject was married to one of Perrysburg's amiable daughters, in the person of Miss Sophia Witzler, who was born in March, 1856, and they have two children, Merlin and Helen. In politics the Doctor follows the faith of his father, voting the Democratic ticket, and at the present time he is president of the board of pension examiners of Wood county. Socially he is a member of the I. O. O. F., Fort Meigs Lodge, and has passed the chairs, and the K. of P., in which latter organization also he has passed all the chairs, been chancellor of Perrysburg Lodge, and is now serving as deputy grand chancellor. He holds high rank among his professional brethren, and belongs to the American Medical Association, the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association, the Ohio State Medical Association, and the Wood County Medical Society.

JOHN A. STEARNS, a wealthy, retired agriculturist, residing in Bowling Green, is a native of Ohio, born July 6, 1839, in Montgomery township, Wood county, a son of Justus Stearns.

John A. Stearns was about twelve years old when his father moved to Perry township, and his boyhood was mainly spent in the hard toil of clearing his father's two farms, and helping in the sawmills, so that his educational opportunities were quite limited. In 1864 he enlisted in Company E, 144th O. V. I., for one hundred days, and at the end of the term came home.

On January 1, 1862, Mr. Stearns was married to Miss Elizabeth Myers, a native of Crawford county, Ohio, born February 5, 1842. They have had five children, of whom four are living: Elmer, born November 20, 1862, a farmer and oil pumper at Bays, married Miss Naomi Buvinger, and has one child—Flora; William S., born October 31, 1865, married Miss Minnie White, and they live in Liberty township; Charles, born May 24, 1868, married Miss Lillie Lashway, and they have one child—Lawrence; Frank, born July 4, 1870, married Miss Estelle Parker, and they have one child—Helen; and Alma, born September 8, 1872, died October 2, 1873. Mr. and Mrs. Stearns also reared an adopted daughter, Ada Daily, who was born February 11, 1868. She married Fred Hendricks, of Plain township, and they have one child—Ina.

After his marriage Mr. Stearns lived for two years on a farm in Perry township, and later moved to Plain township, where he now owns 300 acres of land which is given to general farming. At the present time he is also interested largely in oil producing. After living at the farm for over thirty-three years, Mr. Stearns and his wife moved to Bowling Green to enjoy the wealth which has come to them during their years of effort. They are prominent members of the Presbyterian Church at Bowling Green. In politics he is a Republican, and has held an influential place in the party councils for many years, and was for six years a trustee of Plain township. Socially he is affiliated with Lodge No. 641, I. O. O. F., the G. A. R., Neibling Post—both of Weston.

Mrs. Elizabeth Stearns is a daughter of Josiah and Elizabeth (Parks) Myers, both natives of Hampshire county, W. Va., where they were married, and afterward, in 1839, moved to Ohio, the journey being made in a covered wagon. There were born to them eight children, viz.: William, Samuel, Lambert and John, all of whom served in the Civil war, Samuel and John veteranizing (they camped one winter on or near their grandfather's farm in West Virginia; many of their relatives served in the Confederate army); Evaline, wife of B. Jones; Elizabeth, wife of our subject; Anna, Mrs. C. Wooley; and Camilla,

wife of Joseph Davis. There was also an adopted son, named Sidney Brows, who served in the Civil war, the family thus (the sons-in-law having also joined the army) giving no less than nine able-bodied men to the Union cause.

On arriving in Ohio, Mr. Myers took up government land in Crawford county, where he lived from 1839 till 1866, in which latter year he removed to Missouri where he died in 1879, his wife in 1870. His father, William Myers, was a native of Pennsylvania; the father of Mrs. Myers, Samuel Parks, was a minister of the M. E. Church, in Virginia. In his political preferences, Mr. Myers was an ardent Whig, later a no less zealous Republican, and a true friend to the bondman, his Ohio home being for a long time known as an "Underground railroad station," where fugitive slaves were cared for and given a lift on their desperate "run to Canada." In addition to his prominence as a successful agriculturist in Crawford county, he acted as guardian for many estates, so great was the confidence reposed in him by the people, and he served with much ability and characteristic fidelity in various public offices of honor and trust, among which may be mentioned that of county commissioner, an incumbency he filled for several years. No one was better known in Crawford county, and when he left no one was more missed than Josiah Myers.

**JUSTUS STEARNS** (deceased). As one of the pioneer agriculturists of Wood county, a good citizen, and an enterprising and prosperous business man, the subject of this sketch held for many years a prominent place in the community with which his activities identified him. The family of which he was a worthy representative is an old one, and it is probable that the numerous branches in this country could all be traced to three brothers, Isaac, Charles and Nathaniel Stearne, who came from England in the ship "Arabella" with Gov. Winthrop, and landed at Salem, Mass., June 12, 1630. The spelling of the name has been changed by many from the original Sterne to Stearns, Sternes, Sterns, Starns or Stearnes. Richard Sterne, Archbishop of York during the reign of James II, was of this same family in England.

The late Justus Stearns was born in Clifford township, Allegheny Co., Penn., July 8, 1810, where his grandfather, John and William Stearns, Silas Otis and James Stearns, who were natives of Connecticut, had settled in the latter part of the eighteenth century. John Stearns reared a large family, among whom was a son Janies, our sub-

ject's father, who was born August 5, 1777. The family moved to Pennsylvania a few years later, where John Stearns died, his wife surviving him several years, and dying at the age of eighty years. James Stearns was married in Allegheny county, Penn., to Miss Abilene Hardin, a daughter of Amos Hardin, and settled upon the farm where our subject was born, remaining there until the fall of 1822, when he moved to a farm near Bloomingdale, Richland Co., Ohio, his household goods being transported by an ox-team in primitive fashion. He died there of lung disease, May 5, 1837, and his wife survived him until in September 1861, when she died in Berrien county, Mich., at the home of their youngest son. Both were members of the Baptist Church. While he made a comfortable living, he was not a man to accumulate great wealth, nor did he possess the robust physique with which his sons were endowed. Ten children were born to this estimable pioneer couple, the names with dates of birth being as follows: Lydia, January 6, 1804 (married James Wells, and died in Berrien county, Mich.); Amos, January 8, 1806 (he was a farmer in Troy township, DeKalb Co., Ind., where he died); Phœbe, January 21, 1808 (married Hiram Stevens, and died in what is now Morrow county, Ohio); Justus, July 8, 1810; William, February 17, 1814 (he was a farmer in Chautauqua county, Kans., and died there); Rhoda, February 16, 1817 (married Asa Fields, and moved to Utah, where she died); Masena, March 24, 1819 (married, first, William Hebbert, and, second, Dayton Mills, and died in Berrien county, Mich., November 29, 1895); Wealthy, October 22, 1821 (married William Herbert (deceased), and resides at Bloomdale); Silas, March 15, 1823 (died in Berrien county, Mich.); and Otis, in February, 1829 (he is now a farmer in Berrien county). With the exception of Amos, all of the sons followed the political faith of their father, and were Old-line Whigs.

Justus Stearns attended school at his native place for some years, but at the age of twelve he came to the new farm in Ohio, where the hard toil of pioneer life occupied his time. He was a strong, robust boy, and, his parents being poor, he often worked hard and late to obtain needed articles of clothing. His only capital was a strong constitution and a mind fertile in resources, but he managed to make his way in life and attain more than an ordinary degree of success. He was married, March 1, 1832, in Richland county, to his first wife, Miss Sarah A. Davis, and in the following year he moved to Wood county with

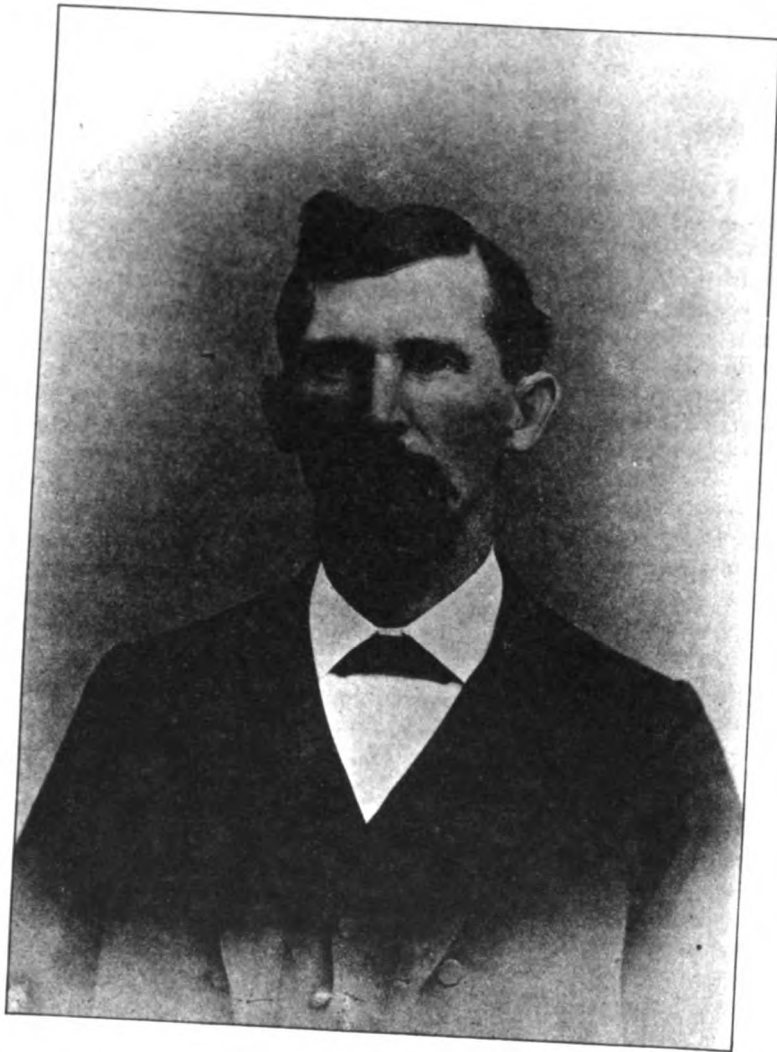
his wife and one child, Mary J., and entered land in Section 31, Montgomery township. He made his home there in the midst of the wilderness, building his first cabin on the east branch of the Portage river, and many years of toil and privation were undergone before the forest became a well-ordered farm. Five children were born to his first marriage: Mary J., July 28, 1833 (now the widow of J. H. Bucher, of Perry township); Silas D., August 9, 1835 (resides in the State of Washington); James H., September 9, 1837 (died in Perry township in May, 1860); John A., July 6, 1839 (now resides in Bowling Green); Orrin, May 9, 1841 (died in Perry township). The mother of these died April 12, 1843, and was buried in West Millgrove cemetery. On July 3, 1843, Mr. Stearns was married, near Greensburg, Sandusky county, to Miss Eliza Cross, by whom he had five children: Sarah A., the widow of Wilson Patterson, of Weston, who died July 18, 1894; Newton and Nelson, twins, the former of whom is a farmer in Plain township, the latter deceased in infancy; and two other children who died at an early age. The mother died July 28, 1850, and on October 10, 1850, Mr. Stearns married Miss Mary Hall, a native of Fairfield county, born January 12, 1822, daughter of Joseph and Mary (Mills) Hall. Her great-grandfather came from Ireland at an early date. Five sons and two daughters were born of this union: Josiah H., a prosperous farmer, of Perry township; Benton, a farmer of Weston township; J. D. and C. D., prominent farmers of Perry township, and Wilson E., a well-known farmer of Plain township; Belle and Laura died in childhood. The mother of this family died April 16, 1887, and was buried in Weston. On July 17, 1888, Mr. Stearns was united in the bonds of matrimony for the fourth time, his bride being Mrs. Mary A. Keyes, whose maiden name was Schooley; she had been twice married, first to a Mr. Silverwood, and, second, to Samuel Keyes. She survives, and now resides in Bowling Green, in an elegant residence completed shortly before the death of Mr. Stearns.

In the fall of 1850 Mr. Stearns moved to West Millgrove and built the first hotel in that place; but not liking that business he soon gave it up. In the spring of 1851 he traded his first farm to R. W. Kelly for a farm in Perry township, and some money to boot. Here he lived for more than thirty years, adding to his possessions from time to time until he owned over 700 acres. Soon after the completion of the B. & O. railroad through Deshler, Ohio, Mr. Stearns and his sons, J. H. and S. D., became interested in

a town site there, and in various industries, mercantile and manufacturing, and also in a hotel enterprise, all of them requiring an outlay of many thousands of dollars. The ventures were attended with success for a time, but later proved a failure, leaving heavy obligations to be met. A forced sale of his extensive property would have caused serious loss, but with rare business sagacity he devised a way out of his difficulty. He sold to his sons, J. H. and S. D., some of his real estate located in Perry township for a good price, taking their notes, and, as they were of the energetic, clear-headed sort who can make the most of a chance when they get it, they promptly paid their notes as they matured, enabling him to pay his debts without serious inconvenience, the whole business reflecting credit on all concerned. Mr. Stearns possessed great foresight, and the debts of his own contracting were never the source of any trouble to him, his temporary reverses being caused through entanglement with the affairs of others. In 1885 he moved to Plain township, where he had bought a large tract of land, which was supposed to be worthless, but he improved it and sold it at a handsome profit. His last years were spent in Bowling Green, where he died September 8, 1888, and his remains now rest beside those of his third wife, at Weston. He was a man of great vitality and strength, and his feats of lifting at "raisings," in his prime, were remarkable. For over fifty years he was a member of the Disciples Church, to which he contributed liberally, and he was throughout his life a leader in any enterprise or movement which appealed to his judgment as likely to benefit the community.

HERMAN MANNHARDT, native of Wurtemberg, Germany, was born May 17, 1846; entered the common schools of his country at the age of five years, the Latin or high school at seven, and completed the course when fourteen years old. He then immediately began the study of medicine with his father, Dr. F. Mannhardt; at sixteen entered the standing army, was promoted from step to step to assistant surgeon, in which capacity he served during the Austro-Prussian campaign of 1866. He took his discharge in 1867, and immediately came to Galion, Ohio, where he practiced medicine with his father until 1868, when he came to Custar, and has resided and practiced his profession there ever since. In 1876 he went to Cincinnati, took a course of lectures and graduated.

In 1870 Dr. Mannhardt was married to Louisa Wingert. Socially he is an Odd Fellow, a Knight



*H. Mannheimardt*



Templar and K. P.; politically he is a Democrat. He has been mayor of Custar ten consecutive years, and for twenty years clerk of the board of education.

**J. H. STEARNS.** This prominent and prosperous farmer of Perry township is a member of the well-known family of that name in the county, and of which a sketch appears on a preceding page.

Our subject was born in Perry township, November 8, 1851, the eldest child of Justus and Mary (Hall) Stearns. His education was obtained in the district schools of his locality, and he was brought up on the same farm which he now owns and resides on. On September 17, 1871, he was married to Miss Ella, daughter of Adam and Mary Wininger, who was born in Loudon township, Seneca Co., Ohio, October 9, 1853. The young couple went to housekeeping on the farm of Mr. Stearns' father. The T. & O. C. railroad was then in progress of construction, and Mr. Stearns, Sr., had a contract for grading which he sub-let to our subject, on the completion of which the latter received in pay eighty acres of land in Jackson township, this county. About 1874 or 1875, soon after the B. & O. R. R. was put through to Deshler, Mr. Stearns bought land extensively near that place, eighty acres of which he platted in town lots, and sold to an advantage. During his residence at Deshler, which was about three years, he was engaged in filling contracts for ditching, timber, etc., and at the end of this time he returned to Perry township, and bought 120 acres of the farm on which he now resides. His various investments had brought in a large amount of money, but owing to his kindness in going security and bail for people who left him to pay their indebtedness, he lost a considerable portion of his property. He now, however, is the owner of 210 acres of as good land as can be found in Wood county, and is prospering as a man of his indomitable courage and perseverance is bound to do. In spite of his adverse fortune at times, he has known no such word as discouragement, and has at once set about remedying any disaster that might overtake him. In an expressive Western phrase he is a "hustler," and has not a superior in the township for ability to succeed in what he undertakes. "Cy," as he is familiarly known, is popular throughout his community, and has many warm friends, who admire his industry, go-aheadativeness and cheerful disposition.

In politics Mr. Stearns is a Republican, and has served his township three terms as assessor.

He has also been the treasurer of the township; but has refused a re-election. He is a member of the Evangelical Church at Salem, in which he has held offices of trust and honor. He is a liberal contributor, not only to his own Church, but to other religious denominations, and has assisted in the organization and building of various religious and other institutions. Socially he belongs to the Knights of the Maccabees, at Fostoria.

To Mr. Stearns and his wife came five children, namely: Emma J., born December 29, 1874; John A., born June 23, 1878; Wilber H., born October 11, 1880; Alice E., born April 14, 1884; and Justus, born September 4, 1886. The beloved wife and mother passed to her final rest October 2, 1894, and was buried in the cemetery at Fostoria. She was a most estimable woman, and a consistent member of the Evangelical Church. Her departure was deeply mourned by her family, but Mr. Stearns is devoted to his children, and endeavors to fill the place of the departed one by unremitting attention to their comfort and interest in their welfare.

**C. F. MUNGER,** a farmer of wide reputation in Perry township, is a native of Brunswick township, Medina county, where he was born August 6, 1842, his parents being Caleb and Anna (Fairfield) Munger.

The subject of this sketch first went to school in Seneca county, Ohio, to which place his parents moved when he was six years old. He was reared to the duties of farm life, and, as he was an only son, was early taught the rudiments of the work. He lived at home until October, 1861, when he enlisted in Company B, 55th O. V. I., to which he was transferred from Company F, at his request. He served continuously with his regiment, in which he played the cornet, until, in Louisville, Ky., he suffered from a partial sunstroke, and was taken to Perry township by Orrin Stearns, where he was ill for some time. He first enlisted for three years, at the expiration of that time re-enlisting for the remainder of the war. Owing to his bad health he sought other work than that of farming, but none suited him so well, and he returned home and went to work for his father.

On September 26, 1869, he was married, in Perry township, to Miss Amanda Stewart, who was born in Crawford county, Penn., February 5, 1847. Her parents, Samuel and Mary M. (Renner) Stewart, came to Wood county in 1849. The father was a tailor in his younger days, later taking up farming. He died in Fostoria, Ohio,



at nearly eighty years of age, and his wife at the age of seventy-two. Their family consisted of eight children, four boys and four girls. Our subject went to housekeeping on the home farm after his marriage, and entered into partnership with his father, which continued until about 1888, when he paid off the other heirs and became sole owner of the eighty acres; he has since added to this, now owning 110 acres. In 1862 a substantial brick residence was built, and here our subject lives, his father living with him. Mr. and Mrs. Munger are the parents of four children, namely: Edith, now Mrs. Lemuel Good, of Seneca county; Anna L., who married John Strawman, of Seneca county; and Raymond and Charles P., both residing at home.

Mr. Munger has always been a staunch Republican, and has served as trustee of Perry township, and two terms as assessor. He has been for many years director of School District No. 1. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which Mr. Munger is steward.

Caleb Munger, the father of our subject, was born in Connecticut November 6, 1802, and the mother in Massachusetts in 1803. Both were school teachers, and received a fair education. They moved to Brecksville township, Cuyahoga county, whence they went to Brunswick, Medina Co., Ohio, then to Liberty township, Seneca county, and in the spring of 1859 they came to Perry township, where Mr. Munger bought eighty acres of land in Section 25, about thirty-five of which were cleared, and on which were a log house and barn. Here Mrs. Munger died in 1882, and was buried in Fostoria. Two children were born to this couple, Ann S.; now the wife of W. P. Dicken, of Seneca county, and our subject. Mr. and Mrs. Munger were brought up in the Congregational faith; but when they came to Seneca county there was no such denomination in their vicinity, so they joined the Presbyterian Church, of which they were original members in Fostoria.

Politically Mr. Munger was originally a Whig and Know-Nothing, later joining the Republican ranks. He cast his first vote for John Quincy Adams. He has voted for every President since that time, and has never missed an election. He has never sought office, but has always taken an active interest in the success of his party. He is a well-preserved man for his advanced years. When eighty-one years old he broke his right leg, but in four weeks was able to walk around—an exhibition of remarkable vitality. He was reared as a farmer's boy, his father owning a small farm,

and obtaining a living by the hardest kind of work. Mr. Munger was employed in burning charcoal, cutting hoop-poles, etc. The Munger family is remarkable for its longevity: The father of our subject is over ninety-three; one of his sisters died at the age of ninety-five, and another at ninety-three, while a third lived to be eighty-seven. Edward, an uncle of our subject, is living in Chicago at the age of eighty-four years.

HENRY PADGHAM, an intelligent and energetic farmer, and a substantial and reliable citizen of Perry township, having his home in Section 26, was born in the County of Kent, England, September 19, 1829, and is a son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Underdown) Padgham. The father, who was born in England, January 29, 1794, decided to seek a home in the United States with the hope of bettering his financial condition, and consequently, in the spring of 1851, he started with part of his family for the New World, including the following members: Joseph, of Farmington, N. Y.; Walter, a farmer, who died in Iowa; Elizabeth, who was married, and died in Michigan; Philip, judge of the district court of Allegan, Mich.; David, an agriculturist of Manchester, N. Y.; Annie, wife of N. Aldrich, of Washington, D. C.; and Alfred, who died *en route*, and was buried at sea. Two sons, Thomas and John, had preceded the family, coming in 1845, and were living in New York State, while our subject and his brother William did not arrive in this country until 1853. In the family of twelve children all but two grew to adult age. Until the death of his wife, in 1863, the father made his home in the Empire State, and then came to Perry township, and lived with our subject for awhile. Life seemed to lose its charm for him after the death of his wife, and he died in Michigan at the age of eighty-five years. He had three brothers who lived to be over eighty-three years of age—John, who died in Australia; Joseph, who passed away at the home of our subject; and William, who died in England. In politics the father was an ardent Republican.

In the common schools of England Henry Padgham received his education before his twelfth year, and as a farmer boy he worked until eighteen years of age. At that time he enlisted in the standing army of Great Britain for twelve years, but before the expiration of that term concluded to come to America, where their family was then living, and bought his release for twenty-five pounds, English money, or \$125. He had served for five years and one hundred and sixty-three days, a portion of the time in Lon-



**JOHN CURRENT.**



**MRS. CAROLINE CURRENT.**



don and in other parts of England. On July 31, 1853, he and a brother, William, took passage on the "Patrick Henry," which landed them at New York, September 7, following, and from there they went to Farmington, the same State, where their parents were then living. For four years our subject worked as a farm hand near that place, after which he located near Fostoria, Ohio, where his brothers, William and Thomas, were residing. For eighteen years the former was employed by C. W. Foster.

The first home of Mr. Padgham in Wood county was with his brother Thomas, whom he helped to clear his farm during the first year, and later worked as fireman in Crocker's mill, at Fostoria. On November 27, 1860, he purchased forty acres of land in Section 26, Perry township, only about nine acres of which had been cleared, and a log cabin constituted the improvements. He had secured the land from William Jones, and had gone in debt for half the amount, but he went earnestly to work, and each season saw more of the land ready for cultivation. He now has fifty acres of rich and arable land, upon which are good and substantial buildings, but for the past five years he has left its cultivation to others, and now practically lives retired from active farm work.

At Victor, Ontario Co., N. Y., in November, 1857, our subject was united in marriage with Miss Julia Padgham, of the County of Kent, England. She died on September 27, 1883, from paralysis, and was buried at Fostoria. Mr. Padgham later wedded Rachel A. Huff, by whom he had one child—Ruth M. The mother died October 28, 1886, and was also interred at Fostoria.

In 1863, Mr. Padgham was elected captain of the Home Militia, and on May 2, 1864, enlisted in Company E, 144th O. V. I., doing guard duty at Wilmington, Del., until mustered out in the following August at the close of his term. He supported the Republican party until 1884, since which time he has been an ardent Prohibitionist, and has served as trustee of Perry township. For twenty-six years he has been a sincere and earnest Christian, a member of the Methodist Church, and to all worthy objects contributes liberally of his means.

D. E. COE, one of the pioneer citizens of Perry township, was born in Frederick county, Md., June 24, 1818, and is the son of Thomas and Ann (Souder) Coe.

Mrs. Coe died in Frederick county, Md., leaving one child, our subject. Mr. Coe married a second time in Maryland, and this wife died in

that State, September 12, 1833, leaving four children. Mr. Coe married again, and left Maryland for Seneca county, Ohio, over the National pike, in a large wagon drawn by four horses (Pennsylvania style). He arrived, October 2, 1833, one mile east of Tiffin, Ohio, where he had previously bought 240 acres of land, and on which was a log cabin. There Mr. Coe died at the age of seventy-one. He was the father of nine children, of whom but two survive, D. E. and Caroline, now the widow of Thomas Shaw, of Seneca county.

Our subject attended the subscription schools of Maryland, and did not have as good an opportunity for getting an education as did his brothers or half-brothers. He was reared to the duties of a farmer boy, and worked on the home farm until his marriage, which took place in Seneca county, March 24, 1842, his bride being Miss Margaret Hyter, who was born, March 25, 1824, in Frederick county, Md., and who is a daughter of Jacob and Margaret (Koons) Hyter. Mr. D. E. Coe rented land in Scipio township, Seneca county, for two years, when, in the spring of 1844, he bought 140 acres in Section 13, Perry township. The land was wet and full of stumps, and contained a log house 18 x 24 feet. The forests were in their primitive state, and there were no roads in the vicinity. This portion of nature's wilderness Mr. Coe has transformed into a most desirable farm, and to-day has 240 acres of fine land, on which he has built a comfortable home, with the accompanying barns, bins, etc. Mr. and Mrs. Coe's children are: Clarinda, who married George P. Feebles, of Noble county, Ind.; Emma, now the widow of John Guier, of Perry township; Mary is the wife of S. S. Dicken, who lives near Kendallville, Ind.; Laura married V. D. Newcomb, and died in Seneca county; Alice is now Mrs. Luther Stewart, of Marion county, Ohio; Walter died at the age of thirty-four years; H. L. is a farmer of Perry township; Belle is the wife of Charles Cochard, of Sandusky, Ohio; Charles is farming in Perry township. Mr. Coe is a Republican in politics, and has served as township trustee, and has been school director for twelve years. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Church, of which he is also trustee. He has been a successful farmer, and is spending his later years in peace and quiet.

BENJAMIN P. SEARS, a well-known fruit grower of Bowling Green, was born in Tompkins county, N. Y., November 7, 1819.

His grandfather, Eli Sears, was an agricult-

urist in Delaware county, N. Y., and had two sons, David F., our subject's father, and Thomas B. The former was born in 1791, and married at an early age to Miss Sallie Pine, a native of the same county. He was drafted during the war of 1812, but his brother, who was not then married, took his place. He returned home at the close of the war, and settled in Tompkins county, where he married and reared a family of twelve children. Our subject's parents moved to Tompkins county, after their marriage, traveling in a primitive vehicle drawn by a pair of steers. They cleared a farm in the woods, where they spent the rest of their lives, and died. Mr. Sears died in 1872, aged eighty-one years, two months and twelve days. They had ten children: Almarin, and George W., who died in Tompkins county; B. P., our subject; Adaline E., who married, first, John Woodworth, and then Cyrus Barber; Franklin, who died in New York State; Caroline, the wife of Terry Smith, of Seneca county, N. Y.; Jane, who married A. V. McKeel, of Tompkins county, N. Y.; and DeWitt C., a resident of Grand Detour, Ill. Two other children died in infancy.

Our subject grew to manhood upon his father's farm, obtaining his education in a subscription school held in a log house. May 15, 1848, he married Miss Elvira Shannon, a native of Seneca county, born January 15, 1827. Previous to his marriage he had clerked in a store for a year, but the young couple settled at once upon a farm near the old home, where they remained a number of years. Mr. Sears then sold his land and engaged in the grocery business, but lost everything by fire in 1876. In the following year he came to Bowling Green, hoping to make good his losses, and in 1879 he purchased his present property, containing three and a half acres, then in the outskirts of the city, but now surrounded by residences. Here Mr. Sears and his wife devoted themselves to the raising of berries and other fruits, with the success due to industry and good judgment. No serious cares or troubles marred the serenity of their well-spent days. Their only child, W. S., is now a law student in Bowling Green. He married Hester Brewer, and has one child, Elvira.

Our subject's wife was a woman of exceptional intellect and culture. She was educated in a seminary in New York State, and was a teacher before her marriage. Early in life she developed a taste for literary work, and her poems found ready acceptance in the periodicals of the day, the discouraging reply, "declined with thanks," so familiar to most writers, having

never been received by her. At her death, which occurred March 12, 1895, she left some of her best and longest poems still in manuscript, and an effort is now being made to publish them in book form. A natural leader, she always took a prominent part in philanthropical and religious work, and in literary circles, wherever she might be. When she came to Bowling Green the local W. C. T. U., was in a disorganized condition, and she gave her energies freely to revive it. Her success was so marked that she was chosen local president, and later county organizer. She lectured throughout the county, establishing unions, and afterward, as county president, continued the work. She was a delegate to the State convention at Cincinnati, and the National meeting at Cleveland. Her death was regarded as a severe loss to the W. C. T. U., and memorial services were held in her honor throughout the county.

JOHN CURRENT, a progressive and successful general merchant of Dunbridge, was born near Fremont, Sandusky Co., Ohio, January 16, 1845. His father, Thomas Current, was a native of Wheeling, Va., where he was reared on a farm. When a young man he removed with his parents to Sandusky county, and there carried on agricultural pursuits. He married Catherine Washburn, who was born in that county in 1838, and they became the parents of five children: Elizabeth; wife of William Parker; James, a member of Company A, 111th O. V. I., who died in the army; John, subject of this sketch; Maria, wife of William Pero, of Toledo; and Thomas, who died in infancy. The mother of this family died in 1853, and the father afterward wedded Mary Scranton, of Sandusky county. They had two children, Thomas and Mary, both of whom are deceased. The father died in October, 1871.

John Current attended the district schools, and worked upon his father's farm until 1861, when, though only a boy of sixteen, he joined Company I, 57th O. V. I., under Capt. A. S. Skelton, and Col. William Mungen. From Findlay the regiment went to Camp Vance, and thence proceeded to the front. On January 1, 1864, he re-enlisted at Larkinsville, Ala., and was shortly afterward made a corporal. He acted as orderly for Gen. A. V. Rice, and when the latter was wounded at Vicksburg, Corporal Current carried him off the field. Our subject was never absent from his regiment during his long service, except when wounded in the wrist at Dallas, Ga., which necessitated his being sent to the hospital at Nashville, Tenn. He partici-

pated in the battles of Shiloh, Yazoo River, and many other engagements, and received an honorable discharge in August, 1865, and returned home.

Mr. Current continued his residence in Sandusky county until 1868, when he came to Wood county, and for twelve months worked by the month. He then rented a farm for a year, afterward working a sawmill for a year, and subsequently renting the Ewing farm for two years. In 1874 he purchased forty acres of land near what is called Devil's Hole, Middleton township, which he cleared and operated for fifteen years, when he abandoned agricultural pursuits and came to Dunbridge, where he has since carried on general merchandising, meeting with excellent success. He is a wide-awake, progressive business man, strictly honorable in all his dealings, and these qualities, combined with a genial manner, have enabled him to secure an extensive trade. He still retains the ownership of his farm, and operates it in connection with his mercantile interests.

Mr. Current was married at Bowling Green, in 1871, to Caroline Williams, who was born near Fremont, October 3, 1850, a daughter of Daniel and Sarah (Parker) Williams. Four children grace this union: Charles E., a dealer in stock; Maude D., who is engaged in school teaching; Grace, wife of George De Verna, a farmer of Perrysburg township; and Claude A., attending school. For five years Mr. Current has served as township trustee; was constable of Middleton township three years; school director a number of years; and a member of the township board of education, which indicates the confidence and trust reposed in him by his fellow townsmen. In politics he is a Democrat; socially he is connected with the Masonic Lodge at Bowling Green; Dunbridge Lodge, No. 786, I. O. O. F.; and Robert Stewart Post, G. A. R., of Dunbridge. He is also a member of the Grange, in which he has filled all the offices, and is justly numbered among the prominent and highly esteemed citizens of his locality.

**JOSEPH HOLLINGTON.** The subject of this sketch has lived upon the site of the present city of Bowling Green longer than any other resident. Born in England May 21, 1824, he came to Plain township with his parents, in 1833, and has seen this spot redeemed from a trackless waste of forest and swamp, and made the home of a progressive civilization. And in this change he has had his share of helpful work. He was one of the building committee of the old court house, and

collected \$12,000.00 for the enterprise. In the struggle for the county seat he took an active part, and, indeed, in every event of note in the history of the county, his name is enrolled among the participants.

His father, Joseph Hollington, was born in 1792 at Redditch, Worcestershire, England, then the leading manufacturing center for needles. He was a candle-molder by trade, and retained the ownership of his shop after he came to America. He married Mary Perry, by whom he had five children: Richard (born March, 1822, died 1893), a well-known resident of West Unity, Ohio; Joseph, our subject; Ambrose, a minister of the M. E. Church at Delaware, Ohio; Mary Ann, the widow of the late Octavius Walters, of Delta, Ohio, formerly member of the Legislature, and William, a prominent real-estate dealer in San Diego, Cal. Our subject's father took an active interest in the politics of his adopted country, and was an ardent Whig. He and his wife were members of the Church of England previous to their removal to America. He died in 1847, his wife in 1854, at the age of sixty.

Joseph Hollington was nearly ten years old when his parents came to Wood county. He was married at twenty-four to Miss Elizabeth L. Lamb, who was born in New York State in 1829. They had three children: Mary E., who died when six years of age; Mary Ann, who died aged twenty-nine, and Maria, born January 29, 1852, who married W. H. Frederick, a native of Seneca county, Ohio, born May 3, 1845. Mr. Frederick was educated in the public schools of his birthplace, learned the trade of mason in early life, and in 1874 came to Bowling Green to engage in that business. He was a soldier during the Civil war, enlisting August 30, 1862, in Company D, 49th O. V. I., which was attached to the army of the Cumberland. His chief battles were at Stone River, Liberty Gap and Chickamauga. In the last-mentioned engagement, September 19, 1863, he was severely wounded, and shortly afterward received an honorable discharge. He is a Republican in politics, and a member of Wiley Post No. 46, G. A. R. Mr. Hollington is also a Republican, and before the war he was a Whig, and took an influential part in the local political movements of that time.

**JOHN KNAUSS** is a native of Germany, his birth having occurred in Bluenburg, February 21, 1840. He is a son of George and Barbara E. Knauss, and a brother of George Knauss who resides in Plain township. He came to this country with his parents, the family locating

in Ohio, and in the public schools of Medina county he acquired his education. He afterward worked as a farm hand in that county for five years. In 1854 he accompanied his parents to Center township, this county, and to his father gave the benefit of his services until twenty-four years of age, when he was married and removed to Middleton township. Here he purchased forty acres of land, and at once began its development. He placed many rods of tiling upon the farm, erected a good house and barn, and afterward extended the boundaries of his farm by the additional purchase of forty acres. He now has a richly cultivated farm, the well tilled fields yielding to him a good return for his care and labor.

On the 31st of March, 1863, in Perrysburg, Ohio, Mr. Knauss was united in marriage with Catherine Bostdorf, daughter of Henry Bostdorf, and a native of Ohio. Fourteen children have been born of this union—Andrew J., a farmer; Emma E., wife of Fred Neeglie; Daniel; John; Edwin; Charles H.; Orange A.; Maggie B.; Martha G.; Cyrus R.; Rutha R.; Herald V., and two who died in infancy.

In his political views Mr. Knauss is a Democrat, but has no aspirations for office. He is a member of the United Brethren Church, in which he is now serving as steward, and is an upright, honorable man who ranks among the best farmers of Wood county, and has the esteem and good will of all with whom he has been brought in contact.

JOHN H. COCHREL, who is now serving as postmaster of Haney, and carrying on a general merchandise store, is one of the prominent business men of Jackson township. He was born in Hancock county, Ohio, July 31, 1858, and is a son of John Cochrel, who was born in Muskingum county; when a young man he entered a veterinary college, where he was graduated. He afterward became one of the most proficient veterinary surgeons in this part of the country. He was married in Coshocton county, Ohio, to Mary Buckler, and immediately afterward removed to Hancock county, locating in McComb, where he successfully practiced his profession. He also purchased a farm of 120 acres, which was operated by our subject and his brother. The mother died in Hancock county, December 10, 1881. The members of the family are Nathan, a farmer of Jackson township, Wood county; Sarah E., wife of George Fout, of Hancock county; Susan, wife of John Edgington, of Hancock county; Finney, a farmer of the same county; and John H.

The last named is indebted to the district schools of Portage and Pleasant townships, Hancock county, for his education, which was completed at the age of twenty years. He then became clerk in the post office and grocery store at McComb, Hancock county, for Mr. Barney, where he remained for three years, receiving a good business training. He afterward purchased a farm in Blanchard township, Hancock county, of one hundred acres, which he cultivated for a year, and then sold. Removing to McComb, he purchased a saloon, which he carried on for three years, and later was proprietor of a meat market for a year. Disposing of his business interests in the town, he then returned to his farm, and not long after established a grocery store on his farm, running three huckster wagons in connection with the store. In October, 1894, he disposed of his property in Hancock county, and came to Wood county, erecting a store in Haney, which he supplied with a large stock of groceries. He also runs three huckster wagons, buying up all kinds of fruit, which he sells at retail through the county. In the winter he also deals quite extensively in poultry.

Mr. Cochrel was married in Henry township, Wood county, March 4, 1878, to Miss Minerva Fellers, who was born in Hancock county, Ohio, where she lived until seventeen years of age, when she came to Wood county with her parents, Noah and Almeda (Evans) Fellers, now residents of Rawson, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Cochrel have two children—Harley J. and Flora May. In politics our subject is a Democrat, and has held some local offices, being now postmaster of Haney.

EMERSON WEBSTER FISHER, M. D., a young man of progressive spirit and enterprise, is successfully engaged in the practice of medicine in Portage. He was born in Snyder county, Penn., at the town of Selin's Grove, November 14, 1876, and is a son of Ben and Lydia (Snyder) Fisher, also natives of the Keystone State. The family is of German origin, and the grandfather, Christian Fisher, who was born in Germany, was the first of the name to seek a home in America. He located in Pennsylvania, and traded a rifle to some Indians for a large tract of land along the Susquehanna river, there following farming until his death. The father of our subject was born on the old homestead, and was reared in the usual manner of farmer lads. After his marriage he located on the Isle of Que, and, by his well directed business efforts, accumulated considerable property. His death occurred in 1875, and

several years later his widow married Solomon Miller, and is now living in Wymore, Neb. Her children are as follows: Mattie A., who became the wife of Rev. W. C. McCool, and died in Ponca, Neb.; Ben F., a merchant of De Witt, Neb.; William I., cashier in the bank at Wymore, Neb.; Peter A., a resident of Lincoln, Neb.; Charles M., a farmer of Logan, Neb.; John W., a machinist of North Platte, Neb.; George C., an agriculturist of Logan, Neb., Emerson W., of this sketch; and Della May, who is clerking in a store in Ponca, Nebraska.

Dr. Fisher, of this sketch, attended the common schools of his native town until ten years of age, when he went with the family to Nebraska, where his elder brother Ben had previously moved and taken up a homestead for the family. The Doctor attended school in the West until seventeen years of age, then continued his studies in the Homer Academy of Homer, Neb., and also spent one term in college in the same State. During the winter of 1888-89, he was a student in the Midland College of Atchison, Kans., after which he pursued a three-years' course in the Rush Medical College of Chicago, from which he was graduated March 29, 1892. He immediately began practice at Ponca, Neb., but four months later came to Wood county, and for a short time was in the office of Dr. Snyder, of Bowling Green. On December 24, 1892, he located at Portage, where he has since built up a good business.

Dr. Fisher was married in Portage, August 16, 1894, to Miss Henrietta L. Teller, who was born in Portage township, September 29, 1870. In his political views, he is a Democrat, and his religious belief connects him with the Evangelical Lutheran Church. His ability, laudable ambition and well-directed efforts have already secured him a good business.

**J. W. PENNELL.** The paternal great-grandfather of Mr. Pennell emigrated from Wales to America, and settled in Pennsylvania, where he died. His son, the grandfather of our subject, carried on farming in that State during his life, and in Beaver county, Penn., William Pennell, the father of J. W., was born in 1816. He was a merchant and hotel-keeper by occupation, and died in Meadville, Penn., in 1865.

The mother of our subject was, before her marriage, Miss Cynthia Thatcher, her ancestors being residents of New Jersey, and of old New England stock. She was born in Beaver county, Penn., in 1821, and died in 1882. By marriage with Mr. Pennell she became the mother of seven

children: Elizabeth died when eighteen years old; Madison lives in Trumbull county, Ohio; John died in infancy; J. W.; Ellen is the wife of W. Beadman; George, residing at Zanesville, Ohio; Anna, the wife of Washington Harris, of Beaver county, Pennsylvania.

J. W. Pennell was born in Mercer county, Penn., July 13, 1845, and came with his parents to Ohio when a lad. When seventeen years old he returned to his native State, and began work in the oil fields of Butler county. From there he went to West Virginia, and subsequently came to Wood county. During all this time he has been engaged in the oil-producing business, and has held various responsible positions with leading oil companies. In the year 1895 he struck one of the best wells found in Wood county during the year, and has been very successful in all his ventures in that line.

Mr. Pennell was married in Marietta, Ohio, April 19, 1869, to Miss Eugene Douglass, who was born in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, December 1, 1850. Of this union seven children have been born: William, who is foreman of the Palmer Oil Company, at Bairdstown, Ohio, married Miss Mattie Baird, and they have one child, Merle; the others are Frank, who is also with the Palmer Oil Company; Clyde, Lamott, Nellie, Cleveland and Burt.

Mr. Pennell is a leading Democrat, and was treasurer of the Democratic County Central Committee for three years. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias and Knights of the Maccabees, and is very popular in the community as a thorough gentleman, and a man of high principles. At the present writing he is carrying on a restaurant, in connection with his oil business, which is largely patronized and well managed.

**HENRY F. BOWLUS**, partner of the well-known firm Hobart, Bowlus Co., of Pemberville, was born September 18, 1855, near Fremont, Ohio.

Henry Bowlus, the great ancestor from whom are descended the Bowlus families, was a native of Germany, who came to America in the Colonial period, about 1735, and settled in the Middletown Valley, Frederick county, Md. He had four sons—Jacob, George, Valentine and Nicholas—the youngest being then but five years of age. Nicholas Bowlus was reared on a farm in Frederick county, Md., where he became the head of a family of eight children—Jacob, John, Henry, Nicholas, Jr., Mrs. Beckaback, Mrs. Floyd, Mrs. Haller, and Mrs. Christ. Of these, Jacob, a distinguished pioneer minister of the United Brethren Church, and Henry a farmer,



came to Ohio, about the year 1828, and settled in Sandusky Tp., Sandusky Co. The children of Rev. Jacob Bowlus were: Jacob, David, Mary, Elizabeth, Margaret, and Susannah, all of whom became heads of families in Sandusky county. In 1828 Henry Bowlus located on a farm of 320 acres, which was then an unbroken forest, and helped clear up the famous "Black Swamp." He had a family of six children, namely: (1) Magdalene, wife of Daniel Young, who lived and died in Maryland. (2) Adam, who married Elizabeth Krohn, and remained in Maryland. (3) Sophia, wife of Jacob Thomas; she died in 1895, at the age of eighty-eight years. They had nine children—John H., Richard, Joseph, Lizzie, Maggie, Amanda, Charles, Alice, Anna; of these, the eldest, John H. Thomas, a millionaire, was the competitor of Calvin S. Brice, for U. S. Senator, in 1893. (4) Henry Bowlus, father of our subject, comes next. (5) Nicholas, who married Mary Donnell, and lived in Madison township, where he died in 1893. (6) Mahala, wife of Jesse Dorcas, living at Lisbon, Iowa. The father of this family was killed in 1832, by a kick from a horse.

Henry Bowlus, our subject's father, one of the early pioneers of Sandusky county, was born in Maryland, September 27, 1810. On November 20, 1833, he married Miss Catherine Keller, of Tiffin, Ohio, who was born February 14, 1811, and died October 20, 1846; their children were—Hanson R., Mahala, Martha, Catherine, Elizabeth and Caroline. The first four of these became heads of families in Sandusky county. On September 27, 1849, he married for his second wife Mrs. Rebecca C. Bowlus (*née* Williamson), of Maryland, born July 4, 1824, and died January 28, 1891; their children were—Warren A., who lives on the old homestead near Fremont; Anna C., wife of Cyrus Smith, of Gibsonburg; Henry F., our subject; and Robert, a farmer in Sandusky county.

Our subject's father has lived to see a great change in the Valley of the Sandusky. When he first came, there were more Indians than white people. The Wyandottes, Senecas and Tawas lived here, and used to assemble in great numbers every year when they went to Malden to draw their annuity from the government of Great Britain. There, seemingly, was no end of squirrels and other wild game. Mr. Bowlus followed farming and stock raising. About the year 1868, in company with his son, Hanson R., he operated a sawmill, furniture shop and planing-mill, about sixteen years, at Fremont. In politics he was first a Whig, then an Abolitionist, a Whig, and later

a Republican; strange to say, his father was a pro-slavery man. Before the Civil war he kept a station of the "Underground railroad," and assisted runaway slaves from the Southern States to escape, making their hearts glad, and sending them on their way to Canada. He has for many years been a member of the M. P. Church, near Fremont. Though now (1896) past eighty-six years of age, he enjoys life among his children and grandchildren, with a mind still active, and a memory undimmed.

Henry F. Bowlus, our subject, passed his early years at the old farm, and was educated in Adrian College, at Adrian, Mich.; but before he was twenty-one he came to Pemberville and became a partner with his brother-in-law, M. Hobart, in the hardware business. As the years have passed, and their trade increased, they have enlarged the scope of their business, until now they own one of the most extensive general stores in Wood county, their stock of various kinds, occupying three rooms 22 x 20, 22 x 85, and 50 x 50. They are owners also of the grain elevator, where they deal in all kinds of grain.

On June 18, 1879, Mr. Bowlus was married at Pemberville to Miss Mary Balmer, a native of Cumberland county, Penn., born March 20, 1853. They have three children: Harry M., Edith, and Romaine. While Mr. Bowlus holds a high rank in business circles, he is also prominent in all local movements of importance, and was one of the first to open up the oil field near Pemberville. His fine personal qualities give him marked influence in the community. In politics he is a Republican, and he and his wife are leading members of the Presbyterian Church. He was mayor of Pemberville for two years, and a member of the council for a number of years; has been superintendent of the Sunday-school, and is now an elder in the Church. He and Mr. Hobart are the oldest firm in Pemberville, and among the oldest in the county.

CHARLES R. ROSENDALE, M. D. Among the highly successful men in Wood county, it would be difficult to find one who has surpassed our subject in accumulation of property, as well as in services rendered to suffering humanity.

In early times in this county, when the swampy condition of the country made it a congenial abode for fevers, ague, malaria, etc., the physician was often called upon to attend those who fell victims to these dire diseases, where a ride of many miles was necessary through the forests. These journeys were frequently necessary at all hours of the night, and it can easily



*C. R. Rosendale M. A.*



be imagined that the lot of a pioneer doctor, such as was our subject, was no sinecure.

Charles R. Rosendale was born August 1, 1831, in Swanland, seven miles from Hull, in Yorkshire, England, the son of William and Jane (Brown) Rosendale, who had a family of seven children. When he was about nine years of age they decided to come to the United States, where they would find better opportunities for making a living. After a tedious voyage of many weeks they landed at Quebec, thence coming to Lorain county, Ohio, partly *via* Erie canal and lake to Cleveland, and from there by team to their destination. Forty acres of land in a primitive state, on which were some log buildings, were taken up, on which the first payment was made with money given Mrs. Rosendale by her father. The land was situated near the center of Grafton township, and here the family began their struggle for existence in the new country. The farm being small, and the family large, it became necessary for our subject, who was among the older children, to start out for himself, and when only twelve years of age he went to work for some of the neighboring farmers. For some years he lived in the vicinity of Wellington, Ohio, where he was engaged in farm work during the summers, in the winters attending the district schools. Industrious and ambitious, he learned rapidly, and was asked to teach, but declined. He attended the Elyria High School in addition to the district schools, and in this way laid the foundation for the scientific course to be his later in life.

While thus employed he was seized with typhoid fever, and after a long illness, through which he was cared for by kindly hands, he recovered, but found that his money, ten dollars in all, would prove sadly deficient in paying the expenses of his long illness. Dr. Smith, of Wellington, Ohio, who was his physician, had become much attached to the young man, and on his recovery urged him to take up the study of medicine. This he decided to do, and at the age of twenty began his reading with Drs. Smith and Johns, and subsequently with Dr. McKenzie, of Litchfield, Medina county, spending in all four years under their tutorship. He completed his medical studies at the Cincinnati Eclectic Institute, from which he was graduated in the spring of 1856. This schooling required money, which was supplied by friends, none of whom were relatives, whose only security was the honesty of our subject.

In the meantime Dr. Rosendale's parents had removed to Wood county and located near Eagle-

ville, in Bloom township, where in May, 1856, our subject came to recuperate after his exhaustive years of study. He had made up his mind to go west after he had fully recovered his health; but an incident occurring at this time served to change his plans. Just then a serious malady, known as dysentery or "bloody flux," was prevalent in Wood county, which had baffled many of the resident physicians. It being noised about that young Rosendale was a doctor, he was called upon to treat a man by the name of George Bronson, who was suffering from the disease. He had no intention at that time of practicing, but consented to take the case, and the rapid recovery of the patient from an ailment that often lasted for many weeks, frequently proving fatal, was so surprising as to stamp this young physician as a man of ability. He was soon after called into consultation by Dr. McLaughlin, of West Millgrove, and the impression made by him upon the patients was such as to secure requests for individual calls, which he answered, and which were followed by numerous entreaties for him to locate in West Millgrove. This Dr. Rosendale decided to do, and thus began one of the most successful careers ever experienced by any physician in Wood, or surrounding counties. From that time, and for thirty-five years following, he never knew any such thing as lack of business, being sent for from far and near, his success being in keeping with his extensive clientage.

In the early part of his career, before he became well known, he experienced, as many other professional men have, the inconvenience of lack of capital. Desiring at this time to purchase another horse, as excessive riding was telling on the one he owned, he was offered a fine four-year-old animal, owned by Jackson Lee, for \$100. The Doctor wanted it badly, but did not have the money, and his note with security was suggested. He could not find any man to go on this note, so wrote to friends in Lorain county, who promptly forwarded the money. To-day he could without any trouble get security for a thousand times that amount.

In October, 1857, our subject was married in Tiffin, Ohio, to Miss Rebecca Wade, who was born in Seneca county, a daughter of Abner Wade, a farmer of that county. Nine children were born of this union, namely: Charles E., November 27, 1858, died when four years old; Harry B., October 17, 1860, died when eighteen months old; Wilbur W., June 28, 1863, lives in Perry township; Watson S., September 10, 1865, died in infancy; Fred C., born May 6, 1867; Tunison T., born May 12, 1871, is a physician in

Fostoria, Ohio; Clara M., born January 16, 1874, is now Mrs. L. Marsh, of Prairie Depot, Ohio; a son, who died in infancy, unnamed; and Chester A., born October 27, 1882, is at home with his father. Mrs. Rosendale for five years before her death, which took place in 1885, was a sufferer from paralysis, having had three strokes. She was a consistent member of the Congregational Church, a Christian woman and a kind mother. For his second wife Dr. Rosendale married Miss Charity Arthur, of Bowling Green, Ohio, who bore him one child, Earl A., born April 7, 1889. She died July 2, 1890, and was buried in Bowling Green cemetery. Her death was greatly mourned, as she had proved a most devoted and loving mother to her step-children, with whom she was a great favorite, and who found her a faithful friend. The Doctor is robust and exceptionally well preserved, and he still continues to practice for those who refuse to surrender his services as their family physician. No physician in Wood county has been more successful as a practitioner, and none has a larger circle of warm friends.

Our subject has for a number of years been interested in the real-estate business, during this time buying and selling hundreds of acres of land. He has given each of his sons a large farm, retaining for himself about 825 acres of land, and owning some of the most valuable business and resident properties in Fostoria, which latter are estimated to be worth over \$100,000. There are few men whose business interests are as extensive, and yet kept in as good shape as those of Dr. Rosendale. He is a shrewd financier, and personally looks after his affairs, so that in case of his sudden demise no danger of complications will arise.

In politics Dr. Rosendale is a staunch Democrat, and takes an active interest in the success of his party, although he is not what would be called a politician. He has served several terms as treasurer of Perry township. Several years ago he became a member of the Masonic order at Fostoria, and is a Master Mason. The Doctor has traveled very extensively over the world; but unlike many another tourist he did not visit Europe until he had seen the interesting and wonderful in America, and he was thus prepared, when abroad, to interest those whom he met with stories of the scenery of this country. In June, 1889, he spent some three months in England and France, visiting the Exposition at Paris, and the scenes of his early youth in England. He went to the same Sunday-school in which he was taught as a boy, and saw the same pond of clear water which he once fell into from

his horse while watching the reflections of tree tops. This trip was greatly enjoyed, and brought back many pleasant memories.

LEWIS WILBER, deceased, who during life was one of the best known and most highly esteemed residents of Center township, was a native of Ohio, born in Huron county, March 17, 1836, a son of Stephen Wilber, a farmer of that county, who died when our subject was quite young. After attending school for a short period, Lewis began work on a farm for his uncle, Mr. Meede, where he remained for several years. Then, for four years, he worked for wages as a farm hand in Huron county. There he later rented forty acres of land from a Mr. William, which tract he operated for three years. The year 1860 witnessed his arrival in Wood county, where he purchased forty acres of land in Plain township, to the cultivation and improvement of which he devoted his time, until his enlistment for service in the Union army during the Civil war.

In 1862, at Tontogany, Mr. Wilber became one of the "boys in blue," joining Company D, 111th O. V. I., and remained with that company until the close of the struggle, after which he returned to Huron county, where he made his home for two years, as his father-in-law had sold his farm in Wood county. He suffered much from sickness contracted during his service in the army. In 1867 he returned to Wood county, and this time bought eighty acres of land in Center township, of which a part had been cleared. He made many improvements upon his place, which to-day stand as monuments to his thrift and industry.

On March 11, 1852, in Huron county, Ohio, Mr. Wilber was married to Miss Catherine Knapp. The bride was a native of that county, born December 11, 1833, and to them were born six children, all of whom are still living—Emerson, born December 23, 1857; George E., born August 23, 1861; Rosie A., born September 26, 1864; Bird and Birth (twins), born November 30, 1866; and Clara, born May 15, 1870. Emerson and George now operate the home farm, and Bird was married August 1, 1894, to Miss Augusta Reniger.

Mr. Wilber was a refined and intellectual gentleman, who occupied a remarkably high position in the estimation of the people of the community, and was known far and wide as one of the leading representative men of Center township. He was greatly interested in educational work, and served for many years as school director, while he also held the office of supervisor of his town-

ship for several years. His political support was unswervingly given the Republican party. The family adheres to the faith of the United Brethren Church. His death was caused by consumption, contracted during the army service, and he passed away on January 15, 1884, leaving a large number of friends, as well as his immediate family, to mourn his death. Mrs. Wilber, a most estimable lady, still resides upon the farm left her by her husband, and has the love and respect of all who know her.

M. A. IRELAND, the genial and popular proprietor of the "Crystal City Restaurant" at Bowling Green, was born in Maumee City, Ohio, October 7, 1849.

His grandfather, John Ireland, came to Ohio, early in the present century from the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, where his son Michael, our subject's father, was born September 20, 1801. The family first located at Salt Lick, on the Ohio river, and later at Bellefontaine. At the age of twenty Mr. Michael Ireland started in business for himself, and went to Detroit, Mich., with a drove of stock, traveling along the old "Hull's Trail." Returning to Ohio, he settled at Maumee City, where for some years he worked in a hotel. He subsequently became a contractor in lime, stone and timber, and later engaged in the grocery business. He farmed the island in the river, near Maumee City, and shortly afterward removed to Topeka, Kans., purchasing a large tract of land near that city. He married Miss Mary Elinshousen, who was born in Germany in 1816, and reared a family of six children, of which our subject is the eldest. The others were Madison, now residing in Idaho Springs, Colo.; Edwin, living in Kansas City, Mo.; William A., killed by an explosion in one of his own mines in Colorado, at the age of thirty-two; Capitola, the wife of W. L. Townsend, of Idaho Springs, and Charles, also a resident of that town.

Our subject spent his youth in Maumee City, working with his father and attending school. He finished his education at the Central Ohio College, located there, and then learned the trade of shaping scythes, which he followed for about a year. The family removed to Kansas at this time, and he was engaged for the next six years in traveling with a government surveying expedition. He has often seen ten thousand head of buffalo at one time, and the party would shoot them down simply to see how many they could slaughter. Returning to Maumee City, he worked for a time in a wagon shop, and then took a load of horses and mules to

Buffalo, Troy, and other places in New York. After this trip he bought a half interest in the wagon shop, which he held for ten years.

In the meantime he was married to Miss Adelia Yonker, who was born in Bowling Green, January 6, 1856. Five children were born to this union: Munson C., June 16, 1875; May L., Ethel, William, and Donald D. On August 12, 1885, Mr. Ireland removed with his family to Idaho Springs, Colo., where for two years he was engaged in contracting and building, erecting some of the finest structures there. The oil fields of northwestern Ohio, suggested another form of business enterprise, in which he engaged for some time, but in 1892 he opened the "Crystal City Restaurant" at Bowling Green, which he has conducted ever since with constantly increasing patronage. His mother died in Kansas in 1873, and his father has of late years made his home with him.

In spite of his ninety-four years, Mr. Michael Ireland is mentally and physically active, walking with a light, brisk step which many younger men might envy. His memory is remarkable. He recalls the murder of the last white man killed by the Indians on the Maumee river, and many other events of note in the history of the State. In his early days he was an Old-line Whig, and attended the famous mass meeting at Fort Meigs in 1840, where Gen. Harrison spoke. Our subject is a Republican in politics, and a member of the K. of P., the P. O. S. of A., the American Mechanics, and the Woodmen of the World.

MINER WADSWORTH, M. D., who is successfully engaged in the practice of medicine at Hoytville, is a native of the Buckeye State, born April 14, 1854, at Wood Grove, Manchester township, Morgan county.

His father, Daniel S. Wadsworth, was a native of Maryland, and when eighteen years of age moved to Morgan county. Having attained his majority, he was married in Noble (then a part of Guernsey) county, Ohio, to Elizabeth Dye, a native of Guernsey county, and they located on the old homestead in Morgan county. There he resided until 1887, when, with his family, he moved to Smith county, Kans. He became extensively and successfully engaged in stock raising, and was a prominent citizen of the locality, until his death, which occurred January 21, 1896, when he was aged seventy-four. He was buried near Portis, Kans. Mr. and Mrs. Wadsworth were the parents of the following named children: Miner and Vincent, who died in childhood; Mary

Ann, who died in Morgan county, Ohio, at the age of forty; Wyley W., a school teacher in Oregon; Malinda, wife of Pearley P. Paxton, of Portis, Osborne Co., Kans.; Miner, subject of this sketch; and Dye, at home.

The Doctor began his education in the district schools, and on the old home farm spent his childhood days. At the age of eighteen he entered the public schools of Scio, Harrison county, where he pursued his studies one year, then followed school-teaching in both Morgan and Wood counties, following that pursuit two years. In 1876 he arrived in Wood county, and, after teaching two terms in Jackson township, took up the study of medicine, and carried on a small drug store at Hoytville. He studied medicine for a time, after which he attended medical lectures as a student in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, at Keokuk, Iowa, from which he was graduated February 28, 1882. He is now established in a good practice at Hoytville, where they have a comfortable home.

The Doctor was married at Hoytville, January 14, 1888, to Miss Katie Hager, who was born in Seneca county, Ohio.

**WESLEY MCINTIRE.** The citizens of this section of the country combine in their lives the enterprising, progressive characteristics of the West, and the stability and thoroughness of the people of the East, owing perhaps to their nearness to both sections. Our subject is a worthy type of Ohio's representative citizens. He was born near Tiffin, Seneca county, July 24, 1857, and is a son of Hiram and Lucetta (Zimmerman) McIntire, the former born in Wayne county, Ohio, April 10, 1832, the latter in Seneca county, March 10, 1837. The grandfather, John McIntire, emigrated from Scotland to America, and in Wayne county married a lady of Irish birth. One of their sons, prominent in Abolition work, used his home as a station on the "Underground railroad."

When a young man, Hiram McIntire learned the trade of a millwright. He was left an orphan at the age of thirteen, and for one year lived with an older brother; but not liking the treatment he there received, he tied his little wardrobe in his handkerchief, and with sixty-five cents in his pocket, ran away. He went to Green Springs, Sandusky county, and there learned his trade, which he followed for some years. While at that place he was married October 2, 1856, and immediately after went with his bride to Fort Seneca, where he worked in a sawmill. He afterward purchased a mill, which he operated

for a year, when he removed to Winter Station, and carried on a mill there until April 1, 1861, when with his family he came to Liberty township, Wood county. Here he purchased five acres of land on which stood a frame residence, and after selling that property he bought eighty acres of wild land, clearing the tract and erecting thereon a log cabin, into which his family moved before there were either doors or windows. In 1882 this was replaced by a more modern structure that is now occupied by a brother of our subject. The father died there February 19, 1893; the mother passed away eight months previous. Their children were Wesley; Francis Marion, born November 2, 1858; Arthur, who was born December 22, 1860, and was drowned at the age of two years; and Anna, who was born May 3, 1869, and died at the age of eight years.

Mr. McIntire, the subject of this sketch, was reared in Liberty township, received a common-school education, and worked on the home farm until his marriage. On May 14, 1882, he wedded Miss Ida Carnacom, who was born in Liberty township, July 13, 1861. They began their domestic life on a forty-acre farm given him by his father, and in 1892 he erected his present commodious home which is brightened by the presence of three children: Valeria Odessa, Francis Elmer and Lloyd. In politics, Mr. McIntire is a Republican, and is now serving as town constable. His time, however, is largely given to his business interests. He owns the farm on which he lives, has a half interest in eighty acres of land left by his father, and a half interest in the royalty received from thirteen oil wells. In connection with his brother, he is at this present writing also engaged in the breeding of blooded horses, and they have a fine five-eighths of a mile track on which they train and break colts. Socially, Mr. McIntire is connected with Whitney Lodge No. 589, I. O. O. F., of Portage, and is a charter member of the Forrester's Lodge at Rudolph. In religious connection he holds membership with the Disciples Church of Rudolph.

**FRANCIS M. MCINTIRE,** a prominent farmer and stock dealer of Wood county, was born in Sandusky county, Ohio, November 2, 1858, and is a son of Hiram and Lucetta (Zimmerman) McIntire. He was a child of two and a half years when his parents came to Wood county, and his childhood days were passed on his father's farm, while his education was obtained in the district schools. He secured a teacher's certificate, but



**HIRAM McINTIRE.**



**MRS. LUCETTA McINTIRE.**





ill health prevented him from entering the profession. At the age of sixteen he left school, and worked on the home farm until his marriage. When in his twenty-first year he engaged in farming for himself, as well as in assisting in the cultivation of the old homestead.

On August 7, 1881, Mr. McIntire was united in marriage with Miss Isadore Mercer, a daughter of Abraham and Harriet (Rice) Mercer. He erected a residence on his father-in-law's farm, and afterward moved this dwelling to a tract of thirty acres owned by his wife. In the spring of 1883 he began the breeding of blooded horses, and has continued this business with excellent success. In August, 1893, he admitted his brother Wesley to a partnership in the business, and he built a five-eighths mile track for training purposes. On April 1, 1896, he purchased his brother's interest in the horses, leased his one-half interest in the farm for five years, and is now owner of the stock farm. In 1892 he sold the land belonging to his wife, and removed to the old McIntire homestead, which had been inherited by himself and brother on his father's death. On February 16, 1893, he purchased 120 acres of improved land in Eaton county, Mich., and in the following February added forty acres. He has taken many premiums at the county fairs with his fine horses, and has one of the finest stock farms in the county.

To Mr. and Mrs. McIntire have been born five children, their names and dates of birth being as follows: H. Leroy, August 30, 1882; Harley, February 7, 1887; Algernon, November 8, 1890; Leo, July 16, 1893, and Mabel, November 15, 1895. Mr. McIntire takes quite an active interest in politics, has served as supervisor for two years, and in 1895 was elected justice of the peace. Socially he is a member of Whitney Lodge No. 589, I. O. O. F., of Portage, and a charter member of Lodge No. 57, Court Sheridan, Ancient Order of Forresters, in which he is one of the trustees. He is a popular young man, of genial disposition, and in the community where he has so long resided has many friends.

GEORGE W. BORTLE, deceased. The subject of this sketch, formerly a prominent agriculturist of Grand Rapids township, was born January 4, 1851, in Weston (now Grand Rapids) township, where his parents, John and Louisa Bortle, were among the early settlers. The father was born August 8, 1816, and died December 13, 1856. The mother, Louisa (Arnold) Bortle, was born November 12, 1827, and now resides with her daughter, Mrs. Addie Hodge, at Kenton, Ohio.

George W. Bortle was educated in the district schools in the neighborhood, and assisted his father on the farm during boyhood. His first independent work was done on the Wabash and Erie canal, on which he was employed for several years. Later he engaged in farming, and in 1876 he moved upon the farm of eighty-eight acres which belonged to his widowed mother, one-half of which his mother gave to him, and the other half she gave to her daughter, Addie. On this our subject planted a good orchard, erected a fine barn and made many other improvements. On December 31, 1874, Mr. Bortle was married to Miss Annie E. Gillmore, who was born November 25, 1848, a daughter of George and Mary A. Gillmore, who were well-known pioneer residents of Weston township. One child, John H., born April 16, 1876, blessed this happy union, and who is now the manager of the homestead, and his widowed mother's pride and solace. He attended the district schools of Grand Rapids township in youth, and although only eight years old at the time of his father's death, he early learned to lighten his mother's cares and responsibilities, and was a great comfort to her the few years she remained with him.

George W. Bortle was a man who held the respect and esteem of all who knew him; honest, industrious and progressive, his death, which occurred December 29, 1885, cut short a life of quiet usefulness, which could be illy spared. Mrs. Bortle, a lady of rare executive ability and business judgment, continued the work of the estate left to her, and through her good management she purchased the half of the former eighty-eight acres from her sister-in-law, Mrs. Addie Hodge, and on which she built a comfortable residence and added many other improvements. Having poor health for the past two years, Mrs. Bortle died February 19, 1896, leaving John H. Bortle, the only heir, in full possession of the beautiful home. On October 1, 1896, John H. Bortle was married to Maude McClure, whose birth occurred August 17, 1879.

DAVID W. KEYS, one of the progressive young agriculturists of Grand Rapids township, is a native of Wood county, born January 19, 1858.

His father, the late George Keys, a highly respected citizen of the same township, was born in the State of Delaware, February 27, 1812. He came from that State to Fairfield county, Ohio, where, in 1850, he was married to Miss Sarah Deal, who was born in Rockingham county, Va., August 24, 1817. They were engaged in farming while they remained in Fairfield, and in

1853, they moved to Wood county, where they bought seventy-four acres of wild land, which they cleared and improved, spending many days at the hard toil which prepared his fertile lands for production. To this union were born five children, three of whom died in infancy. Mary J., our subject's surviving sister, was born September 11, 1856; she married John Phillips February 25, 1877, who is a well-known farmer of Grand Rapids township.

David W. Keys attended the district schools during boyhood, and assisted his father upon the farm for a number of years. After the death of the latter, which occurred July 12, 1879, he took charge of the homestead for his widowed mother, for whom he cared tenderly until she, too, passed away on August 26, 1894. Since that time Mr. Keys has operated his half of the farm, and on it made many improvements of a substantial nature. On February 23, 1889, he was married to Miss Catherine Courtney, of Grand Rapids, who was born October 8, 1861. They have no children living. Both are greatly esteemed by their neighbors and acquaintances for their sterling qualities of character. Mr. Keys takes no part in politics. He attends strictly to his own business affairs, and his high reputation for good common sense gives proof of his wisdom in so doing.

HOWARD CORY is one of Perry township's most prominent farmers and citizens, as well as a descendant of one of its earliest pioneer families. In Section 22, that township, his birth occurred April 18, 1859, and he is a son of Ambrose and Amanda (Kelley) Cory. In the spring of 1832, the paternal grandfather, Samuel P. Cory, removed with his family to Melmore, Seneca Co., Ohio, by the way of the Erie canal to Buffalo, N. Y., by the lake to Sandusky, Ohio, and thence by team. The father started on foot to look up a location, and in Perry township, Wood county, entered eighty acres of land, which was still in its natural state. He erected a cabin, and in the fall of 1832 the family located here. He was born in 1793, and at the time of his death, June 26, 1846, he was comfortably situated. He took considerable interest in politics, voting with the Democratic party, and among other offices, served as the first justice of the peace of Perry township. By his marriage with Surviah Foster, he became the father of the following children—Louisa C., who became the wife of Dr. M. Dana, and died in Fostoria, Ohio; George D., who died on the home farm in Perry township; Ambrose, the father of our subject; Orrin J., who was both a farmer and a

painter, and departed this life in Fostoria; Mary E., who was the wife of A. J. Morgan, and died in Freeport, Ohio. The mother of this family lived to the ripe old age of eighty-one, and was buried by the side of her husband in Fostoria.

Ambrose Cory was born in Susquehanna county, Penn., May 29, 1825, and was only seven years old when he arrived in Wood county, where he attended the district schools near his home. He completed his education by two terms' attendance at the Norwalk Academy. At the age of twenty he began teaching in Hancock county at fifty cents per day, and taught in all six terms of school. His father died a few weeks before he reached his majority, and he then started out in life for himself, renting a farm near Melmore, Seneca county, for two years.

In Hancock county, on February 14, 1854, was celebrated the marriage of Ambrose Cory and Miss Amanda Kelley, who was born in Wayne county, Ohio, September 22, 1829, and is a daughter of Thomas and Catherine (Lorah) Kelley, who located in Washington township, Hancock county, in the fall of 1831. In the spring of 1854, Mr. Cory purchased 200 acres of land in Perry township, of Abraham Weaver, for which he went in debt, and on which he lived for seven years, but in 1871 he removed to Section 31, Jackson township, Seneca Co., Ohio, buying twenty acres, which is now within the corporation limits of Fostoria. The following year he there built his substantial brick residence, where he still lives, though he later bought 160 acres of land in Perry township, this county, which he improved, but still made his home in Fostoria. He now has eighteen acres in that city, while five acres are just outside the corporation. He held many offices of honor and trust in Perry township, is a highly respected citizen of Fostoria, and takes quite an interest in the success of the Democratic party, for which he casts his ballot. In the family of three children our subject is the eldest, and is followed by Kate S., who was the wife of Charles Schaufelberger, and died in Hastings, Neb., October 24, 1893; and T. Harry, a painter and paper-hanger of Fostoria.

When only three years old, Howard Cory was taken by his parents to Fostoria, in the public schools of which city he acquired his literary education, while on his father's farm in Perry township he received his instruction in agricultural pursuits. Two years previous to his marriage he built a house upon his present farm of eighty acres in Section 26, Perry township. Only twenty acres at that time had been cleared, but

now seventy acres have been placed under the plow, and yield to him golden harvests for the labor expended upon them. The place is well drained and supplied with an excellent set of farming buildings, all of which he has erected. The summer of 1883 he spent in Sully county, S. D., where he took up 160 acres of land, which he yet owns.

In Jackson township, Seneca county, Mr. Cory was joined in wedlock on March 6, 1884, with Miss Sylvia Cox, a native of that county, and a daughter of Aaron Cox, a farmer. They have one child, Fred, born October 15, 1888. Until 1891, Mr. Cory was a Democrat, but since that time he has been an enthusiastic supporter of the doctrines of the People's party. Religiously, he and his wife are connected with the Methodist Church of Fostoria.

W. O. JOHNSTON, a representative and leading farmer of Perry township, is a fair specimen of the sturdy agriculturists, who have so largely assisted in the development of Wood county, and who are drawing from the soil the important elements of their future fortune. His homestead, which embraces eighty-eight acres of rich and fertile land, lies in Section 27, where he first saw the light of day January 18, 1849, and is a son of Thomas and Mary (Cove) Johnston.

The father, who was of Irish parentage, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1810, and was a member of the large family of John Johnston. When twenty-two years of age he went to Fostoria, Ohio, and entered land in Hancock county, having at that time \$300 which had been given him by his father. About 1833, he bought eighty acres of land in Section 27, Perry township, all in its primitive condition. He was a very rugged man and a hard worker, and during pioneer days owned several tracts of land in Hancock county, which he would clear and then sell. At the time of his first marriage he was employed on the farm owned by Charles W. Foster, for whom he worked four years, and later came to Perry township. He lived to be nearly seventy-three years of age, dying at Fostoria, in July, 1883. For many years he was a member of the I. O. O. F., in politics was a Republican, and served as a trustee of Perry township. He was a man of sound judgment and good common sense, and by his well-directed labors secured a comfortable competence.

At Fostoria, Thomas Johnston was united in marriage with Mary Myers, by whom he had seven children, but five died before reaching adult age. Elizabeth is the wife of Peter Fay-

lor, of Montcalm county, Mich. John, who was a member of Company H, 49th O. V. I., was shot in the left temple, and carried the ball for two years, when it dropped through into his throat. His death, in October, 1880, was occasioned by his wound. For his second wife Mr. Johnston wedded Miss Mary Cove, a native of Stark county, Ohio, and a daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth Cove. After her father's death in Stark county, her mother came to western Ohio, and departed this life at Fostoria. Our subject is the eldest of seven children born of the second marriage, the others being Aiden L., who died in 1860; Charles E., of Toledo, Ohio; Hetty A., now Mrs. Frank Culbertson, of Fostoria; Mary E., who is engaged in the insurance business in that city; Thomas L., a glass worker of Fostoria; and George E., a telegraph operator of that place, who died March 4, 1893. The mother of this family is still living, and makes her home in Fostoria.

In the usual manner of farmer boys, our subject was reared to manhood, remaining at home until his marriage, with the exception of a few months in 1872, spent at Denver, Col., where he witnessed many thrilling scenes. On January 10, 1875, in Perry township, J. R. Phillips performed a wedding ceremony that united the destinies of Mr. Johnston and Miss Emily Brandeberry, who was there born July 29, 1855, and is a daughter of James and Jane (Bates) Brandeberry. To them have been born two children—Blanche, now Mrs. A. J. Baird, of Perry township; and Blake, at home.

Mr. Johnston began his domestic life upon a rented farm in Section 23, Perry township, and then for nine years rented another place in the same township. About 1883 he purchased forty acres of land, which form a part of his present valuable farm of eighty-eight acres. He uses his right of franchise in support of the Republican party, has been trustee of his township, and has held several school offices. As a friend, Mr. Johnston is an ardent and consistent one, and, as a neighbor, does all in his power for those around him.

TIMOTHY HAYES, "The Wizard of Fort Meigs," was born in County Tipperary, Ireland, July 16, 1822. The historic ground named above has been in the Hayes family as lessees, or owners, since 1841. It was here that Harrison and his patriotic pioneer followers hurled back the British and Indians, and gave the death blow to tyranny and barbarity in the United States. It was here, too, that in 1840, during the campaign of "Tippe-

canoe and Tyler, too," was gathered the mightiest host of people ever assembled at any political mass meeting held in this, or any other country, to do honor to their chief, the hero of Fort Meigs—Gen. William Henry Harrison, the Whig Presidential candidate of that year.

This historic spot, famed in the annals of history, would long since have been wrecked had it not been for the gentleman whose name opens this sketch, and his brothers, whose names appear hereafter. But under their careful watching, not a plowshare has disturbed a grave of the sacred dead whose dust sanctifies this hallowed spot, and makes it dear to every American heart; not a spade has desecrated the embankment that protected the patriots from the English shells. Mr. Hayes takes just pride in the ground he has helped to preserve. As the tourists and travelers, who seek to view the historic spot, find an Irishman—a bachelor—the proprietor and owner, and encounter his tall, angular figure walking over the fields, but see no public monument, they realize that this is indeed the "Wizard of Fort Meigs," whose word has stayed the vandalism of agriculture and the ravages of time, and preserved intact one of the Nation's most noted battle fields.

Timothy Hayes is the son of James and Margaret (Fitz Gerold) Hayes, both of whom were born in Tipperary. The father died in November at about seventy years of age. The mother departed this life at Fort Meigs in 1848, when about sixty years old. Their children were: Michael, who was born in 1814, came to America in 1837, and first went to Illinois, and then to Perrysburg. He was a contractor by occupation, doing considerable work on canals, and assisted in building the Maumee and Western Reserve Pike. In 1841 he settled on a farm at Fort Meigs, where he lived until his death, January 1, 1894; Johanna, the second child, died in Ireland; Bridget is the wife of James Carey, Turner Junction, Ills.; Timothy is our subject; Anastasia died in this country; Thomas, who was born in 1827, came to America in 1848 (he spent four years, from 1859 to 1863, in California and then returned to Wood county. He married Miss Mary Ann Daily, who was born in Wood county, and died after bearing one child, James C., who is agent for the Ohio Central railroad, at Dowling). The second wife of Thomas was Miss Ellen Riley, a native of Long Island, N. Y., and they have seven children: Thomas, Timothy, Michael, John, Margaret, Ellen, and Mary; the seventh child of our subject's parents was Ellen, now the wife of Matthew Riley, of Chicago; Margaret is

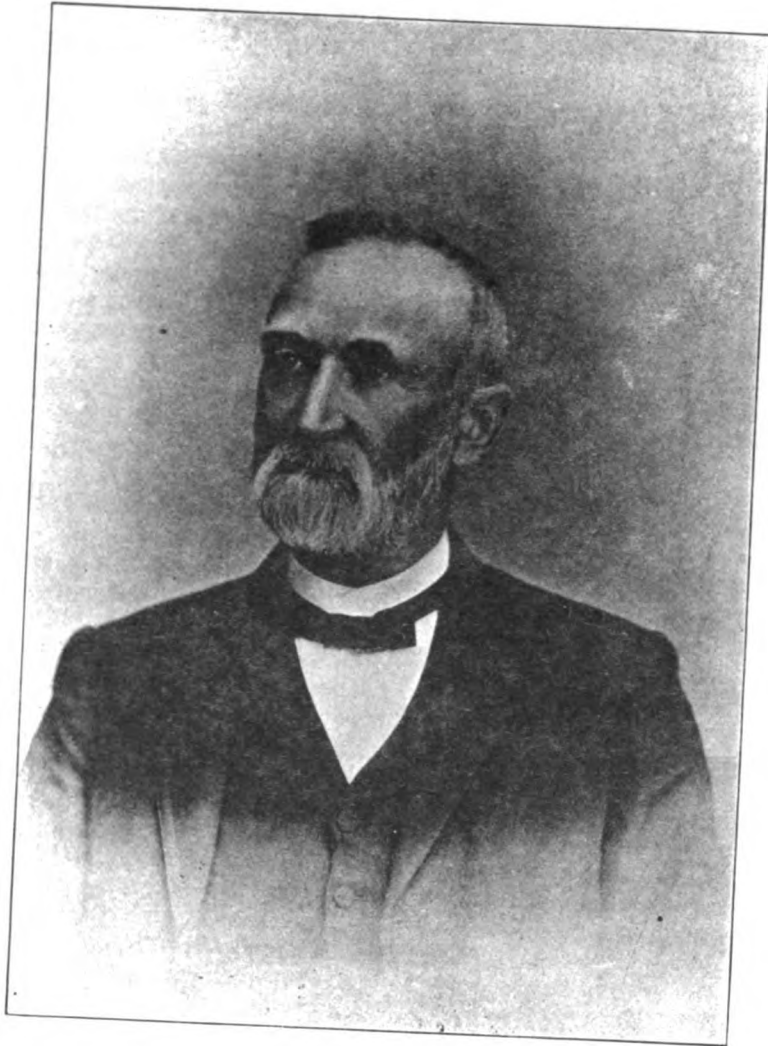
the wife of Felix Conley; the ninth child died in Ireland.

Timothy and his brother, Thomas, with the latter's family, all live in the same house on Fort Meigs. They are both Democrats and members of the Roman Catholic Church. The brothers bought Fort Meigs on July 5, 1864, since which time they have been its owners.

WILLIAM S. RICHARD, editor and proprietor of the *Bloomdale Derrick*, of Bloomdale, is one of the most thoroughly representative and best known citizens of Wood county, where probably no other has a wider acquaintance.

Mr. Richard is a native of Ohio, born December 16, 1835, in Ashland (then Richland) county, a son of Jacob and Rebecca Richard, and there received his education up to the age of fourteen years. He and his brothers were all hardy, industrious and intelligent lads, well adapted to the arduous task of clearing up the new Richard home in the woods, and assisting the neighbors in similar work. In addition to this, our subject, who was a keen sportsman, earned not a little money (a scarce commodity in those days) by the sale of pelts taken from wild animals, some of which he would trap, bringing others to the ground with his unerring rifle. Even now, though past the sixtieth milestone on the highway of life, he follows his sport with all the enthusiasm of his younger days—but it is simply sport now, without any thought of revenue, that leads him "into the haunts of Diana." Since 1876, with but few exceptions, Mr. Richard has been one of some hunting party or another, starting from Bloomdale for the game haunts of northern Michigan or Colorado, where several enjoyable weeks are spent. But this is a digression.

To return to his boyhood, we have said that our subject was fourteen years old when he first set foot in Bloom township, and, after working about the new home a year or two, and attending school, he commenced teaching at Eagleville, Ohio, a profession he followed for several years, earning the well-merited reputation of being a highly successful instructor. Of a naturally studious nature, possessed of brilliant intellect, and somewhat in advance of other boys of his age, he was ambitious enough to increase his store of learning by a course of study at the academy then being conducted at Republic, Ohio, under the scholastic management of Prof. Schuyler. His attendance here, however, was brought to a somewhat sudden termination owing to his eyesight becoming impaired, which necessitated a long rest from study. After the winter of 1866—



*W. J. Richard*



67 he abandoned school teaching, and confined himself exclusively to the occupation of farmer and auctioneer, which latter business he carried on some thirty years with the same degree of success he met with in other undertakings. In 1889 he became editor and proprietor of the *Derrick*, a lively newsy paper published weekly at Bloomdale. He is also manager of and a large stockholder in the Gas Center Milling Co., of Bloomdale, and is identified with many other enterprises of the village, at the same time carrying on his farm with characteristic energy. During the war of the Rebellion he served his country three months in Company E, 144th O. V. I., during which time the regiment was stationed at Wilmington, Del., doing guard duty. He enlisted May 2, 1864, and was honorably discharged in the following August.

On October 11, 1860, Mr. Richard was married, at Perrysburg, Ohio, by 'Squire Ross, to Miss Delilah Bailey, who was born in November, 1841, in Mahoning county, Ohio, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Simon) Bailey, who moved to Bloom township when Mrs. Richard was a girl. She, too, was a school teacher in her youth, having taught two terms, her salary ranging from \$8.00 to \$13.00 per month, which in those days was considered very fair emolument. After marriage the young couple commenced housekeeping in Eagleville, where Mr. Richard owned a small home, and there resided until July 29, 1866, when, Mr. Richard's father's health failing, they removed to the old homestead in Section 25, Bloom township, at that time comprising eighty acres of land, the residence thereon being a log house that years before had been built by Joseph Urie. On the death of his father, in 1871, our subject contemplated trying his fortune in the West, probably in Iowa; but, rather than leave his aged mother, and the old homestead to be sold, one brother having already sold his share, he concluded to remain at home. He bought in the farm, and with true filial affection cared for his widowed mother the rest of her days, in which he was no less dutifully assisted by his amiable wife, a task that demanded much patience, consideration and care, as the invalid for several years was very infirm. She passed from earth May 6, 1881. In 1880 Mr. Richard built an elegant residence on the farm, which by that time had been increased to 110 acres, and is now one of the best improved properties in Bloom township. In October, 1891, he removed with his family into the village of Bloomdale, and they have since made their home there. In February, 1895, he completed his present elegant brick resi-

dence on Vine street, where, metaphorically speaking, he reclines at ease "under his own fig tree," having succeeded, with the assistance of his life partner, and by assiduous perseverance, industry and economy, in accumulating a comfortable competence.

Children, four in number, have been born to this honored couple, a brief record of them being as follows: (1) Carrie E., born November 1, 1863, in Eagleville, was married September 17, 1884, to Dr. R. B. Hubbard, and they live in Sandusky, Ohio; they have one child, Vira D., born December 21, 1888. (2) Harry E., born November 1, 1865, in Eagleville, was married October 25, 1885, to Carrie E. Rosendale; he died September 8, 1890, and was buried in the cemetery at Bloom Chapel; he left one son, Stanley, born April 5, 1889. (3) Hollis W., born July 31, 1872, died October 5, 1890, and is buried in the cemetery at Bloom Chapel; he was a promising boy, exceedingly bright, and was beloved by every one. (4) Cora, born October 1, 1881, is an accomplished young lady, still at home. Mrs. Richard is proverbial for her hospitality and philanthropy, a typical Christian woman, tender-hearted and sympathetic, a devoted wife and loving mother. She is a member of the Church of Christ, as is also her husband.

A staunch Republican, Mr. Richard manifests a keen interest in the success of his party, in which he is an oft-consulted advisor and counselor in his part of the county. He has filled with zeal and ability various offices of honor and trust, and for many years served as justice of the peace. "Squire Richard," as he is familiarly known, has done a considerable amount of legal business, and many hundreds of couples has he joined in the bands of matrimony, "for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer." Socially, he is a member of Urie Post, G. A. R., at Bloomdale. He is a well-read man, an omnivorous student in political economy, physics, metaphysics, etc., all receiving deep research and thought, and, withal, he is possessed of shrewd, sound common sense and excellent judgment. A well-spent, abstemious life makes him bear his three-score years with all the cheerfulness and elasticity of a man half his age. May his shadow never grow less!

HENRY LAMBRIGHT, one of the substantial farmers of Perry township, was born in Richland county, Ohio, February 11, 1832, son of John and Elizabeth (Good) Lambright.

The father of our subject was born near New Lancaster, Md., March 24, 1805. His father, whose name was also John, came to Richland



county before the war of 1812, in which he served as a soldier. During his absence in the army, the Indians made a raid through the county, destroying lives and property, and his family, with others, took refuge in a blockhouse on the present site of Mansfield. The family of this ancestor comprised ten children, of whom John, Jr., was the first to die. He was reared in Richland county, and when twenty-four years of age married Miss Elizabeth Good, who was born in Perry county, Ohio, February 5, 1808, daughter of John Good, a farmer. Her parents removed from Perry to Richland county, and later to Seneca county, where they spent the remainder of their lives.

In the fall of 1835 our subject's parents moved to Jackson township, Seneca county, where the father entered 120 acres of land, all of it in a primitive state, covered with timber through which wild animals roamed in great numbers. In this pioneer home they reared their family of four children, who were as follows: Mary A., married Jacob Rinebolt, and died in Seneca county; Henry, our subject; Susan married George Sours, and died in Seneca county; John was a private in Company B, 57th Regiment, O. V. I., and was drowned at Paducah, Ky., in 1862. He had been confined for some time in a hospital, and was *en route* to join his regiment, but being still very weak fell overboard from the steamboat and was drowned. The father and mother made this farm their home until their deaths, which took place when the former was eighty-one years and six months, and the latter sixty-five years old. Both were members of the Lutheran Church, and were very faithful in their attendance on its services. The father was a Democrat originally, but later became a supporter of the Republican party. He was a large, powerful man, an excellent manager, and became quite well-to-do, although his wife was sickly for more than twenty-five years, and he had many obstacles to contend with.

Our subject had no opportunity to attend school until he was fourteen years old, and then his advantages were very limited. The school was such as was maintained at that early day by subscription, the school-room a very poor building, and the course of study was of no higher order than the surroundings. As he was the eldest son, his help was greatly needed by his father in a new country, and work was too plentiful to allow him much time for either recreation or study. Game was plentiful, but he was an industrious boy, and spent but little time in hunting or trapping, as many of his fellows did.

Mr. Lambright lived with his parents until his

marriage, February 17, 1856, with Miss Margaret Johnson, which event took place in Seneca county, the ceremony being performed by Henry Stahl, a justice of the peace. Mrs. Lambright's parents, Henry F. and Margaret (Sprout) Johnson, came from Guernsey county, Ohio, to Seneca county, where Mrs. Lambright was born September 14, 1836. Her father was a mechanic, and worked at various trades, among other things making shoes for his family. He was a great hunter of all kinds of game, and kept his table well supplied with the results of his rifle. He was in limited circumstances, and had a large family of fourteen children in all, of whom ten grew to maturity. Margaret was obliged to assist in the support of the others, and earned considerable money by weaving and spinning for the neighbors.

After his marriage Mr. Lambright located on a farm of eighty acres belonging to his father, which he rented for two years, then purchasing it for \$1,200, for which he gave his notes. Here he resided until he came to Perry township in 1865, when he bought 120 acres in Sections 27 and 34 for \$5,500, going in debt over \$2,000. The only building on this land was a small frame house, but since that time many improvements have been made, and it is now a valuable piece of property. In 1880 Mr. Lambright erected a large and handsome brick house and here he and his estimable wife dispense the most generous hospitality to their large circle of friends and acquaintances. He now owns 154 acres in Perry township, and eighty acres in Jackson township, this county, and is one of the wealthy and substantial farmers of this section, an honest, upright man, very industrious and in all respects a most worthy citizen. The family is held in high esteem throughout the community.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Lambright are four in number: Samuel F., born October 16, 1857, married and has two children; John W., born May 12, 1859, is a farmer in Montgomery township, married Hattie Raney, and they have three children; Daniel H., born September 3, 1864, died June 25, 1879, and was buried at Fostoria; E. G., born November 4, 1870, is a farmer in Jackson township, this county, married Miss Ella Keefer, and they have one child. Mr. Lambright has always been a staunch Republican, and has served as township trustee for several years. He has served also as school director, and takes an active interest in the cause of education. Both he and his wife are members of the Union Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he has held office ever since his first connection with

that body. He is one of the most liberal contributors to the Church, and is always ready to assist in any benevolent or other worthy enterprise.

Mr. Lambright was in his younger days a member of Company I, of the 49th Regiment Home Guards. During the Civil war they were called to Johnson's Island, where they did guard duty for a time, thence went to Washington, D. C. Here Mr. Lambright hired a substitute for 140 days, and returned home.

HENRY CLAGUE, a prominent agriculturist of Webster township, was born near Cleveland, Ohio, June 17, 1836. His parents, James and Mary (Collister) Clague, were natives of the Isle of Man, and, in 1826, settled in Cuyahoga county, Ohio, where they reared a large family.

Our subject received a good education in his youth, supplementing the instruction of the district school by a little over three years at Baldwin University. He assisted his father upon the farm until 1861, when he enlisted in Battery G, 1st Light Artillery, O. V. He took part in all of the battles fought by the army of the Cumberland, including those of Shiloh, and Stone River (where he was wounded), and the siege of Atlanta. He received an honorable discharge in December, 1864, at Chattanooga, Tenn., whence he returned to Cleveland and remained until 1866, when he returned to Wood county and engaged in the lumber business with his brother Thomas. On his arrival here he bought 140 acres of choice land near Fenton, which he has improved, and made one of the finest farms of its size in that vicinity.

In May, 1883, he was married, in Cleveland, to Miss Georgiana Harrison, who was born in Buffalo, N. Y., March 29, 1848. She is a daughter of Thomas Harrison, a well-known foundryman of Cleveland. Two children were born of this marriage: Arthur, August 13, 1886, and Howard, August 16, 1888. In politics, Mr. Clague is a Republican, and he is a member of the G. A. R.—Benedict Post, of Pemberville—and while in Cleveland was a member of the I. O. O. F. His wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Luckey, and she and Mr. Clague take a generous interest in every movement for the public welfare.

ADELBERT L. PETTEYS belongs to one of the families that have long been connected with Ohio. He was born in Huron county, February 18, 1850, and is a son of Eli W. Petteys, who was born in New York, in 1824, and was brought to

Ohio by his parents during his boyhood. The grandfather, John Y. Petteys, purchased a farm in Huron county, and there carried on agricultural pursuits for many years. In the Empire State he had married Miss Allen, and had five children—Hannah, widow of M. D. Tyler, of Tontogany, Ohio; Harriet, who became the wife of George Spicer, and at an early day removed to Wisconsin; her death occurred near Red Wing a few years later; Daniel H., who died in Gage county, Neb.; David, who died in Tontogany, Wood Co., Ohio, and Eli W.

The father of our subject was married in Norwich township, Huron county, Ohio, to Caroline A. Barber, a native of New York, and located on a farm where he lived until removing to Lucas county, Ohio, in the "fifties." He afterward came with his family to Wood county, but in a short time went to Erie county, locating near Bellevue. He afterward moved to Huron, Erie county, and subsequently to Milan township, Erie county, and in the spring of 1864 came to Wood county, Mr. Petteys purchasing 120 acres of land in Washington township. After two years, he removed to Tontogany, where he continued three years, then traded his property there for a farm in Washington township—a farm which had previously been owned by Gen. Custer's father. The father of our subject lived on this place for a few years, and then conducted the "Ackerman House," of Tontogany, for a year, when he removed with his family to Toledo. About four years later he took up his abode upon a 160-acre farm in Jackson township, which he had previously purchased, and at once began to clear the land and place it under cultivation. In 1889 he removed with his wife to Weston, where they spent their remaining days. The father died while visiting at the home of Mrs. Ada Maybee, of Toledo, January 19, 1893, and the mother survived him only ten days. They now sleep side by side in Lawnwood cemetery, Toledo.

The children of the family are Adelbert L.; David, who died in infancy; one, who died unnamed; Ada F., wife of Frank Maybee, of Toledo; Hattie D., wife of George Ackerman, of Toledo; and Clara, wife of Dr. I. S. Townsend, of Toledo, Ohio.

Mr. Petteys, of this sketch, attended school in Huron and Wood counties, completing his education in Tontogany, Ohio. He remained at home until twenty-two years of age, and then served a one-year's apprenticeship to the tin-smith's trade in Clyde, Ohio. Returning to Tontogany, he took charge of the hardware store of S. W. Whitmore, which he conducted two

years, when he began to work at his trade in Waterville, Ohio. While there he was taken ill, and returned home. On his recovery he opened a tin shop in Tontogany, which, however, he sold after a few months, and went on a trip for his health through Wisconsin, Iowa, and parts of Kansas and Missouri, finally reaching De Witt, Neb. Liking that place he worked at his trade there through one season. The following winter he spent at home, but in the spring again went to De Witt, where he worked for a few months. Again he returned to Ohio, and after four years spent in farming once more concluded to remove with his family to Nebraska, where they remained two years, our subject working in a hardware store.

On the expiration of that period, Mr. Petteys returned to his native State, and lived on one farm for three years. In 1888 he located on forty acres of land which he had purchased of his father, and which he cultivated until 1892, when he sold out and purchased sixty acres a half-mile west of his present home. After his father's retirement to private life, he removed to the old homestead, where he yet resides.

Mr. Petteys was married in Tontogany, Ohio, November 22, 1874, to Miss Sarah C. Tuller, who was born August 12, 1850, and is a daughter of Edwin and Catherine (Kuder) Tuller. Her father died August 29, 1896, at the age of seventy-five years. He was formerly a lawyer with an extensive practice. He had been a second time married, his last wife who survives him, having borne the maiden name of Nellie Paul. Mrs. Petteys is the second in order of birth in a family of six children, and was reared in Washington township, Wood county. She has one child, Charles Claude, who was born in Washington township, October 30, 1880, and is now a student in the Custar High School.

Our subject is a stalwart Republican in politics; his wife belongs to the Disciples Church, while, socially, he is connected with the Knights of Pythias lodge, of Custar. He is now numbered among the substantial citizens of the community, and has been the architect of his own fortunes. His perseverance and capable management have brought to him financial success, while his upright life has gained him the confidence and good will of many friends.

**EDGAR L. KINGSBURY**, a grocer of Perrysburg, was born in Hartford, Conn., February 28, 1845.

The Kingsbury family has long held an honored place in the history of New England, where the first of the line in America settled at an early

period. John Kingsbury, the grandfather of our subject, was a lifelong resident of Connecticut, and was engaged in agriculture and at the cooper's trade. His son, Lyman Kingsbury, our subject's father, was born in Hartford, Conn., April 14, 1800, and was married to Miss Almira Brown, a native of the same place, born June 12, 1806. Her grandfather Brown (given name forgotten) was a Scotchman by birth, and at the time of the Revolutionary war was the owner of a craft in which he gave what aid he could to the Colonial government. His ship was seized and confiscated by the British; but nothing daunted, the lover of freedom joined the land forces, and fought until independence was secured. For many years after his marriage our subject's father remained in his native place, following farming as an occupation, and in 1854 he moved with his family to the "Western Reserve," settling in Lorain county, near Elyria. He was a Democrat in politics, and he and his wife were members of the Episcopal Church. She passed away April 18, 1867, and he died October 23, 1873. They had four children: Horace, born January 21, 1836, died May 18, 1873; Edgar L. (1), born January 17, 1838, died January 4, 1844; Willard, born March 30, 1842, died September 16, 1852, in Connecticut; and Edgar L. (2), the subject of this sketch.

Mr. Kingsbury was only nine years old when his parents came to Lorain county, and his education was secured principally in the district schools there. At the age of twenty-two he came to the Maumee Valley, and cleared a farm in Defiance county, where for some years he followed agricultural pursuits. Becoming interested in the lumber business, he went to Bridgeport, Mich., remaining there four years, afterward returning to Defiance county. In 1877 he disposed of the farm, and came to Perrysburg, where he opened the grocery which he has since conducted with well-merited success. In politics he is a Republican. At the breaking out of the Civil war he first enlisted, as a recruit, in Company I, 9th O. V. I.; but owing to his youth he was not mustered into the service, although taken to Virginia, remaining there from November, 1861, to May, 1862. He then returned to Ohio, and re-enlisted, this time in Company I, 84th O. V. I., Capt. J. H. Winder's company, and Col. W. Lawrence, which regiment was for ninety-days' service, but served for about four months in Maryland and Virginia. While with his regiment Mr. Kingsbury was taken ill with typhoid fever, and was sent to hospital at Cumberland, Md., and left for sometime after the regiment was



*E. L. Hingebury*



mustered out. There, his mother, who had traveled to Cumberland, came in order to care for him in his sickness. For a year and over, after his arrival home, he was unable to perform any kind of labor, and by the time he recovered, the war was ended.

On September 15, 1869, Mr. Kingsbury was married in Toledo, Ohio, to Miss Maria L. Hilton, who was born November 30, 1846, in Defiance county, Ohio. They have no children of their own, but adopted a little six-year-old girl, Mabel Vance Hilton, daughter of Eber E. Hilton, a brother of Mrs. Kingsbury. Mabel was reared to womanhood as the own child of our subject and his wife, was educated and became a graduate of the Perrysburg school. On September 26, 1894, she was married to Charles L. Maddy, and one child, Edgar Hilton, was born to them; they make their home in Perrysburg, where Mr. Maddy is a dealer in grain, and has an elevator.

Mrs. Kingsbury was the daughter of Eber and Elizabeth R. (McMaken) Hilton, the former of whom, a farmer by occupation, was a native of Defiance county, Ohio, born about the year 1815, and died in 1848. He was a son of Joshua Hilton (also a farmer), a native of Maine, and a very early settler of Defiance county—the only “highway” at the time of his coming being the Maumee river, all merchandise, etc., being brought up that stream in small boats. Eber Hilton and Elizabeth McMaken were married in July, 1843, at Fort Wayne, Ind., and they had three children: Joseph J., who was a soldier in the Civil war, and died, in 1863, in Johnson's Island; Maria L. (Mrs. Kingsbury); and Eber E., a civil engineer in Plattsmouth, Neb. Some time after the death of the father of this family, the widowed mother married William D. Haymaker, and by him she had three children: Kidder V., Carrie (deceased), and Mary. Mr. Haymaker died, and his widow is now living in Defiance, Ohio. She was born in Butler county, Ohio, in 1821; her mother was a native of Maine, and her father was a soldier in the war of 1812.

TAYLOR HALE, one of the prosperous farmers and esteemed citizens of Perry township, was born in Washington township, Hancock Co., Ohio, July 9, 1841, to Robert and Ruth (McRill) Hale, the former of whom was a native of Jefferson county, and latter of Ashland county, Ohio.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, Randall Hale, was an early settler of Hancock county, where he carried on farming for many

years, and reared a family of five sons and three daughters, of whom Robert was next to the youngest son. Robert became the father of three children, namely: Mary A., who married John Baker, and died in Montgomery township; Taylor, our subject; and Elisha, who was a soldier in Company H, 49th O. V. I., and was wounded at the battle of Stone River, dying nine days later; his remains were brought home and interred in Olive Branch cemetery. The father of our subject died when the latter was only two years old, leaving his widow with three children, of whom the eldest was but four years of age, and with no property except a small farm of twenty acres. The heroic mother struggled along, keeping her little family together by hard work, weaving and doing other work as it came in her way, and succeeded in rearing them carefully to manhood and womanhood. She was one of those brave souls of whom the pioneer days saw not a few, and the story of whose lives of hardship and privation, and courageous sacrifices, account for the manly and successful men of whom Ohio can boast such a large proportion. This excellent woman lived to the good old age of seventy-eight years, and now sleeps in Olive Branch cemetery, in Washington township, Hancock county.

Taylor Hale obtained the best education afforded in the district schools of his day, and devoted his time after leaving school to the cultivation of the farm for his mother, until the Civil war was well under way, when he felt it his duty to respond to his country's call for more men to aid in putting down the Rebellion. On February 9, 1865, he enlisted at Perry Center in Company G, 189th O. V. I., under Capt. Dennis. This regiment was sent at once to Huntsville, Ala., where they remained on guard duty until the close of the war. During this time Mr. Hale was never absent from his post. On September 28, 1865, he, with his comrades, was mustered out at Nashville, Tenn., and discharged at Columbus, Ohio, when he returned home.

The marriage of our subject with Miss Zeruah, daughter of Jonathan and Margaret Leonard, took place in Hancock county, October 15, 1868, and of this union two children were born: William, a farmer in Perry township, and Emma, now Mrs. Charles Kelley, of Hancock county. At the time of his marriage, Mr. Hale owned eighty acres of land in Section 32, Perry township, which he had bought out of his own earnings, and on which the family had been living for some time. He went to housekeeping on this place in a round-log cabin which his mother had built there, and which stood in a dense forest. From

this wild land he has succeeded in making a fine farm, and has added to it from time to time until he now owns 166 acres, and is classed among the best and most successful agriculturists of the township. He is one of the oldest residents, also, having lived upon this farm for forty-eight years.

Mr. Hale's first wife died October 2, 1873, and was buried at Fostoria. On March 15, 1877, he was united in marriage with Miss Rachel Beightle, who was born in Jackson township, Seneca county, August 21, 1848. Her parents, Martin and Maria (Weightman) Beightle, were natives of Pennsylvania, where her father carried on farming. She was one of ten children. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hale: Bertha, January 19, 1879, and Elva, February 11, 1883.

In politics Mr. Hale belongs to the Republican party, but he is strongly in sympathy with the Prohibitionists, as he is an earnest advocate of temperance, and uses his best endeavors to root out the evils of the liquor traffic. He has been a trustee of Perry township two terms, and has frequently been elected supervisor. He has been a school director of District No. 6. He is a trustee and class-leader in the Olive Branch Methodist Church, of which he has been a member since twelve years of age, and to which his wife also belongs. Mr. Hale is highly respected and esteemed as an upright Christian man and an excellent citizen.

**AARON PHILLIPS.** The Phillips family is of German origin. The great-grandfather of our subject, Valentine Phillips, was born in the Highlands of Germany, in 1720. His wife was Mary Phillips. He came to America, and settled near where Phillipsburg, N. J., now stands. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, as was also his son Jacob, who was born in New Jersey in 1758, and who married a Miss Sarah Louk, of Philadelphia.

Adam Phillips, the father of our subject, was born in Pennsylvania in 1794, and died March 20, 1857. He was a soldier in the war of 1812, and was under General Harrison at Fort Meigs. In 1818 he was married to Catherine Huff, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1797, and died October 6, 1871. They were married in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, where they lived seven years, then moved to Pike township, Stark county, and in April, 1833, came to Wood county, arriving on the 11th, and entered 420 acres of land in Center township, part of which is now occupied by the county infirmary. When the township was formed from Portage, the first meeting after

organization was held in the cabin of Adam Phillips, who gave the name to the township. There his children grew up, and each child received a piece of land. He was a Whig in politics, and religiously was an exhorter in the Lutheran Church. To him and his wife were born thirteen children. They were: Daniel, who died in Wood county; William, born October 31, 1821, lives in Wood county; Eliza, the widow of Stewart Anderson; Moses, who went to California, and is probably dead; Mary, who died unmarried; Susan, who married John Shiner, and died in 1862; Aaron, our subject; David, who resides in Toledo, was in Company F, 25th O. V. I., for one year; Noah, who was a member of Company H, 67th O. V. I., entered the army in 1861, was taken ill and died. Four of the children died in infancy.

Our subject was reared on his father's farm, where he remained until twenty-two years old, attending school in a log school-house for two terms. He was married December 11, 1856, to Miss Anna Crom, whose birth occurred in Center township, Wood county, January 7, 1838. He is a fruit grower, and was born in Pike township, Stark Co., Ohio, March 2, 1832. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Phillips, as follows: Levi C., born December 22, 1857 (he married Emma Duley, and they have five children, Frank, Alma, Earl, Herbert and Adel. Levi is an engineer on the M., K. & T. railroad, in Texas); Mary B., born March 8, 1859, died September 1, 1859; Daniel L., born July 24, 1860, married Ella B. Gray, and they have one child, Harvey A.; Daniel lives in Texas; Martha J., born October 3, 1863, died August 15, 1865; Elsie E., born June 24, 1870, died September 1, 1872; George W., born January 30, 1874, died June 30, 1887. Our subject, after his marriage, settled on a tract of wild land which he improved, and where he lived until 1865, when he sold it. When the Civil war broke out, Mr. Phillips enlisted, August 17, 1861, and served until honorably discharged September 12, 1864. He was in the army of the Cumberland, and took part in the battles of Shiloh and Mill Springs. He was taken ill, sent to the hospital, and discharged for disability, when he went home, remained there a while, then re-enlisted and participated in the battles of Buzzard's Roost, Jonesboro, and the siege of Atlanta. His company led the charge at Jonesboro. He fought close to the works, and was knocked down by the concussion of a shell.

After selling his farm, at the close of the war, he went to Michigan, where he bought a farm in

Lenawee county, and lived there until 1870, when he moved to Carroll county, Mo. He located in various places at different times, among them being: Fulton county, Ohio; Tuscumbia, Ala.; Nebraska; Colbert county, Ala.; Portage, Wood Co., Ohio; and finally settled in Bowling Green. He is a member of the G. A. R., and is a Republican in politics. He is a member of the Baptist Church.

Our subject's wife grew up and was educated in Wood county, and, like her husband, belongs to the pioneer stock of Wood county. Mr. and Mrs. Phillips live in a beautiful home in Bowling Green, where they cultivate fruit, making a specialty of berries. They are hospitable, and are greatly esteemed by their many friends throughout the county.

John Crom, the grandfather of Mrs. Aaron Phillips, was a pioneer from Pennsylvania and Ohio, finally locating near Beaver Creek, in Wood county. Her father, Daniel Crom, was born May 10, 1805, and died May 10, 1864. Her mother, who was a Miss Barbara Oberdorf, was born in 1809, and died February 9, 1892. They were married in 1828, and of the thirteen children born to them the following are mentioned: Elizabeth, Margaret, John, Anna, Joseph, Aaron, Simeon, and Martha.

Mr. Phillips states that on the formation of Plain and Liberty townships Dr. Manville gave the name to Plain, and that John Groves, who is yet living, aged ninety-six years, named Liberty township.

DICKERSON BOWLES, a farmer of Milton township, was born, November 12, 1836, in Cambridgeshire, England, a son of John Bowles, whose birth occurred in the same country, February 21, 1809. The father was a farm laborer by occupation, and was married, in Cambridge, England, to Jane Dickerson, who was born February 14, 1809. They came to America in 1852, sailing from Liverpool, and took up their abode in Monroeville, Huron Co., Ohio. Four years later they came to Wood county, and the father purchased a farm in Milton township, which he improved, and on which he lived until his death, which occurred in December, 1876. His wife survived him, dying in February, 1892. They had a family of ten children, namely: Anna and William, deceased; John, a farmer of Milton township; Dickerson; Sarah, who died in England; Susan, wife of John W. Chappel; Elizabeth; James; and Charles and Arthur, both deceased.

Our subject attended school in England, and

came with the family to America, continuing his labors on his father's farm until 1856, when he went to Iowa, and for a short time engaged in the cultivation of rented land. At the expiration of that period he returned home, and continued under the parental roof until 1866. During the war, however, he enlisted, at Napoleon, Ohio, in Company I, 68th Regiment, O. V. I., under Capt. Poe, and participated in the battles of Fort Donelson, Metamora, Raymond and Champion Hills, and was with Sherman through the Atlanta campaign. He was wounded at the battle of Champion Hills, and again, August 10, 1864, before Atlanta, and after his recovery marched with Sherman to Savannah. He was honorably discharged December 19, 1864. He then returned home, and purchased a farm in Milton township.

On February 14, 1866, Mr. Bowles was united in marriage with Miss Jane Anness, who was born in Cambridgeshire, England, January 12, 1846. Four children graced this union: Daniel, a farmer of Grand Rapids; Arthur, who aids in the operation of the home farm; Walter, and Albert. In politics, Mr. Bowles is a stalwart Republican. He is a member of the Evangelical Church. Industrious and energetic, his business interests are well conducted, and his duties of citizenship are discharged with the same fidelity which marked his army service.

THOMAS ORDWAY, the well-known contractor and builder, of Bowling Green, has identified his name in a lasting way with the growth and prosperity of that town, and many of its finest residences and business blocks stand as evidences of his skill and workmanship.

His father, Amherst Ordway, was born October 15, 1815, in Vermont, and came to Ohio in early manhood, locating first at Milan, Erie county, where he was engaged in contracting and building until 1854, when he removed to Householder's Corners, Wood county, and remained about five years. He then came to Bowling Green, purchasing a large tract of land, which since his death, October 29, 1880, has been known as Ordway's Addition. He built the first sawmill and gristmill at Bowling Green, and was a leading promoter of many public improvements. He was a Republican in politics, and an active worker in the temperance cause. He married Miss Roxanna Goodell, who was a native of Huron county, being the first white child born in Townsend township. Her birth occurred January 24, 1817, and she died May 6, 1876. Of their seven sons, four served in the army during the Civil war, two losing their lives in the defense of the Union, name-



ly: Andrew, who died at Athens, Ala., and Hiram, who was killed at Jonesboro, Ga. James returned to Bowling Green after three years of service, and is now a contractor and builder there. Nehemiah spent six months at the front, and then returned home, where he now resides. Of the five younger children, Emma, the widow of W. A. Whitaker, Thomas, our subject, and Sylvester, live at Bowling Green. Frederick resides at Akron, Ohio, and Alice, the youngest, is the wife of Wesley Fox, of Chicago Junction, Huron county.

Our subject was born February 5, 1849, near Milan. He received his early education in the district schools near his father's farm in Wood county, and in the high school at Bowling Green. He worked on the farm until the age of twenty-seven, after which he followed the carpenter's trade as a workman until about ten years ago, when he began to take contracts for buildings, and also to construct residences for sale. Among the contracts undertaken are those for constructing the Central school, the East school, and the finishing of the South school building. He has constructed about two-thirds of all the business blocks in the city, some of which are the Royce bank building, Chris. Lehmann's building, the Cuning and Whitehead building, the Lincoln block, the Mowrey block, and the First National Bank building. Although Mr. Ordway is very quiet and unassuming in manner, he has a reputation for great firmness and persistence in any enterprise once resolved upon, and this, with his well-trying ability and integrity, has won for him the entire confidence of the community. He was married in 1880 to Miss Eloria Mounts, who was born in Sycamore, Ohio, in 1859. They have three children, Amherst, Katie and Donald. Politically, Mr. Ordway is a Republican, and he is a member of the I. O. O. F.

T. S. BRANDEBERRY, who is successfully engaged as a butcher and in the meat market business in Jerry City, was born in Bloom township, on April 15, 1846, and is a son of William and Anna (Clark) Brandeberry. On the home farm he was reared to manhood, during which time he received a fair English education in the common schools of the neighborhood.

On February 21, 1864, although not quite eighteen years of age, he manifested his loyalty to his native land by enlisting in the Union army at Fostoria, Ohio, becoming a member of Company H, 49th O. V. I., with which he served until December 28, 1865. After the surrender of General Lee, the regiment was sent to Texas,

and there remained until mustered out at Victoria, that State. Our subject received his discharge at Columbus, Ohio. He was never wounded, but on account of illness was confined for three months in hospitals at Chattanooga and Nashville.

On his return home, Mr. Brandeberry worked for his father for a time, and was also employed by his uncle, Isaac Brandeberry, of Perry township, Wood county. In Bloom township, on May 21, 1868, he led to the marriage altar Miss Lucinda E. Fry, a native of Westmoreland county, Penn., and a daughter of Jonas Fry, a farmer. To them have been born four children, one of whom died in infancy; the others are: Carrie E., wife of Reuben Echleberger, of Bloom township; Alwilma, wife of Wallace Simon, of the same township; and Milton O., at home.

After remaining upon his uncle's place for several months, Mr. Brandeberry returned to Bloom township, purchasing thirty-eight and a quarter acres in Section 35, and on the place erected good buildings and made other necessary improvements. There he resided until April 4, 1883, when he bought fifty acres in Section 22, which he still owns. He immediately commenced the improvement of his land, which is now in an admirable state of culture, and has become a valuable piece of property, owing to his careful tillage and the neat buildings upon the place. In January, 1895, however, he removed to Jerry City, where he has since conducted a butchering business.

Mr. Brandeberry does not care to take an active part in politics, but always stands by the principles for which he fought, and casts his vote with the Republicans every time. He is a leading member of Bronson Post No. 85, G. A. R., of Jerry City, and attended the Encampment at Louisville, Ky., in 1895, and also the dedication services at Chickamauga, Ga., in September of that year.

ORRIN STEARNS (deceased). The subject of this sketch, a veteran of the Civil war, was born in Montgomery township, May 9, 1841, and was the fourth son and fifth child of Justus and Sarah A. (Davis) Stearns, mention of whom is made in another part of this volume.

Mr. Stearns received a common-school education, and was reared as a farmer's boy. On September 23, 1861, he enlisted in Company B, 55th Regiment, O. V. I.; on June 1, 1864, was promoted to corporal, and on July 8, 1865, was further promoted to the rank of first sergeant. He was mustered out July 11, 1865, at Louis-



*Orrin Stearns*



ville, Ky. While home on a veteran's furlough in 1864, he was married, on February 4, in the "Hays House," Fostoria, to Miss Sarah A. Brandeberry, the ceremony being performed by J. V. Jones, a justice of the peace. Mrs. Stearns was born in Perry township, April 25, 1846, and is a daughter of Isaac and Nancy (Fish) Brandeberry, the former of whom was born in Richland county, and the latter in Columbiana county, Ohio.

In the spring of 1866 our subject came to his farm, which he had bought in the fall of 1865, and where his widow now lives. It then consisted of 120 acres, on which stood an old frame house and another frame building. Mr. Stearns had saved \$1,500 from his army pay, and his wife was given \$2,000, so they started in life in comfortable circumstances. In 1876 he built one of the best brick residences in Perry township. Mr. Stearns died, October 23, 1888, from a lingering illness contracted while in the army, and he was buried in the Fostoria cemetery. While not physically strong, he was able to attend to his work, was an excellent business man, dealing extensively in stock, and retired from active life fourteen years previous to his demise. He was a representative citizen and a staunch Republican, and served as director of the Infirmary and as trustee of Perry township. Kind-hearted, he was always ready to assist the needy and deserving, and his death was a great blow to the community. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he held various offices, and to which he was a most liberal contributor. Socially, he belonged to the I. O. O. F., and G. A. R., at Fostoria, and was buried by the latter organization with all its rites and ceremonies.

Since her husband's death Mrs. Stearns has taken charge of the farm, which now consists of 230 acres, and is one of the best in the county. She is a woman of considerable business ability, and has improved the place in many ways. She is a devout Christian, and a liberal contributor to the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which she has been a member since fourteen years of age. While Mr. and Mrs. Stearns had no children of their own, many others have been given a home with this admirable couple, who took great pleasure in such philanthropic work.

ANDREW JOSEPH, the popular manager of one of the departments in the mercantile firm of A. Froney & Co., at Bowling Green, was born September 17, 1866, in Troy township, this county.

George Joseph, his father, was born in Baden,

Bavaria, January 10, 1812, and came to America in early manhood, locating in Wood county, where he met his future wife, Miss Sophia Hettinger, a native of Sencefeldt, Baden, born December 26, 1823, who came to this county with her parents when she was a child. After their marriage, September 12, 1841, they settled upon a farm in Troy township, three miles northeast of Pemberville, where they lived fifty years, but they have now retired to Pemberville to pass the evening of their lives. They are prominent members of the German Lutheran Church. Their golden wedding in 1891 was a notable occasion, their ten children, all living, making an interesting group. Of those living, May, the eldest, is the widow of M. Hauber, of Freeburg, Ill.; Julia is the wife of David Bingle, of Scotch Ridge; Henry resides in Freeburg, Ill.; George Jr., at Wahoo, Nebr.; John lives at Wahoo, Nebr.; Louie resides in Center township; Frank is a resident of Luckey; and Emma is at home with her parents.

Andrew Joseph, the youngest of this family, was reared upon the farm, and acquired his early education in the district schools near by. In 1891 he came to Bowling Green, and now has charge of the upper floor of the store of A. Froney & Co., managing the cloak, drapery and carpet departments. In this capacity he has shown unusual ability, and proved himself entirely worthy of the trust reposed in him. He is also the fortunate owner of a tract of oil land now being developed by him, in company with others, under the partnership name of Bankey, Joseph & Moore.

In politics Mr. Joseph is a Democrat, sharing in this the conviction of his father, who has been for many years a firm supporter of the principles of that party. The subject of our sketch is prominent in the social circles of Bowling Green.

J. D. STEARNES, a worthy representative of the old and prosperous family of that name which is well-known throughout Wood county, is a successful farmer of Perry township, where he stands high in the regard not only of his immediate community but also of all citizens in the county who have had business or social relations with him.

Mr. Stearnes is the third child of Justus and Mary (Hall) Stearnes, and was born September 1, 1854. His first schooling was obtained at Sugar Grove, in Perry township, and was the best that could be afforded by the district schools in those days. He has seen many changes since then in the methods of education, and has used his influence in the betterment of the schools of

his locality. No one in the county is a warmer friend of education, or has done more in its interests, than Mr. Stearnes, and the advantages now enjoyed by the children of Perry township are in a great measure due to his untiring efforts in their behalf.

Mr. Stearnes was reared upon a farm, and early in life showed such business ability that he was intrusted with matters of great magnitude for one of his youth, and he managed them with discretion and excellent judgment. He remained upon his father's farm until one year after his marriage, and in 1876, removed to the farm on which the "Old Stone House" stands and which is still his home. This old mansion, his first residence, is one of the land marks of Perry township, and was built in 1840 by a Mr. Brown. Mr. Stearnes purchased 117 acres here of his father, and at once moved onto it, his entire possessions being conveyed to the place in three loads, such as a one-horse sled could carry. The land was wet, and but little draining had been done, and, with his poor team and still poorer equipment, our subject found an up-hill task before him. His energy and industry were, however, equal to the emergency, and by constant labor and untiring perseverance, as well as good management, he succeeded in bringing it under a fine state of cultivation. He has at present 160 acres of excellent land, and in 1892 built one of the finest pressed brick residences in Wood county. His barns and outbuildings are also of the best, and the entire place bears evidence of careful thrift and labor. Mr. Stearnes has done considerable ditching by contract throughout the county, and, since the discovery of oil and gas in this section, has done a large amount of work in teaming, etc., for the oil producers.

Our subject was married September 2, 1875, to Miss Sarah Kyes, who was born August 21, 1855, in Freedom township, this county. Her father, Samuel Kyes, was a native of Lorain county, Ohio, and was a farmer by occupation. He served as a one-hundred-days' man in the war of the Rebellion. His wife, mother of Mrs. Stearnes, was Mary, daughter of John Fish, who died in 1864. Their children were as follows: Sarah, wife of our subject; Caroline, wife of Everett E. Householder, living near Hoytville, Ohio; and Mary A., wife of Albert Addelsperger, of Seneca county, Ohio. On the death of his first wife Mr. Kyes was again married, his choice being Mrs. Mary A. Silverwood, who bore him two sons. Of these, William lives in Bowling Green, Ohio, and Samuel was killed by a falling tree when a lad of seventeen. The father died

in Center township, Wood county, when nearly sixty years of age. Mrs. Stearnes was only nine years of age when her mother died, and the children were scattered among different families, she working for her living until her marriage. She is a most estimable woman, and is a good wife and mother. The following children have come to bless the union of our subject and his wife: Nellie, born June 27, 1876; Alice, who died when three years old; Samuel, born May 11, 1880; Albert B., born December 17, 1882; Sarah A., born April 9, 1885; and Pearl, born June 17, 1888.

Mr. Stearnes has always been an ardent Republican, and is a leading member of his party in Perry township. He has served three years as township trustee, and has been a director of School District No. 5 for some nine years. In both these offices he has done much for the growth and welfare of his township, and is looked upon as one of its most valued citizens. By the will of his father, Mr. Stearnes was made one of the administrators of his estate, consisting of over 300 acres of land and \$10,000 of personal property. He is a member of No. 445 Lodge, K. of P., at West Millgrove, and both he and his wife belong to the Rathbone Sisters, of Bloomdale.

J. M. BAUM, one of the prominent and representative men of Ross township, is engaged in general farming and gardening in Section 33, where he located in 1872, at that time purchasing a partially improved farm of forty acres. He also devotes some attention to fruit-raising, in which he has been quite successful. He is a native of Ohio, born in Northfield township, Summit county, on Christmas Day, 1833, and is a son of Thomas and Mary (Purkey) Baum, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania. As early as 1801, however, he accompanied his father, George Baum, to Columbiana county, Ohio, where the latter, at that time, purchased 160 acres of land of the government at \$1.25 per acre. The city of Salem is now built on the same. George Baum was a native of Germany, and was born November 17, 1754. At the age of seventeen he sailed for America, but, on account of bad weather, he was six months on the voyage. He landed at Philadelphia, and was "sold" to a man for three years, to pay his passage, the sum being twelve dollars. In 1783 he was married to Mary Higgin, a native of Pennsylvania.

Thomas Baum was married in Columbiana county. In 1821 he became a resident of Northfield township, Summit county, where he purchased a farm eighteen miles from Cleveland,

paying three dollars per acre for same, and there his death occurred December 24, 1862. His wife departed this world on her birthday, June 28, 1855, at the age of fifty-eight. They reared a family of six children: John enlisted in the 111th Regiment, O. V. I., in Williams county, Ohio, and served nearly three years; he died in that county, November 16, 1865. Mrs. Sarah Powell makes her home in Northfield township, Summit county. Mrs. Mary White resides in Jennings county, Ind. Mrs. Martha Horner lives at Akron, Ohio. Mrs. Elizabeth Silver also makes her home in Jennings county, Ind. A. M. Baum completes the family list.

During his boyhood and youth our subject attended the district schools of his native county, and assisted his father in clearing up and developing his land. In 1853 he married Maria L. Wetherill, who was born in Vermilion, Erie Co., Ohio, and is a daughter of William and Sarah (Boughey) Wetherill, the former a native of England, the latter of Erie county. The father was one of the first settlers of Plymouth, Huron Co., Ohio, where he opened up a farm; but his death occurred in Ross township, this county. The mother has also departed this life. To our subject and wife two children have been born: William T., who is married, and resides in Ross township, and Rosetta A., wife of Horace Rideout, of the same township.

In politics Mr. Baum is a Democrat, and takes considerable interest in all the campaigns of that party. He served as the first justice of the peace of Ross township, and acceptably filled that office for six years. Being very fond of hunting, he used to come to Wood county as early as 1855, when game here was quite plentiful, and engage in that sport. He has always taken a deep interest in everything for the good of the county, and was one of the promoters of the Woodville stone road.

JOHN SCHON, a native of Germany, was born in the village of Hontheim, Kreis Wittlich, Beyerck Trier, on the Rhine, April 26, 1836. His father, Casper Schon, who was a farmer of that locality, married Anna Simmons. They spent their entire lives in that village, and to them were born the following named children: Hobartus and Barbara, both now deceased; Margaret, Christina, Mathias, Annie, Mary and Peter, all six deceased; Casper, a farmer of Milton township; and John.

The last named was reared as a farmer boy, and acquired his education through attendance at the common schools between the ages of six

and thirteen years. At the age of twenty-three he entered the German army, and served for three years. At the place of his nativity, in the year 1862, Mr. Schon was united in marriage with Barbara Steffens, who was also born in that village, and in 1866 they came to America, sailing from Rotterdam to Liverpool, where they spent sixteen days. They were then obliged to return to Rotterdam, on account of the illness of their eldest child; but after two days they took passage on the sailing vessel "Disburk," which reached New York four weeks later. From there they at once came to Wood county, and Mr. Schon purchased twenty acres of wild land in Milton township, on which he built a plank house; then turned his attention to the development of a farm. In 1882 he sold that property, and purchased eighty acres of land on Jackson Prairie; but subsequently he bought his present farm, comprising seventy-eight acres. For this land he gave \$5,000, and has since made many excellent improvements upon it, so that he now has one of the most highly developed and desirable country homes in Wood county.

The children born to John and Barbara Schon were: Casper, who died at the age of three years; John, a wagon maker, of Michigan; Annie, wife of John Pouff, of Ohio; Frank, a blacksmith, of Milton, Ohio; Mary, wife of Charles Koch, of Milton township; and Clement, of Illinois. The mother of these died in 1873, and was laid to rest in the Catholic cemetery at Custar. In 1875 Mr. Schon was again married, his second union being with Margaret Schmitz, a native of Germany, born February 2, 1841, and who came to this country in 1873. By this marriage there were six children: Joseph, now of Lorain county, Ohio; Margaret and Nicholas, both at home; Peter, who died in infancy; Peter, the second of the name; and Lena, who died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Schon are members of St. Louis Catholic Church, of Custar, toward the building of which he was a liberal contributor.

ANTON SCHUSTER, a well-known saloon-keeper of Grand Rapids, was born March 4, 1849, in Wirfus, Rhine Province, the only child of Frank and Sophia (Wolf) Schuster. The father was a native of the same place, born September 8, 1810, and came to America in 1863, locating on a farm in Cuyahoga county, Ohio, where he died April 18, 1864. The mother died when our subject was but a child. For his second wife Frank Schuster married Anna M. Wolf, by whom he had five children: Nicholas, now a resident of Custar; Jacob, a farmer in Milton township; Will-

iam, who died in childhood; one daughter, who died in childhood; and Peter, now living in Milton township with Anna M. Schuster, his mother.

Anton Schuster came to America with his father, and remained in Cuyahoga county until 1870, when he went to Keokuk county, Iowa, and there remained for two years. On his return to Ohio he settled in Custar, where he followed the trade of carpenter eight years; then moved to Weston, and engaged in the saloon business. After two years there he transferred his business to Grand Rapids, where he has since resided. He has prospered, and has built a fine brick business block there. In 1883, Anton Schuster married Miss Mary B. Shamberger, a native of Lucas county, born October 2, 1864, and died July 27, 1884. On November 17, 1885, Mr. Schuster for his second wife married Elizabeth F. Long, who was born December 25, 1858, in Lucas county, and four children have blessed this union: Clare Cecelia, deceased; George C.; Omer F., and Zgro Ross. In politics Mr. Schuster is a Democrat, and he is a leading member of the Roman Catholic Church, of which his parents were also adherents.

RUBELLUS J. SIMON, M. D., the leading and scholarly physician of Pemberville, was born on a farm in Bloom township, Wood Co., Ohio, August 9, 1846, being the next to the eldest son of Levi Simon, whose biography appears elsewhere in this volume.

Our subject is one of ten children, whose names with dates of birth are as follows: Myconius N., March 3, 1845; Rubellus J. (the subject of this sketch); Damiette, December 18, 1847 (she married Frank Ledyard, of Bloom township, and died August 23, 1884); Jerusha, October 10, 1850 (she died November 10, 1872); Belenia, August 6, 1852 (she married D. A. Deal, and died November 11, 1884); Poliander, July 22, 1856 (a remarkable child, and at the time of his death August 30, 1863, was intellectually equal to many of double his years); Montibello and Mettilene (twins) March 28, 1859 (the former now a farmer and dairyman of Bloom township; the latter died September 4, 1863); Phœbe E., June 11, 1861 (an unusually gifted child, possessing mental development far beyond her age at her death, December 30, 1877); and Elma O., February 19, 1863 (now Mrs. Jacob Fischer, of Helena, Montana).

The boyhood years of our subject were spent at his father's farm. His early education was obtained under the direction of his parents, both of whom had been teachers, and were well fitted to train him for a life of usefulness and honor.

At sixteen he entered the Poland Union Seminary, becoming a student in that institution the same year that Gov. McKinley completed his studies there. After nine months in the seminary, he received a teacher's certificate, and entered that profession, teaching the Mackey school, in Bloom township. For several terms he taught there and in other districts, then entered the Findlay High School, where he continued his studies for eight months. Later he taught in the grammar school in the same institution for three terms, after which he entered Oberlin College, expecting to fit himself more thoroughly for the profession of a teacher.

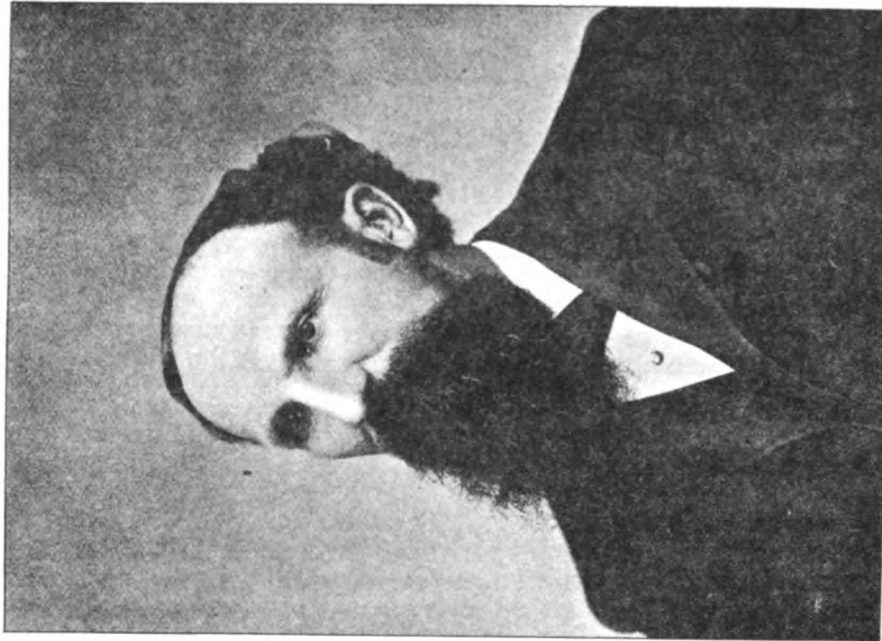
Two years were spent in study at Oberlin College, but meantime his ambition changed. Noticing that most of those who devoted their lives to teaching remained poor, and having a desire to gain possession of some of this world's goods by honest exertion, he determined to abandon the profession upon which he had entered. However, he taught a few terms afterward, and in that way gained the means with which to prosecute his medical studies. Under Dr. S. B. Emerson, of Eagleville, he began to read medicine, then took a course of lectures at the Eclectic Medical College, of Cincinnati, after which he continued to study and practice with Dr. Emerson for a year and a half. Later he took another course of lectures at the same college, graduating May 13, 1873. In August of the same year he opened an office at Pemberville, and commenced the practice of his chosen profession.

On March 4, 1874, Dr. Simon was married to Mary A., daughter of Henry Mohr, of Eagleville. At that time he was in debt \$600.00, but success came to him quickly, and at the end of a year he was out of debt and owned a house and lot. From that time to this he has had a large practice, and has acquired a splendid competence. In addition to professional duties, he has done an extensive business in fire insurance, and is medical examiner for two of the leading life-insurance companies of the United States—the New York Life and the Mutual Life of New York. He is the owner of 180 acres of fine land in the oil regions, which alone represent a small fortune. His home is a beautiful one, and he also owns other property.

Formerly Dr. Simon was identified with the M. E. Church, but there being no Church of that denomination in Pemberville at the time he settled there, he became interested in the Presbyterian faith, assisted in the organization of the Church here, and was for eight years its only



Mary W. Simon



R. J. Simon M. D.





elder. He has served in that office up to the present time, and has always been one of the most active workers, not only in the Church, but also in the Sunday-school, of which he was formerly superintendent. For six years he has been a member of the board of education, during which time the new school building was erected. During his service of four years as a member of the city council, the new city hall was built. In fact, he has been one of the most influential residents of the place, and has been prominent in social, professional and business circles. He is a great lover of fine horses, and is proud of having a team that will not "take dust" from any other team in Wood county.

Dr. and Mrs. Simon have had four children, two of whom died in infancy, and one, Ina, when three months old. The only one living is Nina O., a bright and attractive child, now, fall of 1896, about four years old. In politics, the Doctor is a strong Republican, which is also the political faith of ninety-five *per cent.* of the entire Simon family, now numbering seven or eight hundred members.

CHARLES MERCER, a wealthy retired agriculturist of Bowling Green, was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, April 22, 1826, but has been for over sixty years a resident of Wood county, where his parents were among the pioneers.

His father, William Mercer, was born in Lancaster county, Penn., May 13, 1775. On the 8th of November, 1798, he married Miss Charity Pettit, a native of Lancaster county, born June 17, 1781. Her parents, Daniel and Martha Pettit, both lived to a good old age, the former dying in 1831 at the age of eighty-seven, the latter in 1827, aged seventy-six. For many years after their marriage they lived on a farm in Columbiana county, Ohio, but September 20, 1834, they settled in Wood county upon a tract of wild land purchased from the government, which has since been developed into a fine farm. They were prominent members of the Christian Church, to which all their descendants adhere. The father died March 2, 1839, the mother February 2, 1855.

Our subject was the youngest of thirteen children, of whom three are still living. The names with dates of birth and death are as follows: Martha, September 20, 1799, 1830 (married Andrew Pettit); Mary Ann, May 4, 1801, 1875 (married Enos Monehan); George, April 27, 1803, September 1, 1890; William, August 13, 1805, 1849; John, September 9, 1807, March 4, 1890; Daniel, October 10, 1809, August, 1885; Beulah,

November 27, 1811, April, 1887 (married William Pike); Caleb, born March 24, 1814, lives in Bowling Green; Charity, April 3, 1816, 1875 (married Samuel Taylor); Lucretia, May 12, 1818, December 17, 1847 (married Henry Groves); Abraham, July 8, 1820, lives at Rudolph, Ohio; Ellis Ann, born April 24, 1822, died at the age of two years; Charles, the youngest, is our subject. Beulah left a great many descendants in the vicinity of Des Moines, Iowa, and Charity left a large family in Lawrence county, Penn., and to the north of Enon Valley.

Our subject was but eight years old when he came to this county, and his education was obtained in the public school at Portage. He remained at the old homestead until 1888, when he retired from active work and came to Bowling Green to live. He was married in 1855 to Miss Jane Mominee, who was born in Lucas county, February 28, 1840, the daughter of Anthony and Angeline (De Mars) Mominee. Of the six children of Charles Mercer and wife, three are living. (1) Lenora, born August 3, 1856, died January 6, 1865. (2) Hiram, born December 31, 1857, died January 23, 1867. (3) Abram F., born August 1, 1855, lives at the old homestead. He was married February 26, 1879, to Miss Frances C. Frisbie, who was born in Wood county, November 10, 1859. They have had four children—Clayton, Elmer, Blanche and Leonard; of whom, the eldest died aged ten years. (4) Hamilton, born October 22, 1860, died January 7, 1861. (5) J. D., born March 27, 1863, lives upon a part of the old farm. He votes the Prohibition ticket, while his father and brother are ardent Republicans. He was married April 6, 1884, to Miss Rebecca Aller, a native of Geauga county, born May 5, 1863, and has three children—Lorenzo, Ina, and Hazel. (6) Alnetta, born May 6, 1870, was married January 2, 1891, to H. J. Rudolph, and lives in Rudolph, Ohio.

Mr. Mercer united with the Christian Church at the age of eighteen, and has been an active worker in its interests throughout his manhood.

Mrs. Mercer's grandfather, Louis Mominee, was born in 1740, in Quebec, Canada. In 1859, immediately after Montcalm's defeat, he came thence to what was at that time the Territory of Michigan, settling in Monroe county, near Monroe. In 1761 he married Leahr Preedom, and twenty-two children were born to them, of whom Anthony Mominee, Mrs. Mercer's father, was the twentieth. He was born January 15, 1785, in Monroe county, Mich., and died July 5, 1854. He served throughout the war of 1812, and during that struggle was taken prisoner by the Indians.

On February 17, 1817, he married Margaret Duso, and by her had two children. On June 4, 1821, he wedded Angeline De Mars, who was born October 11, 1800, and ten children blessed their union, seven of whom are yet living. The only son, Peter, enlisted in 1864, in Company A, 130th O. V. I., and served sixty days in the summer of that year. He is now a resident of East Toledo, Ohio. Of the six daughters, Angeline Ducat, Margaret and Matilda McCulloch, reside in East Toledo; Mary Edom, in Barry, Ill.; Elizabeth Ducat, and Jane, the wife of our subject, live in Bowling Green.

ANDREW J. RICKARD (deceased) was one of the most prominent and influential business men of Milton, and at the time of his decease was serving his second term as mayor of that city. Through his various commercial interests he proved an important factor in the upbuilding of the town, and no one is more missed in the community. He was born in Chautauqua county, N. Y., March 20, 1844. His father, Andrew Jackson Rickard, when a young man learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed in connection with farming during the greater part of his life. He married Hannah Rockwell, of Chautauqua county, where they resided until 1852, then they removed to Erie county, Ohio, the father renting a farm in Milan township. In 1862 he came by wagon with his family to Wood county, and settled on a farm near Bowling Green. In 1864, in connection with our subject, he purchased fifty acres of land in Plain township, on which stood an old log cabin which he made his home for a number of years. In 1880 he lost his wife by death, after which event he married Maria Porter, widow of Rance Porter. He is now living in a home in Milton, built for him by our subject.

Andrew J. Rickard, whose name introduces this sketch, was one of a large family, the others being Ellen, deceased wife of Henry Gross; Zinie, of Erie county, Ohio; George W., of Sandusky county, who was a member of Company D, 34th O. V. I., during the Civil war, and was captured at Harper's Ferry; Orange J., now of Henry county, Ohio; Elizabeth, wife of William Sheets, of Milton, who was a soldier of the 72nd O. V. I.; Isaac, who is living near Leipsic, Ohio; Philip, of Milton; John, of Weston; Liddy, who died at the age of seven years; and Nathan, who died in Milton Center at the age of thirty. Our subject attended school in his native county; but had to pay a tuition fee, and the teachers boarded round among the scholars. He was a lad of

eight when the family went to Erie county, Ohio, where he continued his education and was making preparations to pursue a college course when the Civil war broke out. In July, 1861, at the age of seventeen, he became a private, in Erie county, of Company D, 34th Ohio Regiment of Zouaves, under Capt. Furney. At Cincinnati the troops embarked on a vessel for West Virginia. At the battle of Princeton, under Gen. Cox, our subject was severely wounded in the leg by a revolver shot. He fell into the enemy's hands, and was sent to a Rebel hospital, where he lay for ten months, when he was paroled and joined his regiment as soon as able. His next battle was at Fayetteville, wherein he received a severe gunshot wound. He was taken prisoner at Rocky Gap, and sent to Andersonville, where he remained until September, when he was transferred to Savannah, Ga., and on the 12th of October sent to the stockades at Milan, Ga. There he was exchanged, and November 19, 1864, boarded a boat on the Savannah river. At Charleston, in the fall of 1863, he had re-enlisted as a veteran, and was finally mustered out at Wheeling Island, July 29, 1865.

Mr. Rickard then returned to Weston, and began work in a sawmill for Clark, McDonald, Richardson & Stone. In that place he purchased a home, for he had been married in the meantime. While home on a parole, after his release from Andersonville, he was wedded in Monroeville, Huron Co., January 17, 1864, to Emma Cole, who was born in Huron county, Ohio, August 31, 1843, and on the 9th of August, 1866, Alice, their only child, was born. She is now the wife of David Willier, a resident of Milton township, and has two children. Mr. Rickard traded his property in Weston for a sawmill in Milton, and began business in this place. His new property was afterward destroyed by fire; but with characteristic energy he rebuilt, and later bought out his partner, Mr. Whitaker, continuing alone for a number of years. For a time he conducted two sawmills, and was also the owner of a farm of 120 acres, but this he sold at the time the mill burned in order to acquire the capital with which to rebuild, after a second fire, in which he lost between \$6,000 and \$7,000 worth of property. In May, 1885, he purchased a drug store, and up to his death conducted a large and profitable business in that line. In addition he operated a planing-mill and sawmill, and was recognized as one of the most progressive and enterprising business men of Wood county, his success being all due to his own efforts. He died at his home in Milton

Center, January 16, 1896, of blood poisoning, and the funeral was largely attended by members of the several societies to which he belonged. He was affiliated with Neibling Post, G. A. R., of Weston, also the I. O. O. F. and Encampment, in both of which he filled all the offices, and for nine years was a faithful member of the Presbyterian Church of Milton Center. In political affairs he took an active interest as a stalwart advocate of Republican principles, and for a number of years served as township trustee, while, as already related, he was serving his second term as mayor of this city at the time of his decease. Fidelity to duty was one of the predominating traits of his character, and in all the relations of life he was found true and faithful to the trusts reposed in him, thereby winning the confidence and high regard of all. Generous and kind-hearted, he was ever ready to lend a listening ear, and stretch out a helping hand, to the unfortunate and the needy.

N. ALLEN ZIMMERMAN is a native of Pennsylvania, having been born in West Penn township, Schuylkill county, January 13, 1857, a son of Randolph and Hannah (Dunart) Zimmerman, also natives of that county, where they were married in February, 1856. In April, 1857, they removed to Medina county, Ohio, and the father purchased a farm in Homer township, but he afterward left that property and bought ninety-six acres, on which he lived until coming to Wood county nine years later. He here purchased 160 acres of wild land, but afterward sold eighty acres. His first home, a log cabin, was destroyed by fire September 9, 1872, and they lost all their household effects save one bed and a sewing machine. The father died on the old homestead, August 13, 1878, and the mother is now living in Michigan with her son, Gideon P., a farmer. Two children of the family are deceased: Lambert Alfred, who died at the age of two years; and Leanna Elnora, deceased, at the age of twenty-six years. The Zimmerman family is of German origin, and the grandfather of our subject, Samuel Zimmerman, was the first of them to cross the Atlantic to the United States. His parents died when he was very young, and when twelve years of age he came with the family by whom he was reared.

Our subject was three months old when his parents removed to Medina county, and he there began his education, afterward continuing his studies in Wood county, acquiring good school privileges. During the summer months he aided his father in the labors of the home farm, and

continued under the parental roof until his marriage, which occurred in Milton township, January 1, 1884, the lady of his choice being Miss Elizabeth J. Revenaugh, who was born in Vinton county, Ohio, November 29, 1861, a daughter of John and Catherine Revenaugh. They first located on the old homestead, but in October, 1884, removed to their present home, he trading his interest in the family farm for this property. The greater part of his eighty acres was wild and unimproved; but with characteristic energy he began its development, and soon placed it under the plow. Now well-tilled fields surround a comfortable residence and substantial barn, and the neat and thrifty appearance of the place indicates the careful supervision of the owner. To Mr. and Mrs. Zimmerman were born three children, one son and two daughters, the son being the eldest; he was born July 16, 1891, and died on the 20th of the same month. The elder daughter, born August 26, 1893, died on the 29th of that month. The younger daughter, Ruth Ethel, born February 26, 1896, yet survives. They also have a child known as R. O. Zimmerman, born October 31, 1886, whom they have raised from infancy. In his political views Mr. Zimmerman is a Democrat. His wife belongs to the Presbyterian Church, and both are highly esteemed people who have the warm regard of a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

JOHN KIMBERLIN, a well-known pioneer of Grand Rapids township, was born February 16, 1820, in Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania.

His immediate ancestors have been distinguished for their valor and patriotism. His grandfather, George Kimberlin, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war under Gen. Washington; his father, Henry Kimberlin, served in the war of 1812 under Harrison, making a fine record as a soldier. Henry Kimberlin was a native of Pennsylvania, born December 23, 1789, and was married there to Miss Sarah Brewau, who was born August 20, 1795, and by whom he had ten children, all of whom lived to adult age, viz.: Mary A., born October 2, 1816, married George Gilmore, May 6, 1841, and died July 13, 1875; Delilah, born April 21, 1818, married John Dull, December 7, 1843, and died May 4, 1888; John, our subject; Frances, born January 8, 1822, married George Older, August 25, 1860; George, born January 11, 1824, married Adaliza Olney, June 3, 1856, now a prominent citizen of Bowling Green; Jacob, born February 27, 1826, married Sobinah Guyer, November 10, 1853, and is a leading farmer of Grand Rapids township;

Amelia, born August 8, 1828; Eliza, born September 25, 1830; Catherine, born November 22, 1833, married John W. Brown, March 19, 1862, and they reside in Grand Rapids township; and Martha J., born January 2, 1836, and died October 2, 1846.

The family moved to Wayne county, Ohio, and four years later came to Wood county. Here the father bought a tract of wild land at the mouth of Beaver creek, which he cleared and cultivated with the help of his children. He died October 25, 1867, the mother June 20, 1878.

John Kimberlin obtained his early education in an old log school house in the vicinity, and assisted in farm labor until he attained his majority. After leaving the homestead he worked three years upon a neighboring farm, and then began business as a contractor and builder, in which he was engaged thirty years, building school houses, churches, sawmills, and many private dwellings, including some of the finest in the township. In May, 1864, he enlisted in the one-hundred-days' service in Company I, 144th O. V. I., Col. Hunt and Capt. McKee commanding, and took part in several of the engagements which make that year notable, among them the battle at Monocacy. His regiment formed part of the force which frustrated Early's designs upon Washington. On receiving his discharge, in the fall of 1864, he returned home and continued to follow his trade until 1878, when he and his two sisters bought the old homestead, consisting of 210 acres of land near Grand Rapids, and began to develop it into one of the finest farms in the township. He has built a handsome brick dwelling house with fine barns and sheds, and planted an extensive orchard. His attention is chiefly given to stock-raising, and he has one of the finest herds of Jersey cattle in the county, some of the animals being registered. His present success is the result of industry and frugality, and furnishes an encouraging lesson.

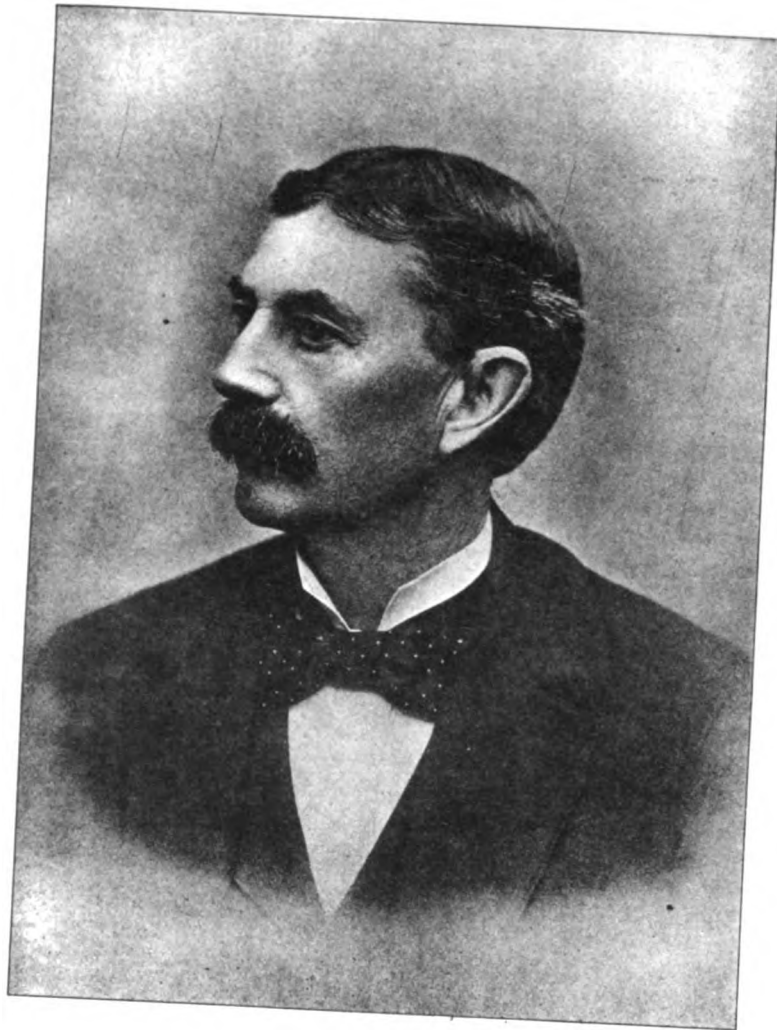
Mr. Kimberlin has never married, but lives happily with his two sisters, each of whom owns a third of the farm. He is a Republican in politics, and has always taken an interest in local affairs, serving at one time as township supervisor.

ANDREW J. MUNN, president of the Exchange Banking Company of Weston, and a leading oil producer of this region, was born in Center township, Wood county, Ohio, January 4, 1842.

William Munn, father of our subject, was a native of County Down, Ireland, born in 1800, and when a young man came to Wood county,

where with the exception of a few years passed in Macoupin county, Ill., he passed the remainder of his life. He had two brothers, who also came to this country, and one of whom went west, the other settling in New York and acquiring a fortune. William Munn kept an inn on the old Munn farm in Center township until his death in 1852, and his house was a favorite resort for the pioneers, who revelled in old songs and stories, and for the local politicians among whom he was a leader. He married Miss Nancy Boosinger, a native of Portage county, Ohio, and had two daughters, who died early in youth, and seven sons, as follows: Robert, deceased; George F., living in Portage; David, murdered in Texas on a sheep ranch; James, who died in Bowling Green; Andrew Jackson, our subject; Matthew, who lives at the old homestead, and William a resident of Bowling Green.

A. J. Munn received his early education in the public schools of this county. On June 20, 1862, he entered the 100th O. V. I. for three years or during the war, and was assigned to the 23rd Army Corps, Central Division. Immediately after the battle at Knoxville he was taken prisoner and sent to Lynchburg, Va., being retained there for a few days, then in Libby prison for three weeks, and in Belle Isle for six months. He and his companions escaped through a tunnel, but was captured while cutting loose a canoe. Mr. Munn was beaten over the head with a revolver, all were compelled to crawl back through the tunnel, and as each man's head emerged it was struck with a spade. While suffering and death reigned supreme in the prison, the captives were aggravated by a gang of thieves among their own numbers, who stole all articles of value which they could secure, and traded them to the Rebels. This gang Mr. Munn assisted in breaking up. Shortly after this was done, he and others were removed to the Pemberton Building, and later to Andersonville, where they arrived March 15, 1864, an attempt to escape from a box car while *en route* failing, partly because of the breaking of a saw. Mr. Munn and John Cain of the Pennsylvania Cavalry, Kilpatrick's Division, escaped soon afterward and traveled all night, but at daybreak, while passing a gristmill, they were seen and pursued by the entire neighborhood assisted by bloodhounds. Fortunately the latter followed the winding trail, and did not come up to them until they were in custody of men who fed them and sent them back to the prison in a buggy. The next escape was accomplished while assigned to carrying out the dead bodies from the prison. Twenty-four who made the attempt were re-cap-



*Andrew J. Mucci*



tured, and, after a night around a camp-fire, were taken before the notorious Capt. Wirtz. He ordered all valuables to be taken from them; but as luck would have it the man who did the searching had an honest and sympathetic heart, and in Mr. Munn's case he reported that he found only two dollars, and, retaining the rest, he afterward expended it for food and other supplies for him. The prisoners were then formed in line and questioned as to their mode of escape, which they refused to reveal. They were threatened with 150 lashes each if they did not reconsider this decision, but while they were debating the matter a dispatch arrived telling how they had escaped. They were then ordered to march to a pile of thirty-two-pound iron balls, each man picking up one and carrying it to the blacksmith's shop, where it was attached to his ankle by a chain. This done, they were started on a run for the prison, the chains cutting deeper into their flesh at every step; but after they were out of Capt. Wirtz's sight they were permitted to take sticks, and, by tying strings to end of stick and in link next ball, carried the balls before them as they walked. They were compelled to hobble up to quarters every morning for inspection, but in a few days Mr. Munn managed to make an open link and detached his weight, replacing it when called to quarters. He finally managed to file the band off, and was ready for another escape. Ten dollars secured him a place on the detail which brought in wood, and, while out, his plan was favored by a terrific rain storm which made the guards return in haste to shelter.

Our subject had kept well in the rear, and giving his wood to his companions he ran to an outside building where a friend, Turner Winn, was detailed as cook. On his advice Mr. Munn secreted himself in a marsh near by to wait for a supply of food, but, although he remained immersed in the water for several hours, he missed his friend and was obliged to start hungry on his journey through the inky darkness and pouring rain. He walked all that night, only to find himself at dawn close to the prison walls, having traveled in a circle. His dismay can hardly be imagined, but he had no time to brood over his mistake, and starting south he met, four miles out, a negro who secreted him and brought him food. That evening our hero started across the fields in a northwesterly direction in a cold, drizzling rain, which chilled him to the heart. Almost despairing, he made several attempts to find shelter and rest in lonely houses, but found each one occupied by sleepers whom he feared to arouse. Just as he was about to throw himself

upon the ground and abandon all hope, he heard hogs squealing, and finding their pen he kicked them out of their warm nest and dropped down into it himself, losing consciousness the moment he fell. On awakening, he found the sunshine beaming upon him, and a white-haired negro calling the hogs to feed. When Mr. Munn rose up poor old "Father Buckhorn" stood speechless with astonishment until he learned that the stranger was a "Yankee soldier." "Lord bress you," he said, "I thought it was a new Christ come to earth." He was the overseer of the plantation, and taking Mr. Munn out into an oat field he made him a bed of straw, and soon the colored women supplied him with an abundance of food. The news that "Father Buckhorn" had found a "Yankee" in the hog bed spread far and wide among the negroes, and made that poor old slave the hero of the hour. From all directions the darkies crowded in to look upon the visitor, and they alternately laughed and cried as they made him repeat again and again the story of his adventures and the progress of the war. Their joy at seeing one of their long-hoped-for deliverers was pathetic, and such expressions as "God bress de Yankee generation; deys done come at last," were frequent. A Confederate uniform was found for him, and at night a haversack full of food was provided; but he was too weak to carry it, and a darkey offered to carry it, as he was going twenty miles north to see his wife. Hope and strength returning, Mr. Munn walked on through several nights without special incident, resting during the day, but when his food was gone he was again in perplexity. Shouts from a darkey meeting led him safely to a place where a friendly colored man cared for him, hiding him in a barn and giving him a new supply of food. Warned against going north, where the Rebel forces were concentrated, he took a new direction, and met varying fortunes, swimming rivers, walking miles in the bed of a small stream in order to leave no trace for the hounds to follow, and at times subsisting on huckleberries when no colored ally could be found. At one point the negroes warned him against following the road farther, as two neighbors kept bloodhounds who would know that he was a Yankee in spite of all precautions. He tried it, however, on a dark night, mounted on a mule, but the hounds at the first house made such an outcry that he dared not go on. He had many other narrow escapes, his gray suit serving him well on several occasions. Once, when desperate for food, he entered a house and told the lady who met him that he was a Confederate soldier; but



after some conversation learned that she was a Unionist, and then confessed his own identity. Her husband had gone away rather than fight against the North, and, as both were suspected, she was afraid to do much to help him. In a few hours a Rebel neighbor came in, but so good account did Mr. Munn give of himself that he departed satisfied, and the lady expressed amazement that even a Yankee should be able to invent such a story while he was telling it. When night came she sent him to a Union man near by, who was at first chary of his confidence; but he and his son finally accepted him as "genuine," and kept him up until a late hour telling them the news of the war, accurate intelligence seldom reaching the rural communities. He slept that night in a corn crib, as they were in fear of the Rebels, and the next morning while eating his "corn pone" he was told that the Unionists had taken Rome, Ga., sixty miles away, and had a post at Cross Plains, only fifteen miles from his stopping place. On reaching Cross Plains he found this incorrect. He was well treated there, however, by the negroes, dined in the yard of a stanch Rebel, and passed the pickets safely. He tried to keep to the mountains in order to avoid the relays and stations on the road to Rome; but having been told by a negro how to pass them safely, he tried to follow the road, but was pursued by a detachment from the next post. After swimming a creek and running a long distance, he fell down exhausted in an oat field, where he lay all night, listening to sounds of battle, by which he decided that the Rebels were retreating. The next morning, Monday, July 4, 1864, he made his way to the Union outposts. But his troubles were not yet over. The most vexatious incident of all his tedious wanderings came through his very accurate "make up" as a Confederate. He was arrested and placed in the guard house with other prisoners, and with difficulty obtained an interview with the colonel in command, who finally became convinced of his loyalty, and offered him a position on his staff. This was declined as Mr. Munn wished to rejoin his company, which he succeeded in doing a few weeks later, at Atlanta. With the regiment he remained until mustered out in September, 1865.

On returning home he engaged in the grocery business at Ottawa, later moving to a farm near Portage and establishing a grocery in that village, where he also served four years as postmaster. In June, 1883, he went to Cleveland and entered the commission business; but in 1884 came to Weston and opened a store for general merchandise, which he conducted eight years, and of

which he made a success. Following the arts of peace as energetically as he did those of war, he has been a leading factor in many enterprises. He was the chief organizer of the Exchange Banking Company of Weston, and has been its president from the start. With others, he engaged in oil producing, and now has an interest in twenty productive wells, and others in process of development, and holds a number of promising leases besides. When Mr. Munn was seventeen years old he received \$500 from his mother as his share of the paternal estate, and on this capital founded the prosperity he now enjoys. He bought eighty acres of wild land in Portage township, and has ever since dealt largely in real estate in Wood and Henry counties.

In 1866 Mr. Munn married Miss Louise J. Turner, of Portage, who was born in 1844. They have three children: Arthur, assistant cashier of the Exchange Banking Co.; Maude L., who married J. V. Baldwin, of Weston, and has one son, Andrew Edward; and Jessie M., the wife of Ambrose C. Vedder, of St. Augustine, Fla. (they have one son, Munn C. A. Vedder). Mr. Munn erected his pleasant home in 1892, one of the finest in the county. He is quite a traveler, and recently spent six months at St. Augustine, Fla., where he has a cottage. Socially he is a member of the F. & A. M. and the G. A. R. He was brought up a Democrat, but during the Civil war changed his political opinions, and is now a member of the Republican party.

MARION V. COX, a farmer of Milton township, was born in Crawford county, Ohio, near Bucyrus, April 2, 1847. His parents, George and Nancy J. (Young) Cox, were also natives of the Buckeye State, the former born in Harrison county, in 1816, the latter in Guernsey county, in 1826. They were married in Richland county, later removed to Crawford county, and about 1856 became residents of Morrow county. In April, 1861, the father enlisted in Company I, 65th O. V. I., and served until the close of the war. He afterward removed to Hancock county, and in 1871 came to Wood county, where he is now living a retired life in Weston; his wife died there in May, 1893. Their children were Marion V.; Martha, wife of Samuel Wikel, of Wingston; George, a teamster of North Baltimore; Ellen, wife of Jack Wall, of Wingston; Charles, a farmer of Oklahoma; Viona, wife of Albert Hessong, of Milton township, and Virginia, who died at the age of two years.

Our subject acquired a district-school education, and was reared as a farmer boy. In 1862,

when only fifteen years of age, he joined the Union army in Morrow county, and became a member of Company I, 85th O. V. I. At the end of six weeks he was transferred to the 87th Ohio Regiment, and was taken prisoner at Harper's Ferry, but not long after was paroled. Being now a paroled prisoner, he enlisted in Company C, 54th Battalion, Ohio State Guards, for service in the State. In 1863, although he was fully aware of the great risk he ran, as a paroled prisoner, to re-enlist for active service, yet he joined Company E, 21st O. V. V. I., in which regiment he participated in the battle of Tunnel Hill, and, on July 9, 1864, was wounded by a minie ball in the right arm, which kept him from duty for two months. He then joined his regiment in front of Atlanta, went with Sherman on the celebrated march to the sea, and was in the Carolina campaign. While at Columbus, Ohio, July 21, 1865, he was honorably discharged. Mr. Cox says he could relate many a heart-rending scene he was an eyewitness to during his war experiences. For a man of his age during the war, he saw a great deal of hard service.

Soon after his return home, Mr. Cox went to the lumber woods of northern Michigan, where he was engaged in making shingles for three years. He then returned to Findlay, Ohio, in 1869, and was there married to Miss Almira Feller, who was born near Findlay, May 26, 1850. They rented the old Foulk farm, in Hancock county, but after a year rented a farm in Wood county. On the latter place they lived for a year, and Mr. Cox then purchased his present place of eighty acres. This, however, he sold after a year, and for six years rented and operated the Samuel Case farm, in Liberty township. He then again purchased the farm in Milton township, and has made excellent improvements upon it, including the erection of an elegant and spacious dwelling. Industry and enterprise are numbered among his chief characteristics, and have been important factors in his success. Mr. and Mrs. Cox have a family of seven children: Rosie, wife of Ira Lance; Ina; Eldon; Clay and Clyde, twins; Blaine and Olive; they also lost one child that died in infancy. The parents occupy an enviable position in social circles, and have many warm friends. Politically, Mr. Cox affiliates with the Republican party; in religious faith he is an adherent of the United Brethren Church, and, socially, he is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. His duties of citizenship are discharged with the same loyalty as when a soldier boy he followed the stars and stripes on Southern battle fields.

**WILLIAM FURRY.** Among the old pioneers and representative agriculturists of Lake township, there is probably no more prominent figure than Mr. Furry, who makes his home in Section 27. He is a native of Stark county, born in 1833, and is a son of Jacob Henry and Fannie (Butler) Furry, the latter of whom died August 20, 1885. The father's birth occurred in Pennsylvania, where he was reared and married, and in 1833 he took his family to Stark county, Ohio, but the same year came to Wood county, locating at Stony Ridge. He was employed for a time on the Maumee pike, and later entered land in Lake township, which he made his home until his death in 1866. He was one of the first members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Stony Ridge, and helped to build the first church erected at that place. He and his wife were faithful members of that Church until God called them to a better land.

Our subject is the third in order of birth in a family of nine children—five sons and four daughters—the others being as follows: Jacob enlisted in October, 1861, at Stony Ridge, in the 72nd O. V. I., and was discharged at Columbus, Ohio, August 21, 1862; he died at Pemberville, Wood county, in August, 1895. George resides at Stony Ridge. Mrs. James Whitmore lives at Haskins, this county. Mrs. Margaret Jennison died at East Toledo in 1890. Mrs. Catherine McCutcheon makes her home at Stony Ridge. John enlisted at Stony Ridge October 19, 1861, in Company E, 72nd O. V. I., for three years, and was mustered in at Columbus, Ohio; he served in the quartermaster's department until honorably discharged at Louisville, Ky., in 1865; his death occurred at Woodville, Ohio, in 1887. Mary is the wife of Martin Shook, of Stony Ridge. Charles makes his home at Gibsonburg, Sandusky Co., Ohio.

The childhood and youth of our subject were passed at Stony Ridge and in Lake township, where he was educated, and he remained under the parental roof until the outbreak of the Civil war, when, in 1861, he enlisted at Stony Ridge, in Company E, 72nd O. V. I., for three years. He was mustered into the United States service at Columbus, and was assigned to the Western army. He participated in the battle of Shiloh and the siege of Vicksburg, where he received a gunshot wound, and at the battle near Ripley, Miss., he was taken prisoner. After three months and a half confinement in Andersonville prison, he was sent to Florence, and later to Lawton, thus experiencing nine months of Rebel prison life. At Salisbury, N. C., he was honorably dis-

charged in 1865, and returned to his home in Lake township, Wood county, where it took him some months to recuperate. He has since made his home upon his present farm.

In 1865, in that township, he wedded Miss Hannah Akersberger, a native of Wood county, and a daughter of George Akersberger, an early pioneer of the township, who died in 1895, but upon the old home farm his widow still resides. Mrs. Furry died in 1868, leaving one child—Edgar George. For his second wife our subject wedded, in 1869, Miss Hattie Wicks, a native of Sandusky county. Her parents, John and Sarah (Hartzel) Wicks, were born in Union county, Penn., thence removed to Wayne county, Ohio, and later to Sandusky county, where they were numbered among the earliest pioneers, and in 1868 became residents of Lake township, Wood county, locating upon a farm. In that township the father died in 1887, and the mother in 1891. Mr. and Mrs. Furry have had eight children: Jonas William, who is married and lives in Lake township; John James; Henry B.; Floyd A.; Palmer E.; Irvin E.; Ray R.; and Harry, who died in 1883, at the age of eighteen months.

For sixty-three years Mr. Furry has been a resident of Wood county, during which time he has witnessed its wonderful development, and has been of material assistance in its advancement. On his fine farm of sixty-five acres he is now engaged in general farming, and the place well indicates his careful supervision, enterprise and industry. He takes considerable interest in political affairs, always supporting the Republican party. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of Stony Ridge, and are faithful workers in same.

JOHN HARTMAN, who is one of the substantial agriculturists and prosperous men of Wood county, was born in Perrysburg, that county, December 18, 1834, the eldest of the eight children of Jacob and Margaret (Lichtenberger) Hartman.

The parents of our subject were both natives of Germany, the father born May 24, 1808, in Wurtemberg, and the mother on March 12, 1812, near Strasburg. In 1834 they were married in Stark county, Ohio, and came to Wood county the same year, first locating in Perrysburg, afterward, in 1836, removing to Bowling Green, in which vicinity he carried on farming. The father died April 8, 1890; the mother is still living. Their children are as follows: John; Frederick, a farmer in Plain township; Josephine, wife of F. Nobles, a farmer in Center township; David, a farmer in Plain township; George, also a farmer

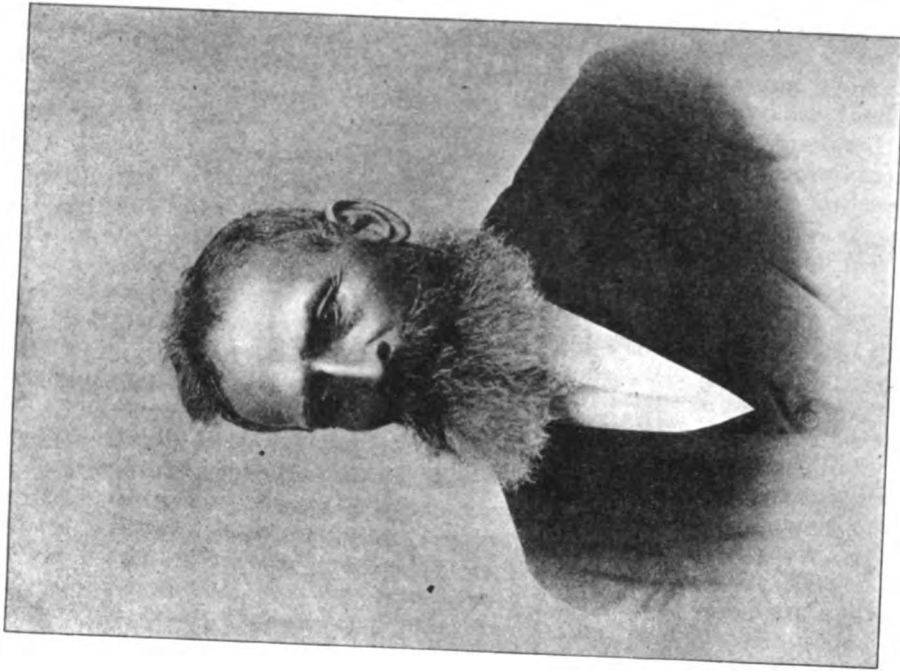
in Plain township; Elizabeth, who resides with her mother in Bowling Green; Electa, also living at home; and Leonard, living on the old homestead in Center township, Wood county. All of the sons are wealthy farmers, and have spent their lives in the vicinity of Bowling Green.

John Hartman was reared to manhood in Center township, and obtained the principle part of his education in the district schools, also attending two years at the Perrysburg High School. When sixteen years old he entered the employ of Lock & Peck, of Bowling Green, as clerk. In the fall of 1854, he studied one term in the college at Berea, and he taught school successfully for six terms. After his marriage, he settled on a farm in Plain township, where he has lived some thirty-eight years. He first bought eighty acres of wild land, and now owns 150 acres, all of which he has brought to a high state of cultivation, and by assiduous labor and careful attention to the details of his work he has become a wealthy man. His example is one that ought to encourage any young man to go and do likewise. When only eighteen years old he was thrown upon his own resources, and he has been the architect of his own fortune. Many of the settlers at that early day depended upon hunting, trapping and fishing for their livelihood, and as the advance of civilization gradually destroyed these means of subsistence, they eventually drifted out to the frontiers, or took up some other desultory method of making a living. Our subject, on the contrary, turned his attention to tilling the soil, and, as the country grew up around him, found a reward for his labors in the products of his fields, and the enjoyments of social life. To-day he ranks among the wealthy and honored citizens of the county who have aided in her growth and progress, and who take pride in the great development of her wonderful resources. He has kept a diary for twenty-three years, on one page recording the weather and directions of the wind, and on the other his business transactions and events of the day.

Mr. Hartman was married December 23, 1858, to Miss Estella Sholes, who was born in Huron county, Ohio, January 28, 1841. Her father, Alva Sholes, was of English descent, born December 11, 1815, in Genesee county, N. Y., son of John and Phœbe (Pond) Sholes, who were natives of eastern New York. In 1841 they migrated westward to Illinois, settling in Kane county, where they passed the remainder of their lives, engaged in farming. They had seven children: Solomon, Steven, Roxanna, Alva, Sylvia, David and Hiram. Alva Sholes came to Huron



*Estella Hartman*



*John Hartman*



county, Ohio, where he was married, December 6, 1839, to Eliza Jane Moore. They became the parents of five children, viz.: Estella (Mrs. Hartman); Leuthera (Mrs. James Mann), of Plain township; Dalinda (Mrs. Frederick Hartman), who died in 1873; Alice J. (Mrs. Dr. Manville), of Bowling Green; and Frank, on the old homestead. Alva Sholes came to Wood county in 1848, settling on a farm in Plain township, where he died in January, 1892. Politically he was a Republican. Mrs. Hartman's great-grandfather, John Moore, came from Germany to the United States with Lafayette, under whom he served as a soldier in the Revolutionary war.

Four children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Hartman, namely: (1) Josephine is the wife of J. W. Underwood, assistant cashier of the First National Bank of Bowling Green; they have two children—Estella and Esther. (2) Ernest is a graduate of the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy, and is a druggist at Weston, Ohio. (3) Eugene, born April 17, 1869, was educated at Fayette and Wauseon Normal Schools, and was a teacher in the public schools one term; he is now farming at home. (4) Winifred, born March 14, 1877, lives at home with her parents. Mr. Hartman is a Republican in political belief; has served as township trustee and as school director of his district, but he is no office seeker, preferring to devote his attention to his private interests.

JOHN LAYMAN, a pioneer agriculturist and lumberman of Webster township, was born November 1, 1839, in Berne, Switzerland. His parents, John and Martha (Jacobs) Layman, were both natives of that place, and were married there. In 1849 they came to Wood county, and purchased eighty acres of unimproved land in Webster township. Our subject's father was a man of great energy and practical ability, a Democrat in politics, and a consistent member of the Lutheran Church. He died in August, 1872, and his wife survived him until August 13, 1893. Their children were as follows: Barbara; Peter, a farmer in Webster township; Chris; William; John, our subject; and Anne.

Mr. Layman was ten years old when he came to America, and he remembers well the scenes and experiences of pioneer times, when Indians, wolves and mosquitoes kept the settlers in constant dread and discomfort. The first home of the family was a little log cabin, and they nearly starved at times. Their wheat had to be carried thirty miles to mill. When he reached the age of twenty-two, Mr. Layman enlisted in Company I, 111th O. V. I. (Capts. Yeager and Norris com-

manding). He took part in thirty-two hard-fought engagements, the principal ones being Stone River, Allatoona, Resaca, Lost Mountain, siege of Knoxville, Chattanooga, Cedar Rapids, Utoy Creek, Fort Anderson, Raleigh, and Atlanta. He was discharged at Salisbury, N. C., June 27, 1865. Returning home, he bought eighty acres of forest land near Luckey, and erected a sawmill, which he operated for twenty years. In 1873, he was married to Miss Mary Smith, also a native of Berne, Switzerland. They have four children: Frank, Fred, Mary and Edward. In politics, Mr. Layman is a Republican, and he belongs to Benedict Post, G. A. R., of Pemberville. He and his wife are prominent members of the Evangelical Church at Luckey.

JAMES S. SALSBERY, who is numbered among "the boys in blue" of the Civil war, and now follows farming in Milton township, was born in Liberty township, Wood county, November 28, 1838. Jonathan Salsberry, his father, a miller by trade, was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, in May, 1786. He learned his trade in Pennsylvania, and was there married to Catherine Plott, a native of the Keystone State. They afterward removed to Ohio, locating on a tract of wild land in Liberty township, Wood county, where they lived until 1864, when the father purchased eighty acres of land in Milton township, and continued its cultivation until his death in 1883. His wife passed away several years previous. Their children were: Sibylina, wife of W. H. Cotton, of Milton; Salinda Ann, wife of Jonathan L. Wheaton, of Nebraska; Salathiel Edwin, of San Antonio, Texas; Cinderella Phoebe, deceased wife of Langdon C. Hubbard; Stanilaus Rudolph, late farmer of Milton township (now deceased); James S., our subject; Sabina I., deceased wife of Edward Remington; Samaria, wife of Thomas Hill, of Milton township; Samaritan Mortimer, of Norwalk, Huron Co., Ohio; and Salva, who died in infancy.

On the old family homestead our subject was reared. While in Liberty township he acquired his education in the old-fashioned log school house, with its fireplace and other primitive furnishings. In July, 1862, he enlisted in the Union army, becoming a member of Company B, 111th O. V. I. Going to the front soon after, his command was engaged in chasing Buell in Kentucky, and on November 16, 1863, he was taken prisoner and sent to Atlanta, afterward to Savannah, and thence to Richmond, where he remained until released, January 1, 1864. He then joined his regiment at Big Shanty, Ga. He

took part in the battle of Kenesaw Mountain, the Atlanta campaign, also the siege of the city, and was once wounded by a minie ball in the right knee. He was discharged at Salisbury, N. C., and while at Cleveland, Ohio, June 27, 1865, he was mustered out. At once returning home, he resumed farming.

On November 11, 1866, in Milton township, Mr. Salsberry was married to Susan D. Castle, who was born near Sandusky, Erie Co., Ohio, August 31, 1847, and is a daughter of Thomas Castle, a farmer, who was born in Greene county, N. Y., in 1818. When a young man Mr. Castle went to Wyoming county, Penn., where he wedded Elizabeth Philo, who was born in that county, March 26, 1821. A year later they came to Ohio, locating on a farm near Sandusky, and in 1855 they arrived in Wood county, making their home in Milton township, where Mr. Castle died July 26, 1892. His widow is still living in Custar. Their children were: Anna, deceased wife of Stanley O. Shaw; Malbon W., who entered the army, and died at Graysville, Ga.; Mrs. Salsberry; Isaac, deceased; Sarah J., deceased wife of Barnett Older; David H., who was drowned at the age of seventeen months; Caroline, deceased wife of David Bredbiner; John F., a farmer of Jackson township; Alice C., wife of James Russell, of Isabel county, Mich.; and Henrietta, who died in infancy.

Upon their marriage, Mr. Salsberry and his wife located in Milton township. A year later they removed to Ironton, Mo., but after six months went to St. Francis county, Mo., where Mr. Salsberry purchased 100 acres of land, on which he lived for a year and a half. He then returned to Wood county, and after a short time took up his residence in Custar, where he engaged in clerking for two years. He next rented land for a few years, after which, in 1883, he purchased fifty acres, twelve of which were cleared. In 1892 he erected his present commodious and comfortable home, and in 1891 he built a large and substantial barn, which was destroyed by fire, August 26, 1895. To him and his wife have been born three children: (1) Elmo Earle, born April 27, 1868, in Missouri; he was married, October 19, 1891, to Fannie E., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Fellers, farming people of Henry township, and to them was born, October 18, 1892, a daughter, named Pearl; Elmo E. Salsberry is now teaching school in North Baltimore. (2) Elda B. (also a school teacher), born November 5, 1871, in Milton township; he was married, September 11, 1890, to Nora B., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Winfield

Barber, farming people of Milton township, and to them have been born three children, their names and dates of birth being as follows: James W., February 25, 1892; Opal M., April 12, 1893; Malbon E., February 5, 1894. (3) Roland was born November 26, 1880, and is attending school in Custar. The parents are active members of the Disciples Church, and in politics Mr. Salsberry was a Democrat until the breaking out of the Civil war, when he became a staunch Republican.

A. J. HARMAN, a straightforward and industrious farmer, is a descendant of one of the old and respected families of Montgomery township, where he was born in Section 30, September 7, 1868, and is the youngest child of William and Mary (Kyser) Harman. He acquired his education in the district schools of the neighborhood—his first teacher being Erasmus Musser—and received a careful home training, remaining a member of the parental household until he had attained the age of eighteen years, when he entered the stave mill at Prairie Depot belonging to Smith, Hathaway & Co., where he was employed as fireman and at running the engine.

In that village, April 21, 1888, Mr. Harman married Miss Amanda Amos, the ceremony being performed by Steve Angus. The lady is also descended from a respected pioneer family of Wood county, who were early settlers of Portage township, where she was born October 18, 1868. However, she accompanied her parents, George and Sarah A. (Jackson) Amos, to Montgomery township when a small child, and was there reared. Three children grace the union of our subject and his wife: Mabel M., born October 31, 1889; Hazel L., born February 27, 1891; and Pearly J., born February 3, 1895, and these compose an interesting little group.

After his marriage, Mr. Harman rented four lots of his father in Prairie Depot, where he resided until the fall of 1889, when he located upon the home farm in Montgomery township, and there continued until his present comfortable home was erected in 1893, where they removed on October 5. He has twenty acres of rich and productive land, upon which he has placed many substantial improvements, and no happier or pleasanter home can be found anywhere. For nearly two years he was a pumper for the Hazelwood Oil Company, in which position he remained until January 31, 1896, when he took charge of the oil property for the Stitts, Pool & Harris Oil Co. He is a steady-going young man, destined to become a substantial farmer, and

bears an excellent reputation throughout the community, where he has always made his home. In political sentiment he is a stalwart Democrat, ever casting his vote in support of the principles of that party.

**A. B. MILLER.** The subject of this sketch stands second to none among the prominent citizens of Jerry City. The place of his nativity is Upper Paxton township, Dauphin Co., Penn., where he was born March 30, 1816; he was christened Amos, but later for convenience took the initial B, and is now known as A. B. Miller.

His parents, Daniel and Magdalene (Kanaga) Miller, were of Swiss extraction, their ancestors having come from Switzerland many generations ago, locating in Lancaster county, Penn., during its pioneer days. Our subject was nineteen years of age when the family left the Keystone State, making the long journey, by way of Pittsburgh, to Scipio township, Seneca county, where the father had previously purchased 182 acres of land and erected a cabin. He and his wife came in a carriage, while our subject drove a one-horse wagon containing bedding and provisions, and his brother Simon drove a four-horse team hitched to a covered wagon. It was two years after the parents left their home in Pennsylvania before they located in Seneca county, as they had stopped at Mrs. Miller's father's farm in Stark county, Ohio, there making a temporary home while the father looked up a suitable location. His death occurred in Seneca county at the age of sixty-eight years and nine months, while his wife had reached the very advanced age of ninety-three years and three months, at the time of her death. She was a woman of the greatest vitality, always active up to the time of her death. In the family were five children, namely: Simon, who died in Seneca county when nearly eighty years of age; Elizabeth, who became the wife of George Shaffner, and died when past the age of sixty years; A. B., of this sketch; Fannie, who died in Pennsylvania at the age of thirteen; and John K., of Seneca county.

The early education of our subject was such as the subscription schools of Pennsylvania afforded at that early day, when manual labor was considered of more importance than literary studies. His boyhood and youth were passed on his father's farm, and one of the first important steps toward the establishment of a home of his own, was his marriage which took place in Bucyrus, Ohio, February 23, 1841, his bride being Miss Nancy Shaffner, who was born in Dauphin county, Penn., September 21, 1822. She was

the next to the youngest in the family of nine children, three sons and six daughters, born to Martin and Sarah (Flischer) Shaffner. While a resident of Pennsylvania, her father followed tanning; but on locating in Crawford county, Ohio, in 1828, he took up farming, which he followed until his death at the age of eighty-four. The mother of Mrs. Miller died in 1824, after which Mr. Shaffner was three times married, and became the father of twenty-one children, one of whom died in infancy, but the others all lived to adult age, the youngest dying at the age of nineteen.

The union of our subject and his wife has been blessed by the advent of twelve children, namely: William H., who served for three years during the Civil war as a member of Company H, 101st O. V. I., and is now living in Portage township, Wood county; Isaiah S., a resident of the same township; John W., a merchant of West Millgrove, Ohio; Mary M., wife of John Johnston, Jr., of Portage township; Sarah E., wife of John Reese, of Bloom township; Martha J., now Mrs. Levi Buttrif, of Crawford county, Ohio; Amanda, who died at the age of six years; Annie M., who became the wife of John Todd, and died in Portage township; Amos A., who died in infancy; Nannie, who died at the age of eighteen years, was the wife of Cyrus Johnston; Ida A., widow of Henry Brown, of Jerry City, Ohio; and a son who died in infancy. The family is one of prominence, and its members have become useful and respected citizens.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller began housekeeping on an eighty-acre farm in Seneca county, partially cleared, where they made their home until February, 1864, when they came to Section 10, Portage township, Wood county, buying 160 acres of land. There they continued to reside until March 4, 1880, since which time they have found a pleasant home in Jerry City, though they still own fifty-eight acres in Section 32, Portage township. For over fifty-five years they have traveled life's journey together, strengthening each other during the trials and vicissitudes of life, but are now resting after their labors, surrounded by a loving family and many warm friends. Both are earnest Christians, being members of the Radical United Brethren Church. For many years Mr. Miller was a Republican, but now supports the Prohibition party.

**JAMES SMITH,** deceased. The subject of this sketch, formerly a well-known citizen of Bowling Green, was born in the North of Ireland in the year 1815. He came to America when twenty years of age, and for two years lived in New



York City, but finally located at Little Falls, Herkimer Co., N. Y., where he remained thirty years engaged in merchant tailoring. He married a native of Little Falls, Miss Phally Dennis, who was born August 15, 1824, the eldest daughter of Cornelius and Betsy (Simmons) Dennis. They were natives of Connecticut, but came to New York in early youth, where they met and married. Mr. Dennis was a prominent resident of Little Falls, a millwright by trade. He lived to the age of eighty, but Mrs. Dennis died at the age of forty years. Of their four children, Mrs. Smith is now the only survivor. The others were Thomas, a resident of New York State; Mary, who died in childhood, and Eleanor. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Smith continued to reside at Little Falls, where children were born to them as follows: Edmund, born June 30, 1847, died in childhood; Clarissa, born July 20, 1849, who married George West, and died June 19, 1872, leaving one daughter, Mabel, now Mrs. Strouse, of Fostoria, Ohio; George, born June 5, 1853, who married Miss Maggie Tisseur, and died August 11, 1892, leaving three children—Floyd, Laminne, and Marie; Julia A., born March 29, 1858, who married Frank H. Boughton, of Bowling Green, and has three boys, Walter, Solon and LeRoy. Two great-grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. Smith—Phally and Clara Strouse—live with their parents at Fostoria.

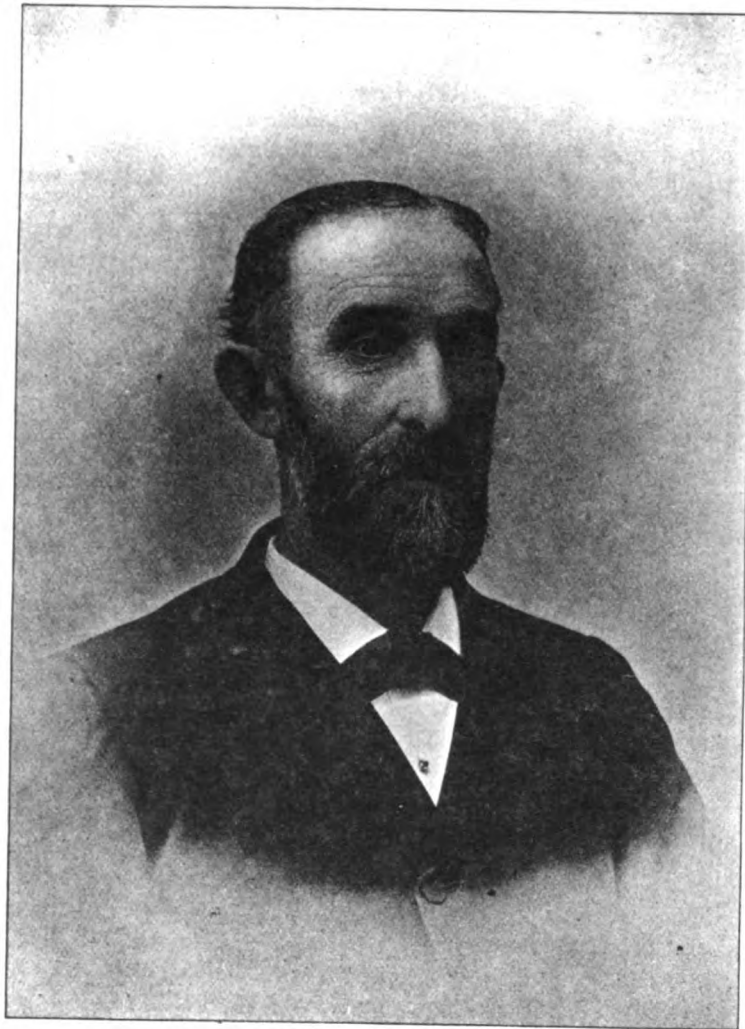
After thirty years of active business life at Little Falls, Mr. Smith moved with his family to Bowling Green, where he had made some profitable investments, and spent the remainder of his days there in retirement. Politically he was a Democrat, and although he was never a politician, he took an intelligent interest in all public movements. His death occurred in 1883, and since that time Mrs. Smith has lived in her own home, only two blocks from her daughter, Mrs. Boughton. Her few remaining relatives take delight in her occasional visits. She has been a member of the Presbyterian Church for twenty years; but her age prevents her from taking an active part in Church work.

MRS. MARY CRANKER WILLIAMS, of Perrysburg, the widow of Alfred Gillette Williams, who was for many years a leading business man of Wood county, is a member of one of the oldest families of her vicinity.

Her parents, Peter and Margaret (Meagley) Cranker, were honored pioneers of Perrysburg, where our subject was born November 13, 1840, and grew to useful womanhood, receiving an excellent education, and early taking a prominent

part in social, religious and philanthropical circles. On December 30, 1866, she was united in marriage with Mr. Williams, a man in whom all the sterling uprightness and courage of his Welsh ancestry was revealed in daily life. He was born in Steuben, N. Y., November 21, 1832, but his parents moved to Adrian, Mich., in the following year, and there he remained up to the age of seventeen. Having decided upon a mercantile calling, he served an apprenticeship, by clerking some years, in Fayette, Ohio, and Grand Rapids, Mich., and afterward traveled as a salesman for a firm in Maumee City, gaining valuable experience of which he made good use in later years. In 1860 he came to Perrysburg, and, in partnership with his brother, engaged in the dry-goods business, in which they built a substantial and profitable trade. After some years he withdrew from this firm and devoted his time to other enterprises, notably the oil industry. He was also extensively engaged in the manufacture of wooden-ware, and in the interest of his business he traveled extensively. His efforts in every line were rewarded with success, but his generous nature made him a liberal dispenser of the wealth which flowed in his busy hands.

A devout and consistent member of the M. E. Church, to which he gave faithful service as steward, trustee, class-reader and Sunday-school teacher, he was also a ready financial supporter in every emergency. Religion was not with him a form; it was an essential part of his life. In early manhood, while at Maumee City, he had experienced a deep spiritual awakening which left no doubt within him as to the transcendent value of the higher life. It was his delight to serve the cause of the Church in any capacity, and when elected in 1891 as lay delegate from the Central Ohio Conference to the General Conference, he regarded it as the greatest honor of his life. In politics he was a Republican, though his father was a Democrat, and for several years he served on the school board, but was no office seeker. Socially he was a Master Mason. He passed away October 17, 1892, after a short illness, in full assurance of the faith of Christ. Only the day before his death he exclaimed, his face radiant with happiness, "Oh, I have received such a blessing this week." He left three sons, Alfred R., born September 5, 1868, who married Clara Chappuies, and has two children—Alfred Russell, Jr., and Elbert J.; Ernest Roy, born June 11, 1879, and Arthur G., born October 8, 1882, both of whom live with their mother at the family residence on Second street, a home where



Yours Sincerely  
A. G. Williams



all that could minister to culture and refinement is gathered. Mrs. Williams, always a ready helpmeet to her husband in his philanthropies, still continues the work in which he delighted, and gives freely of her means and sympathies to every worthy movement.

MRS. JANE DAVIS conducts a general mercantile establishment in Dunbridge, and well deserves mention in the history of the county. She was born in Webster township, March 6, 1848, and is a daughter of Hugh and Jennie (Davidson) Stewart, both of whom were natives of Scotland. She attended school in Webster township, and remained at home until 1872, when she became the wife of William Davis. Of their marriage were born six children—Anna M., who was born July 11, 1874, was educated in Dunbridge and in Ada, Ohio, and was for two terms a school teacher, but now occupies the position of stenographer with the firm of Royce & Coon, of Bowling Green; Margaret J., born August 16, 1876, is at home; Frederick W., born August 19, 1878, and Maurice, born October 19, 1880, operate the home farm; Mary E., born October 13, 1882, and Daisy V., born December 9, 1884, complete the family.

Mrs. Davis remained on the farm until 1884, when she removed to Dunbridge and established the store which she still conducts, being one of the first citizens of the place. In addition to the care of the store she manages a farm of ninety-six acres in Webster township, which she owns, and which she has placed under a high state of cultivation. She possesses excellent business and executive ability, is enterprising and progressive in her business methods, and by her true womanliness and helpful spirit has won the respect of all with whom she has been brought in contact. She is certainly a most estimable lady, and is now a valued member of the Woman's Relief Corps and the Daughters of Rebekah.

ERASTUS MUSSER, one of the successful educators of Wood county, was born in Section 25, Portage township, April 28, 1849, and is a son of Samuel Musser, a native of Columbiana county, Ohio. His paternal grandfather, Michael Musser, became one of the prominent pioneers of Portage township, where he died in 1852, and his remains were interred at Millgrove.

Samuel Musser, the father of our subject was reared and educated in the manner of most farmer lads, and, after his marriage, located on the farm where he still resides. In the spring of 1836 he came to Portage township, and here

married Miss Hulda Tefft, a daughter of Ezekiel Tefft, a native of Rhode Island, and they became the parents of five children: Erastus, subject of this sketch; William, of Portage township; Mercy, now Mrs. James Waugh, of Webster township, Wood county; Ezekiel, a mason and farmer of southwestern Kansas; and Albert, who died while young. In 1856 Mrs. Musser passed away and was buried in Millgrove cemetery. For his second wife, Mr. Musser wedded Abbie Mader, who was born in Richland county, Ohio, May 27, 1836, and to them were born five children, namely: Rosetta, who died in childhood; David W., of Portage township; Hulda J., wife of William Dicken, of Montgomery township, Wood county; Charley, at home; and one daughter who died in infancy. The father died January 6, 1896, at the age of eighty-four years, and is interred in the cemetery at Millgrove. He thoroughly represented the pioneers of the community, as he aided in its development and contributed generously to promote its prosperity. By the aid of his sons he transformed his wild uncultivated land into a highly improved farm. In him the Democratic party had one of its most earnest supporters.

The school days of Erastus Musser were mostly passed in District No. 7, Portage township, his first teacher being Marilla Lamson, and there he acquired a good education. Being reared on a frontier farm, he soon became familiar with the arduous tasks incident to such a life, and received a thorough training as an agriculturist. Since the age of twenty-three, however, he has engaged in teaching, being employed in Portage, Bloom and Montgomery townships, Wood county, and has proved himself a capable and reliable instructor. He has taught every winter, and missed but few summer terms. A man of genuine worth, and more than ordinary intellectual attainments, he enjoys the respect and confidence of all with whom he comes in contact. He is identified with the Democratic party, and on that ticket was elected assessor of Portage township for two years.

GEORGE KIMBERLIN. Few men, indeed, are there who live out the period of man's allotted years here on earth, practically with one people, who can look back over an official life of nearly a third of a century, and say that, without an exception, the offices sought him, and not he them. Such is the record of the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch, and who is now passing the evening of a well-spent and useful life in a comfortable home, as a retired farmer

and citizen of Bowling Green. Born January 11, 1824, in Huntingdon county, Penn., of parents Henry and Sarah (Brewau) Kimberlin. Our subject on his father's side descended from German ancestors.

George Kimberlin, the paternal grandfather, was a member of Washington's bodyguard during the Revolutionary war, after which he settled in what is now Bedford county, Penn., and died in Huntingdon county, same State. He was an orphan, and, with the exception of his nationality and the few facts above mentioned, nothing is known of his family or of his early life. The paternal grandmother was a Miss Wagner, who also died in Huntingdon county. They left a large family, of whom the following are mentioned: John, who became a Methodist minister and removed to New York State; George, who died young; Henry; Michael (deceased), who was a resident of Wayne county, Ohio; and David, whose death occurred in Wood county.

Henry Kimberlin, father of our subject, was reared in Huntingdon county, Penn., and took part in the war of 1812, entering from Pennsylvania, and being located at Fort Meigs. Just before the battle by Tecumseh he was taken ill with chills, having been subject to the ague, and was left in the rear, but insisted on going into battle. After the close of the war he went back to Pennsylvania, but in the spring of 1827 removed to Wayne county, Ohio, and in 1831 he came to Wood county, locating on the river just below Grand Rapids, where he died about 1867, at the age of seventy-eight years. He was an Old-line Whig, later a Republican. He was a member of the United Brethren Church, in which he was a local preacher, and was noted among the pioneers as the one who preached the greatest number of funeral sermons. While a man of only a meager education, he was a deep thinker, possessed good hard sense which made him practical in business affairs, and a most useful citizen among the pioneers. His name frequently occurs on the records of the early history of the county. He was one of the justices of the peace who served in Weston township during the period between 1831 and 1841. Sarah, his wife, died in 1878 at the advanced age of eighty-three years. To their marriage had been born ten children, named: Mary Ann (deceased), who was the wife of George Gilmore, of this county; Delilah, who was married to John Dull, and who also died in Wood county; John, now living near Grand Rapids, at the age of seventy-five years; Francis, the wife of George Older, a resident of Michigan; Amelia and Eliza, unmarried; Catherine, the

wife of John W. Brown, of Grand Rapids; Martha Jane, whose death occurred at the age of eleven years; Jacob, now of Grand Rapids; and George.

George Kimberlin, the subject of this sketch, coming to a new country when a lad, had but meager educational advantages, receiving only such instruction as was usual to the pioneer children of that day. At the age of twenty-five years he received one year's training in the schools of Perrysburg, which, followed by subsequent reading and self application, made him a well-informed and practical business man. His early life was passed on the farm of his father, whom he assisted in the general work incident to pioneers of Wood county. In 1856 he was married to Miss Adaliza Olney, a native of Saratoga county, N. Y., born March 25, 1829, and daughter of Benjamin and Lucy (Emerson) Olney who were one of the pioneer families of Wood county, and whose history appears in the sketch of Samuel R. Junkins, of Bowling Green. Mrs. Kimberlin, who was a woman of many Christian virtues, was identified with the Baptist Church. Her death occurred at Bowling Green, January 15, 1892. There were no children born to the marriage.

After his marriage Mr. Kimberlin settled on a farm near Grand Rapids, this county, where he continued in agricultural pursuits until the fall of 1871, when he entered upon the duties of treasurer of Wood county, to which office he had been previously elected. His election was for a period of four years, which term he served out, and a vacancy occurring in 1881 he served another year by appointment. While a resident of Weston township he had for fourteen years been the township clerk; was real-estate assessor of the township in 1870; and in 1890 served similarly in Plain township. So well, and with such care did Mr. Kimberlin serve the people of the township and county in transacting the business intrusted to his care, that, when his term of office had expired, they were loath to give him up, and his successors to the office of treasurer made him their deputy for ten years. Even this did not suffice, for he has been called to assist in the several county offices at periods from that time to the present. He brought to these various branches of county's business, intelligence, fitness, and a popularity that rendered him a most useful and safe official, and a satisfactory one. Possessed of a patriotism inherited from an ancestor of the war of the Revolution, and from his father, a soldier of the war of 1812, Mr. Kimberlin in the dark days of 1864 left the plough in the

furrow, shouldered his musket, and went to the front to bear an honorable part in the campaign of the command. He enlisted in May, 1864, in Company I, 144th O. V. I. He became second lieutenant of that company, and took part in the bayonet charge at Monocacy, Md. He was discharged in September of that year (1864).

Mr. Kimberlin is one of the most widely known and highly respected citizens of Wood county, and a thoroughly representative business man of the community, in which he has mingled so many years. He is identified with the Baptist Church, and in politics is a Republican. He possesses a fine, well-improved farm of nearly 150 acres in Grand Rapids township.

A. R. MATHEWS, who has served as agent at Webb for the Pennsylvania railroad since his appointment, on January 5, 1876, is probably the oldest employe on the division, and his long-continued service certainly indicates his faithful discharge of duty. He is a native of Ohio, born in Ashland county in 1836, and when five years of age was taken to what is now Bryan, Williams Co., Ohio, by his parents, George and Margaret (Hamilton) Mathews. The father was born in Pennsylvania, and was married in Ashland county, this State, where he followed his trade of blacksmithing until his removal to Bryan, in 1841. There he began the cultivation and improvement of a farm, but was not long permitted to enjoy his new home, as he died in the year 1844, leaving two children—our subject, and his brother George, who enlisted in Williams county in 1862, in Company D, 38th O. V. I., and veteranizing served until the close of the war, during which he was twice wounded. He still makes his home in Williams county. In 1847 the mother became the wife of Henry Caszett, who by his first union had four sons—Adam, who was in the three-months' service during the Civil war, and now makes his home in Michigan; Franklin and Kerry, also residents of the same State; and John, who died in Williams county, Ohio. By her second union the mother of our subject had two children—Andrew P. and Deborah, both of Isabella county, Mich. Her death occurred on the old home in Williams county, in 1860.

In that county our subject was reared to manhood, and the first school he attended was taught in the old log court house of Bryan. On leaving home, in 1854, he went to Boscobel, Wis., where he was employed at rafting lumber down the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers, and during his stay of seven years also went south. He returned to Williams county in 1860, and the fol-

lowing year at Stryker, Ohio, enlisted in the three-months' call, serving with Company E, 14th O. V. I. He later re-enlisted for three-years' service, this time becoming a member of Company E, 38th O. V. I., and was mustered in at Camp Dennison. He participated in the battles of Phillips, Laurel Hill, Cary's Ford, Wild Cat, Ky., Lyons Cross Roads, Nashville, Pittsburg Landing, Corinth, Iuka, Tuscumbia, and then went on the march to Louisville. Later he was in the engagements at Milledgeville, Stone River, Chickamauga, Chancellorsville, Missionary Ridge, Lookout Mountain, and at Chattanooga became a veteran of the same company and regiment. He went with Sherman on the celebrated march to the sea, was in the Carolina campaigns, and took part in the grand review at Washington, D. C., after which he received an honorable discharge at Cleveland, Ohio, in June, 1865, and returned to his home in Williams county. For four years he had faithfully followed the old flag on Southern battle fields, enduring all the hardships and privations of army life, but was ever found at his post of duty.

In 1865, in Defiance, Ohio, Mr. A. R. Mathews led to the marriage altar Miss Mary Hanna, who is a native of that county, and four children have come to bless their union—J. W., who is married, and is a telegraph operator of Toledo, Ohio; Orlando R., who is also married and is telegraph operator for the Nickel Plate railroad at Bellevue, Ohio; Mrs. Fannie M. Hathaway, of Pemberville, Ohio; and Mamie C., wife of Frank Berndt, of Troy township, Wood county.

After his marriage, Mr. Mathews engaged in farming in Williams county until 1871, at which time he removed to Genoa, Ottawa Co., Ohio, where he was in the employ of the firm of Webb and Brown, in their washboard manufactory. He was then sent by that firm to Webb Station, Wood county, where he helped to construct two mills, and, in connection with railroad-ing, also kept boarders for some three years, having as many as forty-four mill hands as well as transient boarders. In 1873 he came to Troy township, where he built a house on railroad land, it being the first dwelling erected at Webb. His present fine residence was erected in 1882. Besides his duties as station agent he is also engaged in the cultivation and improvement of his farm. He bought eighty acres of heavily timbered land in Lake township, Wood county, which he at once began to clear and develop, making it one of the best places in the locality. In politics, Mr. Mathews is an ardent Republican,

and for seventeen years served as postmaster at Webb, when he resigned, and in 1895 the office was discontinued. He has taken an active part in promoting the welfare of the community, and always lends his aid to every worthy enterprise.

**THOMAS JUNKINS.** The subject of this sketch, who is known and revered throughout Wood county as the oldest living pioneer of Weston township, where he has resided for sixty-two years, was born in Fayette county, Penn., April 27, 1822.

Samuel Junkins, the father of our subject, was born in Maine, of Scotch and Irish parentage, and when a young man went to Pennsylvania, where he engaged in the manufacture of brick. He was there married to Nancy Smith, and four children were born to them, as follows: Clarissa, the widow of John Pugh, of Weston; Thomas; Julia Ann, the wife of Henry Bernthistle, deceased, and Samuel, deceased. The family afterward removed to Guernsey county, Ohio, where the father died in 1829, when our subject was but seven years old. The mother, with her children, returned to Pennsylvania, and in Washington county was married to John Rice. They then came back to Ohio, in 1833, in company with John McKee and a man by the name of Storts—there being three families in all. They settled in Weston (now Grand Rapids) township, Wood Co., Ohio, where the father of Mr. Rice had taken up land. Here Mr. Rice died in the fall of 1833. His widow subsequently removed to the farm owned by John McKee, where she remained until 1838, in which year she moved on the Carson farm, where she died in 1851.

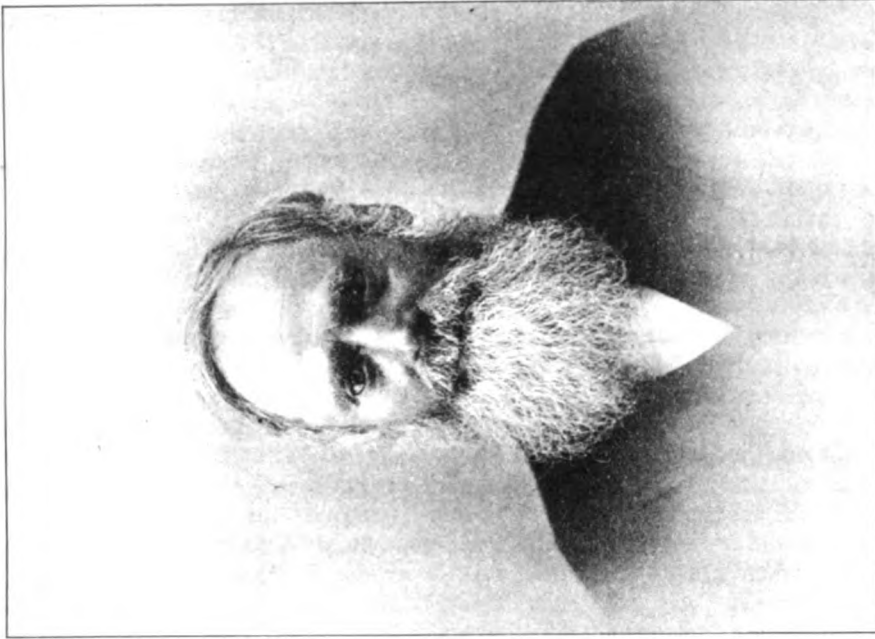
Thomas Junkins had only a limited education, and after the death of his step-father, although a mere lad, he had to go to work in order to help support his widowed mother. His boyhood was spent in clearing up a portion of the McKee farm, and a greater part of the Carson farm. Here he spent seventeen years of hard work, and he recalls with gratitude the kind and encouraging words given him by Alexander Brown, who in those days of toil and hardships acted as a father, and cheered the boy in his daily toil. In 1843 Thomas Junkins bought 160 acres of land, being the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 29, Weston township, where he still resides. On this he placed many improvements, and in 1877 built his present fine residence, most of the lumber used in its construction being obtained from his own timber. For forty years the subject of our sketch resided on this farm, during which long period of time, and even longer, not a single death in the house-

hold, or family occurred (although they reared a family of six children), Mrs. Junkins being the first to pass away, her death occurring in 1895, forty-two years from the time of her marriage. This is a remarkable record, for which Mr. Junkins expresses his sincere gratitude.

About the year 1847 our subject bought 160 acres of land on Hull's Prairie, at seventy-five cents per acre, which comprised the ground on which the railway station now stands. This he sold for \$2,000, and then bought 320 acres from Mr. Bucklin, in Milton township, for which he paid \$2,080. Eighty acres of this he sold, and eighty acres of this farm he exchanged for a part of the Ward farm, and the remaining 160 acres he gave to his two sons, Eber W. and Charles L. (eighty acres each), while to Raymond S. he gave a part of the Ward farm. Mr. Junkins has always been a great lover of fine stock, having in his younger days been an extensive breeder of fine Shorthorn cattle, and to him much credit is due, for, through his enterprise, his neighbors and the citizens of Wood county, generally, have reaped rich returns from the improved stock they were enabled to secure, and did secure, from him. Owing to advanced age, and the depreciation of the cattle industry, Mr. Junkins has abandoned the business.

When the Civil war broke out, no citizen was more ready to assist the government in its efforts to sustain the Union than the subject of this sketch, and in 1863 he enlisted and was mustered in at Cleveland as a member of Company F, 86th O. V. I., under Col. Charles Lennert and Capt. Squires. He was present at the capture of Morgan, and at the battle of Cumberland Gap; served for eight months, and was mustered out at Cleveland in 1864. As a result of his soldiering he has ever since been afflicted with deafness.

Mr. Junkins was married October 7, 1853, at Weston, to Elizabeth, daughter of Jacob Long, who was born October 15, 1827, and who died February 5, 1895. Six children blessed this union, namely: (1) Alzina Adelaide, born July 24, 1854, married April 7, 1874, to James Blackburn; (2) Charlotte Alma, born July 3, 1856, married to William Walters; (3) Eber W., born August 10, 1858, is a farmer in Milton township; (4) Raymond S., born July 28, 1861, is a farmer of Weston; (5) Charles L., born September 25, 1863, is a farmer in Milton township, and (6) Perry C., born August 31, 1866, has the management of the homestead of 218 acres. Among the reminiscences of early days, Mr. Junkins relates that, in 1850, he in company with Aaron P. Treadwell, who was known as "Live Yankey,"



THOMAS JUNKINS.



MRS. ELIZABETH JUNKINS.





and "Jim" Crago, drove 150 head of cattle from Weston township, Wood Co., Ohio, to Bridgeport, Conn., the trip occupying several months' time.

The death of his beloved wife, which was the first one to occur in the family, as above related, was a severe blow to Mr. Junkins. They had been companions for nearly half a century, and she had been to him a faithful helpmeet, sharing his burdens, and by her loving care making his home a blessed retreat from the cares and trials of life. She was a devoted mother, counting no sacrifice too great, if by it she could secure the welfare and happiness of her family. Thoughtful of their comfort, and anxious for their future, she trained her children to become useful citizens and an honor to the parents who did so much for them; and now that she has gone to her reward they "rise up and call her blessed." In his political preferences, Mr. Junkins is a Republican, and for three terms he held the office of supervisor. In religious faith, he attends the Universalist Church, and is a consistent Christian. Socially, he belongs to the G. A. R. Post at Weston, and April 28, 1870, was made a Master Mason in Grand Rapids Lodge No. 289, F. & A. M., Grand Rapids, Ohio, of which lodge he is still a member. He has resided on his present farm since 1855, though he bought it in 1843, and is known and beloved throughout the community, of which he may be called "one of the old land marks." His life has been one of useful endeavor, marked by integrity of purpose, upright dealing and a belief in the Fatherhood of God, and the brotherhood of humanity; and, now that for him the shadows are lengthening, he can look back over the eventful years with the consciousness of work well-done, and a trust that the future will bring him the reward promised to those who are faithful to the end.

**RICHARD PRIEST.** Among the leading farmers of Troy township is the subject of this sketch, whose name stands high on the military records of the Civil war, as well as in the annals of Wood county. By perseverance and industry in this locality he has gained a foothold in the world. He is a self-made man, having reached his present prosperous condition by his continual struggles from youth. He is pleasantly located on a tract of five acres in Section 28, Troy township, adjoining the village of Luckey. On his arrival in Wood county, in 1854, he located in Webster township, where he owns sixty-four acres of fertile and highly cultivated land.

Mr. Priest was born in Little Milton, Oxford-

shire, England, in 1842, and is a son of James and Harriet (Wyatt) Priest, both natives of the same shire, and on coming to the New World located in Webster township, Wood county, in 1854, but later removed to Perrysburg township. In the former township, however, the father died in 1881, and his wife passed away in February, 1893. In their family were seven children—John, a resident of Webster township, who was in the one-hundred-day service during the Rebellion; Richard, of this review; Charley, of Webster township; William, who was born in this county, and also makes his home in Webster township; Mary, who died in Wood county; Mrs. Ann Walker, of Michigan; and Mrs. Rachel Flowers, of New Zealand.

Our subject was about twelve years of age when he left his native land and came to Wood county, and being reared upon a farm has always followed that vocation. While quietly assisting his father, the Civil war broke out, and, filled with patriotic ardor for his adopted country, he enlisted at Perrysburg in August, 1862, becoming a member of Company D, 111th Regiment O. V. I., for three years or until the close of the struggle. He was assigned to the army of the Tennessee, and participated in the following battles—Stone River, Huff's Ferry, Lenoir, Campbell's Station, siege of Knoxville, Ft. Saunders, Dandridge, Strawberry Plains, Blain's Cross Roads, Rocky Face, Resaca, Pumpkinvine Creek, Burnt Hickory, Lost Mountain, Kenesaw Mountain, Nickajack Creek, Chattahoochee River, Decatur, Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta, Utoy Creek, Jonesboro, Stone Mountain, Allatoona, Duck River, Franklin, Nashville, Ft. Anderson, Town Creek, and Raleigh. He was twice slightly wounded, and received an honorable discharge at Salisbury, N. C., and was paid off at Cleveland, Ohio, in July, 1865.

In Perrysburg township, Wood county, Mr. Priest was married, in 1867, to Miss Mary Fletcher, a native of Medina county, Ohio, and a daughter of John and Mary Fletcher, both born in England. On coming to this country they first located in Medina county, but their last days were spent in Webster township, this county. Seven children grace the union of our subject and his wife—Mrs. Celina M. Myers, of Fostoria, Ohio; Mrs. Emma Limbach, who makes her home with our subject; Robert H., of Dunbridge; Ada, now Mrs. Noss, of Luckey; Ella J.; Clara G.; and Ruth R.

Mr. Priest is a strong adherent of the principles of the Republican party, and in Webster township served as a member of the school board.

Both he and his wife are genial, hospitable people, whose pleasant ways have greatly endeared them to the entire neighborhood, and are faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He takes quite a prominent part in Grand Army circles, belonging to Pemberville Post No. 26, G. A. R., and has attended the National Encampments at Columbus, Milwaukee, Detroit, Boston, Washington, Indianapolis and Louisville.

**CALEB ROOT.** This gentleman is accredited with the ownership of one of the best farms in Troy township, in Section 13, where he located in 1857. It comprises 130 acres, and was then partially improved. It is now well supplied with good and substantial farm buildings, and the machinery is fully in keeping with the enterprise of the proprietor, who also owns another excellent tract of 112 acres on the north side of the ridge, in Section 1, Troy township; also eighty acres in Section 12, and seventy-five on the south side of the pike, making in all nearly 400 acres of rich and fertile land. Besides general farming he also engages in stock-raising, having some fine animals on his place, and this branch of industry proves a profitable source of income. Upon his land are seven good oil wells, which have an abundant flow.

Mr. Root came to this county from Milan township, Erie Co., Ohio, the place of his nativity, having there first seen the light on October 27, 1831. In 1821, soon after reaching his majority, his father, Hiram Root, who was a native of Connecticut, located in Erie county, where he married Parthena Tillotson, who was born in the Empire State. In Milan township, that county, his father opened up a farm, which he operated until his death in 1868, and there his wife also died at the ripe old age of eighty-two years. In their family were five children who grew to maturity—Orrin, who died in Erie county in 1882; Eunice, wife of Elias Hughes, of Huron county, Ohio; Eliza, wife of Elisha Hughes, of Erie county; Caleb, of this sketch; and Mrs. Mary Huyck, who makes her home in the West.

The subject of this review was brought up a farmer, receiving his education in the schools of Erie county, where he remained until twenty-five years of age, when he came to Wood county, and located upon his present farm. In his native township he was married in 1857, to Miss Martha Jane Nichols, who was born in Oxford township, Erie county, and was a daughter of Enoch and Catherine (Horton) Nichols, both natives of New York. At an early day they had made a settlement in Erie county, where they departed this

life. Mrs. Root was called to her final rest in 1888, leaving four children, namely: Mrs. Etta Hanson, of Woodville, Ohio; Arthur, of the same place; and Horton and Erma, twins, who are both at home. In 1889, in Troy township, Mr. Root was again married, the lady of his choice being Miss Anna Marsh, who was born in Lake township, Wood county, where at an early day had located her parents, Luke and Sarah Marsh. Her father is now deceased, and her mother makes her home upon the farm in Lake township. Two children bless this union, Edward and Grace.

Mr. Root uses his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Republican party, and by his fellow citizens has been called upon to fill the offices of town clerk and justice of the peace of Troy township, where he has made his home for almost forty years, during which time he has taken an active interest in the advancement of the locality. His pleasant, courteous manners have attracted to him many warm friends, and he has the respect of all with whom he comes in contact.

**C. D. STEARNES**, a son of Justus and Mary (Hall) Stearnes, and who resides in Perry township, is in no whit behind his brothers in "push," energy or capacity, for any amount of labor necessary to accomplish the desired result. He perpetuates the characteristics of the family for thrift and prosperity, and is a wide-awake, up-to-date man, public-spirited, and a citizen of whom any community might be justly proud. His integrity has never been questioned, and his good management has brought him merited success.

Mr. Stearnes was born June 14, 1856, in the "old stone house," which stands in Section 14, and was his father's residence for many years. It now belongs to J. D. Stearnes, one of the sons. During his youth our subject attended the district schools of his locality, and then learned the rudiments of agriculture under his father, whose excellent ideas on the subject he has since practiced with beneficial results. At various times he assisted his father in carrying out contracts for ditching, but most of his time until his marriage was spent on the farm.

On February 7, 1878, Mr. Stearnes was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth (daughter of William and Anna (Van Nemon) Courtney), who was born in Hancock county, Ohio, April 13, 1858. This union has been blessed with the following children: Sylva, born January 22, 1879; Jay J., born October 5, 1880; William A., born February 9, 1882; Orrin C., born Novem-

ber 23, 1883; and Joseph H., born September 10, 1886. After his marriage Mr. Stearnes bought from his father 107 acres of land in Section 14, Perry township, and moved a former school house onto it, as there were no buildings of any kind thereon, and there made his home until December 1, 1884, at which time he returned to the old homestead, working a portion of his father's farm for the succeeding five years. He then went back to his first farm, where he resided until August, 1891, at that time taking up his residence on the old Thomas Beach place, which he purchased in 1891, and where he now lives. He has remodeled the house, built a good barn, and otherwise improved the place. He has recently bought the E. O. Meaks place of forty acres in Perry township, and now has 224 acres of land, and is considered one of the best and most progressive farmers in the township. In politics Mr. Stearnes is a stanch Republican, and he is ever ready to work for the interests of his party and for the good of the community. He served one year as assessor, and was a constable for two or three years, filling these offices with much ability and to the satisfaction of the public.

S. E. WAGONER, a progressive and enterprising farmer, and assistant postmaster at Stony Ridge, was born on October 17, 1856, on the farm where he still resides in Lake township. His parents, Joseph and Eliza (Conrad) Wagoner, are both natives of Pennsylvania, and the father is a son of Samuel and Catherine (Shook) Wagoner, who were also born in Pennsylvania, and about 1849 came to Lake township, Wood county, where they passed their remaining days.

The subject of this biographical notice received his education in the schools of Perrysburg township, Wood county, and was reared upon the home farm. In early manhood he commenced agricultural pursuits for himself, but has also been connected with other lines of business, being interested in the manufacture of tile at Stony Ridge. His fine farm of fifty acres in Lake township is one of the best in the locality, the fields are well tilled and the whole appearance of the place indicates the thrift and energy of the owner.

On March 31, 1896, Mr. Wagoner was united in marriage with Miss Carrie E., only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Metzger, of Troy township, the ceremony having been performed by the Rev. John Born, of St. John's Lutheran Church, at Stony Ridge, the marriage taking place at the residence of the bride's parents.

Mr. Wagoner takes quite an interest in political affairs, voting with the Republican party, and at present is serving as assistant postmaster of Stony Ridge. The cause of education finds in him a warm friend, and as a member of the board of education he does much for its advancement. He has also acted as supervisor of Lake township, and been a member of the board of election. Religiously he is connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and socially belongs to Fort Meigs Lodge No. 774, I. O. O. F.

J. C. WITMORE, a successful farmer and a self-made man of Perry township, was born September 1, 1839, in Franklin county, Penn., son of Jonathan and Catharine (Cover) Witmore.

When a boy Jonathan Witmore was bound out to a Mr. Cridler, and learned the shoemaker's trade. After serving his apprenticeship he followed his trade, and often worked nearly all night, sleeping but an hour or two. He received two shillings a day at day labor. In the fall of 1850 he and his family of six children came to Wood county in a large covered wagon, "Pennsylvania style," spending seventeen days *en route*. They located in Perry township, on eighty acres of land in Section 1, for which the father paid \$1,025. He had nearly \$1,000, but as utensils were needed he spent part of the money for them, and went into debt for his farm, which was then in its primitive state.

Mr. Witmore was married twice in Pennsylvania, his first wife bearing him two children, one of whom died in infancy; the other, Malinda, married John Myers, and died in Wood county, Ohio. For his second wife he wedded Catherine Cover, by whom he had seven children, viz.: One died in childhood; A. B. is a farmer of Perry township; J. C. is our subject; Henry E. is a resident of Hancock county; Jacob is a German Baptist Brethren minister in McPherson, Kans.; David is a farmer in Webster township; Martha married Jackson Seaman, of Toledo, and died in Fostoria in 1891. For his third wife Mr. Witmore took Miss Susan Smith, who was born in Carroll county, Md., November 29, 1823, daughter of Solomon and Elizabeth (Friese) Smith; the former of whom died when Susan was five years old. In the fall of 1833 the widow came to Seneca county with six children, all girls. They drove all the way from Maryland, locating near Melmore, Seneca county, where Susan was reared and attended the public schools. Mr. Witmore had four children by this wife, namely: Elizabeth A., now Mrs. Jacob Smith, of Cleveland, Tenn.; Mary A., who mar-

ried John Castret, of Tennessee; John P., living in the West, and Hattie O., wife of John England, of Perry township.

Jonathan Witmore died July 1, 1886, and is buried in Center, Perry township; since his death his widow has been living on the farm of eighty acres left by him. She is a member of the German Baptist Brethren Church, and is one of the highly respected ladies of Perry township. Mr. Witmore was never certain of his age, as his parents died when he was quite young, and he lived with strangers until he became a young man. He had a cruel master to work for, and was often obliged to get out of bed at night and go to work, his employer taking great delight in thus abusing him. His opportunities for education were few; he attended school but little, and secured what knowledge he possessed by reading and studying at home. In political sentiment he was a Democrat, but he seldom voted. He was a minister in the German Baptist Church, and just before his death was ordained an elder in that denomination. He was a self-made man, active and industrious, and through his own efforts he became comfortably situated in life.

Our subject was a boy when he came to Wood county, and he received a rather limited schooling. Work was plentiful, and he was kept busy tramping out grain and separating it by hand. At the age of fifteen he had a desire for more schooling, and prepared himself by studying at night, later attending a select school at West Millgrove taught by Alfred Kelley. When nineteen years old he began teaching on his own account, continuing in that occupation for five terms in Wood and Seneca counties. He was united in marriage, November 29, 1862, in Seneca county, to Miss Mary A. Krabill, who was born in that county, February 10, 1843, daughter of John and Hannah (Bear) Krabill, the former of whom was a native of Stark county, Ohio, and was a preacher and elder in the German Baptist Church; the mother was born in Pennsylvania. They had nine children—four sons and five daughters—of whom two sons died when young; the other two are also ministers in the German Baptist Church, and the eldest is an elder. Mr. Witmore settled on his father's old farm in Perry township, which he rented for two years and then purchased. For a while he and his brother A. B. worked it in partnership, but he finally bought his brother out, and has carried it on alone ever since. He has 140 acres of excellent farm land, on which he is successfully and profitably engaged in general farming, and there are two oil wells on the place. In July, 1862,

Mr. Witmore joined the German Baptist Church, and is at present an elder and licensed minister, being ordained elder in 1880, and receiving his license to preach about 1865.

Mr. Witmore is a well-informed man, obtaining his education by constant study and application. He is a valuable citizen, and a kind-hearted, hospitable man, always ready to help the needy, in which work he is cheerfully seconded by his excellent wife. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Witmore, as follows: John H., a farmer of Perry township, who lost his left arm in a corn husker, November 25, 1894; Samantha M., now Mrs. William Caskey, of Perry; Jonathan A., a farmer of Hancock county; and Hattie B., who died when eight months old.

EDWIN FARMER, the able and efficient superintendent of the Wood County Infirmary, was born December 16, 1838, at Wantage, Berkshire, England, where his ancestors had lived for more than two hundred years, engaged in the business of cattle dealing and butchering.

His grandfather, John Farmer, married a Miss Stagg, and reared a family of four children: Charlotte, who never married, and was a nurse in one family for four generations; John (2), our subject's father; Richard, a butcher at Newbury, Berkshire, England, now deceased; and Mary Ann, who never married, and was in service all her life.

John Farmer, the father of our subject, was born in 1804. He married Esther Grimshaw, a native of West Hanney, born in 1805. Both were members of the Church of England. They had six children, a brief record of whom is as follows: (1) Esther married Benjamin Manns, and died in England. (2) Alfred came to America in 1852, was an overseer in Mississippi for three years, and then returned to England; in 1858 he came again, this time accompanied by our subject, with whom he engaged in business in Wood county; he died at Millbury in 1888 at the age of sixty years. (3) Joseph followed the ancestral occupation; he died in England in 1855 aged twenty-six years. (4) Mary Ann married Thomas Marsh, a retired soldier of the British army, and one of the gatekeepers at Regents Park, London. (5) Elizabeth died in infancy. (6) Edwin, our subject, is the youngest. The mother died in 1854. She weighed over five hundred pounds at the time of her death, and her daughter Mary Ann, weighed over three hundred pounds.

Edwin Farmer received a good education in



*Edwin Garner*



*Mrs. Lohie Garner*



the schools of his native village during his boyhood. In 1858 he came to America with his brother, intending to go to the valley of the Red river, in Louisiana, but they decided to locate at Millbury. Here they engaged in the lumber business, making a specialty of railroad ties, for which they filled large orders for the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern railroad. They also furnished the heavy timbers for the first wagon-bridge ever built in Toledo. Mr. Farmer had never been outside of a town until he left home to come to America, and life in the woods was not congenial; but he continued it for ten years, when he returned to his native country on a visit. He was married there, in 1869, to Miss Charlotte Tyrrell, and started with his bride on the way back to America; but after reaching London his aged father, who had long been in ill health, sent him an urgent request to return to him, which he did, remaining until after his father's death, in 1871. In May, 1872, he returned with his wife to Wood county, Ohio, settling at Millbury, and joining his brother on the farm leased by them, in 1859, of A. D. Wait, of Toledo. It may be here mentioned that he and his brother were in partnership from 1855 until 1881, some twenty-six years, with never a written agreement of any kind between them, and always on the best of terms. In 1878 our subject was appointed superintendent of the County Infirmary, and he has now served longer in that capacity than any other man in the State, with one exception.

Mr. and Mrs. Farmer have had six children, as follows: A. B., the well-known deputy sheriff of Wood county; Warren Tyrrell, born December 26, 1872; Joseph, born March 19, 1875, who died at the age of fifteen months; Lottie, born in May, 1877; Annie Lottie, born April 15, 1878, and Rosa E., born June 27, 1880. In politics, Mr. Farmer is a Republican; in religious faith he is a member of the Evangelical Church.

Mrs. Farmer's parents, John and Anna (Andrews) Tyrrell, were both natives of England, and belonged to an old family in their locality. He was a butcher, a farmer, and a hotel-keeper, was parish clerk of the village of Steventon, Berks, for forty years, and is yet living, at the advanced age of ninety-three. The mother died in 1893. They had ten children—five sons and five daughters: two of the sons, Joseph, of Sterling, Kans., and George, of Bowling Green, Ohio, are the only ones who came to America. One sister, Mrs. Meats, is living at Cape Town, South Africa. Two, John and Elizabeth Day, are deceased. Those still living in Old England are:

Mrs. Gerring, at Steventon; Mrs. Butcher, at Wallingford; James, at Leamington, and Henry, in London.

ROBERT L. KEEL, one of the younger representatives of the agricultural interests of Wood county, was born in Seneca county, Ohio, December 13, 1870, and is a son of Henry and Delilah Jane (Keel) Keel, also natives of the Buckeye State. Upon their marriage they located on a farm in Seneca county, and about 1872 came to Wood county, taking up their residence on a forty-acre farm, for which the father had traded a tract of land in Michigan. He died of smallpox in Jackson township about 1875. In the family were two children, the daughter being Mary, now the wife of Bryan Sweet, of Bloomdale, Ohio. Robert L. Keel was only two years of age when he came with his parents to Wood county. He attended the common schools of Hoytville until sixteen years of age, and then gave his attention to farm work. During his childhood he made his home with his mother, who had married, for her second husband, W. M. Clark. In March, 1892, they removed to Arkansas, where they are now living on a farm. Six children were born of that union, namely: Emma, Della, John, Horace, Hattie and Blanche.

By the terms of his father's will our subject inherited the farm, and assumed entire management of the same on attaining his majority. He was also left a house and lot in Hoytville, where he now makes his home. The lady who shares his name and fortunes bore the maiden name of Nettie Looman. She is a native of Wood county, and their marriage, which was celebrated in Liberty township in 1891, has been blessed with one daughter, Lena. In politics, Mr. Keel gives an unfaltering support to the Republican party at State and National elections, but votes regardless of party affiliations at local elections. He is a young man of sterling worth and strict integrity, well known in the community.

HIRAM CUNNING, deceased. Among the men who have been instrumental in the development of the rich resources of Wood county, the subject of this sketch held no unimportant position. He operated one of the model farms of Washington township, and was numbered among the popular citizens of that section. Born in Ridgefield township, Huron Co., Ohio, May 7, 1842, he was a son of Hiram and Keziah (Raymond) Cunning, with whom, at the age of twelve years, he came to Wood county. The schools of Washington township afforded him his educational



privileges, and he remained on the home farm until twenty years of age.

After the breaking out of the Civil war, Mr. Cuning enlisted, August 9, 1862, at Tontogany, in the 111th, O. V. I., under Col. Bond and Capt. McGowen, of Perrysburg, and was mustered in at Toledo. He was placed on provost-guard duty, and after participating in a number of skirmishes was discharged at Columbus, Ohio, April 8, 1863. On returning to Wood county, he lived on his father's homestead until 1865, when he purchased his late farm of eighty acres, which had been partly cleared, but which he greatly improved, setting out an orchard, and small fruit trees and shrubs; besides general farming, he also raised stock for his own use. In politics he voted the straight Republican ticket; served as school director two terms, and for a number of years was cemetery trustee. He affiliated with Walter A. Wood Post, No. 48, G. A. R., of Tontogany, of which he was senior vice-commander; and also held membership with the K. O. T. M., Tent No. 147, of Tontogany. On August 23, 1896, Mr. Cuning died suddenly.

Mr. Cuning was married February 22, 1872, to Ella Tefft, a daughter of L. P. and Phœbe Ann (Adams) Tefft, and to them have come four children: Oreanna, born February 8, 1874, became the wife of S. I. Landers, an agriculturist of Plain township, Wood county, and died of consumption September 28, 1893; Hiram T. was born December 5, 1875; Flavilla was born March 13, 1879; and Irene Myrtle was born July 30, 1883. The three youngest children are still at home. On both the paternal and maternal sides Mrs. Cuning is descended from Gen. Greene, of Revolutionary fame. Her mother's maiden name was Sprague, but as her father died when she was quite young, she took the name of Adams, that of her step-father, who was a descendant of President John Quincy Adams. She belonged to the Sprague family of New York. Mr. and Mrs. Tefft were married in May, 1851, and four children blessed their union—one who died in infancy; Florence G., who died while young; Lorin P., also deceased; and Mrs. Cuning, who was born in Perrysburg, Ohio, January 20, 1854. Her father was a member of the "Squirrel Hunters," and during the Civil war manifested his patriotism by enlisting in the Union army as a member of the "hundred-day men."

JOHN BAKER, a contractor and farmer of Wood county, was born in Center township, Carroll Co., Ohio, June 11, 1829. His parents were John and Clarissa (Hill) Baker, the former

of whom was a native of Maryland, and the latter from Vermont. They were married in what is now West Virginia, and, in 1818, came to Carroll county when it was a portion of three other counties.

The father lived in Carroll county until 1836, and then moved to Big Spring township, to which place he went by wagon, the journey of one hundred and fifty miles consuming a week. Mr. Baker owned 160 acres of land in Carroll county which he sold for \$1,800, and bought a section of land in Seneca county, which was then in a primitive state. Their first home was in an old school house, where they lived for a while, and then Mr. Baker built a log house at the west end of his farm, and the following children were born: William, who died in Gratiot county, Mich. He was a farmer, and when a boy killed 111 deer the first winter the family was in Seneca county; Mary married George Bottomfield and lives in California; Levi was a farmer, and died in Hardin county, Ohio, in 1861; Charlotte died young; Lizzie married William Harman, and died in Indiana; James was a miller and a merchant at Lincoln, and died in Indiana; John is our subject; Delilah is now Mrs. Daniel Ragen, of Risingsun. Mr. Baker was a soldier in the war of 1812, and fought at the battle of Fort Meigs. He was a Democrat, and held several minor township offices. He died on his farm in Seneca county, at the age of fifty-three years, and was buried at Big Springs. The widow lived on the farm with her children until 1854, and died in Prophetstown, on Rock river, Ill., aged seventy-three years.

Our subject was a boy when his parents went to Seneca county, and he attended school in a log school house built by the neighbors. The teacher was paid by the parents according to the number of children in each family. Mr. Baker remained at home until after his father's death, when he started out for himself, and wandered around working at various kinds of employment. He began railroading—laying tracks and getting out timbers on the Mad River road, the first one in Ohio. He was for eight years a brakeman, running between Sandusky and Dayton, on the Mad River line. When a boy he worked on the suspension bridge at Wheeling, which was 960 feet long, and for years the largest bridge in the world.

Mr. Baker was married in Big Spring township in 1850, to Miss Louisa Straus, who was born in Sandusky, in 1833, and was a daughter of David Straus, a farmer. The following children were born: Emily, who was married to

David Kelly, and after his death wedded James Gangway, of Fort Wayne, Ind., now also deceased. She has three children: Almon, of whom see sketch elsewhere; George H., of Risingsun, who has four children; Jane is now Mrs. Samuel Sheller, of Muncie, Ind., and they have two children. Mrs. Baker died in 1863, while our subject was in the army, and is buried in Prairie Depot. Mr. Baker was again married, his second wife being Miss Mary M. Hale, who died in 1869, and was buried in Hancock county. Our subject's present wife was a Miss Catherine Wonders.

On March 22, 1861, Mr. Baker came to Montgomery township from Patterson, Hardin county, where he lived on a farm for three years. He bought 160 acres of land in Section 23, Montgomery township, and went in debt to the extent of \$1,500. In August, 1861, he enlisted in Co. B, 57th O. V. I., as a wagoner, was taken prisoner at Shiloh in April, 1862, but escaped and returned to his regiment, with which he remained until he was again captured at Wolf River, with seventeen other teamsters, after being pursued for forty miles. While in the enemy's camp news came in December, 1862, of the burning, by Federals, of the little town of Rowley, Tenn., near which they were encamped. The Confederate officer in charge of our subject and his fellow prisoners, swore that if the report was true he would hang six of his prisoners, and for a day each one expected to be one of the doomed six. They were paroled after two days, and our subject still has the Rebel parole that is given him. He joined his regiment at once, regardless of the parole in his inside pocket, which meant death if again captured by the Confederates. This was unfortunately his fate a short time later at Milligan's Bend, Miss. He was taken to Pine Bluff, Ark., and placed in jail, where he remained for eight days. He was tried as a spy, but was liberated and compelled to travel 600 miles through Arkansas. After much suffering from fatigue and hunger, having nothing to eat but corn, he finally struck the Mississippi river, 100 miles north of Cairo, Ill., came on to Ohio, and paid a visit home. He reported in parole camp at Cole, Ohio, and watched his chance to leave. He went out with men going to join Rosecrans at Nashville, but at Louisville he was returned to Cole, then exchanged and joined his regiment in Alabama, where he again took a team and followed with Sherman all through the war, and was present at the grand review in Washington. He was not discharged until August, 1865, at Little

Rock, Ark., when he came home, and has since been engaged in building bridges throughout Wood county, and in farming. For over two years he was at Risingsun, where he built a hotel, and was in that business during his stay there. He was a Democrat, but of late has not been a partisan. He and his wife are members of the Disciples Church.

Mr. Baker comes of a good family, and is a self-made man, and although well along in years he is in excellent condition, both mentally and physically. He is a respected citizen, and is in comfortable circumstances.

WILLIAM L. BROWNELLER, a highly-respected and public-spirited citizen of Wood county, is a native of Pennsylvania, his birth having occurred in Fayette county, September 28, 1860. His father was also born there, and was a son of Samuel Browneller. The father, Frederick Browneller, was a farmer by occupation, and in Fayette county married Margaret Springer, whose birth also occurred there. They were residents of their native locality until 1870, when they removed to Hancock county, Ohio, where the father purchased 120 acres of land in Liberty township, and afterward added to it an additional tract of forty acres. In 1887 the parents removed to Findlay, Ohio, and their son David is now carrying on the old homestead. They were parents of the following named children: Mary, wife of Ellis Foltz, who is living near Findlay; William L.; James, a farmer of Hancock county; David, on the old homestead; Sarah, wife of Jacob Rada-baugh, of Hancock county; Elizabeth, wife of Charles Conaway, of Hancock county; Joseph, Callie and Flora, at home.

Our subject was only nine years of age when his parents removed to Hancock county. He began his education in his native county, and afterward attended the district schools of Ohio. He completed his education by attendance one term in the Fostoria Academy, attendance two terms at the Findlay High School, and also two terms at the Ada Normal School, at Ada, Ohio. He then returned home and began farming.

In Findlay, on the 7th of February, 1882, Mr. Browneller was joined in wedlock with Miss Elizabeth Bolton, who was born in Hancock county, August 8, 1861, a daughter of Michael Bolton, deceased. Mr. Browneller brought his bride to Wood county, and settled on a farm of 153 acres belonging to his father, whereon he resided for seven years. He then purchased his present farm, comprising seventy-nine acres in Jackson township, and since taking up his resi-

dence here has erected a fine home, built good barns, and made other excellent improvements which add to the value and attractive appearance of the place. He is widely recognized as one of the leading and substantial agriculturists of Wood county. The home has been blessed with five children, but Clyde and Mabel are now deceased. The others are Gracie, Earl and Flossie, all under the parental roof.

In his political affiliations, Mr. Browneller is a stalwart Republican; but has neither time nor inclination for public office. He is an active member of the Church of God, of which he is now serving as elder, and has been superintendent of the Sunday-school.

J. H. RHEINFRANK, M. D., a leading physician and surgeon of Perrysburg, was born September 28, 1840, in Bridgewater, Michigan.

His grandparents, Zachariah and Margaret Rheinfrank, were natives of Bavaria, where John Rheinfrank, father of our subject, was born. The family came to the United States about the year 1830, and located at Detroit. John Rheinfrank was for several years engaged there in mercantile pursuits, but later retired to a farm near Bridgewater, where he spent his remaining days. He was twice married, first to Miss Elizabeth Lindenschmidt, from which marriage resulted four children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the eldest. The brother, George A., lives at the old homestead; one sister, Martha, has her home near Bridgewater; the other sister, Amelia, died in early youth. After the death of his first wife, the father married Christina Gruber, and to this union three children were born, all of whom are now living in Michigan.

Our subject attended the graded schools of Ypsilanti in his boyhood, and there early evinced a proficiency in the different lines of study which he pursued. In 1861, he graduated from the classical course of the Ypsilanti schools, and entered the literary department of the University of Michigan. At the outbreak of the war of the Rebellion, he made full preparations to go to the front; but on account of ill health was prevented from enlisting. In 1862, he was enrolled in the Medical Department at Ann Arbor, and two years later, 1864, took his degree of M. D., from that institution. Soon afterward, the Doctor came to Perrysburg, with the intention of making that place his future home, and the scene of his professional career. He endured the usual discouragements of a young practitioner in a strange city, but his high character and mental abilities soon won him a fine standing, as a citizen,

while his thorough training secured him a practice which grew with the passing years.

Dr. Rheinfrank had not long been launched upon the high road of life when he married Miss Sophia W. Bruckner, a native of Monroe, Mich., and a lady of fine mental gifts and culture. The education of their four children has been the leading object of their lives, and they may well be proud of their efforts. Eva, who was very recently married to C. G. Lampman, of Buffalo, supplemented her fine literary education by a course in music at the Oberlin Conservatory; W. H. graduated from the Medical Department of the University of Michigan, and is now practicing with his father; George B. has studied two years at the same University, and is at present pursuing a course in architecture, to be completed at Philadelphia; and Frederick Eugene has embarked upon a six-years' schooling in the Law and Literary Departments at Ann Arbor.

Dr. Rheinfrank is a man of broad and generous views, interested in all the questions of the day, and thoroughly alive to every progressive movement in his profession. He is fond of literature, and speaks German and English with equal fluency. In politics, he is a Democrat, having always upheld the principles of true Democracy. He belongs to the fraternal orders of the F. & A. M. and the K. of P., and is a member of the Wood county, Northwestern Ohio, Ohio State, and American and International Medical Societies.

GEORGE W. SNYDER, a thrifty and successful farmer residing in Section 32, Lake township, was born in Liverpool, Medina Co., Ohio, January 14, 1846, and is a son of Adam and Margaret (Snyder) Snyder, both natives of Bavaria, Germany, the former born in November, 1800, and the latter in 1809. After their marriage in their native land, they came to America in 1832, locating first at Liverpool, Medina Co., Ohio, in the midst of a forest, and on that farm continued to live until coming to Troy township, Wood county, in 1855. They made a settlement on the Maumee & Western Reserve Pike, where their remaining years were passed, the father dying in 1879, and the mother in June, 1891, in her eighty-second year. In early life they were members of the Reformed Church, but later became connected with the Lutheran denomination, while in politics, Mr. Snyder was a Democrat. To them were born the following children: Mary, deceased wife of William Zacharias; Adam and Daniel, who are both married, and reside on the Maumee & Western Reserve Pike; Frederick,



John H. Rheinfrank  
M.D.



of Michigan; Jacob, of Woodville, Ohio; Catherine; Caroline, wife of William Gartman, of South Cleveland, Ohio; George W.; Lucien, of Troy township; David, of Paulding county, Ohio; and Henry, who is still living on the old homestead in Troy township.

Educated in a primitive school house, reared on a farm, with its usual hardships and privations, were the marked features of the early life of our subject. At the age of ten years he had accompanied his parents to Wood county, where he continued his studies, which had been begun in Medina county. He also learned the trade of a carpenter, at which he worked in Perrysburg for a number of years, and was also employed at the same occupation throughout the county until his marriage.

On September 9, 1871, Mr. Snyder was married to Miss Lucy Goss. She was born in April, 1845, on the farm now owned and occupied by our subject, and is a daughter of John and Hannah (Lewis) Goss, both natives of England, who were among the pioneers of Lake township, where the father died in 1871, at the age of sixty-six years, and the mother in 1882, at the age of eighty-two years. They were faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in their family were four children: William, of Troy township; Louis, who resides in Lucas county, near Toledo, Ohio; Mary E., wife of Frederick Snyder; and Lucy, wife our subject. Mr. and Mrs. Snyder have one child, Elsie E., who is attending school. They also reared his nephew, A. G. Snyder, who now practices medicine in Toledo, Ohio. He was educated by our subject, who also sent him to medical college, and gave him a lot in Toledo which he owned.

Mr. Snyder devotes his attention to general farming, and having a large amount of industry, perseverance and energy, has made a noble record as an agriculturist, and stands to-day one of the substantial and reliable citizens of the county. Besides his valuable farm, he also owns city property in Toledo. In his political faith he is a staunch and unswerving Democrat; socially is connected with the Masonic fraternity; and religiously is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Stony Ridge, this county.

FREDERICK HERRINGSHAW has been a resident of Wood county since the age of four years, and that his life is a well-spent one is indicated by the fact that those who have known him from boyhood are numbered among his staunchest friends. He was born in Huron county, Ohio, May 19, 1856, and is a son of John and Mary A.

(Lyon) Herringshaw. He is indebted to the district schools of Liberty township for his educational privileges, and his first teacher was a Mr. Woodbury, an excellent instructor, and a strict disciplinarian. He left school at the age of eighteen, and afterward devoted his entire attention to the work of the home farm until his marriage.

In Findlay, Ohio, September 13, 1883, Mr. Herringshaw was joined in wedlock with Nora B. Needham a native of Ohio, born September 29, 1863, and a daughter of Amos and Jennie (Edgar) Needham. Her mother died when Mrs. Herringshaw was a small child, and she was reared by strangers, being an inmate of the home of Mr. Dirk, of North Baltimore, at the time of her marriage. Four children have been born to our subject and his wife, namely: John, who was born July 21, 1884; William Frederick, born May 17, 1887; Lula Viola, born June 9, 1892, and Frederick Merl, born August 8, 1896.

Prior to his marriage, Mr. Herringshaw had purchased ninety-seven acres of land upon which he has since resided, forty acres lying in Liberty township, the remaining fifty-seven acres in Henry township. He has made all the improvements upon the place, has cleared his farm of indebtedness, and is to-day numbered among the substantial citizens of the community. His political support is given the Republican party, but he has never sought office. His wife is a member of the United Brethren Church, of Wingston. The cause of education finds in Mr. Herringshaw a warm friend, and he is a thorough gentleman, possessed of many excellent qualities.

JAMES STRATSBERY, a prominent agriculturist and fruit-grower of Weston township, was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, March 15, 1830, and is the son of Napoleon B. and Mary (Lowe) Stratsbery.

The father of our subject was born in Virginia, of English parentage, and when a young man took up his residence in Guernsey county, Ohio, where he followed farming, and where he was married. Fifteen children were born to him, of whom James is the eldest; the others in the order of their births are as follows: Robert resides in Indiana; Rosanna, wife of Thomas Westbrook, resides in Brown county, Ind.; Ebenezer is a farmer in Wisconsin; Margaret is the wife of Joseph Shipman, of Weston; William is a farmer in Weston township; Mahlon is a resident of Brown county, Ind.; Elizabeth is the wife of David Kesster, and lives in Michigan; Finlay is a resident of Brown county, Ind.; Joshua is residing in Brown county, Ind.; Sarah Ann (Mrs. John

Palmer) lives in Noble county, Ohio; Wesley is deceased; the other three died in infancy. The father of this large family died in Mercer county, Ohio, in 1867, the mother surviving him until 1895.

The subject of this sketch obtained his education in the schools of Noble county, Ohio, and was there employed at the breaking out of the Civil war. In the fall of 1861 he enlisted in Company K, 40th O. V. I., under Col. Cramer and Capt. Knapp. The family of Napoleon Stratsbery was well represented in the Union ranks—the father and four sons (James, Robert, Ebenezer and Finlay) all becoming soldiers, and serving throughout the war. Among the battles in which our subject participated were those of Middle Creek and Sand River, at the latter of which he was wounded in both legs, and was sent to the hospital, from which he was discharged in 1863. After recovering from his severe injuries Mr. Stratsbery went to Cambridge, Ohio, and engaged in the manufacture of corn-shellers, in which he met with good success. Later he went into the manufacture of brooms and lath, subsequently taking up contracting on railroad work, building ditches, etc. Among the contracts he carried out were the Jackson cut-off, the construction of six miles of the Nickel Plate, six miles of grading on the Coldwater railway, and six miles on the P. F. & W. railway. In 1879 he purchased twenty-five acres of land in Weston township, to which he has added by degrees until he now owns 115 acres, and has become one of the largest fruit and berry growers in the county. His place is finely improved, having on it a handsome residence, as well as capacious barns and outbuildings, and in the summer season, when luscious berries tempt the palate, and, later, the autumn fruits hang heavy on the boughs, it is a delightful spot to visit. The well-known hospitality of the owner and his interesting family draws to his pleasant home a large circle of friends and acquaintances, and many pleasant reunions take place there.

Mr. Stratsbery has been twice married, first time in Guernsey county, Ohio, April 16, 1851, to Miss Mary A. Stoner, and they had four children, only one of whom is now living. A brief record of them is as follows: Flora died when seventeen years old; Ernest E., who was a farmer and speculator in land bonds, and loaned money, died in Wyandot county, Ohio, in 1892; Joseph was a professor of elocution in Valparaiso, Ind., and died in 1888; Foster is a baggage-master on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, at Burlington, Iowa. The mother of

these children passed away in 1865, and July 1, 1866, Mr. Stratsbery was married, in Weston, to Miss Anna Lingo, who was born January 7, 1842, and six children have blessed their union: James, a farmer in Weston township; John W., assisting his father in the management of his property, and is an energetic and enterprising young man who has a bright future before him; Fred; Gertrude; and Mary Grace, who died when nine years of age.

Mr. Stratsbery is a Republican in politics, and is a loyal citizen. He is a prominent member of the G. A. R., belonging to Neibling Post, No. 20, at Weston. He is affiliated with the Masonic Lodge at Weston, and has taken the third degree; belongs, also, to the I. O. O. F. and Encampment, and to the K. of P., and he and his wife are members of the Order of Rebekah. Mrs. Stratsbery is also a member of the Woman's Relief Corps, and of the Aid Society, in all these organizations taking a prominent part, and being well known for her efficiency and executive ability.

Mr. and Mrs. Stratsbery have witnessed many changes in their lives, and have taken no small part in the progress and growth of the community in which they have so long resided. They are now seeing the results of their labors, and, in the midst of their family and large number of friends, are enjoying a quiet and comfortable life, conscious that their best efforts have been given to their country and their fellowmen.

PETER NYSWANDER, a pioneer farmer of Weston township, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, September 6, 1834. The father of our subject, Christian Nyswander, was born in Berne, Switzerland, and came to this country with his parents when he was twelve years of age, they settling in Fairfield county. He married Elizabeth Deering, and six children were born to them as follows: Peter; Mary, who is the wife of Levi Simons, of Bloom township; John E., who died in Bloom township; Sarah, who married Adam Rettick, and lives in Florida, Henry Co., Ohio; Reuben, a resident of Napoleon, Ohio; and Jennie, who married John Long, a merchant of Paulding county. The father of our subject removed to Milton township, Wood county, buying and afterward selling 160 acres of land, thence going to Missouri, where he remained six years, at the end of which time he returned to Bloom township. His death occurred December 31, 1893, at Florida, Henry Co., Ohio. The mother died in Bloom township in 1881.

Peter Nyswander went to school in Milton

township in the old log school house, which was the temple of learning in those early days, and was instructed in the branches then taught, which, it is safe to say, did not extend far beyond the "three R's." He worked for his father until he was nineteen years old, and then started in life for himself. For the next six or seven years he was employed in clearing up land for other people, at the close of that period buying sixty acres of unimproved land on which was built a log cabin, and devoted himself to its improvement. In the course of time he added some thirty-two and a half acres to it, and as the result of hard and patient labor he has to-day a valuable property under a good state of cultivation. The log house is supplanted by a handsome residence, and the rude outbuildings by fine barns, while modern machinery lessens the work of the farmer. In this pleasant home Mr. Nyswander is reaping the reward of his early years of hardship and toil, and, with his interesting family about him, is taking life easily and comfortably.

Our subject was married at Napoleon, Ohio, 1871, to Susan Beverson, who was born February 6, 1853. Her father, Samuel Beverson, was a shoemaker by trade, and also followed farming. He married Maria Weaver, and twelve children were born to them. He and his wife, both of whom have reached a good old age, are now living in Fulton county, Ohio.

To Mr. and Mrs. Nyswander six children have been born as follows: Jennie May, April 22, 1872; Sarah E., September 26, 1873; Edward, March 31, 1876; Reuben, January 9, 1878; Ella M., January 18, 1886; and Jacob, April 17, 1889. In politics our subject is a Populist. He has been a school director for a number of terms, and is a man highly regarded by his fellow citizens for his integrity, good common sense and liberal-minded views.

DAVID GIRTON (deceased) was a native of the Keystone State, born in Columbia county, on July 19, 1813, and, as his mother died when he was quite small, he was reared by a maternal aunt. When a young man he removed with relatives to Ashland county, Ohio, where he met the lady who now bears his name. In Orange township, that county, on May 21, 1844, he was united in marriage with Miss Rebecca Fast, who was there born May 7, 1825, and is a daughter of Jacob and Catherine (Rex) Fast. Her paternal grandfather, Christian Fast, was one of the well-known pioneers of Ashland county, in whose life many interesting incidents occurred, which have appeared in print many times. At one time he

was taken by the Indians, and held in captivity for eighteen months.

For seventeen years, Mr. Girton resided in Orange township, Ashland county, and on coming to Wood county, in 1861, was still in debt for his farm of eighty acres there. He was a hard-working, energetic man, and all that he had was secured through his own labors. He drove through to Wood county, bringing his family, which then comprised nine children, and in Perry township purchased eighty acres of land in Section 10, and twenty acres in Section 11. Eight acres of the amount only had been cleared, and the improvements consisted only of a log cabin and pig pen. A heavy growth of timber covered the place, and the land was mostly under water, especially in the spring, the only means of going to the neighbors being to walk on the logs in order to keep from getting wet. Mr. Girton continued to improve and cultivate his land until his death, which occurred April 3, 1869, and his remains were interred at Perry Center. In height he was five feet eight inches, weighed only 135 pounds, was never very strong, and his health was quite poor the last two years of his life. In politics he was a Democrat, and as a citizen had the respect and confidence of all who knew him.

At his death he left the widow with a family of ten children, and a debt of \$600 upon his place. With the help of her sons, Mrs. Girton was able to keep her home, and to-day has 120 acres of as good land as can be found anywhere in the township. The place is neat and thrifty in appearance, the buildings are of substantial character, and all the improvements found thereon have been made by members of the family.

The education of Mrs. Girton was such as the subscription schools of her neighborhood afforded; but at that time it was considered unnecessary for girls to have much of an education. She has reared a family, of which she may justly be proud; her sons have become prominent and enterprising citizens of the various communities in which they reside, while her daughters have become good housekeepers and faithful wives, and they always acted under her instruction, seeking her advice until they started out in life for themselves. Religiously she is connected with the Evangelical Church, and she is one of the most highly respected ladies of Perry township.

Her children are as follows: Perry Girton, born March 14, 1845, lives in Gratiot county, Mich.; Sarah J., born November 12, 1846, is now Mrs. Jonathan Snyder, of Gratiot county, Mich.; John G., born July 19, 1848, is a farmer of Perry township; Mary M., born January 18,



1850, is the wife of George Castrit, of West Millgrove, Ohio; David K., born May 13, 1852, resides in Scott township, Sandusky Co., Ohio; Jacob I., born April 28, 1854, died in Perry township January 23, 1869; Hudson P., born April 1, 1856, lives in Johnson county, Mo.; Wilson W., born February 27, 1858, died March 23, 1883, in Perry township; Martin G., born June 27, 1860, is a farmer of Perry township; and Flora E., born March 16, 1866, is now Mrs. Amos Bowers, of Montgomery township, Wood county.

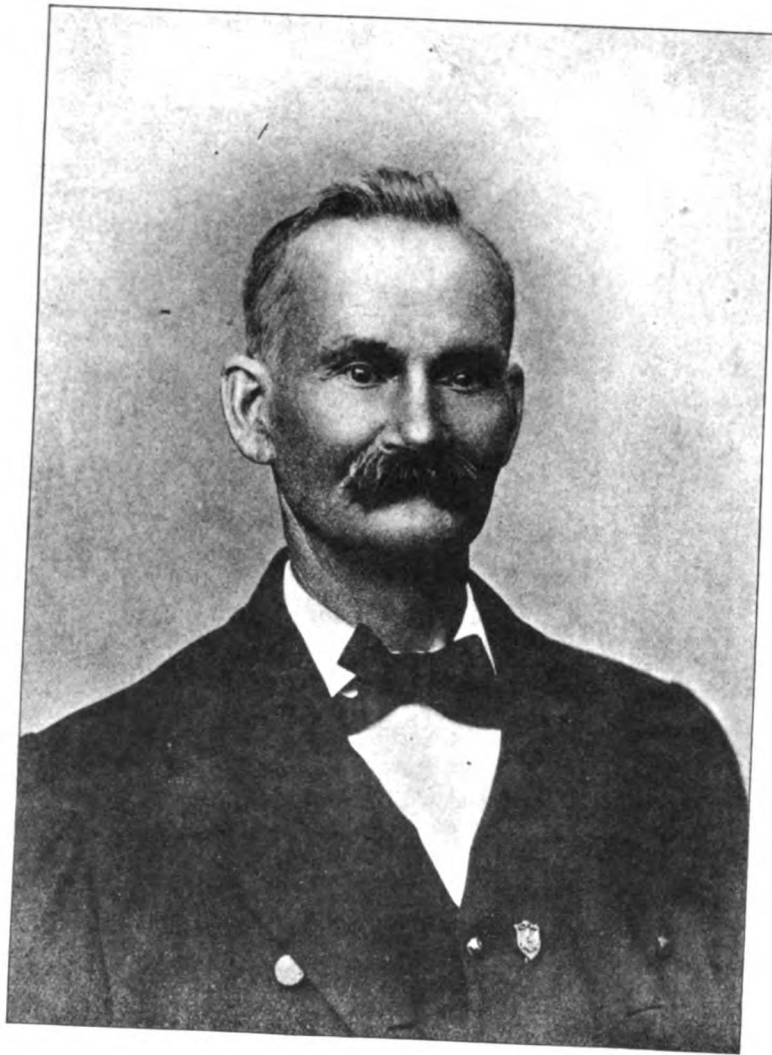
EDWARD W. DE VERNA, one of the honored pioneer settlers of Wood county, was born on Westminster, in London, England, December 14, 1829. Edward De Verna, his father, also born in England, was of French descent. By profession he was a surgeon, and for a number of years governor of a penitentiary. He married Cecelia Sarvis, a native of England, and they became the parents of two sons: Edward W., and Henry A., a farmer of Ottawa county, Ohio. Crossing the Atlantic, the family located in Chatham, county of Kent, Ontario, Canada, where the father was given one thousand acres of land in recognition of services rendered his country. He died there in 1859, surviving his wife six years. George De Verna, grandfather of our subject, was a captain in the British army the greater part of his life; while an uncle, Major Crane, was in the same service, losing a limb at some engagement—in fact many of Mr. De Verna's relatives were military men, and he has inherited not a little of their martial air, being still quite erect, though sixty-seven years old, taking also much delight in drilling a company of cadets at Dunbridge.

Our subject was baptized in the grand and historic structure which has played an important part in England's history—Westminster Abbey. He is entirely self-educated, but is to-day a very well-read man. At the age of twelve he came with his parents to Canada, where he was employed on a farm until 1857, after which he worked his uncle's farm three years on Hull Prairie, in Wood county; he then purchased eighty acres of timber land, and built a log cabin. During those early days the hardships and trials of pioneer life were many and arduous; so much so that he saw his children crying for bread, his wife crying to see them cry, and he himself had nothing; but as time passed he has added to his possessions, and now owns 340 acres of valuable land, much of which lies in Perrysburg township, and is operated by his sons. He erected a fine

residence at a cost of \$3,500, which was destroyed by fire. In 1888 he purchased twenty acres of land in Dunbridge, erected thereon a comfortable dwelling, and now has one of the best improved farms in the locality, in addition to general agriculture, operating a threshing machine, feed-mill, corn-sheller and clover-huller.

In October, 1852, at Chatham, Canada, Mr. De Verna married Eliza Barfoot, who was born in London, England, June 20, 1827. The following is the record of their family: Emma, born September 1, 1854, is the wife of Henry Shubb, of Perrysburg; Frank was born in May, 1856, and Edward in June, 1858; Mary A., born in November, 1860, is the wife of George Chamberlain; Eliza, born in 1863, is the wife of William Cload, an engineer in Michigan; Abraham, born in 1864, is a farmer of Perrysburg township; Florence, born in 1868, is at home; and George B., born in 1871, is an agriculturist of Perrysburg township.

During the war of the Rebellion, Mr. De Verna enlisted in Perrysburg township, September 24, 1862, in Company L, 3rd O. V. V. C., which was attached to the 2nd Brigade, 14th Army Corps. For two years and ten months he faithfully defended the old flag and the cause it represented, being honorably discharged August 4, 1865, at Edgefield, Tenn., having served two years and eleven months. He never lost a day from his regiment owing to sickness, was never wounded or taken prisoner, and, though a private during his entire service, he was often detailed to take charge of small expeditions, thereby seeing much active service. On one of his expeditions he captured two beautiful blooded horses from bushwhackers; on another, he had the pleasure of knocking, with his saber, a horn out of the mouth of a Rebel, who was going to call for help, while Mr. De Verna's comrades were helping themselves in the smoke house. At the battle of Atlanta, he partially lost his hearing. He is a loyal, devoted citizen, a member of the American Protective Association, of Toledo, Ohio, and of the Loyal Orange Association, of Canada; he is also connected with Phoenix Lodge, No. 123, F. & A. M., of Perrysburg. For five years he served on the board of education, and he is a liberal member of the Presbyterian Church of Dunbridge. The day he was married Mr. De Verna commenced to keep a diary of the daily events of his life, which is still unbroken save some leaves he sent home while he was in the army, and which were lost, and a portion destroyed by fire when his home was burned. In his own language we will here



*Edw. W. Deberna*



add what Mr. De Verna says concerning his daily habits, etc.: "When a boy I was selected for a Sabbath-school teacher, and have been superintendent of Sabbath-school nearly forty years, besides being class leader and an elder of the Church during same years. This I had to resign on account of my hearing becoming effected, and am now first Bible class teacher. I have never been intoxicated in my life, nor have I ever been guilty of using or tolerating bad language, or ever swore an oath. I have never smoked a pipe of tobacco, or a cigar, nor have I ever taken a chew of tobacco. I am a lover of home and am beloved by my family, whom I encourage in all that is good, especially music. In my house I have at the present time, and have had for years, music, piano, organ, harp, flute, cornet, solo alto horn, and a violin, on which latter I am accompanied by my daughter on the piano or organ. At one time I was a member of three different bands, but, that life not suiting me, I gave it up. Of my four sons not one drinks, smokes or chews tobacco—God bless them! My youngest daughter has been organist in the Church some two or three years, and is now president of the Christian Endeavor. So much for teaching, and the example set. Their mother is equally good, but more strict. God has blessed and prospered me all through life, and I will close my days with a light and happy heart. These few lines I desire to have perpetuated in print for the benefit of the generations that will follow me."

PERRY C. CHILCOTE, proprietor of the "Chilcote House" at West Millgrove, is one of the best known landlords in Wood county, and his hotel stands in the front rank of the hostleries in the county. "Perry," as he is familiarly called, is one of the most accommodating hosts to be found anywhere, and seems to consider it a pleasure to do a service for a guest. His establishment is complete in every respect, and his good wife, in her turn, leaves nothing undone to make it a pleasant, comfortable home for the weary traveler.

Mr. Chilcote was born February 18, 1841, in Perry township, Wood county, son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Jones) Chilcote. When he was five years old his father was permanently injured. A horse ran away with him, dragging him around a twenty-acre field largely covered with logs and stumps, and fracturing his skull in such a manner that the bone rested upon the brain. He never recovered from the effect of the accident, and his restoration to life was due to the prompt action of his son, James, who, as soon as the

horse was caught, removed the dirt quickly from his father's mouth and nostrils, and breathed into his lungs the breath of life! The accident so completely exhausted Mr. Chilcote that he was unconscious for several days. He was ever afterward tenderly cared for by his wife, to whom this was no small burden, as she had at that time six children needing her constant attention. Soon after this event the family moved to Seneca county, Ohio, where Perry, when eight years old, went to work for his uncle, Gideon Jones, for one shilling per day. When eleven years old he began work on a farm belonging to Israel Nestlerode, here receiving four dollars per month, and he lived with various other farmers, being at home only a small portion of his time, but giving most of his earnings to his parents. He was a strong, robust boy, and physically much superior to the average man. When the Civil war broke out he was working for R. W. Kelly, who made him a most liberal offer: he would give him the use of his best team and all the land that he could farm bear all the expenses, and allow Mr. Chilcote one-third of all the crops he could raise, telling him he would "see him through." But this was no inducement to Perry. He dropped the plow and seized his gun, and on August 15, 1861, was enrolled in Company H, 49th Regiment, O. V. I., and marched away to defend the stars and stripes. He took part in some of the most famous battles of the war, among them those of Stone River, Corinth, Shiloh and Chickamauga. At the latter place he was taken prisoner, and was held as such just fourteen months, during that time seeing terrible hardships in the Rebel prisons of Belle Isle, Richmond, Danville and Andersonville. On November 20, 1864, he was exchanged, and was taken by a vessel from Savannah, Ga., to the parole camp at Annapolis, where he was paroled, after which he returned to Ohio, here receiving his final discharge at Columbus, on January 21, 1865.

The marriage of Mr. Chilcote and Miss Martha J. Harts took place in Montgomery township, January 5, 1867. Mrs. Chilcote was born in Cumberland county, Penn., April 17, 1851, and is the daughter of Conrad and Eliza (McMillen) Harts, who came to Wood county when their daughter was two years old. No children have ever been born to this union. For a short time after his marriage Mr. Chilcote rented a small farm in Montgomery township, and later removed to West Millgrove, where he acted as fireman and engineer in the gristmill of Col. Miles, having learned this business with his brother James. From West Millgrove he went

onto the home farm in Section 26, Perry township, remaining there a year, when he returned to his former home and worked at teaming and farming. He also for several years carried on a shingle factory in company with his brother Marcus D.

On April 21, 1877, Mr. Chilcote assumed the management of the hotel known as the "Millgrove House," which had been conducted by William McCormick. For this property he traded his house and lot in Millgrove, and a balance, which left him over a thousand dollars in debt. The name of the hotel was afterward changed to that of the "Chilcote House," which is now one of the most widely known and popular public houses in northern Ohio. Besides this property Mr. Chilcote owns a house and lot in West Millgrove, and is comfortably fixed financially. He is one of the staunchest Republicans in the county, and an active worker in the interests of his party. He has served as constable of the township. For over twenty-five years he has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and has been a class-leader and superintendent of the Sunday-school. At present he is acting as steward. His wife, who is a most kind-hearted and excellent woman, is also a consistent Methodist. Mr. Chilcote is a member of Conley Post, G. A. R., at West Millgrove.

JOHN MCHENRY was born in the county of Lennox, Canada, in 1846, and is of Irish descent, his father, Daniel McHenry, being a native of County Antrim, Ireland. The name was originally spelled McKendry, and is well-known in the North of Ireland, from which locality the grandfather of our subject, also named John, came at an early day, settling in Canada, and dying at Quebec. Three of his brothers located in Philadelphia, Penn. Daniel McHenry came to America with his father, and made his home in the county of Lennox, Canada, where he purchased a large tract of land and carried on farming the remainder of his life. His wife was Margaret Sixmith, of Queen's County, Ireland. Twelve children were born of this union, of whom the following grew to maturity: Rachel married Patrick McKeller, and lives in Bradford, Penn.; Eliza P. lives on a farm in Canada; John comes next; Charles is engaged in mining in Colorado; James is a farmer in Canada; Mary lives in Chicago, Ill.; and Thomas is a millwright, living in Canada.

The subject of this sketch remained upon his father's farm in Canada until reaching his majority, when he came to the United States and lo-

cated in the oil fields of Pennsylvania. There he found employment as a tool dresser and driller, which occupation he followed for a time, and then came to Ohio and to Wood county, where he has since been employed in tracing and drilling wells, for producers. Since locating in this county, Mr. McHenry's fortune has been varied. At this writing he has a half-interest in a favorable lease in the Portage field, on which are located nine good producing wells. Mr. McHenry is a man of great industry and persistence, and deserves success in life. He is a Populist in politics, and believes in the doctrines of the Free-Soil party. In religious faith he is a Catholic; socially he belongs to the Masonic order. He is popular with all classes, a man of the highest integrity, and possesses the best traits of the warm-hearted, impulsive race from which he sprung. He was married in Canada, November 28, 1871, to Miss Agnes Frizzell, and they have two children: Maggie and Charles.

P. F. CLINE, a prominent farmer and valued citizen of Perry township, was born near Utica, Licking Co., Ohio, November 24, 1832. His parents were John and Phoebe (Fahs) Cline, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania, and the latter in Hampshire county, W. Va., in which latter State they were married.

Some seven or eight years after his marriage, John Cline removed to Licking county, Ohio, in company with two other families, and each man took up a quarter section of land. A little later Mr. Cline and his two friends went bail for a local merchant, who afterward fled the country and left them in the lurch. Mr. Cline's land was seized, and he was left with but one cow and a poor team of horses. The object of these men in taking up land in this section was to improve the country and provide a market which would attract other settlers, the merchant, who treated them so shamefully, having agreed to buy all their products. The advent of the canal, which was soon to be put through, was expected to prove a great feature in the development of the country, and these prosperous settlers, who were all public-spirited men, had thought by their efforts to greatly benefit the community. Frustrated in his efforts, and greatly reduced financially, Mr. Cline removed to Fairfield county, and settled near Lancaster, where he undertook to repair his lost fortune, but only partially succeeded, as the troubles he had seen preyed upon his health, and his death occurred when he was comparatively a young man.

The parental family consisted of twelve chil-

dren, eight boys and four girls, most of whom were old enough to work for themselves, and in this way the family remained together and prospered. They lived in Fairfield county until about 1846, at which time the National pike was being improved through Licking county, and this affording an opportunity for employment for the boys, the family moved to Licking county, settling sixteen miles east of Columbus, where the boys went to work on the great thoroughfare. It was from here that the family scattered and several members passed away, including the mother, three brothers and two sisters. One brother who went to California, in 1849, died there; one sister died in Chicago, and one, at the age of twenty, in Fairfield county, while another brother died in northwestern Illinois. The three children now living are as follows: Our subject; Mollie, now Mrs. John Pevers, of Hardin county, Ohio; Isaac, who lives near Columbus Grove, in Hancock county, Ohio. The father of this family was six feet tall, and a strongly built man. He had poor advantages for book learning in early life, but had a wonderful memory and a good practical education.

When a boy our subject worked on the farm of his father, turning his hand to whatever he could find to do. At one time he hauled stone chips, which were made in dressing stone while the State house in Columbus was being built, which chips were used in making repairs on the National pike. Later he attended school at Ætna, Licking county, where he had excellent opportunities for learning, which he improved to good advantage. When seventeen years old he began to learn the carpenter's trade under Jacob Schaff, of Ætna, with whom he worked for over two years. After working for several years at his trade in different counties in Ohio, Mr. Cline left the State, going, in about 1854, to Chicago. He had been there but a short time when the cholera broke out, the deaths averaging some four hundred a day. The principal remedy at this time for this dread disease was the essence of peppermint and brandy, which was found to be very efficacious. Owing to this epidemic Mr. Cline did not remain in Chicago, but returned to Ohio, making his home for a time in Adrian, Seneca county, where he remained until 1856. He then went to Kansas, and was there during the stirring times caused by the Abolition troubles. He took an active part himself in some of the events, and once rode ninety miles without a dismount, being closely pursued by a number of outlaws.

Subsequently Mr. Cline went to St. Louis, where he worked at his trade, afterward going to

Kansas City, where he did considerable work on the first bridge which was built across the Kansas river from that city to Wyandotte city. Kansas City was then a small place, having but one hotel. The following winter he spent in the South, going as far as New Orleans, where he worked at his trade. He also traveled over the State of Missouri, and on his return worked throughout the State of Ohio. He made good wages by this roving way of living, and spent his money as easily as it was earned. The winter of 1858-59 he also spent in the South, and near Vicksburg built a house for a wealthy Southern planter. He spent his time in this way, working in the South during the winters and during the summers in the northern States, until the spring of 1861, when the Civil war broke out. At that time Mr. Cline came up the Mississippi on one of the last of the boats to make the journey, which was not fired upon by the Southerners. This vessel contained many refugees who were fleeing to the North to escape being forced into the Rebel army. Mr. Cline went at once to Tiffin, Ohio, where he worked at his trade, and on March 22, 1862, he was married to Miss Anna Steward, a daughter of Archie Steward, who was of Scotch extraction. Mrs. Cline was born September 25, 1835, near Republic, Seneca Co., Ohio.

The young couple went to housekeeping in Adrian, Ohio, and on August 1 of the same year Mr. Cline enlisted in Company K, 101st O. V. I., under Capt. Noble. He was made second lieutenant, as he had recruited the greater part of the company. The regiment was mustered in at Monroeville, Ohio, and two days later left for Covington, Ky., where it had a lively skirmish, and a few of them had an exciting race for their lives, as Lieut. Cline, with twenty men, was reconnoitering five miles out from the city, when they were surprised by a large force of Rebels. They, however, escaped without injury. He participated in all the skirmishes and battles in which his regiment took part until December 1, 1863, when, being disabled by illness, he was honorably discharged, and returned to Republic, Ohio, where his wife was then living.

In the fall of 1864, Mr. Cline located in Montgomery township, Wood county, where he bought eighty acres of partially improved land. For this he paid one-half down, the remainder to be paid in two installments; but, before the second payment became due, he sold that property and bought his present farm of 160 acres in Section 9, Perry township, for which he went heavily in debt. He at once went to work to improve this land, which has been his home ever since,

and which is now one of the finest farms in the township. He has disposed of a part of it, and now has 159 $\frac{3}{4}$  acres under fine cultivation. When he took possession of it only forty acres were cleared, and every building on it has been erected by himself. In 1878 he built a beautiful residence, where he is spending his days in peace and happiness.

On April 2, 1865, Mrs. Cline died in Montgomery township, and was buried near Republic. She left one child, Anna, now the widow of Walter Coe, who lives with her two children, Lena and Lester, at the home of her father. In the spring of 1866, Mr. Cline was married to Mrs. Laura Simons, whose husband, Lieut. Silas Simons, of Company E, 49th Regiment, O. V. I., was killed at Pickett's Mills, Ga. Mrs. Cline was born in Fostoria, Ohio, September 19, 1840, and is the daughter of Osman Divers, who in his time was one of the largest land-owners in Wood county. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Cline, namely: Vic. I., now Mrs. Scott Emerson, of Bloom; and Charles W., residing with his parents. Mrs. Cline is a member of the Disciples Church.

Mr. Cline has carried on farming for a number of years, at one time also being engaged in stock raising. He was born and reared a Democrat; but in the fall of 1860 cast his vote for Abraham Lincoln, and has been a staunch Republican ever since. He has never been an office-seeker, but an active worker for the success of his party, and through his efforts some of the best officials in the county have been elected. He is a politician from principle, and instead of using his influence in his own behalf he has never asked for office, but has endeavored to find out and secure the election of men the best qualified to fill responsible positions. He is an enterprising and progressive man, and a loyal citizen.

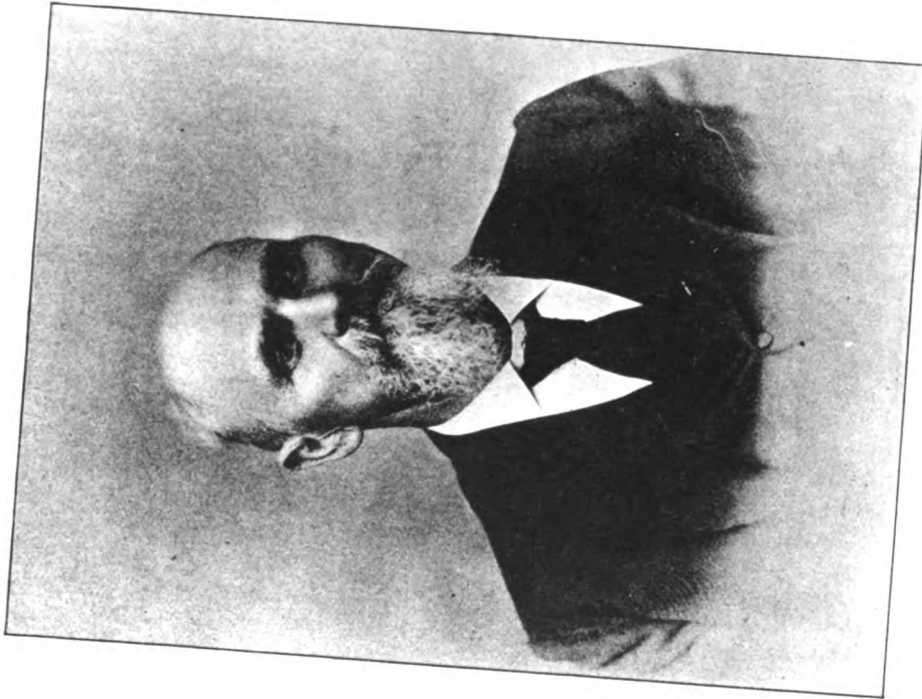
SAMUEL MCKEE, a well-to-do farmer of Liberty township, is the owner of a good farm of sixty acres, on which he erected, in 1892, a beautiful residence. This stands in the midst of well-tilled fields, while good barns and outbuildings provide ample shelter for grain and stock. All the equipments and accessories of a model farm are here found, and the owner is regarded as one of the leading agriculturists of the community.

Mr. McKee was born in Washington county, Penn., April 16, 1827, and is a son of Thomas and Nancy (Shellar) McKee. The father was born in Ireland in 1793, and when about nine years of age was brought to America by his parents, John and Mary (Gartley) McKee. The

family landed at New York, and went direct to Pennsylvania, the grandfather entering a part of the land on which Philadelphia now stands. He afterward sold that tract and removed to Northumberland county, Penn., where he remained for several years. His next home was in Washington county, Penn., and later he went to Guernsey county, Ohio, where both the grandfather and the grandmother died at the home of their son John, in 1837. Their children were William, Thomas, Robert, Catherine, Nancy, and Ellen and Elizabeth (twins).

Thomas McKee, father of our subject, served for about nine months in the war of 1812, enlisting at the age of nineteen. In Pennsylvania he learned the trade of shoemaking, which he followed in connection with farming. For nineteen years he lived in Guernsey county, Ohio, and then removed with his family to Seneca county, where he purchased eighty acres of land, which he operated some four years. On selling that property he removed to Fostoria, Ohio, where he then lived retired until his death, in 1861. His wife died on the farm in Seneca county, in August, 1849. Their children were Mary, who became the wife of William Hutton, and died in North Baltimore, Ohio; Elizabeth, who married Levi Adams, and died in Liberty township; Matilda, who died in Guernsey county at the age of fourteen; Rebecca, wife of Samuel Hytar, of Bloomdale, Wood county; Samuel; Robert, who was killed by a falling tree in Henry county, at the age of twenty-one; Nancy, widow of William Ramsbottom, of Fostoria, who served five years at the time of the Civil war, and died from his wounds; Jane, wife of L. H. Laney, of Liberty township; Harriet, wife of James Hunt, of Fostoria; and Dorcas, who died at the age of fifteen.

Our subject was a child of two years when his parents came to Ohio. He obtained his education in the schools of Guernsey county, and at the age of twenty-four learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed for many years. On April 22, 1858, he was married in Fostoria, Ohio, to Mary Stevens, who was born in Seneca county April 26, 1836, and is descended on the paternal side from Scotch ancestry, and on the maternal side from German. Her parents were natives of Ohio, but were married in Washington county, Penn., and afterward removed to Seneca county, Ohio, where the father died May 24, 1849, while the mother passed away September 28, 1868. They had six children: Sarah, who first married Jacob Frinth, and after his decease became the wife of John Wininger (she died in Fostoria,



*Samuel McKee*



*Mary McKee*





Ohio); Bayard E., an army surgeon, who was never heard from after the battle of Shiloh; Mrs. McKee; Priscilla, wife of Mathew Keo, of Liberty township; Allen, of Fostoria, Ohio; and Thomas, who died at Nashville while serving in the Union army.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. McKee number three children: Armeda C., born October 21, 1866; Elden, born August 31, 1872, and Loy, born September 6, 1876.

On August 29, 1863, our subject enlisted in the Ohio National Guard, 49th Regiment, to serve for five years. He was mustered into the United States service in May, 1864, in the call for "one-hundred-day" men, and was honorably discharged May 1, 1866. In 1871 Mr. McKee came with his family to Wood county, and since 1877 he has resided upon his present farm. His political support is given to the Republican party, but he has never been an office seeker, preferring to devote his time and energies to his business interests, in which he is meeting with good success.

C. S. ST. JOHN, M. D., a well-known physician of Bowling Green, was born in Plain township, Wood county, November 13, 1854, and is the son of S. W. and Harriet Jane (Husted) St. John. The family is of French descent, the ancestors of our subject coming to this country in an early day, and representatives are found in many States of the Union.

The father of our subject was a native of New York, born June 30, 1817. He moved thence to Milan, Erie Co., Ohio, and in September, 1843, removed to Bowling Green, where he was married and spent the remainder of his life, dying December 7, 1893. He was originally a Whig, later becoming a Republican, and held the office of commissioner of Wood county for seven years. He belonged to a large family, of whom the following grew to maturity: Mrs. Nicholas Kline, formerly of Milan, Ohio, now deceased; Henry, living in Portland, Ore.; Mrs. Nathan Moore, residing in Toledo; and Ezra, also living in Portland, Ore. The mother of Dr. St. John, who is still living, was born June 5, 1833, in Tioga county, Penn., and was one of six children, namely: Mrs. Leverton (now deceased), who lived in Wood county; Joel, residing in Toledo; Clarinda, widow of Judge Ewing, residing at Piqua, Ohio (Judge Ewing was a pioneer of Wood county, and died August 20, 1890; he was president of the Wood County Pioneer Society); Harriet Jane; Philander, a resident of Wood county; and Findlay. The Husted family is of

Pennsylvania-Dutch stock. To our subject's father and mother were born seven children, viz.: Mary Ann, deceased wife of G. W. Callin; Clement W., who died when twenty-two years old; C. S.; Julia M., who died when sixteen years of age; Ezra H., residing in Bowling Green; Elden, deceased when six years old; and Everett E., who died at the age of seventeen years.

The subject of this sketch was educated in the schools of Fostoria, Ohio, and Valparaiso, Ind., and being dependent upon his own exertions he early showed of what stuff he was made, and his determination to make a name in the world by his persistent efforts to acquire knowledge. During these years he taught school at intervals, being employed both in country districts and in the city public schools, in the latter teaching five years. In this way he earned money enough to pursue his own studies. After completing his literary course, during which he had studied medicine to some extent, he entered the Columbus Medical College, subsequently, in 1883, graduating from the Medical Department of Wooster University. He practiced in Bowling Green one year with Dr. Fuller, and then went to McComb, where he remained two and a half years, at the end of that time returning to Bowling Green, where he has since made his home. Dr. St. John is extensively read, well posted in his profession, and has a large practice in the city and vicinity. He is a member of both the medical societies of the county, also of the board of health, and was at one time a trustee of the Cemetery Association; also served as coroner of Wood county two terms. In politics he is a Republican. Socially, he is a member of the K. of P. and National Union, at Bowling Green. On June 30, 1880, the Doctor was married to Miss Ella Ralston, who was born February 22, 1857, in Wood county, and they have two children, Edith L. and C. Harold.

E. A. Post, like many of the prominent and representative citizens of Wood county, our subject is a native of the Empire State, born in Otsego county, May 10, 1838, and is a son of William P. and Rhoda (Osborne) Post, who removed to Medina, Ohio, when their son was but a child. There the father followed his trade of carpentering until his death at the ripe old age of eighty-five years, while his wife was eighty-one when she passed away.

Mr. Post, of this review, was the only son in the family of eight children, and in the schools Medina secured his education. When a boy he

learned the machinist's trade at Bradway's machine shop, and also took up carpentering, at which he worked for some time. In April, 1862, spurred on by a spirit of patriotism that reigned in so many of the bosoms of the young men of our land, our subject enlisted at Medina, in Company G, 84th O. V. I., under Capt. J. C. Powell. From Columbus, Ohio, where the regiment was formed, they were sent to Grafton, W. Va., where they took part in their first engagement. They were assigned to the army of the Potomac, and were in the battles of New Creek and Romney, W. Va., Harper's Ferry and Painted Rocks, after which Mr. Post returned to Cumberland, Md., and was sent home as his term had expired. In September, 1863, he re-enlisted, this time becoming a member of the First Ohio Battery, and saw hard service in Tennessee, being at Chattanooga, Missionary Ridge, Lookout Mountain, the siege of Knoxville and Strawberry Plains. While on a raid he was taken ill and after his recovery was in the engagements at King's Salt Works, Bull's Gap, Greenville, Tenn., Stony River, Leadville, Tenn., Danbridge, Jonesboro and Ashville, N. C. At the latter place they released 5,000 prisoners. After the war was ended they were sent to Knoxville to guard stores and equipments received from Johnston and there were discharged in September, 1865, while at Camp Dennison they were mustered out.

On returning to his home in Medina, Ohio, Mr. Post worked at his trade for some time, but the winter of 1867-68 he passed in Wood county in the employ of John Norris, of Perry township, after which he went again to Medina. There on August 27, 1873, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Post and Miss Mary A. Fay, who was born at Medina Center, May 20, 1852, and is a daughter of Michael and Margaret (Conway) Fay, who were both natives of County Clare, Ireland, where they were married, and later came to the United States. Mrs. Post is the second in order of birth in their family of nine children, and after receiving a good education taught school in Medina county. By her marriage she has become the mother of three children—William M., born October 30, 1874; Zelotes G., born June 21, 1878; and Ella M., born January 12, 1884.

In the spring of 1875 Mr. Post brought his family to Wood county, locating on an eighty-acre farm in Section 16, Perry township, which he had purchased some years previous. Only four acres had been cleared, and a log house was the only improvement; but since that time a

great transformation has taken place. Sixty acres have been placed under the plow, a comfortable dwelling has been erected, and also good barns and other outbuildings, some of the carpenter work being done by his own hands.

Mr. Post's tastes are domestic in character, he taking great delight in his home and family, and is eminently worthy of the trust and high regard which in he is held by his fellow citizens. He takes an intelligent and earnest interest in public affairs, is a stanch Republican, and has served as delegate to the county conventions. He is a charter member of Yates Post, G. A. R., of West Millgrove, Ohio. Mrs. Post takes an active part in religious and temperance work, belonging to the Union Methodist Church, and is secretary of the Home Missionary Society and the local Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

H. A. ELLSWORTH, deceased. Prominent among those who were successful farmers of Wood county may be named the subject of this historical notice, whose homestead was in Section 5, Portage township, and who, by enterprise and energy in the direction of his chosen industry, had given to his work a significance and beauty of which few deemed it capable. He was brought into the world July 23, 1830, in Wyoming county, Penn., and is the son of Leonard and Maria (Dimon) Ellsworth, farming people of but moderate means, who lived and died in the Keystone State. In their family of eleven children, six sons and five daughters, our subject was the fifth in order of birth. He was reared upon a farm, and received his education in the district schools. At the age of twenty-two he commenced his struggle upon the stage of life on his own account, being able at that time to do a good day's work.

In Wyoming county, January 11, 1856, Mr. Ellsworth wedded Miss Betsy A. Waring, a native of New York, who bore him the following children: Lydia J., who died in childhood; Fannie, now Mrs. Owen Borger, of Bowling Green, Ohio; Ella, wife of Lewis Abbott, of Milton Center, Ohio; Albert, of Henry county, Ohio; Andrew, who died in infancy; George, a farmer of Portage township; Charles, who died while young; Emma, now Mrs. Charles Sayer, of Portage village; and Cora, Jessie and Nellia, all at home. Mr. Ellsworth rented land in Pennsylvania until the spring of 1857, when he removed to Liverpool, Medina Co., Ohio, where for six years he kept a hotel, and on selling out came to Wood county, locating on forty acres of timber land in Montgomery township. This was the

first tract he had ever owned, and after improving it for some time, sold and purchased fifty acres elsewhere, to which he later added a tract of forty-eight acres. That farm he traded for the home property, consisting of ninety-five acres in Section 5, Portage township, which is highly cultivated and well improved with good buildings.

On December 1, 1890, his first wife passed away, and her remains were interred in Oak Grove cemetery, Bowling Green, Ohio. In Luzerne county, Penn., August 12, 1892, he was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Mary Turcan, widow of William Turcan. Her birth occurred in Kingston, Luzerne county, February 6, 1838, and she is a daughter of Henry and Catherine (Myers) Frace. She acquired her education in the district schools of her native county, and endeavors by a blameless life to set a good example to the rising generation, being a member of the Free Methodist Church.

On coming to Wood county, Mr. Ellsworth suffered considerably from malaria and ague, often having to work whole days when he could hardly stand, but he had invested his entire capital in his land, and his family had to be supported. Many men of less courage would have given up, but love of his family inspired him, and he kept steadily on until he had secured a comfortable competence. Politically he had always been a Democrat until 1892, since which time, until his death, he was a Populist, and a staunch supporter of that party. He passed away May 9, 1896.

GEORGE SIMPKIN was born in Cambridgeshire, England, August 6, 1849. His father, John Simpkin, was a butcher by trade. He married Anne Barley, and they became parents of eight children, namely: Robert, Mary Anne, George, Sarah (wife of Thomas Senate, of England), Lida, Ezekiah, Eliza, and Ellen.

Our subject acquired his education in his native land, and when twenty-five years of age crossed the Atlantic, locating in Toronto, Canada, where for five years he followed the butcher's trade. In 1879 he came to Wood county, Ohio, locating at Scotch Ridge. He purchased eighty acres of land in Center township, erected a dwelling at a cost of \$1,000, and has here made a good home, reclaiming the land from its original condition, and transforming it into fertile fields.

Before leaving his native land Mr. Simpkin was married in Cambridgeshire, in 1867, to Eliza Houghton, who was born in that place, in 1850, a daughter of Benjamin and Anna (Day) Hough-

ton. They have three children—John, born in 1868; Alice, born in 1870, now the wife of Isaac Lambright, of Fostoria; and Arthur George, who was born in 1872, and operates the old homestead. When Mr. and Mrs. Simpkin arrived in Canada they had only \$20, but their united efforts have brought to them a comfortable competence and a pleasant home, which they richly merit.

W. B. BRYANT, M. D. This well known and popular citizen of Bowling Green, who for two consecutive terms held the responsible office of sheriff of Wood county, was born at Prairie Depot, Wood county, July 1, 1852.

The father of our subject, W. R. Bryant, was born in New York State, coming to Ohio and settling in Wood county at Freeport, about fifteen years ago. He was a lawyer by profession, and practiced in the courts of this and adjoining counties. He married Melissa A. Sherman, who was also a native of New York, and both are now deceased. Their children were eight in number, as follows: Charles enlisted during the Civil war in the 144th O. V. I., was captured by Moseby, and died in the Confederate prison at Salisbury; the second child died in early infancy; Diana is the wife of M. Hall, and lives at Hastings, Mich.; Adolphus died in infancy; George is a planter at South Riverside, Cal.; William B. is our subject; O. N. is postmaster at Freeport, Wood county; Flora A. (deceased) was the wife of S. J. Dunn, of Prairie Depot.

Our subject obtained his literary education in his native place, and in 1872 began the study of medicine. For two years he was in the offices of Dr. Nelson Goodrick, at Freeport, and Dr. Rosendale, of West Millgrove. He was graduated from the Cincinnati Eclectic Medical Institute in 1875, and began the practice of his profession at Freeport, where he remained for two years, then removing to Jerry City, where he had a large general practice. In the fall of 1890 he was elected sheriff of Wood county, and the following year took up his residence in Bowling Green. Wood county is largely Republican, and Dr. Bryant had a majority of only five votes at this election; but so well did he fulfill the duties of that office, that when he ran the second time he received a majority of 323 votes in spite of the fact that the county went over a thousand Republican. He is a man of sterling character, popular with all classes, and possesses good executive ability. He has large oil and real-estate interests in Wood county, and also owns a

fine drug store in Toledo, at the corner of Summit and Lagrange streets, which he opened in April, 1896. However, it does not interfere with his practice. Socially he is a member of the I. O. O. F., and K. of P.

Dr. Bryant was married November 25, 1881, to Zidama V. Dunlap, who was born in Ashland county, Ohio, July 16, 1853. Her parents were David and Mary (Gribben) Dunlap, the former of whom was born in Portage county, Ohio, and the latter in Pennsylvania; the mother is now deceased; the father, who is still living, is now seventy-nine years of age. Mrs. Bryant is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and a most estimable woman.

A. EDDMON, M. D., a well-known physician and druggist of Tontogany, was born October 13, 1848, near Philadelphia, a son of Gottlieb Eddmon and wife, who were both natives of Germany. They spent the first years of their married life in America, returning to their old home on account of the ill health of the father, who was a druggist by occupation. The mother died shortly after their return to Germany (the father not long surviving her), leaving four children, of whom our subject, then about five years old, was the youngest, and he was then taken to live with relatives. The others—Frank, Amelia (now deceased), and Anna (the wife of F. Nagle)—all remained in Germany.

Our subject received a liberal education, graduating from Halle University, Germany, in the departments of Literature and Medicine, having studied medicine there from May, 1865, to September, 1868—three years and four months. He then accepted the position of assistant-surgeon on the steamer "Limenia," and visited Chili, as well as other countries of South America, the Society Islands, Tahiti (a French port), and then, leaving the vessel, secured passage on a French Government vessel bound for San Francisco, where he engaged in the drug business. An attack of smallpox having interfered with his plans, he, in the following year, went to Chicago, and there remained until after the great fire, which occurred one week after his arrival. He then made a short visit to his native place, and in December, 1871, revisited Germany, where he again became interested in a drug store, and was also assistant to an old surgeon. In 1876 he returned to America, and after a trip through the Southern States, he attended a course of lectures in Cincinnati. He graduated March 5, 1877, from the Physio-Eclectic Medical College in that city, after which, in the same

year, he located at Custar, Wood county, and in December, following, settled in Tontogany, where he has since remained, and where his professional skill and wide range of knowledge have received due recognition. After a few years practice in Tontogany, he opened a drug store there, which he still owns.

In 1879, Dr. Eddmon was married to Miss Catherine Black, a sister to Capt. L. Black, of Tontogany. In politics he is an Independent, and served as township clerk one term; was mayor of Tontogany six years; and has been a notary public since 1879. He is assistant-surgeon for the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railroad Co.; socially he is a charter member of the I. O. O. F., Tontogany Lodge No. 755, and has filled all the chairs; is also a member of the K. of P., Perrysburg Lodge No. 524, and has attained the Oriental Degree in the same. In connection with his profession he is affiliated with the American Medical Society, of Ohio, and the American Association of Physicians and Surgeons. In 1882 the Ætna Insurance Co., of Hartford, Conn., appointed him recording agent for Tontogany, and in 1887 the passenger department of the C. H. & D. R. R. appointed him as special agent for Tontogany, and all through traffic is referred to him. Both positions he still occupies, and he stands in high repute with his employers. For the past ten years he has been the recognized authority for the leading Mercantile Agencies at Tontogany.

J. R. JUDSON, who is now living in Bowling Green retired from active business, was born in Medina county, Ohio, April 18, 1837. The Judson family in this country is descended from two brothers, who came from England at an early day and settled in Pennsylvania. One of these subsequently went south, and all trace of him has been lost. The other was the progenitor of that branch of the family to which our subject belongs. Beyond this, the first of whom any definite history has been preserved, is Ithimar Judson, who was born in Pennsylvania, and was the grandfather of the subject of this sketch. He had four brothers, viz.: Isaac, John, William and Egbert, all of whom grew to maturity. He died near Meadville, Penn., leaving two children: Benjamin, father of our subject, and Silva. The latter married Moses H. Herrick, and removed to Clinton county, Iowa. They had four daughters, all of whom married physicians, one of them being the wife of Dr. Very, a druggist in Chicago.

Benjamin Speas Judson was born January 13, 1812, and married Catharine Osgood, born near



*A. Edmondson*





Elmira, Penn., October 1, 1811. They resided for a time in Bedford county, Penn., and in 1835 removed to Ohio, settling near Waterville, Lucas county, on the Maumee river. There they lived for three years, when they decided to return to Pennsylvania, and started in wagons to make the long journey. On reaching Medina county, Ohio, however, the father was taken ill and they were forced to stop, and as they were pleased with the appearance of the country, they concluded to stay awhile. After living in that county for six years, they abandoned the idea of going to Pennsylvania, and finally decided to locate in Wood county. They reached Plain township in March, 1843, and there made a home for themselves, in which they spent the remainder of their lives, and where the father died in 1864, the mother surviving him until 1887. They were consistent and faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In politics Mr. Judson was originally an Old-line Whig, uniting with the Republican party after its organization. To this worthy couple six children were born, namely: Ithimar, who died when two years old; Sarah M., who married Ernest Mische, and died in 1864; Ithimar (2), who is a farmer in Perrysburg, Wood county; J. R., subject of this sketch; Miles, born June 18, 1844, is a mechanic and lives in Lucas county, Ohio; Lucie died when about eight years old. The parents of our subject's mother were Thomas and Abigail (Ingalls) Osgood. The former was of Irish descent, and came to Wood county in 1835, taking up his residence in Plain township, where he died.

J. R. Judson came to Wood county, when a lad of some six years, with his parents, and was reared to manhood in Plain township, attending the primitive schools of those days, and gaining as good an education as was possible with such limited advantages. When civil war threatened to dismember the Union, his patriotic impulses led him to enlist in defense of the stars and stripes, and he was one of the first to offer his services. April 18, 1861, he entered his name as a soldier, and the following month was mustered in at Camp Dennison. The State quota was full, however, and his company was not accepted, and he re-enlisted in Company C, 13th O. V. I., for three years, and in June, 1861, was transferred to Company D, 11th O. V. I., but was again doomed to disappointment, as in the following July he was attacked with measles, and was discharged for disability. His anxiety to serve his country did not cease, however, and although chagrined at the fact that his health did not allow him to actively participate in the conflict, he

became captain of the home militia company, and assisted in recruiting men for the Union army. He was also an active member of the "Wide Awakes," which organization took such an active part in the political campaign of 1860, when Abraham Lincoln was first elected President.

Mr. Judson was married February 28, 1865, to Miss Elizabeth Mitchell, who was born in Plain township, August 13, 1841, and of this union six children have been born: Florence, born May 20, 1866, was married July 3, 1888, to William Mintel, and has one child, Beatrice; Charles H., born February 9, 1868, married Mertie Abbott, and lives on the old homestead (he is employed in the oil field); Frederick S., born February 2, 1870, died a few days later; William C., born September 26, 1874, is at home, and is employed in the oil field; Albert O., born October 24, 1876, is employed in the Toledo Bicycle Works; his twin brother died in infancy.

After his marriage Mr. Judson settled in Plain township, but a year later removed to Liberty township, where he worked at his trade as a carpenter for some time; but his health failing, he decided to take up farming as a more healthful occupation. He now owns a good farm of fifty-five acres in Liberty township, on which are five productive oil wells. Since 1894 he has resided in Bowling Green. In politics Mr. Judson is a Republican, and his advice is often asked in public matters. He is recognized as a man of broad and liberal views, and of extensive reading and general information. He is highly esteemed as a loyal citizen and a good neighbor.

OTIS BEVERSTOCK, one of the enterprising and rising young men of Wood county, is a native of the same, having been born in 1860 at Tontogany, in Washington township. He is a son of Edward Beverstock, one of the most prominent pioneers of Wood county.

Our subject was reared in his native village, attending the common and business schools there, also taking one term at a business college in Toledo, Ohio. Until he was twenty-two years old he worked on a farm, and then accepted a position with the firm of Royce & Coon, grain merchants, Bowling Green, in whose employ he still remains, in the capacity of general manager.

In 1881, at the age of twenty-one, Mr. Beverstock was united in marriage with Miss Jennie S. Fuller, who was born at Grand Rapids, Mich., and six children have been born to them, named respectively: Bertha, Beryl, Howard, Burt, Ruth, and Donald. Politically our subject is a stanc



Republican; socially he is affiliated with the F. & A. M., a member of the Blue Lodge and of the Chapter.

FREDERIC VON KANEL, who for some sixteen years previous to his death, was a resident of Bowling Green, and one of its leading business men, was born in Asche, Canton Berne, Switzerland, September 3, 1848. His parents, David and Susanna (Buhler) Von Kanel, were natives of that country and both died there, the former passing away at Asche, Canton Berne, in 1859, the latter at Chaux-de-Fonds, Canton Neuchatel, in 1873.

The parental family consisted of six children, of whom mention is made as follows: David lives in Massillon, Ohio; Susanna died in the city of Berne, Switzerland; John lives in Akron, Ohio; Christian died in March, 1896, at Chaux-de-Fonds, Canton Neuchatel, Switzerland; Elizabeth married Jacob Russer, and died in Chaux-de-Fonds, in 1874; Frederic was the youngest child.

Our subject attended the schools of Asche, Canton Berne, Switzerland, until after his father's death, when his mother and her children moved to Chaux-de-Fonds, Canton Neuchatel, where Mr. Von Kanel finished his education, and learned the trade of a watchmaker and jeweler, a business which is very general in Switzerland, and in which that people excel. He worked at his trade for five years, in the meantime spending a short period in the military school, and on November 24, 1871, he was married at Chaux-de-Fonds to Miss Elise Marie Maurer. After their marriage the young couple resided for a time in that town, and in 1873 came to America, landing on its shores the 28th of March. They first located at Wooster, Ohio, where they remained for three and a half years, Mr. Von Kanel during that time being watch repairer in the jewelry store of E. Chatlaine. They removed to Tiffin, where he was in business some five months, and in 1877 they took up their residence in Bowling Green.

Mr. Von Kanel began his operations in the latter city in a small way, but his thorough knowledge of his business, combined with his straightforward dealing and pleasant manners, soon brought him a large trade, and he gradually increased his stock and equipments until he became the leading jeweler and silversmith in the county, dealing in all kinds of wares in that line. He was a public-spirited citizen, and gave liberally to any enterprise calculated to forward the growth and prosperity of his community, and was always ready to uphold the institutions of his

adopted country. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church, F. & A. M., I. O. O. F., K. of P. and Royal Arcanum.

Mr. Von Kanel was not a man of robust physique, although he was not in poor health all the time; yet he was a very active man, and his death, which took place June 5, 1893, found his family totally unprepared for the sad event. The loss fell heavily on them, and also on the large circle of friends and acquaintances who fully appreciated his sterling worth. By that time his business had assumed large proportions, and was in a flourishing condition, and, although having no experience in such matters, his wife and daughter, Elise Marianne, bravely determined to undertake the management of affairs themselves. Their success has been almost phenomenal. They have carried on the store in an admirable manner, have largely increased the stock, keeping up with the latest styles and fancies of the day, and have not only extended their trade in every direction, but have won the admiration and commendation of the business men throughout the county. They also stand high in social circles, and are a living illustration of what women with brains, force of character, and a determined purpose can accomplish in any line to which they devote their energies.

The family circle consisted of six children, the eldest, Ulysses F., having died when nine months old. Elise Marianne, mentioned above, is a young lady of superior attainments, unusual business ability, and, while she is the main factor in the management of the large jewelry store left by her father, she is at the same time one of the most popular and admired of the society girls in Bowling Green. Adele Anna is a graduate of Bowling Green High School, and is at home. Carrie Mary is also a graduate of the Bowling Green High School. The remaining children are Bertha Susanna and Estelle Florence.

Mrs. Von Kanel, who proved herself a worthy helpmate to her husband, and is a woman of much ability, was born December 3, 1848, at Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland, where she was reared and educated. Her parents were Jacob (a farmer) and Marianne (Stauffer) Maurer, the former of whom was born in the town of Renan in 1821, and died in his native country, October 19, 1876. His wife was also born in Renan, the date of her birth being January 11, 1827, and after the death of her husband she came to America in 1878, taking up her residence in Bowling Green where she died September 26, 1888. This worthy couple were the parents of twelve chil-

dren, namely: Elise M., widow of Frederic Von-Kanel, the subject of this sketch; August, living in Bowling Green; Louis F., living in Minneapolis, Minn.; Ulysses, who died in Switzerland; Marie, who also died in Switzerland; Adolph, residing in Bowling Green; Alfred, a farmer in Wood county; Anna, the wife of W. Parker, of Toledo; Rose, wife of Alexander Klever, of Bowling Green; Melani, who married W. Schafer, of Bowling Green; and Leon and Charlotte, who both died in Switzerland.

ALEXANDER R. BRUCE, an honored veteran of the Civil war, and one of the progressive farmers of Middleton township, is numbered among the pioneer settlers of the county, his birth having occurred in Perrysburg, on the 29th of January, 1836. His father, Seth Bruce, was a native of Massachusetts, and, leaving the Bay State, emigrated to Ohio when a young man. This was in 1834. He settled in Wood county, where he followed the carpenter's trade, and also engaged in farming in Perrysburg township, becoming the owner of eighty acres which he transformed into a rich tract. He was married in the State of his nativity to Mary Tower, and six children were born to them, namely: Deborah, Jessie S., Anna E., Roman M., Alexander and Joseph.

Our subject attended school in a house built of logs at Perrysburg, and in this primitive manner acquired his early education, but experience and observation have made him a well-informed man. In his younger years he followed the carpenter's trade, and also engaged in fishing on the lakes for five years. When the existence of the Union was threatened by the attempted secession on the part of the South, he enlisted in the three-months' service in 1861, as a member of Company C, 21st O. V. I., under Capt. Cook, of Perrysburg, and Col. Norton. When his first term had expired he joined Company C, 128th O. V. I., for three years, under command of Capt. Norris and Col. Hoffman. He participated in all the engagements with his company, and a third time enlisted, joining Company F, of the 144th O. V. I., under Capt. Cook. After that he served on guard duty. His army record was an honorable one, and throughout the war he remained at the front, faithfully defending the Union cause. His health, which then became impaired, he has never regained, and he still suffers quite severely from the effects of his army service.

Mr. Bruce, on returning to Perrysburg township, rented a farm which he operated until 1880, when he came to Middleton township and

purchased forty acres of land on Hull Prairie. On account of his ill health his son operates the place. He was married in 1865 in Perrysburg township to Harriet Carter, daughter of Edward Carter, of that township, and to them have been born five children—Emily S., wife of Alva Hum, of Perrysburg township; Marshall, who operates the farm; Esther, at home; and two who died in infancy.

In his political views, Mr. Bruce is a stalwart Republican. He adheres to the faith of the Universalist Church, and has lived an upright, honorable life, characterized by the same fidelity to duty that marked his course on Southern battle fields.

B. W. PURDY, a stock dealer and farmer of Wood county, was born in Springfield, Richland Co., Ohio, March 13, 1833. He is the son of Archibald and Margaret Purdy, the former of whom was born in York county, Penn., and from there moved to Ontario county, N. Y., and there engaged in the milling business for several years, at the time Buffalo was burned, during the war of 1812. Two of his brothers were soldiers in that war. They moved to Mansfield, Richland Co., Ohio, in 1823. They raised a family of ten children: Charles, James, John, Cunningham H., Boyd W., Sarah J., Mary C., Almira, Andrew and William. Three of them died in boyhood; James and Cunningham raised families. James died at the age of fifty-two, and Cunningham at the age of fifty-five. Their father died October 7, 1875, at the age of eighty-two, and their mother five years later, at the age of seventy-nine.

Mr. Purdy received a common-school education in Richland county, and attended Oberlin College in 1856. When the news was received that Salmon P. Chase was elected governor of Ohio, he joined with the students in a bonfire jollification. Prof. Peck made a speech to the boys. The following Sunday Prof. Finney reprimanded them, and the students were defended by Prof. Peck. In 1857 Mr. Purdy went to Minnesota, and pre-empted 160 acres of land on the Upper Mississippi; returned to Richland county, and engaged in farming for two years; sold the farm and went into the stock trade, buying and shipping to Buffalo, Albany and New York, making Buffalo his headquarters for ten years. He bought stock in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, shipping east, and selling on the markets of Buffalo, Albany and New York. He came to Wood county in the spring of 1870, and located in Center township. He leased one

thousand acres of land which he operated for four years, feeding stock and shipping East. He afterward purchased twenty-four acres of land where he now lives.

Our subject was married in Lockport, January 7, 1869, to Catharine Mason, a daughter of Charles Mason, of Lockport, N. Y. They have eight children, three of whom died in infancy; those living are Andrew W., Chas. H. and Frank A., all graduates of the High School of Bowling Green, Ohio, and B. William and Cora A., now attending school. In politics Mr. Purdy is Republican. He is an excellent citizen, genial and affable by nature, and his name is a household word throughout the county.

MATTHIAS SCHONDELMYER is one of the well known and prominent citizens of Wood county. He has taken quite an active part in public affairs, and in all the relations of life has discharged his duties with a promptness and fidelity that have won him high regard. He was born in Cologne, Prussia, December 30, 1839, and is a son of John and Barbara (Yakley) Schondelmyer, the former born in Baden, Germany, in 1809, the latter in 1803. The father followed clock repairing in early life, and afterward carried on farming. In the summer of 1840 he crossed the Atlantic to America, landing at New York, and at once went to Lake county, Ohio, where he operated a small farm for six years. He then located on a farm near Findlay, Ohio, where his death occurred in 1889. His first wife died in 1863, and he afterward married Margaret Sice, who is still living. The family of John and Barbara Schondelmyer numbered the following named: Fred, Matthias, and four daughters who died in infancy. The children of the second marriage are Paulina, wife of Ernest Irwin, of Hancock county; Margaret, wife of Frank Miller, of Findlay, Ohio; Annie, Mrs. Christina Peiffer, of Hancock county; Mary, wife of George Nelson, of Findlay; Nancy; John, of Findlay; Thomas, who died at the age of three years; and Louis, of Hancock county.

Our subject was only six months old when brought by his parents to this country. He was reared and educated near Findlay, and worked as a farm hand in that neighborhood until twenty-three years of age, when he went to the West, and for nine years was engaged in the lumber business near Helena, Mont. He then returned home, and March 19, 1874, was married in Findlay, to Miss Salina Scott, who was born in Stark county, Ohio, December 22, 1842, a daughter of Thomas B. and Eliza (Moorhead) Scott. Her father was born in Mercer county, Penn., March

7, 1814. His parents came to this country from Scotland after their marriage. When a young man he learned the cabinet maker's trade, and later became a veterinary surgeon. He was married in Stark county, Ohio, to Miss Moorhead, who, when five years of age, went with her parents to Findlay, Ohio. Mr. Scott died there in 1893, and his wife in 1889. John M., their eldest child, married Rachel Davis in 1861, three days later went to the front as one of Mitchell's raiders, was made a prisoner by the Rebels at Atlanta, Ga., and executed by them June 18, 1862. His remains were interred in the National Cemetery at Chattanooga, and a handsome monument has been erected to the memory of the seven heroes who at that time gave their lives for their country. The other members of the family are Margaret J., wife of Jacob Powell, of Findlay; James, who married Annie Pierce, and is living in Findlay; Mrs. Schondelmyer; Robert, who married Ella Kissel, and lives in Terre Haute, Ind.; Mary, wife of George Arnold, of Findlay; Martha, wife of John Exline; Albert, who married Jennie Hill, and lives in Findlay; and Amanda, wife of Charles Ebling, of Findlay.

Mr. and Mrs. Schondelmyer began their domestic life on a 100-acre farm five miles east of Findlay, but in 1884 he sold that property, and now owns 154 acres of valuable land in Liberty township, on which he erected a fine residence in 1891. His farm is one of the best in the neighborhood, and its neat and thrifty appearance indicates his careful supervision, while its buildings stand as monuments to his thrift and enterprise. To Mr. and Mrs. Schondelmyer have been born six children—Mary Isabella, born April 24, 1875, died August 19, 1875; Amanda Barbara, born August 26, 1876; Margaret Emeline, born February 18, 1878; George Albert, born September 22, 1879; Fred Scott, born February 6, 1881; and Fannie May, born March 14, 1884. Amanda and Margaret have both had educational training at Findlay (Ohio) College. In April, 1891, our subject was elected treasurer of Liberty township, in which capacity he has since served continuously. He is a Democrat in political faith; but, though the township is strongly Republican, he was elected by a flattering majority, and in 1895 without opposition. Mr. Schondelmyer and children are all members of the Disciples Church at Rudolph, while Mrs. Schondelmyer holds membership with the Second Presbyterian Church, of Findlay, Ohio. The daughters are members of the Christian Endeavor Society of Bethel Church, Rudolph, of which organization



GEORGE MOTHER MARGARET FANNIE FRED FATHER AMANDA

FAMILY OF M. SCHONDELMYER.



Miss Amanda is president, and her younger sister, Margaret, is organist.

On March 29, 1890, oil was discovered on Mr. Schondelmyer's farm, and eleven wells have been drilled, from which he receives an income of about \$1,000 per annum. Much of the farm is not yet utilized, twelve or fourteen locations being still undeveloped. The farm comprises 154 acres, fertile throughout.

JOHN MERVIN, one of the early settlers at the site of the present town of Risingsun, is a highly respected resident of that place. Like many of the prosperous and influential men of the day, he has made his way to success through adverse circumstances, and his well-won competence reflects credit upon him.

He is of English birth, having entered upon his mortal career in Leicestershire, January 11, 1824. His father, Thomas Mervin, was a butcher by trade. Our subject was reared upon a farm, near a small village, enjoying only the limited advantages of the common schools. He showed ability in the management and care of horses, and at an early age found employment in that work; but the opportunities for advancement seemed to him very discouraging, and he determined to come to America. Leaving his young wife, formerly Miss Elizabeth Riley, he sailed from Liverpool, in April, 1849, in the ship "Joseph Badger," and after a voyage of four weeks landed in New York. The trip to Albany was made by river, from Albany to Buffalo by rail, and from Buffalo he came by lake to Sandusky, where he took the Mad River railroad, then the only one in this region. His destination was Avon township, Lorain county, but by mistake he went to New Haven, Huron county. On learning his error he started on foot for Lorain county, but while *en route* he was taken very ill in Greenfield township, Huron county, and was cared for by some friendly English people. On his recovery he had but fifty cents left of the sum which he had saved from his earnings for his journey, and a new start in life. This money was spent for wine to stimulate his impaired energies, and, instead of going on, he decided to remain there and rent a farm.

In the spring of 1850 his wife rejoined him. She had a difficult voyage, spending four months on the way, and being shipwrecked three times. They lived there for several years, renting different farms in the locality, but in the fall of 1863 they came to Wood county, driving through in a wagon. Mr. Mervin purchased sixty acres of land in Section 36, Montgomery township, where the village of Risingsun now stands. At that time

the land was partially improved in the dry portion, and a plank house stood near his present home. The swampy part of the farm had to be cleared, however, and there was no small amount of hard work to be done in the first years of his stay; but the rapid development of the locality brought prosperity. He still owns seventy acres of land in the vicinity, and also has ten acres in Jackson township, Seneca county. In 1877 he built a fine residence in Risingsun, which he has since occupied. Mrs. Mervin's death, December 9, 1888, brought deep sorrow to this pleasant home. Her remains are interred in Trinity cemetery, Scott township, Sandusky county. They had nine children, all of whom are living: Sarah, Mrs. George Young, of Seneca county; Mary, Mrs. Adam Graber, of Risingsun; George, a farmer in Perry township; Elizabeth, Mrs. Frank Blonde, of Perry township; Eliza and Lucy, who are at home; Frances, Mrs. Benjamin Bates, of Risingsun; Anna, Mrs. Courtland Essex, of the same town, and Hattie, Mrs. Russell Hoover, of Montgomery township.

Mr. Mervin's parents came to the United States in 1855 or '56, and located in Greenwich township, Huron county, where his father died at the age of seventy-three years. His mother afterward made her home in Wood county with her children, but died in Richland county at ninety years of age. Mr. Mervin is the eldest of six children, all living, Thomas resides in Risingsun; George, in Longley; Elizabeth is the widow of James Brinson, of Huron county; Hannah married John Thompson, of Richland county, and Emma married first the late John Jenney, and second John Winder, of New Orleans, Louisiana.

Mr. Mervin possessed in youth a powerful physique, and is still well-preserved, his strictly temperate habits being in his favor. Fond of reading, he has intelligent views on the questions of the time, and his interest in the education of the rising generation has led to several years of able service as school director. In principle he is a Democrat, but is not bound by partisan ties in the choice of suitable men for local offices. He is a leading member of the M. E. Church.

JOHN MARRON receives that respect which fidelity to duty and an industrious life always commands. He is now serving as postmaster of Hull Prairie, and is successfully engaged in blacksmithing. A native of the Emerald Isle, he was born in County Monaghan, June 29, 1835, and is a son of Patrick and Julia (Bird) Marron. The father died in 1849, the mother in 1880. He

was a farmer by occupation, and after his death the mother brought her little family to America in 1850, and spent her last days in Toledo. Her children were Mary, deceased wife of William Davis, of Iowa; John, of this sketch; Michael, a shipbuilder of Toledo, and Annie who died in childhood.

Mr. Marron, of this review, attended school in his native land, and at the age of fifteen came to the United States, locating first in Sandusky, Erie Co., Ohio. For four years he was employed as a farm hand in that county, after which he learned the blacksmithing trade, which he has since followed. He pursued that business for a time in Lorain county, also in Toledo, and in 1868, came to Wood county, locating on Hull Prairie, where he has since remained, building up a very successful business. He is an excellent workman in his line, and his well-directed efforts and honorable dealings have secured him a liberal patronage. He also owns a farm of sixty acres near by, on which his son-in-law lives. In 1886 he was appointed postmaster by President Cleveland, but would not accept the office. In 1893 he was again tendered the position, which he is now filling to the general satisfaction of the public.

Mr. Marron was married in Erie county, Ohio, in 1864, to Miss Horan, a native of Ireland, and to them have been born six children—George; John; Carrie, wife of E. B. Twining; Julia, and Sophia, at home; and Mary, who died in childhood.

Mr. Marron was school director for two terms, and has been a member of the township board of trustees. His political support is given the Democratic party, and in religious faith he is a Catholic. His industry and enterprise, and the resolute purpose that has enabled him to work his way steadily upward, well entitle him to the honorable distinction of being known as a self-made man.

GEORGE GREEN, deceased. As a representative of the intelligent and hardy pioneers who opened up Plain township for settlement, and have since taken a conspicuous part in developing it, we are pleased to place in this volume a brief sketch of the life of the gentleman whose name introduces this review.

Mr. Green was born at Wigan, near London, England, March 28, 1846, and when quite young came to America with his parents, William and Sarah (Brown) Green, both natives of the same isle. On emigrating to this country in 1846, the father came direct to Ohio, locating in Cleveland,

where he remained four months working at his trade of a butcher, after which he came to Wood county, and bought eighty acres of unimproved land in Plain township. Indians still lived in the neighborhood, wolves and deer were to be seen, and wild game of all kinds furnished many a meal for the family. They were among the first settlers of Plain township, and their first home was a rude log hut. The father continued to work at his trade, and as his sons grew up they helped him in the management and care of the farm. He and our subject also constructed some of the roads and ditches of the township. There were seven children in the family, all of whom grew to years of maturity, namely: Mary, deceased wife of John Moore; Ellen, a resident of Weston; Richard, deceased; Sarah, wife of Amos Dewese; Isaac, deceased; Jane, wife of Thomas Woodesly, of Canada; and George. The parents have both departed this life, the father dying in 1851, and the mother in 1846.

As our subject was reared in a pioneer settlement, he received his education in the primitive school house, characteristic of the times and place. As soon as he was old enough, he was obliged to share in the labors of developing the farm from the wilderness. This early training in agricultural labors doubtless made the young lad sturdy, self-reliant, and capable beyond his years, and prepared him for a life of independence. By dint of hard labor, perseverance and wise management, he had at the time of his death a farm which, in its neat appearance, with its ample farm buildings, unsurpassed productiveness, and all the other essentials of a good farm, compares favorably with others in the neighborhood. Thus his thrift, frugality and industry was rewarded by a substantial home, and an assured income which gave him the means of procuring all the comforts of life for himself and family. His wife, who was to him an excellent counselor and helpmeet, shared with him the respect and esteem of the entire community.

On April 10, 1872, Mr. Green had married Miss Harriet Challen, who was born November 19, 1849, and is a daughter of William Challen. They had seven children, whose names and dates of birth are as follows: William W., January 9, 1873; Jessie, July 29, 1875; Alva, June 29, 1877; Maude, May 2, 1879; Stanley, February 9, 1881; Herman, December 23, 1883; and Floyd, March 19, 1887. The oldest daughter, Jessie, is now the wife of Horton Conklin, and the oldest sons are now looking after the cultivation of the old homestead. The father passed away on the 26th of July, 1894, beloved by all who knew him.

C. W. LENHART, one of the prominent citizens of Bowling Green, was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, September 6, 1846. He is the only child of his parents, George S. and Elizabeth (Legron) Lenhart. His boyhood was spent in attendance at the public schools, and in the graded schools at Fostoria and Findlay. After one year in the service of his country, and several years spent in teaching in the country schools, he entered into the mercantile business at West Millgrove, Wood county, in 1867, which he carried on until 1880, when he sold out and took charge of a flour-mill which he had assisted in building. He operated the mill until 1886, when he removed to Bowling Green and was appointed deputy sheriff of the county, which office he held for four years. In 1891 our subject entered into the abstract and loan business, in which he is still engaged; he now takes the general management of the Wood County Abstract and Loan Co., his wide acquaintance throughout the county making him peculiarly fitted for this work. He is a Republican in politics, and active in all enterprises having for their object the welfare of his community. He is an enterprising, energetic man, of excellent judgment and good business ability, and has been successful financially.

Mr. Lenhart was united in marriage May 6, 1869, with Miss Harriet N. Diver, who was born in Montgomery township, February 10, 1851. Mrs. Lenhart was educated in the public schools of the county, and is a woman of much culture and refinement. She is a member of the Disciples Church, takes an active interest in all Church work, and is also a prominent worker in the W. R. C., of Bowling Green. They have but one child living, Edna M., an intelligent young lady, the wife of William H. Caverly, who, together with her husband, is at home with her parents. The eldest daughter, Bertha A., died when seventeen years old.

The father of our subject was born in Lancaster county, Penn., where he was married. He removed with his family to Ohio in 1845, settling in Mahoning county, soon removing to Hancock county; where he lived until 1854, then coming to Wood county and purchasing a farm in Montgomery township. In the early part of his life he was a contractor and builder, but followed farming during his later years. He was born in 1820 and died in 1879. His wife was born in 1823, and is still living in the enjoyment of good health as Longley, this county.

Jacob Lenhart, the paternal grandfather of our subject, came to Ohio from Pennsylvania

some time in the '40s and settled on a farm west of Findlay, in Hancock county, afterward removing to a place near Pendleton, Putnam county, where he died, in 1864, when about seventy-five years of age. Mr. Lenhart's maternal grandfather, John Legron, also removed from Pennsylvania about the same time as the other branch of the family, settling west of Findlay, from there removing about 1856 to Montgomery township, where he died at the age of seventy-five years. Both sides of the family are of Pennsylvania-Dutch descent.

E. PRICE CLOUGH, who is now living retired, has by well-directed efforts in his business career won a competence that enables him to lay aside business cares. Fair dealing was as conspicuous in his commercial life, as his honor in all the other walks of life. He was born in the town of Pike, Allegany Co., N. Y., October 19, 1824, and is a son of Bailey and Asenath (Price) Clough. In early life the father was an operator in a woolen-mill, but after his marriage, which was celebrated in Allegany county, he worked at the trade of a millwright. In February, 1833, he removed with his family to Huron county, Ohio, and after nine years took up his residence in Portage township, Wood county, where for several years he worked at carpentering. For some years previous to his death in 1850, he conducted a general store in Portage. He was prominent in town affairs, and served as justice of the peace, township clerk and postmaster. He had been previously married before he wedded Asenath Price, his first union having been with Sarah Smith. Mrs. Clough was the widow of Daniel Seiley at the time of her marriage. Two children were born to the parents of our subject, of whom Samuel died in infancy.

E. Price Clough received a common-school education in his native county, and when eight-year-old came with his parents to Wood county. He learned the trade of carpentering and wagon-making, the former with his father, but laid aside all business cares on August 21, 1861, when, at Findlay, Ohio, he enlisted as a musician in Company C, 21st O. V. I. He was first in battle at Ivy Mountain, and afterward participated in the engagements at Bridgeport, Ala.; Laverne, Tenn.; Nashville, and Stone River. At the last named he was captured by the enemy, and conveyed to Libby prison, where he remained for twenty-two days when he was paroled and sent to Annapolis, Md., remaining at the latter place for seven weeks. In July, 1863, he rejoined his regiment, and participated in the Tullahoma campaign, Dug Gap, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge,



Buzzards Roost, Resaca, New Hope Church, Kenesaw Mountain, Chattahoochee River, Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta, Jonesboro, Savannah, Averbsboro and Bentonville. He was mustered out at Columbus, July 25, 1865. He had reenlisted as a veteran at Chattanooga, and was appointed corporal April 1, 1865. He followed the old flag on many a Southern battle field, ever true to the Union, and his war record is one of which he may be justly proud.

Mr. Clough was married May 16, 1844, in Portage, Ohio, to Amelia Crego, who was born in Madison county, Ohio, May 4, 1824. They had two children—Flora, wife of Dr. William T. Thomas, of North Baltimore, Ohio; and George P., who died at the age of thirteen. After the war, Mr. Clough worked alternately at carpentering and wagon-making until 1876, then through the succeeding twelve years followed carpentering exclusively, while since 1888 he has lived retired. In politics he is a Republican, and for six years served as clerk of Portage corporation. In 1891 he was elected mayor, which position he filled for two years.

DR. T. S. CARMAN. "Peace hath her victories no less than war," and the men who braved privation, malaria, and countless other trials and dangers in the early days, in order to subdue the wilderness of forest and swamp which covered this section, are rightly held in honor for their achievements. Among the surviving pioneers of Wood county, Dr. Carman, of Bradner, stands foremost, and his versatile talents, sound judgment, determined will, and seemingly inexhaustible physical vigor are the wonder of all.

Dr. Carman was born in Queen Anne county, Md., April 10, 1808, a son of Salisbury and Anna (Critchett) Carman, and in early boyhood was taken to Baltimore by his parents. His father owned a large hat factory on Main street, Baltimore, and was a prosperous man until the breaking out of the war of 1812, when the fluctuation in prices of materials caused his failure. He served in that war as a member of the "Baltimore Blues," and his son distinctly remembers his coming home to get his sword when the regiment was called out to oppose the landing of the British forces under Gen. Ross. After his financial reverses he moved to Philadelphia, where he died in 1819 at the age of twenty-nine years, leaving a widow and four children, of whom our subject was the eldest and is now the only survivor. Mary died in childhood; Lewis died in Texas, in 1866; and James, who was a noted auctioneer at New Orleans, La., died in that city. The

mother of these was united in marriage in 1851 with James Chiviril, but to their union no children were born. She died at Baltimore, in 1866, at the age of seventy-five years.

Dr. Carman was only eleven years old when his father died, and, as there was no property left, the little family was scattered. He had been attending the common schools in Philadelphia, but this sad event put an abrupt end to his schooling, and he was placed with a farmer, an Englishman, who abused him so that he soon went back to Philadelphia. A drove of Western horses came to the city about that time, and one which was supposed to have glanders was given to him to take out to "Horse Heaven," on the Schuylkill river, to die. The diagnosis was not correct, and under the boy's kindly care the horse recovered, and its sale later brought him \$80.00, which formed the foundation of his future fortune. The fondness for horses, which this incident shows, has always been a characteristic trait, and to this day it is his delight to drive a spirited team. His unusual business ability was shown at an early age in various "dickers," and he made his way better than many so circumstanced would have done.

Returning to Baltimore, he learned dentistry, and for a while practiced there, then in Richmond, Va., and Augusta, Ga., and also traveled through the rural districts of the South and East in a sulky. He was an expert in his business, and as prices were good he prospered. In 1834 he moved to Cleveland, Ohio, and followed his profession, traveling through the South in the winter season, and in 1836 he went to Fort Seneca, Ohio, where he learned of the lands of Wood county. Being desirous of investing in real estate, he soon made a purchase of eighty acres in Section 8, Montgomery township, from Harlow Hill. This was in its primitive condition; but he made his home there in a log cabin in pioneer style, and as time passed he increased his holdings until he owned 440 acres, later entering 1,000 acres. He became a successful worker in different lines, practiced medicine, conducted a mercantile business, and carried on farming on an extensive scale, his shrewd financiering enabling him to accumulate money rapidly. Later he removed to Prairie Depot, where he carried on a store, practiced medicine, and for some time was in a similar business in Perrysburg, but in August, 1889, he moved to Bradner, where he has since resided. He owns seven houses in that town, also two in Prairie Depot, and about 500 acres of land, besides; he has done much toward the improvement of Bradner,



DR. T. S. CARMAN.



having built many houses and platted an addition to the town. In the early days he was criticised for his extensive purchases of land, by many who have lived to see the wisdom of his dealings.

In 1828 he was married, in Baltimore, to Miss Ellen Young, a native of the "Blue Hills," ten miles from the city. She died in Baltimore in 1834, not long after their marriage, leaving no children, and he subsequently married, in Baltimore, in 1835, Miss Elizabeth Howard, a native of Maryland, by whom he had four children: Two died in childhood; the others—Howard and Anna (now Mrs. Wesley Graham)—reside at Prairie Depot. This wife died at Prairie Depot in 1843, and the Doctor afterward married Miss Nancy A. Myers, a native of Wayne county, Ohio, and daughter of Michael Myers. One child was born of this union, Mary (now Mrs. Jefferson Adams), of North Baltimore. In 1853 death took from him this partner in life, who requested that he should marry her sister, Emily A. Myers, who was born in New Rochester, Wood county, in 1838. Twelve children were born of this fourth marriage, viz.: Patience died in childhood; Thomas, Jr., lives in Bradner; Ida married Harry Wright, of Sterling, Ill.; Kitty M. married Volney Jones, of Jerry City, Ohio; James and William H. reside in Bradner; Julia married Edward Keil, of Pemberville; Belle is the wife of G. F. Coyle, of Bradner; Daisy married W. H. Stow, of Bradner; Edna died at the age of eleven; Ross died in infancy, and June at the age of seven years. The Doctor is a Mason, and he and his wife are leading members of the Disciples Church. Their home has always been noted for its hospitality and good cheer.

Dr. Carman is remarkably well preserved, having never used liquor or tobacco in any form, and at his advanced age, now (fall of 1896) over eighty-eight years, he is active in mind and body, giving his personal attention to his numerous properties and business interests. The only marked sign of his years is his weakened eyesight; but so alert is he mentally, and so in sympathy with the world's progress, that he reads the newspapers daily, although it requires quite an effort to do so. At fifty years of age he measured forty-four inches around the chest on the bare flesh, and was unusually powerful. His will is unbending, a desire to do or have anything nearly always meaning that that desire will be fulfilled, no matter what the cost. His wonderful memory enables him to recall the events of his early life as a boy in Philadelphia and Baltimore, with great distinctness. He remembers the rejoicing over Jackson's victory in 1814 (January 8), and in

1824 he witnessed the reception of Lafayette at Baltimore, and saw Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, and Andrew Jackson, at this demonstration. He made trips on the second and third steamboats built in the United States, the "Pennsylvania" and "Ætna;" was present at the laying of the first stone of the B. & O. R. R. by Andrew Jackson, at Baltimore, each State being represented by a delegation, and among the other distinguished visitors present on that occasion were James Carroll (one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence), and Lafayette and his son. His native abilities seem to have been equal to any task. Left to make his way from early boyhood practically without any instruction, he has made a notable success in one of the most exacting of the learned professions, his career as a physician covering more than a quarter of a century. A born leader, his force of character and intellect are recognized by all with whom he comes in contact, and when he has served on juries he has invariably been chosen as foreman. In his financial affairs his ability has been well displayed. He was never given but one dollar in his life, and that was a Spanish dollar, bearing the date 1808, a gift from his stepfather, who was a pilot on an American vessel that raised a sunken Spanish ship containing that dollar among its store of treasures. It is still a cherished possession. He has lost as well as made money during his business life; but any mistake of that sort has been more than made good. In whatever business he has undertaken, he has grasped the principles of success intuitively, and whether as a merchant or a pioneer farmer his lack of previous training seems to have been no real obstacle in his way. Amos Spafford, on account of his being the first white settler in Wood county, was made a gift of 160 acres of land, April 26, 1816. Later in the same year this land fell into Mr. Carman's possession by the purchase of E. D. Peck's land, adjoining old Fort Meigs, the sum paid being fifteen thousand dollars.

Politically he has always been a Democrat, and his first vote was cast in Baltimore for Andrew Jackson. His ambition does not run in the direction of politics, and he has declined numerous candidacies, although, with the favorable acquaintance throughout the county which his business life has brought him, he would have received hearty support from both parties. He is not indifferent to local politics, however, and few men in this section have wielded the influence which he can exert in his quiet way, in opposing an enemy or forwarding the interest of a friend. He was a member of the board of equalization in the

early days, and suggested the classification of lands. At one time he was nominated for treasurer; but owing to his many private responsibilities, he declined the honor, giving, however, his influence to Edward Graham, who was elected. Dr. Carman and Gov. Foster are close friends, and the Governor's father and he were associates and intimate friends. In his younger years our subject was a great hunter, and many a deer, wild turkey and other game fell to his unerring rifle.

A remarkable man, truly, and a remarkable life! It is a marvel that with his ceaseless activity Nature's machinery has not been worn out long ago, but happily he has renewed his strength as the years have passed over his head.

JOHN W. ANDERSON is numbered among the native sons of the Keystone State, his birth having occurred in Shippensburg, Cumberland county, December 10, 1844. His father, William Anderson, was born in 1828. When a young man he sought the hand of Elizabeth Bell in marriage; her father, Isaac Bell, who was a large slave-owner, strongly objected to the marriage, but when the young couple had run away from home, and had the ceremony performed, he finally forgave them. The father of our subject was a splendid specimen of physical manhood. More than six feet tall, he was excellently well proportioned, and had a handsome countenance. In his youth, he learned the shoemaker's trade, but afterward became a traveling salesman, and was part owner of a new invention for distilling whiskey. Subsequently he returned to Shippensburg, Penn., where he carried on shoemaking, but his last days were spent in St. Thomas, Franklin Co., Penn., where his death occurred, from cholera, at the age of thirty-three. In the family were three children, John W. being the eldest. William is living in Findlay, Ohio, with his mother, who was married a second time, becoming the wife of John Burkens; Elizabeth was the deceased wife of William Carlin.

Mr. Anderson, of this review, spent his school days in Pikesville, Md., where the mother had removed after the father's death. At the age of sixteen he laid aside his books to make his own way in the world, and his industry and capable management have been the leading factors in his success. His first independent effort was at farm work, near his home. After two years he began learning the blacksmith's trade, serving a three-years' apprenticeship. At the end of a year his employer was drafted into the service, and Mr. Anderson started for his mother's home, she having in the meantime removed to Hancock county,

Ohio. He procured work at the blacksmith's trade at McComb, and, at the end of six months, went to Findlay, where he was employed in the same way. Subsequently he returned to Eli Beach, his first employer, with whom he continued until the Rebels made their raid into that locality, when he again went to Findlay. His next place of abode was Portage, Wood county, where he followed blacksmithing in the employ of A. C. Caswell.

During his residence in Portage, Mr. Anderson was married, on March 11, 1866, to Miss Josephine Sargent, who was born January 1, 1848, and is a daughter of S. L. Sargent. The young couple removed to Bowling Green; but after a short time came to Liberty township, and Mr. Anderson bought an acre of ground at Roney Corners. He there erected a log cabin and blacksmith's shop, and has since continued business at that place. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Anderson has been blessed with twelve children, namely: Arthur William, born April 19, 1869; Elizabeth, born January 1, 1871, now the wife of Elmer Fellers; Agnes D., born September 1, 1872, wife of William Smith, of Portage; Mary Willimeta, born May 20, 1874, wife of Louis Allen; Vennie J., born December 27, 1877; Maggie May, born July 14, 1880; Dollie Blanche, born May 20, 1882; Ethel Grace, born March 23, 1884; John Wesley, born December 13, 1887; Ollie Washington, born February 22, 1891; and two who are deceased.

Mr. Anderson is a Republican in politics; socially, is a member of the Odd Fellows Society, and, religiously, of the United Brethren Church. His genuine worth and thorough reliability have made him many friends.

HENRY DAVID, deceased, was a native of Hanover, Germany, and, when a young man of about twenty years, decided to try his fortune in the New World, where better opportunities are afforded for securing a home and competence. After landing on the shores of this continent, he came to northern Ohio, and for a time worked in Sandusky and Wood counties. Later he went to Toledo, Ohio, where he was engaged in teaming, and there was united in marriage with Miss Mary Fark, a native of Sandusky county, and a daughter of Fred and Charlotty Fark, who came to this country from the Fatherland.

Later, Mr. David sent the money to pay the passage of his parents and sister to America. For three years after his marriage he continued to reside in Toledo, and then rented land in Freedom township and elsewhere in Wood county

until 1884, when he purchased eighty acres of land in Section 12, Portage township, where his family still make their home. His death occurred suddenly on May 21, 1886, he leaving a widow with the support of six children, the oldest only thirteen years, and the youngest seven months old. They are all with their mother, and are named as follows: Henry, John, William, Charles, Fred and George. The farm had not all been cultivated, and a debt still rested upon it; but Mrs. David was brave and energetic, and went earnestly to work. Her family of small children had to be looked after and provided for, but she struggled along, often performing a man's work on the farm, besides her household tasks. She has displayed business ability of a high order, while her other duties are performed with equal proficiency. She is a devout member of the Lutheran Church, and her sons through her teachings have become steady-going, industrious young men.

**WILLIAM MANTEL.** From Michigan there have come to Wood county a number of its worthy citizens, including this gentleman who was born in Monroe county, that State, April 23, 1862. His parents were John and Elizabeth (Denoyer) Mantel. His father was a native of England, his mother of France. When a young man the former learned the trade of shoemaking, beginning that work at the early age of eight years. When a youth of sixteen he crossed the Atlantic to New York, and went at once to Monroe, Mich., where he secured work at his trade. He was there married and made his home for about thirty-three years, when in 1884 he came to Liberty township, Wood county, and is now living with our subject. His family numbered the following—George, who died at the age of eleven months; Josephine; Mrs. Peter Ducat, of Henry township; Thomas, who died at the age of seventeen; Edward, a farmer of Wayne county, Mich.; Peter, a barber of Michigan; James, who is engaged in the same business in Trenton, Mich.; Arthur, a farmer of Plain township, Wood county; William; Eliza, Mrs. Alferd Robinson, of Liberty township; Horace, an oil man of Henry township; and Mary, Mrs. Theodore Smith, of Liberty township.

William Mantel received but limited school privileges, but his training at farm labor was not so meager. On starting out in life for himself he rented a farm in his native county, which he operated until his removal to Wood county with his parents. He was at that time twenty-two years of age. He began work in the oil fields,

and on the 11th of September, 1893, purchased fifty-three acres of land in Section 3, Liberty township, where he is now living. The lady who shares Mr. Mantel's name and fortune was in her maidenhood Florence Matilda Judson. The marriage occurred July 3, 1889. She was born May 20, 1866, and is a daughter of James and Elizabeth (Mitchell) Judson, who had four children: Mrs. Mantel, Charles, William and Bert. Our subject and his wife are most estimable people, and have many warm friends throughout the community. In politics Mr. Mantel is a "Sound-money" Republican.

**CALEB ROE** is a worthy representative of the agricultural interests of Wood county, and through his enterprising efforts has won a success that is well merited. He was born in Liberty township, August 26, 1861, and comes of a family that has been connected with this locality since early pioneer days. His grandfather, Dominick Roe, came from Michigan to Wood county, and from the government entered eighty acres of land in Liberty township, for which he paid \$1.25 per acre. There he spent his remaining days. His family numbered the following members—Dominick, Jr., deceased; Stephen, of Lucas county; Victoria, who is married and resides in Michigan; Lucy, wife of Pedro Maloush, of Lucas county; Mrs. Margaret Garno, of Weston, Ohio; Mrs. Mary Deshetler, of Liberty township, Wood county; Eliza, wife of Frank Ducat, of Liberty township; and Edward, father of our subject.

The last named was born and reared in Michigan, and accompanied his parents on their removal here. In Liberty township he married Miss Margaret Ducat, and secured a tract of land by giving in exchange two young calves. He farmed various tracts of land in Liberty township, and in his undertakings was successful. In 1864 he entered the Union army, and served until the close of the war. His family numbered the following members—Caleb, a farmer of Jackson township; Robert, a farmer of Milton township; Sherman, a farmer of Portage township; Matilda, who died in childhood; Hiram, who is engaged in the oil business in Ohio; Lewis, of Bowling Green, Ohio; Lucetta, at home; Albert and Alfred, twins, who died in childhood; and Guy, who completes the family. The father died August 22, 1896, at the age of fifty-four years, and was buried in Rudolph cemetery.

Mr. Roe, of this review, is indebted to the public-school system for his education. He was reared under the parental roof, and aided in the

operation of the home farm until twenty-one years of age, when he began working in the tile yard owned by George Bradshaw, for \$25 per month. After eight months he entered a thirty-acre tract of land in Liberty township, and in 1886 he purchased a tract of similar size. This was the first property he ever owned. After clearing two acres he found that there was oil upon the place, leased it and secured therefrom a handsome income which enabled him to get a good start in life. In the fall of 1888, he purchased his present farm, then comprising eighty acres of land, all cleared, but otherwise unimproved. He has since erected a fine residence, good barns and outbuildings, has the latest improved machinery, high grades of stock and everything found on a first class farm of the nineteenth century.

On January 1, 1890, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Roe and Myrtie Gaghan, who was born in Milton township, May 31, 1869, and is a daughter of George and Mary (Finney) Gaghan, natives of Ireland, whence they emigrated to America, locating in Wood county. Here the father died August 28, 1890. Mrs. Roe was educated in the district schools of Milton township, and pursued her studies for one year in McComb, and two years in Weston, Ohio. When a maiden of only fifteen summers she began teaching school in Jackson township, and for six years successfully followed that profession. By her marriage she has one daughter, Bernice, born July 5, 1895. In politics Mr. Roe is a stalwart Republican, unswerving in his support of the principles of the party. He has, however, never sought office, but served as school director.

REASON WHITACRE is the oldest resident pioneer of Bloom township, and he and his brother Isaac are the only ones of the "'34 settlers" now living. He was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, October 20, 1814, and is now one of the successful agriculturists of Wood county. He has been a hard worker in his time, and is still active and energetic for a man of his years.

The Whitacre family came originally from Virginia. The grandfather, Edward Whitacre, married Martha Brown, and their son Mahlon, our subject's father, was born in the Old Dominion. When a boy of ten he was brought by his parents to Harrison county, W. Va., where he was married to Miss Phoebe Beck, also a native of Virginia, and a daughter of Preston Beck. Soon after marriage they moved to Columbiana county, which was then on the frontier line, and

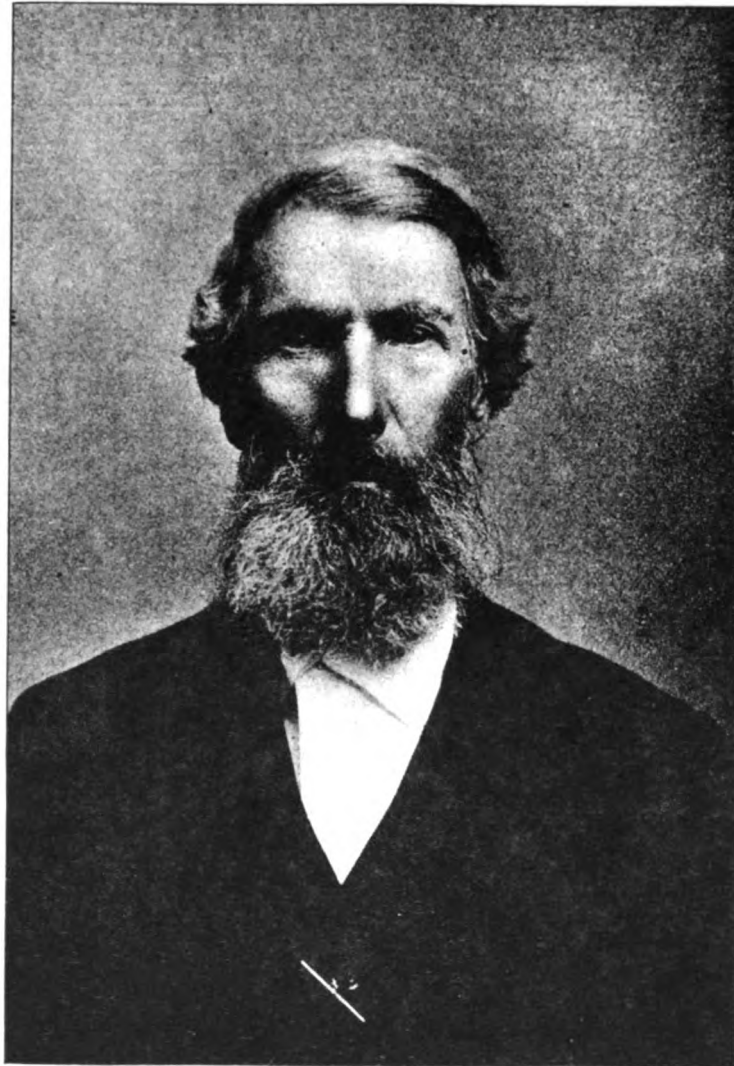
subject to Indian attacks and rumors of attacks, the family being so alarmed on one occasion as to seek refuge in the nearest settlement. In the spring of 1833 he came to Wood county on foot, and entered 160 acres in Section 6, eighty in Section 6, eighty in Sections 31 and 32, in Portage township; 160 acres in Section 5, forty in Sections 7 and 8, and eighty in Section 22, in Bloom township. He selected a spot for his future home in Section 6, near the present site of Cygnet, and returned to bring his family, which included seven children. They left Columbiana county April 18, 1834, and traveled in a wagon drawn by oxen *via* Minerva, Canton, Massillon, Wooster, Mansfield, Galion, Bucyrus and Upper Sandusky. They brought one cow with them, the younger members of the party walking by turns to drive her. Whenever they could, they stopped at hotel for the night, but often camped out, and after leaving Upper Sandusky they lived in that primitive fashion until their log house was built from trees felled after their arrival on May 4, 1834. The roads were so bad for the latter part of the trip that seven miles made a good day's travel. Their nearest neighbor lived two miles away, and their milling was done on the Maumee river, the trip taking five days, coming and going. Their first crop was corn, planted in small holes made in the solid ground, the stumps and roots making plowing impossible, and much of the grinding was done by hand-mills, made from stones found on the farm. The yield was abundant and wild game plentiful, so they fared well. They secured considerable ready money by selling coon skins at one dollar apiece. Our subject's father was a large man, weighing ordinarily 225 pounds. He possessed fine abilities, and great force of character, and when there were but few to give was a liberal supporter of the Disciples Church, of which he and his family were members. His large tracts of land were divided among his children, with the exception of forty acres, which he gave to a preacher. In politics he was first a Whig, later a Republican, and he took great interest in public questions. He died in 1847, at the age of sixty-three, and his wife in 1849, aged sixty-two, both being interred in the family lot in Sugar Grove cemetery. Of their children only two are now living. Preston was married in Columbiana county to Martha Lucy, and died two years after coming to Wood county; Gula E. was married at the old home to Abiah Stackhouse, and died in Wood county in 1838; Edward was married, before coming West, to Hannah McNeely, and died in this county in 1846; the fourth child is the subject of this







*Mary M Whitcomb*



*Reason Whitacre*



sketch; Isaac was married in Wood county to Elizabeth McCrory, later to Eliza Wolfe, and now lives in Bloom township; Lydia A. married John McCrory, and died in Plain township; Sarah J. died of consumption three years after coming to this county.

Reason Whitacre in his childhood attended first a subscription school, and later, when public schools came into vogue, he availed himself of them. He was trained to farm work, and when a young man worked out for three shillings a day; for one year before coming to Wood county he had worked in a gristmill at Minerva. In all the work and hardships and pleasures of the pioneer days in this county he took his full share, and his reminiscences are most interesting. On March 22, 1837, he was married to Miss Mary McCrory, a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1820, daughter of Samuel McCrory, a prominent citizen of Henry township. They commenced housekeeping on seventy-two acres of land in Section 6, Bloom township, a gift from his parents. It was in its primitive state, and his little log cabin was the first house upon it. He cleared eighteen acres, and after his father's death traded the tract for his sister Lydia's interest in the homestead, where he has ever since resided.

By his first marriage Mr. Whitacre had eight children: Mahlon was a farmer in Liberty township; he died leaving two children—Conrad and Elmer. Hannah R. married Mandeville Milbourn, of Bloom township, and died leaving five children—Edward R., Lydia, Horace, Mary and Arthur. Phoebe married Horace C. Mercer, of Liberty township, and their children are Milton, Albutus, Mary, Delorma, Clarence, Rosa, Jefferson, Frank and George. James, deceased, was a farmer in Liberty township; he left one child—Frederick. Samuel was a farmer in Liberty township, and died leaving two children—Elletha and Olerious. Daniel is a farmer in Liberty township; he married Amanda Loe, and they have nine children—Mahlon, Hayes, Rhoda, Ardie, Wildie, Naomi, Carrie, Howard and Karl. Lewis S. is a resident of Cygnet, and has one child—Frank. Thomas lives in Liberty township; he has two children—Charles and Floyd. Mrs. Whitacre died in 1861, and was buried in Sugar Grove cemetery. On March 22, 1866, our subject was married to Miss Mary M. Bullis, a native of Durham, N. Y., born December 24, 1835, daughter of Isaac and Amanda (Hervey) Bullis, who came to Wood county in 1845, and located in Plain township. Four children were born of this union: Herman W. is a farmer in Liberty township; Arthur I. is a farmer in Bloom

township (he has one son—Reason); Warren R. is at home, and Marian died in infancy.

Mr. Whitacre still operates his farm of 200 acres, and also 100 acres in Liberty and Plain townships belonging to his wife. In 1886 he leased his land to a Mr. Scott, who did not operate, but sold to Barnum & Boden, and they began operations in March, 1890, drilling two wells. Then Mr. Barnum bought out his partner, and sold a one-third interest to a Mr. Hughes, and this firm now control the territory. At this writing they are operating eight wells, and will probably drill two more. The whole production amounts to about \$4,000 per month, our subject securing one-seventh. On Mrs. Whitacre's property in Plain township there are three wells, one in operation. Politically our subject is a Republican, he has been a favorite candidate of his party for various offices, and has served thirteen years as trustee, one term as justice of the peace, and has also been supervisor and school director. He is an elder in the Disciples Church, of which the family have so long been leading members, and has always been among the most generous helpers of any worthy movement.

WILLIAM HEYMAN, a well-known saloon keeper of Tontogany, this county, was born in the village Kaltenholzhausen, Kreis Diez, Nassau, Germany, February 19, 1840. At the age of fifteen years he started for this country, and the voyage across the Atlantic occupied sixty-three days, the ship being an old sailing vessel; and two weeks more were passed in coming from New York to Monroeville, Ohio, the point of destination. Young Heyman first went to work on a farm in Erie county, for which he was paid fifty cents a day. He then hired out by the month, first at eight dollars, and afterward at ten dollars. Later he became employed by the year, receiving, for his services the first year, \$140, and, for the second, \$150. He remained and worked for this same man—John Wright—for six years, his wages being increased until they reached \$200 per year. During this period Mr. Heyman saved about \$600, and then began farming for himself in Erie county; and in 1865 he was married to Miss Elizabeth Nickel, a native of Germany, whose parents had been farmers in Erie county for some years. Two children were born of this union, namely: Louise, who married Gustave Thorn, and they have three children—Gustave, Ella and Goldie; and William F., who is in the saloon and restaurant business at Ogden, Utah. Mrs. Heyman died in 1869, and in 1871 Mr.

Heyman married Miss Margretta Erbe, who was born in Erie county, near Castalia, in 1850. Shortly after the latter marriage he moved to Bellevue, in Huron county, where he clerked in a store, and two years later came to Tontogany, where he opened a sample room. To the second marriage were born eight children, and all at Tontogany: Albert, John, Frank, George, Charles, Cora, Avery and Eddie. Through the energy, industry and good management of our subject his business has proved a profitable one. He is one of the progressive citizens of this locality. In politics he is a Democrat, and is a prominent member of the Lutheran Church.

EZRA J. MOE was born in Lorain county, Ohio, February 4, 1840, and is a son of Isaac and Angeline (Moon) Moe. The father, a native of Genesee county, N. Y., was a child of six years when he went with his parents to Lorain county, the family locating on a 160-acre tract of wild land which the grandfather, Isaac Moe, purchased in 1802. He had journeyed to this State on foot, pre-empted his land, and planted a few acres of corn, and in the fall returned for his family. He served as a soldier in the war of 1812, and died in Ridgeville township, about 1850. The members of his family were Edwin, who died in Wisconsin; Charles, who died in Lorain county; Betsy, deceased wife of Gersham Gillett, of Lorain county; Polly, deceased wife of Abraham Moon, of Lorain county; Jane, wife of Leander Wilcox; Philand, wife of Otis Gilmore, and Hannah, wife of Husted Moe.

Isaac Moe was married in Lorain county to Miss Moon, who was there born in 1804. She became the mother of seven children, namely: Edwin, who died in infancy; Ann, deceased wife of George Hinger, of Sandusky, Ohio; Rosanna, Isaac and Wellington, who died in infancy; Ezra J.; and Rosanna, deceased wife of George Gill. After the death of his first wife, the father was married in Clyde, Sandusky county, to Mrs. Polly Heydon, and they had three children—Isaac, Mary and Emeline, all deceased. Mrs. Moe died in Clyde, Ohio, and the father afterward removed to Michigan. In 1873 he came to Wood county to live with our subject, and died in 1881.

When a child of eight years, Ezra Moe accompanied his parents to Clyde, where he acquired his education. When only ten years of age he began earning his own living, and for seven years rode race horses for Tuttle Brothers, of Clyde. He then worked as a farm hand until October 23, 1861, when, having obtained permission from his father to go to the train to wit-

ness the departure of Company A, 72nd O. V. I., he, instead, joined the troops and went to the front, where he participated in the battles of Shiloh and Corinth, and aided in building a fort at Memphis, Tenn. With Grant's command he then went to Holly Springs, and after their supplies were cut off returned to Memphis, proceeding down the river to Milliken's Bend. After making the canal at Vicksburg, his command marched to Grand Gulf, and later participated in seven battles which drove the Rebels into their works at Vicksburg, where they then entered upon the famous siege, which ended with the surrender of the city July 4, 1863. Before sundown that night they were fighting Joe Johnston sixteen miles away, and engaged with that general in three battles. The troops afterward returned to Memphis, subsequently going to Little Rock, Ark., and following Price, who threatened the destruction of that city. They afterward marched to Cape Girardeau, were loaded into transports, and subsequently proceeded to Sedalia and Lexington, Mo. They then marched to Kansas City, and captured Price on the Big Blue river. Returning to St. Louis, they were at once ordered to Nashville, but Mr. Moe remained in St. Louis for about twelve hours. He rejoined his regiment in Cairo, and took part in the battle of Nashville. Later the troops marched to New Orleans, and were engaged in service in the gulf district for some time. This included the capture of Spanish Fort, after which they started for Montgomery, where the news was received of Lee's surrender, and the restoration of peace. They then proceeded to Vicksburg, and Mr. Moe, who had veteranized in 1864, was honorably mustered out September 11, 1865, after almost four years of military service, in which he made for himself an honorable record.

It was just four years later—September 11, 1869—that he was married in Perrysburg to Ellen Spoons. They removed to Garden Grove, Decatur Co., Iowa, but after a year removed to Wood county, and for three years operated the Hendricks farm near, Bowling Green. Mr. Moe later rented the Starr farm for nine years, the Lathrop farm for four years, and the Todd farm for four years. In the spring of 1892 he purchased twenty acres of land, erected a good residence thereon, and has since made it his home. His wife died in May, 1882, leaving five children: Charles, of Milton township; William Allen, of Liberty township; John, Maud and Fred, at home. One son, Frank, was accidentally shot at the age of thirteen years, and death resulted. Mr. Moe is a Democrat, and a member of the

**United Brethren Church.** He discharges his duties of citizenship with the same loyalty and fidelity that marked his honorable soldier record.

E. F. METZGER, the efficient town clerk of Troy township, and postmaster of Stony Ridge, is a native of Wood county, born in Troy township, January 15, 1867, and is a son of Lewis and Mary (Reninger) Metzger, both born in the German Empire, emigrating to America in 1835. In Medina county, Ohio, they were reared and married, but, as early as 1856, became residents of Wood county; in 1850, the father purchased his present farm in Troy township. They reared a family of seven children, namely: John, who died in Perrysburg township, November 7, 1894; Charles, who died in Troy township, November 3, 1888; George, a resident of Paulding county, Ohio; Henry, who died in Troy township, in 1883; E. F., of this sketch; and Carrie and Allen, both at home.

Our subject was reared to rural life, receiving his primary education in the district schools, after which he pursued his studies for two seasons in the Fostoria Normal School. On leaving school he began teaching, which profession he followed for eight years in Wood county, meeting with excellent success as an instructor. In his political affiliations, Mr. Metzger is a Democrat, and for the past six years has taken an active part in local public affairs, being one of the leaders of his party in the township. In 1892 he was appointed town clerk, and afterward elected for three consecutive terms; in December, 1893, he was appointed postmaster of Stony Ridge, to succeed J. E. Stewart. He has proved a capable official, discharging the duties of the offices to the satisfaction of all concerned. He holds membership with the Lutheran Church of Stony Ridge, and Fort Meigs Lodge No. 774, I. O. O. F., of Perrysburg, and is universally respected as an honorable, upright young man.

**ABRAHAM HUFF** (deceased) was one of the straightforward and honorable citizens of Wood county. He was a native of the Buckeye State, born on January 20, 1825, in Sandusky county, near the city of that name, and was the fourth of six children, the others being Nancy, Mary, Snowden, George and Benjamin. He received his early education in Missouri, and followed farming as a means of livelihood.

Mr. Huff was married February 11, 1847, in Washington township, the lady of his choice being Lucy Ward, daughter of J. M. and Maria (Cowen) Ward, prominent farming people of that

township. In religious belief her father was a Dunkard, while her mother held membership with the Lutheran Church. They are both now deceased, the latter passing away March 21, 1884. They had four children: (1) Elizabeth, born June 4, 1825, has departed this life. (2) Mrs. Huff is the second in the order of birth. (3) Ira, born August 16, 1831, became a member of Company H, 21st O. V. I., during the Civil war, and died in Rebel prison at Andersonville, Ga. He had married Charlotte Jeffers, by whom he had two children—Elizabeth Maria, wife of Charlie Thompkins, a resident of Missouri; and Alice Ann, wife of James Madison, also of Missouri. (4) Eliza died at the age of fifteen years.

Three children came to bless the union of Mr. and Mrs. Huff, namely: (1) Sarah Maria, born July 27, 1850, is the wife of David McCombs, a contractor of Toledo, Ohio, by whom she had five children—Clinton, who died in infancy; Vernie Minnie, born August 20, 1871; Effie Myrtle, born September 20, 1873; Orlando Lester, born March 20, 1876; and Lucy Pearl, born December 15, 1879. (2) Ann Eliza, born December 15, 1851, died at the age of three years. (3) Eugene B., born in Weston township, January 16, 1854, married Della Clark, and resides on his own farm.

Mr. Huff, for the last twenty-five years of his life, traveled the greater part of the time. His death occurred in California, September 7, 1876. In politics, he was a Republican, and by his fellow citizens was chosen to fill several offices of honor and trust, including that of supervisor, which he held for two terms, while for several terms he was constable, and his duties were always faithfully discharged. He and his estimable wife were ever faithful and devoted members of the United Brethren Church, and the family is one of prominence in the community.

G. W. SMITH, a well-known farmer of Plain township, Wood county, comes of good old Revolutionary stock, his great-grandfathers on both sides of the family having fought and died in the struggle of the colonies for liberty, the one being killed at the battle of Brandywine, and the other at the battle of Trenton.

The parents of our subject were George and Mary (Wirts) Smith, the former being born in Pennsylvania in 1791, and dying in Summit county, Ohio, in 1854. The mother was a native of New Jersey, born in 1795, and died in Summit county in 1874. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the

father followed farming as an occupation. He was a Democrat, and a loyal citizen. The parental family comprised seven children, namely: Malinda, who married Joseph Hall, and died in Kansas; J. J., a physician, who resided at Akron, Ohio, and practiced there many years, but died December 7, 1884; J. B., who was assistant surgeon in the 14th O. V. I., and died at Nashville, Tenn.; Hannah, who married W. C. Smith and died at Rock Island, Ill.; Thomas, who was killed accidentally in Missouri; G. W., the subject of this sketch; and Margaret, the wife of L. M. Newton, residing in Kansas.

G. W. Smith was born in Summit county, Ohio, September 26, 1826, was educated in Akron, Ohio, under the superintendence of Gen. Leggett, and lived at home until twenty-one years old, when he went to California. There he was taken ill with typhoid fever, and, after thirty-days unconsciousness, had but partly recovered from that terrible disease, when dread cholera broke out, and he was seized with that. He fortunately escaped with his life, and, strange to say, for twenty-eight years afterward did not have a day's illness. In the spring of 1853 Mr. Smith took passage for Australia, reaching there in July, and for three years was engaged in mining in that country. He then decided to return home, and came by way of England, landing at Bristol, and stopping at London and many of the principal cities in Europe, and, being, in all, two hundred and eleven days, and traveling about 25,000 miles on the water before he reached the United States. He says, these were the happiest days of his life.

Mr. Smith finally settled in Wood county, Ohio, and in 1857 was married to Miss Matilda Eaton, who was born in Ashland county, Ohio, August 10, 1829. Of this union three children have been born: Era G., born June 24, 1866, is the wife of J. W. Le Galley, and has two children, Harry and Marguerite; Carl L., born March 11, 1868, was married February 6, 1895, to Miss Gertrude Hopkins, of Brownhelm township, Lorain Co., Ohio, who was born January 20, 1871 (he was educated at the High School in Bowling Green, and at Ada Normal School, and at present is assessor of Plain township); Lulu E., born March 3, 1874, is at home with her parents.

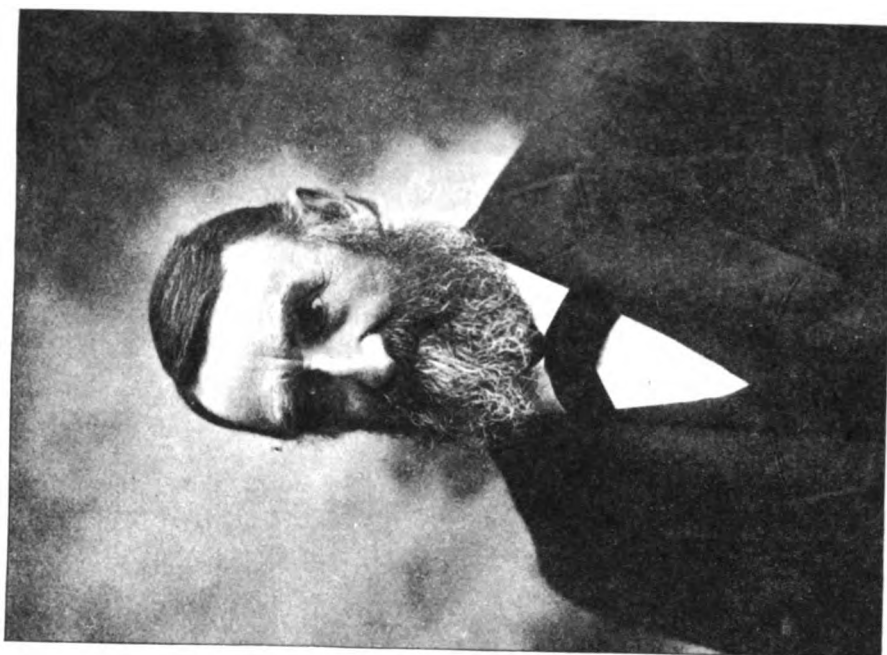
Mr. Smith is engaged in general farming and stock raising, and is a man of good business ability and of progressive ideas. He is a Democrat in politics, and is highly esteemed as a loyal citizen and good neighbor, who wants justice to all and special privileges to none.

**BENJAMIN F. PRATT.** This pioneer farmer of Perrysburg township was born March 9, 1824, on the place where he still resides. He assisted in wresting the now fertile acres from the primeval forests, and the wonderful growth and development of the surrounding country have all taken place before his eyes. He can relate many most interesting reminiscences of those early days, and of the people whose struggles and privations sound like a fairy tale to the youth of to-day.

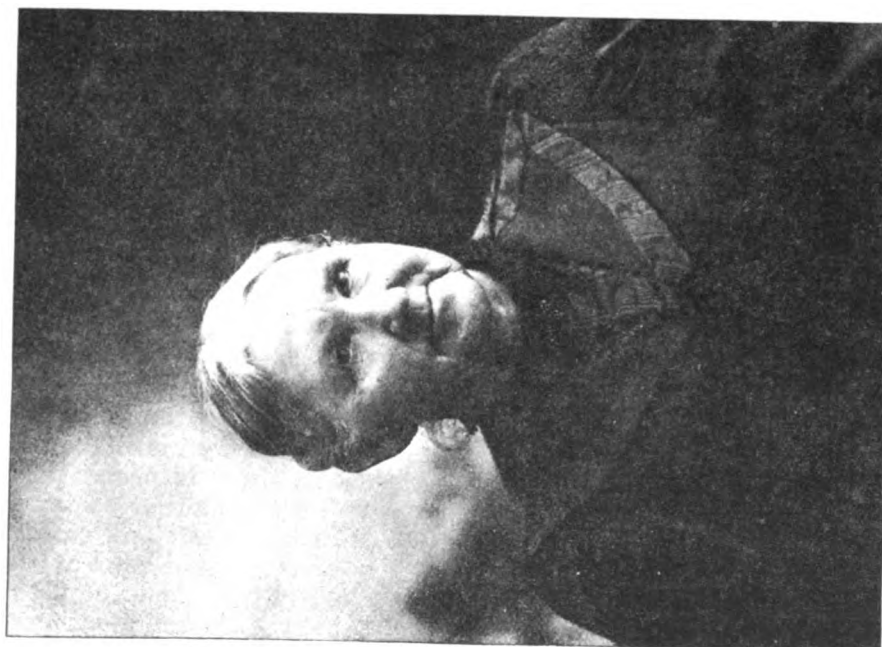
Gen. William and Bathia (Brown) Pratt, the parents of our subject, were natives of Massachusetts, where they were married, and whence, in 1814, they came to Ohio, settling in Orleans, Wood county, on the Maumee river, near Fort Meigs. They had previously lived in Canada, where the father owned a store and a farm; but when the war of 1812 broke out he came with his family to the United States, leaving behind him all his property, and cast his lot with the young republic. They crossed the lake in an open boat to Orleans, and there entered land. In later years a part of the property in Canada was reclaimed by one of the children. The father served during the war of 1812, and rose to the rank of general.

When the family took possession of the land now owned by our subject, which was in the year 1818, it consisted of eighty acres of dense forest. They made the first clearing, back from the river front, which was made in that locality, and which became known as the "hole in the woods." William Pratt ran the first schooner on the Maumee river, and followed boating for many years. He died February 3, 1824, and was buried on the farm; his wife died at Grand Rapids in July, 1858, and was buried in the cemetery at Perrysburg, where her husband's remains had been removed. Seven children were born to this estimable couple, namely: Jonas, who was a farmer, and died in Henry county, Ohio, in 1854; William served with his father in the war of 1812, and died in Grand Rapids in 1869; Hiram died in Wood county, in January, 1854, his wife surviving him until January, 1894; Amos was a steamboat captain on the lakes, and resided a part of his life in Maumee, near Fort Miami, Lucas county, and died in Buffalo, some time in the "fifties;" Sarah became the wife of Judge Jerome, and died in Lucas county; Jane married Francis Hinsdall, and lives in Toledo; James makes his home in Illinois, and Benjamin F. is our subject.

Benjamin F. Pratt was reared in Perrysburg



*B. J. Pratt*



*Lusa J. Pratt*





township, and assisted his father in clearing and improving the home farm which he now owns, and to which he has added until his property comprises 192 acres, all well-improved and valuable land. He has built a comfortable residence, and is engaged in general farming. He was married in Perrysburg township, March 20, 1850, to Miss S. J. Perrin, who was born in Nova Scotia, and is a daughter of James and Nellie (Byers) Perrin, the father a native of France, the mother of Scotland. In 1838 her parents went to Indiana, where they both died in less than one week. After their deaths the children all returned to Wood county. Of these, Charles is deceased; Jane is now Mrs. Young, and lives at Albion, Mich.; Mary married Benjamin Langel, and is deceased; John resides in Roachton; William lives in Perrysburg township; Catherine married Stephen Langel, and is deceased.

Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Pratt, as follows: Fred is living in New Mexico; Ella (now Mrs. Kerr) lives in Grand Rapids; Arthur is in New Mexico; and May, Guy, Clifton and Benjamin F., are at home. Mr. Pratt is a Republican, and a member of the M. E. Church. He is a man of fine character, devoted to his home and family, and has never cared to hold public office. As a representative of one of the old families in the county, and for his many sterling qualities, he is held in the highest estimation by all who know him.

**WILLIAM LE GALLEY, SR.**, one of the oldest of the honored pioneers of Plain township, was born December 20, 1812, in Colerain, Mass. He was the son of John and Margaret (Wilson) Le Galley, both of whom were natives of Massachusetts.

When he was seven years old his parents moved to Ohio, and located in Lower Sandusky, where both died a few years later, and our subject was left to make his own way in the world. He went to Seneca county, where he lived with an uncle for nine years, attending school for a short period, afterward working upon the farm. At the age of sixteen he began to learn the tanner's trade, which he followed for twenty-eight years in Seneca and Huron counties, where he also engaged to some extent in farming. He was married in Huron county, in 1836, to Miss Terry, who was born there in August, 1819. They had six children: Myron, John H., William T., Silia and Charles, all living; and Fannie, who died when six years old. In 1856 he moved to Wood county, and purchased 200 acres of land in Plain township, which was but little improved.

With the help of his sons, he succeeded in changing this wilderness into a cultivated farm, ditching, tiling, planting fruit trees, and building a good dwelling house, and commodious barns. He has divided seventy-five acres of his land between two of his sons, and still retains 125 acres, which is under the management of his son, Charles, who resides at the homestead. There are four oil wells in operation upon the property, developed by the Ohio Oil Company.

Although Mr. and Mrs. Le Galley have passed the allotted three score and ten years, both are hale and hearty, and happy in the enjoyment of the fruits of their past labors. Their children occupy useful and honorable positions in life, and their declining years are without a cloud. They have been for many years leading members of the Baptist Church in Bowling Green. Mr. Le Galley votes the Prohibition ticket, and he has always taken an influential part in local affairs. In 1860 he was elected justice of the peace, serving for one term, and he was school director for a number of years.

**TITUS BECK** was born in New Rumley, Harrison Co., Ohio, March 9, 1845. His early life was spent in Ashland county, Ohio, where he studied the elementary branches of an English education in the district schools. He enlisted in the Union army at Ashland during the Civil war, joining, on February 28, 1864, the Western army, with which he stayed for twenty-two months, being most of that time connected with the artillery corps at Fort Steel, Ark. In 1865 he returned to Ashland county, and on March 5, 1868, was married to Miss Laura E. Campbell, a daughter of James and Isabell (Robertson) Campbell. They moved to Wood county, where he at once settled on eighty acres of land he now owns, adjoining the corporation of Bowling Green. The property contains three oil wells, which he has leased, and he is occupied in general farming. Mrs. Laura E. (Campbell) Beck was born in Ashland county, Ohio, July 8, 1847. They became the parents of thirteen children, namely: Allen Sanford, born January 30, 1869; Myrtle E., born October 13, 1871; Alice G., born June 27, 1872, was accidentally burned to death November 19, 1876; George Campbell, born March 18, 1874, married to Miss Maud Case, of Toledo, June 15, 1896, a niece of President Garfield; Mattie May, born December 13, 1875, wife of Gilbert Harriss; Ida L., born February 19, 1878; John L., born November 17, 1879; Earl J. born November 23, 1881; Walter B., born May 19, 1884; Verah E., born June 20, 1886; Benson Foraker, born December 19, 1887; Orlie

C., born August 6, 1892; Hazel Bell, born January 27, 1894.

George Beck, father of our subject, was born in New Brunswick, on the St. Johns river, February 23, 1815. He came to the eastern part of Ohio when sixteen years old, and settled in Harrison county with his mother and family, where he lived until 1848, when he went to the northern part of Ashland county, and there died March 20, 1890. He was a farmer by occupation, and was a member of the United Brethren Church. In politics he was a Democrat until the beginning of the slave agitation, when he became an anti-slave agitator. His wife was a Miss Delila Miller, who was born and reared in Harrison county, Ohio, and died at Troy, Ashland Co., Ohio, at the age of seventy years. To this couple were born the following children: Martha, born October 2, 1840, is now the wife of John Porter, of Lorain county, Ohio; William, born June 20, 1842, died in 1864, at Tullahoma, Tenn. (he was a member of Company K, 102nd O. V. I.); Titus is our subject; Mary, who married William Latham, died at Sullivan, Ashland county; David and George died in infancy; Eliza, the wife of George Pixley, resides in Troy, Ashland county; Ollie is the wife of John Criss, of Lincoln county, Kans.; Enoch Goliah lives in Ashland county.

Our subject's grandfather died in New Brunswick, and his great-grandfather Beck was a soldier in the German army. Although a small man, he was very powerful and was able to put five barrels of flour on top of one another, being the only man in the army who could accomplish this feat of strength. His wife was a Miss Sherman, of Yankee descent. Mr. Beck's father was one of seven children, the others being: Titus, Martha, Margaret, Mary, Austin and Elizabeth. All of them are deceased except the two latter, who live in Ashland county.

James Campbell, the father of Mrs. Beck, was born May 20, 1820, in Ashland county, and the mother was born in Steubenville, Ohio, December 22, 1828. They were married June 10, 1846, and settled in Wood county, April 4, 1868, where he died in 1876. He was a Democrat before the war, and afterward became a Republican. During the war he enlisted in Company K, 82nd O. V. I., for the first three-years' volunteer service. He served until February 24, 1863, when he was discharged on surgeon's certificate of disability. He participated in the battles of Bull Run, Shiloh, and others. He lost his health while in the army, and died after returning home; he received a pension, which his widow, who still survives, now draws. Two of their five children

grew to maturity—Laura and Almer; George E., John W., and Nettie E., all died while young.

Grandfather Campbell came from Pennsylvania and died in Ashland county. He married a Miss McKinsie, who was of Scotch-Irish descent. The maternal great-grandmother's name was Elliot, and she and her husband were Scotch-Irish, and lived and died in Steubenville. The Robertsons were from Jefferson county, Ohio, and were of Scotch-English descent. The paternal grandmother's name was Paterson.

WILLIAM B. KERR, who has been a trustee of Grand Rapids township since its organization, was born in Point Creek township, Holmes Co., Ohio, July 9, 1835. His grandfather, William Kerr, a blacksmith by trade, married Margaret Miller, and lived for some years after his marriage, in Pennsylvania, where his son Jesse, our subject's father, was born in 1810. Three years later the family moved to Holmes county, Ohio, and there Jesse Kerr grew to manhood, and followed the occupation of farming. He was there married to Miss Jane H. Barton, who was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, November 12, 1812, the daughter of one of the earliest settlers of that county. Our subject was the eldest of their family of eight children; Eliza, the second child, married Isaac Van Horn, a prominent resident of Wood county, Ohio; Nancy died in 1846; James E. is an ordained minister of the U. P. Church, at Coulterville, Ill.; Mary married Perry Heeter, a well-known agriculturist of Grand Rapids township; Joseph W. is a minister of the United Presbyterian Church in Piqua, Ohio; Villa married John Caton, of Grand Rapids township; the youngest child died in infancy. From 1850 to 1886 the family lived upon a farm in Wood county, where our subject's mother died in 1886, and his father seven years later, at the age of eighty-three.

William B. Kerr was started on the road to knowledge in his native county, and afterward attended the schools of Wood county. He worked upon his father's farm until he attained his majority, when he bought thirty acres of land, which he improved. In 1861 he enlisted at Napoleon, Ohio, in Company H, 68th O. V. I. (Col. H. Steedman and Capt. J. J. Vorhees, commanding), which was assigned to the 17th Army Corps, with Gen. McPherson as Dept. Commander, and Gen. Logan as Commander of the Division. On the expiration of his term of service, Mr. Kerr re-enlisted at Vicksburg, and served throughout the war. He was in a number of hard-fought battles, among them the engagements at Fort Donelson,

Fort Henry and Vicksburg, and he took part in the Atlanta campaign, and "marched down to the sea" with Sherman. On receiving his final discharge at Cleveland, he went to Henry county and bought ninety acres of land which he cultivated for eight years, when he returned to Wood county, and purchased eighty acres near Grand Rapids, upon which he has made many improvements, and provided a comfortable home for his family.

On October 10, 1865, he was married to his first wife, Miss Jennie Culbertson, a daughter of J. G. Culbertson, a well-known citizen of Henry county. They have had three children: James H., born December 23, 1868, resides in Henry county; John W., born December 4, 1872, is now attending the Western Reserve Medical College at Cleveland; the youngest child died in infancy. Mrs. Kerr died in 1875, and our subject married again, choosing for a second wife Miss Mary J. Mitchell, of Knox county, Ohio, who was born August 18, 1840.

Mr. Kerr and his family attend the United Presbyterian Church, and are among the leaders in its various lines of work. In politics Mr. Kerr is a Republican, and his influence in the local organization is widely recognized. He is noted for his sound judgment and upright character, and has been intrusted with many public duties, which have been discharged with energy and discretion. Throughout his eight years residence in Henry county, he was justice of the peace in Damascus township, and since coming to this county he has been assessor of Grand Rapids and Weston townships for four terms, and has held the office of trustee in the former since 1891. He is a member of the G. A. R., Bond Post No. 24.

HON. J. E. STEVENS, the able and popular mayor of Grand Rapids, was born May 29, 1851, in Huron county, Ohio. He is a son of John A. and Linda (Heath) Stevens, prominent residents of Grand Rapids township, and has lived in this county since he was three years old, receiving his education mainly in the schools of Weston. He learned the blacksmith's trade with S. Sterling, of Weston, and remained with him for sixteen years, when he moved to Grand Rapids and worked for eight years with T. J. Sterling in the same trade. In 1892 he bought out his employer, and has since conducted the business for himself, enjoying the patronage of the entire community.

In 1873, he was married to Miss Mary Bee-man, who died some years later, leaving two children: Sylvester, who has already made a start

in life as a blacksmith, and Louisa, who lives at Muncie, Ind. In 1882, Mr. Stevens married his second wife, Miss Emma Carson, daughter of the late John Carson, of Grand Rapids. Five children were born of this union: Alma, Ruth and Harry, who are now attending school, and Guy and Ruby, both of whom died in infancy. Mrs. Stevens is one of the most active workers in the Relief and Aid Society of the Presbyterian Church, of which her husband is a prominent member, and she is a ready supporter of any philanthropic movement.

Mr. Stevens holds in an unusual degree the confidence and respect of his fellow citizens, and is a leading member of the Republican party. He has twice been elected councilman of Grand Rapids, and in 1895 was chosen mayor by a large majority, fully justifying the faith of his friends by a wise, honest, and business-like administration.

FRED HEETER, the able young postmaster of Grand Rapids, who is one of the most enterprising and prosperous business men of that locality, is one of the "Wood county boys" who are doing credit to the place of their birth. Born in Grand Rapids, September 2, 1865, he attended the excellent public schools there during boyhood, and later took a course in a business college. After graduating, he returned to his native town, and engaged in mercantile business, dealing in groceries, glassware and crockery, and has achieved a success which speaks well for his ability, judgment and fair dealing. His reputation in financial circles is of the best, and in local politics he is also among the foremost, being an influential worker in the Democratic party in his vicinity.

Mr. Heeter was married June 12, 1895, to Miss Etta Thomas, born June 8, 1876, one of the most attractive young ladies of Grand Rapids, and a member of one of the leading families in the Methodist Church there. He is a member of the fraternal order of the K. of P. and of the I. O. O. F. With hosts of friends and so firm a vantage ground gained for success in business and political life, Mr. Heeter's future is confidently expected to bring to him still greater opportunities to give proof of his ability.

JUDGE GEORGE C. PHELPS, one of the oldest and most prominent citizens of Bowling Green, has been identified with the leading interests of this county ever since 1853, when he came to Webster township with his bride of a year, and established a home in the clearing. He

is descended from an old New England family. His grandfather, Abel Phelps, lived in Tolland county, Conn., and reared a large family, among whom were: Sallie, born February 28, 1792, who married Mr. Manley, and died in Pennsylvania; Abby, born June 1, 1794; Harriet, born January 7, 1797; Patty, March 21, 1799—all of whom died in Connecticut; George A., born October 10, 1804, who died in Medina county, Ohio; and Abel, our subject's father, who was born October 10, 1804. He was married in Hebron, Conn., to Miss Sallie Barber, born April, 1807. In 1834 they moved to Brunswick, Medina county, Ohio, where they spent the rest of their lives, honored and influential citizens, and leading members of the Congregational Church. Mr. Phelps was a Democrat before the war, but in later life was a Republican. He died September 13, 1887, and his wife February 8, 1891. They reared a family of four children, of whom our subject is the eldest now living. Of the others, Elizabeth is the wife of George Hamilton, of DeKalb county, Ind.; Ralph lives in Medina county, Ohio, and Mary Jane is the wife of Hiram Davis, of Cuyahoga county, Ohio.

The subject of this sketch was born at the old home in Connecticut, October 25, 1827, and at the age of seven came to Ohio with his parents. He grew to manhood upon the farm in Medina county, and July 7, 1852, married Miss Emily A. Park, who was born in New York State March 1, 1827. Her father, William Park, was a native of Canandaigua, N. Y., and was descended from some of the early settlers of East Bloomfield, N. Y. Her mother was Miss Axa Reed, a native of Massachusetts, whose father, Uriah Reed, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and a life-long resident of Taunton, Mass. They settled in Medina county, Ohio, in 1837, and there their five children grew to maturity; Phœbe, Mrs. Joseph Simmons, of Cuyahoga county, Ohio; Emily A., Mrs. Phelps; Albina, deceased; Evaline, Mrs. Isaac Dake, of Medina county, and William, deceased. After their marriage Judge Phelps and his wife remained in Medina county, for a year, and then moved to Wood county, settling upon a farm where they lived for twenty years.

Our subject's rare fitness for public life was speedily recognized, and he was not permitted to remain in obscurity; for many years he held various township and county offices, school director, justice of the peace, township clerk and probate judge. To the last position he was elected three times, and held it, in all, over nine years. During this time the contest over the re-

moval of the court house to Bowling Green took place, and he was one of the leaders. He has been engaged in various business enterprises also. He helped to build the old Tontogany railroad, and of later years he has been interested in the gas business, as his farm in Webster township lies within the "oil belt."

In September, 1876, he moved to Bowling Green, where he and his wife spend their declining years in well-earned repose, surrounded by their family of five children, three of whom are married and settled near by: (1) Albina A., born September 15, 1854, married William Muir, and has two children—Emily and Darwin. (2) George A., born November 16, 1857, married Margaret Wiley; they have four children—Clara, Bessie (deceased), Wiley and Helen. (3) Effie M., born May 9, 1862, is the wife of Charles Southwell; they have one son—George C. (4) Mary A., born September 17, 1865, and (5) William A., born July 11, 1869, are still at home.

SAMUEL R. JUNKINS belonged to one of the pioneer families of the Maumee Valley, and was numbered among those to whom the present generation is indebted for the high position Wood county has attained among the sisterhood of counties of Ohio.

His father, Samuel Junkins, was a native of Maine, descended from Scotch and Irish parents, and when a young man removed to the State of Pennsylvania where he engaged in the manufacture of brick. Here he was married to Nancy Smith, and to them were born children as follows: Clarissa, Thomas, Julia Ann, and Samuel R. Later the family removed to Guernsey county, Ohio, where at Fairview, March 30, 1829, was born the subject of this sketch. The father dying here in 1829, the family returned to Pennsylvania, and in Washington county, of that State, the widow was subsequently married to John Rice. In April, 1833, the latter with family removed to what was then Weston township (now Grand Rapids), this county, and settled in Section 18, where they resided some six months when Mr. Rice died, and the family removed to Section 21, and occupied a small house built by John Ginery, which was owned by a relative, John McKee. Mr. Rice had entered land from the government, but his affairs were in such a shape that it was lost to the widow, and so she with her children had to work out the problem of life alone; but well they accomplished it, for all have so lived as to become useful members of society and highly respected citizens of the communities



*S. R. Justice*



in which they resided, and all have been possessed of a full share of this world's goods. The mother died in 1851. Samuel R., when old enough, assisted his older brother in the support of his widowed mother, and grew up to habits of industry and economy. He assisted in clearing up considerable land, and in every sense was not only the son of a pioneer, but a pioneer himself, for in his boyhood the primeval forest was here in all its density and wildness, and in growing up he played a conspicuous part in converting it into the fertile and beautiful fields of to-day. His educational privileges were, of course, limited, and as a boy he had only such advantages as fell to the lot of country boys of that period and surroundings. Later he attended for a time the common or high schools of Perrysburg, and with such a foundation, by frequent reading and study, he became a well-informed man, and practical in business affairs. He ever took a deep interest in the educational affairs of the county, and served as school director in his township.

On May 2, 1864, Mr. Junkins enlisted in Company I, 144th Regiment, O. N. G., and served as a corporal under Capt. John McKee until mustered out with company, August 31, of the same year. While the period of the regiment's service was short, yet it was an honorable one, and bore well its part in the Shenandoah Valley, on the Peninsula in the operations about the James river, and about Petersburg, the trials of all of which our subject participated in.

Mr. Junkins was in every sense a self-made man; beginning with nothing save a determination to make for himself a home and a name, he by strict attention to business, and by industry and economy, became a man of means and influence. He had so successfully managed his own affairs that the people of the county selected him as a good man to care for the interests of Wood county, and, in 1882, he was elected a county commissioner. For more than a year he was actively engaged in attending to the duties of this office. Ill health, however, stepped in and prevented him from serving out his term, and in the fall of 1885, after being confined to his bed for several months, he resigned. In politics he was a Republican, though when chosen to the office of commissioner it was by means of the People's party. He was a Granger in the days of the Grange movement, and a member of Milton Center Lodge of Odd Fellows. While during life Mr. Junkins had not identified himself with any Church, he was a moral man and ever prided himself upon an upright life; he was consistent in all things, and was one of the most highly re-

spected citizens of the county in which he had passed upward of half a century. He died February 27, 1887, fully reconciled to the change of Worlds, and with perfect confidence in the Lord. His death was caused by stomach and kidney complaints after a sickness of nearly three years, during the last two of which he was confined to his room. His widow, who in her maidenhood was Miss Mary Olney, is a daughter of Benjamin and Lucy (Emerson) Olney, and to her he was married March 12, 1857. She now makes her home with her brother-in-law, George Kimberlin, Esq., of Bowling Green. There were no children born to the marriage. Mrs. Junkins is identified with the Baptist Church.

The Olney family was one of the early and conspicuous families of Colonial days. Thomas Olney, the ancestor of the Olneys in America, was born in the city of Hertford, Hertfordshire, England, which city formed a part of the Parish of St. Albans, the seat of one of the most ancient monasteries, and long celebrated in English history as the center of spiritual influence. He received a "permit to emigrate to New England," April 2, 1635, and came to Salem, Mass., by the ship "Planter." He was appointed a surveyor in January, 1636, and granted forty acres of land at Jeffrey Creek, now known as Manchester, near Salem. He was made a freeman the same year, and early associated with those who accepted the peculiar views of Roger Williams. With a number of others he was excluded from the colony March 12, 1638. Previous to this, however, in company with Roger Williams, he visited Narraganset Bay while seeking some place where they might live outside the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Colony, and had decided upon the west side of the Seekonk river. Accordingly, with eleven others, they formed a new settlement at the head of the bay, which they named "Providence," in grateful remembrance of their deliverance from their enemies. They thus became the original thirteen proprietors of Providence.

The father of Benjamin Olney, Stephen Olney, was a native of Rhode Island, but removed to the State of New York and there made his permanent home. Benjamin Olney, the son of Stephen, and father of widow Junkins, was born in Saratoga county, N. Y., May 23, 1797. He was twice married, first to a Miss Elizabeth C. Berry, whose birth occurred in 1797, and to the marriage were born: Mary M., July 14, 1819, died October 10, 1820; and Stephen, born October 13, 1821, died in 1888. The mother of these passed from earth in 1824, and Benjamin Olney



subsequently married Lucy Emerson, who was born in Saratoga, N. Y., March 16, 1800, a daughter of Broadstreet and Lois (Phelps) Emerson. To the second marriage of Mr. Olney were born the following sons and daughters who lived to be men and women: Mary, widow of Samuel R. Junkins; Prof. Edward Olney, a native of Saratoga county, N. Y., born July 24, 1827; Adeliza, who became the wife of George Kimberlin; George E., born October 24, 1832, and who died in the army July 24, 1863, a member of the 111th Regiment, O. V. I.; Harriet, born October 27, 1835, died November 12, 1839; and Estella, born February 28, 1845, died February 4, 1873.

Benjamin Olney and family became pioneers of Wood county, settling near Grand Rapids in 1833. He was a useful citizen, and his name frequently appears on the early records of that part of the county. He served the citizens of that township as trustee, justice of the peace, and in other official relations, and was associate judge in Wood county for a number of years. His death occurred near Grand Rapids, April 1, 1854.

Prof. Edward Olney was a natural-born student, and was especially gifted in mathematics. He was self-made, fitting himself for a teacher in Wood county by private study, and here taught his first term in the district school when nineteen years of age. At the time the schools of Perrysburg were graded he took charge of the grammar department, and subsequently was appointed to the chair of mathematics in the college at Kalamazoo, Mich., and there remained until 1863, when he was elected to fill the chair of mathematics in the University of Michigan, which he occupied until his death, January 16, 1887. He published several works, among which were the Olney series of school books on mathematics.

DAVID K. McQUINN is well known throughout Montgomery township as one of its most thorough going farmers and prominent citizens. He is a native of Wood county, born in 1860, and is the son of James and Nancy (Ritchy) McQuinn, who came to this county from Wyandot county, and made their first location in Freedom township. The father was born under the shadow of the mountains of Scotland, and came to this country when a young man, poor in this world's goods, but possessed of a pair of willing hands and a determination to succeed in life. Though small, he was robust, and became one of the leading agriculturists of Wood county, owning, at the time of his death, ninety acres of valuable land in Montgomery township, where he had made his home

for fifteen years, and placed many good improvements upon his farm.

The father was married after coming to the New World, and the family circle included six children, namely: James, who died while young; Alvira, who became the wife of Dolene Turner, and died at Fostoria, Ohio; Mary, now Mrs. Martin Lein, of Portage township, Wood county; William, a farmer in Montgomery township; Cinderella, wife of James Lindley, of Fostoria; and David K., of this review. The father departed this life in Montgomery township, in 1876, at the age of sixty-eight years, and his wife, who survived him until 1878, died at about the same age. He was a staunch Republican in politics, regularly casting his ballot in support of that party, and, religiously, both he and his wife were consistent members of the United Brethren Church, with which he was officially connected.

Since the death of the parents, our subject and his brother, William, have purchased the interests of the other heirs, with one exception, and now operate the farm with good success. Their educations were such as the district schools of the neighborhood afforded, but their training at farm labor was not as meager as their educational advantages, and they grew up to be useful and respected members of society. In manner, our subject is quiet and conservative, is energetic and industrious, and wins the respect and confidence of all with whom he comes in contact. He has never taken an active part in politics, but performs the duties of an American citizen, and, at the polls, votes the straight Republican ticket, which his brother also supports.

PAUL GREULICH, an agriculturist of energy and ability, who resides in Section 7, Troy township, is a native of Medina county, Ohio, born in Liverpool township, in 1858, and is a son of John and Catherine (Weigle) Greulich. The birth of the father occurred at Frankfort, Germany, and at the age of eight years accompanied his father, John Greulich, Sr., to Medina county, locating in Liverpool township. At the age of nineteen he went to Cleveland, Ohio, but at the end of six years returned to the farm. In 1868 he removed to Toledo, where he was engaged in the dry-goods business on Cherry street for three years, and then again located on his farm in Liverpool township, where he passed his remaining days. His wife had died in Toledo. A brief record of their children is as follows: Christ died on the home farm; Joe, John and Louise, all died in Toledo; George is a resident of Lorain county, Ohio; Paul, of this review; Albert is engaged in the

clothing business at Lorain, Ohio; and Mrs. Minnie Moley is of the same city.

The early life of our subject was spent in his native township, and at Toledo, where he acquired a common-school education, and, on starting out in life for himself, he engaged in the dry-goods business with his father. In 1879 he came to Troy township, and in 1890 purchased his present farm, selling at that time fifteen acres of the farm now owned by William Armbruster. When he located upon his land only twenty of the sixty acres had been cleared, but now forty-five acres have been placed under the plow. In 1892 he built a barn, 40 x 60 feet, and in 1895 erected his comfortable two-story dwelling, 18 x 26 feet, with an L, 16 x 20 feet.

Mr. Greulich was united in marriage with Miss Katie Sattler, a native of Rockport, Cuyahoga Co., Ohio, and a daughter of John Sattler, who now resides upon a farm in Perrysburg township, Wood county. By this union one child has been born—J. Don.

The political support of Mr. Greulich is given to the Democratic party. In 1888 he was elected a trustee of his township, which office he held for six years, and has also been a member of the school board. He served as adjuster and appraiser for The Lime City Insurance Company. Socially, Mr. Greulich holds membership with Perrysburg Lodge No. 774, I. O. O. F. He is pursuing the even tenor of his way as an honest man and good citizen, and to general farming devotes most of his time and attention.

JOHN SHERMAN holds a good position among the agriculturists of Troy township, where he is engaged in general farming in Section 12, and from which he derives a comfortable income. He was born upon his present farm in 1851, and is a son of Carl Henry and Mary (Myrose) Sherman. The father's birth occurred in 1826, in Hanover, Germany, and when about thirteen years of age he accompanied his stepfather, John Hartman, to America. The latter opened up a farm in Troy township, on which his death occurred.

For about seven years after locating in Wood county, the father sailed on the lakes between Buffalo and Toledo. In 1849, in Troy township, he wedded Miss Mary Myrose, who was also a native of Hanover, Germany, and a daughter of Frederick Myrose, one of the pioneers of that township. Both of her parents are now deceased. After his marriage Mr. Sherman bought eighty-seven acres of wooded land, of which about six acres had been cleared, and thereon erected a log house, in which the family lived until 1861,

when the present residence of our subject was built. Politically the father was a Democrat, and served as a trustee of Troy township. Upon the home farm his death occurred in 1871, and there his wife died in 1886. In religious belief they were Lutherans, belonging to Salem Church, in Troy township. Seven children were born to them, all still living, and in order of their birth they are as follows: John, of this sketch; Mrs. Louisa Hoodlebrink, of Woodville township, Sandusky Co., Ohio; Mrs. Julia Niebhausmyer, of the same township; Mrs. Carrie Link, of Toledo, Ohio; Mrs. Sophia Akenberger, of Lake township; Louis, who is married and resides in the same township; and Henry, who is married and lives in Perrysburg township, Wood county.

Mr. Sherman, of this review, grew to manhood upon the home farm, receiving his education in the district schools of the neighborhood, and becoming familiar with agricultural pursuits. He aided in clearing the land, has tilled the entire place, and to its cultivation and improvement still devotes his time and attention.

In 1880, in Harris township, Ottawa Co., Ohio, Mr. Sherman was united in marriage with Miss Nina Gilson, who was born there, and is a daughter of Richard and Eliza (Putnam) Gilson, both natives of New York, whence they removed to Ottawa county in 1851, locating upon an undeveloped farm in the midst of the wilderness, where both parents are still living. In connection with farming the father also worked at his trade of a millwright. They reared a family of five children—George, who is married and resides in Ottawa county; Mrs. Mary Gilson, of the same county; Nina, the wife of our subject; Mrs. Ella Waldock, of Erie county, Ohio; and Ebon, of Ottawa county. To Mr. and Mrs. Sherman has been born a daughter—Grace.

Our subject's farm comprises 122 acres of rich and arable land, and besides general farming he is also engaged in stock raising. Like his father before him, he is a Democrat in politics, and is a member of the Lutheran Church. He is a worthy representative of one of the pioneer families of Troy township, and has seen the full and complete development of the locality.

JOHN C. F. WANSITLER. In this State, midway between the east and the west, are found the best representatives of that class of men known as self-made. They partake of the spirit of dauntless enterprise characteristic of the latter section, and this is tempered and guided by the more conservative methods of the East. Our subject is one whose success may be attributed to

his own efforts, and his career is worthy of perpetuation in this volume. He was born on a farm in Columbiana county, Ohio, August 13, 1858, and is a son of Samuel Wansitler, also a native of Ohio, where for forty years he followed the carpenter's trade. He was married, in Columbiana county, to Mary Esther Carr, who was born in Scotland, and during her girlhood was brought by her parents to America. Some years after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Wansitler removed to Ross county, Ohio, where the mother died in June, 1862. Several years passed, and the father then wedded Mary E. Frantz. The children of the first union are Elizabeth, wife of John Nittrouer, of Columbiana county, Ohio; John C. F.; Charlotte, wife of Albert Scheltz, of Fostoria, Ohio; and Charles, a railroad employe, of Allegheny City. After residing at several different places, the father took up his residence in Fostoria, Ohio, where he is now living retired. In politics he is a Republican.

At the age of ten years our subject first attended school, and his privileges in this direction were somewhat limited. After the death of his mother, he became an inmate of the family of Mr. Boice, where he remained for about seven years. At the age of eleven he began working for Jesse Dicken, of Portage township, Wood county, and while with him he attended school through the winter season. At the age of fifteen he continued his studies in Jerry City, Ohio, and for three years was a student in the school conducted by Prof. Edwin Hubbard. At the age of eighteen he secured a teacher's certificate, and began teaching in a district school in Jackson township, following that profession until 1891.

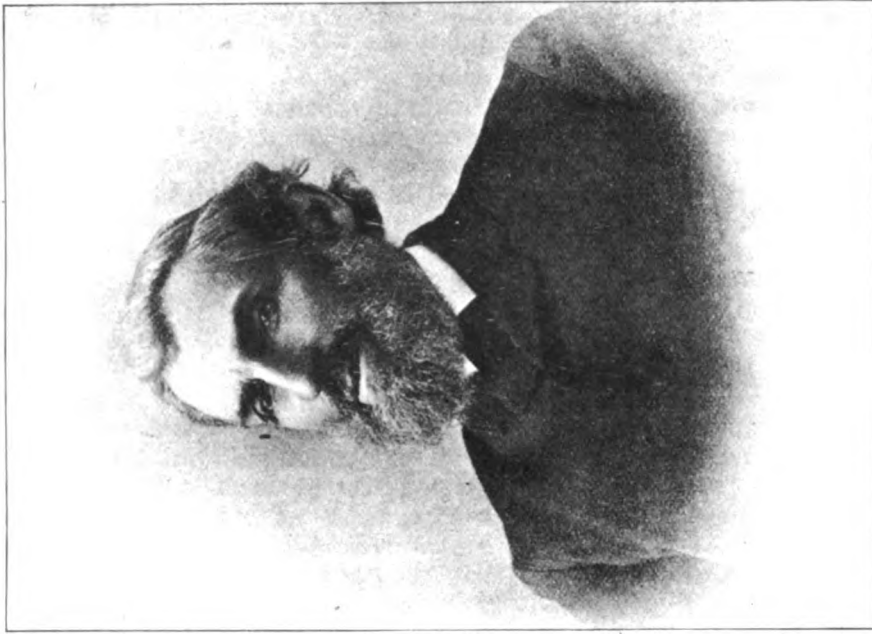
Mr. Wansitler was married in Jackson township, in August, 1881, to Martha M. Mellott, who was born August 31, 1862. They have four children—Bertha E., Wellington George, Sarah E., and Elias McKinley. They began their domestic life on their present farm, a portion of which Mr. Wansitler had purchased previous to his marriage. He now owns 160 acres, of which ninety acres are cleared and under a high state of cultivation, while upon the farm are three dwellings. He also owns a very nice residence in Bowling Green. He has taken quite an active part in public affairs, and is an influential citizen of the county, whom all esteem. Our subject figures quite prominently in politics as a supporter of the Republican party, and has served as a member of the county executive committee. He was census enumerator in 1890, and was deputy postmaster under Harrison. In the spring of 1890 he was elected constable, but

resigned the following spring, and since that time has been township trustee. He has also been chairman of the school board for six years, and is now serving his third term as notary public. Socially, he is a charter member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge, of Custar, also the Odd Fellows society of Jerry City, and the Encampment Lodge of Milton Center. He is a man of scholarly attainments, broad-minded and progressive in his views, and an intelligent, esteemed gentleman, whose affable, courteous manner has won him hosts of warm friends among his wide circle of acquaintances.

LEVI SIMON, one of the leading pioneers of Bloom township, is the oldest living member of a family which has given to that township more good, substantial citizens than any other, barring none. They have been farmers, officials and supporters of Churches from its early history, and the very name is synonymous with good citizenship.

The first American ancestor of this family was Johann Adam Simon, our subject's great-grandfather, who left Switzerland in 1735, when a young man, and after a stormy voyage of three months set foot upon American soil. He located first in the eastern part of the colony of Maryland, but his last years were spent in Washington county, Penn., where he died when nearly one hundred years of age. His love of civil liberty, and his invincible integrity during the Colonial period, and the Revolutionary war, subjected him to heavy losses and privations, but his undaunted spirit sustained him through all, and in the end triumphed. He was the father of ten children: Michael, Nicholas, Andrew, Adam, Jacob, Mrs. Stahl, Mrs. Belz, Mrs. Deutzer, Mrs. Right and Mrs. Stark, all of whom reared large families. The first eighteen years of his married life were prosperous; but on the breaking out of the Narragansett war the Indians burned his house and its contents, the occupants having barely time to escape with what clothing they wore at the time. Michael, the eldest, escaped, though he was shot at several times. Andrew, then a lad of seven years, was working in a sugar camp some distance from the house with said Michael, and was captured. He suffered many cruelties, even being scalped; but after seven months he was exchanged and returned to his father, and our subject remembers seeing his denuded head.

Michael Simon, our subject's grandfather, was born February 2, 1741. In 1800 he came to Trumbull county, Ohio, and bought nearly 1,200



*Mrs. Levi Simon Levi Simon*



acres of wild land of Henry Boardman, who at that time owned the entire township. In 1802 he moved to his new property, his son Adam having settled upon it previously, and made some improvements. Michael Simon was married three times, and by his first marriage had twelve children: Michael, Jr., Peter, Andrew, Adam, George, Jacob, Barbara, Elizabeth, Margaret, Ann Mary, Esther and Mary C. His second wife, a Miss Althans, died within a year, her child dying also. By his third marriage, to Mrs. Dice, he had two sons, Abram and Henry. At his death, which occurred in 1839, his descendants numbered 485, sixteen of whom were in the fourth generation.

Jacob Simon, our subject's father, was born in January, 1783, the youngest child of his father's first marriage. His education was self-acquired, without teachers or even books, except the Bible; but he became a man of notable intelligence, and he taught school successfully for many years. At first a Whig, he later became a Republican. He married Elizabeth Stemple, a native of Preston county, Va., born in 1788, the eldest daughter of David Stemple, whose wife was a Miss Rinehart. Nine children were born of this union: David, who married Miss Gamber, and died in Mahoning county, at the age of fifty-nine; Lydia, the wife of Eli Ruppert, who died in Allen county, Ind.; Delilah, Mrs. George Wormley, who died in Mahoning county at the age of sixty; Levi, our subject; Stilling, who first married Miss Fox, and for his second wife wedded Miss Gentholtz, who survives him, residing at their former home in Bloom township; Gideon, who married Leah D. Pfister, and died in Bloom township when seventy-five years old; Salome, the widow of Moses Webber, of Mahoning county; Selinde (Mrs. John Shaffer), of Allen county, Ind.; and Jesse, a farmer of Mahoning county, who married Elizabeth Williamson. The father of this family died in Mahoning county, in 1858, aged seventy-four years, the mother in 1875 aged eighty-seven.

Levi Simon, the subject of this sketch, was born January 21, 1817. He was remarkably precocious, but the schools of his day and locality were poor, and, except for forty-three days of better instruction at Ellsworth, he is practically self-taught. It is to be regretted that his richly endowed mind did not receive the highest possible development, as he has accomplished such unusual mental feats with so little help. The rapid and seemingly easy manner in which he solved the most difficult mathematical problems was widely noted at an early age, and he has

never yet found one which he could not solve. His contributions in prose and poetry to various newspapers have been read with interest, and display ability equal to that of many professional writers. Although he has been an industrious and painstaking farmer throughout his mature years, he could always find time to read the Bible, and his equal as a student of that book of books can seldom be found. He can quote any passage at will; in the expounding of abstruse texts, many preachers have found him a valuable aid to their own studies, and he has himself delivered many sermons. He was reared a Lutheran, but on moving to Wood county, where no Church of that denomination existed, he joined the Methodists. As he was not encouraged to express his honest convictions when called upon to speak, he, therefore, severed his relations with them and attended the Disciples Church, in which he was a preacher for four years. His start in life was obtained by teaching school at \$13 per month, and clearing land at meager wages.

On April 18, 1844, Mr. Simon was married in Trumbull (now Mahoning) county, to Miss Mary A. Pfister, a lady of German descent, and a native of Youngstown, born October 29, 1822, daughter of Jacob and Margaret (Hewitt) Pfister. They had ten children whose names with dates of birth are as follows: Myconius N., March 3, 1845; Rubellus J., August 9, 1846, (a leading physician and surgeon at Pemberville); Damiette, December 18, 1847 (she married Frank Ledyard, of Bloom township, and died August 23, 1884); Jerusha, October 10, 1850 (she died November 10, 1872); Belenia, August 6, 1852 (she married D. A. Deal, and died November 11, 1884); Poliander, July 22, 1856 (a remarkable child, and at the time of his death, August 30, 1863, was intellectually equal to many of double his years); Montibello and Mettilene (twins), March 28, 1859 (the former now a farmer and dairyman of Bloom township; the latter died September 4, 1863); Phœbe E., June 11, 1861 (an unusually gifted child, possessing mental development far beyond her age at her death, December 30, 1877); and Elma O., February 19, 1863 (now Mrs. Jacob Fischer, of Helena, Montana).

For a short time after his marriage Mr. Simon followed farming in Mahoning county, but in April, 1846, he came to Wood county with his wife and one son, traveling by wagon and spending seven days *en route*. In 1839 he had bought forty acres of timberland in Bloom township, and here he built a log cabin and lived in primitive style. He taught school for one term in the

neighborhood. He has made a success in life, owning now ninety acres of excellent land, and has been a generous supporter of all philanthropic and religious enterprises. Although he is not a member of any sect, he has contributed toward the building of every church in Bloomdale and vicinity. Despite his advanced age he is as active as most persons twenty years younger, and his mental faculties show no sign of impairment. He sympathized in early years with the Whig party, and since has been a Republican, but he is not slavishly bound by party ties. At different times he has taken an active share in local affairs, and he served as township clerk at a time when the records of that office had become very much complicated, requiring great skill and labor to adjust them. His wife died February 15, 1889, after nearly a half century of happy wedded life, and her mortal remains rest in the family burial lot in Bloom Chapel cemetery.

MYCONIUS N. SIMON, the eldest son of Levi Simon, now one of Bloomdale's most progressive and public-spirited citizens, received good educational advantages in his youth, making steady progress from his first day in the old log schoolhouse with Miss Clarissa Russell as his teacher. After finishing the course afforded in the district schools he attended more advanced classes, and in 1872 and '73 was a successful teacher in Bloom and Perry townships. Later he was employed in the office of the recorder of Mahoning county, and he was the first station agent at Bloomdale of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, for which he afterward served as clerk, baggage master and night ticket agent at Fostoria. He was accountant of the N. Y. P. & O. railroad at Youngstown in connection with the P. & L. E. railroad. In religious connection he belongs to the Wesleyan Methodist Church. In politics he is a Republican with Prohibition tendencies, and he is an ardent lover of the American flag and all it represents. Fond of reading, he is a great student of the Bible, in which he is well informed. "Mac," as he is familiarly called, surely has not one enemy from just cause.

EBER WILSON JUNKINS is numbered among the early settlers of Wood county, dating his residence from 1858, for it was on August 10, of that year, that he was born in Weston township. He is one of the six children of Thomas and Elizabeth Nancy (Long) Junkins, highly esteemed people of this locality. He attended the district schools, and during the summer months aided his father in the cultivation and development of the home farm—much of the work devolving upon

him as he was the eldest son. He remained at home until twenty-three years of age, and then began working for his uncle, Samuel Robert Junkins, of Weston township, with whom he remained for two years, receiving \$220 for the second year's service.

On January 1, 1885, in Washington township, was consummated the marriage of Mr. Junkins and Miss Annie Eliza Bachmann, a native of Erie county, Ohio, born November 24, 1859, and a daughter of Charles and Annie (Kistner) Bachmann, natives of Germany. The father came to America when a young man, and soon after the mother crossed the Atlantic. Their marriage was celebrated in Cleveland, Ohio, but later they became residents of Wood county. Our subject and his wife began their domestic life on his uncle's farm, renting that farm for a year, then purchased eighty acres of land of his father, for which he paid \$1,000. Of this tract twenty acres were cleared, but Mr. Junkins has made all of the improvements upon the property, has cleared off an indebtedness of \$1,700, has erected a good residence, barns and other buildings, and now has one of the model farms of Wood county. The home has been blessed with four children, namely: Goldie Mabel, Ila Fern, Zardie and Ernest.

Mr. Junkins votes with the Democracy, but has never been an office seeker, preferring to devote his entire time and attention to his business interests, in which he has met with excellent success. He has always been an advocate of progress and improvement, and whatever tends to benefit the community receives his support. Socially he is connected with the Odd Fellows Society, the Knights of Pythias, the Knights of the Maccabees, the Temple of Honor, the Patrons of Industry, and the Grange.

MALON GAULT, who occupies a fine and well-improved farm in Perry township, is numbered among its leading farmers, who from a small beginning has built up one of the best homesteads within its borders. The residence and its surroundings are highly creditable to the proprietor, and indicate him to be a man of industry and energy, who has kept his eyes open on what is going on in the world around him, and availed himself of the most favored method of carrying on agriculture.

Like many of the men who have contributed to the development of the resources of Wood county, Mr. Gault is a native of the Keystone State, having been born in Salisbury township, Lancaster county, November 10, 1831, and is a

son of William and Margaret (Goodman) Gault, who were the parents of thirteen children, seven sons and six daughters. Our subject was next to the youngest, and was only four years old when his mother died, while at sixteen he was left an orphan. His education was very limited, and he was early employed as a farm hand, receiving \$2.50 per month when fourteen years old. In 1850 he left his native State, going by way of Pittsburg, Beaver, Canton and Massillon, Ohio, to Perry township, Ashland county, where for two years he was employed by Jacob Gardner.

In that township, in April, 1852, Mr. Gault was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Morr, who was there born June 30, 1829, and is a daughter of John and Hannah (Sonda) Morr, German farming people who came from Center county, Penn. Seven children were born of this union: Oliver P., who died at the age of twenty-two years; Hannah S., who died at the age of seventeen; Francis M., a farmer of Jackson township, Wood county; John M., who died at the age of twenty-five; William E., a farmer of Hancock county; and Ezra L. and Howard W., at home.

For a time Mr. Gault rented land in Montgomery township, Ashland county, their little home being meagerly furnished as most of his earnings went to buy tools and equipments to carry on the cultivation of the land. After renting for several years, he became owner of twenty-nine acres, which he sold, and in 1864 removed to Bloom township, Seneca Co., Ohio, where he leased farms most of the time. April, 1871, witnessed his arrival in Perry township, Wood county, where he purchased forty acres of land in Section 30, which is still his home, though he has added to the amount, and now has fifty-five acres. His wife has ever been a faithful helpmeet, and is a member of the United Brethren Church. He was first an Old-line Whig, but now casts his ballot regularly with the Republican party. For almost three months this worthy couple visited in the West, going to Denver, Cheyenne, Salt Lake City and the leading places of interest in California, which made an enjoyable trip.

SAMUEL E. BRANDEBERRY is the owner of a fine farm in Perry township, the operations of which he carefully superintends, and which is largely devoted to general farming. A native of Wood county, he was born in Bloom township, on March 13, 1847. The birth of his father, Philip Brandeberry, occurred in Westmoreland county, Penn., January 10, 1812, and he was a

son of Philip Brandeberry, Sr., an honored pioneer of this locality. In Wood county the father was married, October 17, 1844, the lady of his choice being Miss Mary Burns, who was born in Ashland county, Ohio, February 2, 1820, and was a daughter of Samuel E. and Nancy Burns. Her paternal grandfather, John P. Burns, was a schoolmate of George Washington, and could relate many interesting incidents of their boyhood days. After their marriage this worthy couple began their domestic life upon a farm of eighty acres in Bloom township, which the father had purchased, and eight children came to gladden that pioneer home, namely: Samuel E., of this review; Catherine, who was born September 18, 1848, and is now the wife of Henry Minks, of Center township, Wood county; Albert and Allen, twins, born May 2, 1850, the former of whom died August 9 following, and the latter a farmer of Perry township; John B., of Trumbull county, Ohio, born June 17, 1852; Nancy J., who was born April 14, 1854, and died July 16, 1872; George W., a farmer of Hancock county, Ohio, born December 17, 1857; and David E., who was born September 19, 1862, and was killed by a falling tree, August 28, 1873. The last named was one of the greatest choppers for his age in the township, and when only nine years of age could cut down a tree. Although a small man, the father was strong and energetic, and was a great hunter, killing many deer and turkeys. In politics he was first a Whig and afterward a Republican. He died in Bloom township, September 24, 1876, his wife on the 27th of May previous, and they now sleep side by side in the cemetery of Perry Center. They were faithful members of the Methodist Church, and in her younger days the mother had been a school teacher, her wages being as low as seventy-five cents per week.

At the Hopewell school our subject received his literary training, and during the Civil war became a member of Company E, 144th O. V. I. Although they attended the drills regularly at Eagleville and Tontogany, Wood county, his company was held in reserve, and never saw any active service. Being the eldest son, he was of great assistance to his parents, and never left home until his marriage.

In Perry township, on June 12, 1877, Mr. Brandeberry led to the marriage altar Miss Sarah A. Tyson, who was born in Portage township, April 18, 1853, and is the eldest of the five children of George and Frances (Snyder) Tyson, who came to this county from Columbiana county, Ohio. Three children have been born of this



union: Arcena, born April 22, 1878; Aldia, who was born November 14, 1880, and died February 9, 1883; and Rosa, born September 30, 1889.

After his marriage, Mr. Brandeberry located upon a part of his present farm, having purchased forty acres in 1857, but now owns 180 acres of valuable land. On October 3, 1887, he lost his barn by fire, but it has been replaced by a more commodious building, while all of the improvements upon the place are of a substantial character. He is a natural mechanic, having worked at the painter's, carpenter's and mason's trades. A good manager, he seems to get the best results from everything he undertakes, and has been very prosperous in his business affairs. He is a straightforward, honorable citizen, and a supporter of the Republican party.

CHARLES OSTERHOUT, one of the enterprising and progressive farmers living in Hull Prairie, and a gentleman whose genuine worth commends him to the confidence and respect of all, was born in Montgomery county, N. Y., December 6, 1827, and is a son of George and Catherine (Nellis) Osterhout. When quite young, our subject accompanied his parents on their removal to Ohio, and was reared and educated in Huron county. He worked on his father's farm until after he had attained his majority, and at the age of twenty-five, with the hope of bettering his financial condition, he crossed the plains to California.

The long and arduous journey across mountains and prairie was at length completed, and he remained for a year on the Pacific slope. He then returned home, spending two years in Ohio, but in 1855 again went to California, where he remained four years. He reached this State in 1859, and in 1860 came to Wood county, locating in Middleton township, purchasing 160 acres of land on Hull Prairie. Upon this he made a number of excellent improvements. He afterward sold eighty acres, but has since purchased sixty acres, and now has a fine farm under a high state of cultivation and well improved.

In 1861, in Erie county, Mr. Osterhout married Phœbe A. Montross, a native of Pennsylvania. They have four children—George, an oil operator, who married Anna Whickem; Hattie, wife of George Powell, of Toledo; Mae, wife of William Powell, of Toledo; and Charles, who farms the homestead. The mother of this family died in 1882, and in 1884 our subject married Carrie M. Goss, who was born in Vermont in 1856. They have two children, Ross and Helen, attending school.

For five years, Mr. Osterhout has served as school director, for five years has been a member of the township board, was road supervisor two years, treasurer of the township five years, and in all these offices has discharged his duties with scrupulous fidelity. The five oil wells upon his farm add not a little to his income, and he is meeting with success in his business dealings, while among his fellow townsmen he is popular and well liked.

WILLIAM HAMMAN, who was born in Pennsylvania, December 9, 1825, died in Hammansburg, April 24, 1893, respected by all who knew him, for he was an important factor in the work of public progress, and his life was an honorable one. When a young man he learned the trade of coverlet weaving. With his parents, Jacob and Elizabeth (Koch) Hamman, he removed to Mahoning county, Ohio, and was there united in marriage with Miss Rose Dustman. They located in that county, but subsequently removed to Bloom township, Wood county, and afterward to Fremont, Ohio. Their next home was in Sandusky, Ohio, and from there they came to Henry township, Wood county. While on a visit in Mahoning county, Mrs. Hamman was taken ill and died. Of that marriage were born six children: Jacob, who died at the age of twenty years; Mrs. Henrietta Leathers, of Henry township; Frank, of Michigan; John, of Kansas; and Lewis and Alice, who died in childhood.

Mr. Hamman was again married, in 1852, in Henry township, on this occasion to Miss Mary Henning, who was born in that township, September 12, 1840, a daughter of John F. and Elizabeth Henning. She spent her girlhood days on her father's farm, and acquired her education in a log school house near by. Our subject and his wife began their domestic life in a log cabin which stood on the farm, and his energies were devoted to the development of his land, comprising 160 acres. He continued the cultivation of that property for a number of years, and in 1856 he erected a sawmill in what is now Hammansburg, named in his honor, that he operated for twenty years. Selling that property, he then established a grocery store in Hammansburg, and later was appointed postmaster of the town. In December, 1890, he removed with his wife and family to Cherokee county, Kans., where he purchased 160 acres of land; but after two years and three months he returned to the old home in Hammansburg, there residing until his death. In politics he was a Democrat. He was a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal Church,



*William Hamman Mary Hamman*



and belonged to that class of representative citizens who manifest a deep interest in the welfare of the community. All who knew him had for him the highest regard.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hamman were born eight children, namely: (1) Lizzie married George Sterling, of Henry township, and died at the age of twenty-three; she was the mother of two children—Arvilla, who died before Mrs. Sterling, and Willie, born September 15, 1885, who has lived with his grandmother, Mrs. Hamman. (2) Josie is the wife of William Peters, of Henry township; they have had four children—Arthur, Earl, Shirley (deceased) and Lola. (3) George B. married Laura Latham, and has two children—Lillie and LeRoy; they reside in Henry township. (4) Laura died at the age of two years and nine months. (5) Louisa died at the age of nineteen years. (6) Maud is the wife of Jesse Gillespie, and has one child—Lee, born March 18, 1896. (7) Blanche and (8) Grace are living at home. Since her husband's death Mrs. Hamman has disposed of much of the property, including the Kansas farm; but she still owns two houses and lots in the town, and also has a house and lot in Bowling Green. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is a most estimable lady.

**HENRY HOELTER.** Among the prominent and enterprising farmers of Troy township, who are of alien birth, is the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch. Like others of his countrymen, he brought to the New World those habits of economy and frugality which are an inherent characteristic of his native land, and the exercise of which, accompanied by industry and good management, have secured him a comfortable competence. His residence is located in Section 27, where he carries on agricultural pursuits. A native of Hanover, Germany, he was born in 1846, at the home of his parents, Joe and Elnora (Boehna) Hoelter, also natives of the same province. By trade his father was a carpenter, and he died in Hanover in 1849, while the mother survived him until 1882. In their family were seven children who grew to maturity, namely: Henry, who was drowned in Hanover; Mrs. Elizabeth Furmeyer, of Cleveland, Ohio; Mrs. Eleanor Walker, who passed away in Germany; Mrs. Regina Braucksick, of Hanover; Frederick, who still makes his home in that country; and Mrs. Nora Huffman, who for some years has been a resident of Ross township, Wood county.

Mr. Hoelter was reared to manhood in his native land, but at the age of twenty-four years

decided to try his fortune on this side of the Atlantic, where, he understood, better opportunities were afforded young men. Therefore, he set sail at Bremen, and after a voyage of seven weeks, landed at New York, whence he came direct to Cleveland, Ohio. In that city, in 1870, he was married, the lady of his choice being Miss Anna Marie Braucksick, who was also born in Germany, and is the daughter of John Henry and Elizabeth Braucksick, both natives of the Fatherland. They came to this county with our subject, but are now deceased. In the family of Mr. and Mrs. Hoelter are nine children: William, who is married, and engaged in business as a member of the firm of Samson & Hoelter, of Luckey, Ohio; Lizzie, Anna, Carrie, Gus, Henry, Fred, John, and Dora.

From the time of his arrival in Cleveland, in 1869, until coming to Troy township, in 1875, Mr. Hoelter worked at the trade of a cooper in that city. Here he first rented land in the eastern part of the township, but in 1879 located upon his present farm of eighty acres, then partially improved. No buildings stood upon the place with the exception of a log house which was destroyed by fire in July, 1884, and the same year he erected his present comfortable frame residence. The land is now under a high state of cultivation, and all of the improvements found thereon are of a substantial character, indicating the owner to be a man of thrift and enterprise.

Mr. Hoelter uses his elective franchise in support of the measures and men put forward by the Democratic party, has been trustee of his township for some years, and also a member of the school board of District No. 5. Both he and his excellent wife are members of the Lutheran Church, and they enjoy the esteem and respect of the neighborhood.

**ELISHA B. TURNER,** one of the honored and highly esteemed citizens of Wood county, was born in Fort Ann, Washington Co., N. Y., in the earliest days of the history of that State, his birth occurring March 23, 1813. His parents were Leonard and Dianthy (Blakeman) Turner. Their marriage was celebrated in Washington county, and subsequently they removed to Westfield, Delaware county, the father following farming. He died at the home of his son Charles, in Eaton county, Mich., at the age of eighty-four, and his wife survived him four years. They had seven sons and five daughters: Leonard, a farmer, of Delaware county, Ohio; Elisha; Mrs. Mary Green, who died in Illinois; Laura, wife of Morgan Lewis, of Cardington, Morrow county, Ohio;

Joseph A., a farmer, who died in Eaton county, Mich.; Charles A., a farmer, of Bellevue, Eaton county; John, a farmer, of Keokuk county, Iowa; Annis, now Mrs. Bean, of Delaware county, Ohio; Marcella Jane, who died in childhood; Louisa, wife of Samuel Sanders, of Kansas; Joel, a farmer, who died in Delaware county; and George, who died in Huron county, Ohio.

Our subject attended school through the winter months until fourteen years of age, and then left home to make his own way in the world, being employed in a dairy most of the time until he had attained his majority. He next engaged in clerking two years, and then removed to Westfield, Delaware Co., Ohio, where he soon engaged in the work of the ministry. His first charge was at Sunbury, where he remained until 1838, being ordained at that place. After a three-years' pastorate there, and two years spent at Mill Creek, he was sent as a missionary by the Mad River Baptist Association to labor in Union, Logan, Champaign and Delaware counties, over which he traveled on horseback. On his long, lonely rides he made a close study of the Bible. His next permanent charge was at New London, Huron county, and after four years he went to Monroeville, where he spent three years.

Mr. Turner was married in Mill Creek township, Delaware county, December 8, 1840, to Eliza Ann Said, who died near Marysville, Ohio, in 1845. They had two children—Delia P., who was born May 3, 1842, and died in September, 1847; and Louisa Jane, wife of A. J. Munn, of Weston, Ohio. In Clarksfield, Huron county, in 1850, Mr. Turner married Mrs. Catherine (Bross) Shaw, widow of Isaac Shaw. They also had two children, but one died in infancy, and Mary D., who was born April 22, 1856, is the wife of J. H. Sands, of Bowling Green, Ohio. The mother was born in Stamford, Conn., September 14, 1822, and is a daughter of Adam and Eliza (Briggs) Bross, the former a native of New York and the latter of Connecticut.

In 1855, Mr. Turner came to Wood county, and purchased eighty acres of land in Liberty township. After farming for a year, he removed to Clyde, Sandusky Co., Ohio, where he had charge of a Church for a short time; then spent eighteen months in Johnstown, Licking Co., Ohio. He afterward returned to Liberty township, and, after selling his farm, opened a general store in Portage about 1861, following merchandising for four years. Again he removed to a farm, but after a year returned to Portage, where he has since resided. He, however, owns thirty-five acres of land on which are four oil wells.

For years Mr. Turner was a stalwart Republican, but since 1890 has affiliated with the Prohibition party. For eleven years he served as justice of the peace. The snows of many winters have fallen upon him, but his kindly bearing and genial disposition make him still young in feeling and interests, and he is revered and honored by all.

JOHN J. DEUBLE. The subject of this history, a man of more than ordinary intelligence and business capacity, owns eighty acres of good land in Section 22, Troy township, and is prominent among the agricultural interests of Wood county, contributing largely to its reputation by building up one of the most desirable homesteads within its borders. He is in the prime of life, and the midst of his usefulness—admired and esteemed by his friends and neighbors, and enjoying, as he deserves, a generous portion of this world's goods.

Like a large proportion of the go-ahead men of the county, Mr. Deuble is a native of the Buckeye State, his birth having taken place in Liverpool township, Medina county, January 28, 1840. His parents, C. F. and Christina (Kushman) Deuble, were natives of Germany; but were married in Medina county. In Liverpool township the father opened up a farm, where he made his home until his death in 1872. He was also a tanner by trade. The mother of our subject had died in Medina county, in 1849, leaving seven children: Frederick, of Iowa; Mrs. Mary Henschen, of Cleveland, Ohio; Mrs. Christina Hanmon, of Litchfield, Medina county; Henry, of Cleveland; Mrs. Sarah Renick, of Havana, Ohio; Charles, of Cleveland; and John J., of this sketch, who was fourth in order of birth. After the death of his first wife, the father was again married, and by the second union had eight children, who are still living.

The childhood and youth of our subject were passed in Medina county until he reached the age of sixteen, when he started out in life for himself, going first to Indiana, where he was employed. He later worked both in Iowa and Colorado, and in 1863 located at Virginia City, Mont., the county seat of Madison county, where he entered land and became one of its first settlers. He remained there until coming to Wood county in 1890, carrying on both stock raising and mining, and still owns a stock ranch of 160 acres in that State. He became quite familiar with Western life in all its phases. In 1884 he purchased his present farm, where he located in 1890, and two years later built his good barn,

40 x 70 feet. while his comfortable two-story frame residence was erected in 1893.

On the 12th of October, 1879, in Troy township, Wood county, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Deuble and Miss Sarah Kurfess, who was born in Cleveland, Ohio, October 30, 1849. She was educated in Wood county, and is the daughter of Jacob and Frederica (Metzger) Kurfess, both natives of Germany. Her parents were married near Cleveland, but removed to Troy township at an early day, where the mother died in 1884, and the father now finds a pleasant home with our subject. To Mr. and Mrs. Deuble have been born two children: John A., born October 25, 1880, and Paul Frederick, born March 17, 1883.

In politics our subject is an ardent Democrat, and religiously he and his amiable wife are esteemed members of the Lutheran Church at Stony Ridge, of which he has served as elder. They are frank, open-hearted, hospitable people, and have made many warm friends since taking up their residence in the community.

MATTHEW PARK is the proprietor of a general mercantile establishment in Dunbridge, and is a prominent factor in commercial circles. A native of the Keystone State, he was born in Lawrence county, February 6, 1844. His father, William Park, was also born in Pennsylvania, and was a son of James Park, who served as a soldier in the war of 1812. The former followed farming throughout his life, and in his native State married Delila Underwood, by whom he had eight children—Sarah, widow of Eli Reed; Caroline, widow of A. Steven, and a resident of Pennsylvania; Matthew; John, who died in Andersonville prison during the Civil war, while defending the Union cause; Edwin, a soldier of the 2d Ohio Cavalry, and died at Ft. Scott, Kans.; Elizabeth and Henry, who died in childhood; and one who died in infancy. The father passed away in Pennsylvania, in 1869, and the mother afterward came to Wood county, her death occurring in Plain township in 1882.

Mr. Park acquired his education in Pennsylvania, and worked on the home farm from early boyhood until the Civil war was inaugurated. Loyal to the Union, and anxious to aid in its preservation, he enlisted in 1861, in an Ohio Cavalry company at Lowell, Mahoning county. He served for four years, participating in some seventy battles and skirmishes, among them Cold Harbor, Five Forks, the Wilson raid in 1864, Sheridan's raid in 1865, Knoxville, Strawberry Plains, Cumberland Gap, and battles of the Wil-

derness. He was at the surrender of Lee at Appomattox. At St. Louis, Mo., September 11, 1865, he received an honorable discharge, and returned home with a war record of which he may well be proud.

Mr. Park located in Mahoning county, where he remained for twenty-two years. During the war, in 1864, he had married Miss Mary A. Kramer, a native of Pennsylvania, and to them were born the following named children: Edmund, a farmer of Michigan; Armand, a farmer of Wood county; Alma, wife of G. English; Leroy, Jessie, Elsie, Orlie, and Laverna. In 1892, Mr. Park was again married, his second union being with Marie J. Boyer, a native of Fremont, Ohio. Their only child died in infancy.

Our subject came to Wood county in 1879, locating in Plain township, where for two years he operated a farm. In 1881 he came to Middleton township, and purchased forty acres of land which he operated until 1893, when he sold out and opened his present store in Dunbridge. By close application to business, and honorable dealing, he has built up a fine trade, and thereby secured a comfortable competence. He belongs to Robert Stewart Post No. 690, G. A. R., and the Patriotic Order of Sons of America. He has served as school director for three years, is a Republican in politics, and is regular in attendance at the Presbyterian Church.

ANTON ASMUS. The fertile lands of Ohio offer excellent inducements to those who wish to engage in agricultural pursuits, and a prominent representative of the farming interests of Wood county is the gentleman whose name begins this sketch. A native of Germany, he was born in Nassau, April 3, 1836, and is a son of Henry and Catherine (Hush) Asmus, also natives of that country. He received a good education in the public schools, and his time between the ages of fourteen and eighteen was spent as a clerk in a hotel. He then determined to seek a home in America, and bidding adieu to friends and native land, in 1854, he embarked in a westward-bound sailing vessel, which after forty-three days dropped anchor in the harbor of New York. He at once made his way to Sandusky City, Erie Co., Ohio, and in that county worked as a farm laborer for seven years, after which he operated a rented farm for five years.

During that time Mr. Asmus chose as a companion and helpmeet on life's journey Miss Catherine Shively, daughter of Henry Shively, a farmer of Seneca county, and a native of Pennsylvania. The lady was born in 1838, in Seneca

county, and the marriage was there celebrated in 1861. Six children graced their union—Sarah, wife of Henry Philips, of Washington township; Henry, a farmer of Middleton township, who married Catherine Hoffman; Mary; John, deceased; George, and Ora.

In 1866 Mr. Asmus brought his family to Wood county, locating in Middleton township, where he purchased a tract of raw land, which he cleared and improved. To this he has added from time to time until he to-day owns a fine farm of 110 acres. It has been drained, plowed and planted, and now waving fields of grain indicate good harvests, and tell of the thrift and enterprise of the owner. The home of the family is a beautiful brick residence, which was erected at a cost of \$2,000. A substantial barn, costing \$1,000, affords ample shelter for grain and stock, of which he raises considerable.

Mr. Asmus has served as school director for a number of years, and for four years was road supervisor. His political support is given the Democracy. He belongs to the Lutheran Church of Haskins, of which he has been trustee for ten years, and also Sunday-school teacher for a similar period. His life is an upright one, over which there falls no shadow of wrong, and he has prospered in his undertakings by use of the advantages which have surrounded him, and by industry, good management and sound judgment.

**SAMUEL MILLIGAN.** Among the honored settlers who gave their energies to the task of making habitable the waste places of Wood county, the subject of this sketch, now a wealthy retired citizen of Risingsun, holds a worthy rank. Although not so early in this field as some who have happily been spared to enjoy the fruits of their labors, he settled in an undeveloped spot where he contended with primitive conditions with true pioneer spirit. He entered upon life's pilgrimage June 19, 1819, in Walnut township, Fairfield Co., Ohio.

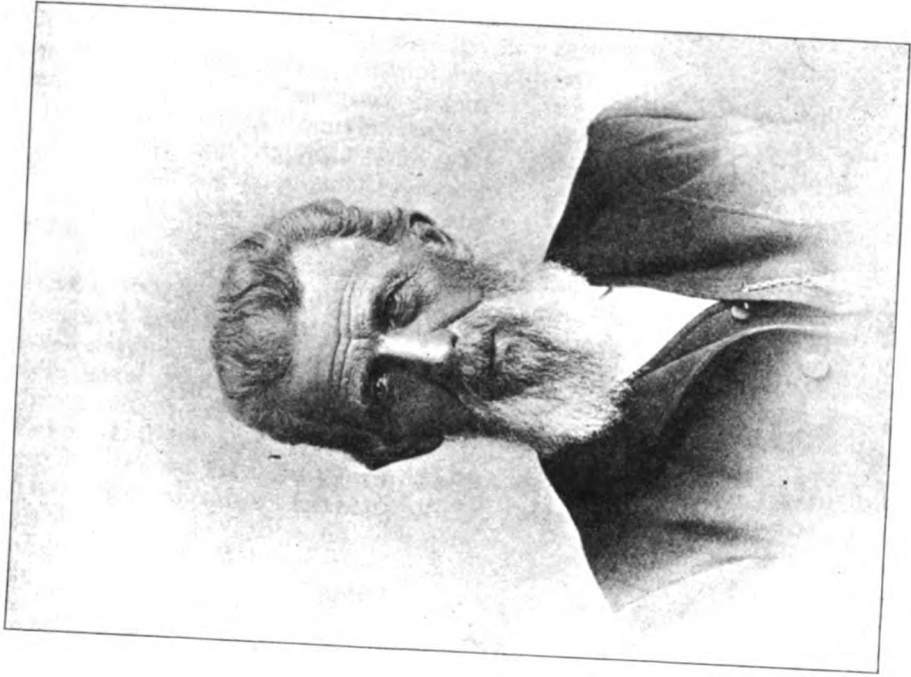
William Milligan, his father was a native of Maryland, born August 8, 1772. He was married there in early manhood, and soon after came to this State, locating near the Ohio river, where his first wife died. He was married there for the second time, and later removed to Fairfield county, where death again left his home bereft. He then wedded Miss Ann Crawford, of Fairfield county (our subject's mother), who survived him, living to the age of sixty-eight years, he having died at the age of sixty-three years, after an active life as a pioneer farmer. He was a large, ro-

bust man, with curly dark hair. There were eleven children by his three marriages (and five children—two sons and three daughters by the last), and of this large family our subject and his brother David are now the only survivors.

Samuel Milligan was the youngest son and third child of his mother, and was reared as a farmer's boy, gaining a much more intimate acquaintance with farm work than with books, although he attended the schools of the time and locality. He remained at home until he was about twenty years old, when his father died and he became, in a sense, the head of the family, being appointed guardian of his two younger sisters. He was married November 21, 1843, to Miss Mariah Palmer, a native of Fairfield county, and settled upon a part of the homestead, where he made a home for his mother and younger sisters.

He made several prospecting trips through this portion of the State, and in 1854 he rented a farm in Perry township, Wood county, to which he removed, driving through from his old home with a wagon. His work there was successful, and in 1856 he purchased eighty acres of new land in Section 35, Montgomery township. It was heavily timbered, and the greater portion of it was under water. Wild game was plentiful, and he has shot ducks many times upon his swamp, and would then get his horse and wade into the expanse of water to get them. On that same spot he has raised as fine a crop of grain as ever ripened in Wood county. He was a hard worker, and his robust health enabled him to accomplish much. As he redeemed one piece of land from the wild state he added another, until he now owns 160 acres, and his handsome competence has been acquired through his own efforts, as he started with but little from his father's estate.

Mr. Milligan's first wife died October 18, 1844, in Fairfield county, leaving one daughter, Mariah (now Mrs. Henry Bennett, of Mercer county, Ohio). Subsequently he married, for his second wife, Miss Louisa Tabler, who died in Fairfield county, on April 29, 1849, leaving a son—William (now a farmer of Trego county, Kans., of which State he was a member of the Legislature, serving one term as a Democrat, and he passed seven bills within the space of three months). Mr. Milligan was again married May 29, 1851, to Miss Rebecca Gessell, his present wife, who was born in Fairfield county, May 3, 1830, a daughter of John and Margaret Gessell, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. Eleven children were born of this union: John, who



*Samuel Milligan*



*Rebecca Milligan*





died at six months of age; Margaret A., now the widow of Joseph Furster, of Fostoria; Emma, who married Isaac Dicken, and died in Fostoria; James and Joseph B., farmers in Montgomery township; Mary J., now the wife of Fred Whitman, of Oro Grande, Cal.; Louisa, married to George Arnold, of Montgomery township; Jesse, who wedded Alta Byers, of Risingsun, and lives in Perry township; Orvilla, married to Ovid Byers, of Risingsun; and Arminta and Ira J., both at home. Increasing prosperity has enabled Mr. Milligan to assist his children substantially, and they are well-fitted for useful places in life.

In September, 1892, Mr. Milligan bought a home in Risingsun, and has since resided there, enjoying a well-earned leisure. Both he and his estimable wife have greatly impaired health by reason of their years of hard work, and it is fortunate indeed that their later days can see the reward of their labors. In spite of all the exposures and hardships our subject has experienced, he has never yet, with the exception of one occasion, required medical attention. They have been members of the Old-school Baptist Church for thirty-six years, and are devout and consistent in their faith, their high character, no less their past labors, gaining for them the esteem of all who know them. Although Mr. Milligan is a Democrat on State and National issues, he uses his judgment as to the relative fitness of the individual candidates in local politics. He has served two terms as township trustee, and for a number of years he was school director in District No. 7, where he did much to advance the cause of education, his own lack of opportunities in youth making him desire that the children of this and future days should be within the reach of thorough and practical instruction.

**JOHN DAVIS.** The essential qualities of success are not fortunate circumstances and influential friends, but indefatigable energy, industry that stops not at difficulties, a resolute purpose and perseverance. These qualities Mr. Davis possesses, and he is known as one of the leading farmers of Middleton township. He was born in Monroe county, Ohio, January 20, 1842. His father, Michael Davis, was born in Pennsylvania, where he followed the occupation of farming, and married Catherine Basinger, a native of Germany. Of their union the following children were born: John, Christian, Fannie and Rebecca. The father died in Monroe county, Ohio, and the mother afterward married Jacob Hiphire.

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Mr. Davis, of this review, spent his boyhood in the usual manner of farmer lads, attending school in the winter and working on the farm during the summer months, in Putnam county, Ohio. When only eight years of age, he was thrown upon his own resources, and worked on a farm for his board until fourteen years of age, when he began receiving wages. He was employed at farm work and on the canals until thirty-three years of age, when he came to Wood county, locating in Middleton township, where he purchased seventy acres of unimproved land. This he cleared and transformed into finely cultivated fields, and to-day he owns and operates a valuable farm of ninety acres, improved with good buildings.

In 1875, in Putnam county, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Davis and Magdalena Mosier, a native of Allen township, and a daughter of John Mosier. One child graces their marriage—Edward, who was born August 10, 1878, was educated in the common schools, and now aids in the work of the farm. For six years our subject has served as school director, and is a warm friend of the cause of education. In politics he is a Democrat, and with his family attends the Lutheran Church in Waterville. Dependent on his own resources from the early age of eight years, he certainly deserves great credit for himself, and to-day he has the consciousness of knowing that he has not a dollar that he has not himself honestly earned. He is a popular citizen, well liked, and is deserving of honorable mention in the history of his adopted county.

**J. L. KRAMER,** a progressive and intelligent agriculturist residing near Bowling Green, was born in Hancock county, Ohio, February 3, 1855. Levi Kramer, his father, was a native of Fairfield county, born in 1825. For many years he was a contractor and builder near Columbus, Ohio, but in his later years he engaged in agricultural pursuits, first in Hancock county, and then in Wood county, where he died in 1888. He was married, in 1850, to Miss Margaret Beatty, who was born in Franklin county in 1828. She survives him and resides at the homestead, near Bowling Green. Six children were born of this union, our subject being the eldest.

Mr. Kramer's youth was spent chiefly in Hancock county, and after acquiring an elementary education in the schools near his home, he entered the academy at Fostoria, from which he was graduated February 3, 1881. He was married October 28, 1887, to Miss Christiana Ries, who was born in Huron county, April 8, 1867; she is a

very clever woman intellectually, and had taught school up to the time of her marriage. In this union intellect as well as heart are mated, and Mr. and Mrs. Kramer are students together on all the questions of the day, and the best books and periodicals are to be found in their happy home. Both are prominent workers in the Wood County Farmers Institute, of which Mrs. Kramer, a lady of considerable business tact, is now secretary. She has been highly complimented by the press upon her able and scholarly addresses and papers on various occasions,

Mr. Kramer held the office of secretary for six years previous to 1889, when his wife succeeded him. He is an energetic and enterprising business man, owning and operating a farm where he puts scientific theories to the test of practice. He and his wife are active members of the U. B. Church at Portage, taking especial interest in the Sunday-school, of which Mr. Kramer has been superintendent for six years, and Mrs. Kramer, a good musician, is the organist.

JOHN MERCER, whose well-cultivated farm indicates his industrious and energetic nature, was born April 4, 1831, in Columbiana county, Ohio, and is a son of George Mercer, a native of Pennsylvania, who came to Wood county, in 1833, locating in Liberty township, where his remaining days were passed.

Our subject was therefore only two years of age when he became a resident of this county. Upon his father's farm he spent the days of his boyhood and youth, early becoming familiar with the labors of the fields. He remained under the parental roof until he had attained his majority, when he began learning the carpenter's trade, which he followed for three years. With the capital he acquired through his own efforts, he then purchased 100 acres of land in Liberty township, and with characteristic energy began its development and improvement. This work he continued until 1885, when he removed to his present farm in Middleton township. He here owns sixty acres of rich and valuable land, and a fine residence and good barns add to its attractive appearance, and make it a very desirable property. All this he has acquired through his own efforts, and he may well be proud of his well-merited success.

On April 13, 1858, Mr. Mercer was united in marriage, in Middleton township, with Amanda Creps, a native of Perrysburg, Ohio, born November 26, 1833, and a daughter of David and Rosanna (All) Creps. They became the parents of nine children, namely: Emma A., born Feb-

ruary 15, 1859, wife of Henry E. Morris; Shebner A., born May 19, 1862, a farmer of Liberty township; Owen, born June 3, 1865, a farmer of Jackson township; Leonard S., born August 21, 1871, operating the old homestead; Milla, born November 6, 1875; Walter, who was born September 20, 1860, and died February 28, 1864; Clara A., who was born May 29, 1867, and died in January, 1873; and two who died in infancy.

Mr. Mercer has several times been called to public office by his fellow townsmen, who recognize his worth and ability. He has served as trustee for six years, was school director for ten years, and a member of the township board of education for eight years. He belongs to the Disciples Church, and gives his political support to the Republican party. In all the relations of life he has been found true and faithful to the trust reposed in him, and his friends throughout the community are many.

J. H. WESTERFIELD, a leading farmer of Montgomery township, was born in Scipio township, Seneca Co., Ohio, November 27, 1853, son of J. William and Catherine (Overholt) Westerfield, both of whom were natives of Hanover, Germany, the former born in February, 1811, and the latter in November, 1816. In that country the name is spelled Westerfeldt. Being the son of poor parents, the father received no aid in starting out in life for himself, and in the fall of 1853, with his little family, he started for the New World in hope of improving his financial condition. After a voyage of seven weeks they landed in this country, and made their first home in Seneca county, Ohio. From there they came, in 1868, to Wood county, locating upon a thirty-five-acre tract of land in Section 2, Montgomery township, in the midst of the wilderness, where a modest log cabin served as their home.

In the family were five children, namely: Mary E., who became the wife of Reuben Kiser, and died in Sandusky county, Ohio, March 24, 1869; Engle, who died at sea, October 28, 1853, while the family were coming to America; J. H., the subject of this sketch; William, a farmer of Montgomery township; and Amanda, now Mrs. Frank E. Wirebaugh, of Montgomery township. The parents are both now deceased, the father dying October 29, 1889, and the mother January 6, 1888, and rest in the Bradner cemetery. Religiously they were Lutherans. The mother, who was strong and robust, was a good weaver, and was of great assistance to her husband in early days. At the time of his death he was the owner of a good farm of seventy-five acres, and

possessed all the thrifty habits characteristic of the German race. His ballot was cast in support of the Democratic party.

The common schools afforded our subject his educational privileges, and his labors were devoted to the improvement and cultivation of the home farm until he attained his majority, when he began working at the carpenter's trade, which he followed for three years. In the spring of 1879 he purchased forty acres in Section 1, Montgomery township, from George Bierly, for \$2,000, for which he was compelled to go in debt over \$1,500. On laying aside his trade, he began working as a farm hand for that gentleman, and on January 5, 1882, married his daughter, Miss Malinda E. Bierly, who was born February 3, 1860, and they now have four children—Bertie R., Addie, Helena and Milo. Mr. Westerfield began his domestic life upon his forty-acre farm, where he has since resided. In 1885 was erected his comfortable dwelling, and six years later his barn was built. He is numbered among the self-made men of Montgomery township, his accumulations being the result of his own industry, obtained by self-denial and economy, and the exercise of a naturally good judgment, both in regard to agricultural pursuits and business matters. Though not strictly partisan, he usually supports the Democratic party, and for nine consecutive years served as a member of the Bradner school board, filling that position when the new building at that place was completed; for two years he was president of the board. An active member of the Lutheran Church, he is at present superintendent of the Sunday-school at Bradner; his excellent wife belongs to the Protestant Methodist Church.

George Bierly, the father of Mrs. Westerfield, was born in Miles township, Center Co., Penn., July 17, 1819, and as there were no free schools his education was limited to four weeks' attendance at English schools, but he received considerable instruction at Sunday-school. At the age of eighteen years he learned the wheelwright and wagon-maker's trades. On April 25, 1844, in Center county, Penn., was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Bierly and Miss Sarah Magee, who was born in Union county, that State, and is the daughter of James and Elizabeth (Buchner) Magee, in whose family were seven children, three sons and four daughters. Her father came from Londonderry, Ireland, to the United States at the age of fifteen years, being eleven weeks upon the ocean, and was married in Union county, Penn. By trade he was a weaver, making carpets, table cloths, etc. Both himself

and wife died in Center county, Penn., he at the age of sixth-three years, and she at the age of eighty-eight.

With his wife Mr. Bierly came to Wood county, April 2, 1857, locating on a partially improved tract of eighty acres in Section 1, Montgomery township, for which he paid \$2,700 cash, and they still live upon that place. They have now traveled life's journey together for over fifty-two years, sharing its joys and sorrows, its adversity and prosperity, and are still well-preserved old people, highly respected by all who know them. In early life Mr. Bierly was a Democrat, but since Lincoln ran for the Presidency has been a stalwart Republican. His wife holds membership with the Methodist Protestant Church. The following children graced the union of Mr. and Mrs. Bierly—Alfred and Edward, who died in infancy; Cyrus, at home; Nancy, wife of Peter Plants, of Bradner, Ohio; Lorenzo D., who died at the age of twenty-one years; Thomas N., of Wood county; Emma E., now the widow of F. S. Furbrush, of Bradner; and Malinda E., who is the only member of the family born in Ohio, and is now the wife of J. H. Westerfield, whose name introduces this sketch.

F. E. WIREBAUGH, an agriculturist of energy and ability, who is residing in Montgomery township, Wood county, was born near Bucyrus, Ohio, May 6, 1863, and when but a boy was brought to this county by his parents, N. P. and Elizabeth (Anderson) Wirebaugh, who located first in Freedom township, thence removing to Section 30, Montgomery township. Later they took up their residence upon a farm in Section 17, of the same township, and on selling out there located in Section 1, Montgomery township, where the father made his home until his removal to Risingsun, Ohio, his present place of abode. The mother died while living near Bradner, this State. In their family were four children—F. E., of this sketch; Charles E., who died at the age of twenty-two years; Laura, now Mrs. Charles Aldrich, of Toledo; and Bert E., of Risingsun. Since the death of his first wife the father has been again married.

The education of our subject was such as the district schools near his home afforded, and during the days of his youth he assisted in the labors of the farm, thus becoming familiar with his chosen calling. On leaving home, at the age of twenty-one years, he started out in life for himself as a farm hand. In April, 1888, in Freeport township, Mr. Wirebaugh was united in marriage with Miss Amanda Westerfield, who was born

June 13, 1861, in Scipio township, Seneca Co., Ohio, and is the youngest child of J. William and Catherine (Overholt) Westerfield. One child now graces their union—Walter R., whose birth occurred December 15, 1894. Mr. Wirebaugh began his domestic life upon a rented farm in Freedom township, and later one year was passed upon a rented farm in Section 1, Montgomery township. In the spring of 1891 he removed to his present place, then comprising fifteen acres, but now has a fine tract of thirty-five acres, under a high state of cultivation. In 1893 he remodeled the house, which was the old homestead of his wife's people, and now has a very comfortable and attractive dwelling. Besides his agricultural pursuits he also has charge of two oil leases, having a general supervision of affairs and looking after the oil pumping. Mr. Wirebaugh is a decided Democrat, but is no politician in the sense of office seeking, preferring to devote his entire time to his business interests. An industrious and enterprising man who has already won success, we feel assured that he is destined to become one of the substantial citizens of Wood county. His estimable wife is a member of the Lutheran Church.

ABRAHAM KEEFER, one of the oldest pioneers of Perry township, and a most estimable citizen, was born July 23, 1822, in Orange township, Richland Co., Ohio, son of William and Barbara (Kreps) Keefer.

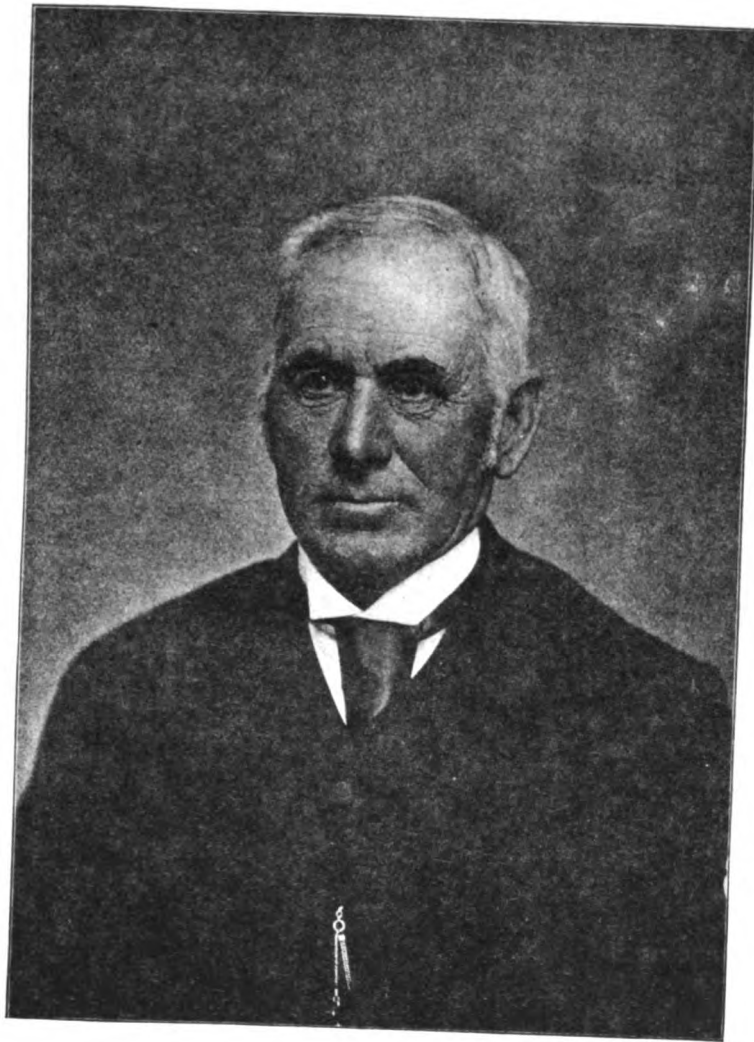
Our subject, who is the eldest son, when old enough assisted in supporting his parents. He went to school in Orange township until seventeen years of age, at which time he came to Wood county, which was then, for the most part, a dense forest. On December 22, 1844, he was united in marriage with Miss Christina Bare, a daughter of Nicholas Bare, and a native of Pennsylvania. At that time he was \$25 in debt, and owned an axe, a wedge and a wife. He was to have, for the clearing, forty acres of land to use for ten years. Commencing work in Section 28, he secured from the profits of this hard bargain a beginning in life, and upon the expiration of the time he left the land and moved to forty acres in Section 21, which he had bought two years before at a cost of \$450. Ten acres of this were cleared and had on it a log house, the first home he ever had that he could call his own. From this time he worked and prospered, and later on added, at different times, forty and eighty acres more. In July, 1858, before the last purchase of eighty acres, he moved to his present place, which then contained a log hut, and in July of the fol-

lowing year he moved into the house he now occupies.

To Mr. and Mrs. Keefer were born the following children: Eliza J., who died in infancy; M. D., who died in Perry township at the age of thirty-eight, leaving five children; Catherine, married to I. C. Conley, of Perry township; William, who died at the age of ten years; Nancy, who died when seven years old. The mother of these died April 29, 1889, and was buried at Center. On May 10, 1891, Mr. Keefer married Mrs. Eliza (Wiseman) Frink, a native of Washington township, Hancock Co., Ohio, who was a daughter of James and Elizabeth (Sommers) Wiseman. This wife died May 19, 1896, at 2.30 A. M. The previous day she had prepared supper for herself and her husband, conducted the family worship that evening, and retired feeling as well as usual. She is buried in the cemetery at Fostoria.

Mr. Keefer first voted the Democratic ticket; but on the formation of the Republican party he joined it, and in 1892 again changed his political views, and voted in the ranks of the Prohibitionists. He has served as treasurer and trustee of Perry township, as the choice of the Republican party. He is a member and one of the pillars of the Union Methodist Church, to which he has belonged since 1858, and has been a class-leader for thirty-two consecutive years. At present he is one of the trustees, and is a most liberal contributor to the Church work. On May 2, 1864, he enlisted in Company E, 144th Regiment, of which he was first lieutenant, doing guard duty at Wilmington, Del., and serving until August 24, 1864. He is a quiet gentleman, well-preserved, and an earnest worker in the cause of Prohibition. He enjoys the best of health, and, at the age of seventy-three years, "Does not know of an ache or pain." He is the owner of 160 acres of excellent land, which he has drained with 3,300 rods of tile, and all but thirty acres of which he has cultivated from its primitive condition.

William Keefer, father of our subject, was born in October, 1801, in Mahoning county. His parents moved from Pennsylvania to Richland county at an early day, and settled in Orange township (now Ashland county). Mr. Keefer left there for Perry township, where he bought eighty acres in Section 28. He and his wife moved into a small cabin of round logs, with clapboard roof, no doors nor floors, the hearth made of mortar, under which a groundhog had burrowed and made his home. The only clearing on the place was the spot oc-



*A. Keeper*



cupied by the cabin. There was wild game in abundance, bears, turkeys, etc. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Keefer were: Abraham, our subject; Mary, now the widow of Peter Bare, of Eaton county, Mich.; Barbara, who married Eli Culbertson, and died in Eaton county; Margaret, who married Andrew Burns, of Eaton county, and is deceased; Catherine, who became the wife of John Hays, and died in Henry county, Ohio; John, who enlisted July 30, 1862, in Company B, 111th Regiment, O. V. I., and was taken prisoner in action at Lenoir, Tenn., November 16, 1863, and died in a Rebel prison at Richmond, March 20, 1864; and Christopher, a farmer, in Perry township. Mrs. Keefer died October, in 1837, and was buried in Richland county. Mr. Keefer, for his second wife, wedded Miss Barbara Bare, by whom he had four children: Christina, who died young; Susan, who became the wife of Frank McConnell, and died in Toledo, Ohio; Sarah (now Mrs. William Fox), of Defiance county, Ohio; and Eliza (Mrs. Albert Becker), who died in Toledo. Mr. Keefer departed this life in Perry township, at the age of sixty-four years; Mrs. Keefer died about 1849, and both are buried at Center, Perry township. Mr. Keefer was at one time a Democrat, and later became a Republican, belonging to that party at the time of his death. He was a member of the Lutheran Church when in Pennsylvania, but as there was no Church of that denomination convenient in Perry he joined the Methodist one. He was a man of few words, a hard worker, and possessed of a peaceable disposition.

ALLEN S. FERGUSON comes of a family whose loyalty and devotion to the country was well manifested during the Civil war, and in all the relations of life our subject has been found true and faithful to the trusts reposed in him. This Ferguson family is of Irish origin, and was founded in America by Samuel Ferguson, the grandfather of our subject, who was born on the Emerald Isle and crossed the Atlantic when a young man. In Pennsylvania, he wedded Mary Miller, a lady of German extraction. He was a weaver by trade, and followed that business during the greater part of his life. His death occurred in Belmont county, Ohio, at a ripe old age.

The father of our subject, James Ferguson, was born in Pennsylvania, and was a millwright by trade. At the age of eighteen he accompanied his parents to Belmont county, where he wedded Mary Scroggs, a lady of Scotch descent. For two years they lived in Shepherdstown, Ohio, and then removed to Tuscarawas county, Ohio,

locating near Cumberland, on Conotton creek. In 1853 they came to Wood county, making the journey by team, and the father entered forty acres of land in Section 33, Jackson township, from the government, and erected thereon a log cabin. He afterward worked at his trade in different parts of the State, but died in Jackson township, October 28, 1878. His wife passed away some years previous. They had seven children, namely: John, a farmer in Jackson township; Allen S.; Eliza Jane, deceased wife of Demos Leatherman, of Jackson township; James M., a farmer of Jackson township; Sarah Ann, deceased wife of Jesse Ruff, of Jackson township; Samuel M., of Jackson township; and Mrs. Cynthia Wright, deceased. The father and all of his sons were soldiers in the Civil war. John was a member of Company G, 21st O. V. I., and later of Company K, 111th O. V. I. James M. belonged to Company L, 1st O. H. A.; and Samuel M. to Company K, 29th O. V. I.

Our subject was a child of two years when the parents went to Tuscarawas county, where he acquired his education in the district schools, and learned the trade of a carpenter and millwright with his father. At the age of nineteen he came to Jackson township with his brother-in-law, Mr. Leatherman, for whom he worked during the summer. In the winter he engaged in hunting coons, deer and turkeys, and the game brought good prices in the city markets, he realizing more from this source of income than from any other work in those days.

In Pleasant township, Hancock Co., Ohio, January 28, 1858, Mr. Ferguson married Alice Mitchell, who was born in Lancaster county, Penn., June 18, 1836, a daughter of Robert and Miriam (Butler) Mitchell. The family removed from Pennsylvania to Fairfield county, Ohio, thence to Hancock county, and subsequently to Jackson township, Wood county, where the parents passed away. Our subject and his wife began their domestic life on a farm in Jackson township. Mr. Ferguson purchased forty acres of land, erected a log cabin, and began to improve his property; but when the war broke out, he felt that his country needed his services, and he enlisted in Company G, 21st O. V. I., at McComb, for the three-months' service. When his term had expired he returned home and engaged in the erection of a school house.

In June, 1863, Mr. Ferguson sold his first farm and purchased forty acres in Hancock county, to which he removed his family. He then re-enlisted in Company L, 1st O. H. A., and going again to the front, served until the



close of the war as a valiant defender of the Union cause. When he again came home he sold his Hancock county farm, and purchased eighty acres in Jackson township, Wood county, on which he erected two dwellings. He afterward traded ten acres of this property for forty acres of his father's land, and subsequently sold an additional ten acres. In connection with his brother, J. M., he also bought a forty-acre tract in Jackson township, and then traded the land which he received from his father for his brother's forty acres, so that he there had eighty acres. This he later sold, and bought forty acres of the farm which he now owns, and which he has since doubled in extent. In addition he owns several town lots, and a third interest in the opera house in Hoytville, also eight shares in the creamery there. He is a man of excellent business ability, of sound judgment and sagacity.

To Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson have been born five children—Eliza Jane, wife of John L. Tyner, of Jackson township; Aaron B., of Hoytville; Myrtie M., wife of Milton J. Hoot, of Hoytville; and Maud M., at home. Mr. Ferguson is a stalwart Republican and an active worker in his party. He was first called to public office as assessor, afterward served for three years as supervisor, for four years was trustee, two years township clerk, six years justice of the peace, census enumerator in 1880, and for six years as county infirmary director. He was also mayor of Hoytville for one term, and school director for a number of years. In these various positions he has discharged his duties with a promptness and fidelity that has won him high commendation. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity of Deshler, Ohio, and to the Grand Army of the Republic at Hoytville, and holds membership with the Christian Church. He is now living practically a retired life, enjoying a well-earned rest and the fruits of his former toil.

**WILLIAM WESTERFIELD.** Among the influential and progressive farmers of Montgomery township the subject of this sketch occupies an honorable position. He was born in Scipio township, Seneca Co., Ohio, on February 25, 1856, and is the son of John William and Catherine (Overholt) Westerfield, who brought him to Wood county during boyhood. His education was acquired in the district schools, which at that date were not as far advanced as at the present time. Early becoming familiar with farm work upon his father's place, he decided to follow that vocation throughout life, and assisted in the operation of the home farm until after the death of his par-

ents. For a time he then worked for others, but in 1894 purchased twenty acres in Section 2, Montgomery township, adjoining another twenty-acre tract, which was a part of the old homestead belonging to him. In 1891 he erected a very pleasant house upon his farm, where he now makes his home, and devotes his entire time and attention to the cultivation of his land.

Although Mr. Westerfield regularly votes the Democratic ticket, and is a staunch supporter of his party, he cares nothing for political preferment. He is a steady-going, honest, industrious man, quiet and unassuming in manner, and has the confidence and regard of all who know him. By his earnest, persistent efforts he has now secured a good home and farm, and well deserves the success which has come to him. Besides his farming operations he has also worked at the carpenter's trade, being employed at tank building in Bradner.

**ELIJAH H. HOPPER**, a well-known agriculturist of Webster township, was born in Lucas county, Ohio, June 1, 1841. His family is of English origin, and his grandparents, William and Mary Hopper, were lifelong residents of the county of Kent, England. George Hopper, our subject's father, was born there in 1808, and in early manhood came to the United States, locating first in New York State, where he was married, in 1830, to Miss Annie Robbins, who was born in New York, June 12, 1808. Nine children were born to them: Rufus, deceased; William, deceased; Mary, the wife of Samuel Lyman, of Leesburg, Ind.; Priscilla; James J.; Elijah H.; Luella, the wife of Fred Leathers, of Michigan; Augustus H., a resident of New York; and Benjamin, who lives in Toledo. In 1840 our subject's father came to Wood county, and bought 160 acres of land in Troy township, which he improved. He was a man of excellent qualities, much esteemed by those who knew him, a Republican in politics, and a member of the M. E. Church. He died in 1878, followed two years later by his wife.

Mr. Hopper attended the district schools of Troy township during his boyhood, and in 1863 went to Webster township and bought ninety-six acres of fine land near Fenton, which he has since cultivated. His industry and frugality have met their due reward, and he now has a handsome residence and a barn of the latest model. He is chiefly engaged in general farming and stock raising. He was married in 1863 to Miss Catherine S. Allen, who was born in Sandusky county, in 1842. They have had four children,

two of whom died in infancy. The others are Mary, who married Adrian Hiser, and Ada, the wife of Eugene Morris, of Stony Ridge.

In the year 1895, Mr. Hopper lost his barn and all of his out-buildings by fire, occasioned by combustion. He afterward sold his farm and purchased a vegetable and fruit farm in Findlay, Hancock Co., Ohio, upon which he and his wife moved, and where they still reside.

Mr. Hopper holds a high place in the community, and has held positions of trust in the township most of the time for twenty years. He is a leading member of the M. E. Church, and has been influential in the Sunday school for thirty-eight years.

**WILLIAM HEUER.** In political office, in his business career, and in his private life this gentleman has ever displayed a fidelity to duty and high moral principle, that has justly gained him a place among the prominent and respected citizens of his adopted county, and it is with pleasure that we present to our readers the record of his life. He was born in Prussia, Germany, May 25, 1848, and is a son of Frederick and Mina (Voga) Heuer, also natives of Prussia. When a young man the father served as a soldier in the German army, being first called out in 1848, and after that, on two different occasions. In the spring of 1857, with his wife and family, he sailed from the Fatherland on the vessel "Marcus," which after nine weeks and three days dropped anchor in the harbor of New York. The voyage was a very stormy one, and the vessel was driven far from its course.

Mr. Heuer took his family at once to Lorain county, Ohio, and purchased twenty-five acres in Sheffield township. This he afterward sold, and bought fifty-eight acres where he was living at the time of his death, in 1865, at the age of forty-nine years. His widow still lives in the old homestead, and has a life interest in the estate, which was sold by the heirs to the Johnson Steel Company, and a large plant has since been erected thereon. The children of the family were: William; Julius, of Lorain county; Harvey, who was drowned in 1885, at the age of twenty-five years; Charles, of Lorain county; Elizabeth, wife Andrew Robinson, of Lorain county; Mary, wife of J. L. Hohn, of Milton township; and John, of Lorain county.

Our subject began his education in his native land, and completed it in the district schools near his early Ohio home. At the age of sixteen he left the parental roof, and engaged in service on freight boats which plied between the islands and

Cleveland. He was afterward mate on a schooner for five months, and made a trip by way of the lakes to Quebec, Canada, with the intention of going to Prussia, but instead re-shipped on the old schooner, "Van Volkenberg," which sailed for San Francisco, Cal., stopping at different points on the way. The ship was laden with sugar and coffee, and at San Francisco took on a cargo of merchandise. His parents hearing no news of him supposed he had been lost at sea, but after the two-years' voyage of this schooner was over, he returned to his home, and engaged in the manufacture of cheese in Lorain county.

Mr. Heuer was married in Elyria, Ohio, June 26, 1867, to Anna Maria Brown, who was born in Germany. They then removed to Berrien county, Mich., where Mr. Heuer purchased thirty-five acres of land which he operated until 1871, when his buildings and improvements were all destroyed by fire. He then sold his land and returned to Lorain county, where he operated the family homestead for two years. He next began work on the dock at Lorain, as foreman of the C. L. & W. Railroad Co., and continued in the employ of that company for fifteen years. In October, 1887, he traded his property there for his present farm of 100 acres in Milton township, and has since resided in Wood county. Only eight acres of this was then under cultivation, but he has made excellent improvements upon it, erected a fine residence and good barns, and the well-tilled fields yield to him a golden tribute in return for his care and labor.

To Mr. and Mrs. Heuer have been born three children—Lorenzo, an oil man of Bays, Ohio; William, who is working in the oil fields at Gibsonburg, Ohio; and Minnie, at home. The family attend the Disciples Church, of which our subject is a member. In politics he was formerly a supporter of the Republican party, but is now a staunch Prohibitionist. He has served his school district as director for some years, and the cause of education finds in him a warm friend, while to all interests calculated to benefit the community he gives a liberal support. He is himself a well-read man, and is ever found on the side of progress and advancement.

**SAMUEL B. CESSNA,** an enterprising young business man and agriculturist of Montgomery township, residing near Risingsun, has already won a reputation for his industry, shrewdness, and able management of affairs. He was born in Bedford township, Bedford Co., Penn., September 13, 1862, the son of James B. and Margaret (Elliott) Cessna, and grandson of James

Cessna (deceased), who was sheriff of that county four years, and held the office of justice of the peace some forty years. The family has had a high standing in that locality for several generations, and the members for the most part have been long lived, the grandparents of our subject on both the paternal and maternal sides having attained the advanced ages of over eighty years.

James B. Cessna, father of our subject, was born in Bedford, Bedford Co., Penn., September 28, 1838. In his younger days he taught school, and then took up farming pursuits, in which he still continues, being owner of 360 acres of fine land in Bedford county, Penn., improved and equipped with substantial buildings. He married Miss Margaret Elliott, by whom he had four children, three sons and one daughter, viz.: Sylvester T., Samuel B., Pendleton A., and Alida Blanche, who died in her tenth month. The mother of these passed from earth at Centerville, Bedford county, June 6, 1896, in the sixty-second year of her age, and was buried in Bethel M. E. cemetery, in the Cumberland Valley. She was a strict member of the Methodist Episcopal Church up to the time of her decease. Mr. Cessna is now living in Centerville, Penn., his business and public cares having been laid aside some years ago. In his active days he held various township offices, and was an influential worker in the ranks of the Democratic party.

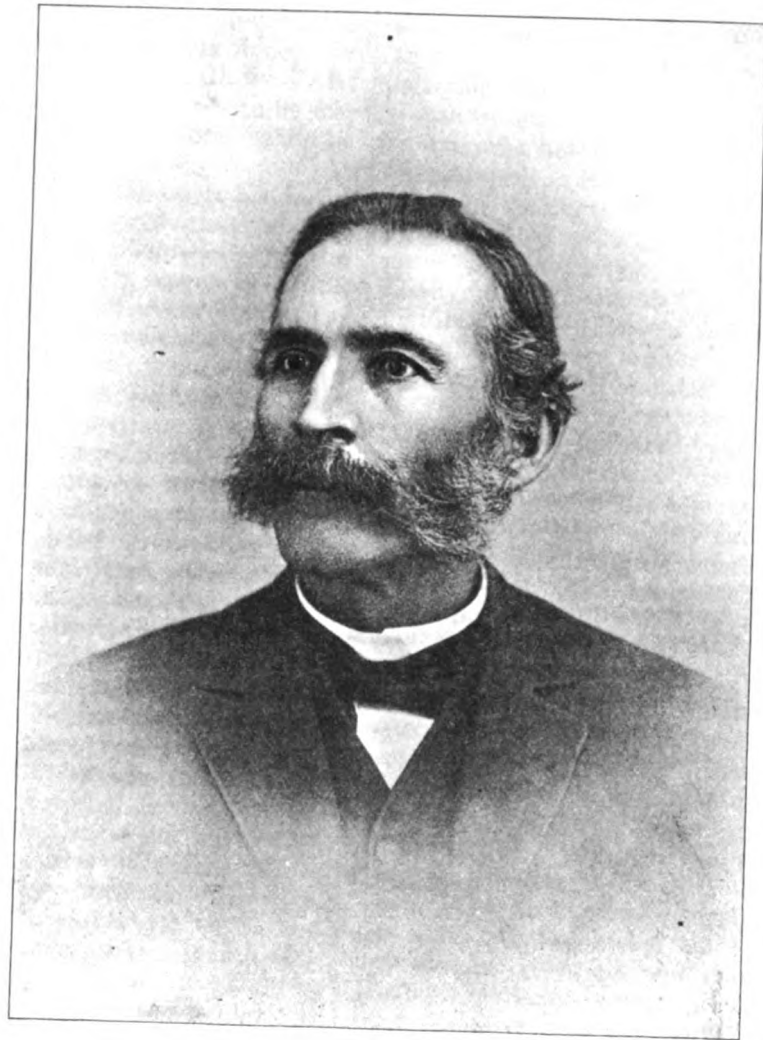
Samuel B. Cessna, our subject, was reared as a farmer's boy, with the usual district-school advantages, and plenty of work at home. On attaining his majority he came to Fostoria, Ohio, where some relatives were living, and for two years rented a farm near Longley, Ohio. Although his father offered him 120 acres of land at his early home in the Cumberland Valley, he chose to remain in this region, and in the spring of 1888 he purchased his present farm of eighty acres in Section 26, Montgomery township, where in 1893 he built an elegant residence, supplied with water and other conveniences seldom found outside of cities. Soon after coming to this county he engaged in various lines of work in the oil fields, such as rig-building and dressing tools, and at times as field-boss, pumper, and operator, and as he prefers this to the actual labor of the farm he employs others to attend to the latter, under his general supervision. Steady-going, honest, industrious and progressive, his success has been marked, and he is regarded as certain to become one of the substantial men of his locality.

In the fall of 1883, Mr. Cessna was married in Bedford, Penn., to Miss Emma Wertz, daughter of John Wertz, one of the most prominent agriculturists in the Cumberland Valley. Mrs. Cessna is a leading member of the Church of God, and with her husband takes an interest in every worthy movement. Socially he belongs to Risingsun Lodge, K. of P., and politically he is a Democrat on the State and National issues, but in local elections votes for the "best man."

ELIAS SIMON (deceased), who in his lifetime was one of the most highly respected citizens within the limits of Bloom township, is a fit representative of the honored family of that name. He was a son of Henry and Catherine (Stemple) Simon, the former of whom was born June 7, 1796, the latter on July 10, 1798; they were married October 5, 1822, and died May 15, 1872, and April 2, 1836, respectively.

Mr. Simon was born August 12, 1827, in Mahoning county, Ohio, where he attended an excellent German school. When he was but a few months over seventeen years old his parents moved to Wood county, accompanied by five of their children—Jonas, Carolus, Elias, Abigail and Joshua. They drove through the woods with three wagons, bringing their household goods. Our subject's father had met with financial reverses in Mahoning county, and he made a new start in life upon a tract of eighty acres of timber land on what is now known as the North Ridge road. A rude log house, which he had built previously, furnished a shelter for the newcomers; and their first meal was cooked by the side of a brush heap. Our subject did many a hard day's work in clearing and breaking the soil of this farm, but he also found some time to attend an English school on the old Leathers farm, where Cornelius Simon, a cousin, was the first teacher. At the age of twenty-one he began to work on his own account, chopping and clearing for one year, and then working in a sawmill as a laborer. His savings were invested in 120 acres of land, his brother's estate, near Bairdstown, bought from the heirs, and its purchase left him nearly \$1,000 in debt.

On August 2, 1855, Mr. Simon was married to Miss Margaret Frankforder, a native of Springfield, Mahoning Co., Ohio, born March 15, 1837, daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth (Kugler) Frankforder, who came to Wood county in 1852, and located on a farm in Weston township. They were both natives of Ohio, the father born May 11, 1805, in Springfield township, Mahoning county, the mother born August 11, 1804. They



*Elias Linva*



were married August 27, 1826; the former died August 19, 1891, at Roca, Neb., the latter having passed away January 2, 1857, in Weston township, Wood Co., Ohio. The young couple began housekeeping upon the farm which became their permanent home. Mr. Simon continued to work in the sawmill and carried on his farm, at the same time hiring some of the work done. In 1864 he enlisted in Company E, 144th O. V. I., and was sent to Wilmington, Del., where he was on guard duty until August 22, 1864, when he was discharged at Columbus.

In 1868 he built a sawmill upon his farm, and, notwithstanding many predictions of failure, his energy and thorough knowledge of the business enabled him to make a success of it, and in three years he had paid off every obligation. He has been noted for his knowledge of milling machinery, often repairing for others. In 1889 he gave up his mill to his sons, Jackson and Delton, who conducted it for some time. There are two oil wells upon the place, producing about fifteen barrels per day, and on this farm was drilled the second gas well in the township. Mr. Simon's right wrist had been strained by overwork in lifting, and he afterward lived a semi-retired life, finding much pleasure in reading. He possessed strong intellectual powers, which should have been developed in youth. In 1878 he built one of the most substantial brick houses in the township, and his old home gives evidence not only of his worldly prosperity, but of his intellectual aspirations and artistic tastes. His wife had but limited educational facilities in her youth, but with ready adaptation she has availed herself of later opportunities at home, as her duties would permit. They have had five children: Mary E., born December 11, 1856, died February 6, 1857; Jackson, born March 16, 1858, now resides in Hancock county; Delton, born October 7, 1860, is farming the homestead and conducting the mill; Maud, born November 3, 1865, married Frank Elston, of Garrett, Ind., a Baltimore & Ohio railroad engineer, Chicago division; and Tressie, born August 9, 1875, now a successful music teacher, is at home.

Elias Simon, the subject of this sketch, died at ten minutes past eleven in the forenoon of September 21, 1896, of apoplexy, and was laid to rest September 24, in Bloom Chapel cemetery, Bloom township. He, as is also his widow, was a leading member of the Liberal U. B. Church of Bairdstown, in which he held every office, and was the principal financial supporter. When the new church was being erected he loaned a large sum of money, and afterward cancelled the debt.

Mr. Simon was no office-seeker, but took a keen interest in public affairs, and was in early years a Republican, but in later years voted with the Prohibition party.

JOHN LOUY is a strictly self-made man, who owes his success in life to his individual efforts, to enterprise, undaunted perseverance, and unfaltering industry. His career has also made him a man of broad sympathies, and he is ever ready to extend a helping hand to those less fortunate than himself. Mr. Louy was born September 11, 1831, in Marzlich, near Trier, Prussia, and is the eldest of nine children born to Henry and Margaret (Kirche) Louy. The other members of the family are: Magdalena Clapper, of East Toledo, Ohio; Regina, widow of George Frische, of Toledo; Antony, a farmer of Milton township; Peter, deceased; Elizabeth, wife of Jacob Diemer, of Toledo; Henry (1), who died in childhood; Henry (2), also deceased; and Mary, who passed away. The father was a farmer in Prussia, and in 1862 came with his wife to America, landing at New York, whence they came direct to Milton township, Wood county, where they resided some years. They then removed to Toledo, Ohio, where his death occurred in October, 1867; his wife died in 1871.

John Louy, the subject of this sketch, received a good education in the common schools of his native land, and at the age of fourteen began work as a farm hand at a shilling per day. He was thus employed until coming to America. On April 12, 1855, he left home, sailing from Havre, France, on the 16th, on the vessel, "Connecticut," which after thirty-three days reached New York. One day, while crossing the deck, he fell down an open hatchway, and was picked up in an unconscious condition, with his shoulder broken. His clothing being removed in order to get at the hurt, someone managed to confiscate some gold coins he had sewed inside the lining of his vest—his only capital. Just before landing he sold his trunk and bedding for eighteen cents, and this was all the money he had with which to begin life in the New World, and this small sum was expended for bread. He then started for Tiffin, Ohio. At Dunkirk, N. Y., he was obliged to wait for some time, and while gazing longingly at the tempting display in a restaurant window, the proprietor came out and asked him what he wanted. He was unable to speak a word of English, but the owner took him to a house some distance away where a German girl was working, who acted as interpreter between the two. On learning that he was hungry, the man took him back to the

restaurant and gave him a good meal. After many hardships he reached his destination, but had to walk all the way from Sandusky to Tiffin, Ohio. He there made his home with his uncle, Nicholas Kirche, and after three weeks secured work in a brick yard. Later he was employed as a farm hand, and in grading the railroad near Lima, Ohio. He was afterward made section hand on the railroad, and subsequently served as brakeman. He was next engaged in laying track from Toledo to Lima, and then became section foreman from Toledo to Perrysburg. To Custar he was sent as section boss, and in a short time he became express and station agent at that place. On abandoning that position he embarked in merchandising, and later erected a large store into which he put an extensive stock of general merchandise, which he sold out. He became interested in the lumber business, and at one time owned two sawmills and a stave factory. He also bought and sold 800 acres of land, and has thus been connected with various business enterprises.

Mr. Louy was married in Maumee, Ohio, September 16, 1860, to Miss Julia Ann Ganshirt, who was born in Kappal-am-Rhine, Baden, Germany. Their children are: John Henry, who was born September 15, 1861, and is chief train dispatcher at Lima, Ohio; Ellen, born August 4, 1863, now the wife of Henry Rechener, of Lima, Ohio; Josephine, born March 31, 1865, widow of Frank Drummer, of Lima, Ohio; Mary Ann, who was born December 23, 1867, and is living at Lima; Charles, born June 26, 1869, also a resident of Lima; Andrew William, born March 26, 1871, now a medical student at Toledo, Ohio; George Albert, born April 20, 1873, yard clerk for the Dayton & Michigan railroad, at Toledo, Ohio; Joseph H., born April 7, 1875, fireman on the Dayton & Michigan railroad, with residence at Lima, Ohio; Fred Edwas, born February 21, 1877, at present engaged in teaching; Frank Albert, born February 17, 1879, clerking for the Standard Oil Co., at Lima, Ohio; and Genevieve Wilhelmina, born March 15, 1881, now in a convent at Lima, Ohio. When our subject landed at Custar in 1859, there was but one Catholic family in the vicinity, that of Edward Byrnes, and the first mass was performed on the present site of that now thriving town, Father Bauer, D. D., of Fremont, Ohio, officiating, later in an old log cabin. Now there are seventy-two families who worship in the Catholic church at Custar.

Mr. Louy is now living retired, enjoying the fruits of his former toil. He owns a valuable farm of eighty acres in Milton township, a large

store building with hall, rented, and a spacious and beautiful residence in Custar, which was erected in 1872, at a cost of \$5,340.00. In politics he is a staunch Democrat, has been treasurer of Custar for two years, and councilman for two years. In religious belief he is a devout Catholic, and has been trustee of the Church.

JAMES KELLEY, deceased, was one of the leading and influential citizens of Middleton township, and his death was felt by the entire community. A native of the Keystone State, he was born in Northumberland county, September 5, 1826, and was a son of Joseph and Mary (Reed) Kelley, also natives of Pennsylvania, where they spent their entire lives. In his boyhood days their son James attended the district schools of the neighborhood, and aided in the labors of the home farm.

In March, 1852, in Pennsylvania, Mr. Kelley was united in marriage with Miss Annie Palmer, who was born in that State June 14, 1825, a daughter of Daniel Palmer. Three children were born of this union. Daniel, born June 9, 1853, was educated in Middleton township, and at Toledo, Ohio, and in August, 1879, he married Ettie Chapman, who was born April 25, 1856, a daughter of Sylvester Chapman, of Sandusky county, Ohio. For nine years he has been an employe at the Toledo State Hospital. William, born April 16, 1857, now operates the old homestead. He was married in 1888, to Flora Camm, who was born in Huron county, April 8, 1860, and they have one daughter, Alta. Elwood, born in Plain township, this county, July 31, 1862, married Nellie Miller, and has two children. He has been employed at the Toledo State Hospital for seven years.

The subject of this review removed from Pennsylvania to Wood county in 1862, and located in Plain township, where he remained one year, then moved to Hancock county, where he carried on farming for six years. In 1869 he came to Middleton township and purchased seventy-two acres of land, which, with the aid of his sons, he cleared and improved, continuing its cultivation up to the time of his death. He was a man of sterling worth, honorable and upright in all things, was a loyal citizen, a faithful friend and a loving and devoted husband and father. He served as school director of his township, gave his political support to the Democratic party, and was a consistent and earnest member of the Baptist Church. He passed away January 5, 1891, and one more name was added to the list of honored dead, but his memory will be

kept green in the hearts of his friends for many years. Mrs. Kelley, a most estimable lady, has since conducted the home farm, and displays excellent business ability, while her many womanly graces of character have won her high regard.

**HENRY SARVIS.** The life of this gentleman has been prominently connected with the history of Wood county since early pioneer days, and many interesting incidents can be relate of the time when this region was but sparsely settled, and gave little indication of its present highly cultivated and properous condition. He was born in England, and was the fifth in a family of nine children—four sons and five daughters. His father was a man in comfortable circumstances until, through the failure of a bank, he lost much of his property. As his children grew up he would say to them: "All I can do for you now is to give you a good common-school education, and teach you a trade; the rest you must do for yourself. Industry, perseverance, a wise economy, and honorable dealing will bring you success in life. Let your reading be historical and practical, and take the Bible for your guide through life." A favorite volume of the father's was a history of the United States.

When Henry Sarvis was a lad of twelve years he was sent to a boarding school in a farming country, where he first became acquainted with agricultural life, and this and his United States history exerted a great influence on his after career. After leaving school he was engaged in making piano keys in the piano factory, of Broadwood & Co., London, until nineteen years of age, his father holding a responsible position in that establishment. When Henry was nineteen, his brother-in-law had to go to Canada to look after some property, and our subject sailed with him. After a short time spent in Canada, he went to New York, where he accidentally met his brother-in-law, and together they returned to England; but Mr. Sarvis had resolved to save money enough to establish a home in America. He resumed work at his trade, and soon afterward married a farmer's daughter, who proved to him an efficient and capable helpmeet on life's journey. An old-time friend, John Wright, proposed to him that they come to America, and after consulting with his wife, Mr. Sarvis determined to try his fortune in the New World. They were also joined by a boy of fifteen, and the four started for New York in the spring of 1844.

On reaching that city Mr. Sarvis and his wife went up the Hudson river, then by canal to Buffalo, and parted with their friend, Mr. Wright,

in Cleveland. Leaving their luggage in Detroit, they made their way to the home of Mr. Sarvis' brother-in-law, about ten miles from Chatham, Canada, but he could not secure the land he had hoped to in that locality, and so returned to Chatham. While sitting outside the "Exchange Hotel," thinking what to do next, he became engaged in conversation with a gentleman there who said he lived in Perrysburg, Ohio, and the result was that Mr. Sarvis and his wife accompanied this gentleman to Wood county. They had a letter of introduction to a Mr. Isaac, living on Hull Prairie. Their newly-found friend, Mr. Spafford, told them of the excellent advantages afforded by this country; but the sight which greeted them soon after their arrival seemed anything but hopeful. For two days they remained in the hotel at Perrysburg, and the next morning started for the Prairie, about eight miles distant. Every few rods, so deep was the mud, they had to stop and clear the wheels before they could proceed. It may well be imagined that the progress was slow, and when they reached the Prairie its appearance was much more that of a lake, for it was covered with water, sometimes several feet deep. They found the driving through the water, however, better than driving through the mud, and finally reached a substantial log house, all surrounded by water. On presenting their letter of introduction—for this was the home of Mr. Isaac—they were cordially welcomed in the true spirit of pioneer days. The prospect for comfortable homes in this locality, however, seemed to be very poor, but they were assured by their newly-found friends that the inundation was an unusual one, and that they looked for a bright future.

The next morning the host drove Mr. Sarvis to the different farmers on the Prairie, who all seemed hopeful, and believed they would soon have good farms. Mr. Sarvis purchased eighty acres of land at \$2.50 per acre, on which stood a log cabin, and forty acres at \$1.25 per acre. He also bought two yoke of oxen and two cows, and began breaking the land. He planted a crop, but again all that region was flooded, and in the autumn it was parched by the hot August sun. For several years this was the condition of things, and the families were forced to endure many hardships and trials, such as are entirely unknown to the settlers of to-day. At length a meeting was called, and the settlers on Hull Prairie discussed the advisability of draining the land. Mr. Sarvis was asked for his opinion, and said that he would like two weeks' time in which to study the question. During that time he wrote a letter to the



editor of the *Journal*, in connection with Mr. Isaac, and the editor requested that they write a communication of this sort every other week. It was done, and as a result the "ditch law" was passed, the Prairie was drained, and was transformed into a most valuable and productive tract of land, its farms being now unrivaled in excellence and richness. It was also through the instrumentality of the settlers on Hull Prairie that the county fair was first instituted, and the work of progress and improvement has been carried steadily forward by them, until they may well be proud of their improved homes, and what they have accomplished.

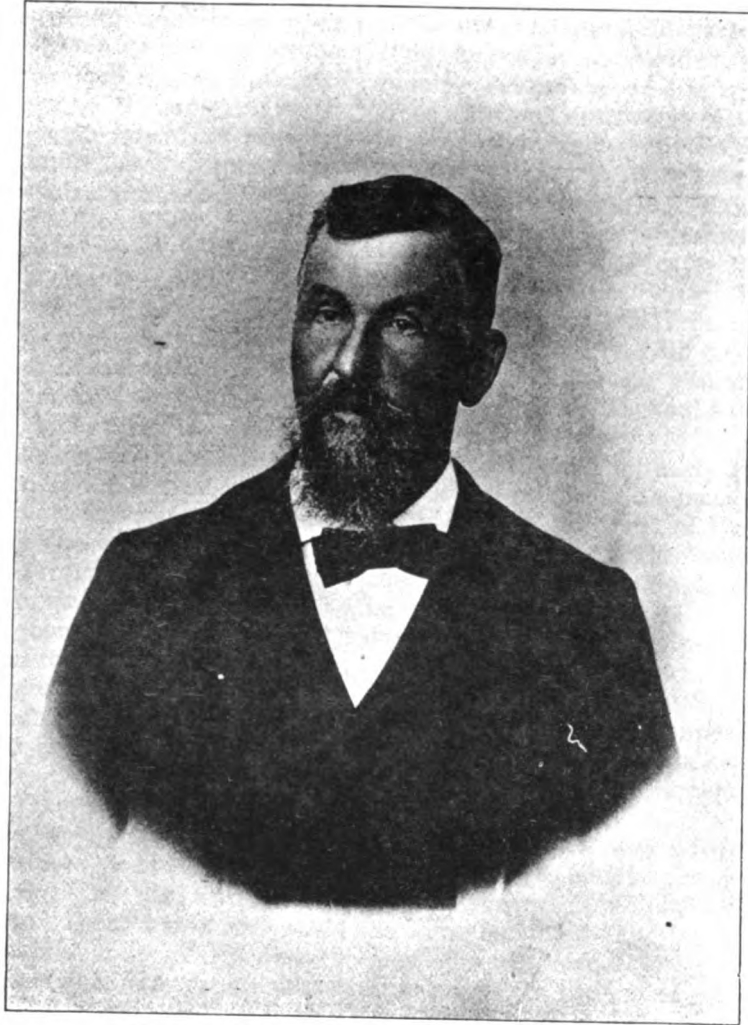
Mr. Sarvis' first wife died February 25, 1880, and was buried at Perrysburg, Ohio. Mr. Sarvis married Miss Alice Terry, who was born in England in 1858. They have no children. Mrs. Sarvis has two brothers—Thomas, formerly a surgeon in the British army, and now living in England; William, a business man in England. There is also a sister living there—Mrs. Harcourt. Mr. and Mrs. Sarvis are members of the Presbyterian Church, and in politics he is a Republican. His well-spent life, and honorable, upright career have gained for him the warm friendship of the neighbors, and the high regard of all with whom he has come in contact.

JOHN PERRIN, the earlier part of whose life was a most checkered one, is now a most extensive land owner in Middleton township, having to-day a valuable farm of 500 acres, highly cultivated and improved with all the accessories and conveniences of a model farm of the Nineteenth century. He belongs to that class of honored men known as "self-made," who, dependent upon their own resources, have worked their way upward from humble surroundings to positions of affluence.

Mr. Perrin was born in Nova Scotia, near Pictou, March 19, 1828. His father, James Perrin, was also a native of Nova Scotia, born of French parentage, and followed the occupation of farming in that province. There he married Helen Byers, a native of Scotland, born November 17, 1795, and they became parents of nine children as follows: Jane, wife of James Young; Mary, deceased; John; Josephine, wife of Foster B. Pratt; Catherine, deceased wife of Stephen Langell; William, postmaster at Roachton, Wood county; and three who died in childhood. From his native province the father of this family came to Ohio, afterward removing to Indiana, where he and his wife both died in 1838, the latter on September 27, of that year.

As will be seen, our subject was ten years old when death deprived him of both his parents, at which time the children took up their residence in Perrysburg, Wood county, where they remained until the spring of the following year, the family circle being then broken up, John making his home with William Russell. With him he worked for his living some eighteen months, at the end of which period he went to Seneca county, Ohio, there working for Isaac Ingraham, also eighteen months, but from him he "ran away," returning to Perrysburg. Here for about a year and a half he worked for Charles Shepard, his remuneration being three dollars per month, he part of the time attending school, and then returned to Seneca county, where he was employed on the farm of a Mr. Ingraham, who, later, removed to Henry county, our subject accompanying him, and remaining with him till he was eighteen years old. All he claims he got from Mr. Ingraham was his board and inferior quality, and a sparse quantity of clothes, his wardrobe at the time of leaving Ingraham's employ consisting of but one suit of clothes. Nothing daunted, young Perrin hired out at \$12.00 per month, saved his earnings and in course of time, in 1848, bought 120 acres of wild land in Henry county, near Liberty Center, about the same time taking up the pursuit of fishing, which he followed in connection with farming up to 1853. In that year he set out for the then "New Eldorado"—California—to try his luck in the gold diggings. He set out from St. Louis by boat to Council Bluffs; but, the steamer becoming disabled, he, with some 500 others, had to be landed in the woods where they remained four days suffering greatly from hunger. A steamboat, however, arrived opportunely, and took the temporarily marooned adventurers to Independence, Mo., where Mr. Perrin joined a company of 101 other travelers who formed themselves into an "outfit," the entire company setting out for the gold fields in April. The journey occupied six months, our subject walking most of the way, and doing the hunting for the party, his previous experience in that line, in Ohio, and general knowledge of woodcraft, proving of much value to the party.

Arriving at the gold fields, Mr. Perrin immediately commenced mining, which he followed five years, not with much success, he says, after the first year, at the end of that time taking a prospective trip up the Frazer river, in British Columbia, where he mined for gold three years, in this venture meeting with good success, and a proportionate degree of adventure. He there,



*John Perme*



however, experienced the greatest hardships. There were some 30,000 people on the Frazer river, no law had been established, and the Indians killed many whites, while the whites killed many Indians in return, so that each man had to protect himself. Mr. Perrin relates many an exciting tale of his experiences, the Frazer river itself, a large stream of water, in the springtime a perfect torrent, being in itself a source of considerable danger, as it had to be navigated with small boats, and many people lost their lives by drowning. Provisions most of the time were scarce, and death from starvation was not infrequent during the winter of 1858-59. Robbers were also a source of great anxiety to the gold-diggers, who had to hide their treasure as fast as they found it. In 1861 Mr. Perrin ascended the Frazer river as far as Cariboo, where a new gold field had been opened out, and he there purchased a rich claim, but in the month of October, that year, the snow was so deep he could not work his claim, and as a consequence had to remain idle there and all alone, monarch of all he surveyed for the time, with nothing to read save the labels on the cans of provisions he had with him; and this highly interesting literature he says he committed to perpetual memory, "canned salmon," "pickled beets," etc., being a sort of mental pabulum, the contents of the cans serving for the inner man. Here he remained some six years, made money, and became the owner of many rich claims, paying for some as much as \$20,000. From Cariboo Mr. Perrin went to Oregon and Washington Territory, intending to revisit the Frazer river, but while in Portland, Ore., he made up his mind to return to his old Ohio home, which he did, and has remained there ever since.

Much has been written about travel and adventure, and did Mr. Perrin's innate modesty permit him to give his personal mining experiences to the world, he could fill a good sized volume with exciting scenes and hair-breadth escapes rarely met with in a single lifetime.

On his return home in 1868 after an absence of fifteen years, Mr. Perrin found his land in Henry county sold, his relatives, with whom he had never communicated, having given him up for dead. He now, however, purchased 300 acres of land in Middleton township, Wood county, covered with timber and water. Tiling and draining was necessary to make this cultivable, while the trees had to be cleared away ere crops could be planted. Ultimately the boundaries of the farm were extended until it now comprises 500 acres of very valuable land, covered in summer time with waving fields of grain, and where the

surrounding good buildings and modern improvements tell the passer-by of the thrift and enterprise of the owner.

On December 16, 1891, Mr. Perrin married May Halbert, a most estimable lady. Her father, Henry Halbert, was born in New York, April 6, 1838, and throughout life has followed farming. In 1865 he came to Middleton township, Wood county, and purchased a farm which he yet operates. He was married in New York, to Maria L. Hogan, who was born at Rome, that State, September 15, 1842. They have five children: Harriet, born December 27, 1860, deceased wife of Dr. H. W. Legalley; Henrietta, born June 17, 1863, wife of Oliver Mears; May F., born August 3, 1869, now Mrs. Perrin; Edward, born September 23, 1879; and Miles, born December 5, 1882. Mr. and Mrs. Halbert now reside in Haskins. Mrs. Perrin is a graduate of the Haskins High School, taught school some six years, and is an accomplished lady.

To the Republican party Mr. Perrin gives his support. Aside from his farming interests, he is a stockholder in the Bank of Perrysburg, and he is in all respects one of the best known men in the county. His experiences have been varied; but he has steadily worked his way upward, and today ranks among the substantial citizens of the community, owing his success to persistent labor, thorough application and honorable dealing. Pleasant and genial in manner, he is very popular with all classes, and together with his amiable life partner commands the respect of all.

JOHN RUDOLPH was born in Germany, September 5, 1848, and is a son of Frederick and Mary (Kroeger) Rudolph, who were natives of the same locality. The father was born January 4, 1815, and the mother on January 18, of the same year. In the fall of 1868 they sailed from Hamburg for New York, but after being on the water for twenty-six days the vessel, having been damaged by storms, was forced to put into port at Halifax, where it remained for repairs five days. After reaching New York, Mr. Rudolph and his family came directly to Cleveland, Ohio, and a year later to Wood county. They located on forty acres of wild land which was unimproved save with a log cabin. There the father still carried on agricultural pursuits; his wife died April 28, 1895. In the family were only two children—John and Sophia, the latter now the wife of Joseph Rossow, of Milton township.

Our subject attended school between the ages of six and fifteen years, and afterward worked at various employments until twenty-one years of

age, when he came with his parents to America. As he could not secure work in Cleveland, he went to Iowa, where he secured employment as a farm hand at \$14 per month, and board. After some time he returned to the Buckeye State, and has since been a resident of Wood county. He aided in clearing his father's farm, selling the timber to the railroad company.

Mr. Rudolph was married in Custar, May 14, 1879, to Miss Christina Wismer, who was born in Prussia, Germany, August 25, 1855, and is a daughter of John and Caroline (Henning) Wismer. They now have six children: Frank, a freight agent in Toledo, Ohio; and Fred, Daniel, Mary, Annie and George, all at home. Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph began their domestic life on a forty-acre farm which our subject purchased of his father. He has made excellent improvements upon this place, and his commodious and pleasant residence is one of the best in the township. He has served on the school board for a number of years, and is deeply interested in all that pertains to the welfare of the community. His political support is given the Republican party. He is a prominent member of the Lutheran Church, and is serving as trustee and Sunday-school teacher.

A. GEORGE GALLIER. The splendid farm owned by this gentleman, in Center township, is a standing monument to his industry, perseverance and good management. He comes under the category of self-made men, having been thrown upon his own resources early in life, and has succeeded only by the exercise of his steady, earnest application to his duties. Just at this time he is one of the prominent representatives of the agricultural interests of Wood county.

Mr. Gallier was born in Herefordshire, England, February 24, 1848, and is a son of Samuel and Annie (Amond) Gallier, who were the parents of the following children: Millie F., wife of John Jinkson, of Salt Lake City; Jane, widow of John Dryer; William, a landscape gardener, of Toledo, Ohio; Annie, wife of Robert Barnes, of Wood county; Mary, who makes her home in Salt Lake City, Utah; A. George, of this sketch; Esther, still a resident of England; and two who died in infancy. The father followed the occupation of a common laborer, and died in his native land in 1866, but the mother still makes her home in that country.

Our subject received a very limited education in the schools of Herefordshire, and when a small boy entered a store where he was employed for three years, receiving one pound for the first

year and two for the second, together with his board. He then obtained a position as page in the home of a wealthy gentleman, where he remained for five years, receiving only his board and clothing and five pounds per year. On the expiration of that time he became a hotel clerk, being thus employed until reaching the age of twenty-one, when he started in business for himself on a small scale. After a year, however, at the solicitation of a brother who had previously located here, he resolved to come to America. He landed on the shores of the New World in 1871, and in Toledo, Ohio, found employment as a gardener, which occupation he followed there for nine years, when he came to Wood county, locating in Center township on forty acres of unimproved land, which he had purchased. This wild tract he cleared, ditched and tiled, erecting thereon a good house, barns and other outbuildings, besides planting an orchard. To this later he added another tract of forty acres, and now has eighty-two acres of arable, to the development of which he gives his entire attention.

Before leaving his native land Mr. Gallier was married in Herefordshire, July 1, 1869, to Sarah Jones, and they have become the parents of the following children: William, born July 8, 1872; H. A., September 11, 1874; John, June 28, 1876; Monroe, January 27, 1878; James, January 2, 1880; George, November 5, 1883; Millie, April 27, 1886; Walter, October 9, 1888; Mabel, September 22, 1891; and Myrtle, May 9, 1894. Mr. Gallier is quite prominent in local affairs, and politically is a staunch Republican. For several years he has served as school director and president of the board of education, and is at present supervisor of his township, which position his son William filled last year, having run on the ticket with his father, and receiving more votes than he. Our subject is a genial, pleasant gentleman, widely and favorably known, and he and his family attend the United Brethren Church.

JOHN R. MARWICK, a retired farmer, living at Bowling Green, was born in Cambridgeshire, England, August 13, 1835. His parents were William and Ann (Amos) Marwick, the former of whom, born in England in 1796, died there in November, 1859. The mother was born in 1792, and died in 1853. Religiously she was a Baptist, and her husband was an Episcopalian. They had twelve children, of whom four grew to maturity: Mary Ann married James Earl, and is living in Australia; she came from England to Wood county, and then removed to her present

home. Sarah is the wife of William Walker, who lives in England. William went to Australia in 1853, and is in the gold fields there. John R. is our subject.

Mr. Marwick grew up in England, coming to America in 1855. His means were limited, and he walked from Toledo, Ohio, to Bowling Green, and went to work by the month on a farm in the vicinity. He had been reared as a drover in "Merrie England," and found life here in the wilderness hard and uncongenial. In 1856 he was married to Miss Susanna Wakefield, who was born in Cambridgeshire, England, July 28, 1832. She is the daughter of John and Mary (Barley) Wakefield, who came to America in 1851, and located at Monroeville, Huron Co., Ohio, moving from there in 1857 to Wood county, where they lived in Plain township. Mr. Wakefield built a house in Bowling Green, where he spent the latter part of his life. He was born in 1795 and died in 1869; his wife was born in 1798 and departed this life in 1885. Six of their children grew to maturity, namely: John, who died in Plain township; Mary, who died soon after her marriage; Sarah, married to John Wills, and now residing in Chillicothe, Mo.; Susanna, wife of our subject; William, living in Bowling Green; and Lizzie Jane, wife of James Wright, living in Weston, Ohio.

Mr. and Mr. Marwick first settled in Erie county, Ohio, then coming to Bowling Green located in Plain township, and finally in Washington township, where they now own eighty acres of land. They have one child, William R., born May 29, 1857, who married Miss Ella Crum and resides in Bureau, Ohio; they have four children—Earnest, Nellie May, Arthur and Marie.

Mr. Marwick is a Republican, and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Church. He also belongs to the I. O. O. F., and his wife is a member of the Daughters of Rebekah. They are model citizens of Bowling Green, where they are well-known for their hospitality and philanthropic works.

**JACOB SOMMERS.** Among the worthy citizens who claim Ohio as the State of their nativity, none are more deserving of a conspicuous place in the history of Wood county than this gentleman, whose honorable and well-spent life has gained him the high regard of all with whom he has been brought in contact. He was born in Medina county, Ohio, June 2, 1858, and is a son of Frederick and Rosana (Groah) Sommers, who came with their family to Wood county in 1860. Our subject attended the district school at Flint

Hill, in Portage township, and also the common schools of Liberty township. His vacation periods were spent at work upon the home farm, and at the age of eighteen he began running an engine in a sawmill, where he was employed for two seasons. He afterward worked as a farm hand in Seneca county for one year, but, returning to Wood county, secured a situation as a farm hand with John Metzger, of Liberty township. Later he operated the old homestead.

On March 8, 1885, in Portage township, Mr. Sommers married Ellen Knight, who was born in Ottawa county, Ohio, December 27, 1864, and is a daughter of Thomas W. and Elizabeth (Warren) Knight. The young couple began their domestic life on the Bradshaw farm in Liberty township, which Mr. Sommers rented for a year, and then returned to the old family homestead, where he resided until removing to his present place in November, 1893. In connection with his brother Fred, he purchased 120 acres of land. His home is a comfortable dwelling, and he has made many excellent improvements upon the farm.

To Mr. and Mrs. Sommers have been born a daughter, Mabel Matilda, born December 4, 1885. The parents are active and leading members in the Disciples Church, and Mr. Sommers belongs to the Odd Fellows Society of Portage. He has served as school director for some time, and gives a hearty and willing support to all measures calculated to advance the general welfare, educational or otherwise.

**JACOB BALEY.** There is probably no man in Bloom township wider or more favorably known than this gentleman, who came to that section of the county in the pioneer days, and is recognized as one of the important factors in its progress and development. He is a native of Ohio, born in Canfield township, Mahoning county, April 19, 1820. His father was a Pennsylvanian by birth, and married Miss Catherine Sanon, by whom he had nine children, namely: Lavina, Elizabeth, Jacob, Eliza, Catherine, Peter, Jeremiah, Amanda and John. The parents departed this life in Canfield township, Mahoning county.

Until reaching the age of seventeen or eighteen years, Jacob Baley assisted in the work on the home farm, and at intervals attended the schools of his day. He was then bound out to William Lyman to remain until twenty-one years old, but left him and for three months worked for William Giger; then he worked for Christian Dustman for seven months, receiving ten dollars per month for his services, and during that time

lost only two days. The following winter he lived with Jacob Hammon, and went to school, helping with the work and doing chores. The next spring he worked several months for Mr. Hammon, and at odd times or on wet days young Baley worked in the blacksmith shop for a Mr. Wonsetler, and later on he arranged with him to learn the trade, and remained with him one and a half years, then worked for him on the shares for about a year. Later he went to Poland, Ohio, and worked in the same manner for Jacob Lee. In this way he earned money enough to buy a partial outfit for himself (making the rest), and began business at the four corners of the roads leading to Youngstown, Boardman, Canfield and Austintown, Ohio.

On November 10, 1840, our subject was married, in Mahoning county, to Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Abraham and Catharine (Crous) Simon, born May 6, 1822, in Mahoning county, Ohio. In the spring of 1847, Mr. Baley sold out and with a small one-horse wagon brought his wife and three children to Bloom township, locating in Section 21, where he had bought land the year previous. On his eighty-acre farm he built a log shop, and his father-in-law brought his tools here sometime later. He had only received \$14 from his father's estate, and by his trade earned the money with which he paid for his land. The settlers in this section were widely scattered, so that at first work at his trade was not rushing, even though his patrons came for miles around, and much of his blacksmithing was paid for by his customers in clearing his land for him. For six weeks the family lived at Bloom Center, while a log house, 16 x 20 feet, was made ready for occupancy. He continued to work at his trade, in addition to his agricultural pursuits, and as his income increased secured more land until he was the owner of 260 acres, but has now given 160 acres to his sons, still retaining the remainder.

For over fifty-five years, Mr. and Mrs. Baley have now traveled life's journey together, sharing with each other its joys and sorrows, its adversity and prosperity, and they have reared a family of which they may justly be proud. They are as follows: Delilah, born November 23, 1841, is the wife of W. S. Richard, of Bloomdale, Ohio; Harriet, born May 6, 1844, is now Mrs. Alfred Simon; Mary, born September 13, 1846, is the wife of Thomas Loman, a grain merchant of Newmarket, Iowa; John is a prominent resident of Wood county; Martha A., born August 28, 1851, is the widow of Alfred Stephens, of Knobnoster, Mo.; Amanda, born November 5,

1853, is the wife of Byron Frederick, of Bloom township; Simon C. is a leading citizen of Wood county; Lucy A., born June 11, 1858, married D. L. Kunkler, and died October 26, 1894 (the first death in the family); and Olive E., born August 1, 1860, is now Mrs. Morrison Brunstetter, of Butler, Indiana.

Mr. Baley is a fine specimen of physical manhood, being six feet and one inch in height, and weighing 185 pounds, and though he is still quite active, in his younger days he was very strong, being able to perform a big day's work very easily. He still engages in blacksmithing to a limited extent. He has always voted the Democratic ticket, and has been called upon to serve as school director of District No. 5, supervisor and treasurer for three years. He is truly a self-made man, and there are no more highly respected citizens in Wood county than Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Baley.

W. T. THOMAS, M. D. This prominent physician and surgeon, who, at this writing (1896), is filling the responsible office of mayor of North Baltimore, is one of the best-known citizens of Wood county, where for many years he has taken an active part in political matters. A politician, like a poet, seems to be "born, not made," and the peculiar qualifications which fit a man to fill the many arduous and trying positions belonging to an active public life must be inherent in his nature to make him successful in such a career.

Dr. Thomas was born in Wayne county, Ohio, November 28, 1851. His father, Levi Thomas, was a native of the North of Ireland, and was obliged to leave his native land on account of his religious faith, being a Roman Catholic. He came to America in 1846, finally settling in Ohio. He married Susan Lawrence, who was born at Lancaster, Penn., and, in 1853, the family came to Wood county, where they located in Henry township. The father died December 21, 1850, the mother in 1895. The paternal grandmother of our subject is still living near Wauseon, Ohio, at the remarkable age of 105 years.

Our subject did not learn to speak the English language until he was ten years old. He then entered a select school at Weston, also attending one at South Toledo, and learned so rapidly that when seventeen years old he began teaching. This occupation he followed some eleven years, in the meantime studying medicine. He was graduated from Starling Medical College, Columbus, Ohio, in May, 1881, after a three-years' course, and soon after located in North Baltimore, where he built up a successful prac-



Mr J Thomas M D





tice. Under the term of President Harrison, Dr. Thomas was appointed postmaster of the city, serving as such four years, until the opposing political party came into power.

Dr. Thomas has always had a penchant for politics, and is by nature intended for a leader among men. He served as clerk of Henry township for eight years, and resigned the office of mayor to accept the Federal appointment as postmaster. He had been chairman of the Republican Executive Committee of Wood county for three terms, and a member of the County Central Committee a number of times. He has repeatedly been a delegate to Congressional and Gubernatorial Conventions, and in other ways has for years been prominently identified with the politics of the city, county and State. He is a man of ability, keen foresight and shrewd judgment, and has the confidence of the people to a large degree. After resigning his position as postmaster, in 1893, he attended the Chicago Polyclinic, in which he took a post-graduate course. He is very popular in the community, and has an extensive practice. The Doctor is a contributor to the *St. Louis Medical Brief*.

By his first marriage, to Miss Nancy De Rode, Dr. Thomas had two children: Jessie and Susan. His present wife, to whom he was married July 2, 1888, was Miss Flora Clough, who was born in Perrysburg, Ohio, March 12, 1859. They have one child, Bertha, born July 29, 1891. Dr. Thomas is an active member of the I. O. F., the K. of P. and the Woodmen of the World.

JAMES JOHNSTON is one of the honored pioneers of Portage township who, by developing a good farm from the forest, has materially aided in its growth. He has met with a well-deserved success in his calling, and his fine, well-ordered farm (pleasantly situated in Section 9), with its carefully cultured fields, its neat buildings, and all their surroundings, denote the skillful management, industry and well-directed labors of the owner.

The birth of Mr. Johnston, our subject, occurred Richland county, Ohio, March 1, 1819, and he is a son of John and Elizabeth (Humphrey) Johnston, the former a native of the North of Ireland, and the latter of Irish descent, but born in Pennsylvania three weeks after the landing of her parents in this country. When a young man the father came to the United States and was married in Pennsylvania. Before the war of 1812 he came to Ohio, and participated in that struggle under Gen. Harrison. By occupation he was a farmer, and about 1816 removed to

Richland county, becoming one of its earliest settlers. His family consisted of the following children: Thomas died in Fostoria, Ohio; Jennie, who was never married, died at the age of sixty years; Fannie married William Underwood, and died in Portage township; Cynthia first wedded James Scott, and later married Edward Coyne, who died in Libby prison; James comes next; William died in Portage township, in September, 1895; John lives in Toledo, Ohio; Robert died in Portage township; and Cyrus resides in Illinois.

In the district schools of his native county James Johnston began his education, and in April, 1837, came with his parents to Wood county, locating in Section 10, Portage township, where his father had entered 480 acres of land some years before. They made the trip by wagon, driving the stock, and their first home here was made of round logs. Here the father died at the age of sixty-six, and the mother at the age of sixty-seven years. Their remains were interred in Sargent cemetery. In politics he was a Whig, and always attended religious services, his sympathies being with the Presbyterian Church, where he was baptized when a child, though he never joined any denomination.

James continued his studies in the village of Portage after coming to this county, and at the age of twenty years left home, beginning work as a farm hand. He also drove stock east of the mountains in Pennsylvania. On March 16, 1843, in Portage township, he was united in marriage with Miss Susanna Durler, who was born in Canton Berne, Switzerland, April 29, 1824, and when five years old was brought to America by her parents, John and Mary (Unkey) Durler. They embarked on a sailing vessel at Havre, France, which, after a voyage of seventy-five days, dropped anchor in the harbor of New York. Their first location was in Starke county, Ohio; later they removed to Tuscarawas county, and in 1837 settled in Portage township, Wood county, in Section 2. The parents both died in Fulton county, Ohio. Mrs. Johnston was one of their family of six children, two sons and four daughters, and is entirely self-educated, having never attended a school a day, but taught herself to read.

On the farm which his father had entered in Section 9, Portage township, Mr. Johnston began his domestic life, and there has continuously resided, with the exception of two years spent in the village of Portage. The home was brightened by the presence of seven children: John, born January 12, 1844, is a farmer of Portage town-

ship; James, born June 1, 1846, was killed by a falling tree in June, 1867, in a storm, while on his way home from Indiana; Lewis, born December 11, 1849, died at the age of five years; Cyrus, born July 28, 1853, is an agriculturist of Portage township; Parsida, born March 4, 1856, is now Mrs. Aaron Crom, of Portage township; William, born November 16, 1858, carries on farming in Center township, Wood county; and Mary E., born September 29, 1862, is the wife of George Sterling, of Henry township, this county.

The parents are faithful members of the United Brethren Church, in which he has served for over forty years as steward. They have traveled life's journey together for more than half a century, sharing its joys and sorrows, successes and reverses, and throughout the county they are widely known and highly respected. As a representative man of the community, and an old pioneer, Mr. Johnston stands pre-eminent, and his public-spiritedness and charity are proverbial. His first Presidential vote was cast for William Henry Harrison, the Whig candidate, and on the formation of the Republican party he joined its ranks. He has served as supervisor and school director in District No. 2.

CHARLES BATEMAN SAXBY, editor of the *Wood County Herald*, of Weston, is conducting the paper with signal ability and success, and holds a prominent position among the young journalists of Ohio, none of whom have better prospects for a brilliant future in their chosen career. He is a native of Wood county, born at West Millgrove February 8, 1865, the fourth in the family of five children born to Bateman H. and Martha H. (Musser) Saxby.

His father was born at Normanton, on the river Trent, England, Thursday, July 6, 1826. He left his native place on Sunday, May 13, 1855, at 10 A. M., and on the 22nd of the same month boarded the sailing vessel "Calhoun," bound for America. He arrived at Austinburg, Ohio, Wednesday, July 18, and the following fall removed to Fostoria, where he worked at the tailor's trade until October, 1864, at which time he went to West Millgrove. While living in Fostoria he was made a Mason, becoming a charter member of Fostoria Lodge. In 1857 he started on a tour through the Western States, and after his return he was united in marriage, on Wednesday, October 13, 1858, with Miss Martha Henrietta Musser. He conducted a tailor shop and grocery at West Millgrove, but in 1885 gave up the former. During the Civil war he enlisted in the Union army, but was not permitted

to serve on account of disability, though he drilled with the home guards. He made the old silk battle flag of the noted 49th Regiment. His death occurred at West Millgrove, Monday, September 12, 1892. His wife, who was born at Deerfield, Portage Co., Ohio, Sunday, December 16, 1838, removed with her parents to West Millgrove in 1853, and still makes her home there. Before her marriage she taught school in this county. She became the mother of five children, three sons and two daughters, but only two survive: Charles B., the subject proper of this review, and Edgar Allen Saxby, a druggist of Pemberville, Ohio, who was born at Fostoria Wednesday, July 8, 1863, and is a registered pharmacist; he is now serving his second term as grand trustee of the Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Ohio.

Jacob Musser, the maternal grandfather of our subject, was born at Petersburg, Ohio, in 1803, and in 1824 was married to Miss Sydonia Garrison, whose birth occurred in Pennsylvania in 1808. They became the parents of eight children, of whom Mrs. Saxby is the fifth in order of birth. Mr. Musser located in the wilderness of Portage county, Ohio, at Deerfield, when the wolves were so numerous that they would howl about the cabin, and even look in at the windows. In 1845 he removed to Ravenna, Ohio, and eight years later became a resident of West Millgrove, this county. By trade he was a blacksmith, and he followed that occupation all through life. In 1827 he was elected first lieutenant of the Second Rifle Company of the First Regiment, Second Brigade, Fourth Division in the Ohio Militia, and was afterward made captain, being sworn into service Monday, August 30, 1830, by Samuel D. Harris, brigadier-general of that brigade. All his old military papers are now in the possession of the brother of our subject. He died at West Millgrove, Friday, February 11, 1870, and his wife departed this life Thursday, March 10, 1884, at the age of seventy-six years.

The early life of Charles B. Saxby was spent at West Millgrove, where he attended the public schools, and during vacations worked in his father's store or upon farms, very seldom being found out of employment. During the summer months of 1882 and 1883 he served an apprenticeship with a house painter. On Tuesday, September 30, 1884, he went to Weston, where he secured a position on the paper which he now edits, and commenced to learn the printer's trade, working four months for nothing, and paying his own personal expenses with the exception of his board. S. E. Burson was at that time proprietor of the

paper. When Mr. Saxby arrived in Weston he was possessed of \$1.05, having refused to accept financial assistance from his father, as he desired to make his own way in the world as his father had done before him. After serving four months he received a salary of \$3 per week for two years, and industriously stuck to his position until his apprenticeship expired. On Saturday, January 1, 1887, Mr. Saxby, through the assistance of Judge Frank M. Young, secured a position on the *Wood County Gazette*, published then at Bowling Green, Ohio, and on that paper remained until Saturday, March 2, 1889, working for A. W. Rudolph, its able editor and manager. He held every position from "cub," to solicitor, reporter and collector.

On Wednesday, March 6, 1889, Mr. Saxby was united in marriage with Miss Nettie L. Dull, only daughter of John L. Dull, then a prominent dry-goods merchant of Weston, who is now engaged in selling agricultural implements. Our subject secured a position in his father-in-law's store, and there remained until Wednesday, May 1, 1889, when he again resumed newspaper work as collector and solicitor on the *Sentinel*, which had just been consolidated with the *Gazette*. He remained five months, settling up the large subscription accounts of both papers, and after its completion collected delinquent tax in Perry, Montgomery and Bloom townships, for the county treasurer, which was a very responsible position for a young man to hold. He commenced work in his father-in-law's store again on Monday, December 2, 1889, and remained in his employ until the twenty-sixth anniversary of his birth, February 8, 1891, but during the previous summer he had driven a huckster wagon "for his health" as well as for the revenue connected with it. However, the newspaper desire could not be overcome, and he returned to Bowling Green, where he took his old position on the *Sentinel-Gazette*, as reporter and general utility man. On Friday, July 31, 1891, in connection with J. D. Conklin, then postmaster of Weston, he purchased the *Wood County Herald*, the paper on which he had set his first type, and has held the position of editor and manager up to the present time. On December 4, 1891, Mr. Conklin sold his interest to A. S. Coward, and the firm is now Saxby & Coward. It is a bright spicy paper, and, the editor being a versatile writer, it is eagerly sought by the intelligent reading public.

Politically, Mr. Saxby is a Republican, having cast his first Presidential vote at Bowling Green, for Harrison and Morton. He was elected clerk

of Weston township, Monday, April 7, 1890, was re-elected Monday, April 4, 1892, serving two full terms, and was nominated for the office of mayor of Weston at the spring caucus of 1895, but failed of election by a small vote. On Monday, April 6, 1896, he was elected cemetery trustee for a term of two years. He was elected a member of the central committee in 1891 and '96, and a member of the county executive committee in 1895. During the year 1892 he was Wood county's representative of the Ohio Republican League on the executive committee, and at the State Convention held at Columbus, in 1893, he was chairman of the Wood county delegation. He was a delegate to the State Republican Conventions in 1892-3-4-6. Mr. Saxby has been a member of the township election board, either as clerk or presiding judge of every election held since the fall of 1891, and has received the appointment as presiding judge for the spring of 1897.

Mr. Saxby takes considerable interest in civic societies. On Tuesday, January 31, 1893, he joined Anthony Wayne Tent No. 140, K. O. T. M., as a charter member, and was elected past commander. He was also elected a representative to the Great Camp, and during its session at Piqua, Ohio, August 15 and 16, 1893, was elected great sentinel of that body, and re-elected at Toledo, Wednesday, August 15, 1894. At Cleveland, Ohio, Wednesday, August 14, 1895, he was elected great second master of the guard for a term of two years, and is now serving as record-keeper of the lodge at Weston. He joined Weston Lodge No. 681, I. O. O. F., Friday, February 2, 1894, and in July was appointed warden, installed vice-grand in January, 1895, and noble grand, Friday, July 19, 1895. On Tuesday, May 19, 1896, he took the Grand Lodge degree at Lima, Ohio. On Friday, May 29, 1896, he was elected recording secretary. In the month of September, 1894, both he and his wife joined Kokosing Lodge No. 303, D. of R., and on Wednesday, May 6, 1896, he joined Kenilworth Lodge No. 340, K. of P., and was elected K. of R. & S., August 26, 1896. Mr. Saxby holds membership with the Buckeye Press Association, and is a member of its executive committee, and also belongs to the Wood County Country Press Association, in which he is serving as treasurer. He is a popular and influential man, possessing an energetic spirit, good executive ability and an excellent judgment, which will not fail to bring him success.

Mrs. Saxby was born in Weston township,

Wood county, Tuesday, January 12, 1869, and is the daughter of John Lewis Dull, who served in the Union army during the Civil war as a member of Company I, 144th O. V. I. She is a member of the Presbyterian Church, Neibling Woman's Relief Corps, Emerald Hive No. 42, L. O. T. M., and Kokosing Lodge No. 303, D. of R. She takes a very active part in all Church work, and is a most estimable lady. At the marriage of our subject and his wife, Rev. James Long, her grandfather, officiated. They have three children—Helen Kathryn, born Monday, November 17, 1890; John Bateman, born Friday, January 26, 1894, who died Sunday, May 27, following, and Mildred Nettie, born Sunday, July 5, 1896. They have a very pleasant home of their own at the corner of Locust and Clark streets, where their many friends always find a hearty welcome.—[October 20, 1896.]

JOHN SATTLER, a prominent agriculturist of Perrysburg township, and one of the oldest residents of that locality, was born in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, in 1830. His parents, Philip and Christina (Rau) Sattler, were natives of the same province, and came to America in 1851, passing thirty-one days on the voyage between London and New York. After their arrival they spent three months in New York City, and then went to Hamburg, N. Y., a year later coming to Ohio, and locating first in Cuyahoga county, and then in Mercer county, where they remained three years. In 1863 they came to Wood county, and bought 100 acres of land, still in its primitive condition, near Stony Ridge. Here the father died in 1875 at the age of seventy, his wife surviving him until 1894, when she departed this life, aged ninety-one years. They had four children, of whom our subject was the eldest; Philip died in Perrysburg township in 1879; Joseph resides in the same township; Catherine married Joseph Armbruster, and died in 1876.

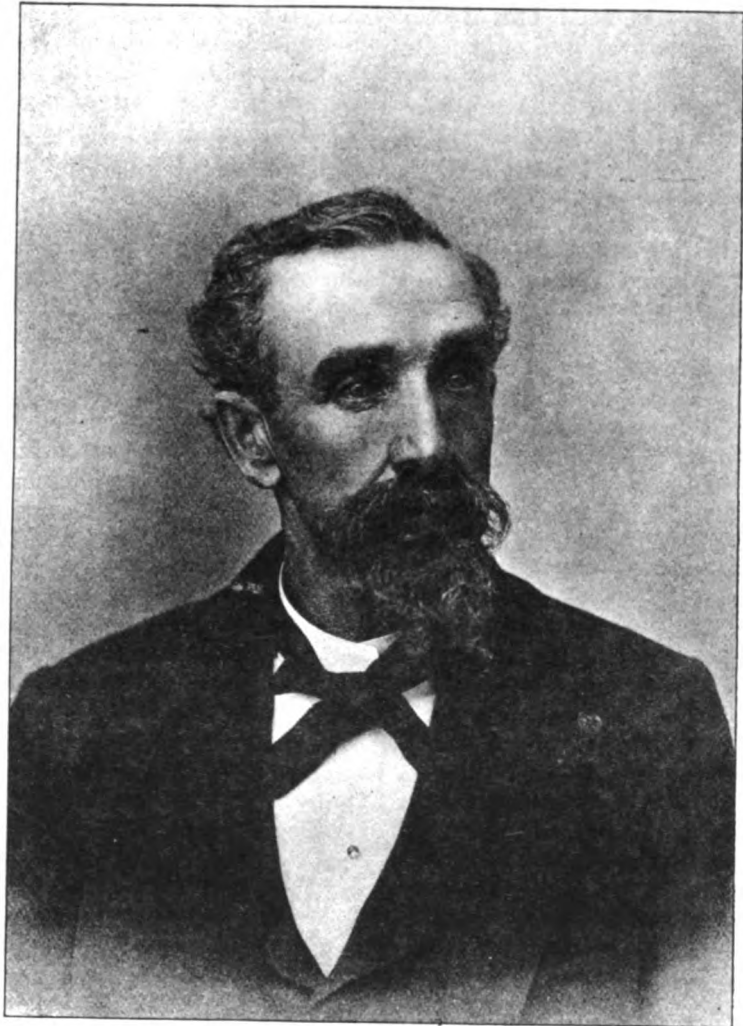
Mr. Sattler received a good education in the schools of the Fatherland, but he learned to read and write the English language by private study, after he came to this country. He was married, in 1857, in Rockport township, Cuyahoga county, to Miss Magdalena Haller, a native of Baden, Germany, and of this union seven children were born: Catherine married Paul Greulich, of Troy township; George died February 20, 1879; Helen married Barny Grabenstetter, and died March 4, 1888, leaving two children, Matilda and Marie; John B. married Louisa Beaurigard, and resides in Virginia; Joseph A. also lives in Virginia, and Philip and Josephine are at home.

In politics, Mr. Sattler is a Democrat, and he takes an influential part in local affairs, having been township supervisor for two years, and a member of the board of education of his township for sixteen years. Since 1882 he has been a director and agent of the Lime City Farmers Mutual Fire Association.

FRANK ROGERS, a highly-esteemed citizen of Middleton township, is a native of Ohio, having been born in Seneca county, February 8, 1845.

Amos Rogers, his father, was a native of New York, and by occupation a cooper and farmer. From the Empire State he removed to Fulton county, Ohio, where he carried on agricultural pursuits until 1851, when he came to Freedom township, Wood county, and there operated a farm for a time. Subsequently he engaged in the hotel business in Genoa, Ottawa county, where his remaining days were passed. In Seneca county he was married to Effie Booram, a native of New York, and they became the parents of nine children: Amanda, wife of John Russell, of Bowling Green; Harriet, wife of Joseph Long, of Genoa, Ohio; Frank; Alanson, of Center township; Edward, a cooper of Findlay, Ohio; Martha, wife of Thomas Waugh; Emery, an operator at Toledo; Francis, deceased; and James, who is justice of the peace at Scotch Ridge. The father is deceased; the mother is now living at Scotch Ridge.

The subject of this review acquired his education in the public schools of Wood county, and gave his father the benefit of his services until after the breaking out of the Civil war. Prompted by a spirit of patriotism, he enlisted, January 1, 1864, in Company K, 21st O. V. I., under Capt. Canfield and Col. Neibling. He participated in the battle of Buzzard's Roost and in the Atlanta campaign. After the fall of that city he was on detached duty during winter, participating in the battle of Nashville. Rejoining his regiment at Goldsboro, N. C., he was in the battle of Jonesboro, with Sherman in his march to the sea, and was in the grand review at Washington, in 1865. On July 11, 1865, he was discharged, having made for himself an honorable war record. He was with his regiment all the time, attached to the 14th Army Corps, 1st Division, 3rd Brigade. Returning to his home in Freedom township, he there attended school for six terms, afterward removing with his father to Genoa. He then located in Clay township, where he purchased forty acres of land that he operated and improved, in connection with work at the cooper's trade, which he followed some six



*Frank Rogers*



years. He then purchased a bowl factory, carried the same on for a year, and in 1882 he removed to Dunbridge, where for four years he was engaged in the manufacture of bowls, also of hoops and lumber. He then purchased eighty acres of land in Middleton township, upon which he erected a residence at a cost of \$3,000; also built a substantial barn and added other improvements, thereby making his farm one of the best in the county. In connection with agricultural pursuits he is secretary of the Dunbridge Oil Company, and a stockholder in the Elevator Company.

On February 24, 1870, Mr. Rogers married Melvina Wentworth, daughter of James Wentworth, of Erie county, Ohio, and they have one child, Nettie, born in 1872, now the wife of Dr. J. Pope, of Dunbridge. The family are identified with the Presbyterian Church, of which Mr. Rogers is an elder. In politics he is a Republican, and has served as justice of the peace and notary public of Wood county. Socially he is a member of Wood County Lodge, F. & A. M., and of Crystal Chapter, Bowling Green, Ohio; also a member of Robert Stewart Post No. 690, G. A. R., of Dunbridge. His integrity is above question, his life has been an honorable and upright one, and he has the confidence and good will of all with whom business or social relations have brought him in contact.

GEORGE W. URIE, who has spent his entire life in Wood county, was born in Bloom township, October 4, 1847. The paternal grandfather, Solomon Urie, was a native of Pennsylvania, whence he came to Ohio at an early day, first locating in Richland county, and later became one of the pioneers of Ashland county. His next removal made him a resident of Cass township, Hancock county, but his last days were spent in Eaton county, Mich. When he came to Ohio there were few settlements in the western part of the State, and in his efforts to secure a home for his family, he endured all the hardships of a true pioneer.

Joseph Urie, the father of our subject, was born in Richland county, Ohio, June 5, 1825, and was reared on the frontier, his education being such as the district schools of those early days afforded. He removed to Hancock county when that portion of the State was almost entirely in its primitive condition. On November 19, 1846, he was married to Miss Elinda Robbins, who was born in Columbia county, Penn., July 9, 1824, and was a daughter of Daniel and Rhoda (McCarty) Robbins, early settlers of Bloom

township. The wedding ceremony was performed by Squire Chilcote, of Perry township, Wood county. They located upon a farm in Bloom township, and, as Mr. Urie was in limited circumstances, his start in life was slow. For a time he followed threshing, working for Ora Baird, and later removed to Ashland county, where the only brother of our subject, Milton T., was born February 17, 1850. While there the family resided upon the land which now comprises the County Poor Farm of Ashland county. From there the father removed to Eaton county, Mich., renting a farm of John McConnell, a great hunter, though he owned at that time land in Montcalm county, Mich., and, after a residence in Eaton county, he returned to Bloom township, Wood county, buying a farm in Section 35.

At West Millgrove, Joseph Urie enlisted in the Union army August 6, 1862, becoming a member of Company B, 111th O. V. I., which was later made a part of the Second Brigade, Second Division, Twenty-third Army Corps. At the battle of Lenoir Station, Tenn., he was taken prisoner, and was confined in Libby prison and at Andersonville, Ga., where, after nine months he starved to death, dying August 10, 1864. His sufferings were terrible, and his body was never recovered by his family. Like so many brave and loyal men during that struggle he laid down his life for his country. Urie Post, G. A. R., of Bloomdale, is named in his honor. This left the widow with her two sons, who carried on the farm, where she lived for many years. She died at the home of our subject in Bloomdale, July 9, 1891, a most highly respected lady, and an earnest and devout member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The primary education of George W. Urie was obtained in the district schools, and he completed his studies by one term's attendance at the schools of Findlay, Ohio. In 1871 he was united in marriage with Mrs. Sarah Rosendale, *née* Noecker, widow of Thomas Rosendale, Sr., and to them was born a daughter, Lorena, who died in infancy. The wife died in 1874, and was interred in Shenandoah, Richland county. Up to the spring of 1872 farming had been the chief occupation of our subject, but at that time he joined the surveying party, then locating the B. & O. railroad through Bloomdale, being thus employed for about two years. After the death of his first wife he began the erection of a house for the accommodation of travelers in Bloomdale, which he conducted for some time in connection with the operation of his farm near that place. This property he later sold, and devoted his entire



time to agricultural pursuits, but now makes his home in Bloomdale, where he has a pleasant and commodious residence.

In Cass township, Hancock county, in September, 1893, Mr. Urie was again married, his second union being with Miss Lizzie Overholt, a native of that township, and a daughter of Christian Overholt, one of its representative farmers and citizens. This worthy couple hold membership with the Methodist Episcopal Church, to which they contribute liberally, and he has served as steward and secretary of the board of trustees. Politically he is a stalwart Republican, and is at present serving as constable of the township. Though a quiet, unassuming man, he wins many friends, and his integrity, manliness and true Christian character have won the respect of the entire community.

CLARENCE W. THOMAS, who carries on agricultural pursuits in Plain township, is a native of the same, having first seen the light in that township, June 26, 1859, and is a worthy representative of a pioneer family of Wood county. He is a son of Silas and Eliza (Beach) Thomas, and a brother of L. P. Thomas, of Middleton township. In Plain township he attended school, and from an early age has been familiar with farm work in its various departments, for as soon as old enough to handle a plow, he began work in the fields on the old homestead. To his father he gave the benefit of his services until 1879, when he started out in life for himself, and in partnership with his brother, J. G. Thomas, purchased thirty acres of land which they cleared and improved. As success attended their efforts, they added to this property until they had more than one hundred acres at the time our subject sold out. The latter then purchased the old homestead of one hundred acres which he now operates, being successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising. He has made excellent improvements on his land, and is a progressive, energetic and capable farmer.

On February 1, 1880, Clarence W. Thomas was united in marriage with Miss Maggie A. Jewell, daughter of Aaron Jewell, and their union has been blessed with two sons and one daughter — Albert, Orin and Mabel, all of whom are now attending school. Mr. Thomas is a warm friend of the cause of education, believing it to be the best preparation for life work, and for three years he served as school director. In religious faith he belongs to the United Brethren Church, holding membership with the Union Hill Church, of which he is trustee and assistant class-leader,

also superintendent of the Sunday-school. He does all in his power to promote the cause of religion, and has been an important factor in educational and social interests.

MANDEVILLE MILBOURN, a leading agriculturist of Bloom township, is a member of one of the most prominent pioneer families of that locality, and has himself passed through experiences, the like of which can never occur again in this now civilized region.

The Milbourn family is of old Virginia stock, their home being in Campbell county. His grandfather, Andrew Milbourn, reared a family of six children, among whom was Lot T., our subject's father, who came to Ohio when a young man and located for a time in Columbiana county. Here he met and married his first wife, Miss Abigail Reed, and in the summer of 1835 came to Bloom township and bought a tract of 160 acres of timber land, upon which he built a small log house for his family, who joined him in the fall. At that time there were no roads there except the irregular wagon track cut by the settlers from one house to another, and our pioneers were obliged to clear their way from Eagleville to their new home, following what is known as Bull creek most of the distance. Lot T. Milbourn was a leader in the community, active in politics, in early days as a Whig and later as a Republican, and he was for years a justice of the peace, and the clerk and a trustee of Bloom township. He was a great hunter, and the woods afforded him every chance to gratify his taste. In addition to farming he carried on the blacksmith trade, and made hoes and other implements of unusual strength for the rough work of that day. Notwithstanding his early disadvantages, he acquired a fair competence, and his later years were spent in quiet comfort.

Our subject, who was born December 18, 1841, was the youngest of eight children: Harvey, now a farmer of Bloom township; Julia A., Josiah, and Lycurgus, all three of whom have passed away; Leander, now a resident of Kansas; Lot R., who lives in Columbiana county; Thomas E., a resident of Iowa, and Mandeville. The mother of our subject died in 1848, and the father subsequently married Mrs. Hannah McNeely Whitacre.

Mandeville Milbourn attended the schools of District No. 3, his first teacher being Richard Martin. He assisted on the farm until the death of his father, which occurred in 1874, relieving him of care in his old age. He shared his father's love of hunting, and his single-barrel rifle,

which weighs twelve pounds and carries a ball that weighs forty-five to the pound, has brought down all sorts of game excepting bear. On one occasion he went out to hunt rabbits with his dogs, and startled a wild cat, which took refuge on the roof of the old log barn, where he crouched pending a renewal of hostilities. Fortunately the father returned from a hunting trip just then, and shot at the wildcat, wounding him so that he jumped down and was killed by the three dogs after a desperate fight, our subject carrying the carcass home with much pride. At another time he and his brother Lycurgus were hunting deer in Henry township, and, seeing a drove of six or more, they shot a large buck, who left the main herd and was pursued by the boys. Another shot rendered him desperate, and when the boys neared him he charged at Lycurgus, who bravely stood his ground, and by a well-directed blow with a hatchet laid the monarch of the woods low.

On January 1, 1864, Mr. Milbourn married Miss Rebecca Whitacre, daughter of Reason Whitacre, a well-known pioneer of Bloom township. They began housekeeping on a part of the old homestead, which he inherited from his father. Here he has made many improvements, including a handsome residence built in 1889. Five children were born of this union: Reason E., a dentist of North Baltimore; Lydia C., who married George Zody, of Sugar Ridge; Mary L., married to C. H. Sanderson, of Perry township; Horace M. and James A., at home, the latter attending school at Jerry City. The mother died November 14, 1895, aged fifty-two years, nine months, fourteen days, and was interred at Jerry City.

Mr. Milbourn's father helped to organize a company to take part in the war of 1812, but news came of the close of the struggle, and they stayed at home. The patriotic devotion of our subject was also thwarted, as, after enlisting in Company D, 111th O. V. I., and staying at Camp Toledo for three weeks, he was rejected on account of an accidental injury to his knee received some time before. He returned home and resumed his place in local affairs, befriending every progressive movement, and serving for three years as constable, and five years as township trustee; of late years, however, he has declined to be a candidate. His able discharge of his duties has given him an extensive influence among the Republicans of this county, and has won for him the esteem of all classes, regardless of party. He is a leading member of the Christian Church at Jerry City, in which he was

deacon for many years and is now elder; his wife was also a member of this Church.

GEORGE FURRY, a worthy representative of one of the honored pioneer families of this county, is a native of Ohio, born in Stark county, in 1831, and is a son of Jacob and Fanny (Butler) Furry, both natives of Franklin county, Penn., the former born in 1797, and the latter in 1804. In their native State they passed their childhood days, were married, and in 1829 removed to Stark county, Ohio, where the father followed his trade of shoemaking until coming to Wood county in 1833. In Troy township he entered a tract of land in Section 5, which he began to clear and improve, but later sold that property and purchased a farm in what is now Lake township, but was then a part of Troy township. He was the first settler on the Ridge, and was the second to make a purchase there. He died in Lake township, June 21, 1866, and his wife, who survived him many years, died on the old homestead on August 21, 1887.

Their family consisted of nine children. (1) Jacob H., who died at Pemberville, in July, 1895, had enlisted in the Union army in 1861, as a member of Company E, 72nd O. V. I., was wounded at the battle of Shiloh, after which he was honorably discharged and returned home, but in 1864 he re-enlisted in the same company and regiment, and was sent to the hospital. He was discharged in 1865. (2) George, of this sketch, is the next in order of birth. (3) William, who became a member of the same company as his brother Jacob, was taken prisoner at the battle of Guntown, and confined in Andersonville and Florence, being incarcerated for over nine months. He now resides on the old home farm in Lake township. (4) Mrs. Jane Whitmore makes her home in Haskins, Wood county. (5) Margaret died at East Toledo, Ohio, in July, 1890. (6) John, who also enlisted in 1861, in Company E, 72nd O. V. I., died at Woodville, Sandusky Co., Ohio, May 3, 1887. He gallantly served for three years in the Union army. (7) Catherine is the wife of J. B. McCutchen, of Troy township. (8) Mary wedded Martin Shook, of the same township. (9) Charles resides at Gibsonburg, Sandusky county.

Our subject was but two years of age on coming to Wood county with his parents, the trip being made with an ox-team and cart. He was educated in the district schools of Troy and Lake townships, and remained a member of his father's household until seventeen years of age, when he began learning the carpenter's trade, which he

would follow during the summer season. At the age of twenty-four he again took up his books and continued his studies for four years, at the end of which time he commenced teaching. That profession he has since followed during the winter months with the exception of two terms. In 1865, at Toledo, Ohio, he enlisted in Company G, 189th O. V. I., and was mustered into the United States service at Columbus, Ohio. He was appointed first sergeant, was stationed near Huntsville, Ala., and was mustered out as sergeant-major, being honorably discharged at Nashville, Tenn., September 28, 1865, after which he returned to his home in Wood county.

In Sandusky county, Ohio, in 1862, Mr. Furry was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Jane Manchester, a native of Fremont, Ohio, who died in Lake township, Wood county, in 1867, leaving two daughters, namely: Adda Luella, who died in September, 1892; and Sarah Jane, wife of Dr. A. G. Snyder, of East Toledo, Ohio. In Lake township, in 1870, Mr. Furry was again married, his second union being with Miss Elizabeth Wicks, whose birth occurred in Sandusky county. Her parents, John and Sarah (Hartsell) Wicks, were natives of Pennsylvania, whence they moved to Wayne county, Ohio, later to Sandusky, and finally located in Lake township, Wood county, where they both passed away, the mother in June, 1891. Mr. and Mrs. Furry have seven children: Frank, who is married and resides at Stony Ridge, Wood county; Lottie Alinda, Mabel May, Hattie, Stella, Roy and Zoa.

In his political views, Mr. Furry is a Republican, and he and his wife are faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. For sixty-three years he has now made his home in Wood county, has witnessed almost its entire growth and development, and has been instrumental in helping to bring about the wonderful changes that have taken place. He has many warm friends throughout the county, and by all who know him is held in the highest regard.

J. Q. ADAMS, a representative agriculturist of Washington township, was born in Orleans county, N. Y., October 8, 1824, and is a son of Elijah and Phoebe (Crosby) Adams, the former a native of Vermont, the latter of New York State. Elijah's parents were both drowned while crossing Lake Champlain on the ice, with a team, leaving to the care of others their only child, Elijah, who was adopted and reared by Jesse Hard, of near Manchester, Vt. But little is known of our subject's ancestry, not even the names of his grandparents. To Elijah and

Phoebe Adams were born seven children: Marietta, deceased wife of David Kempton; Sallie, who was the wife of William Turner, and died in Indiana; Lydia, who was the wife of Ransom Hollis, but both are now deceased; William, who was a cooper by trade, and has also passed away; J. Q., the subject of this sketch; Lyman, who resides in Monroeville, Huron Co., Ohio; and Guilford, who died in Huron county, in which county the father also departed this life, September 30, 1839, where he had resided since 1833. The mother then made her home with our subject, her death occurring December 26, 1877.

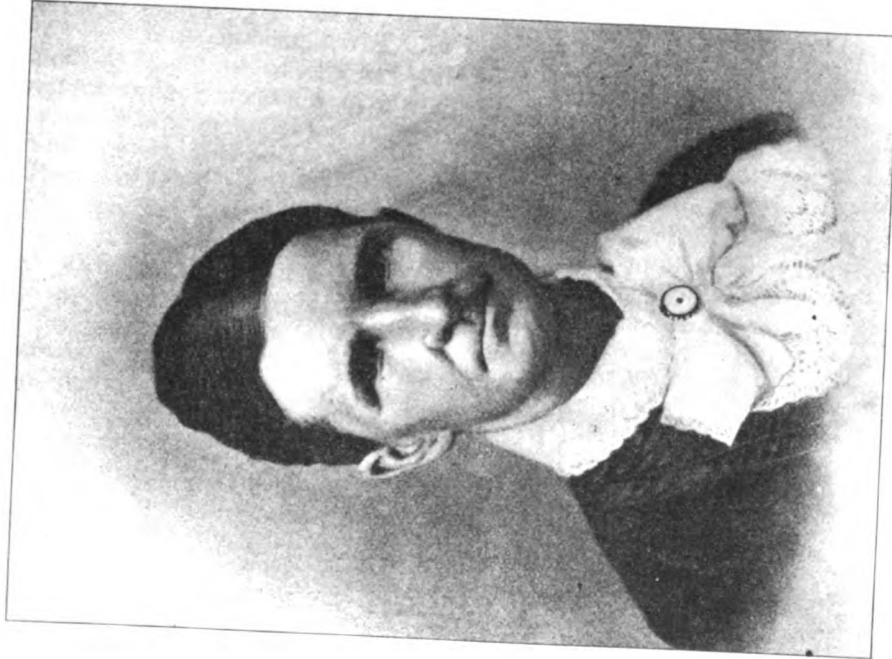
The district schools of Ridgefield township, Huron Co., Ohio, afforded J. Q. Adams his educational privileges; but at an early age he was compelled to lay aside his studies, and take up the sterner duties of life. From the age of fifteen he supported his mother, engaging in farming on shares. In March, 1857, he came to Wood county with his family, having the previous year purchased eighty acres of land in Washington township, which he at once began to improve, erecting thereon a good house, also barns, and planting an excellent orchard. To his original purchase he afterward added forty acres, but has now deeded that part of his property to his son.

Mr. Adams was married in Huron county, October 14, 1847, to Miss Jane J. Cadwell, of Lorain county, Ohio, and to them were born four children, of whom Garry and Harrison both died in 1863, and the youngest in infancy. Frank, the third son, was born August 11, 1857, on the old homestead, where he grew to manhood, receiving his education in the district schools of the neighborhood, and he has always aided in the operation of the home farm. For the past three years he has served as trustee of Washington township. In 1880 he wedded Mary Killyen, and they have four children: Floyd, born October 19, 1882; Ray, born July 8, 1884; Paul F., born October 1, 1885; and May, born May 21, 1887. The wife of our subject, who was a most estimable lady, died June 6, 1886, leaving many friends as well as her immediate family to mourn her loss. She was a daughter of Daniel D. and Laura (Williams) Cadwell, who were married in Pittsfield, Ohio, September 26, 1816, and had two children both born in Troy, Ohio: Mary Ann, born January 11, 1818, and Jane J. (Mrs. J. Q. Adams), born April 9, 1820. The mother of these died June 23, 1831, and the father subsequently remarried; the date of his death is not known.

In his political views, Mr. Adams is a stalwart



J. Q. ADAMS.



MRS. JANE J. ADAMS.



Republican, unwavering in his allegiance to his party, whose principles he believes are calculated to promote the country's best interests. While in no sense a politician, he has always taken an interest in his party, and several times has been delegate to conventions—both Congressional and county. For a number of years he served as trustee and supervisor, was also a member of the school board, and from April, 1886, to April, 1892, was a justice of the peace, during which time he solemnized several marriages. No case has ever been appealed from his court, showing that he held the hands of justice with a balance that was beyond the interference of any court, and to the satisfaction of all. In religious belief he is a Universalist, although his family attend the Presbyterian Church. For a time he was a member of the National Guards, and in the Masonic order he has attained the seventh degree in the Royal Arch Chapter, belonging to Lodge No. 451, of Tontogany, and the Chapter of Bowling Green.

J. WININGER, who for many years has been the postmaster at Hatton, and is also a prosperous merchant of that village, was born in Seneca county, Ohio, December 2, 1839, the son of Adam and Mary (Sheller) Wininger.

The father of our subject was a Pennsylvanian by birth, but was a pioneer settler of Seneca county, and, at the time of our subject's birth, was living one mile from what is now Fostoria, on land which is now included in the limits of that city. When he was a child his parents removed to near Berwick, Ohio, where they owned eighty acres of unimproved land. He attended the district schools in the intervals of hard work, and was often prevented from even this scanty amount of schooling on account of high water, which covered the wet, swampy land in this section, near Fostoria. The young people of to-day have but little idea of the trials and privations the youth of those pioneer times had to undergo in order to procure even the limited schooling which they received, and it is to their credit that they grew up to be, in most cases, intelligent, well-informed men who laid the foundations for one of the most prosperous commonwealths among the States.

Mr. Wininger remained on his father's farm until reaching his majority, when he learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked at intervals for a number of years. On October 6, 1856, he was married, in Fostoria, to Miss Sarah Stevens, who was born in Pennsylvania, daughter of Benjamin and Catherine Stevens. Two children were born of this union: Laura E., who

resides with her father, and Adelia, now Mrs. Earl Dillon, of Seneca county, Ohio.

Mr. Wininger began his active life without any assistance, at first renting land near Fostoria, which he farmed until his removal, in the spring of 1873, to a tract of eighty acres of wild land in Section 3, Perry township, for which he paid \$1,000, a legacy which was left to his wife, about this time aiding him materially in its purchase. No improvements whatever were on this place; but the young man was a worker, and the effects of many days of hard labor were soon noticeable. Each year saw the land increasing in value, but by the time it had reached a high state of cultivation, the incessant work had begun to tell on its owner, and he was compelled to seek some less laborious employment. He concluded to start in the grocery business at Hatton, but so cautious was he about investing in an enterprise entirely unfamiliar, that he bought at first only about \$75 worth of goods, and not until 1885 did he remove his family to Hatton. It was soon necessary, however, to seek other quarters for the transaction of his rapidly-growing business, which has proved successful beyond his highest expectations. He now owns his store, the greater part of which he has built, and carries a stock of general merchandise, his trade being an extensive one, both in the immediate vicinity and throughout the township. He also owns and resides in the finest house in Hatton, and in addition to his farm of eighty acres, which he still carries on, is the owner of other valuable property.

On October 1, 1861, Mr. Wininger enlisted in Company D, 72nd Regiment, O. V. I., under Capt. Neuffer, and participated in all the battles in which his company took part until the latter part of June, 1863, when he was taken seriously ill at Vicksburg, Miss., and was sent to the hospital at Memphis. Later he was transferred to the Invalid Corps at St. Louis, where he remained two months; then was sent to Rock Island, Ill., and from there to Washington, D. C.; where he was discharged in November, 1864. During the administration of President Arthur, Mr. Wininger was appointed postmaster at Hatton, and has retained that office ever since in spite of the changes in political leaders. He is a popular man, and has been successful in pleasing all classes by his excellent management of the duties of this responsible position. He is a staunch Republican, and has held a number of minor offices, though in no sense an office-seeker. He is deserving of much credit for the active share he has had in the growth and development of his section.

and it is to such men as he that Wood county owes her position as one of the foremost among the best counties of Ohio. His worth is appreciated by his fellow citizens, who hold him in high esteem. Mr. Winger has had the sorrow of losing his estimable wife, who departed this life August 4, 1892, at Hatton, and was laid to rest in the cemetery at Fostoria.

PETER S. PAINTER, one of the most progressive and enterprising agriculturists of Bloom township, is a member of an old and highly respected pioneer family of that vicinity.

His ancestors were among the early settlers of Pennsylvania, and his grandfather, Adam Painter, came from that State to Columbiana county, Ohio, in the latter part of the eighteenth century, where he bought and improved a large tract of land. His son, Peter S., our subject's father, was born there August 21, 1798, and was reared as a farmer boy and given a good start in life, financially. He was a mechanical genius, and learned various trades without any instruction, being an expert carpenter and shoemaker. He was married August 29, 1822, to Miss Elizabeth Musser, a lady of English descent, who was a native of Maryland, born October 10, 1805, the daughter of Michael Musser. Although he owned an excellent farm in his native county, our subject's father decided to seek "fresh fields and pastures new" on the then frontier line of western Ohio, and disposing of his property he bought 600 acres of land in Bloom township, to which he brought his family in the spring of 1839. They traveled in an old-fashioned scoop-shaped wagon drawn by horses and oxen, and slept many nights in their rude vehicle or camped out near the road. A hewed log house was their first home, with wolves, deer, wild turkeys, and bears for neighbors, the latter making free with their stock unless guarded against constantly.

Of the twelve children of this pioneer couple, eight were born in Columbiana county: James died in infancy; J. Adam, born February 9, 1824, was a member of Company D, 99th O. V. I., and died at Nashville, Tenn., where he was buried; Margaret A. (deceased), born July 11, 1829, married Dr. D. K. Pratt, of California; Michael M., September 11, 1828, died at McComb, Ohio; Henry, November 11, 1830, lives in Nebraska; Samuel, December 8, 1832, lives in Oskaloosa, Ill.; Catherine A., December 15, 1834, married J. M. Sweeney, a native of Scotland, now deceased, and she resides in Hartford, Conn.; John, January 28, 1837, died in Wood county. Four other children were born in this

county: Sarah E., September 10, 1839, married William Russell, and died in Bloom township; Peter S., Jr., August 7, 1841; Nancy, November 11, 1843, married Abraham Hampshire, of Ottumwa, Iowa; and Hiram Z., born July 15, 1846, died in Bloom township. Our subject's father was a powerful man, six feet two inches in height, and weighing over 200 pounds. After a few years of toil at the new home, he died—December 7, 1845—and was buried at West Millgrove, his wife surviving him nearly fifty years, bringing up their large family of children to take useful and honorable places in life. She was known for miles around as the "Doctor," and was called for wherever there was any serious illness to nurse, and often to prescribe for the sufferer. She made many long trips through the woods on these errands, protected from the wild animals by a large, brown dog, "Beldy," who had more than one desperate and bloody encounter with wolves after which his wounds would be dressed as if he were a human being. The devoted labors of this noble woman were but poorly paid, and sometimes not paid at all, so far as outward return went. She possessed marvelous vitality, and lived until June 6, 1895, the last twenty years being spent in the home of our subject. During her first years in Wood county, she had a remarkable escape from death. Her husband was chopping a tree, and she came near without attracting his attention, and the tree fell toward her; but a large fork in it separated the branches, which struck the ground on each side of her, so that she was not injured. Her remains were interred in Bloom Chapel cemetery.

Peter S. Painter, our subject, went to live with an uncle, John Snyder, when he was seven years old, and at twelve began to work for neighboring farmers, doing any work suitable for his strength, which was unusual for a boy of his age. He was "at home wherever he took his hat off," and he did a great deal of work at cutting wheat by cradle in this and adjoining counties. He attended the district schools of his time, and the realization of their deficiencies makes him anxious that the rising generation should have the best advantages that can be given them. On August 15, 1861, he enlisted, in Bloom township, in Company H, 49th O. V. I. under Capt. O. B. Hays, and Col. W. H. Gibson. After training at Tiffin and Camp Dennison, they went to the front, taking stock cars from Cincinnati to their first engagement at Green River, Ky. His regiment was the celebrated "Black Swamp Jayhawkers," and during their entire service they were at the front, never being assigned to guard or

picket duty. Mr. Painter took no furlough, but remained on duty throughout the war, and participated in every battle of his regiment, except for a term of four weeks, in hospital, from a wound received at Missionary Ridge, November 25, 1863. He was transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps, April 10, 1864.

After his return home he began farming "on his own hook," renting a place in Bloom township. On May 25, 1865, he married Miss Mary J. Swinehart, who was born March 31, 1841, in Perry township, where her parents, John and Elizabeth (Hale) Swinehart, were pioneer farmers, having come from Jefferson county, at an early day. Four children were born to this union: Clyde R., a lawyer of Bowling Green; Eva, a teacher in Bloom township; Malissa, a teacher; and Mollie, a teacher in Milton township, all three living at home.

Soon after his marriage, Mr. Painter bought forty acres of land in Perry township, making his first payment with \$250, saved from his \$13 per month as a soldier. Two years later he sold it, and bought the homestead in Bloom township, containing forty acres. In April, 1871, he moved to Clay county, Ill., buying a farm there, but in November, 1874 he returned to Ohio, having lost in the meantime about \$2,500. He rented land in Bloom township, and afterward bought eighty acres of it, which he improved, setting out fruit and ornamental trees, and erecting buildings. In 1894 he built a new barn, 45 x 75, which is one of the best of the fine modern barns of the township. His success is well deserved, as it is based upon hard work and wise management, and his fair dealing and upright principles have won for him the high esteem of his neighbors. He is a great reader, and keeps himself well informed upon the topics of the time. Politically, he is a Republican; but although he takes keen interest in the success of his party, he has declined all tenders of official positions, either in the township or county. He is a member of Urie Post No. 110, G. A. R., of Bloomdale.

REV. DAVID BRANDEBERRY, one of the most highly-respected citizens of this section of the country, is engaged in the work of the Methodist Episcopal ministry, serving the people of Bettsville Circuit, Seneca county. He was born in Bloom township, Wood county, December 6, 1854, and is the second son and fourth child of Thomas C. and Catherine (Miller) Brandeberry. He obtained his early education at District School No. 8, his first teacher being W. S. Richard, and, as he learned easily and rapidly, he

soon mastered the common English branches taught there. The greater part of his knowledge, however, has been acquired since leaving the school room, mostly by reading and observation. From the time he was old enough he assisted in the work of the home farm until his marriage, which important event in his life occurred on November 21, 1878, when Miss Lydia Bowers became his wife. She is a native of Ohio, born in Licking county, October 9, 1858, and is a daughter of Lewis and Rebecca (Bailey) Bowers. Her education was also secured in the common schools, and by her marriage she became the mother of a son—Edward D., who died at the age of seven months.

In June, 1890, Mr. Brandeberry was licensed as a local preacher of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He then pursued a four-years' course of study arranged by the bishops of the Church, and was graduated in 1894, receiving the highest grade in a class of nine. In 1895 he entered the Conference in a traveling relation, and is now pursuing another four-years' course of study in connection with his work. In 1894 he was appointed to serve Hammansburg and South Liberty. The following year he was on Hoytville Circuit, and in 1896 received his present appointment at Bettsville. Though only in the work a few years, Mr. Brandeberry has developed those qualities that have advanced him from one of the minor places to one of the best circuits in the Central Ohio Conference. He is an earnest Christian worker, and gains the love and confidence of all with whom he comes in contact. From the time he cast his first vote up to 1893, he always supported the Republican party, but is now a strong Prohibitionist. By his friends he has been offered political positions; but his aspirations are not in that line, though he takes quite an interest in public matters, desiring to see the most competent men placed in office. He possesses a farm of forty-one acres in Section 35, Bloom township.

JOHN W. FARK is an enterprising farmer of Troy township, pleasantly located in Section 11, and although his residence in this county is of comparatively short duration, he has already identified himself with the representative and progressive citizens. In April, 1883, he located upon his fine farm of 116 acres, then only partially improved, which he had purchased the previous year, coming here from Toledo, Ohio, and has since devoted his time and attention to general farming and stock raising.

Mr. Fark was born in Woodville township,



Sandusky Co., Ohio, in 1854, and is a son of Ernst Henry and Louisa (Miller) Fark. The father, who was a native of Hanover, Germany, was unmarried on locating in Sandusky county, and at an early day he also worked in Perrysburg, Wood county. For his first wife he wedded Mary Borchesding, who died in Woodville township, leaving two daughters—Caroline, wife of Henry Ernsthansen, of Freedom township, Wood county; and Mrs. Eliza Hartman, of Lucas county, Ohio. In 1853, in Woodville township, Sandusky county, was celebrated the marriage of Ernst Henry Fark and Miss Louisa Miller, who was born in Germany, and is a daughter of Diedrich Miller, one of the early pioneers of Woodville township, where he helped to build the pike, and there spent his remaining days. Mr. and Mrs. Fark still make their home in Woodville township, where he developed a farm from the forest, and reared a family of seven children, who are still living, namely: John W., of this sketch; Henry, who resides upon the home farm; William, who is foreman of a telegraph line of Toledo; Mrs. Kate Aufderhide, of the same city; August, who is married, and is engaged in bookkeeping in Toledo; Mrs. Emma Hoodlebrink, of Woodville; and Fred, at home.

Like most farmer boys, John W. Fark was reared, and in the schools of Woodville township obtained his education. At the age of twenty-two he left the parental roof, being for two years employed as a farm hand, and then went to Toledo, where he worked at car repairing for two months during the day time, and then was made night inspector, which position he held for one year. His next employment was in a foundry, but after a short time he entered a sash factory, and on leaving that place secured work on a telegraph line. He next came to Troy township, Wood county, where he has since resided.

At Toledo, in 1881, Mr. Fark was joined in wedlock with Miss Louisa Havekost, whose birth occurred in Monroe, Mich. Her parents, John and Anna (Behrens) Havekost, were both natives of Germany. The father, who was an ocean sailor, went in 1849 to California, where he worked in the mines for a time, after which he returned to the Fatherland, and on again coming to the United States located near Monroe, Mich., where he and his wife still live. Seven children have been born to our subject and his wife—Ernest John, Charley H., Lewis, Annie, Lorena, Gertrude and Mabel, the latter of whom died September 7, 1896, aged eleven months. The parents are members of the Lutheran Church at Woodville, and in politics he is a Democrat, by

which party he was elected in 1890 as trustee, and still continues to fill that office. For six years he efficiently served as a member of the school board, and for two terms was supervisor.

GEORGE HAMPSHIRE, for many years one of the leading well-to-do farmers and extensive landowners of Portage township, Wood county, is now living retired from active work, enjoying the prosperity which he acquired by hard work during his early years. He is a native of Ohio, born February 1, 1831, in Morgan county, near Eagleport, son of Jonas and Mary (Swope) Hampshire.

Jonas Hampshire was born October 16, 1808, in Baltimore county, Md., son of Barney Hampshire, who in 1811 removed with his family to Ohio, locating first in Muskingum county, where they lived seven years, and thence removing to Morgan county. Barney Hampshire was drowned in the Muskingum river. He was the father of eleven children—four sons and seven daughters. Jonas Hampshire was married in 1830, in Morgan county, to Mary Swope, daughter of Jacob Swope, and two children were born to them there—George and Henry. In the fall of 1832 the family removed to Seneca county, locating in Jackson township, where Mr. Hampshire had entered 160 acres of land, and they were pioneers in that region, the country being very sparsely settled at the time of their arrival. They continued to reside there for over twenty years, in 1858 removing to Wood county and settling on a farm in Section 34, Portage township. Here Mr. Hampshire had invested in 200 acres of farm land, on which the timber was still standing, no trees having been chopped except by coon hunters. He cleared the land, however, and continued to improve it during his lifetime, converting it into a valuable property. A hard-working man, he met with well-merited success, at the time of his death being the owner of 316 acres of land east of Jerry City, and thirty-three acres south, residing on the latter place for some years previous to his decease. He gave each of his children a farm. He became quite prominent in Jackson township, Seneca county, where he served as township trustee and assessor, and he was an ardent believer in the principles of the Democratic party. Having a natural aptitude for military tactics, he took great interest in such affairs, and was captain of a company of home militia in Jackson township, Seneca Co., Ohio.

Of the children born to Jonas and Mary Hampshire the following named lived to maturity: George; Henry, who lives in Garden City, Kans.;



GEORGE HAMPSHIRE.



MRS. NANCY HAMPSHIRE.



Emanuel, of Garnet, Kans.; Abraham, now living in Ottumwa, Iowa; Rachel, who married Solomon S. Frederick, and died in Henry township; and Catharine (Mrs. John Cupp), of Hammansburg. The mother of these died in 1866, in Portage township, and for his second wife Mr. Hampshire wedded, on December 11, 1866, Mrs. Hannah (Clinger) Sanderlin. To this union were born three children—Jonas W., of Portage township; Aminda, who died in young womanhood; and John, who is a farmer of Bloom township. Mr. Hampshire passed from earth July 29, 1892, in Bloom township, and was laid to rest in Jerry City cemetery. He was a member of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Hampshire possessed a strong will, and force of character, traits which marked the whole course of his life, and which were no small factors in his success and popularity.

George Hampshire passed all his early life in a pioneer region, and he was initiated into the mysteries of agriculture in a new country at a tender age. They lived two miles from a school, and, work at home being plenty, he as the eldest son could not be spared from the farm, so that the greater part of his education has been acquired by his own efforts. On December 4, 1851, he was married, in Jackson township, Seneca county, to Miss Nancy Foster, who was born in that township February 8, 1833, daughter of Christian Foster, who came to Seneca county from Perry county, this State, in an early day. After his marriage our subject farmed on his father's land, in Seneca county, until January 31, 1865, when he removed to Wood county, taking up his home on an eighty-acre tract in Section 33, Portage township, of which at that time but two acres were cleared, and seven acres chopped, and the dwelling and farm buildings were but rude structures. Mr. Hampshire was obliged to go in debt \$500 for this tract, and he at once set to work to make it productive, succeeding so well that he was later enabled to buy eighty acres adjoining his original purchase. He also has 110 acres in Bloom township, being the owner, altogether, of 270 acres of excellent farm land. Mr. Hampshire does not now engage in active farm work, having acquired a snug competence for his declining years. He is, indeed, a self-made man, and throughout his business career he has retained his honorable standing among his fellowmen, who esteem him for his many sterling qualities. He has been trustee in his township two terms, and has also served as school director, but he is no politician, and, though he is a Democrat in sentiment, he supports the best man, regardless of party ties.

Mr. and Mrs. Hampshire have had children as follows: Amanda (now Mrs. Daniel Smith), of Liberty township; Mary E. (Mrs. A. W. Lefler), of Toledo; Jonas H., who was deputy sheriff of Wood county and a registered pharmacist, and now living on a farm of ninety acres of his own, one and one-half miles from Bowling Green; Magdalena R. (Mrs. J. D. Simons), of Findlay, Ohio; Lucinda, living at home; Alice M. (Mrs. Charles Harnard), of Jerry City; Amelia (Mrs. John Harrison), of Portage township; Christ C., a farmer of Bloom township; Charles W., at home; and Cora E., who died when four years old. In religious connection Mr. and Mrs. Hampshire are active members of the Radical United Brethren Church, and he is at present serving as trustee.

GEORGE M. PALMER, a leading citizen and representative farmer of Montgomery township, residing in Section 28, was born in Penfield township, Lorain Co., Ohio, January 17, 1857, and is a son of Randolph P. and Esther C. Palmer. His father, whose birth occurred in Camden, N. Y., in the year 1820, migrated to Penfield township, Lorain county, in 1835, with his parents, Edward and Lucretia (Babcock) Palmer, where the former died, but the death of the latter occurred in Wood county. Both, however, were interred in Lorain county.

Randolph P. Palmer had good educational advantages for his day, and for six years was a successful teacher in the schools of Lexington, Ky. On November 16, 1847, in Grafton township, Lorain county, he wedded Mrs. Esther C. Pearmain, who was born at Mayfield, N. Y., April 29, 1820, and was the widow of Edward Pearmain. Her father, William McConnell, was the son of George McConnell, a native of Scotland, and a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, who at one time was the tutor of a son of the Duke of Hamilton, and later of Noah Webster. Her father, who was a cripple for many years, was a man of much more than ordinary intellect, and for thirty-five years served as justice of the peace in New York, in which State he lived before coming to Ohio. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Jerusha Hale, was born in Pittsfield, Conn., a daughter of Joseph Hale, and a relative of the celebrated John P. Hale. Mr. McConnell died at Lagrange, Ohio, December 30, 1863, where he located on coming from New York, and his wife passed away at Grafton, Ohio, August 9, 1856. They were devout Methodists. They reared a family of ten children—three sons and seven daughters. Al-

though he owned a farm, he never actively engaged in its operation, as his crippled condition would not permit it. Being a good scholar, he was also an able writer.

It was in 1860 that the father of our subject came to Wood county, locating first in Montgomery township, but after a short time removing to Freeport (now Prairie Depot), where he conducted a hotel in an old log building. Later he replaced this by a frame structure, where he continued to carry on the hotel business in connection with work at the carpenter's trade, and also owned a farm adjoining the village on the north. On May 2, 1864, he joined Company K, 144th O. V. I., and died July 14, 1864, of typhoid fever in the hospital at Fort Dix, Md. His remains were interred at that place. He was considerably above the average man, intellectually, and being a great reader was well-informed on topics of general interest. In politics he was first a Whig, and later a Republican. After the death of her husband Mrs. Palmer sold the hotel property, and removed to the farm, where she remained until her children were grown. Her death occurred at the home of a daughter in Oneida, Kans., January 26, 1891. In the family were four children: Wilton, born December 24, 1849, who is a physician of Los Angeles, Cal.; Cleantha E., born September 19, 1852, Mrs. George Dale, of Los Angeles; George M. and Laura I., born September 25, 1858, now Mrs. David Gilmore, of Oneida, Kansas.

George M. Palmer was only a child when brought to Wood county by his parents, who first located in Section 13, Montgomery township, near the county line, after a short residence there removing to Prairie Depot, where our subject attended the common schools. Being a warm friend of the cause of education, the improvements made in the schools are in accordance with his ideas. During his youth he assisted in the work of the home farm, but at the age of twenty-one he entered the general store of S. E. Tilton as a clerk, and there remained for seven years. On February 1, 1883, in Montgomery township, Mr. Palmer was united in marriage with Miss Agnes W. Telfer, who was born in Pennsylvania, January 7, 1859, daughter of John and Martha (Craig) Telfer, the former of Scotch and the latter of Irish extraction. They came from Deerfield, Ohio, to Montgomery township, Wood county, and here the father died. In their family were seven children—three sons and four daughters. Seven children graced the union of our subject and his wife: John R., born May 5, 1884; Kenneth W., born March 5, 1886;

Esther M., born May 25, 1888; Roland C., born July 22, 1890, died August 21, 1892; Thomas T., born July 15, 1892; Margaret E., born July 3, 1894; and George McKinley, born September 16, 1896.

Palmer's addition to Prairie Depot was so named because it was taken from a part of Randolph P. Palmer's farm, and our subject purchased the remaining thirteen acres, which adjoined the village. After residing there for some time, he traded it for a tract of land in Section 13, Montgomery township; but on March 20, 1892, he removed to his present farm in Section 28, comprising sixty acres of excellent land. He also owns 120 acres in Marseilles township, Wyandot Co., Ohio. Upon his present farm he has five producing oil wells, and upon the old farm adjoining Prairie Depot, was found the most fertile field in the township. He is one of the most progressive and prosperous farmers of the locality, and is well-informed on the leading topics of the day. A stanch Republican, he has much more than a voting interest in the success of his party; for three terms was clerk of his township, and since 1894 has been trustee. Socially he is identified with the I. O. O. F., the Sons of Veterans and the Patrons of Industry, and he merits and receives in the highest degree the respect and confidence of the community in which he lives.

E. M. FRIES, an able young attorney of Bowling Green, junior member of the firm of Parker & Fries, was born in Bloom township, September 29, 1866, the fifth in a family of seven children born to his parents, who were natives of Lehigh county, Penn., where the ancestors of both had settled at an early period. His father's people were of Scotch and English blood, but had lived so long among the Pennsylvania-Dutch that they spoke their language.

Solomon Fries, our subject's father, was born November 24, 1824, and his mother, Louisa Charlotte Steckel, a lady of Dutch descent, was born in 1835. They were married in Tiffin, Ohio, where for several years Mr. Fries followed the bricklayer's trade, and in 1862 they removed to their present home in Bloom township.

After some years of attendance at the district school, our subject spent two years in the academy at Fostoria, and the same length of time in the Ohio Normal University, at Ada, taking the course in civil engineering in addition to his work in the literary department. After leaving school he taught one year, and then entered the employ of the L. E. & W. R. R. as civil engineer. A year

later he went to Seattle, Wash., where he remained eighteen months, working for the city engineer and for a land company. Returning to Ohio, he took a course in the Cincinnati Law School, graduating in 1893 with the degree of LL.B. He then came to Bowling Green, and after a year of preliminary work in an office he became a partner of Robert S. Parker. His fine native talents and thorough training give warrant to his large circle of friends in their expectations of a successful career. In politics he is a Republican.

GEORGE W. HEDGE, an extensive lumber dealer residing at Prairie Depot, is one of the best-known and most popular citizens of Montgomery township, and was born in the town of Abbeyville, Medina Co., Ohio, February 22, 1848. He is the eldest child of his parents, George B. and Catherine M. (Crawford) Hedge.

When our subject was seven years old the family moved to Wood county, and he entered District School No. 3, in Montgomery township, which was taught by Mrs. S. C. Guernsey. He had already attended school in Medina county, entering at the early age of four years. He was very apt at learning, and after spending some time in the district school was sent to a private institution at Prairie Depot, taught by a Mr. McPeck. His father was at this time in the saw-mill business, and the lad early acquired a knowledge of its details, so that when seventeen years of age he took entire charge of the mill, early displaying the ability which has manifested itself in the more extensive operations of his later days.

Mr. Hedge remained at home until his marriage, December 28, 1873, in Prairie Depot, to Miss Melita Graham, daughter of John and Melita (Anderson) Graham. She was born January 8, 1852, in Montgomery township, and was educated in the district schools of that locality. The young couple located on twenty acres in Section 20, Montgomery township, which, with the exception of a clearing of three acres, was in its primitive condition, covered with trees and brush, which had to be cleared away before a house could be erected. On this place Mr. Hedge lived, cultivating his land, and at the same time working in the mill with his father, who had made him a partner in the business when he was only twenty-two years old. They had in operation at this time a self-acting shingle machine, which was the first one of the kind in this part of Wood county. This partnership continued until February,

1888, when it was dissolved, and in June, 1889, our subject started the mill which he is now operating. On January 5, 1874, Mr. Hedge was the victim of a terrible accident, from the effects of which he will never recover. He was caught in a belt, and dragged under the shaft and thrown some distance, his right arm being torn into pieces, the hand being thrown in one direction, and other portions in different places, while the bone at the shoulder was entirely stripped of flesh for some nine inches. It was a horrible sight, but Mr. Hedge walked unassisted to his house, a distance of thirty rods. Many a man would have succumbed to such a shock, but his great vitality aided his rapid recovery, and in four weeks he was again ready to attend to business. Although the loss of his arm has been a great hardship, he has mastered every detail of his business, and has been remarkably successful in all his undertakings. His saw, planing and feed mill is an extensive plant, built in modern style, equipped with the latest machinery, and from ten to twelve men are employed the year round. In connection with this he has a large lumber business, and handles all kinds of woods, both native and foreign. He has erected the dwelling in which the family lives, his home place has been transformed into fertile fields and fruitful orchards, and comfortable buildings, with all modern conveniences, have taken the place of the primitive structure in which he at first made his home. Mr. Hedge now owns 284 acres of land in Montgomery township. He is a stockholder in the Wood County Fair Association, and is one of Montgomery township's leading men and representative citizens. His grand success in a business, wherein a majority fail, can be attributed to his thorough knowledge of its requirements, and to his fair and honest methods of dealing. There is no detail in his establishment, no matter how intricate, that he is not perfectly familiar with. While suffering under the disadvantage of having but one arm, he can skillfully operate machinery that many men with both arms would not be able to manipulate. While he had no capital in the way of money with which to start in life, his association with his father, as a member of the firm of George B. Hedge & Son, gave him great prestige and credit, which in later years he has never abused, and as an individual he stands as high as that firm ever did. Mr. Hedge has a delightful home, in which he takes great pleasure, and there are few men in Wood county in private life who have so extensive and so valuable a circle of acquaintances. One child, only, has blessed the union of our subject and his wife, a daughter,

named Carrie. For many years she was a great sufferer from inflammatory rheumatism, but through the best medical skill that money could procure, and the tender nursing of her devoted parents, she has finally recovered. In his political views Mr. Hedge is in sympathy with the Democratic party, but supports good men for office, even if they happen to be of some other political faith. He belongs to the I. O. O. F. at Prairie Depot, and both he and his wife are members of the Rebekah Lodge.

JOHN W. KNIGHT, one of the worthy citizens that England has furnished to Ohio, was born September 1, 1852, in Taunton, England, and is a son of Thomas and Eliza (Warren) Knight, also natives of the same country. He was about four years of age when his parents removed to the Isle of Guernsey, one of the Channel Islands. There he attended French schools and became thoroughly conversant with the French language; he also had an English governess at home. When a youth of nine summers he was brought by his parents to America on a German vessel, which landed at New York, October 10, 1861, and the family took up their residence in Sandusky, Erie Co., Ohio.

Our subject attended the public schools of that place, and completed his education in a business college in that town. Subsequently he was for five years employed in the printing office of the Sandusky *Journal*, but was obliged to abandon that vocation on account of ill health. He then came with his parents to Wood county, and here followed farming continuously until 1891, when he turned his attention to the development of oil wells, and now owns and controls fifteen wells, from which he derives a good income. He also served as postmaster at Trombley, to which position he was appointed during President Cleveland's first administration, being the first incumbent in the office.

Mr. Knight was married in Liberty township, October 30, 1878, to Mrs. Apalinda (Mercer) Whitacre, widow of Samuel Whitacre. She had two children by her first marriage: Olearius T. and Eletha O., both students in Bethany College, West Virginia. The children of the second marriage were Lloyd, who died at the age of sixteen months; and Deyo R., at home. Our subject has prospered in his business undertakings, owing to his well-directed efforts. He is now the owner of 490 acres of land, lying in Liberty, Henry, Jackson and Weston townships, 120 acres of which came by inheritance to Mrs. Knight, from her father, Daniel Mercer, late of

Bowling Green (familarly known as "Uncle Dan"), and from the Whitacre estate. Mr. Knight has erected a handsome barn, as good a one as the county affords, also a poultry house and yards, which are worthy the notice of many poultry owners. He also owns on his premises an electric-light plant, lighting his residence and barn, all the building and fixing being done during the year 1896. In politics our subject was formerly a Democrat, but is now a stalwart Prohibitionist. For many years he has served as school director, and the cause of education finds in him a warm friend, while in Church work he takes an active part, and is now elder in the Disciples Church.

JOSEPH BENDER is one of the industrious and skillful farmers, fruit growers and gardeners of Center township, and one of the representative men of that portion of Wood county. He is the owner of a splendid farm, all of which is highly cultivated; his residence, which is a very handsome and commodious one, his fine barns and outbuildings, add materially to the appearance of the place, and to its value from a financial point of view. He is a native of Crawford county, Ohio, born June 8, 1830.

His father, George Bender, was born in Cumberland county, Penn., where he learned the trade of a carpenter and joiner, which he followed there, but when still a young man removed to Crawford county, Ohio, and there engaged in farming. He wedded Mary Failor, and they became the parents of seven children: Elizabeth, wife of Nelson Close, of Crawford county; Andrew F., a retired farmer of Michigan; Mary, wife of John Ealy, an agriculturist of Crawford county; Susan, wife of John Kyser, a very systematic and industrious farmer, a prominent Grange lecturer, and a representative of his county in the State legislature; George, a time-honored minister of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ; Samuel, deceased; and Joseph, of this sketch. The father died in Crawford county, and the mother, who preceded him to the world beyond, passed away in 1832.

Joseph Bender continued on the home farm until reaching his majority, receiving as good an education as could be obtained in the common schools of that period, which education he supplemented by two years attendance at Otterbein University, and then spent three years teaching school. He then went to Wyandot county, Ohio, which was mostly inhabited by Indians, and remained there several years, devoting his time and attention to the cultivation of a







*Mrs. Apalinda Knight.*



*John H. Knight*



farm of seventy acres, which he converted into a valuable tract. On selling out, he came to Wood county, buying forty-six acres of land in Center township. There he built a fine residence at a cost of \$2,000, put up good barns and out-buildings, and, besides general farming, gives a great deal of attention to fruit growing—having an excellent orchard, and other land planted in berries. He finds a ready sale for his products in the markets of Bowling Green, and on his place has some very fine Jersey cows—the best in the county—in which he takes an especial pride, and he is fast becoming an extensive breeder and shipper of A. J. C. C. stock.

In Wyandot county, in 1854, Mr. Bender was married to Miss T. M. Wilcox, and to them were born two children: Wilder Pease, born August 14, 1855, received his primary education in the district schools, and was graduated with high honors from Otterbein University in the classical course in the class of 1880, of which class he was elected orator; he then took a course in theology, and was ordained a minister of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, in 1883; he is now a prominent minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the Central Ohio Conference, and is at present stationed at Port Jefferson, Ohio. His wife was Miss Kate Kershner, of Bowling Green. Sherman Larkum, the younger son, was born July 5, 1857, received his primary education in the district schools, and was a student in Otterbein University until his junior year, when he was obliged to give up his literary pursuits and cherished desire of the profession of law, on account of failing eyes; he is now in the employ of the United States Express Company at Toledo, Ohio. He married Miss Jessie Stackhouse, of Fremont, Ohio.

Mr. Bender is classed by his fellow citizens as one of the public-spirited and representative men of the township, and merits and receives the warmest confidence and esteem of the entire community. He is a worthy and sincere Christian gentleman, holding membership with the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, of which he has been trustee, besides holding other offices, and his family also hold the same faith. He and his two sons take an active interest in everything for the welfare of their township and county, and use their right of franchise in support of the Republican party.

**JOHN H. MONASMITH.** Among the young and energetic farmers of the county is this gentleman, who is successfully operating a fine farm in Bloom township. He is a representative of one of the

honored pioneer families, his parents being Elias H. and Elizabeth (Flaughter) Monasmith, and was born October 14, 1865, in Section 28, Bloom township.

The father's birth occurred in Mahoning county, Ohio, March 10, 1831, and he was one of the eleven children of George and Esther Monasmith, the others being John P., Susan, Elizabeth, Samuel, Henry, Mary A., Lydia E., Martin, Levi and Martha C. Five of the number served in the Union army during the Civil war—Samuel, Henry, Martin, John P. and Elias H., the latter belonging to Company E, 144th O. V. I., serving until honorably discharged at the close of his term of enlistment. He was first married in Mahoning county to Elizabeth Musser, who there died, leaving one child—W. E., now a resident of Bloom township. It was in 1859 that the father arrived in Wood county, entirely without means, owning only a horse and buggy. He had recently passed through a siege of typhoid fever, which, together with the expenses of his wife's sickness and death, exhausted his resources, and he was \$100 in debt. Rinehart Simon kindly offered him a home until he could obtain work. For his second wife he wedded Elizabeth Flaughter, one of the fifteen children—seven sons and eight daughters—of Jacob and Elizabeth Flaughter, and they became the parents of three children—Flora, now Mrs. Adam Exline, of North Baltimore, Ohio; John H., subject of this review; and Frank W., a farmer of Bloom township. The mother, who was a Methodist in religious belief, died in September, 1890, and was laid to rest in Bloom Chapel cemetery. Later the father married Elizabeth Kistler, of Newton Falls, Ohio. At the time of his first purchase of forty acres of land in Bloom township he had \$80 to pay on the same, and he took up his abode in the house once occupied by Smith, the noted horse-thief, who had fled from the community at the time his thefts were discovered. Besides his farming operations, Mr. Monasmith also engaged in ditching to a considerable extent, and continued to make his home in Bloom township, engaged in improving the farm to its present fine condition, until April 1, 1895, when he removed to Newton Falls, Ohio, where he is now living retired, though he still owns ninety acres of valuable land in Bloom township. He became one of the well-to-do farmers and highly respected citizens of the community, honored alike by young and old, rich and poor. His political support is given to the Republican party.

John H. Monasmith acquired a practical education in District School No. 8, and, in addition

to his farm duties, at the age of fifteen years he began ditching for his father, which business he followed until after reaching his majority. On April 13, 1891, in Bloom township, he was united in marriage with Miss Ella Ridgely, a daughter of William H. Ridgely, and their union has been blessed by the birth of three children—Emma C., born March 22, 1892; Pearl M., born September 7, 1893; and Ervy C., born August 27, 1895.

Mr. Monasmith is a straightforward agriculturist and business man, honorable in all his dealings, and is destined to win success in his chosen calling. He has done much in the work of placing the old homestead under a high state of cultivation, so that it yields him bountiful returns. He is identified with the Republican party, and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, while his wife belongs to the Disciples Church. They are earnest Christian people, and are the center of a large circle of warm friends.

JOHN H. COX, who carries on farming operations in Plain township, is a native of the county, having been born June 2, 1853, in Center township, and is a son of Joseph and Jane (Underwood) Cox.

Joseph Cox was born September 30, 1802, in Virginia, whence, in 1816, he moved with his parents to Findlay, Ohio, which at that time was but an Indian village, known as Fort Findlay. On September 2, 1838, he married Jane R. Underwood, and to them were born twelve children—eight sons and four daughters—of whom seven sons survive. Five of the eight sons served in the war of the Rebellion, fighting for their country, and one of them, Joseph U., never reached home again, dying from wounds received at the battle of Murfreesboro. Of the four daughters, two died in infancy, the other two growing to womanhood, and dying within about one year of each other. The father was a pioneer of Wood county, and his life was one of hardships; but he was always upright and honest in all his dealings; was equally patriotic, and ever zealous for the right. He died December 7, 1878, aged 76 years, 2 months and 7 days.

Our subject was educated at the district school of Perrysburg township, and worked on his father's farm until 1889, when he bought eighty acres of land in Plain township, known as the "Chapman Farm." On this he has placed many improvements, and converted it into a valuable property. In 1879 he married Miss Naomi De Selms, who was born in Ottawa county, in 1855, a daughter of Jason De Selms. Of this

union have been born eight children, namely: Ethel G.; Jessie M. (deceased); Lucretia L.; John W.; Ralph E.; Clyde H.; Jason D., and Dwight L. (deceased). Mr. Cox has served as school director in both Perrysburg and Plain townships, and is a member of the United Brethren Church, at Bowling Green.

JAMES MILLER, a retired agriculturist, residing in Bowling Green, was born in Cambridgeshire, England, July 12, 1838. When he was about four years old, his father came to America with his family, and after a voyage of six weeks landed at New York, from there going to Cleveland, subsequently to Medina, Ohio, and finally settled in Wood county, April 15, 1854.

The father of our subject, William Miller, was born in Soham, Cambridgeshire, England, September 13, 1801, and was married in 1828 to Elizabeth Turner, whose birth took place December 11, 1802, in Reading, Berkshire, England. William Miller was a tailor by occupation, and after coming to this country worked at his trade in the various places in which he lived, owning a shop in Medina. After coming to Wood county he purchased a farm in Liberty township, on which his family resided while he carried on his occupation, working for some years for Austin VanBlarcum, of Portage. He afterward went to Kansas with one of his sons, and died at Clifton, that State, June 28, 1877, his wife having passed away many years previous, her death taking place March 28, 1848.

Mr. Miller, Sr. was a man of fine proportions and weighed 180 pounds. He was an intelligent, active man, a great reader and well-informed. He and his wife were devoted members of the Episcopal Church, and were consistent Christian people. In politics he was a Republican, and was a loyal citizen of his adopted country. To him and his estimable wife the following children were born: Sarah married Charles Waters, now deceased, and lives in Medina, Ohio; Henry, died when fourteen years old; Ann married Isaac Waters, and they now reside in Kansas; Robert is a banker in Tiffin, Ohio; William died February 16, 1887, in his fifty-third year; James is our subject; Thomas is a farmer in Clifton, Washington Co., Kans; Eliza is the wife of Arbor Tebbit, of Medina, Ohio; the ninth child died in infancy.

James Miller grew up on his father's farm in Liberty township, and obtained a good education in the district school of Liberty township. He was first married August 14, 1861, to Miss Mary Parmenter, who was born at Portage, Ohio, De-

ember 7, 1841, and died March 23, 1876, leaving three children: Henry, born April 14, 1864, died October 26, of the following year; John Sherman, born September 3, 1865, married Mrs. Johnson, and lives in Bowling Green; Clara E., born October 21, 1872, died April 1, 1892. Mr. Miller was again married April 15, 1877, his bride being Miss Zerelza C. Aller, who was born June 20, 1854, in Geauga county, Ohio. Of this union four children have been born, namely: Ernest Wm., born March 28, 1878, is attending school in Bowling Green; Grace E., born October 22, 1879, and Royal J., born June 20, 1885, also in school; and True E., born January 30, 1888.

Mr. Miller owns a good farm of eighty acres which is in the oil belt, and has some wells upon it; he is now living retired from active business, but takes an interest in the growth and welfare of his town and county, and is always ready to do his share to assist in public enterprises. With his estimable wife he is a member of the Disciples Church, to which Mrs. Miller has belonged since thirteen years of age. He was at one time a Republican, but of late years has affiliated with the Prohibition party, and uses his influence in the promotion of temperance principles. He has many warm friends in Bowling Green and vicinity. Mrs. Miller is a daughter of Zacheus and Lucy Ann (Martin) Aller, both of whom were born near Syracuse, N. Y., of which place their parents were early settlers, and where they were married. In 1861 they removed to Wood county, settling in Liberty township, where the father died in 1863, when fifty-one years of age. The mother subsequently married Daniel Mercer (whose sketch will be found on another page of this work), and is residing in Bowling Green; Daniel Mercer died September 23, 1896, leaving a widow and seventeen children.

JOHN McLAIN, a prominent citizen of Grand Rapids township, the owner of a fine farm, and a leader in local affairs, was born in Holmes county, Ohio, March 30, 1833. He is of Scotch descent, his grandparents, Sarah and John McLain, having emigrated to America about the end of the last century, and located upon a farm in Mifflin county, Penn., where their son Robert, our subject's father, was born October 12, 1802. During the boyhood of Robert McLain, the family moved to Jefferson county, Ohio, where his father engaged in salt manufacturing and the distilling of spirits.

Robert M. McLain was married, in Jefferson county, to Miss Rachel B. Barton, a lady of Ger-

man and Irish parentage, and a native of Mifflin county, Penn. After their marriage they moved to Holmes county, and lived there about thirty years; then, in 1852, they moved to Wood county, and bought, first, 160 acres of land in what is now Grand Rapids township, where they spent the remainder of their lives, the father dying in 1880, the mother preceding him to the grave by two years. They held a prominent place among the early settlers of their vicinity, their sterling qualities of mind and heart winning the regard for them of all who knew them. Twelve children were born of their union, of whom the last two died in infancy. The others were: Elizabeth, now the widow of David Hannah, of Henry county, Ohio; Sarah, who married James Vorhes, both now deceased; Samuel, who was a soldier in the Civil war, and died while in prison at Salisbury; John, our subject; William, a member of the police force at Toledo; Nancy, who died in girlhood; Martha, wife of Emanuel Guyer, a farmer of Weston township; Thomas, deceased at the age of four years; Nancy Jane, the wife of S. Burwell; and Mary J., who died at the age of four years.

John McLain, whose name opens this sketch, received his early education at his native place, the school house of his district being a log cabin, with greased paper in the windows as a substitute for glass. He worked upon his father's farm until he was twenty-five years old, when he bought sixty acres of land near Grand Rapids, which he cleared and improved, and to which he has since added until he now owns 125 acres, all under cultivation, and some valuable town property. He no longer shares in the active work, delegating that to other hands; but he still superintends the estate, residing, however, in the town of Grand Rapids. He is a veteran of the Civil war, having enlisted at Perrysburg, August 8, 1862, in Company D, 111th O. V. I., under Col. Bond and Capt. J. E. McGowan, and served throughout the struggle. His regiment was assigned to the 23d Corps, army of the Ohio, and participated in over thirty important engagements, including those of Knoxville, Atlanta (entire campaign), Nashville and Franklin. Mr. McLain was fortunate in escaping the bullets of the enemy, but received a serious injury from falling into a washout. He was discharged at Cleveland, June 29, 1865, and soon afterward engaged in the hardware business in Toledo, which he carried on for five years, when he returned to his Wood county farm. He was married October 1, 1858, to Miss Eliza J. Brown, a daughter of Alexander Brown, a leading citizen

of Weston township. Two children came of this marriage: Lillie A., born August 14, 1859, died September 21, 1875; and Edward, born August 25, 1868, now a promising young agriculturist of Henry county, Ohio. The mother of these died of heart disease, January 25, 1884, and our subject afterward wedded Miss Angeline Hiner, daughter of Henry Hiner, a prominent farmer of Wayne county, Ohio. They have no children.

Mrs. McLain is an able and generous worker in various lines of philanthropic effort, and a leading member of the Home Missionary Society and the Aid Society of the M. E. Church, in which denomination our subject is also an active worker, having been a trustee for fifteen years, also holding the offices of steward, class leader and Sunday-school superintendent. His good judgment, enterprising spirit and fine executive ability have often been turned to the service of the community at large, and he is a favorite candidate of the Republican party in his locality, having served as supervisor fifteen years, school director fifteen years, and assessor two years; in 1890 he was census enumerator, and he is now serving his second term as township trustee. During the winter of 1875-76 he was in the United States mail service between Sandusky and Chicago. Socially, he is a member of the G. A. R., Post No. 24, at Grand Rapids, Ohio, which he organized, and he has been commander (with the exception of a few years) since its organization, active and earnest in the work of caring for and assisting his needy soldier comrades.

HENRY A. ROBERTSON is a representative of one of the honored pioneer families of Wood county. His father, Amelius Robertson, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1822, and with his parents came to this country during his childhood. The family was one of the first to settle on Hull Prairie, and there the father of our subject secured eighty acres of land, which he transformed into a highly cultivated farm. He soon became recognized as one of the leading and influential citizens of the community, and for sixteen years served as a justice of the peace. He was united in marriage with Margaret W. Frazer, who was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1827. Their union was blessed with eight children: Henry A.; Dr. James F., who was born May 22, 1855, and is a practicing physician in Kansas; John A., who was born November 27, 1858, is operating the old homestead; George, born August 23, 1861; Mary A., born September 2, 1863, wife of O. M. Ulrich, of Dayton, Ohio;

Fray A. D., born September 21, 1865; Margaret E. R., who was born April 3, 1869, and died April 24, 1870; Marjory F., born September 16, 1872, now keeping house for her brother. The father of this family died July 7, 1888, and the mother passed away September 24, 1894.

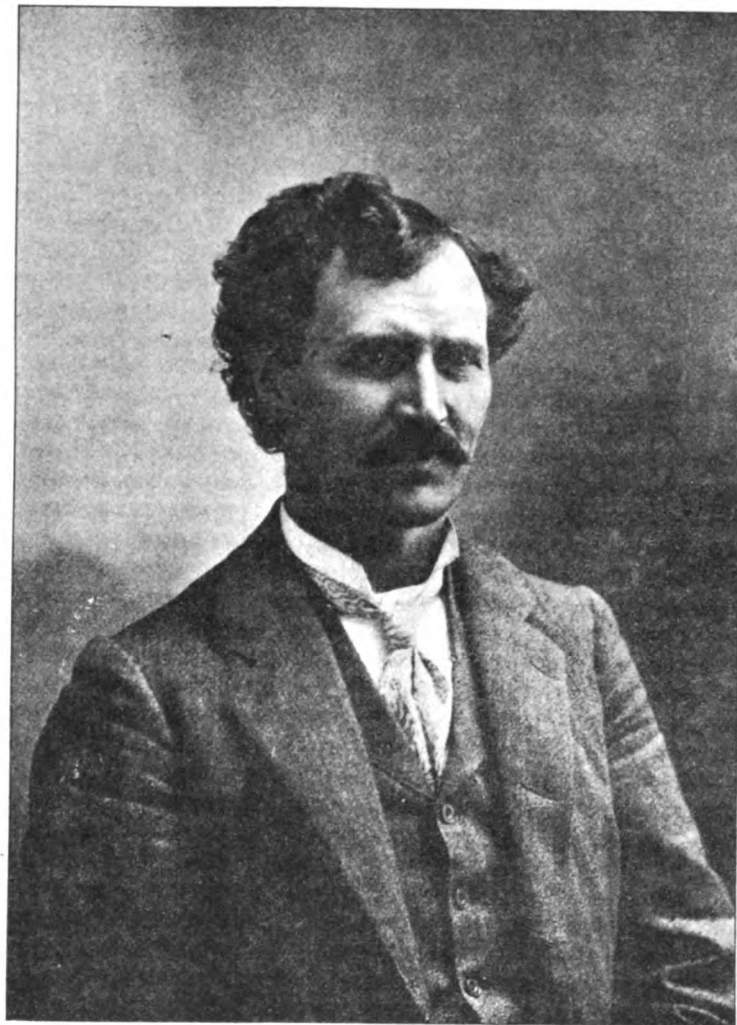
Our subject began his education in the log school house near his home, and there became familiar with the rudiments of knowledge; but subsequently he pursued a course of study in the State University at Columbus, Ohio, becoming a civil engineer. Since that time he has followed his chosen profession to a greater or less extent. He is now residing on the old homestead, and is extensively engaged in the raising of fine poultry.

Mr. Robertson gives his political support to the Republican party, but has never been an office seeker. He has, however, served for one term as road supervisor. In manner he is quiet and unassuming, and his genuine worth, his genial and affable manner and his sterling qualities have won him the friendship and regard of many.

ALBERT G. HENRY, M. D., a prominent and enterprising physician of North Baltimore, is a native of Hancock county, Ohio, born November 5, 1849. His paternal grandfather, John Henry, was a native of Pennsylvania, and died in Hancock county. The grandmother died in Findlay at the advanced age of ninety-three years.

James L. Henry, father of our subject, was born June 9, 1821, in Perry county, Penn. Coming to Hancock county, Ohio, he bought a farm there, and later served as superintendent of the Hancock County Infirmary; was also elected sheriff of the county. He married Miss Frances Dodge, who died in Hancock county, in 1861; her husband followed her to the home beyond April 1, 1884. Their children were as follows: Albert G., subject of this sketch; Edward; J. C.; Araminta, who married G. Chase, of Findlay; Sophrona, the wife of Alonzo Baker; Lizzie D., who married Charles Pendleton, of Findlay. Mr. Henry married a second time, and by that union had one son, Claude.

Dr. Henry was reared in Hancock county, and was graduated from the Ada Normal School in 1870. He began teaching when only sixteen years old, going to school in his leisure moments, and reading medicine. His preceptors were F. J. Baldwin and S. S. Yoder, M. D., the latter of whom was also a member of Congress. Dr. Henry was graduated from the Medical Department of the University of Michigan in 1873, and commenced to practice medicine in North Balti-



*A. J. Henry M.D.*





more on June 23, of the same year. In 1861 he completed a post-graduate course in Columbus Medical College, Columbus, Ohio. When the town began to develop Dr. Henry became known as one of its leading spirits and active and enterprising citizens, and gave almost every enterprise the benefit of his assistance, among which were the glass companies, town water works, electric light plants, etc. He built the first drug store, and built and owns the Henry Opera House Block, one of the finest structures in the county. He also instituted and backed a steam laundry company. In 1894 his opera house was destroyed by fire, causing a loss of \$25,000; however, he promptly rebuilt it. It is 45 by 153 feet, with a seating capacity of 1,000. Dr. Henry is also owner and manager of the North Baltimore Electric Light & Power Company, which is valued at \$50,000. He is the owner of eighty acres of land near North Baltimore, on which are ten oil wells, and thus it will be seen that Dr. Henry is a large property owner. He is a prominent member of society, has a large practice, and his genial nature has won for him many friends. He is surgeon for the C. H. & D. R. R., and the B. & O. R. R.; is a member of the Baltimore & Ohio Railway Surgeons Association, of the Northwestern Ohio Medical Society, of the State Medical Society, and also of the American Medical Association. Politically he supports the Democratic party.

In 1874 our subject was married to Miss Emma F. Eaton, who was born in Hancock county, October 31, 1851. They have had two children, Carl and Cleah, the latter of whom was taken away March 7, 1896, at the early age of eighteen years; she was an accomplished musician, a devoted daughter and a lover of home, and the void in the family circle can only be realized and understood by those who have passed through similar trials.

JOHN RUSSELL, a wealthy, retired agriculturist residing in Bowling Green, is a native of this county, born in Center township, March 19, 1838.

His father, Joseph Russell, was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, where his parents, who came from Pennsylvania, were among the earliest settlers. He married Miss Eliza Dupes, and afterward moved to Wood county, and took up 600 acres of land, a part of which is now in the possession of our subject, by purchase. He returned with the family to his old home several times, and engaged in farming there, but finally settled down in Wood county to stay, and died

there in 1865, at the age of seventy-two. His wife departed this life January 9, 1889, aged seventy-seven years. They were true pioneers, patriotic, energetic and courageous. Three daughters and five sons were born to them, and of the latter, five did gallant service in the Union army during the Civil war, and passed through many engagements without receiving any serious wounds. Our subject was the fourth child in this family. The others are: Jane, who married W. Underwood; James; Sarah (deceased), who married Joseph Anderson; Joseph; Susan, the widow of George Garner; Britton, and Charles, all residents of the county.

Mr. Russell made the most of the educational opportunities afforded by the district schools near the old homestead when he was a boy, and later engaged in farming as an occupation. In 1862 he volunteered in Company K, 21st O. V. I., and served under Sherman, taking part in all the principal battles of the army of the West. He was married, February 16, 1864, while at home on a furlough, to Miss Amanda Rogers, who was born in Seneca county, Ohio, August 11, 1839. After being mustered out, July 30, 1865, he returned to the old farm in Center township, where he lived twenty-seven years. He still owns 100 acres there, and holds the original papers which passed the title from the government to his father. A few years ago he bought a fine property at the county-seat, where he and his wife now reside. He has one daughter, Clara E., born June 16, 1867, who was married September 13, 1887, to E. L. Crum, of Wood county; they have two children, Ruth and John. Mr. Russell is a Republican in politics, and a charter member of Wiley Post, G. A. R. He and his wife are among the leading members of the M. E. Church, and active helpers in every worthy cause.

JAMES M. BROWN, one of the most prominent citizens of Perrysburg township, residing near Dowling, was born in Bellefontaine, Logan Co., Ohio, April 27, 1830. His parents, Harlin S. and Mary A. (Colvin) Brown, were natives of Kentucky, but were married in Logan county, in October, 1829, and lived there for some years, the father following the trade of shoemaker. Eleven children were born to them: Elizabeth, deceased; John C., now a resident of Monticello, Ind.; Joseph H., deceased; Rosana and Mahlon S., deceased; Annie E., now the wife of James H. Linton, of Botkins, Ohio; James M., our subject; Thomas A. and Margaret J., deceased; Wilson W., of Dowling, Ohio; and Charles L., residing in Roscommon, Michigan.

Squire Brown, as his friends call him (and his friends are found wherever he is known), received his early education in the schools of Newtown, Ind., where his parents moved when he was but four years old. He was bound out to work for his board and clothes when a boy, and at nineteen found employment on the Erie canal. He continued in this occupation until he was married to Miss Euritta J. Egbert, who was born in Findlay, Ohio, October 20, 1834. He then sought a better means of making a livelihood, and in 1870 moved to this county and bought forty acres of land in Perrysburg township, which he has since carefully improved. He is now one of the opulent farmers of the vicinity, and holds an important place in the community, his natural ability and integrity of character having gained him the entire confidence of all who know him. He was first elected justice of the peace in 1877, and has now held the office for more than eighteen consecutive years. He has been a member of the school board for the same length of time, and for six years has been a notary public. Where he is well known he receives votes irrespective of party lines, but, being a Democrat, the large Republican plurality in this county has prevented him from entering county office, although the members of his party have often prevailed upon him to lead the "forlorn hope" for the sake of their cause. He has displayed the spirit of the true soldier on many occasions, and in 1861 was among the first to respond to the call of his country, enlisting in Company H, 57th O. V. I., and serving until December, 1863. There were six of the Brown boys, who enlisted in the war of the Rebellion in 1861, thus furnishing Uncle Sam with at least eighteen years of service. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., Fort Meigs Lodge No. 774, of the F. & A. M., Phoenix Lodge No. 123, and of Robert Stewart Post No. 690, G. A. R. He is the present postmaster at Dowling.

**JOSEPH REDFEARN.** Like a giant oak in a forest of weather-beaten comrades, the subject of this sketch stands prominent among those noble pioneers whose best energies have been spent in bringing Wood county forward to her present high position in the magnificent galaxy of Ohio's counties.

He was born February 14, 1812, in Muker, Yorkshire, England. His father, Francis Redfearn, a farmer and miner there, married Ruth Milner, and reared a family of six children. In 1830 they came to the United States on the "Caledonia," landing at Philadelphia after a voyage of seven weeks and four days. He first

located at Pottsville, Penn., where he mined coal for some time, and on coming to Ohio spent two years in Wayne county, and then settled in Washington township, Hancock county, in the woods. To reach their new home they had to cut a road for their wagon for most of the way from Fostoria (then Rome and Risdon), and they crossed the Sandusky river by floating their wagon and making their cattle swim the stream. In later years our subject's father bought a large tract of land in Jo Davies county, Ill., near Apple River, where he died January 13, 1858, his wife having passed to her final rest November 9 of the previous year. Of their children the eldest, Peter, died at Apple River at the age of fifty years from injuries received in a runaway. Francis died at Warren, Ill., at seventy-eight years of age. Joseph is our subject. Ruth was married in the fall of 1830 to Charles Gouldborough, of Minneapolis, Minn., with whom she has now passed over sixty-five years of married life. Elizabeth is the widow of Robert Levitt, of Arlington, S. D. Margaret married John Eaton, and died at Apple River at the age of sixty.

Joseph Redfearn had little opportunity for education, but he was ambitious, and, while working on the farm during the day, he attended night school in England—paying two cents a night. He was eighteen years old when the family came to America, and he quickly found employment as a farm hand, being unusually strong and active. He could mow two acres of grass in a day with a scythe, and has done many a large day's work at threshing with a flail, being paid fifty cents per day, and even that was not always in cash. He was married January 8, 1835, to Miss Ann Phillips, a native of Pennsylvania, born July 19, 1816, the daughter of Benjamin Phillips, an early settler of Washington township, Hancock county. He and his wife began housekeeping on fifty acres of land, a gift from his father, and he entered forty acres more, all "in the woods." He traded this soon after to his brother, Francis, for a tract of eighty acres in Bloom township, Wood county, to which he removed December 7, 1837, their first home being a comfortable log house. Tiffin was the nearest point where a good gristmill could be found, though there were several horse mills in the neighborhood.

Twelve children were born to our subject and his wife, all of whom lived to mature age: Henry and Francis are farmers in Nemaha county, Neb.; Peter died at McComb in 1892; Harrison, a farmer of Perry township, died in 1872; Matilda A. married Dr. E. J. Reed, of Leipsic; Joseph

P. is a farmer in Cass township, Hancock county; James R. is a prominent merchant of Bloomdale; John O. is a prosperous farmer in Nemaha county, Neb., and a leading citizen of his neighborhood; Rhoda S. married Jerry Loman, and died December 1, 1894; Margaret R. is the wife of R. B. Drake, an insurance agent of Tiffin; Charles is a farmer in Perry township, and Edward T. is a farmer in Bloom township. On February 19, 1864, Mr. Redfearn's wife died, and she was buried in Fostoria cemetery. She was a woman of rare qualities of mind and heart, a devout Christian and a member of the M. E. Church, and was deeply and sincerely mourned. Mr. Redfearn never married again. Their children have taken honorable positions in life, and the family hold a prominent place in the history of this county. All are abstainers from liquors and tobacco, and their upright lives reflect honor upon the father who, by precept and example, has trained them for useful citizenship. Four sons served in the Civil war, a remarkable record. Henry was a member of a Nebraska cavalry regiment; Peter enlisted in Wood county in the one-hundred-days' service; William H. served in the famous 49th O. V. I., the "Black Swamp Jayhawkers," and Joseph P. was a member of the 111th O. V. I.

Mr. Redfearn has owned large tracts of land at different times, and had held the title to all the land on the west side of Main street in Bloomdale, but has sold it for building purposes. He has given his children a good start in life, and still owns 325 acres of land in Bloom and Cass townships. Despite his advanced age he is in good health, aside from being a sufferer from rheumatism, and his mental faculties are clear, his native shrewdness and caution being in no way lessened. In politics he has been identified with the Republican party from its beginning, but previously he was a Whig. He served as constable in his younger days, but has never joined in the struggle for political honors. He has, however, been a leading promoter of different measures for the public welfare, and gave liberally toward the building of the first court house at Bowling Green, Ohio. For over fifty years he has been a member of the M. E. Church, in which he has held every office except that of preacher, and he was a teacher and superintendent of the Sunday-school for many years.

**JOHN W. MILLER.** In the latter part of the eighteenth century Christopher Miller, a native of Germany, sailed with his wife and two children for America. After a long and tedious voy-

age of nine months they arrived at New York. Delay after delay had occurred, and crew and passengers were on the verge of starvation. At length the vessel reached New York harbor, and Mr. Miller, with his family, proceeded to Allegany county, Md., where he spent his remaining days. Two of his sons were soldiers of the war of 1812. The father of our subject, Andrew Miller, was born in Allegany county, on December 1, 1805. He was a man of limited education, and was reared on a farm, while throughout his business career he carried on agricultural pursuits. He married Miss Charlotte Duckworth, also a native of Allegany county, born April 8, 1812. In 1865 the father removed with his family to Delaware county, Ohio, locating on a farm of 105 acres in Trenton township, where he spent his remaining days. His death occurred April 30, 1894, and his wife passed away, May 1, 1887.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller were the parents of twelve children, namely: Louise, who became the wife of Joseph Deremer, and after his death married Monroe Cockrell, her death occurring in Delaware county; Uriah, who died in Delaware county, at the age of forty-five; Harriet Ann, wife of Henry Dash, of Maryland; Almira, wife of James Loor, of Delaware county; Henry H., who is carrying on agricultural pursuits in Delaware county; Lloyd W., a farmer of Union county, Ohio; Sarah, who became the wife of Emery Leak, and died in Delaware county; Altha, wife of Jefferson Miles, of Delaware county; Mary, who is living in the same county; John W., of this review; Zeltha wife of Franklin DeWolf, of Delaware county; and Rebecca, who died at the age of three years.

Our subject was a child of twelve years when he accompanied his parents to Delaware county. He began his education in an old log school house in his native county, and completed it in the district schools of this State. During vacations and after school hours he aided in the cultivation and improvement of the farm, and continued to give his father the benefit of his services until his marriage.

On February 16, 1881, Mr. Miller was joined in wedlock with Miss Tina Tripier, the wedding ceremony being performed in Trenton township, Delaware county. The lady was born in Licking county, Ohio, October 13, 1857, and is a daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Payne) Tripier. Mr. and Mrs. Miller came to Wood county, and the former purchased forty acres of land in Section 25, Jackson township, continuing its cultivation and improvement for five years, when he sold and purchased his present farm compris-

ing eighty acres. He has made this one of the valuable and desirable properties in Wood county, has erected a pleasant and substantial residence, built barns and outbuildings, and fenced, tiled and ditched the entire place. The neat and thrifty appearance of the farm indicates his careful supervision, and the place is a monument to his thrift and enterprise. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have had two children: Sperna, born July 12, 1883; and Blynn T., born May 15, 1895, died August 30, 1895.

In his political views Mr. Miller is a stalwart Democrat, unswerving in his support of the principles of the party. He has been honored with several local offices, having served as school director, road supervisor and is now trustee. His life has been an honorable and upright one, and he has the high regard of all who know him. As a citizen he is true to every duty, and gives a hearty support to all interests which he believes will benefit the community. In personal appearance he is tall and finely proportioned, and he is one of the most popular citizens of Wood county.

FLOYD W. HEALD, a prominent resident of Bowling Green, and the deputy collector of the 10th District, was born in Crawford county, Penn., December 3, 1861. Genial, popular, possessed of fine mental gifts, a sound practical education, a character which inspires confidence, a magnificent physique, he is well fitted to fill any office of public trust to which he may aspire.

Until the age of fifteen, his life was spent upon a farm, assisting his father in the work, and attending the district school. In 1876 his father bought a sawmill, where Mr. Heald was employed for some time. He then worked a while in the oil fields; but at eighteen, entered the State Normal school at Edinboro, Penn., and studied for two terms. For two years following, he was baggage master at Chautauqua, N. Y., during the summer season, and in 1882, he came to Jerry City, and entered the employ of J. D. Wilsey & Sons, as boat-oar finisher in their extensive factory. He remained with them six years, finding—or making—time, in the intervals of labor, to continue his studies in the Normal school at Fostoria, and he now holds a diploma from the business course of that institution, having passed the examination with a grade of 99 *per cent.*

In 1884, he was elected mayor of Jerry City, by a large majority, on the Democratic ticket, and proved an efficient and popular officer. On leaving the firm of Wilsey & Sons, Mr. Heald formed a partnership with Henry Meyers in the

lumber business, buying for Eastern markets; but this soon ceased to be profitable, and he went to work for the Ohio Oil Co., first as pumper and then as tool dresser, and while thus engaged he was appointed deputy sheriff of Wood county by William B. Bryant. The duties of this office were performed with his accustomed ability and energy, and brought him into favorable notice throughout the county, and in 1895 he was appointed to his present position. He is a member of the F. & A. M., the I. O. O. F., and the K. of P.

GEORGE BRIM. Ohio, as well as her sister States, has her quota of citizens of foreign birth, who, coming to this favored land in pursuit of fortune, in addition to the advantages derived from its free institutions, have not only reaped the reward of their labors in the shape of material prosperity, but have added to the resources of their communities, and to the progress and betterment of their people. Among those who claim "Merrie Old England" as the land of their nativity may be found the subject of this sketch, and the story of his life, briefly given here, may form an incentive to some other young man whose start in life may be made under no more favorable auspices than was his.

George Brim was born April 25, 1834, in beautiful Devonshire, England, the son of W. W. and Harriet (Ellis) Brim. His parents were natives of the same locality, the father born August 19, 1809, and the mother October 2, 1810. They came of poor people, and when quite young were both bound out to the same man. They grew up together, shared each other's joys and sorrows, worked together and played together, and their love for each other deepened as the boy and girl developed into youth and maiden, finally culminating in their marriage, which took place January 10, 1834. For some time after this event Mr. Brim worked on a farm at \$2.20 a week, and when they finally decided to come to America, in 1855, the only capital they possessed on reaching Wood county, Ohio, was one sovereign. They had, however, no end of courage and hopefulness, and with their only child, George, began their life in the new country with brave hearts and a determination to succeed.

From the outset the son cast in his lot with his father, and together the two worked and managed their affairs, the younger man contributing in no small degree, by his business ability and industry, to their success in the New World. They first bought eighty acres of land in Plain township, Wood county, and added to it



*Amelia Brinn*



*Geo Brinn*



as their means increased until at one time they owned 360 acres; all of this was prairie land, which they converted into farms, and cultivated. They were prosperous from the beginning, and at his death, which took place April 5, 1885, the father was a wealthy man. The mother is now making her home with her son George.

The subject of this sketch was married July 4, 1865, to Miss Amelia Austin, who was born in Somersetshire, England, February 10, 1848. Her parents were James and Mary (Keats) Austin, the former of whom, born in England in 1823, died in Wood county in 1865; the latter also died in Wood county. Mr. and Mrs. Brim have had a family of four children: (1) James E., born April 16, 1866, married Lena Knauss, and lives in Bowling Green; they have three children—Walter, Ethel and Mabel. (2) Walter, born October 16, 1867, was educated at the Ada Normal School, and resides at home; he was married, in December, 1895, to Cora Goldsmith. (3) Samuel, born March 25, 1870, died January 3, 1871. (4) George, born November 12, 1876, is at home.

Mr. Brim is recognized as a leading man, and one of the best citizens of Wood county. He is unassuming in his manners, attends strictly to his business and has accumulated a fine property. In politics he is a Republican; socially he belongs to Centennial Lodge No 626, I. O. O. F., of Bowling Green.

**MICHAEL AMOS, JR.** This prosperous and intelligent farmer living in Section 3, Portage township, has spent most of his life in Wood county. His father, who also bears the name of Michael, is one of the oldest living pioneers. His birth occurred in Bavaria, Germany, November 28, 1818, and in October, 1837, he was brought to the United States by his parents, Michael and Caroline (Sondheimer) Amos. They took passage on the "Wild Lion" at Havre, France, and after a long and tedious voyage of thirty-six days landed safely at New York. At New Lisbon, Ohio, they remained until January, 1838, when the grandfather hired a team and brought his family to Section 1, Portage township, Wood county, where he had purchased eighty acres of partially improved land. There his death occurred September 29, 1838, from typhoid fever and nostalgia, and he was laid to rest on the farm, but his body was afterward interred in Portage cemetery.

The father of our subject being the eldest son, the care of the family fell upon him, and, in order to better perform this duty, he worked for others as a farm hand. His widowed mother

lived with him a great portion of the time, but died at the home of her son Frederick, in Portage township. In 1844, Mr. Amos married Theresa Brackley, a native of Lancaster, Ohio, and a daughter of Michael Brackley, a carpenter by trade. Eight children came to bless their union: Michael, of this review; Philip, a farmer of Portage township; Catherine, who became the wife of Ezra Heminger, and died in Center township; John, who died in the same township, and left a family; Anthony, a farmer of Center township; William, a butcher of the village of Portage; Charles, a farmer of Portage township; and Mary, deceased wife of Monroe Helm, of Portage. The father bought the interests of the other heirs in the old homestead, and now has a good farm of 132 acres, while he has given each of his children forty acres or its equivalent. He and his estimable wife are two of the few old pioneers left in Portage township, are highly respected people, and members of the Lutheran Church. Although they have now reached a ripe old age, and are bent by years of toil, they are yet comparatively active. The entire life of Mr. Amos has been passed in usefulness and hard labor. He never cared for political preferment, but has served as school director and supervisor, and is a supporter of the Democratic party.

On Section 1, Portage township, October 4, 1848, Michael Amos, Jr., first opened his eyes to the light of day. He attended school a few months each winter in District No. 1, thus acquiring a fair education, and at the age of twenty left home, going to Nebraska, where he remained a month. For a short time he was then employed on a farm in Jefferson county, Iowa, after which he went to Pike county, Ill., and later to southeastern Missouri, where he engaged in hunting and trapping. With the money thus earned he returned to Pike county, Ill., where he was employed by James Wallace to take rafts down the river to St. Louis, Mo., which proved quite profitable, our subject receiving \$2 per day and board. He worked in Illinois for some time and helped to cut 135 acres of wheat, which was bound by hand, after which he came back to Wood county. In the fall, however, he went to Missouri, where he again engaged in hunting and trapping, spent the following summer in a fishery in Illinois, and the next winter was also passed in Missouri. On returning to Wood county, he engaged in ditching and threshing for several years.

On December 21, 1876, in Portage township, this county, Mr. Amos was united in marriage with Miss Emma Wilcox, a native of Sandusky



county, Ohio, and a daughter of Sterling Wilcox. Three children have been born to them: Edward B., who is attending school in Bowling Green, Ohio; and Curtis and "Cap", at home. Soon after his marriage our subject rented a farm of forty acres in Center township, and his first purchase was ninety-three acres in Section 3, Portage township, mostly unimproved, with a log house standing upon it. For three years he made that place his home, and on selling out removed to his present farm of eighty acres in Section 2, in April, 1881. He is a wide-awake, progressive citizen, and has made his place one of the best farms in Portage township. Besides general farming, he has also dealt in stock for several years, making many friends and acquaintances while engaged in this business. He is one of the leading workers in the Republican party in the community, and in 1886 was elected infirmary director, taking the office January 1, 1887, in which he served very acceptably for six years. Both himself and wife are esteemed members of the United Brethren Church.

ISAAC G. RIDEOUT, a reliable and progressive agriculturist of Ross township, was born near Massillon, Stark Co., Ohio, May 1, 1839, and is a son of Isaac and Hannah (Galpin) Rideout, both natives of Dorsetshire, England, the former born December 24, 1793, and the latter December 3, 1798. On emigrating to the New World, in 1830, they located at Massillon, Ohio, where the father worked in the Moore & Hart foundry for a few years, but, in 1844, became a resident of Wood county, purchasing forty-five acres of the farm on which our subject now lives. Five of their ten children were born in England, and in order of birth they are as follows: James, deceased; Elizabeth, widow of T. Whitson, and a resident of Iowa; Thomas, of Lucas county, Ohio; Jane, wife of John Kinney, of Lime City, Ohio; and William, deceased. The births of the others occurred in Stark county, Ohio—Anna, deceased; Mary Ann, wife of James Craine, of Lucas county; Margaret, the deceased wife of a Mr. Vickers; Isaac G., and Mrs. Lavina McDougall.

Our subject obtained his education in the first log school house erected in Ross township, but his advantages along that line were limited. He remained at home until twenty-two years of age, when, October 22, 1861, at Toledo, Ohio, he enlisted in the Union army, as a member of Company B, 67th O. V. I., under Capt. Ford, and Col. A. C. Voris, of Akron, Ohio, and after serving his entire term, at Hilton Head, S. C.,

he veteranized. He had been discharged, January 31, 1864, and after a thirty-days' furlough rejoined his regiment, and was finally discharged at Richmond, Va., September 1, 1865, after almost four years of faithful and arduous service on Southern battle fields. Returning home, Mr. Rideout has since devoted his attention to general farming, but expects soon to go into fruit raising. He has tiled and drained his land and placed it under a high state of cultivation, and has erected three good dwellings, besides barns and other outbuildings, which stand as monuments to his thrift and industry.

On Christmas Day, of 1867, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Rideout and Miss Louisa T. Coy, and to them nine children were born—Darwin, born August 28, 1868, married Carrie Smith, daughter of W. J. Smith, and they have two children, Frank and Ervin; William, born April 6, 1870, married Alberta Royce, daughter of Edward Royce, by whom he has one child, Addie Elizabeth; Ervin, was born October 9, 1872; Margaret, born December 31, 1873, is the wife of Charles Crane, and they have twin sons, Isaac R. and Thomas C.; Charles, born December 17, 1875; Olive, born June 15, 1879; Anna, born March 2, 1882; Isaac, born July 4, 1890, died on August 4, following; and Richard, born March 24, 1894.

Mr. Rideout affiliates with Ford Post, No. 14, G. A. R., of East Toledo, and with John W. Fuller Command, No. 49, U. V. U. He served as sergeant in his company, and now has a medal presented to him by Major-Gen. Q. A. Gilmore, commanding the Department of the South, for gallant and meritorious conduct on the field of battle. Since casting his first vote he has been an ardent Republican in politics, as was also his father, and has served acceptably as township treasurer for two terms, and was school director for a number of years. In all the relations of life he is honorable and upright, and as faithful to his country in days of peace, as when following the old flag in defense of the Union.

J. W. LONG, an ex-soldier and highly-respected citizen of Bloom township, is descended from that race known as Scotch-Irish, which has given to America many of her best citizens. His ancestors were natives of the North of Ireland, whence his grandfather, George Long, emigrated to the United States in 1817, locating in Carroll county, Ohio, where he was married, and became the father of seven children: George, William, John, Catherine, Ellen, Susan and Alexander.

The second in order of birth in that family,

William Long, was the father of our subject. In 1841 he was united in marriage with Sarah Metsker, a native of Westmoreland county, Penn., and to them were born six children: Mary Jane, who died in infancy; Eliza E., who became the wife of James Byall, and died in September, 1868; J. W., subject of this review; Catherine and William H., both living in Missouri; and Violet A., who died in that State in 1871. The father was a natural mechanical genius, and worked at various trades, principally carpentering and wagon making. For seven years after his marriage he continued to reside in Carroll county, and then removed to Hancock county, Ohio, near the present city of North Baltimore, where he followed his chosen occupation for the remainder of his life. His tragic death, which occurred in 1861, has few parallels in western Ohio. While engaged in remodeling the largest gristmill in Hancock county, at Gilboa, he became entangled in a belt connected with a rapidly revolving shaft, making 105 revolutions a minute, and was instantly conveyed to the shaft and horribly mangled, almost every bone in his body being broken. His untimely death left his widow and family in straitened circumstances, and our subject, then a boy of but fourteen years, being the eldest son, suddenly had to assume the responsibilities of father and provider.

Mr. Long was born in Carroll county, in 1846, and was but a child of three years when his parents removed to Hancock county. As the portion of the county in which they located was quite backward, he was reared midst the trials and vicissitudes of pioneer life, and, being the eldest son of parents whose means were limited, his opportunities in many ways, including those for an education, were very meager. He first attended the Thicket school, near Van Buren, Hancock county, his teacher being Miss Angeline Warner. The numerous removals of his parents served to further handicap him in his efforts to secure his education, which was concluded at Findlay, Ohio, at the early age of fifteen years. He has seen the vast improvement in the schools of the present over those of his youth, which he heartily favors and fully endorses. While the opportunities were not his, the great school of experience has impressed him with the necessity of education.

As previously stated, Mr. Long was at a youthful age compelled to perform the duties that his father's death thrust upon him, and he remained at home, administering to the wants and cares of the fatherless family, until his enlistment, on August 15, 1862, in the 111th O. V. I.

It was necessary at this time for him to represent himself as being eighteen years of age, so eager was he to defend the flag which had been fired upon at Fort Sumter. His career as a soldier was interrupted by sickness, as soon after his enlistment he was seized with the measles and typhoid fever. He suffered the complete temporary loss of his eyesight, and was discharged in March, 1863, on a surgeon's certificate of disability. Our subject returned home, leaving the scenes of carnage for those of a quiet rural life, in Hancock county, a complete physical wreck. Much time and money were spent in his efforts to secure good eyesight, which came to him after a great deal of suffering; but his shattered physical condition could not be restored to its youthful vigor and vitality. He worked at whatever employment he could secure, his every spare penny going toward the support of his mother and younger brothers and sisters.

On August 16, 1868, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Long and Miss Susanna Wineland, a native of Westmoreland county, Penn., and six children came to bless their union: B. F., proprietor of a bicycle livery at North Baltimore, Ohio; William H., general agent for the Porter's cure of pain remedies; Martha F., now Mrs. Charles Brandeberry, of Bloom township; James E., of the same township; and D. W. and Lemuel L., both at home. After his marriage Mr. Long located near Portage, Wood county, where he resided only a short time, and in 1869 returned to Hancock county, buying a small farm, on which he resided until 1885, when he came to Bloom township, this county. He has forty acres of rich and fertile land in Section 33, and in 1895 completed his present commodious and substantial home. He now takes life easy, having all but retired from active farm work. Politically he is a silver Democrat, and while not an office-seeker, manifests keen interest in the success of his party. For many years he belonged to the Independent Order of Good Templars, and is now a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He and his wife are consistent and active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Bairdstown, Ohio, and are held in the highest esteem by all who know them.

H. L. HINKLEY, of Bowling Green, the able and popular young recorder of Wood county, was born in Milton Center, February 5, 1867.

His grandparents, Luther G. and Sally M. Hinkley, came from New York State and settled in Erie county, Ohio, where their son, D. S. Hinkley, our subject's father, was born August

27, 1838. He learned the wagon maker's trade in early life, and came to Milton Center, where he married Miss Mary J. Hill, a native of that place, born October 28, 1846. Of late years he and his wife have made their home in Prairie Depot, where he follows the carpenter's trade. They have seven children, of whom our subject is the eldest: Lottie is the wife of W. J. Graham, of Portage township; Joseph J. and Charles are in business at Prairie Depot; and D. S., William and Jessie are three at home.

Mr. Hinkley spent the first eight years of his life at his birthplace, and has since lived at Sandusky on the Bay Shore, for five years, and later at Prairie Depot. He supplemented his common-school education by a course in the business department of the Fostoria Normal School, from which he graduated in October, 1891. For ten years he was a successful teacher in this county, the last three being spent at Prairie Depot, where he was principal of the high school. He resigned in June, 1895, having been elected the previous November to the position which he now holds. He was installed in office September 2, 1895. Although he is one of the youngest workers in the Republican party in this locality, he has already given evidence of marked ability in public affairs, and his friends predict a bright future for him. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., and of the Good Templars Lodge. He was married June 15, 1893, to Miss Effie Mercer, who was born in Liberty township, December 25, 1871, and has one child, Harold Cecil.

CHESTER L. POWELL (deceased) was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, November 10, 1857, a son of George and Sarah Powell, and was reared near Bowling Green. He taught school for several years, and, later, for two years, kept a hardware store at Portage. This he sold, and then went to Fostoria, where for a time he and his brother, A. V. Powell, conducted a similar business. Afterward he went on the road for a hardware firm, but resigned and came to Weston, where, together with a Mr. Baldwin, he opened a clothing and furnishing-goods store, under the firm name of Baldwin & Powell. Soon afterward he bought Mr. Baldwin's interest, also the stock of shoes and the shoe-shop belonging to Mr. Ames, and he operated the store with marked success up to his death, which occurred July 6, 1893. He was admired for his business ability, and his good qualities as a citizen. In demeanor he was quiet, but firm in purpose, and seldom failed in anything he undertook. His death was greatly

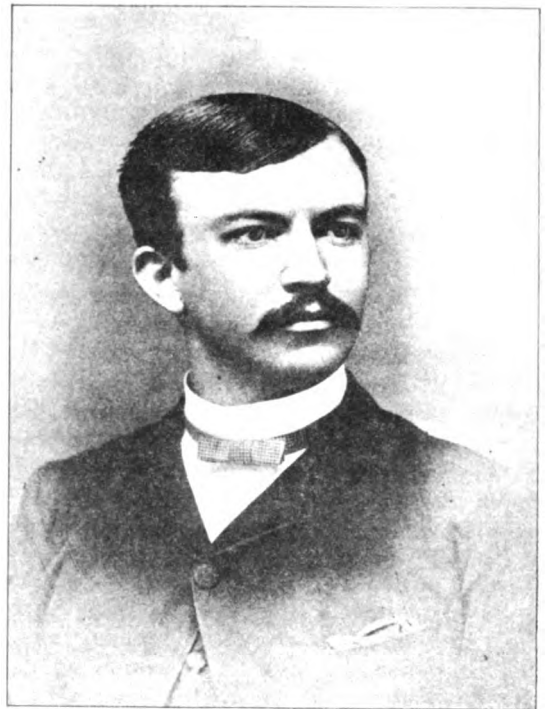
mourned by the community in which he resided. He was a prominent member of the I. O. O. F., having joined the order at Fostoria, whence he "took his card" to Weston; in religious faith he was a member of the United Brethren Church.

On October 7, 1886, Mr. Powell married Miss Elfa Pugh, who was born in Henry county, Ohio, November 15, 1859. John Pugh, her father, was born in the parish of Kerry, County of Montgomery, North Wales, on the 11th day of February, 1810, of English parents, and when twenty-one years old married and came to the United States, first locating in New York State, then in Perrysburg, Ohio, afterward in Henry county, finally, in 1877, settling in Weston, Wood county, where he died January 9, 1892. He followed the occupation of a farmer; was of the Episcopal faith; was a Whig before the war and a Republican afterward, and he voted for both the Harrisons (his first and last votes respectively). His home was the meeting place of many of the most prominent of the early pioneers of this section, and he was a great friend of the Indians. The adventures that have been rehearsed, and the stories that have been told by himself and others when gathered around the fire-side, if preserved, would have been worthy of being immortalized in romance and song; but unfortunately only a faint glimpse of the conditions of life, and the character of those sturdy pioneers, have been handed down to us. Although miles of swamp and woods separated neighbor from neighbor, a common cause and, we might say, a common misfortune united them in bonds of sympathy almost as strong as family ties.

John Pugh, for his second wife, married, in 1845, Clarissa B. Junkins, who was born January 3, 1820, in Preston county, Va. (now W. Va.). Her father having died in Fairview, Ohio, when she was two years old, her mother subsequently married John Rice, and in 1833 they came to Wood county; but during their first year's residence in the county, Mr. Rice died, leaving a widow with five children, viz.: Samuel, who died when about fifty-seven years old; Thomas, a farmer of Weston township; Julia Ann; Annabella; and Clarissa B., who now resides with her daughter, Mrs. Powell; she is the mother of five children: Ann M. (now Mrs. L. McKee), of Fostoria, Ohio; Luther S., of Weston; Mrs. William Martin, also of Weston; John A., who died at the age of twenty-five; and Mrs. Elfa Powell. Mrs. Pugh was among the earliest pioneers of Wood county, coming here when but thirteen years old, with the rest of the family. When they reached Beaver creek, their destination in Wood county,



ELFA.



*Mrs. L. Elfa (Pugh) Powell      C. L. Powell*



they stopped at the home of uncle McKee (who had preceded them), until they could build themselves a log house, after the fashion of the country in those early days (they were not so long in building a house as they are now-a-days). Mrs. Pugh's stepfather, John Rice, having died in the first year of their coming here, as related above, there was much responsibility left on the widowed mother with her five children; but being a woman of tact and foresight, she always provided years ahead for the family. So they suffered but little from the privations of early pioneer life among the Indians, who were numerous on Beaver creek at that time, and all became the owners of good homes in Wood county, except Annabella, who had died at the age of nineteen years. Grandmother Junkins-Rice's home was called "the poor house," because if there was an orphan child in the country she would bring it to her home and care for it until another home could be found for it. At one time she had no less than five infants on her hands to be cared for, and some remained with her until her death. Mrs. James Raymer, of Toledo, was one of grandmother Junkins-Rice's loves. After being left a widow with five children to raise in a new country, God gave her health and strength to help the helpless. Such was the kindheartedness and unselfishness of that noble pioneer grandmother and mother.

Mrs. Chester L. Powell was educated in part at the schools of Weston, and in part at those of Fostoria. After her marriage she resided almost constantly with her parents, and cared for them with a tender hand, her aged mother, now living with her, being an object of deep solicitude. Her one great comfort is her flowers, of which she is a great lover, and which she gathers around her and enjoys. From earliest childhood Mrs. Powell has been the companion of her parents, and through them and their acquaintances learned of the habits of many of the pioneers, and has always felt a deep interest in them, although at a time when life was sweetest and separation hardest to bear, she has borne the death of her husband with a philosophic and Christian-like spirit. She has continued her husband's store, showing excellent capability, and, through the service of efficient employes under her personal supervision, it continues to be one of the flourishing business houses of Weston.

Prior to his death Mr. Powell had established a fruit farm within the corporation of Weston, and his widow also conducts this with marked success. It comprises some twenty-five acres,

given to Mrs. Powell by her mother, Mrs. John Pugh, whereon are abundantly grown plums, peaches, strawberries, grapes, and all other small fruits. There are also a house and lot in Weston, and two other farms—one in Wood county, and one in Hancock county—which Mrs. Powell rents. She also owns the store building, 35 x 50 feet in dimensions, and which is recognized as the pioneer building of Weston. Notwithstanding her many business engagements, and the care of a home, Mrs. Powell yet finds time for the study of literature, and for years past she been one of the teachers in the Presbyterian Church Sabbath-school, having an interesting class of girls of which she is justly proud.

MALON K. MANLEY, a veteran of the Mexican war, and a retired merchant of Haskins, is a native of the Keystone State. He was born in Columbia county, Penn., March 28, 1825, a son of John Manley, who was born in 1799. The grandfather, John Manley, Sr., was a native of Switzerland, and took part in the revolution of 1776 to 1780. The father was educated in Pennsylvania, and followed the carpenter's and builder's trade. He married Sybilla Case, and their children were: Eli R., a carpenter, who resided in David City, Neb., and died November 30, 1896; Malon K.; William W., a merchant of Pennsylvania; Anna, deceased wife of Joseph Buck; Mary J., deceased wife of Samuel Culp. The father of this family died in New York, by drowning, and the mother afterward married Francis Burdanier, by whom she had seven children, the only survivor being George, of Pennsylvania. Her death occurred in the Keystone State, January 27, 1888, when she was aged eighty-eight years, and six months.

Our subject acquired his education in the common schools near his home, but his privileges in that direction were limited, for at an early age he was thrown upon his own resources. He learned the shoemaker's trade, which he followed for forty years. During the Mexican war, in 1846, he enlisted at Danville, Penn., in Company C, 2d Penn. V. I., and proceeded to Vera Cruz. He participated in the capture of that city, and in other service in that locality, and in July, 1848, returned to his home. He suffered intensely from the oppressive heat in the South. Again, during the Civil war, he manifested his loyalty to the government, enlisting on May 14, 1861. He formed a company at Danville, Penn., which was attached to the Sixth Regiment of Pennsylvania Reserves, and went to Camp Curtin, thence to Richmond, and participated in the

battles of Bull Run, the Wilderness, Fredericksburg and others, serving in all for two years.

In 1868, Mr. Manley came to Wood county, and purchased a farm of seventy acres near Haskins, which he operated for five years, when he removed to the town and established a grocery and shoe store, which he conducted for eleven years. He was afterward engaged in business in Toledo for a time as a dealer in shoes, but is now living retired in Haskins, enjoying a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves. He has aided greatly in the upbuilding of this community, and has been an important factor in its progress and development.

On October 12, 1848, Mr. Manley wedded Mary A. Mellon, who was born in Danville, Penn., June 21, 1828, a daughter of Gideon and Sarah Mellon, the father a boot and shoe dealer, of Danville. Five children were born to them—John, born July 29, 1849; Sarah M., September 26, 1853, now the wife of Philmore Gustin, a blacksmith; Clarence, born April 23, 1865, died April 20, 1889; Mary B., who died at the age of five years; and Anna B., who became the wife of A. L. Herritt, an oil operator, and died July 22, 1895. Mary B. and Anna B. were twins, born July 23, 1869.

Mr. Manley and wife have been faithful members of the Baptist Church for fifty-three years, and he has served as trustee, deacon, treasurer and secretary of the Church. In politics he is a Democrat, and for one term was school director, while in 1880 he acted as census enumerator, being appointed by the general government, has served as assessor and tax-collector several years. Socially, he is connected with the Odd Fellows society, the Masonic fraternity, and Encampment of Patriarchs. His honorable, upright life, his kindly manner, and his affable and social disposition have won him a host of warm friends.

J. F. LONG, a leading merchant and citizen of Bowling Green, and senior partner in the dry-goods firm of Long & Rutherford, was born in Seneca county, Ohio, February 8, 1837, and is a son of the Rev. John and Lydia (Fry) Long.

Daniel Long, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was born in Pennsylvania, in 1779, of Dutch descent. He was there married to Margaret Brill, who was born in the same State in 1783, and in 1834 removed with his family to Seneca county, Ohio, where, on May 22, of that year, he entered the northwest quarter of Section 1, in Jackson township. For forty years he worked at his trade as a blacksmith, and he was a soldier in the war of 1812. His death took

place in 1871 at the good old age of ninety-two, his wife having passed away in 1853. This estimable couple were the parents of twelve children, as follows: Daniel is living in Stark county, and is now nearly one hundred years of age; Samuel, who was a minister in the United Brethren Church for many years, died in Seneca county, Ohio; Charles migrated to California during the gold excitement, and died in Seneca county; John was the father of our subject; Peggy married Jacob Sprout, of Seneca county, and is still living; Nancy became the wife of Samuel Sprout, of the same county, and died there; Michael became a minister in the United Brethren Church at Upper Sandusky, in 1835, and died recently at Fremont, Ohio (he was born May 3, 1814, was almost a giant in stature, with a voice which could be heard a mile away, and was a famous camp-meeting preacher); George died in Seneca county; David spent a part of his life in California, and died in Seneca county; Benjamin, who was born September 12, 1823, spent his life on the old homestead in Seneca county, and died there June 14, 1890; Wesley, who went west after serving in the army, was never heard from again; and Henry, who died when quite small.

John Long, the father of our subject, was born in 1808. When a young man he entered the ministry of the United Brethren Church, and about the year 1847 removed to Gibsonburg, Sandusky Co., Ohio, where he made his home for many years, traveling and preaching constantly throughout a large circuit in northern Ohio. About eighteen years ago he came to Wood county, where he continued his life work until broken down by years of toil and the feebleness of old age. For some years preceding his death he made his home in Bowling Green. He passed peacefully to his well-earned rest February 9, 1895, at the home of his daughter, in Gibsonburg; his wife died at her home, in Center township, Wood county, April 19, 1878, aged sixty-three years, eleven months, eleven days, a faithful member of the U. B. Church. After many years of faithful duty to her family, her Church and her God, she passed away in the triumph of her faith, thus leaving to her family the best gift a mother could leave. To this honored couple were born ten children, as follows: Louisa, wife of Jacob Sampsel, of Gibsonburg; Samuel, a farmer at St. Louis, Mich.; J. F., our subject; Daniel S., residing in Bowling Green; Rebecca, married to A. B. Garn, of Gibsonburg; William, a farmer of Wood county, Ohio; Wesley, a farmer of Center township, Wood county; Arcanus C. and Michael, residing near Gibson-

burg; and Samantha, the wife of Charles Pike, of Bowling Green. The parents of this interesting family became the grandparents of fifty grandchildren, and the great-grandparents of thirty-one great-grandchildren.

On the maternal side, our subject's grandparents were Jacob and Elizabeth Fry, who had ten children, namely: Jacob, Lydia (the mother of our subject), Moses, Mary, Anna, Adam, Josia, Elizabeth, Solomon, and Samuel. All these are living in the West, except Jacob and Samuel, who died in Ohio.

J. F. Long, the subject proper of this sketch, spent his boyhood days in Gibsonburg, where he attended the common schools and secured his education. He was a natural mathematician, and became especially interested in the study of mechanics; in 1865 he removed to Wood county, where he bought a tract of land and put up a saw-mill. For several years he carried on the manufacture of lumber, making a handsome fortune, and later, in 1871, removed to Bowling Green, where for some time he was not engaged in any active business except contracting and building. In November, 1892, he opened up his present store, in which he is carrying on an extensive business. It is the largest establishment of its kind in Bowling Green, the firm carrying from \$20,000 to \$30,000 worth of stock, and employing ten clerks. Mr. Long also owns 180 acres of land and town property, and is recognized as one of the substantial and representative citizens of the county. He was formerly a Republican, but of later years has identified himself with the Prohibitionists, in the ranks of which party he is an earnest worker. In religious faith he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Mr. Long was married December 31, 1861, to Mary Klotz, a native of Pennsylvania, born February 9, 1845, and three children have blessed their union, namely: (1) Frank M., who learned the business of a dry-goods merchant in Toledo, and is now chief buyer for his father's firm; he married Bertha LITTLE, of Toledo, and they have one child, May. (2) Elsie D. is the wife of S. E. Vail, editor of the *Sentinel*, and they have one child, Merl DeWitt; and (3) Netta is the wife of R. P. Hankey, a son of Senator J. K. Hankey. The mother of this highly respected family died February 28, 1893, a faithful and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. From the year 1872 until her death, a period of over twenty years, she was known as an active worker in the Sabbath-school, much of her time in the capacity of assistant superintendent thereof, having charge of a class of young

men, many of whom can give evidence of her faithful work. She spent many hours in looking after the poor and needy of the town, and searching out the lonely homes of strangers, and of the desolate and disconsolate. She was also an active worker in the cause of home missions. Any one visiting the Elizabeth Gamble Deaconess Home and Christ's Hospital will find therein a beautiful room, "No. 57," fitted and furnished in memory of her good life, and for the good of that noble work.

GIDEON UNDERWOOD, deceased. The pioneers of a country, the founders of a business, the originators of any undertaking that will promote the material welfare, or advance the educational and moral influence of a community, deserve the gratitude of humanity. Our subject was for many years an honored citizen of Wood county, and one of the prominent pioneers of Center township. Mr. Underwood was born in Lawrence county, Penn., August 22, 1820, and was a son of William and Mary (Wright) Underwood, both natives of the Buckeye State. He attended the common school in his native county, and besides assisting in the labors of the home farm while young, he also worked on the canals. He then went West to California, remaining in the Golden State for three years, and later came to Wood county, Ohio, and purchased eighty acres of land in Center township, turning his attention to agricultural pursuits, which occupation he continued to follow up to the time of his death. He cleared and improved his land, building thereon a substantial dwelling, barns and other outbuildings, set out a fine orchard, and supplied the place with all the conveniences found upon a model farm of the nineteenth century. To his original purchase he later added 100 acres, and the entire tract comprised one of the best farms of the county.

In Lowell, Penn., on December 29, 1852, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Underwood and Margaret (McMahan), who was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, January 21, 1821, and was then the widow of Henry Humston. Two children graced this union—John W., and Laura C., who was born November 22, 1860, and is now the wife of John Walker, a farmer of Center township, by whom she has three children. By her first marriage Mrs. Underwood had one daughter, Amerilas, who married Simon Crum, a farmer of Center township.

Mr. Underwood always bore the reputation of an honest, upright man, affable and genial in disposition, and no man took a deeper interest in



the prosperity of his adopted county, while it is safe to say that few contributed in a larger degree to bring about this result. His death, which occurred April 7, 1895, was deeply regretted by his loving wife and children, and also a large number of friends who loved and respected him in life and mourned for him in death. He was a Republican in politics, and was school director many terms. For many years he was an elder in the Presbyterian Church, but later he joined the M. E. Church. Mrs. Underwood still resides upon the old homestead where so many happy years of her life were passed.

During the Civil war Mr. Underwood served as a soldier in the one-hundred-day service, being a member of Company C, 144th O. V. I.

**SILAS H. POWELL.** In manner hospitable and kind, disposition genial and social, this gentleman is one of the most highly esteemed residents of Liberty township. He was born March 10, 1852, in Green Castle, Ohio, a son of George and Sarah (Beatty) Powell. In 1872 the father removed with his family to Wood county, locating on a farm of 460 acres in Liberty township, where he made his home until his death, January 26, 1893. The mother died April 27, 1892. Their children were Wesley; Martha, wife of Louis Smaltz; Silas H.; Alonzo V.; Chester L. (deceased); and Laura, wife of James Stafford, of Liberty.

Our subject acquired his education in Green Castle, was reared on a farm, and at the age of twenty years came with his parents to Wood county. In 1873, however, he returned to Fairfield county, and was married in Winchester to Miss Margaret Elizabeth Fellers, who was born November 27, 1853, in that county. Her parents, Joshua and Barbara (Runkle) Fellers, were born February 14, 1821, and June 8, 1822, respectively; they are still living in Fairfield county. In the family were the following children: Eliza, wife of David Smith, of Pickaway county, Ohio; Minerva, wife of Thomas Courtwright, of Green Castle, Ohio; Martha, wife of Joseph Green, of Fairfield county; Clara, wife of George Courtwright, of Fairfield county; Mrs. Powell; Eleanor, wife of Samuel Brown, of Warren county, Ohio; Florence, wife of Henry Hempleman; John, a farmer of Fairfield county; Alice, wife of James Cheney; and Docia, wife of Edward Hickle, of Wood county.

Upon their marriage Mr. Powell and his wife took up their residence on the family homestead which he now owns, his farm comprising 191 acres. He is progressive in his methods, and his

close attention to business has secured him a comfortable property. In politics he is a Republican, and a strong advocate of temperance. In the family is one son, Chauncey, born April 4, 1874. Mr. and Mrs. Powell are members of the United Brethren Church, the one known as the "Powell Church."

**OSMAN A. DIVER,** a prominent oil operator of this section of the State, and one of the most extensive land owners in Montgomery township, is perhaps more widely known as an able and popular worker in the political field. A Democrat in a Republican stronghold—he has heavy odds against him, yet he has been called upon to fill nearly every office on the township ticket, sometimes carrying the day by 160 plurality against a Republican plurality of 140, and throughout the county he has hosts of friends who would gladly see him serving the public in a wider sphere. At times when the prospect of certain defeat has made it almost impossible to fill the county ticket, he has allowed his name to be used, and this has always meant a hard fight for his opponent, the large vote given him being a high testimonial from the independent voters of the county, to his ability and worth.

He is a native of Montgomery township, born March 16, 1845, in Section 30, a son of the late Osman Diver, a pioneer farmer of that locality, and his wife, Esther F. Robinson, a woman of rare mental ability and noble character, who was a teacher in this county in the early "forties." As the only son of this worthy couple, our subject was given better advantages in his youth than fell to the lot of some of the boys of that time—his district school course being followed by an attendance at more advanced schools in Fostoria and Osceola, with one year at Oberlin College. He was an active boy, and his energies were given full scope in farm work on the large tracts of land owned by his father.

On February 20, 1869, he was married, in Amherst township, Lorain Co., Ohio, to Miss Sarah Curtis, daughter of Zebulum and Lucy (Belden) Curtis, well-known citizens of that locality. After his marriage Mr. Diver began farming on his own account, in his native township, giving considerable attention to raising and dealing in stock. In 1885 he removed to Prairie Depot, and engaged in mercantile business with A. Fike. Later he became sole proprietor, continuing until 1894, when, after a successful career, he sold his store. He has large individual oil holdings, and owns 450 acres of land in his township.



*Sitar H. Powell*



*Margret-E Powell*



His home at Prairie Depot is an elegant one, and Mrs. Diver's fine intellectual gifts and literary tastes give it an additional charm and influence as a social center. She is a member of the Disciples Church, active in various lines of local and foreign missionary work, and is also prominent in the Daughters of Rebekah order, also the Good Templars, at the present time being State deputy and district superintendent in the latter society. She has held different elective offices in the State work in that order, being State superintendent of the Juvenile Department, and organized in Ohio sixty-six Juvenile temples, re-organized many, also several subordinate lodges, and held meetings in the interest of the order and cause. Mr. and Mrs. Diver have had three children: Flora L., who was fatally burned at the age of four years, her clothing catching fire from a stove, and death resulting from her injuries forty-eight hours later; Frank E., a law student at Toledo; and Curtis B., a young man of more than ordinary talent, and an accomplished musician.

Mr. Diver is a skilled reinsman, and has always been an admirer of good horses; his stables contain some of the best specimens to be found in the county. Public spirited and progressive, he is active in the cause of better education, and has served it ably as a member of the school board. He belongs to the I. O. O. F., and was a charter member of Petroleum Lodge No. 499, K. of P., at Prairie Depot, and its first chancellor commander. For two years he represented his lodge at the State meeting.

Osman Diver, our subject's father, was born in Deerfield, Portage (then Trumbull) Co., Ohio, August 23, 1807. He was the oldest son of John Diver, a native of Massachusetts, who came to Deerfield in October, 1803, and of Laura Ely Diver, a descendant of the Elys, of England. When twelve years of age he went with a party to Cleveland for supplies, when that city was but a hamlet of log houses, he driving one of the teams there and back. On November 13, 1832, he married Margaret Kinnaman, and settled in his native town, where two years later a son was born, who lived but a few hours. On March 29, 1836, a second son, Franklin, was born, and in the fall of that same year he, with his wife and child, moved to Montgomery township, Wood county, and settled on a farm in Section 30. The country was then a wilderness, the roads being little more than Indian trails along the banks of streams. In the course of a few months he bought property in Fostoria (then Rome and Risdon), and engaged in hotel business in that

city. There a daughter, Laura H. (now Mrs. Cline), was born, September 19, 1838. The following year he sold his town property, and returned to his farm, taking up the arduous task of converting it into fertile fields. On January 18, 1841, his home was made desolate by the death of his wife. Placing his two little children in the care of their grandparents, he lived on alone, toiling unremittingly to leave to his loved ones a home. On February 24, 1842, he married Esther F. Robinson, and to them three children were born: Margaret E. (Mrs. Miles), Osman A. (our subject), and Harriet N. (Mrs. C. W. Lenhart). By this time he had made quite an opening in the dense forest, and in addition to the house of unhewed logs that had served him for a dwelling, he built a hewed log front, one and one-half stories high, with a good cellar—quite a pretentious mansion for those days. He usually went to Fremont (twenty-two miles distant) for flour and groceries, always taking an axe along to chop the fallen trees and remove them from the road. On one trip he stayed two nights at the same place; leaving his wagon in the mire, he proceeded with his team the first night, and returning the second night for shelter.

The constant toil and good management of Mr. Diver and his wife were rewarded; in the course of a few years, they found themselves in possession of 1,700 acres of good farming land. In 1848 he built a sawmill on the east branch of the Portage river, and manufactured the lumber with which he built a new house, one mile east of his first home, on the Perrysburg and McCutchenville pike. This was the second frame house built in this section of the country. In June, 1849, he moved his family into this house, and occupied it until his death, September 30, 1888, when he was aged eighty-one years, one month and seven days: In politics he was a Democrat, but believed it right to support the most worthy candidate, especially in municipal affairs. In religion, he was a faithful member of the Church of Christ, and was a liberal supporter of every good cause within his reach. In disposition he was quiet and unassuming, a lover of books and his own fireside, and was the friend of the poor and oppressed. Only the pioneers who toiled with him know how much this generation owes to those who changed the despised Black Swamp into the garden of Ohio.

Esther F. (Robinson), our subject's mother, was born April 2, 1818, near New Portage, Portage (now Summit) Co., Ohio. At nine years of age, death deprived her of her father, and at eleven years of age she began teaching, a voca-

tion she followed until the time of her marriage. Her labors were confined principally to the Western Reserve, with the exception of two years which were spent largely in Wood county, at West Millgrove, and four miles north of that village, at what was known as the Morgan school house. Her mother having moved to a farm near Latimerville, Crawford Co., Ohio, she made the journey from these points to her mother's home and return, several times on horseback, during her stay in Wood county. On February 24, 1842, she was married to Osman Diver at her mother's home, in Crawford county, returning with him on horseback. At the age of fifteen she espoused the cause of Christ, and has been throughout her life a faithful, consistent Christian. To her husband she was a helpmeet and counsellor, and to the five children entrusted to her care, she was a most lovable mother, a competent teacher and guide. She still survives her husband, living at the home her hand so industriously helped to carve out of the wilderness.

WILSON W. BROWN, one of the heroes of the Civil war, the engineer of the train captured from the Confederacy by the famous Mitchell raiders, is now living quietly on his farm near Dowling, wearing his well-earned honors with the modesty which becomes so brave and distinguished a soldier. He was born in Fountain county, Ind., December 25, 1839, the son of Harlan S. Brown.

Possessing rare mechanical genius, our subject early acquired a thorough knowledge of machinery, and before the war served some years as engineer on the Mobile & Ohio railroad. Just before hostilities began he returned home, and in September, 1861, he enlisted in Company F, 21st O. V. I., which was assigned to the army of the Cumberland. He took part in the battles of Ivy Mountain, Shelbyville, Ky., and many other engagements that occurred in the early part of the war. When the 21st was encamped at Shelbyville, Ky., he was detailed by Gen. O. M. Mitchell to go as engineer on the famous Mitchell raid—the story of whose gallant exploits forms one of the most thrilling chapters in the history of that time. He was more fortunate than many of his companions, eight of whom were hanged at Atlanta, Ga., while Mr. Brown, with fourteen of his comrades, escaped to the North, but not until they had endured three months of suffering and hardship, did they reach the Union lines. Our subject reported to his regiment, and went into active service again, was appointed corporal by the colonel of the regiment, and soon after was made ser-

geant of Company F, 21st O. V. I., for gallant and distinguished service. He participated in the battle of Stone River, and, for his bravery here, was granted a thirty-days' furlough and went home. While at home he received orders to report at Washington to depose in regard to the execution of his comrades, and while there had personal interviews with President Lincoln, Judge Holt, Gen. Hitchcock, and Secretary Stanton, and, before leaving, was presented with a gold medal from the hand of Mr. Stanton. By a special act of Congress he was promoted to 2nd lieutenant. After leaving Washington, he returned to Ohio, and was ordered to report to Gov. Tod, at Columbus, who presented him with his commission. He then returned to his regiment and reported for duty as acting lieutenant until a vacancy occurred, after engaging in many battles, skirmishes and forced marches. He was twice wounded at the battle of Chickamauga, having two fingers shot from the left hand, and a severe wound in the knee joint, for which wounds and his gallant service on the Mitchell raid, he was given a pension of twenty-four dollars per month by a special act of Congress. He was mustered out May 15, 1864.

In 1863 Mr. Brown was married to Miss Clarissa Loman, who was born in Fostoria, Ohio, March 1, 1845. Ten children were born of this union: Emma H., married Samuel G. Cordery, and died at the age of twenty-four, leaving one son—George W.; Alice M. died in childhood; Ada Lodisca married Charles E. Ward, of Toledo, and has two children—Rayman Oliver, and Ruby Marie; Harlan S. is a carpenter in Webster township, and married Miss Anna Beard, by whom he has one daughter—Gladys; James W. lives in Toledo (he married Cora Glenn and has one child, Ethel G.); Mary M. resides in Toledo; Mahlon T. is at home; Marquis A. lives in Toledo; and Edith G. and Cecil Ulena are at home.

After the close of the war, Mr. Brown engaged in agricultural pursuits, and spent some years in Logan and Hancock counties. In 1870 he established the home in Perrysburg township, where he now resides. He is a member of the G. A. R., and in politics is a Republican.

ISAAC VAN HORN, a well-known agriculturist of Grand Rapids township, was born in Harrison county, Ohio, December 7, 1830. He is a son of one of the earliest settlers of his locality, the late Samuel Van Horn, a native of Jefferson county, Ohio, born July 4, 1801, which honored pioneer was married in October, 1824, to Miss Sophia Miner, a native of Pennsylvania, born

December 15, 1804. They were the parents of twelve children, seven of whom are still living.

In 1831 they came to Wood county, traveling in a wagon, which contained all their household goods. They settled upon a tract of eighty acres of wild land, building a house, 16 x 18 feet, immediately upon their arrival, and went through all the experiences incident to frontier life. They lived upon potatoes, corn, turkey, squirrel and deer, game being so plentiful that the family have known their dog to chase a deer out of the woods and up the lane leading to the house, where the boys would knock the animal down with clubs. Turkeys they would shoot enough of in the morning for that day's supply; and as for squirrels, they were so numerous that Mr. Van Horn says he has gone out in the wheat field by the woods, and shot from ten to twenty of them before picking any up. In spite of the far advanced spring, Mr. Van Horn succeeded in clearing more than an acre of ground in time to raise a crop of potatoes that year, and the second year he raised an excellent crop of wheat without plowing the soil, his pair of oxen having been sacrificed to secure ready money. Mr. Van Horn and his wife had united with the M. E. Church before coming to Wood county, and were among the members of the first M. E. class, which was organized, in 1833, in Weston township, Rev. Elim Day being the leader. Samuel Van Horn died on the morning of February 4, 1886, aged eighty-four years and seven months to the day. The funeral services were held at home the next day, the Rev. George Matthews officiating, and his remains were then laid to rest in Beaver Creek cemetery. His wife, Sophia Van Horn, died June 4, 1890, and the funeral was held at Beaver Creek church, Rev. James Long officiating.

Isaac Van Horn, our subject, worked upon his father's farm until he was twenty-five years old, when he bought twenty acres of land, and began farming on his own account. In the spring of 1864, he enlisted in Company I, 144th O. V. I., under Col. Lew Wallace, and Capt. J. McKee. He participated in several engagements, and was taken prisoner at Perryville, Va., August 31, 1864. He was taken to Lynchburg, and from there to Libby prison, thence to Belle Isle, and then to Salisbury, from there back to Libby again, serving about eight months of prison life. He was the only one of seven, taken from his county, to survive prison life. From Libby he was sent to Annapolis, Md., and from there was sent home to Columbus, Ohio, where he received his discharge, March 23, 1865. He then returned to his little farm, which he sold a few

years later to buy fifty-five acres near Grand Rapids, upon which he has since resided. The improvements he has made thereon are of a high class, and he conducts the property in a model manner, having constructed ditches, planted orchards, and built substantial structures as needed.

On November 22, 1855, Mr. Van Horn was married to Miss Eliza J. Kerr, a sister of William B. Kerr, a prominent citizen of Grand Rapids township, and they had four children: Ella J., born June 11, 1858, married George Wolcott, of Deshler, Ohio; Etta May, born May 30, 1864, died in girlhood; Frank W., born August 26, 1866, now conducting the homestead; and one other died in infancy. The mother of this family died May 19, 1884, and September 11, 1889, Mr. Van Horn, for his second wife, married Miss Lizzie Dean, of Weston, who was born April 7, 1843. Mr. Van Horn cast his first vote for the Whig party. The issues of the war made him a "Black Republican," and he has adhered to that party since. He takes no active part in political work, and has never held an office, or been a juror, or been engaged in any legal controversy. By his friends and neighbors he is held in high esteem, and he is a leading member of the United Presbyterian Church.

B. B. BUCK, the cashier of the Exchange Banking Company, of Weston, and one of the leaders among the younger business men of the county, was born in Milton Center, December 13, 1862. William Buck, his father, was born July 31, 1832, in Stark county, Ohio. He married Miss Ann Hartz, and a few years later moved to Wood county, locating at Milton Center, where they still reside.

Mr. Buck (our subject) attended the district schools near his home during his earlier years, and then entered the Normal School at Valparaiso, Ind., and was graduated from the commercial department in 1887. On his return home he was made bookkeeper of the Exchange Banking Company, in which he is a stockholder, and later he became its cashier. In the discharge of the duties of his responsible position he has shown himself fully worthy of the trust confided to him. He was married October 17, 1889, to an adopted daughter of Dr. Schooley, of Weston—Miss Jessie Robinson—who was born November 9, 1867. They have one daughter, Agnes.

In politics Mr. Buck is a Republican, and he takes an influential part in all progressive movements in his locality. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., No. 59, Milton Center, the F. &

A. M., 530, Weston, and of the order of Mac-cabees.

HON. JOHN J. GEGHAN. No man is more widely or favorably known in North Baltimore and vicinity than the one whose name introduces this sketch, and it is to him more than to any other single individual that the city owes its manufactories, railroads, and other improvements which have developed its resources, and brought wealth and prosperity to its inhabitants. The career of Mr. Geghan has been a rather remarkable one. In his years of restless activity he has seen the ups and downs of life in no small degree, yet his persistence, and unbounded faith in his ability to overcome all obstacles, have always brought him out of his difficulties with flying colors, and with a determination to accomplish still greater results.

Mr. Geghan is a native of the "Emerald Isle," where he was born May 9, 1845, in County Meath, son of James and Elizabeth (McSweeney) Geghan. His father was a farmer, and spent his entire life in Ireland. After the death of her husband, the mother, in 1854, came with her little family to New Orleans, from there moving to Cincinnati, Ohio, where our subject attended the public schools, and afterward took a course in Nelson's Commercial College. After leaving school Mr. Geghan was employed in the tobacco business, and organized the Tobacconists Association, of Cincinnati, of which he was made president. In 1865 the tobacco manufacturing company of Geghan, Porter & McHugh was established, and in the latter part of the year Mr. Geghan bought out the interests of his partners and formed the firm of Geghan & Brashears. He disposed of his share in this connection in 1866, and his next step was to organize a company which took part in the Fenian raids in Canada, being engaged in the fights at Ridgeway and Fort Erie. Having sunk all his means in this venture, Mr. Geghan returned to Cincinnati, and became foreman in a leading tobacco house, which position he filled until 1870, when, in company with James W. Murphy, he established the Red Cloud Tobacco Works, at No. 18 Hammond street, in that city, which he conducted until 1876.

During this time and for a number of years previous Mr. Geghan took an active part in politics, his first affiliation being with the Republican party. During the campaign of 1868 he, in connection with Hon. J. W. Fitzgerald, organized the Irish "Grant & Colfax" Club of Cincinnati. He was also at the head of the liberal movement in that city which helped to carry Ham-

ilton county against Grant at a later date, and was president of the Greeley & Brown Club. Mr. Geghan has always been an intense Irish Nationalist, firmly believing that Ireland should be an independent nation, and, like the majority of Irish Nationalists, believing in the policy of the Republican party. He took an active part in the Presidential campaign of 1884, and at a meeting of Irish-American Republicans held at Long Branch, N. Y., immediately after the nomination of James G. Blaine, he was unanimously chosen secretary of the Irish National Republican League, which accomplished such effective work in that memorable campaign. In 1873 Mr. Geghan was nominated by the Democratic party for member of the State Legislature from Hamilton county, and was elected, serving two years. He took a prominent share in legislative matters, and was instrumental in passing several important measures. Among the bills introduced by him were the amendment to the Adair Liquor Law, compelling parties wishing to bring suit or otherwise, to serve notice on the saloon-keeper to desist from selling liquor, or file the same with the county clerk; the Padrone bill, the Militia law, and the celebrated Religious Liberty bill, known as the Geghan bill. After his term in the legislature had expired, Mr. Geghan went to Washington, D. C., where he engaged as traveling salesman until he secured a position in the Adjutant-General's department. This he held for a few months, and then resigned to accept the office of first assistant to the Dairy and Food Commissioner of the State of Ohio, which occupied his attention from 1886 to 1890. While in the commissioner's service he visited, among other places in his district, the thriving city of North Baltimore, and, at once perceiving its advantages as a manufacturing point, he concluded to locate there. Accordingly, in June, 1887, he took an option on 156 acres of land belonging to Joseph Dirk, at \$150 per acre, and associating with himself A. L. Pfau and Col. I. Richardson, incorporated the North Baltimore Glass Co., of which he was made vice-president and director—the factory buildings being erected in the fall of the same year. In 1892, Mr. Geghan sold out his interest in these works, and engaged in general contracting, forming a company which built the North Baltimore water works, and in which he held the offices of secretary, treasurer and general manager. A year later he disposed of his stock in this company, and paved Broadway street, and also macadamized Water street, two substantial and much needed improvements. He also bought eighty acres of ground, and deeded



*John J. J. J. J.*





six acres of the same to the Zihlman Glass Company, on which to erect their plant. He assisted in organizing a company known as the Missouri Railway & Navigation Company, and spent some time in southeast Missouri looking after its interests and a tract of land he still owns there.

In 1891 Mr. Geghan, in company with G. G. Grimes, began the publication of the *North Baltimore Times*, which he later disposed of. He has now settled in North Baltimore as a contractor and oil producer, being interested in seven oil wells in the vicinity, and expects hereafter to devote his entire time and attention to these pursuits. He also put on foot the building of a railroad between Welker and North Baltimore, which will add another to the many enterprises he has conducted for the benefit of this section of Wood county. He is a man of irrepressible energy, always busy, a genial companion, and popular with all classes of society.

In 1888, Mr. Geghan married Miss Sadie Tarr, daughter of the late Levi A. Tarr, one of the first settlers of Henry township. They have one child, Nellie. Mr. Geghan is a prominent Mason, belonging to Blue Lodge, Royal Arch Masons and Royal — Council. He is also a Knight of the Red Cross and a Knight Templar.

PETER P. SWINEHART, an industrious and thorough farmer of Bloom township, in connection with his agricultural pursuits, is also engaged in operating a feedmill, near Bloom Center. He is a native of the Buckeye State, born in Hopewell township, Perry county, July 23, 1848, and there his father, Andrew Swinehart, was also born, October 29, 1824. The paternal grandfather, John Swinehart, was a native of Northumberland county, Penn., in which State his father, Andrew Swinehart, lived and died. John learned the carpenter's and cabinet maker's trades, which he followed in the Keystone State, and there married Christina Cruber, a native of the same township, a mountain separating their homes. On locating in Perry county, Ohio, in 1802, they had one daughter—Sarah—who became the wife of George Onsbough, and there died. Their family later numbered fourteen children, those living to adult age being as follows: Peter, who died in Perry county; Jacob, who died in Wyandot county, Ohio; Elizabeth, who married Jacob Cooperiole, and died in Perry county; Catherine, who wedded Jerome Stalter, and died in Wyandot county; Jonathan, who died in Portage township, Wood county; Samuel, who died in Perry county; Daniel, who died in Fulton county, Ind.; Juda, now Mrs. Jacob Lawrence, of Wyandot

county; George, a farmer of Sandusky county; and Andrew, the father of our subject. When the last named was only fourteen years old his father died; his mother survived her husband many years, and they were both buried in St. Paul's church cemetery, in Hopewell township, Perry county.

Andrew Swinehart, the father of our subject, was able to attend school only a short time, as the family was large and the parents poor, and while young he learned the trade of a plasterer. He was married in Hopewell township, Perry county, September 30, 1847, to Miss Lydia A. Stimmel, who was born there July 13, 1824, and is the daughter of Peter and Margaret (Lutz) Stimmel, who were married in Maryland, and Mrs. Swinehart was the oldest in their family of twelve children, six sons and six daughters. Mr. Stimmel, who was a farmer by occupation, died in 1864, while his wife was burned to death when past the age of ninety years, and they were both buried in Thorn township, Perry county. For ten years Mr. Swinehart made his home on his father-in-law's farm, during which time he worked at his trade, or at day's labor, and for the following six years rented a house and garden of James Parks, in Hopewell township, much of the time being employed by that gentleman. On coming to Bloom township, Wood county, in December, 1864, the family located on a farm belonging to the father's brother, though he had previously purchased land in Section 35, that township, where he built a log house into which the family moved March 28, 1865, it being the first home they ever owned. The farm then comprised forty acres of swamp land, the water being so deep in some places that a horse would be compelled to swim across, but the land has been transformed into fertile fields. In politics the father is a Democrat, but voted for Abraham Lincoln and supports the man whom he thinks best qualified for office, regardless of party affiliations. He and his wife are members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Peter P. Swinehart is the oldest in the family and he was followed by nine others born in Perry county, namely: Margaret A., born January 10, 1850, died on the 1st of March following; Christina E., born January 16, 1851, first wedded William Slater, and is now Mrs. Patrick Campbell, of Gloucester City, N. J.; Lydia A., born January 22, 1853, died on the 18th of April following; Catherine E., born May 29, 1854, is now the wife of David Wiker, of Bloom township; Andrew J., born May 30, 1856, died September 15, of the same year; John A., born October 25,

1857, died April 17, 1859; Susanna H., born September 4, 1859, is now Mrs. Nathan Denhoff, of Bloom township; Sarah Jane, born September 17, 1861, is the wife of George Parson, of North Baltimore; and Jacob H., born September 12, 1863, is also a resident of North Baltimore. Two sons were added to the family after coming to Wood county—George F., born October 19, 1865, lives in North Baltimore; and Noah A., born March 4, 1869, is at home.

In the primitive schools of his native county, Peter P. Swinehart obtained most of his education, which was completed in Wood county by attending a school taught by W. S. Richard, but failing health compelled him to lay aside his studies. He remained at home until the age of twenty-seven years as his help was needed in the development of the farm. At Findlay, Ohio, in December, 1875, was celebrated the marriage of our subject and Mrs. Staley, widow of John Staley. She is of German parentage, and bore the maiden name of Eva Helfrish. They have become the parents of three children—Oliver A., Charles H., and Matthias B. At the time of his marriage, Mr. Swinehart owned eighty acres of land in Section 23, Bloom township, two head of horses, a mule, a plow and a drag. He had agreed to pay \$2,000 for his land, and on that amount had to pay fifteen *per cent.* interest, but he went resolutely to work and soon had the indebtedness removed. On locating there only ten acres had been cleared, but now sixty acres have been placed under the plow, and a comfortable dwelling has replaced the log house which was then standing, while everything about the place denotes the thrift and enterprise of the owner. He had previously owned a sawmill in Henry township, and in the spring of 1894 established a feedmill near Bloom Center, which he is now successfully conducting. He was reared a Democrat, but voted with either of the larger parties until becoming disgusted with their practices, when he joined the Greenback party, but is not strictly partisan, voting as his judgment dictates. Mrs. Swinehart is a member of the Lutheran Church.

WILLIAM H. LEVERS was born December 17, 1825, in Franklin county, Penn., and is a son of William S. and Elizabeth (Light) Levers. The father was born on the ocean, while his parents were crossing the Atlantic, from Switzerland to America, on May 8, 1772. The grandfather, Abraham Levers, was a banker in Switzerland in comfortable circumstances. He with his wife and daughter came to the New World, and made

Philadelphia the place of their residence. William S. Levers, when a child of nine years, was bound out to a man in Lancaster, Penn., where he remained until twenty-two years of age. In early life he learned the weaver's trade, and afterward became a successful veterinary surgeon. He married Elizabeth Light, who was born in Dauphin county, Penn., and in 1845 brought his family to Ohio, his death occurring in Seneca county, May 27, 1851. His wife died near Brookfield, Stark Co., Ohio. Their children were David, who died in Brookfield, Ohio; Isaac, who died near Upper Sandusky, Ohio; Sarah, who was married and died in Illinois, leaving ten children; Solomon, who died in Wooster, Wayne Co., Ohio; Elizabeth, who became the wife of John McDowel, and died in Wooster; Joel, of Chippewa township, Wayne county; Daniel, who is living near Fulton, Ohio; Susan, wife of Ephraim Baker, of Michigan; Mrs. Liddy Hirschy; and William H., our subject.

Mr. Levers, of this sketch, was educated in the public schools of Franklin county, Penn. When a young man he learned the trade of a stone mason and plasterer, which pursuit he has followed more or less since that time. He was married May 9, 1850, in Fulton, Ohio, by Rev. Hartley, to Miss Liddy Vernon, who was born February 20, 1826, in Philadelphia, and is a daughter of Thomas H. and Mary (Ekoff) Vernon, also natives of Philadelphia. The parents both died on a farm near Bowling Green.

Mr. and Mrs. Levers took up their residence in Brookfield, Ohio, but a year later removed to a farm in that locality, on which they lived for two years. They afterward spent two years on a farm in Wayne county, and subsequently lived for one year on a farm near Tiffin, Ohio, and afterward near Hedgetown, Ohio. Going to Sandusky county, Mr. Levers there worked at his trade for two years, and in 1860 he came to Wood county, settling at Bowling Green. During the years passed there he made the first improvements upon a twenty-acre tract of land, which he had purchased. He cleared and drained this, built thereon a rude log cabin, and continued the work of improvement and cultivation until he now owns a valuable farm.

To Mr. and Mrs. Levers have been born the following children—William T., born February 20, 1851; Isaac Newton, born October 28, 1852, now an oil man of Liberty township; Mary Matilda, who was born June 17, 1855, and is the deceased wife of Joel Reeves; Emily Anna, born May 11, 1857; Liddy Ann, born October 10, 1858, now the wife of Richard Ducat, of Wood

county; Daniel Webster, born May 11, 1861, a farmer of Liberty township; Viola Belle, born August 30, 1863, now the wife of William Errett; Izora, born May 10, 1865, now the wife of Wilbur Hansen; and Precida Louisa, born February 17, 1869, now the wife of George Hansen.

Our subject has always been a staunch Republican in politics, and served for four years as trustee, while for many years he was township clerk of the school board. He belongs to the Methodist Church, and is a charitable and benevolent man, who is ever ready to extend a helping hand to the poor and needy, and to aid others less fortunate than himself. He owes his own success entirely to his energy and good management, and may truly be called a self-made man.

EDWARD S. BRYANT, of Bloomdale, the well-known lieutenant-colonel of the 2d Regiment, O. N. G., of which one company is the famous Bloomdale Rifles, and a prominent business man of this county, was born July 12, 1853, in Pittsfield, Lorain Co., Ohio.

His father, John W. Bryant, was a student at Oberlin College, where he met Miss Elvira Harmon, a descendant of one of the pioneer families of Lorain county, to whom he was married about 1847. Three children were born of this union: Warren C., Edward S., and Charles H., all of whom reside in Bloomdale. Our subject's father was a man of great natural ability and wide culture. He practiced law successfully for some years, and then having purchased the *Banner*, of Albion, Ind., he assumed editorial charge and soon made it a power in political circles. He died at Albion in 1857, and was buried there amid the sincere mourning of a wide circle of friends. Mrs. Bryant was married again, this time to Mr. Barnes, of Wellington, Ohio, but after his death she moved to Bloomdale, where she died in 1888, her remains resting in VanBuren cemetery.

Left fatherless at the age of four years, the subject of this sketch found a home with a man named Chet Smith, of LaGrange Center, Lorain county, and later with Bishop Bradley, of Pittsfield, doing such work at each place as his years permitted, and attending the district schools. At twelve he became an errand boy in the confectionery establishment of Henry Weisgerber, at Cleveland, and was soon advanced to a more responsible position. After three years he returned to Pittsfield, where his mother then lived, and began to study telegraphy at Oberlin, walking three and a half miles to and fro each morning and evening. Four months later he entered the

office of the L. S. & M. S. R. R., at Oberlin, as an apprentice, and not long after was made night operator there. Later he held the position of operator at Wauseon, Ohio, and Ligonier, Elkhart, Goshen and Kendallville, Ind., and then resigned from the service of the L. S. & M. S., receiving a letter of recommendation which made it easy for him to secure similar work elsewhere. For some years he was in the employ of the Pennsylvania R. R. Co., first at Crestline, Ohio, and then in Columbia City, Ind., and South Chicago, Ill., and when the B. & O. R. R. was completed to Chicago, he became their first operator there, remaining nine months. By this time he had become weary of the routine of office work, and prepared himself to add the duties of station agent, his first assignment to the double duty being at Cromwell, Ind. On December 13, 1875, he opened the first telegraph office at Bloomdale, holding also the position of agent in the newly established depot.

November 25, 1877, he was married to Miss Effie Wineland, a native of Hancock county, and a daughter of Daniel Wineland, a prominent business man of Bloomdale, and the senior member of the firm of Wineland Bros., operators of a sawmill there. Col. Bryant took an interest in this business, and, by the introduction of improved machinery, gave it new life, the trade increasing until he found it necessary to give up his position with the railroad. For some time he carried on the sawmill alone, until Joseph Linhart, and later S. A. Linhart, joined him, the firm name from 1881 to 1883 being Bryant & Linhart Bros. Since the retirement of Joseph Linhart the firm has been Bryant & Linhart, a name distinguished throughout trade circles for enterprise, progressive methods, and fair dealing. Col. Bryant is interested in many lines of business, and is a charter member of the Bloomdale Building and Loan Association, and an incorporator of the Diamond Oil Co., chartered in July, 1895, the first to be organized in Bloomdale. Col. and Mrs. Bryant have always taken a prominent place in the social life of Bloomdale. They have had three children: Detie, born September 23, 1879; Alma, born March 28, 1881, died at the age of two; and Clyde, born May 7, 1885.

Politically Mr. Bryant is a Republican, and has served as chairman of the Wood county central committee. He is one of the chief counselors of his party in this vicinity, and, although he seeks no favors for himself, the success of more than one candidate has been due to his efforts. Col. Bryant's connection with the renowned Bloomdale Rifles of the O. N. G., which he was

active in organizing, has given him a wide acquaintance in military circles. He served five years as captain, and had been re-elected for another term, but in April, 1893, he was elected to his present rank. He belongs to the F. & A. M., Fostoria Lodge, to the I. O. O. F., and is a charter member of the K. of P., 278, Bloomdale Lodge, where he has served in all the chairs; is colonel of the U. R. K. of P., 6th Regiment, headquarters Bowling Green, and is U. S. Deputy Marshal, Toledo District.

W. H. BENN, deceased, was one of the honored pioneers of Washington township, where he was widely and favorably known. He was a native of New York, born on January 12, 1832, and was one of the seven children of John and Elizabeth (Moore) Benn, the others being George, a veterinary surgeon, of Toledo, Ohio; Elizabeth, widow of James Bogers, of Toledo; Hannah, wife of S. Sharpot, of Toledo; John, deceased; Elias; Emily, wife of Allen Drues. The parents removed with their family from the Empire State to Huron county, Ohio, but afterward came to Wood county, where they located on a farm of eighty acres in Plain township. There they spent the remainder of their lives.

In the schools of Huron county, Ohio, W. H. Benn pursued his literary studies, and remained under the parental roof until he had attained his majority, assisting his father in the operation of the farm. When old enough he also worked as a farm hand for others. In 1845 he left Huron county, coming with his father to Plain township, Wood county, where he worked in a sawmill. In 1865 he bought a farm of forty acres in Washington township, which he improved and operated, and as his financial resources increased, added to it thirty acres more, all of which he placed under a high state of cultivation, making it one of the best farms in the locality. Neat and substantial buildings were erected thereon, and the whole place indicated the progressive spirit of the owner. Feeling that his country needed his services, he enlisted in 1861 in Company A, 144th O. V. I., under Capt. Black, and participated in all the engagements in which his regiment took part, being always found at his post of duty.

In Plain township, in July, 1856, was celebrated the marriage of W. H. Benn and Rhodie Hogue. To them were born two sons, James and John, who now make their homes in Cleveland. The mother died of consumption on August 18, 1863, after which Mr. Benn was again married in 1865 at Tontogany, his second union being with Martha Brown, a daughter of J. B.

Brown, a cooper, of Sugar Ridge. They became the parents of seven children, but two died in infancy. They are as follows: Charles W.; Jennie, wife of William Lennard, of Washington township; Addie, wife of Thomas Custer, an oil operator; Cora; William H., who resides on the homestead farm; and Emma and May, twins, who have passed away.

Mr. Benn took an active interest in school matters, serving four years as school director, and also held other offices in the township, including that of supervisor. A Democrat in politics, he gave his earnest support to the principles of the party, and his religious connections were with the Presbyterian Church. An honest, industrious man and highly respected citizen, his death was deeply regretted by all who knew him. He passed away in Washington township.

THOMAS GOODENOUGH, a wealthy farmer of Weston township, was born in Wiltshire, England, December 10, 1845, his parents coming to this country, in 1849, when he was four years old. They settled at Greenfield, Huron Co., and there he received his education in the common schools.

When old enough our subject learned the trade of a blacksmith, which he followed for three years, and then learned the boiler maker's trade at Brownell's boiler works, in Dayton, Ohio. He was employed there until 1873, when he came to Plain township, this county, and bought ninety acres of land. This he improved, but subsequently sold, and removed to Weston township, purchasing the Ward farm of 100 acres. This property Mr. Goodenough has placed under a high state of cultivation, draining, tiling it, and otherwise making it a model farm. He has erected a comfortable residence, and has one of the best barns in the county, which cost \$1,500, also a grain barn which was built at a cost of \$500, and a fine windmill. He has a small orchard of choice assorted fruit trees set out, and, taking all in all, the place is one of the best arranged and most complete in the township.

Mr. Goodenough was the first boiler maker in Wood county, and followed his trade, at the same time managing his farm, for seventeen years, being known, also, as the most extensive hog raiser in the county. He experienced many of the hardships of pioneer life in his early days, and, among other experiences, tells of the time when, for a year, he was a sailor on the great lakes, sailing most of the time between Grand Haven and Manistee, Mich. He is a man who



*Thomas Goodenough Mary E. Goodenough*



has worked hard, has been energetic and saving, and well deserves the prosperity which has crowned his efforts, and enabled him to spend the remainder of his life in ease and comfort.

Mr. Goodenough was married, April 14, 1877, to Miss Mary E. Dotts, of Bowling Green, Ohio, and three children have blessed their union: Hattie, born August 14, 1878, wife of George Gloor, a farmer in Milton township; Robert, born March 3, 1881; and Thomas S., born March 24, 1889. Mrs. Goodenough's parents were Jacob and Ann (Battin) Dotts, the former born about 1816, in Pennsylvania, the latter in 1817, in Columbiana county, Ohio. They were married in Ohio, and had seven children: John Y., a farmer; Eli B., who enlisted in the Civil war, in Company K, 111th O. V. I., and died in hospital; Osborn S., a farmer in Defiance county, Ohio (he was also a soldier in the Civil war, serving with the 130th O. V. I.); Jefferson S., who is a farmer in Weston township; Sarah P., deceased; Mary E., born November 29, 1855, at Bowling Green, wife of our subject; and Cynthia M., wife of S. Johnson, a farmer near Weston.

In politics our subject is a Republican, and was for five years supervisor of Plain township. He served as clerk of the school board for nine years, and was also a member of the township school board in Sub-District No. 9. He is a Master Mason, belonging to Lodge No. 560, F. & A. M., at Weston. The family are all respectable citizens. Mr. Goodenough is a self-made man, and he is highly respected and esteemed in the community, where he is regarded as a most worthy citizen.

**WILL S. BAIRD.** The subject of this personal sketch is one of the successful and progressive farmers within the borders of Bloom township, and one of the representative men of this section. He has made his special field of industry a success, and highly esteemed and respected by those who know him best. He is the second child in the family of Shelman and Keziah (Locy) Baird, and was born in Perry township, Wood county, December 17, 1852.

Mr. Baird was educated in District No. 4, of his native township, and remained under the parental roof until eighteen years of age, when he hired out as a farm hand; previous to this time, however, he had begun to learn the carpenter's trade, but not liking the business he gave it up. Later he resumed carpentering, working one season for C. J. Updegraff. On April 18, 1878, he wedded Miss Addie Pelton, who was born in La Grange, Lorain Co., Ohio,

August 14, 1861, and is a daughter of James and Lydia (Beaumont) Pelton. On coming to Wood county, her parents first located in Bloom township, later moved to Perry township, and died at North Baltimore, Ohio.

On Section 18, Perry township, Mr. Baird began housekeeping, having scarcely any furniture or cooking utensils, and those he had, being second-handed. He later purchased a cow, span of horses, and a buggy. At the end of a year he removed to his father's farm, which he cultivated on the shares for nearly two years, when he went to Bloomdale, there being employed as a laborer by Bryant & Linhart for the same length of time. During that time he was able to save enough money to purchase two lots, and he built a house in Bloomdale, which he sold in 1883, removing to Section 16, Perry township, where he rented a house and a small piece of ground, while he worked in the sawmill of his father-in-law. In the spring of 1884, Mr. Baird purchased eighty acres of land in Section 13, Bloom township, from Andrew Emerine, for which he went in debt \$1,800, and the first season, which was very wet, his crops failed; but he did not allow himself to become discouraged, hoping for better days. Fortunately he had purchased his place of a gentleman who was very lenient with him, and instead of forcing the payment of \$200 annually, he allowed the debt to go for three years without any payments. Our subject secured outside work which enabled him to earn considerable, and as his land was further developed it became more productive. It is now entirely free from debt, and in 1895 a substantial home was erected thereon. With the exception of twenty acres, the land has all been cleared, thoroughly tiled and drained, and now bountiful harvests yield a ready return for the care and labor expended upon the place.

Mr. Baird and wife may be properly classed among the self-made citizens of Wood county, who, by the exercise of their own industry and perseverance, have not only gained for themselves a home, but have materially assisted in the progress and development of the country around them. They have always enjoyed life, taking many pleasures that others in their circumstances would have probably denied themselves. His first vote was cast with the Democratic party, later he became a Prohibitionist, and is now a Republican, though not bound by party ties, voting for the best man regardless of politics. He is a charter member of West Millgrove K. of P. Lodge, No. 445, while himself and wife are active members of the Disciples Church.



F. E. WHITKER, a well-known grocery merchant of Bowling Green, a member of the firm of Bankey & Whitker, is a strictly first-class business man, reliable and energetic. He was born at Weston, Wood county, November 2, 1867, and is the offspring of excellent stock of staunch German ancestry, his paternal grandfather having come from the Fatherland. He located near Pemberville, Wood county, where John Whitker, the father of our subject, was reared. At Toledo, Ohio, was celebrated the marriage of the latter and Miss Elizabeth Matzinger, a native of Switzerland, who had come with her people to the New World and located in that city. After their marriage the parents made their home at Weston, where the father engaged in the lumber business for ten years, and then removed to his present farm, two and a half miles northwest of that village. Our subject is the oldest child, the others being Lillie, John, Maggie, Abbie, Alice, May and Mertie.

In the place of his nativity, Mr. F. E. Whitker grew to manhood, and attended the public schools there until January 1, 1884. On laying aside his text books he became a clerk in the store of H. C. Uhlman. In 1893 he came to Bowling Green, where he entered business as a co-partner in the firm of Bankey & Whitker, and they have become the leading dealers in groceries, crockery and queensware in the place.

On June 15, 1892, Mr. Whitker was married to Miss Maude Royce, who was born November 29, 1871. Socially, he holds membership with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Royal Arcanum. In business, he is energetic and trustworthy, and has gained the confidence of the people by his honesty and integrity.

ABRAHAM COEN, a well-known retired agriculturist of Bowling Green, was born in Knox county, Ohio, July 27, 1817.

His father, William Coen, was a native of Pennsylvania, but came early in life to Knox county, where he was engaged in farming many years. He was married near Wheeling, W. Va., to Miss Sarah Brokaw, who was born in New York State, in 1800. In religious belief, they were Presbyterians, and they exemplified their faith in faithful, practical, right-doing. Their later years were spent in Hancock county, where our subject's mother died in 1840. His father died in 1853, at the age of sixty-six. They had nine children, five of whom are yet living: (1) Cecelia, deceased, formerly Mrs. Robert Black, of Tontogany; (2) Ann, Mrs. I. S. Wilson, of Coles county, Ill.; (3) Abraham, our subject; (4)

John, a prominent resident of Bowling Green; (5) Margaret, deceased, formerly the wife of John Gray, of Cloud county, Kans.; (6) James, deceased, a resident of Indiana; (7) William, a well-known citizen of Bowling Green; (8) Ebenezer, of Wood county, Ohio, fell in the battle of Monocacy, in the Union army; (9) George Coen, of Indiana.

Mr. Coen lived with his parents in Knox county until the age of fourteen, when they moved to Hancock county. His early education was obtained in a log school house near his home, and his time was mainly devoted to farm work and getting out logs for the market. On August 28, 1838, he married Miss Sarah Hall, who was born December 30, 1818, in Harrison county, Ohio. The first years of their married life were passed in Hancock county, but in 1849, they came to Plain township, Wood county, and bought a farm, which they cultivated until the development of the oil industry in that locality resulted in the opening of four wells upon their estate. A few years ago they moved to Bowling Green to enjoy the fruits of their labor, and here Mrs. Coen sank into the unbroken repose of death, December 20, 1894, after over fifty-six years of married life. Eleven children were born to them, six of whom grew to adult age: (1) Harriet married Andrew Rush, of Bowling Green, and both died, leaving a family of five children—Flora, Erva, Benham, Boyd and Newell. (2) Mary married Henry Goodenough, a leading citizen of Plain township, whose biography appears elsewhere in this volume; five children were born to them—May, Ruth, Sarah, Harry A., and Walter. (3) Aaron died as the result of exposure and hardship in the army. He was a member of Company C, 21st O. V. I., and had re-enlisted at the end of his first term, when his health gave way and he was sent home. (4) Nancy married Thomas E. Adams, of Findlay, Ohio. (5) Delilah is the wife of A. Chapman, of Bowling Green. They have four children—Fred, Anna, Arthur and Ralph. (6) Rachel married William Hopper, of Plain township, and has three children—George, Perry and Virnil.

Mr. Coen is a prominent member of the Presbyterian Church, and politically is a Republican. His first vote was cast for William H. Harrison. He is a man of remarkably fine physique, and has usually weighed 220 pounds, his "working weight." His declining years are free from care, but the passing away of early associates brings of necessity the chill of loneliness, and a longing for reunion. Notwithstanding the esteem of later friends, and the affection of his children he "is

like a giant oak, which, having outlived the storms which laid his companions low, now stands alone."

PETER KRAMP, a retired agriculturist, now residing at Bowling Green, was born in Nassau, Prussia, January 17, 1835. His parents both died when he was quite young, and no record of them has been kept. He was one of six children, the others being Adam, a miner, who died in Germany, at an advanced age; David, who also lived to an old age, and died in Germany; Elizabeth married Philip Schid, and died in Germany; Jennie married Henry Menor, and died in the old country; Catherine is the twin sister of our subject, married Ernest Gross, and lives in Germany.

When Mr. Kramp first came to America, in 1854, he took passage in a sailing vessel, and was thirty-two days in making the voyage. In 1894, when he visited his sister in Germany, he made the trip in eleven days, and the return trip in ten days.

After the death of his parents, our subject and his sister were reared by their eldest brother. Mr. Kramp attended the public schools, and at an early age worked at and learned the tailor's trade. When he came to America, he landed in New York, and thence went direct to Sandusky City, Ohio. At the end of the journey he was indebted four dollars to a friend who had assisted him to reach his destination. He worked on a farm at first, for six dollars per month, and afterwards for \$160 per year, until he got married. After his marriage he rented a small farm in Erie county, Ohio, the owner of the farm furnishing a team to do the plowing and heavy work, Mr. Kramp being able only to furnish a horse to do the light work. His wife was a great help to him, and through her assistance and economy, at the end of a year they were able to buy a team, and then rented a larger farm, upon which they lived until they came to Wood county, in 1869. At this time they had saved \$1,000, which they paid on an eighty-acre tract in Plain township, which they had purchased for \$4,000. After living on this land for eight years, Mr. Kramp exchanged it for 160 acres in the same township, which he yet owns. There are about fifteen producing oil wells on this farm, which yield a comfortable income to the owner. He removed from his farm to Bowling Green about three years since, and has built a comfortable residence in the west part of the village, where he now lives in contentment and quiet enjoyment.

He was married, February 22, 1861, to Miss

Christiana Seel, who was born in Germany, November 13, 1840. Twelve children were born to them, as follows: (1) Henry, now living on his father's farm, born November 13, 1861, married Miss Ida Plowright, and has six children, viz.: Ralph, Mabel, Lena, Clarence, Wallace and Esther. (2) William, born May 18, 1864, married Miss Lydia Wright, and has three children, viz.: Floyd, Leah and Lucy. (3) Philip Peter, born June 7, 1866, married Miss Ada Hartman, and has two children, Edna and Merle. (4) Frederick, born May 22, 1868, died December 9, 1891. (5) Peter, born July 17, 1870, married Miss Vallie Pulse, and has one child, May. (6) George, born August 13, 1872, married Miss Ettie Wright, a sister of his brother William's wife, and has one child, Burl. (7) Louise, born December 9, 1874, died February 9, 1875. (8) Charley, born January 15, 1876, was married in 1895 to Miss Mattie Borland, who died in 1896; one child was born to them, but is now dead. (9) Christiana, born April 11, 1878, lives with her parents. (10) Edward, born April 10, 1880, and (11) John A., born May 28, 1882, reside with their parents. (12) Reuben, the youngest, was born September 2, 1885.

Mr. Kramp belongs to the Evangelical Association, and in politics is a Prohibitionist. He is one of the representative citizens of Wood county, and is enjoying the reward of a well-spent, industrious life.

WILLIAM NELSON is a representative farmer of Center township, where he owns a fine farm of 250 acres. His operations have been marked with uniform success, and in addition to being a thorough and skillful agriculturist, he is a business man of more than ordinary capacity, wise and judicious in his investments, and taking advantage of the facilities afforded at this day and age by improved machinery, and all the other appliances, required by the modern tiller of the soil. Mahoning county, Ohio, was the earliest home of our subject, where he was born June 30, 1820. His parents, James and Sarah (Evenings) Nelson, were natives of Buffalo Valley, Union Co., Penn., where the father engaged in farming until coming to Wood county to make his home with his son. Here his death occurred in 1873, and his wife, who had preceded him to the world beyond, died in 1865. In their family were ten children, named as follows: Jane, Liddie, Jonathan, Katherine, William, James, Mary, John D., Sarah and Jesta.

William Nelson received his education in the district schools, while his farm training was re-

ceived on the old homestead. At the age of fourteen years he began selling goods on the road, which occupation he continued to follow for sixteen years, during which time he managed by strict economy to save enough money to purchase 160 acres of land in Hancock county, Ohio. A portion of the farm had been placed under cultivation, and to its improvement he devoted his time and attention until 1865, when he disposed of that property and removed to Missouri, remaining there a short time. Coming back to Ohio, he located in Center township, where he bought 100 acres, half of which had been improved. He cleared the balance, and as his financial resources increased, added 150 acres to his farm. Starting out in life with very little capital—in fact, nothing but his strong hands and resolute will—the present condition of Mr. Nelson, socially and financially, reflects great credit upon him, both as an agriculturist and a business man.

In August, 1852, Mr. Nelson was married in Hancock county, the lady of his choice being Miss Rebecca Bowman, who was born March 20, 1830, and is a daughter of Henry Bowman, a prominent farmer of that county. Eight children were born of this union, all of whom survive, and in order of birth are as follows: James L., born July 23, 1853, is a farmer, and, by his marriage with Ellen Shinew, has eight children; William H., born July 26, 1855, carries on agricultural pursuits in Gratiot county, Mich.; Sarah E., born January 4, 1858, is the wife of Thomas Shinew, a farmer of Portage township; Liddie E., born August 31, 1860, is the wife of James Davis, a contractor and builder, of Plain township, Wood county; John A., born May 24, 1864, is a farmer living on the homestead; Louisa J., born October 10, 1866, is the wife of George Crom, a farmer of Michigan; Elmert, born August 7, 1868, married Della Stacy; and Emma R., born November 28, 1872, is the wife of Arthur Vermillia, a farmer of Henry county, Ohio.

Mr. Nelson still resides upon his farm, which is now conducted by his son John, but has laid aside business cares, resting in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil. He has liberally aided his children in securing good homes, and to all objects for the good of the community, he has been a cheerful and liberal contributor. His early education was quite limited, but his natural intelligence and habits of observation have served to keep him well informed upon matters of general interest. He is politically at true-blue Republican, and there are few people held in higher

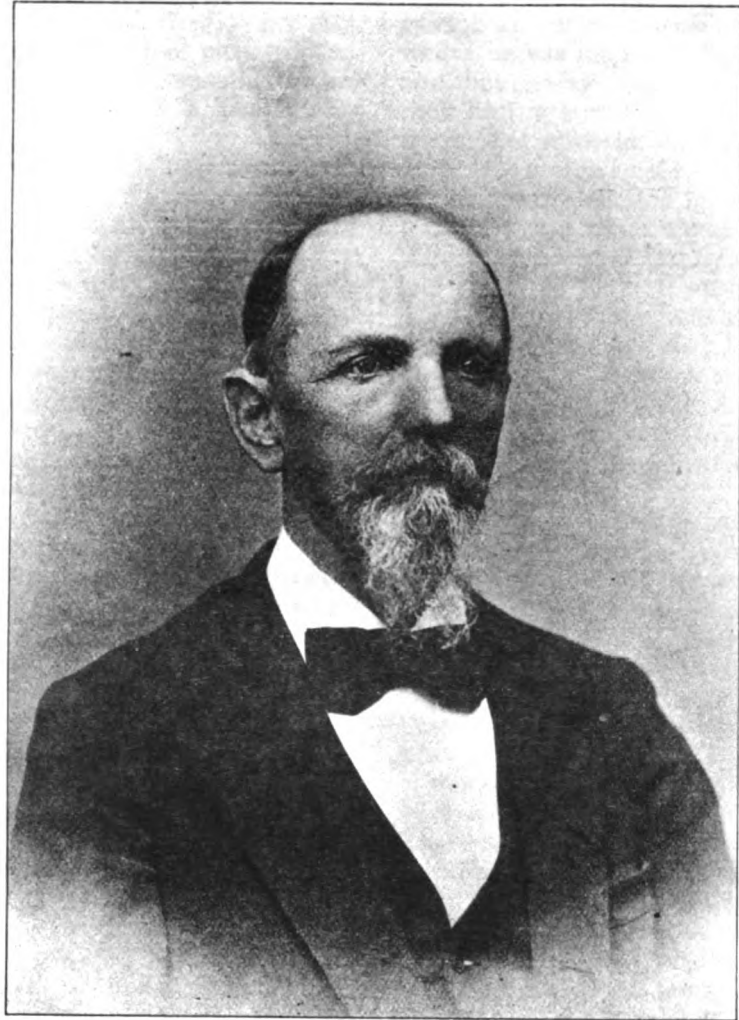
esteem than William Nelson and his excellent wife, who has been his faithful and sympathizing companion for upwards of forty-four years.

SAMUEL CASE, one of the most highly respected and influential citizens of Bowling Green, was born in Wayne county, Ohio, March 25, 1832. His great-grandfather, Joshua Case, was born either on Long Island or in Connecticut, and was a farmer by occupation. He reared a family of six children, of whom Augustus, our subject's grandfather, was born July 17, 1759, on Long Island, was there married and removed to New Jersey in 1792.

Augustus Case raised six children, two of whom were born in New Jersey, after which the family removed to Greene county, Penn. The father was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and received a pension until the time of his death, which took place in Wayne county, Ohio, in 1852, he having reached the advanced age of ninety-three years. The record of his children is as follows: Anna married John Culberson, and they removed to Lawrence county, Ill., where she died; Samuel Y. comes next; John B. died in Indiana; Elizabeth married William Kean, of Wayne county, Ohio; Onesimus died in Wayne county; and Joshua died in Wayne county when thirty-two years old. All of those deceased left families. Dr. Augustus Case, of Miami county, Ind., is a son of Onesimus, and Harvey B. Case, of Loudonville, Ohio, is a son of Joshua.

Samuel Y., the father of our subject, was born September 22, 1796, in Sussex county, N. J., and, as will be seen, was two years of age when, in 1798, the family removed to Pennsylvania. In 1814 he came with his father to Wayne county, Ohio, where he was married, August 20, 1817, to Jane Eakright. The young couple at once settled on a farm in Plain township, Wayne county, which had been given to Mr. Case by his father, and which was their home for forty-five years, and until the death of the husband, which took place in 1870. Mrs. Case was born in Monongahela county, Penn., in 1795, and after the death of her husband made her home with our subject until 1876, when she, too, passed away. This worthy couple were both lifelong members of the Methodist Church, with which body they had worshiped over sixty years. A church was built upon their farm, which was named for them, and in the burying-ground adjacent many members of their family are laid to rest.

Nine children were born to Samuel Y. Case and his wife, of whom the following mention is made: Milton B. died at Grand Junction, Colo.,



*S. Case*



March 29, 1896; he reared a family of sixteen children. Augustus B. died in Cass county, Neb., in 1865. Youngs C. died in Bowling Green March 22, 1894. Reason B. lives on a part of the old farm in Wayne county. Aaron B. was a farmer in Schuyler county, Mo., where he died in 1886. John B. is a farmer in Sheridan county, Neb. Samuel, our subject, comes next. Elizabeth J. is the wife of M. A. Faws, of Bowling Green. W. H. H. died near Lyons, Colo., December 10, 1885.

The subject of this sketch spent his early days on his father's farm in Wayne county, and when eighteen years old began teaching school, which, in connection with farming, he carried on until he was twenty-eight years old, in the meantime, however, also attending school for two terms in Loudonville, also the O. W. U. at Delaware. After his marriage in 1860 he engaged in the mercantile business for one year at Big Prairie, Wayne county, afterward proceeding to Crestline, Crawford county, where he conducted a dry-goods store for six years. He then removed to Portage, Wood county, keeping a store there for one year, when, in 1868, he took up his residence in Bowling Green, and, in connection with Addison Fay, opened a store which they conducted some four years. Our subject then sold out his interest, and spent some time in traveling, after which he bought land on Liberty Prairie, in this county.

In 1874 Mr. Case was elected auditor of Wood county, on the Republican ticket, and served seven consecutive years, after which he engaged in the real-estate business, to which he has devoted the most of his attention up to the present time. For two years he was the secretary of the Bowling Green Natural Gas Co., in which he had an interest, and has been largely interested in the production of oil and the development of the oil field in his county. He received ninety-seven votes in the Republican State Convention, held in Columbus in 1881, for member of the Board of Public Works, and was only defeated because of his location.

Mr. Case was married September 6, 1860, to Miss Mary E. McMahan, who was born May 23, 1840, in Jeromesville, Ashland Co., Ohio. Of this union four children have been born, namely: Laura May, who married Rev. Lemuel Lee Warner; he died December 19, 1888, at Genoa, leaving two children—Marie L. and Donald C. Myron L. married Agnes Boyd; he is cashier of the National Bank at Dunkirk, Ind.; this couple have one daughter—Marjorie. Rosella C. is the wife of Rev. Elmer E. McCammon, pastor of the

Methodist Episcopal Church at Marysville, Ohio; they have two children—John W. and Myron B. Samuel R. married Kate, only child of Dr. Whitehead; he is a merchant tailor in Bowling Green.

Mr. Case has been an important factor in the growth and development of the city and county, where he has made his home for so many years, and has always used his influence to promote their best interests. He took an active part in raising the subscription for the building of the T. & O. C. railway through Bowling Green, and has materially assisted in various other public enterprises. He was a member of the school board some eleven years, and a justice of the peace for one term in Plain township. He has been a consistent member of the Methodist Church since sixteen years of age, and his upright, honorable life is an example which any young man would do well to follow. He possesses the love and esteem of all who know him, and wields a powerful influence for good throughout the community.

NATHAN HOWARD MILLS, one of the leading and honored citizens of Wood county, prominent in business, political and social circles, was born in Perry county, Ohio, June 1, 1862, and is a son of Greenbury Mills. His father was born in Maryland, August 19, 1823, and when a boy left his native State, removing with his parents to Perry county, Ohio, the family locating on a farm near New Lexington. Before the war the father of our subject removed to Hancock county, where he was employed as a farm hand for a few years. There he was married in 1843, and soon after returned to Perry county, where he resided until 1862, when he went with his family to Hancock county, taking up his residence near Findlay. In 1871 he came to Wood county, and purchased forty acres of wild land in Jackson township. Part of the the town of Hoytville now stands upon this place, and the first grocery store there was built upon the father's land. Mr. Mills at once began to clear and improve his farm, and some years later erected thereon a comfortable dwelling, which he made his place of abode until his death, which occurred April 12, 1895. Mrs. Mills died August 17, 1891. She was a kind and faithful wife and mother, and dearly beloved by all who knew her. She was an active worker in the Christian Church, and the father also held membership with that Church. In politics he was a stanch Democrat, and was an honored and esteemed citizen.

Mr. and Mrs. Mills had a family of eleven children, namely: Mary, wife of T. J. Down-

ham. of Jackson township; John T., a farmer of Jackson township; Delilah Jane, wife of W. M. Clarke, of Arkansas; Catherine, wife of John Eaken, of Hoytville; James E., a carpenter of Hoytville; William H., of Swanton, Ohio; Liddy M., wife of A. P. Kiger, of Hoytville; Nathan H.; Lucinda H., wife of John Embrey, of Athens county, Ohio; Henry C., of Hoytville; and Sarah, who died at the age of sixteen years. Our subject was only a year old when the family removed to Hancock county, Ohio, and a child of eight when they came to Wood county. He acquired his education in the district schools of these two counties; but at the age of fourteen left the school room to learn the harder duties of practical business life. He then entered the employ of the Dewey Stave Company, with which he has since been connected, working his way steadily upward, until since April, 1892, he has served as superintendent. Fidelity to duty is numbered among his chief characteristics, and was the secret of his advancement.

In Hoytville, on October 27, 1882, Mr. Mills married Miss Amy C. Wall, who was born February 4, 1862, in Hancock county, Ohio, daughter of Henry B. and Mary Jane (Green) Wall. They now have three children—William W., Mabel G., and Arnold E. They began their domestic life in Hoytville, Mr. Mills erecting a home close to his place of business, and there resided until June, 1895, when he sold his dwelling and removed to the old homestead. His business career has been one of success, and he now has considerable capital out at interest.

In his political affiliations he is a stalwart Republican, and in 1895 was elected mayor of Hoytville, but his pressing business duties forced him to resign. He has served as councilman for two years, and in all possible ways has promoted his county's welfare. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias fraternity, has filled all of the chairs, and represented the local lodge in the Grand Lodge. He also holds a life insurance policy in the Endowment Rank, K. P., and is secretary of Section 1,498. He has been dependent entirely upon his own resources since the age of fourteen years, and is the architect of his own fortune. Upon the solid foundation of diligence, enterprise, and sound judgment, he has erected the superstructure of success, and to-day is a substantial citizen of the community.

DAVID H. WIRICK, who has lived retired in Jerry City since the spring of 1891, is one of the successful self-made farmers of Wood county. He is a native of Ohio, born May 15, 1835, in

Monroe township, Richland county, son of Henry and Catherine (Spade) Wirick, who had a family of ten children—seven sons and three daughters. Henry Wirick was born in Pennsylvania, and learned the trade of cabinet maker in Baltimore when a young man. He was married in Pennsylvania, where he lived for a time, moving from that State to Ohio in pioneer days, and locating in Richland county, where his wife died. He subsequently removed to Wyandot county, this State, where he passed his remaining days, dying at the home of his daughter Sarah; he and his wife rest side by side in the cemetery in Monroe township, Richland county. Mr. Wirick was a soldier in the war of 1812. He was a Democrat in politics, and in religious faith was an adherent of the Swedenborgian Church.

Our subject was the sixth child and fifth son of his father's large family. During his boyhood he attended the subscription schools then in vogue in the home neighborhood, and received a thorough training to agriculture under his father, working at home until he reached his majority. On commencing life for himself he worked for from three shillings to fifty cents a day and board. On November 18, 1859, he was married, in Richland county, to Mary A. Smith, a native of that county, who was born November 15, 1834, daughter of John H. Smith, and the following spring the young couple came to Wood county, where they commenced housekeeping. They made the trip by team, and on their arrival located on an eighty-acre tract which he had purchased, situated in Section 8, Bloom township, and which cost \$800. Mr. Wirick paid down \$200 of this amount, and settled the remainder in installments of \$50, so it will be seen that he did not have an over-abundance of capital with which to begin. The land was timber covered, and the five acres which had been partly cleared, were, if anything, in a worse condition than the remainder. A log cabin was the only dwelling on the place, and they commenced in true pioneer style, Mr. Wirick working steadily until he had transformed the place from a wilderness to a fertile, productive farm. In 1888 he had an attack of "la grippe," which undermined his health so much as to unfit him for active labor, and he has since lived retired, having removed to his pleasant home in Jerry City, in the spring of 1891. He acquired a comfortable competence, and was able to give to each of his two sons an eighty-acre farm.

To David H. and Mary A. Wirick were born three children, viz.: Francis M., who is a farmer of Bloom township; Laura C., who died

in infancy; and Charles, who is also a farmer in Bloom township. The mother of these passed from earth April 9, 1870, and was buried in Bloom Chapel cemetery, and Mr. Wirick wedded, for his second wife, Mrs. Lavina Edgar, widow of Hector Edgar, and daughter of John Davis, of Henry township, Wood county. She died June 3, 1880, without issue, and was laid to rest in North Baltimore cemetery. December 28, 1882, Mr. Wirick was again married, this time, in Bloom township, to Mrs. Sarah (Boyd) Swope, a native of Jackson township, Seneca county; no children have come to this union. Mr. Wirick is a most highly esteemed citizen, and he is as well liked for his kindness of heart as for his integrity and industry. Possessed of good common sense and judgment, he was an influential man in his community, and served as trustee and constable in Bloom township. He is a Democrat in political faith, but usually votes for the best man, regardless of politics.

WILLIAM H. MINTON, one of the pioneers of Wood county, now an honored resident of Plain Center, Plain township, was born March 7, 1828, in Morris county, N. J., where his ancestors had settled at an early period.

His grandfather, Nathan Minton, was a soldier in the war of 1812, and his great-grandfather, Isaac Johnston, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. His father, Jacob Minton, was born February 26, 1796, and was in early life a wagon maker. He married Miss Philetta Willison, also a native of New Jersey, born September 27, 1798, and, in 1834, they moved to Ohio, traveling part of the way by water. They stopped for a short time at Fort Miami, and then after a few months at the old missionary station on the banks of the Maumee river, twenty miles above Toledo, they settled upon land in Plain township, Wood county, where they established their home in the clearing. They were both members of the Presbyterian Church, of Morristown, N. J. (Rev. Albert Barnes, pastor), but after coming west they united with the Plain Congregational Church, of which they remained throughout life, faithful and active members. Before the war issues arose, Mr. Minton, Sr., was a Whig, and then became a Republican, and later joined the Prohibition party. He died April 6, 1884, followed two years and a half later by his wife, who breathed her last on the eve of her eighty-eighth birthday. They had eight children: Hannah M. (deceased) married Martin Warner, of Tontogany, now an elder in the Presbyterian Church; Robert B. died in Carlinville, Ill.; and

was a professor in Blackburn University at the time of his death; Nathan W. lives in Washington county, Ky.; William H.; Sarah (deceased); Martha B. is the wife of Luke Carr, of Bowling Green; Jacob was a soldier in the Civil war in Company H, 67th O. V. I., and was killed at Fort Wagner; Philetta died when four months old.

Our subject, who is the fourth child of this family, spent his boyhood upon his father's farm, and attended the neighboring schools. Later he studied for one year in the academy at Castalian Springs, Tenn. On October 23, 1850, he married Miss Sallie S. Woodbury, who was born in Falmouth, Mass., December 15, 1832. Their seven children are all living. Benjamin H. is a photographer at Bellevue, Huron county; he married Miss Eliza Clark. Alice J. married Fred Smedley, of Berea, Ohio, who is a graduate of Oberlin College and a photographer, and has four children—Grace, Ruth, Clifford, and Bessie. Lillie C. married Henry A. Ross, of Caldwell, Kans., and has four sons—Minton, Harry, Marshall, and Elbert. Charlotte M. is the wife of Thaddeus W. Heermans, a machinist of Evanston, Ill.; they have two children—Thomas and Miriam. Henry M. is a captain in the Salvation Army in the Hawaiian Islands. Jacob D. lives in Enid, O. T.; he married Miriam Lee, of Kansas City, and has one son—Harvey L. Mabel married Edwin Munn, of Portage, Ohio, and has one child—Lelia F.

Mr. Minton served his country during the Civil war by enlisting in Company B, 144th O. V. I. Both he and his wife are members of the Plain Congregational Church, with which Mr. Minton united at the age of fourteen. He is a prominent Prohibitionist, and has been a delegate to several State conventions, and his integrity and devotion to his principles win the respect of even political opponents.

IRA B. BANKS, deceased. The subject of this sketch, formerly a leading business man of Wood county, was born in New York State December 4, 1826. He came west early in life, locating first in Woodville, Sandusky county, and, later, on a farm near by, at what is now known as Banks' Corners.

In 1864 he came to Wood county, and started a mercantile business at Pemberville, which in 1865, he moved to Weston, where a few years afterward Mr. H. C. Uhlman became his junior partner. The business was confined to general merchandise, and finally limited to dry goods. Mr. Banks was an active agent in the development of trade in his vicinity, and his



sterling qualities of mind and heart made him friends wherever he was known. His death, which occurred October 21, 1891, was widely mourned by a wide circle of acquaintances. His mother (who resides at Elmore, Ohio), his wife and five children survive him. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church, and had for many years given generous support to its work. In politics he was a Republican, and he belonged to Phoenix Lodge, F. & A. M., at Perrysburg.

Mr. Banks was married, in Fremont, Ohio, to Miss Jemima Smith, who was born in Essex county, N. J., August 10, 1834. She was the daughter of John and Catherine Smith, who came from New Jersey to Ohio in 1851 and settled near Woodville, where their last days were spent. Mrs. Banks still resides in Weston, and with her sons conducts the old business under the firm name of I. B. Banks Co. Her eldest son is Fred J. (2) Bradley D., born March 26, 1858, was educated in the Weston schools, and for some time clerked for his father—in 1880 taking a one-half interest in the hardware business. In 1884 he assumed charge of the branch hardware store at McClure, Henry county; but four years later sold out and returned to Weston. He is non-partisan in politics, and, fraternally, is a member of the F. & A. M. (3) George R., born October 20, 1862, was educated in the Weston schools. He has been connected with the store from boyhood, clerking there prior to his father's death. At that time, having been appointed executor of the estate, by his father's will, he took full charge of the business, which he has ever since conducted with eminent success, and in a manner highly creditable to himself. He is a stockholder in the Exchange Bank, and, though yet a young man, is regarded as a leader in business circles. Politically he is a Republican, and is at present serving his second term as village treasurer. Socially, he is a member of the K. O. T. M., at Weston. (4) John B. is in the furniture and undertaking business at Perry, O. T. (5) Julia is the wife of L. E. Long, of Deshler, Ohio. The Banks family have always been noted for sound business judgment and a spirit of enterprise, and the present generation are worthy representatives of the old stock.

LEWIS DIENST, one of Wood county's prominent farmers, and residing in Portage township, was born on a farm in Upper Canada, December 10, 1834. His father was born in Germany, and when a young man crossed the Atlantic to Canada, where he met and married Miss Barbara Unsicker, also a native of Germany, who came with her

parents to America during her early girlhood. He died when our subject was a young lad, leaving but two children: Lewis, and Daniel, who is now engaged in farming near Lincoln, in Platte county, Neb. The mother afterward became the wife of Nicholas Dienst, and our subject has always borne the name of his step-father. Six children were born by the second union, namely: Eliza, wife of Rufus Sumner, of Trumbull county, Ohio; Nicholas, a mechanic and farmer living in Portage township, Wood county; Mrs. Barbara Jones, of Akron, Ohio; John, a farmer of Kansas; Henry, an agriculturist of Michigan; and one that died in infancy.

Our subject was only about two years old when he accompanied his mother and step-father to the United States. They made their way to Cleveland, Ohio, thence to Sandusky county, and subsequently removed to Lucas county. The year 1847 witnessed their arrival in Wood county, and they located in the town of Portage, where Mr. Dienst, Sr., purchased a house and lot. He was a tailor by trade, and followed that business throughout the greater part of his life. He passed away in Portage many years ago; his wife died in 1854.

The educational privileges which Lewis Dienst received were very limited. He was fourteen years of age before he began to learn the alphabet; then walked a quarter of a mile to the home of Henry Hoskins, to receive instruction, and subsequently attended the schools of Portage. Through experience and observation he has become a well-informed man, but is self-educated as well as self-made. He began to earn his living by working as a farm hand for Collister Haskins, at \$6 per month and board. His wages were afterward increased from time to time until, on attaining his majority, he was receiving \$14 per month and board. He remained in the employ of Mr. Haskins fifteen consecutive years. Trustworthy and reliable, he had the unqualified confidence of that gentleman, as is well indicated by his long service. He then operated the farm on shares for a few years, after which he purchased forty acres of prairie land in Liberty township, continuing its cultivation some four years. The labors of Mr. Dienst were then interrupted by his service in the Union army. On August 6, 1862, he enlisted at Portage, in Company K, 111th O. V. I. During his service he was once slightly wounded, but remained until the close of the war, and took part in every engagement in which his regiment participated. He received a wound in his left shoulder at the battle of Franklin, Tenn., and several times his



**LEWIS DIENST.**



**MRS. ELIZABETH DIENST.**



clothes were pierced with bullets. He served as sergeant, and was promoted from first sergeant to second lieutenant, April 12, 1864, and was first lieutenant at close of the war, or when his regiment was discharged. The war having ended, he was mustered out at Cleveland, Ohio, July 27, 1865, and at once returned to his home.

In the fall of 1861, in Trumbull county, Ohio, Mr. Dienst was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Shaffer, and to them have been born four children: Albert, who became a conductor on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, lost his health through exposure in that service, and died (a Christian man) at the age of twenty-four; Altha A. is the wife of Curtis Munn, of Portage, Ohio; Jennie E. is the wife of John Friend, of Rudolph, Ohio; one child died in infancy.

Before going to the war Mr. Dienst sold his first farm, and in the fall after his return he purchased 128 acres in Portage township, a wild and unimproved tract, but with characteristic energy he began its development. His first home was a log cabin, 16 x 20 feet, which he helped to build during his boyhood. He now has a large and comfortable frame residence, and a well-improved farm of fifty-two acres, having sold the remainder of the property. He also owns 392 acres of land in Sheridan county, Kans., situated within two miles of the county seat, Hoxie (in this vicinity Albert L. Dienst pre-empted seventy-two acres, and it was there he died). Success has attended his enterprising efforts, and his prosperity is the just reward of his labors. In politics he is a stalwart Republican. He has been offered various offices, but declined to serve, though he acted as assessor some four years, has been school director of the corporation for nine years, and was councilman for several years. The cause of education, and all interests calculated to improve the community, receive his support, and he is a valued and esteemed citizen of Wood county. He holds membership with the United Brethren Church, with which his wife and children are also connected.

MRS. MARY J. BECK, wife of A. D. Beck, was born in Beaver, (now Lawrence) county, Penn., on April 30, 1837, and is a daughter of Robert and Mary (McCarter) Mackey. Her father was a farmer of the Keystone State, and in 1850 drove across the country to Wood county, Ohio, locating on a new farm of 160 acres in Section 18, Bloom township. He continued to clear and cultivate his land until his death, which occurred November 16, 1871, and on the same farm his wife died November 28, 1874, being interred in

Whitacre cemetery. In their family were the following children: (1) Daniel, born February 20, 1822, died in Lawrence county, Penn. (2) William, born July 13, 1825, died in Pennsylvania at the age of four years. (3) Alexander, born March 4, 1827, makes his home in North Baltimore, Ohio. (4) James, born July 5, 1829, died in Bloom township, Wood county, in 1861. (5) Robert, who makes his home in Perry township, was born April 17, 1831, and for twenty-seven winter terms and one summer term engaged in teaching, while for fifteen years he conducted a saw-mill. (6) Joseph, of Fannin county, Texas, was born December 22, 1832, and served throughout the Civil war as a member of the 9th Ill. Cav. (7) Mary J. is the next in order of birth. (8) John, born February 28, 1840, resides in Putnam county, Ohio. The political affiliations of the father were with the Democratic party.

On July 12, 1864, was celebrated the marriage of A. C. Russell and Miss Mary J. Mackey. The former was born in the Empire State, in 1838, and was a son of Norman Russell, an early settler of Perry township. He engaged in farming in Perry township until 1881, when he removed to Van Zandt county, Texas, where, in November of the following year, he died, and his remains were brought back and interred at West Millgrove, Ohio. On December 18, 1887, in Texas, Mrs. Russell became the wife of A. D. Beck, who was born in Washington county, Ind., June 19, 1831, son of Andrew and Susan (Diven) Beck. The father was born in 1800, in North Carolina, and when only eight years old was taken by his father to Washington county, Ind., where the latter was one of the honored pioneers.

In 1852 Mr. Beck went to Texas, but the following year returned to Lawrence county, Ind., where he wedded Catherine Horsey, by whom he had four children—Susan, now Mrs. Kemp Morley, of Greenville, Texas; Emma, wife of John Roberts, of Van Zandt county, Texas; Clara, who died in childhood, and John, of Van Zandt county. The mother passed away December 1, 1866, in Martin county, Ind. In October, 1864, Mr. Beck enlisted from Indiana, in Company B, 31st Ind. V. I., and served nearly a year. He had again married in his native State, and in 1880 removed with his wife to Texas, where she died. He was again married, in the Lone Star State, but this wife died there about ten months after their marriage.

In 1888 Mr. and Mrs. Beck returned North, locating in Perry township, Wood Co., Ohio, and here have a good farm of 100 acres, which he is successfully operating. A large willow tree, which

stands on this farm, has grown from a little riding whip, brought from Perrysburg, nearly sixty years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Beck have a large circle of friends, who hold them in the highest esteem and confidence. Mrs. Beck has no children of her own, but is rearing a little niece, Mary Mackey, the daughter of Joseph Mackey. In politics Mr. Beck is an ardent Democrat, and he is a member of the Disciples Church.

LEWIS C. CAROTHERS, a well-known and highly esteemed hotel-keeper, of Rudolph, was born in Portage township, Wood county, May 23, 1844, and is the son of Francis and Elizabeth (Garthwaite) Carothers.

Francis Carothers was born in Pennsylvania, and was there married, October 17, 1815, to Miss Margaret Fitzsimmons, who was born February 20, 1788. She died in November, 1839, and was buried in Sargent cemetery. His second wife (the mother of our subject) was the widow of Pascal Besanson. She and Mr. Carothers were married August 5, 1841, in Wood county. Mr. Carothers died five years later in Portage township, and was buried in Sargent cemetery. Mrs. Carothers died in 1881, and was buried in Portage township. She always lived on the home farm, in Portage township; in religious faith she was a Presbyterian. Mr. Carothers took a prominent part in all matters pertaining to the county, and was associate judge and assessor of Wood county. In fulfilling the duties of the latter office he was obliged to go over the entire county. The children by his first wife were: James H., born November 18, 1816, died in California in 1878; William R., born January 1, 1818, died in Portage township in 1883; Samuel, born November 16, 1820, died in California in 1873; Nancy J., born February 18, 1823, died in April, 1852, unmarried; Eleanor, born February 14, 1825, died September 10, 1849; David N., born August 7, 1827, followed the sea all his life, traveled all over the world, and "came home to die"; Mary Margaret, born April 1, 1830, married William Brokaw, and died October 9, 1882, in Galion, Ohio. By the second wife two children were born: Francis, September 22, 1842, died May 28, 1845; and Lewis C., our subject.

Lewis C. Carothers was reared on the farm near the village of Portage. In 1862, he enlisted in Company D, 111th O. V. I., under Capt. J. E. McGowen. The regiment's first engagement was at Huff's Ferry, Tenn. Mr. Carothers participated in all the battles of his regiment, being with it continuously, with the exception of two weeks, until his discharge in June, 1865. The

war now over, he returned to his home on the farm. When oil was discovered in Pennsylvania, he left home to work in the oil-field there. For a year he worked at the business until he had done all kinds of work that was to be done in the field, except the dressing of tools (at that time the driller was below the tool-dresser in rank). Returning to the farm, he remained until October, 1872, when he went to California, and embarked in the sheep business. Pleased with the prospects before him, he returned home at the lapse of a year and married a lady well known to the teachers of Wood county, she having taught for five years in the county. Miss Rose Call now becomes the happy Mrs. Carothers. On the 20th day of November, 1873, they are married, and on the same day started for the Pacific Coast to become partners in the sheep business, as well as all affairs pertaining to their future life. During the drouth of 1874-75 (nineteen months without a drop of rain), the sheep business became a general failure, and Mr. Carothers lost so heavily that he was forced to give up the business. In farming, however, and other work, he gathered a little means; but getting badly hurt by being thrown from a horse, which accident unfitted him for business for the time, he decided to return to the home farm once more, and care for his aged mother and brother, now very anxious for his return.

In 1878 he again finds himself on the old homestead. Two years later his mother died, and three years later his brother William followed, leaving Mr. Carothers the only representative of his father's family. On his farm he remained until the spring of 1892, when he took up the management of the Ruth-Miller farm, in Portage township, near Mermill. He farmed this place for three seasons, then embarked in the hotel business at Rudolph.

To Mr. and Mrs. Carothers have come the following children: Herbert L., born in Tulare county, Cal., September 7, 1874, died in same place, February 3, 1876; Frank L., born in Pacheco, Cal., March 20, 1878, died at Portage (on farm), February 23, 1891; William G., born June 12, 1881, and Leonard V., born February 26, 1886, both at home; and Jessie M., born October 24, 1890, died July 23, 1894. Politically, Mr. Carothers had always been a Democrat until 1884, when his great interest in the temperance reform led him out of the old party, and he declared himself, out-and-out, for Prohibition. His wife is an ardent lover of the W. C. T. U., and has been for years a faithful worker in the cause of temperance. They are members of the

Christian Church. Mr. Carothers is of a genial nature, and his kind-hearted wife is a woman of noble character. They carry on their business in a very commendable and successful manner, and are highly spoken of by all who have the pleasure of their acquaintance.

PROF. W. G. ELLIOTT, a prominent educator of Wood county, and one of the leading citizens of Bloomdale, was born in Loudon township, Seneca Co., Ohio, November 7, 1860. His family is of English origin, his great-grandfather, Samuel Elliott, having come alone from England when a boy. He married, and reared a family of six children: George, Samuel, Joseph, Susan, Winnie and Lydia. Joseph Elliott, our subject's grandfather, was born near Fredericksburg, Md. He married Eleanor McKenny, who was born in the United States of Irish parentage, and had nine children: David, Frederick, Augustus, William, James, Ann, Susan, Eliza, and Melvina, all of whom lived to adult age. He was a successful farmer in Maryland until 1850, and then moved to a fine farm near Little Washington, Rappahannock Co., Va., where he and his wife lived to a ripe old age.

David Elliott, our subject's father, was born near Fredericksburg, January 31, 1824. He had but limited education, as the subscription schools of the locality only furnished instruction in reading and writing, and, while his parents were comfortably situated, they could not afford the cash needed for schooling elsewhere. He lived at home until after the removal of the family to Virginia, and in 1851 started for California in search of wealth, but impelled chiefly by a dislike for slavery. The only employment open to him was the guarding of negro slaves, and these he often allowed to escape. He stopped in Missouri, where he spent about a year, but the total severance of old ties of friendship proved too painful. A former neighbor, Mrs. Sarah Updyke, and her family, had settled in Seneca county, Ohio, in April, 1853, on an eighty-acre tract, and this fact led to a visit, in September, 1853, to that locality. He was married there, on October 4, 1853, to Miss Lydia A. Updyke, who was born in Rappahannock county, Va., October 20, 1826. She was one of a family of seven children: Rufus, who died in Fairfield county; Susan, who married Christopher Santemyer, and died in Bloom township, Wood county; Elizabeth, the widow of George Worley, of Bloom township; Lydia A. (Mr. Elliott's first wife); Jane, who died in Virginia at eighteen years of age; Mahala, now the widow of Caleb Worley, of Montgomery town-

ship; and Mary E. (Mrs. Elliott). Mr. Updyke died in 1840, and his widow kept a home for the family until her children were all settled in life, when she sold the farm and lived with her children. Her death occurred in Bloom township in 1894 at the age of ninety years.

After his marriage David Elliott located upon forty acres of land near his wife's family, where he remained until 1866. His first wife died February 13, 1855, leaving one child—Marshall H., born January 15, 1855, now a farmer in Bloom township. Mr. Elliott was married April 17, 1856, to Miss Mary E. Updyke, a sister of the former wife, born in Virginia, January 18, 1833. Four children were born of this union: Mary A., June 26, 1857, who is at home; William G., our subject; Sarah E., January 29, 1862, now Mrs. George W. Markwood, of Perry township, and David F., April 2, 1864, a resident of Ionia county, Mich. In April, 1866, David Elliott sold his farm and came to Wood county, purchasing forty acres in Bloom township, to which he added until he owned 160 acres, which he sold in 1887 for \$15,000. In September, 1887, he moved to Perry township, and bought 100 acres, where he made his home. He was a tall, robust man, and until five years before his death, which occurred September 5, 1891, he had enjoyed the best of health. He was a Republican in politics, but sympathized strongly with the Prohibition party. He never allowed his name to be presented as a candidate for office. He and his wife were prominent members of the U. B. Church to which he gave liberally both of money and time, holding many different offices. His widow still lives at the homestead, passing her declining years free from care and highly respected by all who know her.

W. G. Elliott was a boy of five years when he first came to this county, and the district schools of Bloom township gave him his first draught at the well of knowledge. Their facilities were very limited, however, and when he had finished the common branches, they could do no more for him, and his later extensive knowledge of the higher branches was obtained by private study. He attended Fostoria Academy (Prof. Jackson, principal) for four months. His first teaching was in 1880, in the Kimberlin school, in Weston township, and he has since become one of the best known instructors in the county, holding the position of superintendent of schools at Bairdstown, Bloomdale and Milbury. His information is accurate, and covers a wide range of modern thought, and it has been won by his almost unaided efforts. He is

peculiarly fitted to understand and smooth away the perplexities of other students. In the fall of 1893 he was elected superintendent of schools for Perry township, which position he held for three successive years, and is the only official of that rank in Wood county who succeeded in holding that position for more than one year. He is a shrewd business man also, and, as executor of his father's will, he displayed excellent management. From 1890 to 1893, he was engaged in the grocery and queensware business in Bloomdale, and erected a fine business block with two store rooms, and this building he still owns. In 1893, Mr. Elliott began the study of law, under the tutorship of Hon. Benjamin F. James, of Bowling Green, Ohio; in April, 1896, he entered the law school at Ada, Ohio, where he was admitted to the Senior class, from which institution he graduated with honors, and was admitted to the bar to practice in the Ohio courts, June 25, 1896. He is at the present time completing the post-graduate course in law from the same institution. He is a stockholder in the Bloomdale Building and Loan Association. He was married October 12, 1887, in Genoa, Ohio, to Flora A. Shaner, a native of Perrysburg, and a daughter of Wesley Shaner, of Genoa, Ohio. She is a lady of rare ability and culture, a member of the M. E. Church, and was a teacher before her marriage. With the exception of a few years in Millbury, their home has been in Bloom township. They have had three children: Ruth L., born January 4, 1890, died June 1, 1892; Howard W., born October 13, 1892; and Marion E., born February 24, 1895.

In politics Prof. Elliott is a staunch Republican, and his first vote was cast for James G. Blaine. He has always been an active worker in the ranks of his party. He is a member of the K. of P. Lodge No. 278, Bloomdale.

**ABRAM HYTER**, a prosperous agriculturist and sawmill operator of Montgomery township, is one of the most respected citizens of his locality, and he and his estimable wife have been identified with many progressive movements—social, religious and charitable.

He is a native of Carroll county, Md., where he began his earthly pilgrimage June 4, 1829. His parents were Jacob and Margaret (Koontz) Hyter. They came to Ohio when our subject was very young, and his early years were passed in Seneca county as a pioneer farmer's boy with only the district schools, often times two miles distant, to supply his thirst for knowledge. His time was mainly spent at home until his mar-

riage, April 26, 1855, in Tiffin, Ohio, to Miss Mary Stewart, who was born in Lycoming county, Penn., November 8, 1830, the eldest child of Thomas D. and Fannie (Riddle) Stewart. In 1838 they came to Seneca county, Ohio, where Mrs. Stewart died in 1843; and in 1854, Mr. Stewart located in Perry township, Wood county, where he passed his remaining years. Mrs. Hyter, for three years before her marriage, taught in the district schools, her salary being sometimes as low as \$10.00 a month, and of course, "boarded round."

Mr. Hyter bought forty acres of land in Perry township, upon which little clearing had been done, and here they began housekeeping. The land was very wet and sadly in need of ditching. A year later they returned to Seneca county, and Mr. Hyter there rented land of his father-in-law, for a time; but in 1859 he purchased ninety-five acres in Section 11, Montgomery township, and removed thither, occupying a log cabin which, with a small log stable, was the only building on the place. There were but a few acres of cleared land, and the ensuing years were full of toil; but he prospered, and now has 135 acres of land, with fine buildings and improvements. In the spring of 1871 he went to Genoa, Ohio, and remained until the spring of 1881, during his stay there conducting a wooden-bowl factory. For several years past he has engaged in the sawmill business, and his success in acquiring a competence demonstrates his business ability.

Mr. and Mrs. Hyter have had six children: Anna F., who married E. R. Kirk, of Ottawa county, Ohio, and has one son; Jennie A., who died in childhood; Nellie C., who married A. A. Stump, of Bradner, and has three sons; Charles E., a resident of Bradner, married Jennie Clark, and has two sons and one daughter; Schuyler C. married Gail Hamilton, and has one daughter (they live in Bradner), and Inez G. is at home. The parents are leading members of the M. P. Church, of Bradner, in which he now holds the office of trustee. Mrs. Hyter is a woman of noble character and fine mentality, whose helpfulness in varied lines of work has done much for the locality. She is a valued member of the Woman's Relief Corps, and of the Rebekah Lodge. Mr. Hyter belongs to the I. O. O. F. at Genoa. He has been a Republican from the formation of the party, and has taken an active share in the local work, serving as township trustee for six terms, and for some time as member of the Bradner District school board. He holds an interest in fourteen oil wells, nine of which are on his own land.



*Abram Hyler*





**JONAS FRY.** The early pioneers of the great State of Ohio are becoming few in number. The years which have seen the wonderful development and growth of the country where they built their log cabins in the dense forests, or on the wide stretch of uncultivated prairie, have also seen their hair become silvered and their stalwart form bend beneath the infirmities of old age. But they have the satisfaction of knowing that, by their industry and toil, patient endurance of privations, and hardships, and unbounded faith in the future of the magnificent country about them, they have made the State what it is—one of the greatest in the Union. Among the early settlers of Wood county is to be found the citizen whose name introduces this sketch, and who is entitled to share in the gratitude of the present generation for the part he has taken in developing the resources of this section. After a busy life full of useful activity Mr. Fry is now enjoying a well-earned rest in a beautiful house in North Baltimore, having moved there, in 1891, from the farm whereon his youngest son is now living.

Our subject was born in Lehigh county, Penn., July 10, 1825, the youngest of the five children of Adam and Catharine (Sourwine) Fry, both natives of Pennsylvania, of German extraction. The father of our subject came, in 1828, to Trumbull county, Ohio, where he purchased a farm in Jackson township. Here he lived until the death of his wife, who was eighty-two years of age at the time, after which event he made his home with his children until his death, which occurred when he was eighty-four years old. Jonas was reared to manhood in Ohio, attended the district schools, and assisted his father upon the farm until his marriage, May 24, 1849, with Miss Elizabeth Greenawalt, who was born December 11, 1829, in Schuylkill county, Penn. Her father, Peter Greenawalt, and mother, Elizabeth (Kistler), were both born in Pennsylvania, and died when she was an infant. She is the youngest of six children, and the only one now living. To Mr. and Mrs. Fry came seven children, as follows: (1) Sylvester A., born March 4, 1850, married Miss Sarah Fackler (who is now deceased), and had eight children—Emma V., Allen T., Effie A. (deceased), Elizabeth E., Cora May (deceased), Altie A. (deceased), Vemba L. and Sarah Hallie. (2) Elizabeth, born May 26, 1852, is the wife of J. W. Cole, and has had ten children—Cora A., Charles J., William E. (deceased), Oscar H. (deceased), Jonas Lloyd, Mary E., Maggie May, Nancy P., Florence M. and John W. (3) J. W., born January 16, 1855, married Miss Charlotte E. Graham (now de-

ceased), and has had six children—Bert Clyde, Frank F. (deceased), Minnie E. (deceased), Lottie Hazel, Flora G. (deceased), and John H. (4) Mary Jane, born February 8, 1858, married Lewis Whitacre, and has one child—Frank S. (5) Augusta A., born July 17, 1860, married Henry Halboth, and has one child—Fred A. (6) Charles A., born February 10, 1862, married Miss Alice Haines, and has one child—Elizabeth M. (7) Emma A., born September 6, 1863, died in infancy.

After his marriage Mr. Fry lived for some years in Mahoning county, but came to Wood county nearly forty years ago, locating in Bloom township, and has made his home here ever since. His farm was all woods when he came to it, and he did all the clearing himself excepting a little his sons did after they grew up, and he has one of the finest farms in Bloom township. In early life he and his wife were members of the Reformed Dutch Church, but later united with the Presbyterian Church. They are consistent Christian people, ever ready to assist in all good works. The family is well known throughout the township, and enjoys the respect and esteem of the community. In politics Mr. Fry is a Democrat, and, while not taking an active part in political matters, does his duty as a loyal citizen in upholding good men for office.

**LUTHER C. WINCHELL**, a well-known business man residing at Risingsun, is a financier of high standing, and the owner of extensive oil and agricultural holdings. His advice is often sought in important interests, and the esteem in which he is held gives the strongest evidence of the unbroken good faith which he has kept with the public in his dealings.

Mr. Winchell's ancestry on both sides was of Yankee stock, but his father, Luther Winchell, was born in New York State, where he was bound out when a boy, his father having died. In early manhood he served in the war of 1812, taking part in the battle of Sackett's Harbor. He followed the blacksmith's trade for a time, but, disagreeing with his boss, he left him, and coming to Ohio settled in Lake county, there marrying Miss Phoebe Waterman, a native of Pennsylvania. Later he spent five years in DuPage county, Ill., and bought a large tract of land, which he sold at a handsome profit. Returning to Ohio, he purchased another large quantity of land at \$10 per acre in Sandusky county, and his remaining years were passed there and in Lake county, where he died at the age of ninety-one years, his health being good up to the

last and his faculties unimpaired. His wife lived to ninety years of age, and they were interred side by side in Scott township, Sandusky county. He left a fortune of \$50,000, at his death, which had been acquired through his own industry and judicious investments. There was always a blacksmith shop on his farm, and for many years he did his own work; but later he bought and sold paper and managed his real-estate interests. He took great interest in the success of the Democratic party, in which he was a prominent worker, being often called upon to act as chairman of meetings. Our subject was one of eight children: Sabra, the widow of Elias Jewel, of Du Page county, Ill.; Stephen, a resident of Risingsun; Luther C., our subject; Phœbe, Mrs. Henry Phillips, of Scott township, Sandusky county; Cynthia, who married John Rinehart and died in Indiana; Lucy, who married Walter Butler, and died in Sandusky county, Ohio; Harriet, Mrs. Sylvester Phillips, of Scott township, Sandusky county; and David, a resident of the same township.

Luther C. Winchell was born August 9, 1836, at the old home in Lake county, and was reared as a farmer boy. His health was poor, and his attendance at the district schools was somewhat interfered with, his brothers and sisters having much better advantages than he in that respect, some of them fitting themselves for teaching. The family has a reputation for mental ability, and Mr. Winchell's own efforts in later years have made good his early lack of training. In August, 1862, he was married in Montgomery township by John Norris, J. P., to Miss Jane Baker, who was born January 20, 1847, in Findlay, Ohio, the daughter of Henry and Mary (Spangler) Baker, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, and of German descent. They died at the home of our subject, the father at the age of eighty-five and the mother at eighty-seven, and were interred in Scott township, Sandusky county. Mrs. Winchell was the youngest of a family of nine boys and two girls, and never attended school after she was twelve years old.

After his marriage Mr. Winchell rented a farm in Jackson township, Sandusky county, from his father, and, although he bought a tract of fifty-six acres, he remained at his first home until April, 1869, when he came to a farm in Montgomery township. In 1871 he moved to his present residence in Risingsun. He carried on a mercantile business there for some years, buying and selling stock, grain, produce, fruit, and other commodities, and dealt also in notes to a considerable extent. Since 1891 he has been largely

interested in the oil business, and aside from his valuable realty in Risingsun, which includes a residence and business property, he owns 320 acres of land elsewhere. An active man physically and mentally, his enterprises receive his personal attention, and to this fact may be due his success in rising from limited circumstances to the possession of about \$50,000. He is a liberal contributor to Church and charitable purposes, and his family has always been prominent in the social life of the village. Of three children, only one is now living. Phœbe married George H. Baker, and died in Toledo; Rose is the wife of Rev. William Wagner, a Baptist minister at Van Wert, Ohio; William Franklin died October 4, 1892, in his twenty-fourth year. Mr. and Mrs. Winchell are members of the Church of God, and he helped to build their edifice, and has served as elder, trustee, and superintendent of the Sunday-school. In principle Mr. Winchell now sympathizes with the Democratic party in State and National questions, but his first vote was cast for Abraham Lincoln. In local politics he votes for the best man, regardless of party. He has been a member of the village council, has served as street commissioner, and, since the new school house was built, has been director and treasurer of the board of education.

JACOB J. SNYDER, to whom success has come as the reward of well-directed efforts, is one of the leading farmers of Wood county. His father, Daniel Snyder, was born in Germany, November 11, 1818, and when a young man came to the United States with his parents. He was married in Liverpool, Medina Co., Ohio, to Miss Eppley, by whom he had one child, Christina, now the wife of August Ehnes, of Toledo, Ohio. In Medina county, Daniel Snyder married, for his second wife, Eva B. Swartz, who was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, in June, 1820, a daughter of Frederick Swartz, who came to the United States in 1830, and settled in Liverpool township, Medina county, where he died of typhoid fever three years later. About 1850, Daniel Snyder removed to Troy township, Wood county, where he now owns a desirable farm of 100 acres, which he has developed almost entirely from the wilderness. He has made his own way in life entirely unaided, and is an industrious, energetic man, of sterling worth. Politically he is a Democrat, and religiously a devout Lutheran. His wife died April 24, 1892, and lies buried at Luckey, Ohio. Their children are: Catherine, wife of Jacob Metzger, of Perrysburg township; Frederick, of Perrysburg township;

Daniel, of Lake township; John, of Cleveland; Elizabeth, wife of James Briggs, of Troy township; Jacob J., of Montgomery township; and Lucian, of Troy township. Two children, Julia and Mary, died in infancy in Medina county.

Jacob J. Snyder was born in Troy township, April 8, 1858, and acquired a fair English education in the district schools. He was reared on his father's farm, and early became familiar with all the labors connected with its development. On April 23, 1885, in Stony Ridge, Ohio, he was joined in wedlock with Mary Magdalena Burkin, who was born in Baden, Germany, January 18, 1862, a daughter of Jacob and Catherine (Joseph) Burkin, who came to the United States in 1866, making the voyage in four weeks on the sailing vessel "Kimball." They located first in Erie county, Ohio, and removed to Webster township, Wood county, when Mrs. Snyder was twelve years of age. The mother died in Sandusky, Ohio, August 3, 1895, and the father is still living in Webster township. They had thirteen children, of whom three sons and six daughters reached adult age. Mr. and Mrs. Snyder have two children—Amelia, born March 9, 1886, and Samuel H., born July 18, 1888. In October, 1884, Mr. Snyder purchased forty-two acres of land in Section 6, Montgomery township, and has since made that farm his home. It was in poor condition, but with characteristic energy he began its development and improvement, and his earnest labors, perseverance and capable management have converted it into a good property, and have brought to him a comfortable competence. He votes with the Democratic party, but has never sought or desired office. Both he and his wife are members of the Lutheran Church at New Rochester, and are people whose many excellencies of character have gained for them the high regard of all with whom they have been brought in contact.

FRANK P. KING is the sole proprietor of an extensive livery establishment in Prairie Depot, and one of the leading men in his line in Wood county. Thorough and systematic in the management of his interests, he has made his way to success, and he early won recognition of his ability in business.

Samuel King, his grandfather, was born early in this century in New York State, of Yankee parentage, and, when a young man, became a pioneer farmer of Sandusky county, Ohio. He was married there, in 1828, to Miss Mahala Imes, by whom he had seven children: William, our subject's father; Sarah, who married Addison

Lansdale, and died in Prairie Depot, in December, 1895; Jasper, a resident of Chicago, Ill.; Hugh, who died in infancy; Mary, Mrs. Samuel Whitmore, of Constantine, Mich.; Harriet, Mrs. Daniel Garn, of Three Rivers, Mich.; and Jackson (deceased), formerly a resident of Jackson township, Sandusky county. The mother of this family died in 1845, and Samuel King was married, the second time, in Woodville township, Sandusky county, to Mrs. Mary Bixler, *née* Moore, the widow of Adam Bixler. She had two children by her first marriage: Minerva, now Mrs. Howard Carmon, of Prairie Depot, and Cary, of Three Rivers, Mich. Eight children were born to the second union: John S., who lives in San Jose, Cal.; James P., in Gratiot county, Mich.; Laura P., who died in infancy; Charles C., who is prominent in Isabella and Midland counties, Mich., has been sheriff of his county, and is an active worker in the Republican party; Edward H., an artist, in Grand Rapids, Mich.; Ella R., who married Charles Saunders, a minister of the Adventist Church, at Battle Creek, Mich. (she teaches in the college of that denomination); and Franklin and Emma, who died in infancy. Samuel King was a fine specimen of physical manhood, over six feet in height, and weighing at one time 240 pounds. He was a capable business man, industrious and systematic, and was a leader among the early settlers in his vicinity. Previous to the war he was a Democrat, but he loved the Union, and became a strong Republican. Starting in the woods as a poor boy, he was obliged to make the best of the inconveniences of primitive life for himself, and he often used strips of hickory bark for traces on his harness, burying them while he went to dinner in order to keep them moist. He succeeded in life, and was worth \$20,000 at the time of his death, which occurred in April, 1865, at the age of sixty, after a lingering illness of two years which puzzled the medical fraternity and baffled their skill. He was laid to rest in the cemetery at Clyde, Ohio. After living at the old home three years, his widow removed to Clyde, but in 1895 she went to Battle Creek to reside with her daughter.

William King was born in Jackson township, Sandusky county, in 1829, and was reared as a farmer boy. He attended the schools of the neighborhood at times, but, being the eldest son, he was put in the harness at an early age, his father finding a plentiful supply of work for him, and he developed into a stout, robust young man, of practical ideas. He adhered to the principles of the Old-line Democratic party. In 1851 he

was married, in Sandusky county, to Miss Susan Leshar, a native of the same locality, who was born February 27, 1830, the daughter of Daniel and Fanny (Cain) Leshar. They settled upon an estate near the old home, the "Brindel Farm," which Mr. King agreed to purchase from the heirs, but an attack of typhoid fever caused his death in December, 1854, after a brief illness, cutting short a career which had promised to be unusually successful. His remains were interred at Clyde, and his widow returned to her own relatives, who had removed in the meantime to Prairie Depot. There she lived until her marriage to John M. Adams, of Montgomery township. Of the two sons born to her first marriage, our subject is the eldest, and the other, William, born in October, 1854, is now a liveryman in Pemberville, Ohio.

Frank P. King was born January 27, 1853. He lived with his grandfather, Daniel Leshar, until the age of seventeen, when he began to work on his own account at such labor as his youth would permit. He showed great aptitude in the management of horses, and finally secured employment in the livery barn of an uncle, James Leshar, at Toledo, receiving a good salary. On October 10, 1874, he married Miss Lucy Sage, daughter of Edward R. Sage, a well-known resident of Montgomery township, and four children were born of this union: Eddie, who died at the age of four years; Bert H.; Charles and Carrie S. For one year after his marriage, Mr. King remained at the home of his father-in-law, and then bought a home in Prairie Depot, to which he removed. For five years he followed teaming, at the end of that time renting a farm near Prairie Depot belonging to E. R. Sage. After a short residence there he purchased a one-half interest in a livery stock with J. O. Hess; and embarked in the enterprise which he now conducts with such gratifying results. Mr. Hess sold his interest three years later to A. Leshar, who, in 1890, sold out to Mr. King, leaving him the sole owner. The business has shown constant increase from the time Mr. King became interested in it, and in 1895 he bought the property, which is near the business center of the village, and measures 8x16 rods. His barn is large and well arranged, and he keeps an average of fourteen head of horses.

Mr. King is regarded as one of the substantial citizens of his locality, and while he is no office-seeker, he has served as constable of Montgomery township, supervisor in the corporation of Prairie Depot, and for two years as a member of the village council. On State and National questions

he is an unwavering Republican, but in local politics he at times supports a good man of another party. Socially he belongs to the I. O. O. F., and he is a charter member of Petroleum Lodge No. 499, at Prairie Depot.

W. C. HARRIS, a successful fruit raiser of Ross township, is among the stalwart and substantial citizens of Wood county who are of alien birth, but who have by their unaided exertions raised themselves to their present prosperous condition. He was born in Bedfordshire, England, October 31, 1834, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Hilson) Harris, both of whom died at Stryker, Ohio.

The father was born in England, June 15, 1799, and in his native land accumulated a fortune, which, later, he lost. In 1850 he brought his wife to America, locating in Williams county, Ohio, where he purchased 160 acres of land at \$3.50 per acre, and there continued to reside up to his death, which occurred April 24, 1891. In his family were fourteen children, only six of whom are now living, namely: Eliza is the widow of John Weston (a farmer), resides near Bangor, Van Buren Co., Mich., and has five children—Joseph, Orilla, John, Jacob C. and Minnie; James, a fisherman and boatman residing in Ross township, married Elizabeth Harrison, and has eight children—Josephine Lewis, Marion Wedder, John, Joseph, James, Lydia, Lucinda and Oscar; Richard, a resident farmer of Stryker, Ohio, married Margery Bailey, by whom he has seven children—Joseph H., John H., Phoebe, Ellen, Edward, Enos, Rufus and Perry; W. C., of this review; Joseph, of Lenawee, Mich.; and David.

Our subject is almost entirely self-educated, learning his letters at the Sabbath-school in England, and attending school only two winters after coming to the United States, but he now is a well-informed man. In 1846 he crossed the Atlantic, coming over on the "American Eagle," at that time the largest vessel afloat, and on that trip carrying 1,200 passengers. He took passage at London, and after a long voyage of forty days landed safely at New York City on the 11th of July. He accompanied a friend of his father, being the one chosen out of three boys, and his father paid his brother's passage, while our subject worked for his after coming to America. His older brother also came to the United States at the same time, and they remained together until the following spring, going with the friend of their father to northwestern Ohio, near the Indiana line. In the spring, however, our sub-



*William C. Harris*



ject went to Hillsdale county, Mich., where, for some years, he worked on a farm by the month.

In August, 1856, in Branch county, Mich., Mr. Harris was married to Miss Ann E. Simmons, whose father had formerly lived at Palmyra, N. Y., and by this union four children were born: (1) Charles W., a fruit grower of Perrysburg township, Wood county, married Ann Wisman, by whom he has three children—Frank C., Stanley, and Bessie (deceased). (2) George is deceased. (3) Mary A. is the wife of Elmer Gray, foreman of the Consolidated Rolling Car Stock Co., at Detroit, Mich., and to them were born five children—Bessie E. (deceased), Harold R., Ellis E., Iva and Sarah. (4) Alfred A., a fruit grower living on the farm of his father, in Ross township, married Bertha Merving, and had three children—Arthur B., Eva E. (deceased), and Carl E. The wife and mother died at Toledo, Ohio, March 19, 1867.

On July 4, 1868, Mr. Harris was again married, his second union being with Elizabeth Sangston, daughter of James M. and Elizabeth (Debolt) Sangston, who were natives of Pennsylvania, and the parents of nine children—Sarah, George D., Isaac M., Harriet, Elizabeth, Malinda, Electa, Adelma, and Naomi (deceased). The father died in Holland, Ohio, and the mother in Perrysburg township, this county. Mrs. Harris was born in Wauseon, Fulton Co., Ohio, February 3, 1848, and by her marriage with our subject has become the mother of three children—Frank A., born August 8, 1869, married Dorothea Burleigh, by whom he has two children, Mabel L., and Thomas M., and is engaged in farming at Oak Harbor, Ohio; Lottie M., born November 16, 1871, is a stenographer and typewriter, employed at the "Jefferson House" in Toledo, Ohio; Fred I., born October 6, 1873, married Mary Jacobs, and is a fruit grower of Ross township.

After being variously employed, Mr. Harris engaged in the wood business for fourteen years, was in the wholesale meat business for four years, and since that time has engaged in fruit culture, having upon his place 1,000 plum trees; 225 pear; 100 cherry; 2,300 peach; 12 apricot; and 10 quince; also three acres planted in grapes; six in raspberries; four in strawberries; three-quarters of an acre in gooseberries; and six acres in asparagus; also some Japanese prune and walnut. On starting this business twenty-six years ago, he had but three acres, but at the present time he has forty-two acres under cultivation, and from the products of his farm derives a comfortable competence.

For five years Mr. Harris served in the State militia, belonging to Capt. Daniel Collins' company, and to the 130th O. V. I., under Col. Phillips. Although for a time he was in the United States service, he never took part in any active engagement, and was discharged at Toledo, Ohio. He is now a member of Ford Post No. 14, G. A. R., and also belongs to Wapakoneta Lodge No. 38, I. O. O. F., the former of East Toledo and the latter of Toledo. He is a Republican in politics, and for a number of years served as school director of his district.

JOHN A. KELLY is classed among the influential and prominent farmers of Montgomery township. His birth occurred January 19, 1861, in Section 32 of that township, and he is the third son and fifth child in the family of R. W. and Eliza (Dresser) Kelly. His education was begun in District No. 9, and he later attended the West Millgrove schools for three terms. Being reared to agricultural pursuits, he has always made that vocation his life work.

In Perry township, Wood county, Mr. Kelly was married September 27, 1882, the lady of his choice being Miss Jennie Rosendale, who was born in that township November 22, 1864, the daughter of George W. and Elizabeth (Locey) Rosendale. When nine years of age she was taken to Elk county, Kans., where she remained seven years, returning then to West Millgrove, Ohio, and living with C. R. Rosendale until her marriage. Two children have come to our subject and his wife—Ralph L., born February 26, 1886; and Eliza J., born August 31, 1890. Mr. Kelly took his bride to his father's farm in Section 32, Montgomery township, where they made their home until their removal to his present farm in Section 31, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation, making many substantial improvements thereon. Though not an office-seeker, he takes considerable interest in political affairs as a loyal and faithful Republican. His wife holds membership with the Congregational Church at West Millgrove. They are genial, cultured people, and occupy a high social position in the community.

REV. JOSEPH M. CRIM, a well-known retired minister of the U. B. Church, now residing in Bowling Green, was born May 31, 1834, in Lancaster county, Penn., where his ancestors, "Pennsylvania Dutch" on both sides, with the exception of his grandmother Crim, who came from England, had lived for several generations.

His grandfather, Jacob Crim, and his father.



Jacob Crim (2), were both born there, the latter September 30, 1810, and there, too, our subject's mother, Christina Young, was born in 1811. His father was a farmer, and a preacher in the United Brethren Church. He came to Richland county, Ohio, in 1838, and died there in January, 1892, his wife having departed this life six years before. They had four children, of whom our subject is the eldest; Elizabeth lives in Richland county; Henry died at the age of twenty-seven, and Samuel resides in Crawford county, Ohio.

Our subject attended the district schools of Richland county during boyhood, and at the age of nineteen he was converted, and determined to devote his life to the highest uses. At twenty-one he entered Berea College, and on leaving he at once began teaching, continuing successfully for nine years in Richland, Crawford and Logan counties. In 1861 he made a trip to California, and remained four years. In 1867 he married Miss Rachel E. Biddle, daughter of Rev. Alexander Biddle, of Galion, Ohio, and a native of Ohio, born December 8, 1844. They have had five children: Albert Biddle, who died at two years of age; Mary Louise Gertrude, a teacher in the A Grammar Grade in the Bowling Green schools; Cora, formerly a teacher in Bowling Green, now a student at Otterbein University, Westerville, Ohio; and Reuben and Ruth, who are at home.

Our subject received his first appointment in 1872, was ordained in 1875, and joined the Sandusky Conference. For sixteen years he carried on his chosen calling in various places, leaving behind him evidences of his faithful work, in Churches built or restored, new societies formed, and old congregations enlarged and awakened to greater spiritual life. His last charge was in Bowling Green, and when the time came to leave, after a ten-years' service, the educational needs of his growing family induced him to remain, and in 1889 he retired from the ministry and opened a grocery store, which he has conducted ever since. Politically he is a Republican. He still assists in the local work of the Church, especially during revivals; every Sabbath morning finds him in his home church, teaching a Bible class of men. Faithful to that duty which lies nearest, his exhortations to right living are more effective than any mere glittering eloquence could be, the quiet but powerful force of example adding weight to precept.

HERMAN W. DEAN was born in Milton township, March 27, 1867, and is a son of James T. Dean, a native of Sandusky county, Ohio, and a farmer by occupation. He married Maria Cran,

and sometime afterward came to Wood county, settling on a farm which he purchased in Milton township. Later he purchased a 100-acre farm in Jackson township, which he at once began to clear and place under a high state of cultivation. In the fall of 1893 he sold that property and went to Indian Territory, where he leased a farm, and also purchased a tract of land. He continued in the West for about a year, and then returned to Wood county, since which time he has lived in Milton Center. The children of the family are James T., who is now farming in Kansas; Herman W.; John, a farmer of Jackson township; Charles, who died at the age of four years; and Alta, at home.

Our subject began his education in the Powles school of Milton Center. His childhood days were passed in a manner similar to most farmer boys, and he remained at home until he had attained his majority, when he began work by the day as a farm hand. Two years later, with the money he had saved, he purchased forty acres of unimproved land in Jackson township, and at once began to clear and develop the place, erecting thereon a substantial residence. In the spring of 1875 he rented his farm and leased 200 acres of land in Jackson township.

In Deshler, Henry Co., Ohio, on May 14, 1887, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Dean and Miss Lizzie Laney, who was born in Adair county, Mo., May 10, 1870, a daughter of Charles and Margaret (White) Laney, natives of Fairfield county, Ohio. They were married, however, in Missouri, and since 1874 have resided in Wood county. They had nine children, namely: Mrs. Alice Nutter, who died at the age of thirty years; Edwin, of Henry county, Ohio; Sarah, wife of George Whitney, of Weston; Rebecca, of Bowling Green; Mrs. Dean; Jennie, wife of Lincoln Hill, of New York; Peter, of Henry county; William, who died at the age of fourteen; and Thomas, at home. Two children grace the union of our subject and his wife: Earl, born April 5, 1890; and Floyd, born December 25, 1893. Their home is noted for its hospitality, and their circle of friends is extensive. In his political affiliations, Mr. Dean is a staunch Republican.

JAMES ROGERS, a prominent citizen of Scotch Ridge, Wood county, now holding the offices of postmaster, justice of the peace, and clerk of Webster township, is a native of this county, born in Freedom township, January 27, 1860. He is a son of one of our honored pioneers, Amos Rogers.

Our subject had the training in farm work which usually falls to the lot of a country boy, but his education was not neglected, and he supplemented his district-school studies by a course in the high school at Genoa. At an early age he started in business as a decorator of interiors, having learned the trade of painter and paper-hanger at Bowling Green. In 1879 Mr. Rogers married Miss Susan South, who was born in Cleveland, Ohio, August 23, 1861, the daughter of Robert South, a well-known resident of Webster township. They have one child, Gertie, now attending school. In March, 1892, Mrs. Rogers died at her home in Scotch Ridge, and November 22, 1894, Mr. Rogers was married to Frankie Gerding, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Orr, of Pemberville, Ohio.

A staunch Democrat in politics, and a man of great public spirit, Mr. Rogers has been a favorite candidate of his party, and has held a number of official positions. He was appointed post-master under Cleveland's first administration, and is now serving a second time with satisfaction to all concerned, and as township clerk and justice of the peace his efficient services meet with hearty appreciation. He has a comfortable home, and he and his wife take a prominent part in the social life of the village. He is past grand of the I. O. O. F., Freedom Lodge No. 723, of Pemberville, and also, with Mrs. Rogers, belongs to the Daughters of Rebekah, No. 239.

C. D. YONKER is the proprietor of the only drug store of a metropolitan nature in Wood county, dealing exclusively in drugs, and articles of a similar character, and having an extensive trade both in Bowling Green and the surrounding country. He was born in Portage township, Wood county, August 10, 1855, and is a son of H. H. and Mary (Gunsaulus) Yonker.

Charles Yonker, his grandfather, was born, in 1795, in Germany, and in 1830 came to Ohio, and to Wood county in 1850. In 1866 he drilled a well with a horse drill on the Johnson farm, near East Prairie Depot, and at the depth of fifty feet struck oil. He died in 1878.

The father of our subject was born in New York State, September 20, 1830, and in 1854, after his marriage, which took place at Wadsworth, Medina Co., Ohio, he came to Wood county. He first located in Portage township, where he purchased a farm, which he afterward sold, and in 1867 removed to Bowling Green, where he entered the company of Kitchen & Lindsay, and they operated the first planing-mill, and sash, door and blind factory in that place,

having also a lumber-yard in connection with these establishments. Later, disposing of his interests in these enterprises, he and his brother, in partnership, engaged in the undertaking business, in which he remained until his health failed, and he was compelled to retire from active life. He still resides in Bowling Green, and is one of the most esteemed citizens of the place. In politics he is a Republican, and in religious faith he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was the father of seven children, namely: C. D. Yonker, our subject; John L., killed by accidentally falling down an elevator shaft in a hotel at Van Wert, Ohio; Sarah M., who married Edgar Sears, and lives in Bowling Green; M. E., deceased in infancy; L. L., a dentist in Bowling Green; Frank C., in business in the same city; and Arthur A., clerking in our subject's store. The paternal grandfather of Mr. Yonker, whose name was Charles, was born in Germany, and died in Prairie Depot, Ohio. He was a contractor on the Maumee and Western Reserve pike, and discovered oil in Wood county many years ago.

The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood days at Bowling Green, where he attended the public schools, and when fourteen years old became an apprentice in a drug store which stood on the same corner he now occupies. Three years later he went to Weston, where he took charge of a store for one year; then returned to Bowling Green, and worked for another year in the same store in which he was first employed. Subsequently he read medicine for a time with Dr. Lincoln. His father then bought a drug store, and the son took the management of it from 1875 to 1878, when it was sold to Bolles & Manville. Mr. Yonker then went into the restaurant business, which he carried on some six years, at the end of that time investing in a patent-right, from which he made enough money to start in business for himself. In 1889 he established his present store, with the object of carrying on a business in drugs exclusively, which was in direct opposition to the advice of his friends, who thought it an unfavorable field for a high-grade drug store. He has, however, proved the fallacy of their judgment, as he now owns the finest establishment of the kind in northern Ohio, outside the large cities. His is the only drug store kept open on Sunday in the city, and is the first to open and the last to close every day in the week.

Mr. Yonker was married October 4, 1876, to Miss R. L. Leonard, who was born in Seneca county, Ohio, December 17, 1853. Two chil-

dren have blessed this union: Pearl N. and Earl E. Mr. Yonker and family are owners of a beautiful residence, which is one of the finest in the city, and is the scene of many delightful social events. Mr. Yonker is one of the most prominent workers among the Knights of Pythias in Bowling Green, of which society he is a charter member, and was the first master-at-arms. He has been representative to the Grand Lodge, was district deputy grand chancellor, and is now master of finance; is also captain of the Uniform Rank, K. of P. He is a member of the board of directors of the Bowling Green Improvement Co., also one of the executive committee.

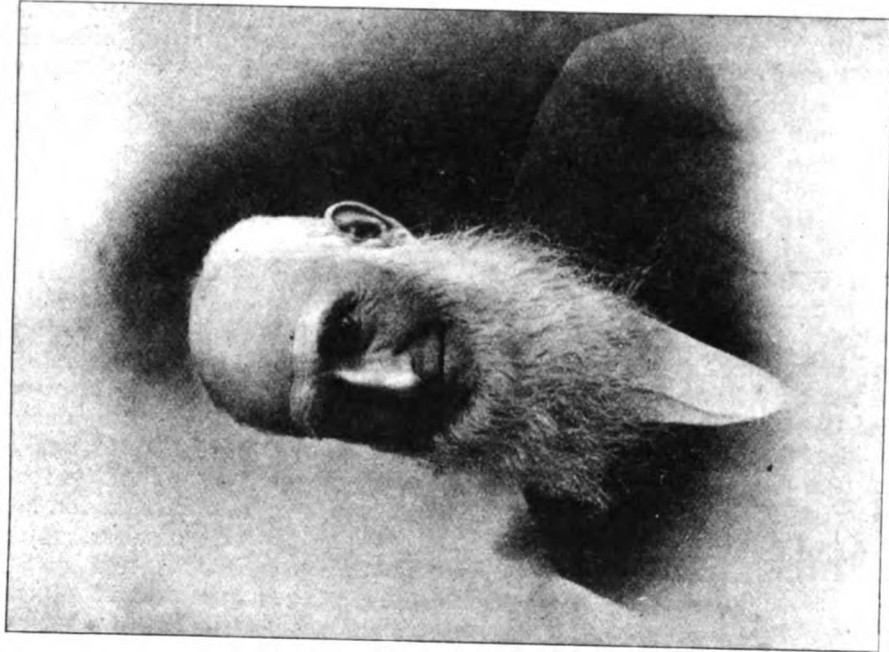
HENRY O. NEARING, a progressive farmer of Washington township, was born December 14, 1827, at Waterville, Wood (now Lucas) county, Ohio, and is a son of Guy and Betsy (Fletcher) Nearing. (The family name was originally spelled Van Nearing).

The father of our subject was born in Germany, whence he came to the United States when young, locating in Onondaga county, N. Y., where he married and had three children: Horatio, deceased; Neptune, father of G. C. Nearing, of Wood county; and Zepimah, who died in New York. For his second wife Mr. Nearing wedded Betsy (Read) Fletcher, and to them five children were born: (1) Emulus, who died in Williams county, Ohio, where he resided with his family. (2) Minerva, wife of Judge Ewing, of Miltonville, by whom she had three children: Theodore, deceased; Mary, widow of William L. Decker, who now makes her home in Haskins; and Lucien B., who died in that place. (3) Eunice and (4) Freeman, both deceased in infancy. (5) Henry O., our subject. The father first came to Ohio in 1817, a year later returning to New York, and bringing his family to this State. He located at Waterville, where he was engaged in contracting, and in 1833 built a sawmill at Otsego, which he operated for a year or more. He also, in 1835, erected a sawmill for Fowler and C. W. Beard, on what is known as the John Creps farm in Middleton township. Prior to building the Otsego mill he purchased and lived on a farm of over 200 acres opposite Waterville. He there made his home some twelve years, during which time he greatly improved his land, and then removed to Miltonville, where he built a large hotel, which he conducted up to his death in 1840. His wife died at the home of our subject in January, 1857. He was an Old-line Whig in politics, and he and his wife were members of the Baptist Church. While

engaged in contracting the father built the first jail in Perrysburg. For a number of years he served as justice of the peace, during which time he married many of the pioneer couples, and the decisions he rendered in the cases he tried were usually sustained.

The early educational privileges of Henry O. Nearing were somewhat meagre, being limited to three months attendance at the district schools during the winter months, the remainder of the year being passed at farm labor. When nineteen years of age, however, he worked for one month at steamboating on Lake Erie. On January 1, 1852, he wedded Matilda Whitney, daughter of David and Margaret (Carr) Whitney, the former a native of Vermont, of English descent, the latter of Scotch-Irish lineage; they were married in Allegany county, N. Y., and to them were born eight children, as follows: Lucy, who married John Bamber, and had three children, Archibald, Mary and Thaddeus. Samuel, Nancy and Maria all three deceased. Matilda, the wife of our subject, born April 7, 1832, in Allegany county, N. Y. Charles, an expert machinist, who conducts a patent office in Chicago, making his home in Winnetka, not far from that city. Caroline (widow of Oscar Snyder), residing in the northern part of the State of Washington. John, who was a member of a Minnesota regiment during the Civil war, and was held prisoner for ten months at Helena, Ark., during that struggle; he has since died at St. Louis, Missouri.

After his marriage, Mr. Nearing worked a short time at the cooper trade, but in April, 1852, he started for California, a trip of 2,100 miles, which was made with an ox-team, and occupied seven months. There he remained two years, during which time he was employed as a hostler and miner, meeting with good success. In connection with David Bamber, John Buttles and Milton Beard, he also owned a toll road, known as the Bamber & Nearing toll road, near Deer Creek, Cal. On his return to Ohio, he came by way of the Nicaragua route to New York City. For three years he then had charge of his father-in-law's place, at the end of which time, on June 17, 1858, he removed to Minnesota, returning to Wood county in the following March. For four years he made his home in Miltonville, and in 1881 he purchased a farm in Fulton county, where he resided five years. In December, 1887, he purchased his present farm, to the cultivation of which he has since devoted his time and attention. He and his worthy wife have no children of their own, but have reared



*Henry O. Keating*



*Montilda Keating*



five whom they have adopted. As a souvenir of his California mining experiences, Mr. Nearing has a scarf pin made of a nugget of gold dug by him during his last days in the "diggings," and which is set in its natural state, and is valued at twenty dollars.

During the Civil war, Mr. Nearing enlisted at Tontogany in Company B, 144th O. V. I., under Capt. Black and Col. Miller, and was mustered in at Columbus. After faithful service he received an honorable discharge at Columbus, September 1, 1864. Politically, he supports the Republican party, and has been supervisor of Middleton township, and school director of District No. 1, Washington township. He takes an active interest in the I. O. O. F., belonging to Rouche-de-Boeuf Lodge No. 530, and also to the Encampment, No. 267, both of Haskins, and he and his wife are members of Rebekah Lodge No. 365; in the I. O. O. F. he has been past and noble grand and also vice-grand. He also holds membership with Walter A. Wood Post, G. A. R., of Tontogany. In all the relations of life, he has been true and faithful, and no man is more deserving the high regard in which he is held than Henry O. Nearing.

**HENRY ROLFES.** This gentleman worthily illustrates the commonly accepted view of the character of the enterprising citizen, who made his way into northwestern Ohio at a time when strong hands and stout hearts were needed, and putting his shoulder to the wheel gave a decided impetus to the car of progress, and assisted in the development of Wood county. As early as 1836 he came with his parents to Troy township, where his father purchased land in Section 25. In the kingdom of Hanover, Mr. Rolfes was born, May 28, 1828, and is a son of Frederick and Julia (Hunefelt) Rolfes, natives of the same province. At Bremen the family embarked on a sailing vessel, which, after a voyage of seven weeks, dropped anchor in the harbor of New York, and from there they proceeded by water to Toledo, Ohio. They arrived in this country in the fall of 1836, where the father purchased a tract of wild land in Troy township, on which no improvements had been made, and no road led to the place. He became a prominent member of the community, and served as trustee of his township. He died of cholera, September 1, 1852, which disease terminated the life of the mother on the 7th of the same month. Our subject was the eldest in their family of children, others being as follows: William, who died of cholera on the 5th of September, 1852; Herman, who died

while young; Mary, also deceased; Mrs. Eliza Meyers, of Woodville, Ohio; and Lewis, who resides in Troy township.

Our subject was about eight years of age when he came to this county, and in the primitive schools of Troy township he received his education, but most of his time was employed in work upon the home farm. After leaving the parental roof he worked on a farm near Perrysburg, Ohio, and for three seasons sailed on the lakes. On August 11, 1853, in Troy township, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Rolfes and Miss Julia Hilker, a native of Germany, and a daughter of Gerhard and Engel (Simpson) Hilker, also born in the Fatherland. About 1840 her parents located in Troy township, where the father's death occurred in 1851, and his wife died at the home of our subject in 1871. To Mr. and Mrs. Rolfes have been born the following children: Marie, who died in childhood, and Sophia, also deceased; Eliza, now Mrs. William Meyers, of Luckey, Ohio; Lewis H., who makes his home in the same place; Louisa, deceased; Julia A., who resides in Toledo, Ohio; Minnie, of Luckey.

After his marriage, Mr. Rolfes located upon the old homestead, in Section 25, Troy township, where he owns 120 acres of fertile and productive land. Upon his place are nine oil wells, which also add materially to his income. In 1879 he was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, a most estimable lady. At the time he came to Wood county, few settlements had been made, the work of cultivation had scarcely begun, and he has watched with interest the great changes that have taken place, in the work of development and progress, always taking his share. Their nearest market at that time was Perrysburg, whence he would carry his purchases home on his back; but he bravely and cheerfully endured the trials and hardships incident to a life in the forests far from the haunts of men.

**FLOYD D. HUFFMAN,** the popular young editor and proprietor of the Grand Rapids *Triumph*, was born in Grand Rapids, Wood Co., Ohio, July 8, 1873, and is a son of John and Emma (Mins) Huffman, both natives of Pennsylvania, but now residing near Grand Rapids.

Here our subject passed his boyhood and youth, attending the common schools, and at the early age of fourteen years began learning the printer's trade, at which he has since worked, with the exception of one winter, when he attended school. He experienced all the vicissitudes incident to the life of a printer's "devil," and soon became an expert type-setter, as well

as becoming versed in the all-round duties of a newspaper office. Being possessed of an energetic spirit, good executive ability, and an excellent judgment, he determined to establish himself permanently in some literary work, and accordingly in December, 1890, purchased his present paper, of which he is sole proprietor. The *Grand Rapids Triumph* is a five-column quarto sheet, independent in politics, and does a large amount of advertising, while, as a literary production, it is numbered among the foremost papers of the county.

HENRY MANDELL, a prominent pioneer agriculturist of Wood county, now residing in Perrysburg, was born in Hardwick, Worcester Co., Mass., January 12, 1814. His family has filled an honorable place in the history of this country. Paul Mandell, the great-grandfather, came from England and settled in Massachusetts. He had a son, Moses, our subject's grandfather, who served in the Revolutionary army with the rank of major. Martin Mandell, father of our subject, was a farmer in Massachusetts, a man of great intelligence and independence of thought, and one of the earliest supporters of the Unitarian faith. He married Miss Fannie Marsh, and reared a family of four children, of whom our subject was second in order of birth. He died at the age of sixty-seven years, and his wife in 1878, at the age of ninety-one.

Henry Mandell remained at the old homestead until he was twenty years old, when he came west to seek his fortune. In 1838 he located in Perrysburg, where for three years he traded with the Indiana and settlers in groceries, boots and shoes, and other commodities. He was married there to Miss Frederica Kreps, a native of Pennsylvania, who was about one month older than himself. Shortly after their marriage Mr. Mandell moved to Otsego, where for two years he held the position of postmaster under appointment from President Tyler. He then moved to a tract of land in Perrysburg township belonging to his wife, and cleared it, in time transforming it into a fine property. He still owns 100 acres there, which has risen in value from nothing to \$60 or \$70 an acre. Mrs. Mandell died in 1874, after thirty-two years of happy, helpful companionship. Seven children were born of this union: (1) Henry E., who lives at the old farm, is married and has seven children—Fred, Mary, Alice, Dwight, Kittie, Ernest and Ruth. (2) Phila E. lives with her father. (3) Catherine married Charles Drayton, of Perrysburg township, and has six children—Frederica, Jennie, William,

Frank, Grace and Ralph. (4) William Arthur, a sketch of whom follows. (5) Dwight died at the age of fourteen. (6) Ada married Leroy Weliver, of East Toledo, and has three children—Delia, Clarence and Ada. (7) Frederick died aged ten years. About two years ago Mr. Mandell came to Perrysburg, with his daughter, Phila E., to spend his declining years, free from business cares. He has always taken an active interest in politics, and his first vote was cast for Van Buren; he is now a Republican, and his last vote at the age of eighty-two was for McKinley.

GEORGE KLOPFENSTEIN, a prominent citizen of Center township, and one of the leading fruit growers of northwestern Ohio, was born in Wood county, March 20, 1847, and is a son of Peter and Henrietta (Moore) Klopfenstein. He has taken a commendable interest in the moral, educational, and material welfare of the community, and has made an untarnished record and unspotted reputation as a business man. In all places, and under all circumstances, he is loyal to truth, honor and right, justly valuing his own self-respect as infinitely more preferable than wealth, fame and position.

Mr. Klopfenstein has been twice married, his first union, which was celebrated August 5, 1874, being with Miss Prudence D. Craw, who was born October 4, 1855. One child came to them—Walter, born April 26, 1875, who is a graduate of the Bowling Green High School; he is now in his second year of a four-years' course in the Chicago Homeopathic College, and is studying medicine with Dr. Thomas, of Bowling Green. On August 15, 1883, Mr. Klopfenstein was united in marriage with Miss Eliza Jane Drake, who was born July 5, 1852, and the following children blessed their union: The first, born July 13, 1884, died in infancy; Ira Lee, born August 16, 1885, died August 3, 1887; Mabel Henrietta, born May 14, 1888; Floyd, born January 25, 1890; George M., born December 23, 1892; and the youngest, born January 17, 1895, died in infancy.

On the paternal side our subject is descended from Peter Klopfenstein, who was born in France in 1742, and was there married in 1768. In his family of nine children Christian Klopfenstein was the eighth in order of birth, being born June 17, 1788. In October, 1810, the latter married Catherine Stooky, who was born in France May 15, 1788, and they became the parents of ten children, namely: Peter, born November 3, 1811, was the father of our subject. Barbara, born in November, 1812, married A. R. Mead, by whom

she had nine children; her death occurred in Summit county. Catherine, born in 1814, died in 1851. Mary, born January 1, 1817, was married January 6, 1842, to Jacob Grauber, and became the mother of ten children. Ann, born February 16, 1819, was married in 1839 to Christian Roth, by whom she had eleven children; she died in 1863. Christian, born in 1821, died in 1823. Joseph, born January 13, 1823, was married May 4, 1848, to Mary Ann Hevehill, and became the father of thirteen children. All of the above named children were natives of France. Benjamin, born in 1827, in Wayne county, Ohio, married Catherine Stooky, in 1850, and they had fourteen children. Fanny, born September 19, 1829, in Wayne county, married Jacob Roth, and became the mother of thirteen children; she died February 28, 1874. Eliza, born in 1830, in Utica, N. Y., died there the same year. The father of this family departed this life in Fulton county, Ohio, in March, 1871, and the mother in 1836.

Peter Klopfenstein, the father of our subject, was married in Wood county, Ohio, September 19, 1837, to Miss Henrietta Moore, who was born January 5, 1819, in Mogadore, Summit Co., Ohio, and came to this county in 1833, at the age of fourteen years. To them were born the following children: Lee M., born September 30, 1838, who was married May 13, 1860, to Julia Ann Elliott, and has had five children; Joseph, born February 23, 1842, who married Sarah Hill, and has five children (he was a soldier in Company A, 100th O. V. I., in which regiment he served three years; he is now a farmer, living in Rollersville, Sandusky county); George, subject of this review; Amelia E., born October 30, 1849, wife of George W. Houskeeper, of Center township; James E., born February 14, 1852, who is a dentist in Longmont, Boulder Co., Colo.; Mary Ann, born August 26, 1858, who died September 15, 1872, at the age of fourteen; and Chloe M., born March 26, 1861, died September 18, 1872. The mother's death occurred September 16, 1870.

On the maternal side our subject is descended from Samuel Moore, who was a native of Connecticut, where his father, who was from the British Isles, had located at an early day. Nathan Moore, the son of Samuel, was united in marriage with Julia Ann Lee, a daughter of John Lee, who, at an early day in the history of New England, sought refuge there from the rulers of his native land—Ireland. Mrs. Moore was also a native of Connecticut, and with her husband removed to Summit county, Ohio, where they

both died at the age of fifty-five years. In their family were the following children: Chloe, born in Vermont, in 1788, became the wife of a Mr. Cook; Laura, born in the same State, in 1792, married Thomas Hall; Lee, born in Vermont, March 13, 1793, was the maternal grandfather of our subject; Lucy, born in 1795, married a Mr. Van Gorder; Betsy, born in 1797, married a Mr. Briggs; Julia, born in 1800, married a Mr. Ripson; and Nathan, born in 1807, died at the age of five years.

Lee Moore was married November 27, 1817, the lady of his choice being Miss Phœbe M. Bradley, who was born March 13, 1798, and was the third child of Ariel and Chloe (Lane) Bradley, both natives of Connecticut, the former born at Salisbury, December 30, 1768, and the latter at Killingworth, October 22, 1770. Her grandfather, James Bradley, died in Summit county, Ohio, at the age of ninety years. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Moore included eleven children, namely: Henrietta, born January 5, 1819, was the mother of our subject; Phœbe M. was born February 10, 1821; Nathan, born January 13, 1823, is now a resident of Toledo, Ohio; Ariel B., born June 6, 1826, died May 19, 1827; Albert, born April 24, 1828, died June 30, 1885; Julia Ann was born July 15, 1830; Olive was born October 23, 1832; Milton, born February 25, 1835, was drowned in a well in March, 1838; Chloe was born July 25, 1837; James was born December 9, 1839; and Charles was born in 1843. The mother of these children departed this life February 23, 1872, and the father's death occurred in 1874.

DANIEL ZIMMERMAN, a worthy representative of one of the honored pioneer families of Center township, then a part of Webster township, Wood county, was born there on May 12, 1835. His father, William Zimmerman, was a native of Virginia, born in 1798, and came to this county in 1835, locating on the farm where our subject's birth occurred. He took up 160 acres of wild land, which he at once began to improve and cultivate. His wife bore the maiden name of Isabella Householder, and to them were born fourteen children, named as follows: John and Monroe, who are both deceased; Eliza, deceased wife of Joseph Burdo; Lewis, who has also passed away; Daniel, of this sketch; Mary, deceased wife of George W. Garner; George, who died from the effects of his service in the Civil war; Milton, infirmary director of Wood county; Isaac, a farmer of Portage township; William and Isabella, twins, the latter the wife of William Wed-



dell, deceased; James, an agriculturist of Center township; Lewis E., deceased; and Harvey, a farmer of Michigan. The father's death occurred in 1884, and the mother passed away in 1889.

The entire life of our subject has been passed in his native township, being reared to manhood on his father's farm, and receiving his education in the district schools of the neighborhood. On the outbreak of the Rebellion, he resolved to aid in the preservation of the Union, and in 1861, enlisted at Pemberville, Wood county, in Company K, 21st O. V. I. On December 31, 1863, he veteranized, and was given a furlough. For two weeks, in 1861, he was confined in the hospital at Nashville, Tenn., but during the remainder of his service was always found at his post of duty, and participated in the battles of Chattanooga, East Kentucky, Ivy Mountain, La Vergne, Stone River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, the siege of Atlanta, and the capture of Jonesboro. He was with Sherman on the celebrated march to the sea, and on the close of his enlistment received an honorable discharge, August 25, 1865.

At the termination of his army experience, Mr. Zimmerman returned to Center township, where he purchased sixty acres of land, which, after cultivating some seven years, he sold and bought 110 acres, which comprises his present fine farm. It was then, however, in its primitive condition, mostly under water, not a tree having been cut, or a ditch made, and no roads yet been laid out to the place. After much hard labor he succeeded in clearing the land, which he drained, and on which he planted an orchard, and erected a fine dwelling house, barns and other outbuildings. It is now one of the model farms of the county, supplied with all modern improvements, and the well-cultivated fields indicate to the passerby the thrift and enterprise of the owner.

On May 24, 1866, Mr. Zimmerman was united in marriage with Miss Emma Fox, a pioneer teacher, who taught twenty-one terms in Wood county, and who was born in Livonia, N. Y., March 14, 1837, and is a daughter of John Fox, a farmer of that locality. Six children grace this union: William A., a carpenter, who was born August 12, 1867; Lucy M., a school teacher, born May 27, 1869; Jessie M., wife of Charles Barr (a farmer, but now a real-estate agent), born July 13, 1871; Aner, a carpenter of North Dakota, born March 8, 1873; Cever, a farmer residing at home, born January 5, 1875; and John W., born July 6, 1878.

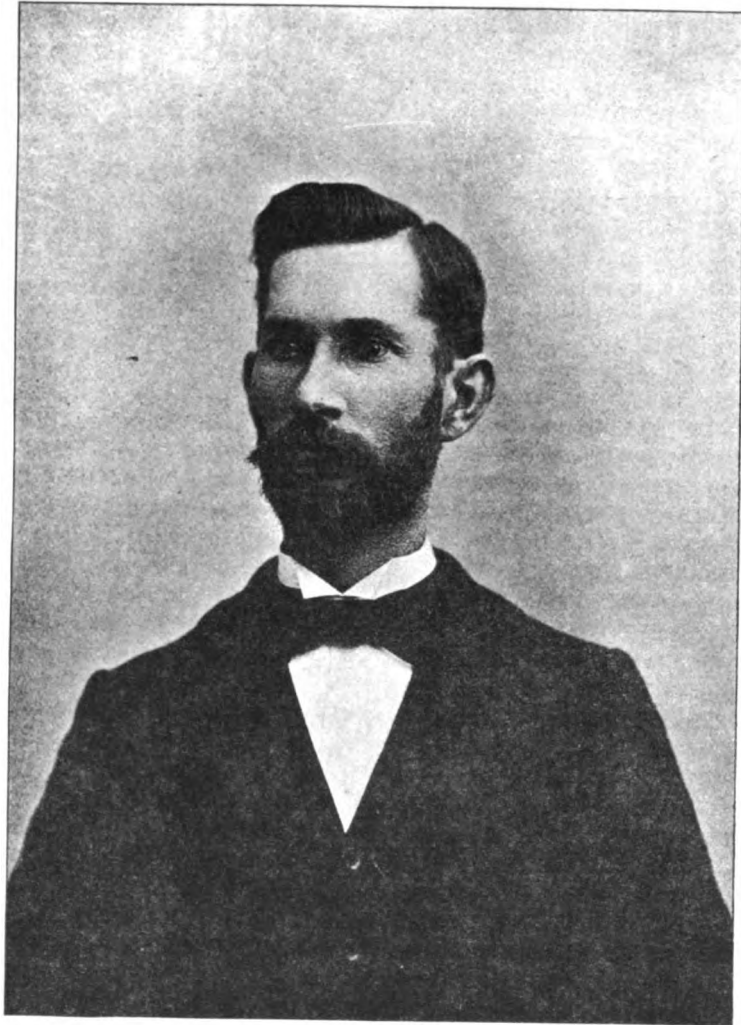
Mr. Zimmerman has watched with lively interest the growth and development of the county,

and has contributed largely to its reputation as one of the most highly cultivated districts in this great commonwealth. He and his estimable wife endured all the hardships and privations incident to a life in a new settlement, and well deserve the reward which is now beginning to crown their labors. Politically he identifies himself with the Republican party, whose principles he staunchly advocates, and has served as school director for six years. He belongs to J. Wiley Post No. 46, G. A. R., and he and his family adhere to the faith of the United Brethren Church.

H. E. NOBLE, M. D., a prominent physician and surgeon, was born in Broome county, N. Y., August 27, 1855, and is a son of Derwin and Betsey M. (McClure) Noble, also natives of Broome county. In 1860 the parents removed to Huron county, Ohio, where the father engaged in farming for six years, after which he removed to Lucas county, this State, but now makes his home in Stony Ridge, where his wife died in 1893. To them were born five children: Emma Jane, wife of Darius Carpenter, of Stony Ridge; H. E., our subject; Clarence, a traveling salesman, of Toledo, Ohio; Frank, a sawyer, of Perysburg, Ohio; and Clark D., also of that place. They also reared an adopted daughter, Nellie Hubbell, now Mrs. Henry Reifert, of Stony Ridge.

At the age of five years H. E. Noble was taken to Huron county, and was eleven years old when the family removed to Lucas county, in both of which counties he received a portion of his literary education, which he completed at Delta High School, at the age of eighteen years, after which he began the study of medicine. In 1877 he entered the Detroit Medical College, completing his course in 1879; he then located at Swanton, Fulton county, where he practiced until 1883, when he again took up his studies, this time in Toledo Medical College, from which he graduated in the class of 1884. He then established himself at Stony Ridge, Wood county, where he built up a large and lucrative practice, making a specialty of surgery and the diseases of women, having attended extra lectures on these subjects in New York City, where he was graduated from the New York Institute in 1891. In 1896 he removed to Toledo, where he has taken up the practice of his profession, devoting his attention to surgery and the diseases of women.

The Doctor holds membership in the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association and the Ohio State Medical Society, has served as health officer in Troy township, Wood county, two years,



*A. C. Noble, M. D.*



and has been physician for the poor in Lake township for ten years past. He is medical examiner for the Manhattan Life Insurance Co., of New York, and also the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co., of Milwaukee, Wis. Socially he is connected with Perrysburg Lodge No. 527, K. of P., and with the K. of H., in which latter he has twice served as dictator. He is a contributor to the "American Medical Compend," of Toledo; also of the "Columbus Medical Journal," and "International Journal of Surgery." He has read papers on gynecology before the Medical Association. Politically he affiliates with the Republican party, of which he is one of its strongest supporters in his vicinity, and takes an active interest in everything for the good of the community. He is an extremely busy and successful practitioner, but finds time to aid in all worthy enterprises which will advance the welfare of his fellow man.

At Swanton, Ohio, Dr. Noble was united in marriage with Miss Rebecca Hunlock, who died in Stony Ridge in 1884. Five years later he there wedded Miss Celina Bonda, who was born December 20, 1873, in Michigan. Her education was acquired in the public schools of Lenawee county, Mich. To the Doctor and his wife were born three children: Elizabeth A., born May 25, 1890, and died at the age of five months; Mabel, born July 30, 1894; and Jessie, born September 16, 1895.

N. A. McALLISTER is a leading and successful business man of Walbridge, Ohio, where he conducts a first-class general store, and carries a well-selected stock in order to meet the demands of his customers. He was born in Buffalo, N. Y., April 13, 1850, and is a son of Neil and Catherine McAllister, natives of Scotland, where their marriage was celebrated. The father was born in Greenock in 1809, and, in 1849, brought his wife to the United States, locating first in Buffalo, N. Y. From there he removed to Erie county, Ohio, and later became a resident of Wood county, where he engaged in farming. He also sailed on the lakes for some time, fitting out vessels at Milan, Ohio, and he was engaged in furnishing vessels after quitting the life of a sailor. He died at Walbridge on the 15th of March, 1889, and his wife, who was born in 1812, had died in 1883. Their family consisted of four children who grew to adult age, namely: Daniel H. and Angus, who are both now deceased; Mary W., wife of Eugene Winchester, of East Toledo, Ohio; and N. A., the subject of this sketch.

The last named was reared in Milan, Erie

county, until eleven years of age, when he accompanied his parents to Wood county, and later engaged in sailing on the lakes, being mate on the vessel "Hattie Wells" for two years. On giving up that life, he began his present mercantile business at Walbridge, where he has now carried on operations with good success for twelve years, and does a large and lucrative business.

On December 28, 1882, Mr. McAllister was united in marriage with Miss Amanda E. Clark, who was born in Oberlin, Ohio, July 2, 1853, and two children bless their union—Ralph D., and Thorwell G. Besides his store our subject owns a good farm of eighty acres in Lake township, and he is widely known in business circles throughout the county, being regarded by all as a man of rare energy, superior business tact, and undoubted integrity of character. Socially, he belongs to the Odd Fellows Lodge at East Toledo, also to the Knights and Ladies of Security, and politically is identified with the Republican party.

JOHN W. BOWLES is a successful and energetic agriculturist, and one of the esteemed and valued citizens of Milton township. His well-spent life well entitles him to representation in this volume, and it is with pleasure that we present to our readers the record of his career. A native of Cambridgeshire, England, he was born on May 24, 1834, and is a son of John and Jane (Dickerson) Bowles. The public schools of his native land afforded him his educational privileges, and when quite young he started out to make his own living.

When a young man, Mr. Bowles determined to come to America, believing that he might better his financial condition by taking advantage of the opportunities afforded in the New World. He crossed the Atlantic in 1851, and located in Albany, N. Y., where he was employed for a time as gardener. He later went to Rhode Island, where he secured a situation with S. W. Foster, a wholesale merchant. In 1853 he came to Ohio, locating in Monroeville, Huron county, where he worked as a farm hand until 1856, when he took up his residence in Wood county. During the Civil war he enlisted at Perrysburg, in Capt. Cook's company—Company C, 21st O. V. I.—and was honorably discharged at Columbus, Ohio, in August, 1861. He then returned home and purchased forty acres of land, which he improved. He possesses good business ability, is a careful manager, is energetic and progressive in his methods, and that he has won a place among

the substantial citizens of Milton township is due to his own efforts. In politics he is a Republican.

In Milton township Mr. Bowles was united in marriage with Miss Jane Watson, who was born in Delaware, Ohio, December 3, 1838. They became the parents of four children—Benjamin and Mary L., both deceased; William, who married Emma Reid, and aids in the operation of his father's farm; and Maxwell, who is also at home.

PROF. J. C. SOLETHER, principal of the Jerry City schools, has been engaged in teaching for over twenty years, and has an enviable reputation as an educator throughout Wood county and vicinity.

Our subject was born December 28, 1854, in Bloom township, eldest child of Charles and Sarah (Miller) Solether. He first attended at District School No. 5, in Portage township, and Alfred Smith was his first teacher. As he was the eldest, however, he was needed at home to help his father, being thoroughly trained to agricultural pursuits, and by the time he reached the age of eighteen he had only an ordinary literary training. He then attended six months at the Bowling Green schools, and by the time he was nineteen had fitted himself for teaching, a profession to which he has ever since given his principal attention, and it is a fact worthy of note that though he has held many different positions, his work has all been in Wood county and vicinity. After beginning to teach he educated himself from his own earnings, and he at first taught during the winter and engaged in farm work during the summer. He spent one term at the Normal at Fostoria, and studied at Oberlin College part of three years, but after he was twenty-four years old he advanced himself by reading and private study, acquiring no small amount of knowledge in this way. His first school was in Liberty township, and he received \$1.50 a day for his services, and he has also taught in Bloom and Portage townships, having been principal of the Portage schools for four years. He is now serving his sixth year as principal of the schools in Jerry City, where he is most favorably known as a competent instructor and a good disciplinarian, and one who has the respect and good will of his pupils. Though he has been unusually successful, he deserves the rank he now occupies in his profession, for he has placed himself in his present position by hard study and untiring devotion to his work. In May, 1889, Prof. Solether was appointed, by Judge Young, one of the county examiners, and has held that position continu-

ously since, serving with his customary efficiency and ability. In 1895 he and his wife went to Denver to attend the Convention of the National Association of Teachers, and on his trip visited Salt Lake City and many other points of interest and importance.

On November 10, 1880, Prof. Solether was married, in Henry township, Wood county, to Miss Lydia Peters, a native of that township, daughter of Squire B. L. Peters. Children as follows have blessed this union: Hallie, Lauren, Pliny, McClellan, and Harry, all of whom are living. At the time of his marriage our subject located on his present farm in Portage township, which comprises ninety-one acres of good land in Section 32, and forty acres in Section 29, and it is still more valuable on account of its situation in the midst of a good oil territory. All the farm buildings and the very pleasant and comfortable residence have been erected by him, and he has displayed as much ability in this line as he has in his profession, having acquired a very fair share of this world's goods. He has a well-stocked library and a most comfortable home. Prof. Solether has been a lifelong Republican in political sentiment, and in Bloom township served as trustee and for two years as clerk. But he is no politician, being thoroughly devoted to his profession and to his home.

T. J. VOSBURG, a well-known resident of Jerry City, was born November 27, 1820, in the town of Salisbury, Litchfield Co., Conn., son of John and Elizabeth (Miner) Vosburg, and grandson of Abraham Vosburg.

John Vosburg was an ore digger in Connecticut. He was married in that State, and lived there several years afterward, coming to Ohio when our subject, who was the eldest child, was about eight years old. They located on a new farm in Berlin township, Trumbull (now Mahoning) county, which was then a pioneer section, and remained there until 1836, when they came to Wood county, arriving June 1. They were fourteen days *en route* from Trumbull county; it rained every day, and they were obliged to cut their road out the greater part of the way after entering Wood county. It required four yoke of cattle to haul one of the covered wagons of the party from Millgrove to where they located. The Vosburgs settled in Montgomery township, which was then all in the woods and very swampy except on the ridges. Mr. Vosburg had come here the previous March, and entered eighty acres of land, also buying 160 acres that another had settled upon. The family made a temporary

home with John A. Kelly, an earlier pioneer, who had a small double log house, until a cabin could be built, and they began pioneer life in earnest. Game was plentiful in that region at that early day, and wolves gave them considerable trouble on account of the stock. Mr. Vosburg lived and worked on this land the remainder of his life, gradually improving it and acquiring more property, until he found himself in comfortable circumstances. He died on the farm at the age of about sixty years, and his widow afterward moved to Millgrove, at which place she served as postmistress a few years. She passed her remaining days at Fostoria, dying at the home of her son Harmon, and she and Mr. Vosburg are both resting in the cemetery at Millgrove. They were the parents of ten children, all of whom grew to maturity, and six of whom are now living, viz.: T. J., whose name introduces this sketch; Jeanette, Mrs. John Hoiles, of Huron county, Ohio; Freeman, a farmer of Portage township, Wood county; Phoebe, who first married David Adams, and after his death wedded his brother, Alex. Adams, who is also deceased; Harmon, of Fostoria; and Hiram, of Huron county.

When the family settled in Wood county T. J. Vosburg was about sixteen years old, and, being the eldest, was his father's principal help. He had attended school in Connecticut, and also in Trumbull county, where the school house was two and a half miles from his home, and everything was of the most primitive character. His agricultural training, however, was not neglected, and he not only helped his father, but also worked away from home, the greater part of his earnings going to help his parents. After marriage he settled on twenty acres of land in Montgomery township, which he bought from his father, and lived there for some time, improving the place greatly. On selling this tract he came to Portage township, locating on the home farm of his father-in-law, John Davis, where he lived several years, finally selling out and buying a forty-acre tract, also in Portage township, and subsequently bought and removed to another farm of eighty acres in that township. In 1879 he removed to Jerry City, where he has ever since had his home. At the time of his removal here he bought forty acres of land in Section 4, Bloom township, which he held until 1895; but he never lived there.

On December 7, 1843, Mr. Vosburg was married, in Wood county, to Miss Eunice Davis, a native of Richland county, Ohio, whose father, John Davis, settled in Portage township in the fall of 1836. Children as follows were born to

this union: Margaret E., widow of John Richards, who resides in Huron county, Ohio; Mary, Mrs. Benjamin Simons, of Millgrove, Wood county; Emma, Mrs. John Bunnell, of Fostoria; and Rachel, who died young. The mother of these passed from earth March 14, 1854, and was laid to rest in Millgrove cemetery. For his second wife our subject wedded, in Perry township, Miss Anna Snyder, who was born August 9, 1837, in Mahoning county, Ohio, the daughter of George and Barbara (Martin) Snyder. Mrs. Snyder died when Anna was only a child, and when she was twelve years old her father removed to Seneca county, later settling in Bloom township, Wood county, where he died. Seven children have come to this marriage, as follows: Phoebe A. (Mrs. John Boltz), of North Baltimore; Susan E. (Mrs. William Stuck), of St. Joseph county, Mich.; Martha M. (Mrs. Edward Adams), of Jerry City; Ella, widow of James McMann, of Jerry City; Clara A. (Mrs. O. T. Wilsey), of Jerry City; Ida (Mrs. William Davis), of St. Louis, Mo.; and Charles H., who lives at home.

Mr. Vosburg was originally a Whig in politics, becoming a Republican on the formation of that party, which he has always supported, except on one occasion, when he voted the Democratic ticket to please a neighbor. In anti-bellum days he was an Abolitionist. He served for ten years as trustee of Portage township, and held the office of constable there for eighteen years—the longest term of service in that position of any one man. He has been active in Church work, being a member of the Liberal contingent of the U. B. Church, and has held numerous offices, having been class-leader, trustee, Sabbath-school superintendent, etc., and the duties of every office in which he has been placed have been discharged with his usual fidelity and ability.

R. R. HILLARD, a rising young farmer of Portage township, is a native of the same, born April 7, 1873, son of Reuben P. and Mary (Dresser) Hillard.

Reuben P. Hillard was born in Crawford county, Ohio, son of Daniel Hillard. In 1862 he came to Portage township, Wood county, and married there. He was a life-long farmer, prospering in his chosen vocation, and he was an active man in the community, where he was highly respected. For several years he served as trustee of the township, and was offered other offices, but declined to serve, preferring to give all his attention to his own business interests. There were six children in his family—R. R., whose name opens this sketch; Nellie M., Mrs. B. F.

Musser, of Portage township; Charles R., a farmer, of Portage township; Frank D., Laura A. F. and Daisy E., all of whom live in Portage township. Mr. Hillard died December 26, 1891, and Mrs. Hillard passed from earth September 9, 1894, and their remains now rest in Mt. Zion Churchcemetery. They were both members of the Methodist Protestant Church, and in political affiliation Mr. Hillard was a Republican. He was a man of naturally broad intellect, and a close observer, keeping himself well informed on current events.

Our subject received his education in the schools of District No. 7, Portage township, and, being fond of books, he learned rapidly, acquiring a good common-school education. He subsequently studied bookkeeping at home, and he is a constant reader, keeping himself well abreast of the times, and posted on the issues of the day. He lived under the parental roof until his marriage, March 27, 1892, at Bradner, Wood county, to Miss Rillie A. Sprout, who was born in Seneca county, daughter of William F. and Angeline (Dicken) Sprout, the former of whom was a farmer. One child has been born to this union: Ronald M., January 22, 1894.

In the fall of 1892, Mr. Hillard located on the fifty-acre farm, in Section 35, Portage township, where he has since carried on general farming. He has two oil wells on this farm, and also holds a sixth interest in eleven other wells, nine of which are on the old Dresser farm, and two on the "Hillard Homestead." By his energy and industry, Mr. Hillard has won the good will of all who know him. On September 25, 1894, he was appointed notary public, and has since served in that office with ability and success. In political affiliation, he is a staunch Republican, as was his father before him, and socially he is a member of Rescue Lodge No. 345, K. of P., Jerry City.

F. WENZ, a well-known civil engineer of Perrysburg, was born October 4, 1850, near the historic city of Worms, Germany, where his ancestors had been for several generations Inspectors of the King's Forest. His grandfather, Nicolaus Wenz, and his father, Herman Wenz, were both born and passed their entire lives there, the latter engaging in agriculture in addition to his official duties. He married Miss Elizabeth Eberts, and their son, the subject of this sketch, enjoyed exceptionally good educational advantages in his youth; was graduated from the Polytechnic School at Darmstadt, his course having been interrupted by one year of military service in the

Franco-Prussian war. In 1874 he came to America. He spent one year at Buffalo, N. Y., serving in the U. S. Coast Survey, and then came to Wood county, where he has since resided, except for trips to the Fatherland in 1878 and 1889.

Mr. Wenz married one of Perrysburg's charming daughters, Miss Celia Lucas, who was born February 28, 1859, a daughter of the late D. Lucas. They have two sons, Roscoe and Edward. Mr. Wenz has just completed a beautiful residence, one of the finest in the county, located at a picturesque spot on the Maumee river, outside of the corporation limits of Perrysburg, and here the family now reside. A young man of rare mental gifts and training, he holds a high place in the community. He is a recognized authority on civil engineering, and has served two terms as county surveyor. In politics he is a Republican.

JOHN H. WATSON, a well-known resident of Bowling Green, was born in Danube, Herkimer Co., N. Y., April 17, 1834.

His grandfather, Jude Watson, a native of New York, had a family of seven children, among whom were James, who lived in Canada; William, a Lutheran minister of Cobleskill, N. Y.; and Nathan, our subject's father, who was a tanner and shoemaker in Kerkiomer county, where he died in 1889, at the age of eighty-seven. He was a member of the Methodist Church, and in politics was first a Whig and later a Republican. He was married three times, the first time to Miss Anna Owens, a lady of Welsh descent, whose ancestors had been early settlers in New York State. Her mother was a Van Wagonen, a member of another old family in that State. Five children were born of this first marriage, of whom our subject was the youngest. The others were Catherine, who married Dr. Asa Christy, and second, George Ward; Mary, who died at the age of eighteen; William, who died at the age of forty-five; and Sarah, who married Henry Andrews, and died at the age of thirty-five. For his second wife he married Miss Sally Deyo, and four children were born to this union: Joseph, who served in an artillery corps during the war; Hannah; Elbert, who enlisted in the 77th (Bemis Heights) N. Y. V. I., and died at Fortress Monroe, after the battle of the Chickahominy; and Stephen, who died at home aged about twenty. His third wife was a widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, and of this union was born one son, Davis S., a prominent inventor living at Canastota, New York,

John Herkimer Watson, our subject (whose

mother died when he was an infant), was adopted by his maternal uncle, Abram Owens, and lived with him until the age of seventeen, attending school at "Indian Castle." He learned the carpenter's trade at Cherry Valley, N. Y., and later went to Bath, S. C., and engaged in business as a millwright. Two years later the war broke out, but not being in sympathy with the South he returned north to Norwich, Connecticut.

In 1859 he was married to Miss Kate Van-Dyke, who was born in Cherry Valley, N. Y., May 22, 1840. They lived for a short time in Norwich, then moved to Fort Plain, N. Y., and later to Onondaga county, N. Y., where they remained until 1876, when they came to Bowling Green, where the uncle of Mr. Watson, Abram Owens (before mentioned), then resided. Since that time they have identified themselves with all the interests of this progressive community. Mr. Watson has been employed in building some of the best structures of the town, and has also followed the occupation of millwright. Previous to the war he was a Whig, but since that time he has been a Republican, although he is a non-partisan in local affairs, and believes in voting for the best man. He has been a member of the Masonic fraternity for twenty-nine years, and now belongs to Wood county Lodge No. 112, F. & A. M., Crystal Chapter No. 157, R. A. M., Toledo Council No. 33, R. & S. M., and Toledo Commandery No. 7, Knights Templar.

JOHN WEIHL, one of the industrious and progressive agriculturists of Middleton township, was born in Berne, Germany, July 6, 1836.

His father, Clarius Wehl, was a native of the same place, and was extensively engaged in fruit raising and wine-making there. He married Fraulein Mary Linder, and had thirteen children, of whom seven lived to adult age, namely: John, Jacob, Henry, Clavius, Mary, Elizabeth and Maggie. The others died in early infancy.

Mr. Wehl was the only member of the family who came to America. He was educated in the schools of his native place, and worked for his father until he was eighteen years old, when he came to this country, spending forty-six days in crossing the Atlantic. Landing in New York City in 1854, he came to Cleveland, and, after a short stay there, went to St. Louis, Mo., where he worked five months at the blacksmith's trade. He then went to Huron county, Ohio, and worked on a farm near Norwalk until 1866, when he came to Wood county and located in Middleton township, purchasing a tract of land, which he afterward sold to Adam Beil, buying, instead,

his present farm of eighty acres near Haskins. With true German industry, he has worked to improve his property, where he now has a handsome dwelling house and other buildings, and a fine orchard, among other improvements.

He was married in Erie county, in 1860, to Miss Eliza Beil, a native of Germany, born in Hassen in 1842, and a sister of Adam Beil, whose biography is given on another page. Fourteen children were born of this union, seven of whom are still living, viz.: Henry, a farmer; Rena, the wife of George Mohr; William and Charles, both now engaged in agriculture; and Louisa, Frederick and Lydia, who are still at home. The others were Adam, Minnie, Mary, Albert, Arthur, Anna, and one that died in infancy.

Mr. Wehl is an influential worker in local affairs, and has been supervisor of his township for three years, and school director for seven years. In politics he is a Democrat, and he is a prominent member of the German Reformed Church at Haskins.

JOHN LANDWEHR, one of the pioneer agriculturists of Webster township, was born April 11, 1828, in Hanover, Germany. His parents, Caspar and Catherine Landwehr, were natives of the same province. They had four children—Fred, Annie, Katie, and John, our subject, who is now the only survivor. His mother died when he was a year old, and at the age of fourteen he was bound out for wages by his father. He received a fair education, however, by making good use of his opportunities. In 1854 he came to America in a sailing vessel, and landed in Baltimore with but two shillings in his pocket. He made his way to Portsmouth, Ohio, and secured employment in a foundry, where he worked six years. In 1861 he came to Wood county, and bought eighty acres of wild land, which was one unbroken stretch of woods and water. There were no roads, and it took two days to make a trip from his home to Woodville and return, a distance of eight miles. His first dwelling was, of course, a log cabin, but the well-earned prosperity of his later years has enabled him to build a comfortable residence and farm buildings of modern pattern. He has also added sixty acres more to his estate, making one of the finest farms in his vicinity. He was married November 19, 1858, to Miss Julia Alert, of Portsmouth, Scioto county, a native of Hanover, Germany, born November 9, 1839. She was one in a family of nine children; born to Christopher and Mary Alert.

Mr. and Mrs. Landwehr have had five chil-



dren: John; George; Louisa, the wife of Edward Howard; George, who died in infancy; and Annie, born January 28, 1871, the wife of Henry Myers, now the manager of his father-in-law's farm. They were married October 25, 1888, and have four children — George, born August 13, 1889; Delia, April 17, 1891; Lawrence, August 17, 1893; and Verna, August 26, 1895.

Mr. Landwehr is one of the public-spirited men of his township, and has served as school director for twelve years, and trustee for three years, discharging every duty with faithfulness and discretion. In politics he is a Republican, and he is a leading member of the German Lutheran Church at Luckey.

CHARLES A. MERCER is a native of Liberty township, and a son of Abraham and Harriet (Rice) Mercer. His father learned the shoemaker's trade in early life, and followed it to some extent, but his attention was mainly given to agricultural pursuits. He was born in Columbia county, Penn., and since his marriage has resided in Liberty township, now living a retired life in Rudolph. His first wife died about 1883, and he has since wedded Mary A. McCrory. Of the first union were born the following named: Charity, James, Charles A., Porterfield, William Marion, Clinton and Isadore.

Mr. Mercer acquired his education in the common schools, and remained in his father's home until his marriage, with the exception of one year spent in the army. He enlisted in 1864, in Company C, 11th O. V. I., and immediately went to the front, where he participated in the Atlanta campaign, and the battles of Goldsboro and Fayetteville. When the war was over he was honorably discharged in Washington in June, 1865, and returned to his home.

In the fall of 1868, in Liberty township, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Mercer and Miss Ann Stevens. They located on the farm which is now their home, Mr. Mercer having previously purchased forty acres of land and erected thereon a good residence. He has upon this place five oil-producing wells, and, in addition to this property, he owns as fine a farm of 100 acres as there is in Jackson township. To Mr. and Mrs. Mercer have been born five children, namely: Abraham A., Carl, Bessie, Leon and Lloyd. Mr. Mercer started in life a poor boy, but has resolutely worked his way upward until he is now numbered among the substantial farmers of the community. He is serving as school director, and has filled that position for several terms, the cause of education finding in him a warm friend.

ANDREW PEBBLES. No nation has contributed more valuable citizens to our great commonwealth than the "land of the mountain and the flood," and the prominent traits of character for which the Scotch are famous—thrift, persistence and loyalty—thrive in our republican soil, and take kindly to our fostering institutions.

Among the best known and most highly respected citizens of Perry township will be found the subject of this sketch, who was born on the Eden, in Fifeshire, Scotland, March 25, 1815, the youngest child in the family of seven sons and three daughters born to Alexander and Jane (Mackay) Peebles. The father was a farmer who worked for other men, owning no property himself. Andrew received a good education in the Presbyterian schools of his native land, and when fourteen years old commenced a four-years' apprenticeship at the carpenter's trade, leaving for America two years after its completion, as will presently be related, so he worked at carpentering in Scotland six years in all. Wages were very small; it seemed impossible ever to be able to make enough to have a home of his own, and the young man, who had considerable ambition and enterprise, became dissatisfied with his lot. About this time, while doing some work for a rich gentleman, Mr. Peebles had access to his library, and there found a history of the United States. This he read with great interest, and it awakened a desire to try his fortune in the new country. His employer encouraged his idea of emigration, and recommended him to a brother-in-law of his, by the name of Smith, who lived in New York City. Mr. Smith offered to find employment for him, and a number of others if they would come to New York. Mr. Peebles undertook to get up a company of emigrants, and secured seven who had decided to leave their country in search of more work and better pay. Mr. Peebles accordingly went to Edinburgh and engaged passage on a sailing vessel for seven men, and on March 1, 1835, bade farewell to his widowed mother and other members of the family, and started on his long journey. On reaching Edinburgh he was disappointed to find that none of the other men were on hand, and he was obliged to set sail without them. The vessel, the "Margaret Bogle," Capt. Smith, was a poor one, and had only thirty-six passengers. They encountered severe storms, and, altogether had a rough voyage, making very slow time, and being eight weeks and four days on her passage to New York City, arriving at the latter place May 28, following.

Mr. Peebles landed in New York with \$15, and at once hunted up Mr. Smith, for whom he worked during that summer. For the succeeding five years he followed his trade in the city and vicinity, and in 1840 started for the West. He came by way of canal from Albany to Buffalo, thence by the lake to Cleveland, and from there by canal to Chillicothe, where he had a brother-in-law living. He worked at his trade in that city and vicinity, and when he could find nothing else to do went into the fields as a harvest hand. Times were hard and money scarce, and the country was flooded with "shinplasters"; a man might have a pocket-full of bills when he went to bed, and wake up to find the banks broken and himself with nothing. Our subject lived in Chillicothe four years, during that time purchasing a small property there. His next home was in Circleville, Ohio, where he also owned his home, and where he remained three years. He then rented land near Bainbridge, in Paxton township, Ross Co., Ohio, and engaged in farming, also in the manufacture of fanning mills. Later he lived in Fayette and Clinton counties, farming in both. In March, 1864, Mr. Peebles removed to Montgomery township, Wood county, on one hundred acres of partly improved land, one farm, which he conducted until 1882, and in 1865 he bought 160 acres, also in Montgomery township. In 1883, owing to the poor health of his wife, he broke up housekeeping, and the latter spent some time with her children. In the meantime Mr. Peebles rented a small farm, and, later, removed to Perry township and lived with his son.

Mr. Peebles was married in New York City, in April, 1839, to Miss Ellen McDowell, a native of Scotland, who came to this country in 1835; her death took place March 2, 1888, and she lies in the cemetery at Freeport. The children born to this worthy couple were as follows: Jane, the wife of John L. Pursinger, of Washington Court House, Ohio; Andrew J., who died in infancy; James, a farmer in Perry township; Ellen, who married Daniel Wise, and died at Freeport, in 1895; Ann, who became the wife of Alonzo Hemminger, and died in Montgomery township in 1892. Mr. Peebles now lives by himself on a small piece of land in Perry township, and is passing the evening of his life in quiet and restful enjoyment. Besides his home place, he owns a tract of eighty acres in Bloom township. At one time he was a Democrat in political belief; but, seeing and deprecating the terrible evils which intemperance brings upon us as a nation, he has become a Prohibitionist from principle, and casts all his influence in behalf of that

party which he thinks would remedy the evil if allowed the power. He has never held office, although repeatedly urged to do so, and although he was well-fitted to occupy any place in the gift of his locality. He is an honest, upright citizen, a typical Scotchman, and although his love for his native land is still strong within him, he is loyal to the country of his adoption. He has been a stanch Presbyterian ever since his youth, but is broadminded, and gives liberally to Churches of all denominations. Although he has arrived at a good old age, he retains his faculties, and is active and energetic, a congenial companion, and a man highly esteemed in the community.

EPHRAIM SHANABARGER, one of the successful representative farmers of Wood county, was born April 16, 1828, in Richland county, Ohio. His parents, Henry and Sarah (Royer) Shanabarger, were natives of Virginia and Pennsylvania, respectively. They were married in Richland county, Ohio, and there they both died in 1844. They had a family of eleven children: Robert, of Lucas, Ohio; Ephraim; Isaac, a shoemaker, who died in Missouri; Albert, a farmer of Whitley county, Ind.; Thomas Jefferson, a soldier of the 49th O. V. I.; Wilson Shannon, who died on the banks of the Mississippi river with camp diarrhea, and was buried there; Lavina, wife of Solomon Peterson, of Richland county, Ohio; Eleanor, who died at the home of her brother Ephraim, and was the widow of Thomas Reed, who was killed in a gristmill at Dayton, Ohio; Lucinda, wife of Ephraim Klink, of Mt. Zion, Ohio; Brageta, who died in 1844; and Leah, wife of James Marks, of Lucas, Ohio.

Common-school privileges were those afforded our subject, and his childhood and youth were passed on the old homestead in Richland county. He was seventeen years of age at the time of his parents' deaths. Not long after the farm was sold, and the administrator of the estate bound the children out to farmers. Our subject remained in the service of Patrick Yates until he had attained his majority, when he worked as a farm hand in the neighborhood, receiving \$1 per day. In 1853 he went with his brother Robert to Miami county, Ind., and purchased eighty acres of wild land, which he at once began to improve. After a year, however, he returned to Wood county. In Bloom township, on Christmas Day, 1855, Mr. Shanabarger married Sarah J. Yeaman, who was born in Richland county, April 22, 1835, a daughter of Joshua M. and Catherine (Keefer) Yeaman, also natives of Richland county. Mrs. Shanabarger was seventeen

years of age when she came to Wood county with her parents, who located on a 400-acre farm in Bloom township, there spending their remaining days. The father died October 2, 1871, at the age of sixty-three years, and his wife died December 12, 1876, aged seventy-eight years. Their children were Martha (widow of Henry Zoda) and Sarah J. (Mrs. Shanabarger).

Mr. and Mrs. Shanabarger lived four years on her father's farm, the former working in a gristmill owned by Mr. Yeaman. The latter gave to his daughter and our subject 100 acres of land in Henry township, and they removed to the place, erected thereon a frame residence, and began to clear and improve the property. After the death of Mr. Yeaman, Mr. Shanabarger and his brother-in-law, Mr. Zoda, operated the gristmill for two years, and then concluded to divide the property of the Yeaman estate, the latter retaining the ownership of the mill, while the former took the land. He has since disposed of a portion of this, but still retains the ownership of 216 acres. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Shanabarger are as follows: Francis C., born in Bloom township, September 30, 1856, is now a minister of the House of Israel; Martha Ellen, born February 20, 1858, is the widow of John Bowman, of Findlay, Ohio; Celestia Ann, born March 21, 1865, died November 17, 1884; Henry Albertus, born October 6, 1868, married Margaret Zink, and lives in Henry township; Minnie C., born February 10, 1872, is the wife of Alpheus Witmore, of Jerry City, Ohio. Mr. Shanabarger was formerly a Democrat in politics, but he is now independent, voting for the best men. He and his wife are members of the religious order known as the New House of Israel, the Living Temple. This religious organization was established on the 6th of April, 1891, in the city of Port Huron, Mich., and, when the ark of God's new covenant was brought forth according to divine order the Shanabarger family were among the witnesses. The ark here spoken of (Rev. 11, 19) was brought forth July 1, A. D., 1894, and dedicated in the New House of Israel, the Living Temple, at Pt. Huron, Mich., U. S. A. The New House of Israel is now located in Polk county, Texas, four miles northeast of Livingston. The presence of the divine ark will constitute the life of the Philadelphian Church (Rev. 3, 7), and wherever that is there must the ark of necessity be. The living testimony is now being handed to the people from the ark of the Lord this year A. D., 1896, through the columns of the Pinery by the true Philadelphian Church, the New House of Israel—Isaac was born

B. C., 1896; this proclamation is made A. D., 1896. The fulness of the Gentiles has come in, and Israel must be grafted into their own natural olive again (Rom. xi), and the covenant made with Israel (26th and 27th verses). The proclamation of this testimony of the Kingdom will be as by the sounds of a trumpet to alarm all nations of the earth, and especially all the professions of Christianity because attended with the power of acting all wonders. The birth of this virgin Church was visionally typified to St. John by the great wonder in heaven, bringing forth her first born that was caught up to the throne of God (see Rev. 12).—Geo. R. Sutton, H. P., Judge in Israel; residence, four miles northeast of Livingston, Texas.

JOSHUA O. AVERY, a well-known citizen of Weston township, is a native of Connecticut, born November 23, 1828, in New London county. The first of the Averys in this country came over in the "Mayflower," and in after years many of the name were massacred at Fort Ledyard.

Dudley Avery, father of our subject, was also of Connecticut nativity, born December 16, 1791, of English ancestry, and died near Monroeville, Huron Co., Ohio, September 30, 1854. He followed the occupation of a farmer, was a Universalist in religion, a Republican in politics. In Connecticut, October 16, 1814, he married Miss Prudence Avery, a native of that State, born August 26, 1788, of English parentage. Their children were: Dudley Austin, born September 21, 1815, died November 29, 1890; Hiram, b. February 7, 1817, d. March 30, 1855; Luther, b. April 30, 1819, d. February 28, 1895; Sydney S., b. April 16, 1822, d. February 24, 1830; Sarah Elizabeth, b. August 14, 1823, d. April 30, 1890 (she married Thomas B. Smith, in Huron county, and was residing at Dundee, Mich., at the time of her death; they had one child, Joseph B. Smith); John Q. A., b. June 12, 1825, d. June 2, 1826; Lucy Ann, b. December 30, 1826, d. February 9, 1830; Joshua O., our subject, comes next; Sylvia Ann, b. August 31, 1830, married William H. Chapman (he is deceased, and she now resides one mile east of Weston); and Prudence Olive, b. July 9, 1832, married to Edwin Mauley, of Sherman township, Huron county.

For a time our subject attended school in his native county, and then moved with his parents to Cleveland, Ohio, whence after a year's sojourn the family removed to Huron county, settling near Monroeville, in 1838. There Mr. Avery again attended school until he was twenty years



*J. O. Curry*



*Harriet M. Avery*



of age, at which time he came to Wood county and located two and one-half miles east of Weston. In 1864 he enlisted at Tontogany, in Company K, 185th O. V. I., under Gen. Cummings, and was honorably discharged in May, 1865. He suffered many hardships connected with a soldier's life, and so shattered in health was he when he returned home that he has been an invalid ever since from paralysis and spinal trouble, so as to be unfit for performing manual labor. He was a corporal in Capt. Black's company. Returning home he had his residence in Tontogany two years, then remained at his former home near Weston till 1889, in which year he came to his present beautiful home, situated one mile north of that village. It contains twenty-four and one-half acres of highly improved land, in addition to which Mr. Avery owns a farm of 120 acres in Plain township. In early life he followed agricultural pursuits, but for ten-years he traveled for a plating firm, and for the past decade he has assisted in collecting the taxes of the county. In his political preferences he is a stanch Republican, and for several years he served as trustee of Plain township. As a member of the G. A. R., he has always taken great interest in the National Encampments, having attended nearly all that have been so far held. The county fairs have no better champion than Mr. Avery, and for the past twenty years he has been the able and active secretary of the Wood County Agricultural Society.

Mr. Avery has been thrice married; first time in Lyme township, Huron Co., Ohio, on June 8, 1851, to Miss Harriet Mauley, of Sherman, Ohio, born March 6, 1834, in Deerfield, Oneida Co., N. Y., a daughter of John and Thankful (Nicholson) Mauley, who were of English descent. To this union children as follows were born: Thankful J., born August 21, 1853, died in infancy; Dudley Hiram, b. April 11, 1857, married Ellie M. Wiley, of Bowling Green, Ohio; Harriet Jane A., b. March 6, 1859, married B. P. Stratton, of Bowling Green, and they have two children—Pearl and Harold; John Orlando, b. July 9, 1861, lives in Bowling Green, married Miss Cora Hemminger, of North Baltimore, Ohio, and they had two children—Lea M. (deceased), and Bernard; Florence Susanna, b. March 17, 1864, and married G. W. Cheeney, also lives in Bowling Green; Flora Adelia, b. September 23, 1865, died in infancy; and Cora Coen, b. July 30, 1868, single. The mother of these died August 4, 1868, and July 20, 1870, at Tontogany, Mr. Avery married his second wife. For his third he wedded January 6, 1883, Miss Leti-

tia Elenor Fillmore, who was born October 23, 1864, a daughter of Timothy and Patience (Allen) Fillmore, the former of whom was born in New Brunswick, Canada, July 28, 1836, the latter in Nova Scotia, April 12, same year. Timothy Fillmore was a son of William Fillmore and wife, also natives of New Brunswick, and whose parents were English. In 1839, when Timothy was a small boy, the family moved by way of the St. Lawrence to Upper Canada (now province of Ontario), and on board the same vessel was his future wife, little two-year-old Patience Allen, who was accompanying her parents westward. She and Timothy were married August 3, 1856, in Canada, and in 1868 they moved into Michigan, settling in Midland county, where they are still living on their farm. They were the parents of eleven children, one of whom died in infancy; the others were: Julia D. (Mrs. John Marsh); William H., of Midland; James W., of Weston; Celia (Mrs. B. Canfield), now deceased; Letitia Elenor (Mrs. Avery); and Carrie, Sarah, Millard, Mahlon, and Corra, all five at home. The parents of these are both Methodists, and Mr. Fillmore is a Republican.

Mrs. Avery is affiliated with the Woman's Relief Corps, also with the L. O. T. M., and is a member of the Methodist Church.

CHARLES W. BRADSHAW, a well-known farmer and contractor, of Weston township, was born in Northampton, England, February 12, 1851.

John W. Bradshaw, the father of our subject, also a native of England, was there married May 4, 1846, to Charlotte Wortley, who was born in Northampton. In 1851, he set out with his wife and two little children—Emily and Charles W.—for America, embarking at Liverpool on a sailing vessel, the voyage occupying four weeks and four days. His first location was in Monroeville, Huron Co., Ohio, and his sole possessions on arriving there was \$15 in money, and a few bedclothes. For a time he worked on a farm there, and in October, 1860, came by team to Portage, Wood county, where he bought ninety acres of land, on which he made his home until his death in 1883, his wife surviving him until 1893. In civic affairs, he held the offices of trustee, supervisor, and director of the school board; in religious faith he was originally a Methodist, later in life becoming a member of the Church of Christ. Five children were born to this worthy couple, as follows: Emily is the wife of Joseph Horn, of Bowling Green; Charles W. is our subject; Elizabeth H. married Henry

Swope, and they reside in Columbus, Ga.; George is practicing medicine at Bluffton, Ohio; Lottie L. is the wife of H. B. Saylor, a hardware dealer, of Portage.

The early education of our subject was obtained at Hunt's Corners, in Huron county, and in the district schools of Wood county, which he attended until he was nineteen years old. He then taught some five winters, after which he spent two years in Ada, and there took the commercial and teachers courses, also higher mathematics and surveying, at the Northwestern Ohio Normal School, the average grade of his studies being 98. He left the institution in August, 1877, at the time of the great railroad strike at Mechanicsburg, Penn. In the meantime he assisted his father, and worked as a bridge contractor and carpenter during the summers. For six years he taught during the winters, and worked at his trade the remainder of the year. From September, 1881, to June, 1888, he was superintendent of public schools, at Tontogany and Portage. Mr. Bradshaw was married May 2, 1880, in Weston, to Miss Louisa Phillips, who was born in Troy township, Wood county, October 6, 1857, a daughter of Solomon and Maria (Chollette) Phillips, the former born in West Virginia, February 14, 1816, of English descent, the latter a native of New York State. They were married in Fremont, Ohio, where the father followed farming, and was a supervisor and contractor. He died at Weston, his former home, March 27, 1896, aged eighty years; his widow, who is of French extraction, is now sixty-two years old, and one of a family of thirteen children. She commenced teaching school at the age of thirteen years; is a member of the Methodist Church, and has been a great Sabbath-school worker. To this worthy couple were born two children: Louisa (Mrs. Bradshaw), and Eva, who died when two years old. Mrs. Bradshaw taught school until she was twenty-four years old, some eight years in all, having taught two years after her marriage. She is a lady of much culture and refinement, and is highly esteemed in the community.

In 1882 Mr. Bradshaw purchased forty acres in Weston, where he now resides. He has a pleasant home with fine barns and out-buildings, and is a prosperous and well-to-do farmer. Some six years ago he began operating as a contractor and builder, and has been very successful in that line. His family consists of four children: John W., born July 5, 1882; Pauline Louise, born March 17, 1884; Charles Blythe, born June 29, 1887; and Gladys Marguerite, born February 2, 1893.

Mr. Bradshaw is a staunch Republican, and an active worker in the interests of his party. Socially, he is a member of Weston Lodge No. 681, I. O. O. F. He has been a councilman for six years, and is looked upon as a worthy citizen. He attends the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which his wife is a member. Mrs. Bradshaw is also a member of the Foreign Mission Aid Society, of the M. E. Aid Society, of which she held the office of secretary for three years, and is always ready to assist in philanthropic work.

GREENBURY BURDITT, JR., a valued and esteemed agriculturist of Washington township, where he has a farm of sixty acres of good land, is meeting with a merited success in his farming operations, and bids fair to achieve an easy competence, so that in his declining years he may rest peacefully from the cares of life. The buildings upon his place are neat and substantial in character, and betoken thrift and prosperity.

The birth of Mr. Burditt took place in Washington township, September 12, 1867, and in his youth he attended school at Maple Grove; but owing to ill health his work in the school room was rather limited. He remained beneath the parental roof, surrounded by all the tender influences of that home until his marriage, which occurred April 26, 1888, Miss Ollie Long becoming his wife. She was a daughter of George Long, and her birth occurred in January, 1871. Two children blessed this union: Gracie Ann, born March 7, 1889; and Flossie Edna, born June 23, 1891. The mother died November 3, 1893, and for his second wife, Mr. Burditt wedded Charicie Jennie Lynn on April 15, 1895. Born October 15, 1866, she is a daughter of Melvin Lynn, a prominent farmer of Huron county, Ohio; she is a faithful member of the United Brethren Church.

On starting out in life for himself, Mr. Burditt first rented forty acres of land, which he operated for a year, and then purchased his present farm, in connection with the cultivation of which he is also engaged in the breeding of Jersey cattle. He is not strictly partisan, though he usually votes the Republican ticket; but at local elections his support is given to the man he thinks best qualified for the office, regardless of party ties. He attends the Christian Union Church.

E. H. CHILCOTE, M. D., a prominent physician of Bloomdale, senior member of the firm of E. H. & A. M. Chilcote, was born in Perry town-

ship, September 9, 1848. He is of English descent, the first of the American branch of the family being his great-grandfather, John Chilcote, who settled first in Maryland, and later came to Richland county (now Ashland county), Ohio, where his death occurred at the age of ninety-six. His son, Mordecai, our subject's grandfather, was born in Maryland, and was married there to Ruth McCrill. In 1814, they removed to Ohio, settling in the then unbroken wilderness of Ashland county. Their journey caused much alarm to them and their friends, as Indians were numerous and troublesome. Mordecai Chilcote died at forty-seven, before his farm had been fully brought under cultivation. His wife survived him and died at the age of eighty-one, in the home of her son Samuel, in Ashland county, where the remains of both of these brave pioneers now rest. They had seven children, none of whom are now living: John, formerly a farmer, died in Perry township; Rachel died in Ashland county; Delilah died there also, at the age of sixteen; Mary married William Murray, and died in Ashland; Elizabeth died at the old home; and Mordecai, in Hillsdale county, Michigan.

Samuel Chilcote, the youngest of this family, and the father of our subject, was born in Amanda township, Lancaster county, June 2, 1813, and was only a year old at the time of the removal to Ashland county. He had but limited educational advantages in that frontier neighborhood, but was an apt scholar, and made good use of his time when not working upon the farm. On February 21, 1833, he was married, in Orange township, Ashland county, to Miss Susan Hatfield, a native of Harrison county, born October 16, 1816, the daughter of William and Nancy (Craig) Hatfield. Her mother having died in 1823, she had been reared by strangers from the age of seven, until an older sister, Marian, was married to James Worley, and she then made her home with them, and came to Ashland county on their removal there. Samuel Chilcote was only nineteen years old when he married, and his portion of his father's estate could not be secured, so he continued to work upon the farm as before. After attaining his majority he came to Perry township, Wood county, where he arrived October 21, 1834, in the primeval forest, without even a roof to shelter his family. A shanty was hastily raised with bass bark roof and three sides made of slabs, the opening being toward a huge log fire where they did their cooking. He and his brother John then owned 160 acres, which they divided. "Uncle Sam," as he was called by everybody, became a

leading man of his day in this county, first as a Democrat, and later as a worker in the Republican party. He held various offices, serving six years as county commissioner, twelve as justice of the peace, and he was also trustee for some time. He held various offices in the M. E. Church, with which he and his wife had united in early life. He had a genial nature, and possessed most admirable qualities of mind and heart. His physical strength was unusual, and he was six feet tall and built in fine proportion, weighing over 200 pounds. He met his death December 9, 1885, from being thrown from a double wagon box, injuring his spine, and he was buried in Perry Center cemetery by the Masonic fraternity, of which he had been a leading member. His widow remained at the old farm until 1890; but since that time she has lived with her three sons, who care for her with a filial devotion which does them honor. All are residents of this county: Russell A., the eldest, born February 16, 1841, is a farmer in Perry township; E. H., our subject; and Allen M., the youngest, born April 8, 1851, who is in partnership with the latter.

Our subject was reared as a farmer's boy, and attended the district schools until the age of sixteen, when he began to study at Fostoria. He learned rapidly, and at eighteen was competent to teach, and taught two terms in Loudon township, Seneca county. Afterward he attended school at Fostoria for some time, and then entered Miami Medical College at Cincinnati, graduating in March, 1871. He began the practice of his profession in Van Buren, Hancock county, and three years later moved to Bairdstown, where he remained two years, but failing health compelled him to relinquish his work, in which he was unusually successful. He spent a few years at the old home, and in 1890, with his health restored, he resumed his professional labors in partnership with his brother, they being now the oldest practitioners in Bloomdale.

In 1884 Dr. Chilcote was married in Cleveland to Miss Fannie Cooper, a native of Wood county, and a daughter of George Cooper, a prominent farmer of Perry township, Wood county. They have just built a beautiful residence, one of the finest in Bloomdale, and three children, Eva M., Florence Edna and Russell Cooper, make it merry. Mrs. Chilcote is active in all social and philanthropic movements, and is a leading member of the M. E. Church. The Doctor is an admirer of fine horses, and owns some fine specimens. In politics he is a Republican and a regular voter, but he has never been an office seeker.



GEORGE MURRAY BROWN, ex-sheriff of Wood county, Ohio, was born in Otsego county, N. Y., August 23, 1843, a son of Joseph and Cynthia (Jones) Brown, the former of whom was born in Otsego county, N. Y., in 1806, where he took up farming, thence coming, in 1856, to Wood county.

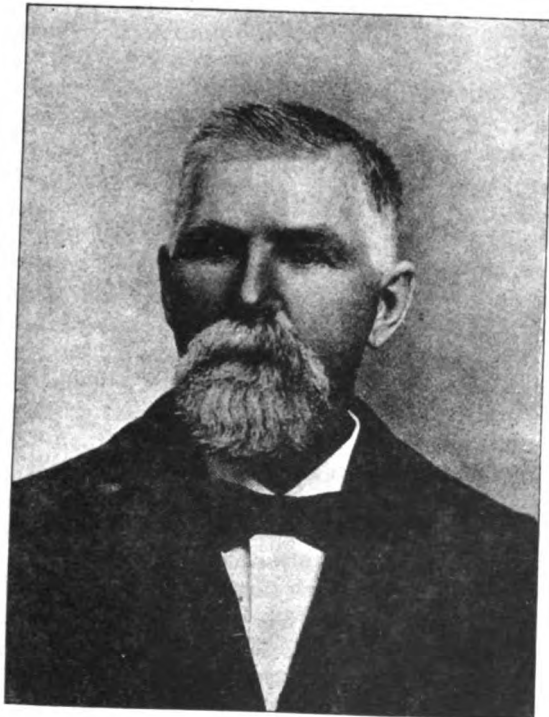
Mr. Brown traces his ancestry to one Nathaniel Brown, who, in 1730, came from England to the New World, settling in the town of Killingly, Conn. He had two sons, Jacob and Zacharias, the latter of whom died in Connecticut when yet comparatively a young man, leaving a family. Jacob, the elder of these brothers, married Lucy Russell, a French lady, and in 1780 moved to Columbia county, N. Y. In 1797 he journeyed to Decatur, Otsego county, on a wood-sled, drawn by oxen, bringing with him a few household chattels, among which were a Bible, tea-kettle, chair, table and some pewter dishes, which will be further mentioned presently. He was a farmer by occupation, and lived to the age of seventy years, dying in 1810. Eight children—three sons and five daughters—were born to him and his wife, the eldest son dying without issue. The second son, Barzillai, grandfather of our subject, was born, in 1764, in Connecticut, and went to New York State, where he engaged in farming. He married Miss Sarah Scoville, who was born in 1767, and they had ten children—seven sons and three daughters. Barzillai died May 7, 1844, his wife on February 9, 1847. Nathaniel, their eldest son, married Orpha Seward, and had nine children. At a reunion of the Brown family, held September 4, 1879, at Decatur, Otsego Co., N. Y., on the old farm, the articles brought by Jacob Brown, in 1797, to Decatur—the Bible, tea-kettle, etc., above mentioned—were used, the old Bible being read from, and the chair, table and pewter dishes used. On that day there were living 279 descendants of Jacob and Lucy Brown, and seventy descendants of Barzillai and Sarah Brown. The Brown family, as far as can be traced, have always been loyal, and records show that they were represented in every war in which this country was engaged, from the Revolution of 1775 down to the Civil war of 1861. Three members who lost their lives in the Rebellion are buried in Otsego county.

Joseph Brown, the father of our subject, located in Perrysburg township, Wood Co., Ohio, in 1856; in 1858 he moved to Bowling Green, in Plain township. When a young man he was employed as an overseer on a plantation in Virginia. He was well acquainted with Andrew

Jackson, of whom he was a personal friend, and was a Democrat of the old school. His wife was born in Lewis county, N. Y., March 16, 1808, and died in Wood county, November 14, 1880. Mr. Brown died November 15, 1892, in Bowling Green, at the residence of George M. Brown, where he made his home. To this couple were born the following children: Paul J., born June 5, 1837, is a farmer of Plain township; Paulina, born August 27, 1840, married Lafayette Borden, of Lucas county, Ohio, where they live on a farm; George M. is our subject; Banyer Blakely, born July 12, 1845, left home, in 1867, for California, and was never heard from after he reached Kansas City; Gibson Lamont, born December 22, 1847, died September 24, 1863; and Gibbs F., born December 22, 1847, died in 1848.

George M. Brown, the subject proper of these lines, attended school in Perrysburg until 1857-58, after which he came to Bowling Green, where he completed his education, and was reared on the farm. In 1864 he entered the army, joining Company C, 144th O. V. I., and took part in engagements in Maryland and Virginia, being present at the battles of Monocacy (Md.) and Berryville (Va.). In the fight at the latter place several of the regiment were taken prisoners, some of whom afterward died in prison. Our subject was captured, but managed to escape after being detained only a few hours. He then joined Company K, 185th O. V. I., with which he served until the close of the war. He was promoted to the rank of corporal during his first service with Company C, which lasted about four months, and was sergeant of Company K.

After the close of the war Mr. Brown returned home, settled on a farm, and on February 14, 1868, was married to Miss Lucy Brown, a (daughter of Isaac and Cassia (Rhinehart) Brown), born in Perry county, Ohio, in 1843, and whose death occurred February 14, 1895, the anniversary of her wedding day. They had one child, Mary Bertha, born June 27, 1874, who married Fred W. Hankey (they also have one child named Don Brown Hankey, born January 17, 1895), and one adopted son, Banyer B. Brown, born in October, 1876, whom they took when three-months old. After his marriage our subject settled on his farm, and he and his brother have about 350 acres of land near the town of Bowling Green, and our subject has also forty acres within the corporation, on which he lives. He has also a royalty in ten or twelve oil wells. In 1891 he built what is known as the "Brown Hotel" in Bowling Green, which is considered to be the best of its kind in the county.



DON BROWN HANKEY.

*Geo. M. Brown Mrs G M Brown*



A staunch Democrat in his political predilections, Mr. Brown has been elected on that ticket to various offices of honor and trust, several terms as trustee of the township. In 1883 he was elected sheriff, and re-elected in 1885, the first time receiving a majority of 200 votes, and on the second occasion a majority of 700, being the first Democratic sheriff of Wood county since the war. While in office he hung two men, one each term, one of whom, a murderer, he followed to northern Wisconsin, near Eau Claire, where he captured him, took him back to Bowling Green, convicted him and hung him in the penitentiary, he being the last man hung by any sheriff in the State, as all now condemned to capital punishment are hung by the warden of the penitentiary. Socially, Mr. Brown has been a Mason since 1866, and is in the thirty-second degree; belongs also to the Blue Lodge and Chapter in Bowling Green Commandery No. 7, and in the Cincinnati Consistory. He is also a member of the I. O. O. F., K. of P., and G. A. R., and has passed all the degrees in each of them. A typical whole-souled American, he justly deserves and enjoys the confidence and esteem of the community at large.

ABEL COMSTOCK, a well-known justice of the peace of Bowling Green, was born September 4, 1843, in Mercer county, Penn., and is the son of Robert and Sarah (McDowell) Comstock. His father was born August 8, 1818, near Burlington, Vt., and his mother April 13, 1817, in Mercer county. Their marriage took place in the latter county, in 1842.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, Abel Comstock, was born in Connecticut, about the close of the Revolutionary war, and was a millwright by trade. He removed to northern New York, near Lake Champlain, and soon after his son Robert came to Ohio he went to Dubuque, Iowa, where he died at the age of ninety-seven years. He was one of the old Scotch Covenanters, of stern demeanor, adhering strictly to what he believed to be right, and was deeply imbued with the spirit of the old Blue Laws of Connecticut. His wife was a Miss McClintock, who was born in the Highlands of Scotland, and who died sometime in the "sixties," in Iowa. The maternal grandfather of our subject, John McDowell, was a native of Pennsylvania, where he followed farming. At the battle of Fort Meigs, he commanded a company of State volunteers, and was a brave soldier.

The father of our subject went to Pennsylvania about 1840, and engaged in lumbering and

millling, operating a grist and saw mill. He came to Ohio in September, 1848, locating two and one-half miles from Bowling Green, on the old Findlay road, where he bought land from a man named Frank McGinnis, and where he has made his home ever since. His wife died May 17, 1889. Mr. Comstock, Sr., in his early life, belonged to the old Scotch Covenanter's Church, afterward, with his wife, going over to the Seceders, but is now a member of the Congregational Church. He was originally a Whig, later, on the formation of the Republican party, adopted its platform, and has cast his vote for both the Harrisons for President. To Robert Comstock and his wife were born eight children, as follows: Abel; John, who died in 1846; Robert H., who resides in St. Louis, Mich.; Jennie, married to Everett Chapman, and living at West Mystic, Conn.; Isabelle, who became the wife of S. C. Woodberry, and died in 1873; George, deceased in infancy; William, a commercial traveler, residing at Perrysburg, Ohio; and Edward, living on the old homestead.

The subject of this sketch was reared in Wood county, where he attended the common school, finishing his education at a university. When the guns of Fort Sumter were fired, the military spirit inherited from his brave ancestors broke forth in the young man, and, although he had not yet attained his majority, he enlisted in August, 1861, in Company C, 21st O. V. I., under Gen. Nelson, his regiment being sent to eastern Kentucky, and later to Louisville. It was then assigned to the 14th Army Corps, army of the Cumberland, and there remained until the close of the war, in 1865. Mr. Comstock took part in all the engagements in which his regiment participated during this time, until the spring of 1864, when he was stricken with smallpox, and was sent to the hospital at Chattanooga. On his recovery he again went to the front, and was with Sherman on his march to the sea. While stationed at Savannah, Ga., he went on December 16, 1864, on a foraging expedition, and was taken prisoner by a band of guerrillas. He was sent to Augusta, thence to Florence, S. C., and to Goldsboro, N. C., where he remained in prisons until March 4, 1865, suffering all the horrors endured by the captives in those terrible days, some idea of which may be gained from the fact that in these few months his weight was reduced from 180 to 90 pounds. He was very ill a greater part of the time, being delirious with fever, and was unconscious at the time he was paroled at Wilmington, N. C., March 4, 1865. He was honorably discharged June 8, 1865, having

served his country well and faithfully during the entire war. His regiment made a brilliant record during its service. In the battle of Chickamauga, history states that it went into the fight with 448 privates and non-commissioned officers, and came out with 106 privates and two officers, our subject being one of the latter.

At the close of the war, Mr. Comstock returned home, and engaged in farming, but soon afterward removed to Michigan, where he taught school, and also worked at lumbering. His health failing, he came back to Bowling Green and opened up a lumber yard, which he carried on until the spring of 1879, when he began reading law with Col. J. A. Shannon, with whom he afterward formed a partnership, which continued until the former left the city in 1886. Mr. Comstock has made a specialty of pension cases, having had charge of over five thousand claims, and has practiced in the department at Washington. He was elected justice of the peace of Bowling Green in September, 1890, was re-elected in 1893, and is holding that office at the present time. He is an ardent Republican, and, as may be inferred from his war record, a loyal supporter of the government. He is a leading member of the G. A. R., belonging to Wiley Post No. 46, of which he was first adjutant for six years, and commander for two years. He also belongs to the K. of P. On February 21, 1864, he was married, in Wood county, to Miss Rosamond Davis, who was born in Perrysburg, October 12, 1846. They have had five children, of whom two are now living: Helen I., a graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, who has attained a local reputation as a contralto singer, and also as a pianist; Herbert, a telegraph operator in Chicago for the C. M. & St. P. R. R.; Harry, who died when twenty-two years old; James A., deceased in infancy; and Itana B., who died when sixteen years old of typhoid pneumonia.

BENJAMIN B. HOILES, deceased, was for a number of years one of the most prominent and influential agriculturists of Montgomery township. He was a native of Ohio, born in Georgetown, Columbiana county, September 18, 1825, and was a son of Joshua and Rachel Hoiles, who moved to Alliance, Ohio, when our subject was quite small, making their home in what is now known as Mount Union, a part of that city. In religious belief they were Friends, and were originally from Philadelphia, Penn. The father never accumulated much of this world's goods, but was an industrious, honest man, who was employed mostly at day labor in clearing land.

In the family were sixteen children, twelve of whom grew to adult age, namely: Nicholas, who died at Mount Union, at the age of eighty-five years; Mrs. Elizabeth Rinear, who died in Columbiana county, Ohio; William, who died in Lucas county; Charles, who died at Orville, Ohio; Maria, who was the wife of Joseph Barnaby, and died at Alliance; Joshua, who died at Mount Union; Benjamin B., of this review; Jonathan, who died in Montgomery township, Wood county; Melvina, now Mrs. John Watson, of Mount Union; Priscilla, who married Levi Pierce, and died at Mount Union; Zedrick, of Alliance; and Mary, who wedded John Johnson, and died in Stark county, Ohio. Many of the family died very suddenly of paralysis.

Most of the early life of Benjamin B. Hoiles was passed at Mount Vernon, where he learned the carpenter's trade with his brother Charles. He was married at Alliance November 11, 1852, to Miss Maria B. Stock, who was born at New Lisbon, Ohio, December 16, 1827, and is the daughter of Henry and Minerva (Stallcup) Stock. The former was of German parentage, and his birth occurred near Baltimore, Md., while his wife was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, about 1801, where her parents had located at a very early day, and there died. Her father, William Stallcup, was a millwright by trade, and was killed in a mill near New Lisbon. The parents of Mrs. Hoiles also died at that place, where their remains were interred. Going to Mount Union when a young lady, she there learned millinery and dress-making, and it was at that place she met and married our subject. They became the parents of four children: Frank L., who was born at Mount Vernon, and died at the age of ten years; Charley H., who now makes his home at Prairie Depot; Pressly C., a farmer of Montgomery township; and Addie M., now Mrs. Harry E. Blair, of Prairie Depot.

Being a carpenter, Mr. Hoiles built his own house at Mount Union, upon a lot for which he went in debt, as he had but little money at the time of his marriage, for he had always aided in the support of his parents. Early in January, 1855, he came to Wood county to look up a location. He had chopped wood, but could not secure enough money to pay his fare, so his wife gave him twelve gold dollars from her own savings. He came by rail to Fremont, and walked the remainder of the distance to Prairie Depot, where he bargained for forty acres in Section 2, Montgomery township, costing \$350. A log house stood upon the place, but it contained no doors or windows, hence a robe and

blanket had to be hung over the openings which he made. In March he returned to Mount Union for his wife and child. He there sold his home, which was uncompleted, for \$300, but out of that amount had to finish paying for the lot. His wife had \$50 which she had saved, and with the proceeds of other sales they were able to secure their forest home in Wood county free from debt. In their rude little cabin they spent fourteen happy years, and there their children were all born. Game was quite plentiful, and Mr. Hoiles added not a little to their income by selling coon skins. Money was greatly needed as their first summer here was very wet, and but little was raised.

The health of our subject had been quite poor at Mount Union, he suffering considerably from stomach trouble, but this was relieved after coming to Wood county, as from necessity their food was quite plain, corn bread being their regular diet. In those early days he also worked some at his trade, going away on Mondays, leaving his wife and baby boy alone, and would be gone for several days. In return for his labors he could only get produce, and corn at that time brought \$1 per bushel and potatoes \$1.25. He made his home upon four different farms in Montgomery township, owning each one, which he would sell at a profit, and at the time of his death had a good farm of seventy-three acres. He died very suddenly December 5, 1886, mourned by a wide circle of friends throughout the community, and his remains were interred at Prairie Depot cemetery. Though never very strong he was always a great worker, and well deserved the success which came to him. A strong Republican in politics, he was an active worker in his party, and for several terms served as trustee of his township, and was school director during most of his residence here. In manner he was conservative, and gained the respect and confidence of all with whom he came in contact.

After her husband's death Mrs. Hoiles lived upon the farm left her, until 1892, when she built an elegant home; but this she sold two years later, and now has a very comfortable and pleasant dwelling at Prairie Depot. On the farm owned by her, she has seven splendid oil wells, and upon the original lease of ten acres, was found one of the largest producing wells in this locality. Though nearly seventy years of age, she is exceedingly well preserved, and is still quite active. She has led a most industrious and useful life, is a woman of more than ordinary business ability, and was an excellent helpmeet to her husband, having many times in the early

days assisted him even in the work of the fields. She is surrounded by many warm friends, who have for her the most sincere regard. We may add that at the time of her and her husband's coming to Wood county, buggies were unknown, and Mrs. Hoiles relates that on Sundays, after the week's labors were past, she and her husband would take their team of black oxen, and go visiting across the swampy prairies.

GEORGE D. INSLEY, an honored veteran of the Civil war, who for three years followed the old flag on Southern battle-fields, is now numbered among the leading and influential citizens of Liberty township. He was born in Wayne county, Ohio, November 16, 1834. His father, Thornton Insley, was born in Pennsylvania, in 1808, and when a young man learned the trade of a wheelwright; but ill health forced him to abandon this. With his widowed mother he came to Ohio, and settled on a farm in Wayne county. Here he married Miss Amelia Eagle, and in 1854 took his wife and family to Hancock county. From that time on he lived with his children. He went with two daughters and a son to Dakota in 1884, and there died in 1890. His wife died in Hancock county in December, 1882. They had the following children: Elizabeth, wife of Cornelius Ewing, of Findlay, Ohio; George D., of this sketch; Nancy, wife of Samuel J. Feller, of South Dakota; Geiles, wife of Solomon Hartman, of South Dakota; Isaiah, also a farmer of that State; and Almenia, wife of G. W. Phifer, who is living near Findlay, Ohio.

Mr. Insley, of this sketch, spent his boyhood days in the counties of Wayne and Hancock, and at the age of eleven years began his education in a district school, to which he walked three miles through the woods. When twenty years of age he began work in a flour-mill at Findlay, and for twelve years was thus employed at various places. While in Findlay he was married, March 19, 1860, to Miss Mary Feller, a native of Ohio. They began their domestic life in Hancock county, and were there living at the time of the Civil war. On the 16th of August, 1862, Mr. Insley joined the boys in blue of Company D, 99th O. V. I., and immediately afterward went to the front, participating in the battles of Perrysville and Stone River, those of the Atlanta campaign, Lookout Mountain, Chickamauga, and Nashville. After the second named he was promoted to the rank of sergeant, and was honorably discharged at Wilmington, N. C., where his regiment consolidated with the 50th O. V. I.

Mr. Insley continued his residence in Han-

cock county until the fall of 1871, when he came to Wood county, and got out timber to build his home. He purchased forty acres of land, and erected his residence in the spring of 1872. He afterward purchased eighty acres of land in Liberty township, which he disposed of in the spring of 1895. In 1887 he visited his relatives in South Dakota, and while there purchased 160 acres of land in Edmunds county. Again, in the fall of 1894, he made another journey to that State, and bought another quarter section. In politics he has always been a staunch Republican. Socially he is connected with the Odd Fellows Society of Portage, and religiously with the Methodist Church.

To Mr. and Mrs. Insley were born seven children: Millie became the wife of A. L. See, and died at the home of our subject, leaving two children; Thornton F. died in infancy, and Juddie T. at the age of three years and six months; Emma, also died in infancy; Enola, wife of E. P. Blackman, of Wood county; Gelie became the wife of J. W. Ackerman, and died in Liberty township, leaving one child; George D. completes the family.

J. F. WOLLAM, M. D., a rising young physician of Jerry City, is a member of one of the pioneer families of Wood county, being a son of H. B. Wollam, and grandson of Archibald and Catherine (Smith) Wollam.

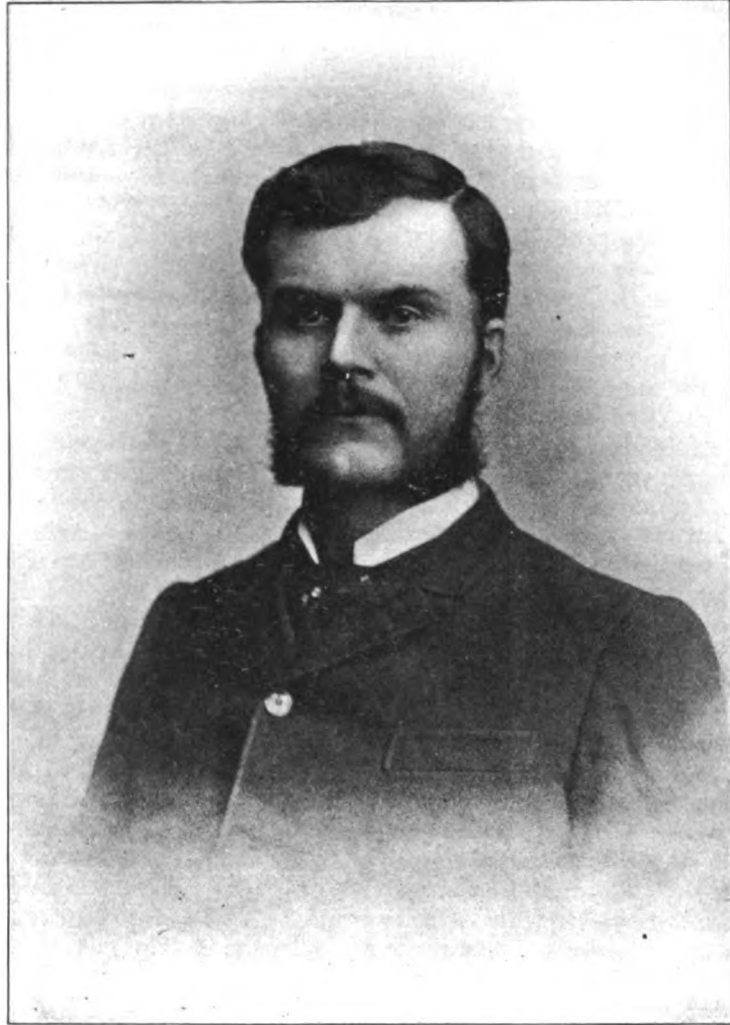
Archibald Wollam was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, and was there married to Catherine Smith, who was born east of the Alleghanies, in Pennsylvania, and crossed the mountains with her parents, Lewis and ——— Smith, in a wagon, the family settling later in Columbiana county. In 1832, Archibald and Catherine Wollam came to Seneca county, and were among the first white people to live along Wolf creek; but the next spring they removed to what is now Montgomery township, Wood county, settling in the midst of a forest. Their habitation was a log shanty, 18 x 20 feet in dimensions, and, as Mr. Wollam invested what little capital he had in land, they were obliged to live very economically until their land became productive. Oxen were the beasts of burden, and on one occasion, when Mr. Wollam made a trip to Swope's Corners, Seneca county, a distance of twenty miles, the journey took three days. Four children were born to this couple: Mary, widow of James Milner, who lives in Millgrove; H. B., who is mentioned farther on; Andrew J., a farmer in Bloom township; and Leah (now Mrs. G. W. Cupp), who was first married to Gardner Teff. Archibald Wollam was

originally a Democrat in politics, but later became a Whig, and on the foundation of the party joined the Republicans. He held various minor offices in the township, and took an interest in party affairs, but he was no politician. He died at the age of seventy-two years, his wife at the age of eighty-two, and they now sleep their last sleep in Mt. Zion cemetery, Portage township.

Henry B. Wollam was born January 6, 1825, in Columbiana county, and was eight years old when the family came to Wood county. He attended the primitive schools of his boyhood days, which were held in log buildings having greased paper windows, and other rude furnishings, and he taught school one winter in Henry township. He was reared to agricultural pursuits, and in early manhood worked three years in Huron county, as foreman for the Buffalo Stave Co., of Buffalo, N. Y., getting out staves. After his marriage he lived in Montgomery township for some years, finally during the war removing to Bloom township, and settling on sixty acres of land in Section 1, which at that time was all new and unimproved, a shanty being their first dwelling there. In 1875 he removed to his present farm in Section 36, Portage township, which comprises forty acres, and he still owns the sixty acres in Bloom township.

On May 10, 1857, Mr. Wollam was married, in Montgomery township, to Miss Lydia A. Bair, who was born August 28, 1837, near Hanover, Penn., daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Hoover) Bair, the former of whom died in Pennsylvania. The widowed mother subsequently came with her four children—Susan, Jacob, Lydia and George—to Seneca county, Ohio, and about three years later settled in Montgomery township, Wood county, where Mrs. Bair owned eighty acres of land. After all the children married she removed to Fostoria, where she passed away at the age of sixty-six, her death being caused by cancer of the stomach. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wollam, as follows: J. F.; Tудie, Mrs. Thomas Wisner, of Gratiot county, Mich.; George J., a farmer of Portage township; Libbie, who died unmarried, at the age of twenty-one years; and Charles N., who died in infancy. The parents are both members of the Liberal U. B. Church, and in political affiliation Mr. Wollam is a Republican. He served as trustee of Bloom township, and has filled various local positions of responsibility and trust.

J. F. Wollam, the subject proper of this sketch, was born July 7, 1858, in Montgomery township, and received his primary education in the district schools of Bloom and Portage town-



*J. F. Hollam M.D.*





ships, his first teachers being Roxie McFarren and Jane Swinehart. Later he attended the Normal at Ada, Ohio, and he was afterward engaged in teaching some fourteen years, in Bloom, Portage, Montgomery, Henry and Jackson townships. He completed his general scientific studies at Ada, and commenced to read medicine with Dr. J. H. Whitehead, of Bowling Green, after which he attended Hahnemann Medical College, Chicago, earning the money for his college expenses by teaching. He commenced practice in Jerry City in 1892, and is meeting with deserved success in his chosen profession, his personal reputation being almost as great a factor in his success as his professional ability.

On May 7, 1891, Dr. Wollam was married, in Portage township, to Miss Nettie M. Teller, who was born and reared in that township, and daughter of James Teller. She attended the Normal at Ada, Ohio (where she and Dr. Wollam became acquainted), and subsequently taught school in Wood county for eight years, and in Ashland county, two years. Two children have been born to this union: Florence T. and Helena A. The Doctor is a Republican in politics, and during President Harrison's administration served as postmaster of Jerry City; while in Portage township he served as assessor. Socially he is a member of the I. O. O. F., belonging to Vitus Lodge No. 604, Jerry City, and is a member of the Homeopathic Medical Society, of Ohio; medical examiner for several life insurance companies; a member of and medical examiner for the K. O. T. M., of Jerry City, Tent No. 92.

**WILLIAM P. COBLEY**, mayor of Haskins, and one of the ablest business men, and most successful agriculturists of Middleton township, is a native of the locality, born March 24, 1849.

Sebastian Cobley, his father, was born in Germany February 9, 1811, and when a young man came to Ohio. At Toledo, he was married to Miss Elizabeth Buriger, who was born in France in 1816. Her father, Joseph Buriger, brought his family to Norwalk, Ohio, and made a permanent home there. For some years after his marriage, Sebastian Cobley worked as foreman in a brick yard at Toledo, and he at one time owned fifteen acres of land on what is now Summit street, in that city. About the year 1840 they came to Middleton and entered land, which, by careful cultivation, he developed into a productive farm. He and his wife were members of the Roman Catholic Church, and died in that faith, Mr. Cobley passing away February 8, 1885, his wife on March 22, 1895. Eight children

were born to them, namely: Caroline, who was born in 1841, married Joseph Debacher, and died June 20, 1888; Andrew, who was a soldier in the 111th O. V. I., and was sent home to die from the effects of a cold caught "on guard" while convalescing from an attack of mumps; Sophronia, the wife of G. W. Yount, of Toledo; William P., our subject; and Anthony, who was a farmer within the corporation of Haskins, and died July 30, 1895; Mary, who married A. F. Chase, a farmer at Haskins; Louisa, who married J. C. Nufer, November 18, 1873, and died October 23, 1885; and John, who died when about the age of twelve years.

Mr. Cobley attended the old "two-mile-woods school house," and at the same time gained a knowledge of farm work. In 1871 he married Miss Fannie Wickham, who was born September 18, 1854, on Parker's Island, near Perrysburg. Two children came of this marriage: John, born September 22, 1874; and Charles, born February 13, 1879.

For ten years after his marriage Mr. Cobley was engaged in agriculture, and then, coming to Haskins, established a grocery business which he successfully conducted until September, 1895, when he retired from that line of business, and now devotes his time and attention to his farm, and his several offices. He owns a fine home in Haskins, besides a business block. Those qualities which command the esteem and friendship of the people, he possesses in a marked degree, and he has held more offices than other man in the township. In politics he is a Democrat, as was his father before him; but he receives votes irrespective of party lines when he consents to be a candidate. He was postmaster at Haskins during Cleveland's first term; has been treasurer of his school district six years; justice of the peace three years; and is now serving his second term as the latter. Socially he is affiliated with the I. O. O. F. Encampment at Bowling Green, the order of Rebekah, and of the K. O. T. M., in which fraternities he has held many responsible positions, and is at present treasurer of the I. O. O. F.; record-keeper of the K. O. T. M., and record-keeper of Lincoln Division No. 7, of the Uniform Rank, K. O. T. M., of Bowling Green.

**GEORGE P. SUTTON**, a practical and progressive farmer, who owns and operates a valuable tract of land of fifty-four acres in Middleton township, is a native son of the Buckeye State. He was born in Erie county, September 8, 1857, and is a son of George P. Sutton, a native of England, who became a representative farmer of

Washington township, Wood county. It was during the early boyhood of our subject that his parents removed from Erie to Wood county, and took up their residence in that township. In the district schools of the neighborhood George pursued his studies through the scholastic year, and in the summer months worked on the old homestead, giving to his father the benefit of his services until 1885, when he started out for himself. He removed to Middleton township, where he purchased fifty-four acres of land, upon which, in the midst of well-cultivated fields, stands a fine dwelling, substantial barn and the various other improvements and accessories which go to make up a model farm, and which indicate to the passerby the thrift and enterprise of the owner.

On the 17th of March, 1885, in Middleton township, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Sutton and Miss Jennie M. Fox, who was born September 21, 1864, and is a daughter of John Fox, a farmer of Middleton township. Five children graced their union: Jessie, born October 31, 1886; Roy, who died in childhood; Mildred, born June 30, 1890; Julia, born May 24, 1893; and Hazel, born June 20, 1896.

Mr. Sutton is an energetic, honest, upright man, whom to know is to respect.

J. H. ZIEGLER, an old-time agriculturist of large experience, is now numbered among the prominent residents of Portage township, by whose people he is held in that reverence and respect tacitly accorded those whose lives have been distinguished by integrity and usefulness. A native of Pennsylvania, he was born in Cherry Tree township, Venango county, March 5, 1830, at the modest homestead of his parents, George and Catherine (Murray) Ziegler, natives of Maryland, the former born in April, 1796, and the latter a few months previous. Their marriage was celebrated in their native State, after which they removed to Pennsylvania, residing in Venango county for fifteen years. One year was then spent in Trumbull county, Ohio, while for the following six years they made their home two and a half miles west of the city of Ashland, in what was then Richland county, but is now a part of Ashland county. They next located near Republic, in Scipio township, Seneca county, where they lived for the same length of time. Their remaining days, however, were passed in Portage township, Wood county, the father dying in October, 1865, while the mother survived him for fourteen years, and they now sleep side by side in the Mennonite cemetery of Perry township, Wood county. The father was quite an athlete,

six feet tall and weighing about two hundred pounds. He always supported the doctrines of the Democratic party, and when quite old was asked why he did not change his politics, and his answer was, "My hair is too gray to be turned black."

His family consisted of the following children: William, of Warren, Penn.; George, residing near Oil City, Penn.; John, of Cattaraugus county, N. Y.; Hannah, widow of Stephen Landis, of Jamestown, N. Y.; Susan, widow of Daniel Siccafoos, of Iowa; Elizabeth, wife of James Loker, of Venango county, Penn.; Levi, residing near Traverse City, Mich.; Daniel, who has been a United Brethren minister for thirty years, and also follows farming in Union county, Ohio; J. H., who is next in order of birth; Mary, now Mrs. Matthew Irvin, of Crawford county, Ohio; Ann, who married William Lee, and died in Michigan; Fannie, wife of H. R. Longacre, of Portage township; Catherine, who was the thirteenth child, and died in Seneca county, Ohio, at the age of fourteen years, hers being the first death in the family; and Andrew, who died in the same county at the age of twelve years.

Our subject was a boy of sixteen years when he left his native county, where he secured a limited education, as his parents were poor and his assistance was needed in the support of the large family. He remained under the parental roof until his marriage. In Ashland county, July 10, 1851, he married Miss Harriet Barr, a native of that county, and a daughter of James Barr. He had not a dollar at that time; but he went to work for the farmers at clearing away the timber and making rails. In July, 1854, he removed to Putnam county, Ohio, where he purchased forty acres of wild land, making a temporary home with his brother Daniel, while his own log house was being constructed. As the land was wet and swampy, and his wife was in poor health, he removed to Seneca county, Ohio, in November, 1855. There, on March 29, 1856, she died and was laid to rest in Republic cemetery. One son had been born to them — William E., who died at Six Points, Ohio, in 1884, leaving four children — Otis, Elfa, Dora, and Tinsey.

In April, 1857, at Attica, Ohio, Mr. Ziegler wedded Mrs. Mary J. Richards, widow of William M. Richards. Her birth occurred in Mansfield, Ohio, November 14, 1831, and she is a daughter of David and Elizabeth (Wannamaker) Mader, the former a native of Maryland, and the latter of the Keystone State. Her father was a farmer by occupation, and died in Portage township when over eighty years of age, while her mother

passed away in Seneca county, at the age of fifty-seven. In their family were six children, one son and five daughters. The son served in the Union army during the war of the Rebellion, then, joining the regular army, was sent west, and since the latter part of the '60s has never been heard of.

After his second marriage, Mr. Ziegler rented land for sometime in Seneca county; but in 1857 bought forty acres of land on Section 26, Portage township, Wood county, for which he paid \$400 cash, that sum constituting his entire capital. In October he built a log house, 18 x 24 feet, and the following February removed his family to their new home. He was compelled to borrow \$28 with which to meet the expenses of the journey, but they took great pleasure in their home. He was young and full of hope, and went earnestly to work to clear and develop his land. He was drafted in 1864, and assigned to Company B, 55th O. V. I. In November of the same year he joined the regiment at Atlanta, went with Sherman to Savannah, and followed that General through the Carolinas, participating in the last fight near Goldsboro. In March, 1865, at Bentonville, N. C., he was wounded in the left shoulder, and, after remaining in the hospital at Goldsboro' for ten days, was transferred by a vessel up the coast to New York City. He lay in the hospital at David's Island until May 28, 1865, was mustered out in New York on June 1, and arrived home on the 3d of the same month. His wound was by no means healed, and his arm was very stiff. Going to the government physician at Fostoria, Ohio, he was given the liberal (?) sum of \$2.50 per month until he should be able to use his arm. He has since devoted his attention to farming, and has a good farm of seventy acres.

By his second union have been born the following children—Dora L., wife of Jonas Hampshire, of Fostoria, Ohio; Frank, who has followed the various occupations of a teacher, telegrapher and photographer, and is now engaged in farming in Nebraska; Abia J., who married George Brubaker, and died in Perry township, Wood county, at the age of thirty-one years; James O. and John L., both of Portage township; and Ida, now Mrs. E. R. Shaffer, of the same township.

The political support of Mr. Ziegler has always been given the Democratic party, he has served as school director, and he and his wife are members of the Protestant Methodist Church, in which he has been class-leader. He takes great pleasure in travel, and has visited many parts of the United States. He is a kind-hearted,

genial gentleman, and contributes liberally to all worthy charities.

H. B. SAYLER, a leading and popular merchant of Portage, is now engaged in the hardware business, carrying a complete and well-selected stock, and has built up an excellent trade by his fair dealing and courteous treatment of customers. He was born in Tiffin, Seneca Co., Ohio, in 1855, and is a son of S. K. and Juriah (Culp) Sayler, both natives of Pickaway county, Ohio, and whose wedding was celebrated in Marion county. In 1850 they located in Tiffin, where the father followed his trade of shoemaking until 1860, when he came to Liberty township, Wood county, and there opened up a farm in Section 2, in the midst of the wilderness. On that place he continued to live until 1881, since which time he has made his home in Weston. His wife departed this life in Weston, in 1895. At a very early day, the paternal grandfather of our subject, Henry Sayler, who was a native of Pennsylvania, emigrated to Pickaway county, Ohio, but later became a resident of Marion county, where his death occurred.

In the family to which H. B. Sayler belongs were eight children, namely: C. L., now a resident of Kansas, enlisted in Liberty township, in 1861, as a member of the 11th O. V. I., for three years, on the expiration of which time he enlisted again and served until the close of the war. J. B., who enlisted in Liberty township, in 1862, in the 10th Ohio Cav., for three years, served in the Western army, as a scout for Gen. Sherman, and was killed in Georgia. Mrs. Louanna White makes her home in Kansas. Susie Bentley resides in Illinois. H. B. is the next in order of birth. W. H. is married, and resides in Portage. O. L. lives in Trinidad, Colo. A. O. is a resident of Kansas City, Missouri:

Mr. Sayler, whose name introduces this sketch, was only five years old when he accompanied his parents to Liberty township, where he obtained his education in the district schools, and he early became familiar with the labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. For thirteen winters he engaged in teaching in that township, and for one term had charge of a school in Center township, though most of his time was taken up in farming, which he continued to follow until he established his present business in Portage, in February, 1888. However, he still owns a valuable farm of 160 acres in Liberty township, which is under a high state of cultivation, and well improved with substantial buildings.

In October, 1879, in Liberty township, Mr.

Sayler married Miss Lottie Bradshaw, who was born in Huron county, Ohio, and is a daughter of John and Charlotte (Wortley) Bradshaw, both natives of England. It was in 1852 that they made a settlement in Huron county; but eight years later they became residents of Liberty township, where the father developed a farm in the midst of the forest, and thereon died in 1883. His wife, who survived him for some years, died in 1894, at Bowling Green, Ohio. Three children bless the union of our subject and his wife—Merlie, Pearl, and Bernie. In politics, Mr. Sayler is a hearty supporter of the policy of the Republican party, has served as a member of the school board, and is at present school treasurer for the corporation. Socially, he belongs to Whitney Lodge No. 589, I. O. O. F., and, religiously, is a member of the Christian Church, at Rudolph. He is a man of remarkably good judgment, sound common sense, and ability, which traits have made him prosperous and influential, and the respect in which he is held is due to his high moral character and disinterested benevolence.

HUGH CAMPBELL, the well-known and popular druggist of North Baltimore, was born June 12, 1837, in Washington county, Penn., and is a son of William and Elizabeth (McFadden) Campbell. The father of our subject was a native of Pennsylvania, while the mother came from Ireland. They were married in Washington county, Penn., and in October, 1838, came to Ohio, entering land in Henry township, and also buying a farm in Bloom township, Wood county, where they made their home for the remainder of their lives. William Campbell was born in 1798, and died in 1874. His wife was born in 1795, and died in 1872. They were consistent members of the Presbyterian Church, and the father was originally a Whig, joining the ranks of the Republican party on its formation. They were the parents of nine children, of whom seven grew to maturity: Nancy, who married James Eckles, and is deceased; William, who was a soldier in the Rebellion, from Hancock county, Ohio, and died in Liberty township; John, who was in the 144th O. V. I. during the Civil war, and died in Michigan; Elizabeth, who married Ephraim Miller, and is deceased; Henry, living in North Baltimore; Sarah, the wife of James Morehead, of Seward, Neb.; and Hugh.

The subject of this sketch attended school in his boyhood in the Stone Battery school house in Bloom township, and assisted his father upon the farm until his marriage. This event took place

October 10, 1861, when he was united to Miss Margaret Telfer, who was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, August 31, 1833. Four children have come to them, namely: Corwin E., born July 8, 1862, married Miss May Lampitt, and has one child—Edith; William S., born April 19, 1866, is at home; Frank B., born September 22, 1867, married Miss Cora Trout; James Owen, born October 26, 1870, married Miss Katie Miller.

After his marriage Mr. Campbell settled on a farm in Bloom township; but did not long pursue this peaceful avocation of a farmer, for on August 20, 1862, he enlisted in defense of the old flag, going out as corporal in Company I, 111th O. V. I., which regiment was assigned to the Twenty-third Army Corps. During his three-years' service he saw much active fighting, being in the battles, amongst others, of Campbell Station, Buzzard's Roost, the siege of Atlanta, Franklin, and Nashville, Tenn. He was honorably discharged June 27, 1865, with the rank of sergeant.

On his return from the army Mr. Campbell resumed his occupation as a farmer, which he continued until 1889, when he sold his place and removed to North Baltimore, a year later opening the drug store which he has since so successfully carried on. He is recognized as a man of much ability, of high principles, undoubted integrity, and a force of character which brings him to the front in all public enterprises. His genial manners and straightforward methods of business have made him many friends and brought him a large trade, while his worth as a citizen has made him a leader in his community. Mr. Campbell is a Republican in politics, a Presbyterian in his religious belief, and a member of Sill Post No. 57, G. A. R., of which he was commander for one term.

LUCIUS MARSH, a liveryman of Prairie Depot, is one of the prosperous young business men of that village, where he was born in September, 1873. He is the youngest of four children, two sons and two daughters, born to Lucius and Sarah Marsh. He acquired his education in the common schools of his native village, where he has spent his entire life. Having a fondness for horses, his work has been mainly connected with those animals, so that he is well fitted for his present business. On August 11, 1894, he purchased the livery business of F. H. Fike, and in May of the following year removed to his present commodious quarters, his main building being 80 x 32 feet, and the annex 30 x 30. While a young man, he has shown himself capable of

managing his large business, which he has built up through his own efforts.

On October 17, 1892, Mr. Marsh was united in marriage with Miss Clara Rosendale, of West Millgrove, the only daughter of Dr. Charles R. and Rebecca (Wade) Rosendale, and to them has been born one child—Earl R. A staunch Republican politically, our subject keeps himself well posted in regard to current events, and is one of the reliable and straightforward young business men of the community, well and favorably known.

JOEL FOOTE, deceased. Among the straightforward, energetic and successful farmers in Washington township, none stood higher than the subject of this sketch. A native of Massachusetts, he was there born July 26, 1815, to Epaphroditus, a son of Epaphroditus and Eunice (Ringe) Foote. They were Connecticut people, and from that State our subject's father went with his parents to Madison county, N. Y., where he received his education. After his marriage he removed to the Bay State, but later returned to New York, this time locating in Genesee county. Leaving his family there, he, in 1825, came to Ohio, where he remained some four years, and then returned for them on an Indian pony. In the spring of 1829 he brought them to this State by water. From Utica, N. Y., to Black Rock they proceeded by the Erie canal, and at Buffalo they took passage on the schooner "Eagle," commanded by Capt. David Wilkison, but, on account of delays from ice, they were six weeks upon the journey before reaching Maumee. They located on Granger Island, where the mother died the same year. There the father operated a distillery two years, at the expiration of which time, in the spring of 1831, he bought eighty acres of land, and entered eight more one mile north of Haskins, Wood county. This he improved and cultivated, and in 1850 traded for the farm on which our subject now resides. In the meantime, from 1835 to 1841, he conducted a hotel at Miltonville, and after disposing of the hotel, he removed to the farm, which comprises 120 acres of rich and arable land.

By his first marriage, Mr. Foote became the father of five children, of whom our subject was the eldest. The others are Delos, who died and was buried at Lockport, N. Y.; Mary, deceased wife of James Blinn, a farmer of Perrysburg; Sarah Ann, deceased wife of John Arnold, of Iowa, where her death occurred; and Epaphroditus, who died in the fall of 1840, at the age of twenty years. In 1830, Mr. Foote wedded his sec-

ond wife, Charlotte Smith, a native of Herkimer county, N. Y., and to them were born children, to wit: Leroy, a farmer in Canada; Oscar, deceased; Emily, wife of Freeman Smith, of Wayne county, Ind.; Frederick, a merchant of Kent, Portage Co., Ohio, where he is living with his wife; Eunice, wife of John S. Matthews, of Tontogany; one who died at the age of eight years; and Harriet, wife of Frank Yost, a merchant of Tontogany.

Our subject was fourteen years old when he arrived in this State, so his education had been acquired in New York before that time; and he remained under the parental roof until he attained his majority. In 1836 he began work for J. W. Smith, a brother of D. B. Smith, with whom he remained some three years, receiving \$10 per month during the first year; \$15 during the second; and \$20 during the third. For the following two years he drove a stage for the firm of Neal, Moore & Co., the former, the builder of the "Neal House" in Columbus. Our subject was the first to run a boat over the levee between Providence and Miami, Ohio, and in 1842 began his farming operations, in which he met with excellent success.

In 1841, Mr. Foote was united in marriage with Margaret Canela, a native of Ireland, and to them were born seven children, three of whom still survive: Alice, wife of George E. Bliss, of Kendallville, Ind.; Albert Delos, postmaster of Tontogany; and Clara, wife of F. A. Baldwin, of Bowling Green. Those deceased were: Ella, who died when fifteen years old; Calvin, who was a veteran of the 100th Regiment, O. V. I., during the Civil war, and was killed by being run over by a team after the close of the struggle; Mary, who died when young; and James Knox, who died at the age of thirty-six. The mother of this family died in 1864, and in 1867 Mr. Foote wedded Emily (Soash) Oswald, widow of John Oswald, and four children graced this union; Eddie and Freddie (twins), the former of whom died when four weeks old, and the latter now conducts a livery stable at Liberty Center, Ohio; Frank Forest, a merchant of Rochester, Fulton Co., Ind., and Joel W., a clerk at Warsaw, Indiana.

The death of our subject occurred February 22, 1896. In politics he was an ardent and loyal Democrat, and for several years he served as a trustee of Weston township, also, later, of Washington township. In religious faith he was a Universalist, while his first wife was a Catholic; his second a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

JOHN H. LE GALLEY, who is a highly respected farmer in Plain township, was born in Huron county, Ohio, April 22, 1839, and is the son of William and Abigail (Terry) Le Galley. Our subject lived in Huron county until eighteen years of age, when he came with his parents to Wood county, and settled in Plain township. His education was obtained in the district schools, and on September 12, 1861, he was married to Miss Mary S. White. He carried on farming, and was so engaged when the Civil war broke out. When the call was made for hundred-days' men, he enlisted, in May, 1864, in Company C, 144th O. V. I., and served four months. During this time he contracted rheumatism, from which he has been a sufferer ever since. Mr. Le Galley is a Democrat in his political views, and is highly respected for his integrity and worth. He has a good farm, and is progressive in his methods. To him and his estimable wife, three children have been born, as follows: Henry W. was born in 1862, and lives in Bowling Green; he is married, and has one child. Marion E. and Myron E., twins, were born in 1872, and both are dentists.

Mrs. Le Galley was born May 9, 1844, and is the daughter of Jonathan and Sallie M. (Moore) White. Her father was born in Vermont, October 5, 1818, and was married in Huron county, Ohio, in 1842. He subsequently removed to Kansas, where he died in 1883. His wife was born in Tompkins county, N. Y., January 19, 1818, and now lives in Anderson county, Kans. They had two children: Mary S. (Mrs. Le Galley), and Ellen M., wife of Jesse Dotts. The paternal grandfather of Mrs. LeGalley was Cephas White, a native of Vermont, who, in 1844, came to Huron county, Ohio, and settled in Norwalk township, where he was a successful farmer. He served in the war of 1812, participating in the battles of Chippewa, Lundy's Lane, etc. He left seven children, of whom three are living, namely: Mrs. Sarah F. Moore; Luther, who was a soldier in the Civil war; and Mrs. Rhoda R. Benn, a widow, living in Norwalk. Those deceased are Cephas, Jonathan, Henry and Mary K. Rogers.

Mrs. Le Galley's maternal grandfather was Joseph Moore, who was born November 19, 1787, and died October 5, 1876. He was a weaver by trade, and also carried on a small distillery. In June, 1833, he came to Ohio, and settled in Norwalk township, Huron county, where he bought a farm, and, in 1855, moved to Hartland township. He married Susannah Silcox, a daughter of Henry Silcox, of New Jersey,

who was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. They had the following children: Sallie Marie, mother of Mrs. Le Galley; H. L. and David R., twins, the latter deceased; a daughter who died in infancy; and Lewis, who died in Hartland township, Huron county, March 7, 1896.

ALBERT DELOS FOOTE, the efficient and popular postmaster at Totogany, this county, and a leading merchant of that town, is a native of Weston township, where he was born February 23, 1851. His early education was obtained in the schools of his district, and he had also the training in farm work which falls to the average country boy. He had some experience as a clerk, and continued in that vocation some five or six years after his marriage, moving then to Belmore, Ohio, where he engaged in the grocery trade on his own account; but three years later he was burned out. After winding up his affairs there he returned to his old situation, and in 1884 he and Frank Yost bought out the mercantile business of Capt. Black, and together they conducted the store, under the firm name of Foote & Yost, some twelve years, or until January 1, 1896, at which date Mr. Foote bought out his partner, and he has since carried on the business alone. Among other commodities his lines of trade consist of general groceries, boots and shoes, and queensware.

On February 10, 1878, Mr. Foote was married to Miss Viola J. Parsons, who was born in Plain township, March 27, 1855, and five children were the result of this union: Clarence, Ella, Albert, Glenn and Mildred. Mrs. Foote is a daughter of John and Charlotte (Whitehead) Parsons, the former of whom, a native of Wood county, whose parents were of New York nativity, was a soldier in the Civil war, having, in 1861, become captain of Company H, 67th Regiment, O. V. I., and was killed at Deep Run, Va., August 11, 1864. Mrs. Charlotte Parsons was born in 1835, on Station Island, in the Maumee river, and died in 1891, the mother of three children: Viola J. (Mrs. A. D. Foote); John A., a hardware merchant in Leipsic, Putnam county; and Sidney B., who died in 1862.

Mr. Foote is an active and influential worker in the Democratic party, and was appointed postmaster at Tontogany during Cleveland's first administration, serving over four years. In 1893 he was again appointed, and still discharges the duties of the office to the entire satisfaction of the public. Socially he belongs to the I. O. O. F., was a charter member of Tontogany Lodge No. 755, and was the first noble grand in that Lodge;

in religious faith he and his wife are prominent members of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Foote a ruling elder in the Church, and has been superintendent of the Sabbath-school for a number of years, and continues in that position.

HENRY J. PELTON, a highly respected citizen of Bloomdale, and formerly one of the representative agriculturists of Perry township, was born April 2, 1841, in LaGrange Center, Lorain Co., Ohio.

James Pelton, the grandfather, was a farmer in New York State for many years. He reared a family, among whom was Daniel Pelton, our subject's father. James Pelton came to Ohio in an early day, locating in Lorain county, where he was a pioneer. In 1839, Daniel Pelton was married, in Lorain county, to Miss Eleanor Helm, a native of New York State, and, in 1850, they came to Wood county, settling in Perry township; a brother, P. J. Pelton, had come some time before. At the time of the removal, the family consisted of three children, of whom our subject was the eldest; T. V. is now a farmer and stock-buyer, of Bloom township, and W. S. lives in Perry township. Four children were born in Wood county, of whom Philo S. is a farmer in Perry township; Mary married Nelson Lowe, of the same locality; Matilda, died in 1873; and Robert C. is a farmer in Perry township. Before coming to Wood county, Daniel Pelton invested his capital in a steam sawmill, which he brought with him, it being the third in Perry township. He leased land for a mill site, and rented a residence until his increasing prosperity enabled him to buy a tract of 120 acres, where he was engaged in milling, and, in later years, in farming, also. He was an active, industrious man, slender in build, but fairly robust. He took a prominent part in local affairs, and, although he never sought office, he was a regular voter, and attended the caucuses of the Republican party from its formation, having previously been a Whig. He and his wife were leading members of the United Brethren Church. He died November 24, 1873, at the age of fifty-four years, and his wife survived him nearly nineteen years, dying March 29, 1892, at the age of seventy-two years. Both now rest in the cemetery at Perry Center.

Henry J. Pelton was nine years old when his parents came to this county, and his early training was that of the average country boy, with plenty of hard work at home and not too thorough instruction in the district schools. Time was found for recreation also, and he has

attended many a rural dancing party. In June, 1861, he married Miss Amanda Baird, a native of Wayne county, born January 29, 1844, a daughter of Asa I. Baird, a well-known farmer of Perry township. In September, 1861, he enlisted at Fostoria, in Company B, 55th Regiment, O. V. I., with Capt. A. S. Bement. They went into camp at Norwalk until January, 1862, when they went to the front with nearly 1,000 men. From Grafton, W. Va., they went to their first engagement at Cross Keys, Va., and then followed Cedar Mountain, the second battle of Bull Run, and Chancellorsville, where this regiment was under a terrific fire. The next morning at roll call half the number failed to respond, and none had been captured. Next came the three-days' struggle at Gettysburg, then a long march with Hooker to the banks of the Tennessee, near Chattanooga, then Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, and the raising of the siege of Knoxville, involving a long march in the dead of winter without tents, and, indeed, with hardly a blanket for each man, and many without boots or other suitable footwear. However, when Mr. Pelton's term expired he re-enlisted for another three-year term, and, after a short visit at home on a furlough, he rejoined the regiment, and took part in the continual skirmish from Chattanooga to Atlanta with Sherman, the battles at Resaca, Peach Tree Creek, and Atlanta, and the historic march "down to the sea." After the engagements at Savannah, Averbysboro and Bentonville, they went to Washington and participated in the Grand Review, and were afterward transferred to Louisville, not being mustered out until July 11, 1865. His regiment saw much hard fighting, and recruits were constantly added, 1,400 men having been members. Mr. Pelton enlisted as a private, and September 1, 1862, was made sergeant; October 1, 1864, orderly sergeant; January, 1865, quarter-master sergeant, and was then commissioned 1st lieutenant, but never served in that capacity, the war closing soon after. He never lost a day from duty throughout his service.

When at home in 1864 Mr. Pelton bought forty acres of cleared land in Perry township for \$1,200, for which he went in debt to some extent, paying for it from his wages as a soldier. His young wife had remained at her father's home during the war, but on his return home they began housekeeping in a "plank" house on this farm. A great deal of hard work, and a thorough knowledge of farming, was required to bring the property into its present satisfactory condition, but Mr. Pelton was equal to it. He



added to his first purchase as time passed, and now owns 160 acres. June 3, 1895, he retired to Bloomdale, having erected a tasteful dwelling at the corner of Main and Mulberry streets, where he and his estimable wife hope to enjoy the harvest of their past labors. They have had six children: Sarah E. married M. K. Fox, a farmer of Perry township; Hartwell died at twenty years of age; Carrie married George Bair, of Montgomery township; Elsie married Charles Coe, of Perry township; Burr is in the public schools of Bloomdale, and Ethel is also at school.

Mr. Pelton has always been among the leaders in local affairs, and a personal knowledge of the deficiencies of the old-time rural schools has made him an active advocate of the best that can be obtained for the future, and for nearly thirty years he has been a member of the Perry township board of education. He was also assessor for four years, and real-estate assessor in 1880. Politically he is a Republican, and he is a member of Urie Post No. 110, G. A. R., of Bloomdale. A kind neighbor, an honorable business man and a patriotic citizen, he deserves and holds the esteem of the community. As a farewell tribute to him and his family, the citizens of Perry township gave a surprise party at his home June 1, 1895, the entire neighborhood, regardless of age or sex, being present—an honor of which any one might well be proud.

S. P. HARRISON, a successful attorney at law of North Baltimore, was born April 23, 1849, his parents being John K. and Mary A. (Reepsumer) Harrison, the former of whom was born in Harrison county, Ohio, July 26, 1816, the latter born on October 22, 1818. The paternal grandparents of our subject were born in Cadiz, Harrison county, and moved to Indianapolis, Ind., where his grandfather died from sunstroke in the harvest field on a July 4th. They came from the same stock as Benjamin Harrison, ex-President of the United States.

John K. Harrison was reared to manhood in his native county, and then went to Youngstown, where he worked at mining coal for David Todd, during which time he became an exhorter for the Christian, or Disciples, Church. He was married to Miss Reepsumer December 16, 1838, in Trumbull county, Ohio, and they went to live at Girard, in the same State, where Mr. Harrison learned the trade of a wagonmaker, which he followed until 1846. In the spring of that year he started on horseback to find a home in the "Far West." Stopping one day at Flint Hill,

in the Whitaker settlement, near where Jerry City is now located, he learned that the community there were Disciples, so remaining over Sunday, he preached for them. So well did they like him that they secured for him a house in Portage, persuaded him to locate there permanently, and become their preacher in Wood county. He did so, and preached at a school-house where Mermill is now located, in the forenoon, and at a school house where Rudolph is now located, in the afternoon. He reared his family in Portage, where he started a wagon shop, in which he worked during the week. Politically, he was a firm supporter of the Republican party. He died in the fall of 1867, and his widow is now living at Gordon, Neb. Nine children were born to them, namely: Almon G., born July 25, 1840, was a member of Company C, 21st O. V. I., during the Civil war; was captured at Stone River, and was confined in Libby prison; he died at Portage in 1872. John H., born January 14, 1843, was in the 86th O. V. I. 100-days' service, and also in the 144th O. V. I., 6-months' service; he died and is buried at the Dayton Soldiers' Home. Sarah J., born January 12, 1845, died October 10, 1847. Alcinda A., born January 10, 1847, is the wife of Manning Abbott, and now resides near Gordon, Neb. S. P. is our subject. Mary A., born August 18, 1851, became the wife of R. M. Donnelly, formerly clerk of Wood county court, and died at Findlay, Ohio, in 1892. Austin R., born October 23, 1853, resides at Bowling Green, where he has been deputy clerk of the court for ten years; Lucy E., born June 24, 1858, married A. J. Holcomb, of Gordon, Neb., where she now resides. Freeman, born May 22, 1861, lives in Gordon, Nebraska.

Our subject spent the days of his youth in Portage, where he received his education, and at the remarkably early age of fifteen years began teaching school, in which line he continued some twelve terms in the district schools of Wood county, and then went to Portage and taught one term in the high school there. When only twenty years old he was principal of the Girard (Ohio) High School, where he stayed one year, and then studied law with the firm of Watson & Strong, of Norwalk, Ohio. In 1870 and 1871 he was mayor of Portage, and in 1874-75-76 was a justice of the peace in Bowling Green. In 1871 he entered the law department of Michigan University at Ann Arbor, and, after graduating in 1872, formed a partnership with J. R. Tyler and J. W. Canary, of Bowling Green, which was known by the firm name of Tyler,



*S. P. Harrison*



**Canary & Harrison.** The latter dropped out of the firm after one year, for twelve years thereafter practicing alone in Bowling Green, and then for one year in Toledo. In 1885 he went to New York, and practiced there for a while, then moved to Ellsworth, Kans., remaining in that place for three years, thence proceeding to Phoenix, Ariz., sojourning there for a few months. He finally returned to Wood county, locating in North Baltimore, where he has continued the practice of his profession. He was the first city solicitor of North Baltimore, being elected to that office in 1890. In 1891 he lost all he possessed in the great fire, and was obliged to start afresh.

Mr. Harrison was married October 15, 1873, to Miss Sarah E. Flint, who was born in Fort Plain, Montgomery Co., N. Y., where she spent her childhood, receiving her education in the Fort Plain Seminary. Mr. Harrison was a charter member of Whitney Lodge, Portage, and of Centennial Lodge, Bowling Green, I. O. O. F., which he named.

T. J. CAMPBELL, the well-known merchant and banker, of Bloomdale, is justly regarded as one of the leading men in the commercial circles of southern Wood county. A shrewd business man, he is at the same time generous and public-spirited, and is ever ready to encourage any movement to benefit the community. He is the only child of one of the most prominent of Bloom township's pioneers, Andrew Campbell, who was born May 10, 1803, in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania.

William Campbell, our subject's grandfather, came from the North of Ireland, in 1787, and died in Pennsylvania in 1810. Andrew Campbell was reared in Washington county, Penn., experiencing the common lot of a country boy in pioneer times. In 1832 he came to Wood county, on foot, and entered 160 acres of land in Henry township, which was among the earliest claims taken. He visited this land each year for some time, making some improvements each time, and in 1839 he purchased eighty acres in Bloom township adjoining the tract of 160 acres; on this he erected a rude log cabin. In August of the following year he was married to Miss Mary Harsha, a native of Washington county, Penn., and a daughter of Thomas Harsha, a leading citizen there. A month later the young couple set out for their new home in the swamps of Wood county, driving a team the entire distance. When they reached their destination they took shelter for a time in a small log pen 15 x 15, until

the floor of their cabin could be laid. Much remained to be done to prepare for the chilly blasts of the winter, and it required years of hard labor to transform their section of wilderness into a farm; but this was done. Andrew Campbell was a man of fine abilities and liberal ideas, and, although his schooling had been limited, his information was varied and extensive. Previous to the war he was a Whig in politics, but later he voted the Republican ticket, and took a hearty interest in the success of the party, attending conventions and primaries, but never entering the race for office himself. He was active up to the time of his death, which occurred November 19, 1878, from pneumonia. His wife, who had been for many years a consistent and devoted member of the Presbyterian Church, had passed away on August 20, of that year, and the mortal remains of both were laid to rest in Weaver cemetery.

T. J. Campbell spent his boyhood upon the farm, with plenty of work and such educational advantages as the district schools afforded. He has seen great improvements in these schools since his day, and endorses them most heartily. On August 18, 1862, he enlisted in Company I, 111th Regiment, O. V. I. (Capt. John Yeager, commanding), which was sent first to Covington, Ky., to help intercept Bragg, who was threatening the Ohio border. Mr. Campbell was under fire for the first time at Huff's Ferry, and then followed the battles of Lenoir, Campbell's Station, Knoxville, Rocky Face, Burnt Hickory, New Hope Church, Alatoona, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta, Jonesboro, Franklin, Nashville, Fort Anderson and Wilmington. He was never wounded, and was always on duty, except when physical ailments prevented him from taking his place. June 27, 1865, he was discharged at Salisbury, and came home to assume the active management of the farm.

On January 18, 1866, he was married to Miss Emeline Foster, who was born within the present city limits of Findlay, a daughter of Silas Foster, a prominent resident of Henry township. Seven children were born of this union: Orrin F., the cashier of the Exchange Bank at Bloomdale; Boyd E., a clerk in his father's store; Minnie, who died at the age of three months; Ford H., employed in his father's store; Curtie, now Mrs. M. A. Probert; Charles R., the bookkeeper in the Exchange Bank; and Edna, who is at home.

After carrying on the farm successfully until September, 1888, Mr. Campbell sold a part of it, retaining 120 acres. He moved to Bloomdale, and gave his native business talent scope for ac-

tivity in several lines of work. He bought of L. C. Smith a one-third interest in the Gas Center Mill, opened a grocery store, and became interested in the grain business of Stacy & Co., owning the elevator. Later he disposed of these interests, and in 1891 established the Exchange Bank with a capital of \$20,000, and in 1893, erected the Exchange Block, a fine office building, where he provided suitable accommodations for the bank. In 1895 he opened there the hardware and stove store, which has the largest quarters and most extensive trade of its kind in the town. He is a stockholder in the Bloomdale Creamery, a director in the Bloomdale Building and Loan Association, of which he was an organizer, and he is also interested in the Star Addition to Bloomdale. He is not an office seeker, but is a staunch supporter of the Republican party, and has given some time to local affairs, serving four years as township clerk, and several terms as trustee, and he was the second mayor of Bloomdale. He and his wife are members of the Lutheran Church. In G. A. R. affairs he has been very active, and was a charter member of Sill Post, at N. Baltimore. At present he belongs to Urie Post No. 110, at Bloomdale.

THOMAS STONE, one of the honored veterans of the Civil war, was born in Yorkshire, England, November 23, 1829, and is a son of William and Mary (Booth) Stone, both of whom died in England, the father in 1838, the mother in 1866. They were the parents of twelve children: John, a farmer and preacher of Yorkshire, England; Annie, wife of John Carr, a farmer of Yorkshire; Harriet, wife of William Chaplain, a resident of the City of York, England; William, who was drowned at the age of twelve years; Robert, who was drowned at the age of ten; Mary, who was burned to death at the age of seven; Thomas, subject of this sketch; Maria, widow of William Whitehead, of Southport, Lancashire, England; Francis, who died in infancy; Frank, who died in Yorkshire, in 1881, at the age of forty years; and two who died in infancy.

In his native land the education of our subject was mostly acquired, and in 1850 he embarked on the ship, "Seringapatam," at Hull, England, which, after a long and stormy voyage of eight weeks, dropped anchor in the harbor of New York. On landing on the shores of the New World, Mr. Stone came to Erie county, Ohio, locating near Sandusky City, where he worked on a farm until 1861, in which year he came to Wood county, where in April, 1858, he had purchased his present farm of sixty acres, at

that time all wild land, mostly covered with water, in part so bad was it that in order to drive a team to the mill he had to go round by the river.

In June, 1852, in Erie county, Ohio, Mr. Stone married Miss Emma Smith, daughter of Jeremiah and Mary (Clarke) Smith, both natives of Lincolnshire, England. The family came to this country in 1849, and the father died in Marshalltown, Iowa, in 1881; the mother had passed away in 1852. They had six sons and four daughters, namely: Charles, who belonged to the Fifth Iowa Infantry, was taken prisoner by the Rebels at the battle of Missionary Ridge in 1863, and died in Andersonville prison in September, 1864; Cooke, who was a member of the Tenth Ohio Cavalry, and died from the effects of army service, in Michigan, in November, 1872; John and Robert, who both died in Iowa; Clark, who served in an Iowa regiment, and now lives in that State; Thomas, a farmer in Washington township; Emma (Mrs. Stone); Mary Ann, now the wife of Edwin Meeks, a farmer of Cadillac, Mich., who formerly operated a flouring-mill at Fostoria, Ohio, which he had to abandon on account of ill health; and two girls who died in infancy. Mrs. Stone, who is the eldest in the family, was born March 27, 1833.

Ten children were born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Stone, seven of whom are yet living: George W., born May 29, 1856, is a farmer of Washington township, married Hattie Brillhart, and has four children—Fred, Allie, Francis J. and Birdie. Samantha, born September 11, 1860, is the wife of John McCombs, who resides near Blissfield, Lenawee Co., Mich. Francis C., born August 14, 1862, rents the Joel Foote farm in Washington township, which he operates; his wife bore the maiden name of Mary Crool. Clara, born April 2, 1864, is the wife of Louis Jefferies; they make their home near Monclova, Lucas Co., Ohio. Clarke J., born May 21, 1866, married Louisa Mozenia, and now carries on farming in Plain township, Wood county. Josephine, born August 15, 1868, is the wife of C. E. Gundy, a farmer of Washington township. Hattie N., born November 4, 1870, is the wife of John Welch, a farmer of Monclova, Lucas county. Three died in infancy, namely: William, born August 8, 1854, died September 7, following; Mary, born December 1, 1858, died April 9, 1861; and Nettie, born October 20, 1872, died on November 3, following. The parents also reared two brothers and a sister of Mrs. Stone.

In May, 1864, Mr. Stone enlisted at Tontog-

any in Company B, 144th Regiment, O. V. I., under Capt. Black and Col. Miller. On May 1, 1864, the troops left Perrysburg, Ohio, for Columbus, being mustered in at Camp Chase. They then proceeded to Pittsburg, thence to Harrisburg and Baltimore, where they remained two nights, and thence to Camp Parole, Md., near Annapolis, where they did guard duty until the 1st of July. Then they went to Monocacy Junction, near Fredericksburg, participating in several skirmishes, and while thus engaged Mr. Stone was taken prisoner on the 13th of August. When within five miles of Culpeper, he with four others succeeded in making their escape; but were five days and six nights on the road before reaching the Union lines near Fairfax Court House. On the close of his term of enlistment our subject was mustered out at Columbus, where he had suffered from an attack of fever. He is now a member of Walter A. Wood Post, G. A. R., of Tontogany.

In June, 1889, Mr. Stone returned to England, visiting the scenes of his youth and renewing old friendships, being absent on his trip about four months. He has aided in every enterprise calculated to enhance the best interests of his township and county, and labored earnestly for the welfare of their citizens. In politics he is a staunch Republican, and filled the position of trustee for one year, was supervisor several years and also school director. In religious faith he attends the services of the United Brethren Church. He has ever found his greatest pleasure in his home, and on June 15, the anniversary of his marriage, always holds a re-union of the family, which now comprises thirty-one members, including his children and fifteen grandchildren.

JAMES BRANDEBERRY, one of Perry township's most honored citizens, was born in Richland county, Ohio, May 4, 1828, and is a son of Philip and Catherine (Zimmerman) Brandeberry. In the fall of 1838, the father brought the family to Wood county, locating on 240 acres in Section 15, Perry township, but he later sold that tract and purchased a like amount in Bloom township. For his service in the war of 1812, he received eighty acres of land in Eaton county, Mich., and in that struggle took part in the engagements around Fort Meigs. He made the first improvements upon his land in Perry township, and, while their first cabin was being constructed, the family found a temporary home with John Chilcote. Philip Brandeberry was quite successful in his business transactions, and gave to each of his

children eighty acres of land, or its equivalent. He was very fond of hunting, and used to engage in that sport to a great extent. In politics he was first a Whig, and later a Republican. His death occurred in Perry township at the age of eighty years, eight months and eleven days, while his wife lived to be nearly seventy-eight, and they were buried side by side at Center of Perry. In the family of this worthy couple were the following children: Betsy, who became the wife of John Chilcote, and died in Perry township; Jonathan, who died in Portage township; Philip, who departed this life in Bloom township; Christina, who was the wife of William Burke, and died in Freedom township; William, who died in Bloom township; Mary, who became the wife of Henry Hays, and passed away in Perry township; Isaac, who died in the same township; Thomas, a prominent citizen of Bloom township; and James, of this sketch.

The last named was less than eleven years of age when brought by his parents to Wood county, and acquired his education in the district schools. Farm machinery in those early days was quite primitive, so that the life of an agriculturist was not an easy one, but he continued to devote his energies to the cultivation of the old homestead until his marriage. He then began its operation on his own account, making his home there until April, 1885, since which time he has lived with his step-grandchildren, in Perry township.

On May 10, 1849, in Sandusky county, Ohio, Mr. Brandeberry led to the marriage altar Miss Jane Bates, a native of Columbiana county, Ohio, and a daughter of Andrew Bates, a pioneer of Sandusky county. Five children blessed this union—Minerva, who married Abraham Long-acre, and died in Perry township; Mary J., who first wedded Marcus Keefer, but is now the wife of Randall Baird, of Perry township; George, who makes his home in Wood county; Emily, now Mrs. William Johnson, of Perry township; Laura, wife of Simon Hartley, of the same township. The mother of these children was buried in Perry township. In 1872 Mr. Brandeberry was united in marriage with Mrs. Rosanna Zepernick, widow of Frederick Zepernick, and daughter of Samuel Burns, one of the honored early settlers of Perry township. On the 29th of August, 1890, Mrs. Brandeberry was called to her final rest, and was buried at Center of Perry.

For twenty years Mr. Brandeberry followed threshing, besides his regular agricultural pursuits, and became widely known throughout the county. Although his school training was slight, he is a man of great natural ability, and is well informed

on the current events of the day. His support has always been given the Republican party, and he has been called upon to fill several local positions, being supervisor and school director, and for two years was treasurer of Perry township, but always preferred to devote his time and attention to his business affairs, rather than to political matters.

HON. H. L. HUDDLE, ex-mayor of North Baltimore, well deserves a place in this history of the representative men of Wood county, and a brief sketch of his life will prove of interest to the readers of this volume.

Mr. Huddle was born July 5, 1854, in Bloom township, Seneca Co., Ohio, a son of Noah and Lavinia (Bretz) Huddle, who were both natives of Seneca county, the former born in 1825, the latter in 1828. They were there married, followed agricultural pursuits, and passed the rest of their busy lives, the father dying in 1863, and the mother in 1872. To them eight children were born, namely: John, a farmer in Seneca county; A. C., engaged in the undertaking business in Fredericktown, Ohio; Homer L., the subject of this sketch; Barbara, who married Wesley George, and died in Michigan; George M., a farmer in Ionia county, Mich; Gratten G., who died in 1892; and two who were killed in a runaway when young.

The paternal great-grandfather of our subject came from Germany and settled in Pennsylvania, where he followed farming and died in that State. The grandfather, Benjamin Huddle, left Pennsylvania at an early day, and became a pioneer settler of Seneca county, Ohio. His wife was a sister of Elder Seitz, a noted pioneer preacher of that section. Benjamin Huddle began life a poor man, but, by industry and perseverance, accumulated a fortune, owning at one time 400 acres of land, and passing his last years in a comfortable home, surrounded by an abundance of the good things of life. The family were all "hard-shell" Baptists, and were proud of the title, answering all captious or sneering remarks on their peculiar sect by saying that "a hard shell is better than no shell at all."

The subject of this sketch is essentially a self-made man. His father died when he was nine years old, and he was left to the tender mercy of relatives, living here and there, working for a living at odd jobs, and drifting with the tide, and knocked about by the waves of adversity during his boyhood days. As maturer years approached, he realized that destiny is generally the result of individual effort, and bringing to mind a favorite

adage, "A rolling stone gathers no moss," he determined to have a purpose in life, and made a start to fulfill it. He had been living in Marion county, Ohio, with relatives, and, although nineteen years old, had little or no education. This he set about rectifying, and entered the Northwestern Ohio Normal School, at Republic, Ohio, working at anything through his leisure hours, and on farms during the vacations, in order to pay his way. When the school was removed to Fostoria, he followed, and by untiring application, and in spite of numerous obstacles, obtained a good English education.

On October 14, 1875, Mr. Huddle was married, in Fostoria, to Miss Amanda M. Tumpaugh, of which union four children have been born, of whom the eldest, Frank, died when two years old; the others are—Charles, Hazel and Fred. After his marriage Mr. Huddle remained in Fostoria, working at anything he could find to do until 1876, when he removed to North Baltimore. His means were very limited, but he was able to buy a blind horse, with which he began draying. This he carried on with increasing success for a few years, when he bought a half interest in a dry-goods store in North Baltimore. Sixteen months later, in 1884, he disposed of this business and leased the elevators, becoming the principal grain buyer and shipper in the vicinity. His motto is "live and let live," and he has built up an extensive business by his fair dealing, honesty and untiring activity. His road to fortune seems now assured, and he can look back upon the obstacles surmounted as so many incentives to action which really served as good purpose in bringing out the reserve forces within him.

Mr. Huddle is a man of genial nature, and exceedingly popular in the community, which was proven by his election as mayor of North Baltimore in 1892. He held that office for two years, to the satisfaction of all concerned. He is a liberal-minded, patriotic citizen, and merits the high esteem in which he is held. In politics is a staunch Republican; socially is a Knight of Pythias, and in religious affiliation is a consistent member of the Presbyterian Church, as is also his wife.

ALEXANDER MCCOMBS. The representatives of the farming interests of Wood county acknowledge this gentleman as one of the important factors in bringing this section of the State to its present enviable condition. He is a man of more than ordinary business capacity, intelligent and well informed, and has identified himself with the progress and best interests of the people.



*H. L. Hudelle*





Mr. McCombs was born October 15, 1834, in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, a son of Archibald and Catherine (Jeffers) McCombs, both natives of Pennsylvania, the father born May 13, 1799, in Washington county; the mother born February 14, 1802, in Susquehanna county. They were married in Harrison county, Ohio, after which Mr. McCombs bought a fifty-acre lot in Tuscarawas county, near New Philadelphia, all in timber, whither he removed, and which he cleared and put into good shape. To him and his wife were born eleven children, as follows: (1) John, who was a member of the 144th O. V. I. during the Civil war, and died in a Rebel prison at Salisbury, N. C.; was married, and had a family of eight children; at the time of his enlistment he was a prominent farmer of Washington township, Wood county. (2) Sarah Jane, widow of Charles Patterson, has three children—Henry, Jacob and Percy—and resides near Scotch Ridge with a son. (3) William, a farmer of Mecosta county, Mich., also served in the war of the Rebellion as a member of the 51st O. V. I. (4) Jacob was a member of the 21st O. V. I., and died at Nashville from the effects of hard service. (6) Martha is the wife of Wesley Cochran, a farmer of Ann Arbor, Mich., by whom she has two children—William and Agnes. (7) Catherine, who makes her home in Whiteside county, Kans., is the widow of Henry Grooves, and has five children—John, Lewis, Alex., Thomas and Sadie. (8) Margaret died at the age of twenty-two years. (9) Mary died at the age of ten. (10) Charles died in infancy. (11) Alexander, the subject of this sketch, completes the number. The entire family grew to manhood and womanhood on the Tuscarawas county farm, except our subject, who was thirteen years old when his parents moved, in the fall of 1847, to Wood county, Ohio, in the spring of 1848 buying a home in Washington township, where they lived some years—the children in the meantime, one by one, leaving the parental roof, some for homes of their own, others, as already related, crossing the dark river to the Unknown. When they became old and feeble, the parents were persuaded by their son, Alexander, to move, in the spring of 1874, to his home in Washington township, and there they died, the father on April 18, 1874, the mother on June 22, 1885. They were members of the United Brethren Church, and in politics Mr. McCombs was a stalwart Democrat.

Alexander McCombs began his education in the schools of Tuscarawas county, and continued his studies for a short time after coming to Wood county with his parents; but his school training

was rather limited. On July 24, 1862, he enlisted at Tontogany, in Company G, First Ohio Light Artillery, under Capt. Alex. Marshall and Col. Barnett, and was mustered in at Toledo. From there the troops proceeded to Nashville, Tenn., after which they participated in the battles of Stone River, Chickamauga, Franklin, Mission Ridge and Lookout Mountain, besides numerous small engagements. While in winter quarters at Chattanooga, Mr. McCombs was cooking some meat about ten feet from his tent, when a shell was thrown down from the mountain above, and exploded in the tent, totally destroying everything, yet he was uninjured! Though in many hotly contested battles, he was never wounded. At the battle of Franklin, two pieces of his battery were sent out on the pike to cover the retreat of the Union army, and, while marching into Franklin, Hood had his forces massed so solidly on a high knoll, that three out of the four men at the gun on which our subject served were killed, he alone surviving. They held the Confederates at bay as long as they could; but it became so hot the captain ordered them to limber to the rear, and get inside the line of works. Mr. McCombs had not time to put up equipments, but carried sponge-bucket in one hand and sponge-staff in the other, and, while marching in, quite a number of Hood's men followed them inside the breastworks. It was a hard fight while they were at it; "but," Mr. McCombs says, "the 'Johnnies' used us much better at Franklin than they did at Stone River, where, on the third day's fight, they killed about half of our horses and took four of our guns. It was a terrible slaughter, and after the conflict was over they went to Nashville and drew new guns and horses." Mr. McCombs and his "bunk-mate," H. G. Mercer, grew up together in boyhood, and served together throughout the war. Mercer was Mr. McCombs' partner when his tent was blown up at the foot of Lookout Mountain, as related above. On the close of hostilities our subject was discharged at Nashville, Tenn., June 13, 1865, and returned home, having made for himself an honorable war record, of which he may be justly proud.

Mr. McCombs then gave his attention to agricultural pursuits, operating a rented farm for seven years, when he purchased forty acres of land, which had been entered by his uncle from the government at seventy-five cents per acre, since which time it has never passed out of the family. Nineteen acres had already been improved, but he has since drained the tract, using 16,000 tile, erected a fine house at a cost of

\$1,100, built fences, and set out a fine orchard upon his land, the place being now a credit to the enterprise and industry of the proprietor. On February 11, 1868, he married Catherine Crom, a daughter of John Crom, a prominent farmer of Washington township, and five children blessed their union: G. E., who died at the age of fourteen months; L. A., a farmer of Washington township, who married Martha Daniels, by whom he has two sons—George and Harold; J. Chester, a farmer, at home; W. H., who is still under the parental roof; and H. A., who died at the age of three years. The unwavering support of Mr. McCombs is given the Republican party, whose principles he staunchly advocates, and has held several offices in his township, being trustee for seven years, and for many years he was school director and a member of the board of education. His religious belief is that of the United Brethren Church, while socially he is connected with Walter A. Wood Post, G. A. R., at Tontogany. In the summer of 1895 he attended the grand encampment at Louisville, Kentucky.

**F. M. COOK.** The subject of this sketch, who is a prominent farmer of Plain township, is well-known as a man of intelligence and enterprise, and also as a brave soldier, the story of whose adventures in the "Far West," as it was called some twenty-five years ago, reads like some tale of fiction. He has no need to recall fairy stories to relate to the children, for his own experiences are quite as exciting as any of these, and have the added merit of being true.

Mr. Cook was born in Liberty township, April 3, 1845, to Robert and Elizabeth (Huff) Cook. His father was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, December 12, 1816, and spent his younger days in Circleville, Ohio. He came to Wood county when about twenty-five years of age and was here married. Soon after this event, in 1848, he removed to Miami county, Ind., where he carried on general farming and dealt in stock, driving hogs to the market at Cincinnati. He was a Whig in his earlier years, but afterward became a Republican. He died in Indiana, September 23, 1870. Henry Cook, the father of Robert Cook, was born in Virginia in 1790, and was a soldier in the war of 1812, and by that means became a resident of Ohio. He was a shoemaker by trade, and in religion was a Universalist. He died in Indiana at the home of our subject's father. His family comprised ten children, of whom the following grew to maturity: Robert; Cervantes, who was a soldier in the

Civil war, belonging to Company B, 40th Indiana, and died at Nashville, Tenn., from wounds received at the battle of Stone River; Reason, who died in Indiana; Alvin, who was killed by the falling of a tree; Melissa married George Gordon, and died in Kansas; Catherine married Joab Gordon, a brother of George; Susanna married a Mr. Morehead, and died in Indiana. Henry Cook was of Scotch-Irish descent, and his ancestors fought in the Revolutionary war.

The mother of our subject was a daughter of Henry and ——— Huff, who were natives of England, and were there married. She was also born in England, and was the only one of the family who grew to maturity. Her parents came to America in 1832, and settled at Erie, Penn., where they remained one year, and then came to Wood county, Ohio, locating first in Liberty township, and later in Plain township, where the father died in at the age of eighty-six years. He did not vote until the time of the Civil war, when he became a Republican. He belonged to the Methodist Church.

The subject of this sketch was one of four children, of whom the following record is given: Adaline, married William Lucas, and died in Indiana. William lives in Lake county, Ind.; he served during the Civil war in Company B, 40th Ind., and was wounded at Mission Ridge, but did not leave the army until the war was over. F. M. is the third in order of birth. Mary is the wife of Thomas Mearing, whose sketch will be found in another place. Mr. Cook was a child of three years when his parents removed to Miami county, Ind., and there obtained his education, and grew to manhood. In 1864, he enlisted in Company A, 138th Ind., for the hundred-days' service. His time expired when he was in Nashville, Tenn., and he re-enlisted in the 151st Ind. regiment, in which he served until the close of the war. He was honorably discharged at Indianapolis, and returned home, where he remained two years, then went west with the purpose of locating. His first stop was at Fort Scott, Kans., which at that time was a pretty rough place, being infested with bushwhackers from the North and South, who had congregated there. Two men were killed the first night Mr. Cook was in the town, and, although he remained there, and in the vicinity, for about four months, he decided to find some other place in which to try his fortune.

Mr. Cook's next step was to take up a claim on the Salmon river, and in the latter part of August, of the same year, the settlement was raided by the Indians. They killed a number of the

white settlers, and took the women and children captives, destroying and burning the cabins and everything within their way. Gov. Crawford, of Kansas, came to the rescue of the whites, and organized a company of young men to follow the savages and exterminate them. Our subject was one of these volunteer soldiers who composed what was known as the 19th Kans. Cav., and on September 20, 1868, they started in pursuit of the red men. Driving the Indians before them, this brave band swept up the Salmon river, finally reaching Fort Hayes, where they were met by gallant "Little Phil" Sheridan and the 7th U. S. Cav.; this little army then was extended in a line from Kansas on their forward march, determined that none of the savages should escape them. The latter made a stand at the Arkansas river, but were so closely pressed that they fled. The soldiers all massed at Camp Supply, and, under the command of the lamented Gen. Custer, marched sixty miles south of Wolf creek and struck the river, on whose banks the Indians were encamped. The troops attacked them before daylight, taking them by surprise and capturing all who were not killed. The prisoners were marched back to Camp Supply, and a few days later some of the soldiers returned to the battle field to care for the dead, but found only the bones of their comrades, the wolves having destroyed the bodies.

Mr. Cook was one of a company of men detailed to accompany a train of five hundred wagons sent to Fort Hayes, five hundred miles distant, for supplies. On the way they met a band of roving savages, and sent two men back to report the fact at headquarters. On the return of the expedition they found the head of one of these men in one place and parts of his body in other places, and later the other man was found tied to a tree, his body full of arrows. Both had been killed by these terrible scourges of the Plains. In addition to the other hardships of this never-to-be-forgotten trip, the teamsters drove both ways in a blizzard. Many other most thrilling and interesting incidents are related by our subject, of his experiences during this wild life on the Western frontiers. Among other things he saw herds of buffaloes, so numerous that no team or horseman could drive through them, and containing thousands of these great animals. Mr. Cook remained with the army in the West until June 19, 1869, when he went to Kansas City and worked in a woolen-mill there for a year. On the death of his father in 1870, he returned to his old home in Indiana, and took charge of affairs. He succeeded his father as

justice of the peace, in Miami county, holding the office for eight years. In 1881 he came to Wood county, Ohio, where he has since made his home.

Mr. Cook was married November 4, 1875, to Miss Martha E. Paul, who was born September 30, 1856, and they have two children, Glenn C. born August 7, 1876, and James H., born July 7, 1883. Mr. Cook is a Republican, a member of the G. A. R., and is popular among his acquaintances.

GEORGE H. SPECK. Among the newspaper men of northwestern Ohio, few have a wider acquaintance than the popular editor and proprietor of the *Pemberville Leader*. At the time he assumed the management of the paper, the tide of its fortunes was at a very low ebb, but his energy and tact have succeeded in gaining for it a place among the most prosperous journals of Wood county. Possessing an inexhaustible fund of humor, together with a wide range of information upon topics of every nature, he is well fitted for the responsible position he holds.

The family to which our subject belongs originated in Germany, where his great-grandfather, Godfrey Augustus Speck, was born in 1754, and whence he emigrated to America. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Sarah Townsend, was born in September, 1763, and passed away December 13, 1815. His death occurred December 24, 1828. Among their eight children was Augustus, our subject's grandfather, who was born in Pennsylvania, December 13, 1787, and died in Guernsey county, Ohio, June 12, 1870. His wife, Sarah Reed, was born April 22, 1789, and died August 7, 1875. Their family consisted of eleven children.

On his mother's side our subject traces his ancestry to Benjamin Hiskett, a native of Virginia, who died in Belmont county, Ohio. A son of the latter, Norval Valentine Hiskett, our subject's grandfather, was born in Loudon county, Virginia, February 15, 1805, and died in Morrow county, Ohio, in 1852. He married Massey Nichol, who was born December 13, 1811, and passed away April 19, 1844. Isaac G. Speck, the father of our subject, was born near Westchester, Guernsey Co., Ohio, April 11, 1832, and is a merchant by occupation. At Cardington, Ohio, June 23, 1853, he married Matilda Ann Hiskett, who was born near Mt. Gilead, Morrow Co., Ohio, March 3, 1836. They became the parents of ten children, namely: John F., who was born July 17, 1854; Sarah E., February 16, 1856; Mary V., born June 14, 1857,

and died July 23, 1857; Eda A., born July 18, 1858; Ira E., July 4, 1860; Ocenie B., January 4, 1862; George H., June 8, 1865; Charles E., May 21, 1867; Clarence C., who was born August 27, 1875, and passed away September 12, 1879; and Clive L., whose birth occurred December 5, 1880.

In the public schools of Defiance and Green Spring, Ohio, our subject received such educational advantages as those institutions of learning afforded. At the age of seventeen years he entered the office of a newspaper at Green Spring, the "*Times*," and though he commenced, with the humble position of "devil", soon worked his way upward, and within two years was local editor of the paper. In 1885 he became connected with the *Greenwich Enterprise*, of which he was editor and business manager for one year. In 1887 he went to Chicago, and for a year and a half he was employed in a job printing office. In April, 1889, he came to Pemberville, and became editor of the *Leader*, of which he has since been in charge. The task of resurrecting the departed fortunes of this paper was not an easy one; but he applied himself to it with ardor, and soon achieved noteworthy success. Besides his regular newspaper work, he has a job printing office, and turns out a very superior quality of work. While the *Leader* is independent in politics, Mr. Speck himself is a staunch advocate of Republican principles, and always casts his ballot for the candidates of that party. Socially, he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and K. O. T. M., and in religious belief is a Methodist. His marriage was solemnized at Lima, Ohio, June 12, 1888, his wife being Miss Cora Ann Smith. They have lost one child by death, and have two sons living, Clayton S., and Claire H.

S. P. HATHAWAY has the reputation of a strictly first-class business man, reliable and energetic, and is a citizen of whom Wood county may justly be proud. He is one of the oldest merchants of Luckey, having begun business there in 1872, and in 1881 erected a two-story building, which burned down in 1893, but with characteristic energy he at once rebuilt it, and now has a substantial two-story brick block, in which he is doing a large and lucrative business.

A native of Wood county, Mr. Hathaway was born in Webster township October 6, 1847, and is a son of Isaac M. and Nancy (Stevens) Hathaway, the former a resident of Geauga county, Ohio, and the latter a native of Pennsylvania. The father's birth occurred in 1822, and in his

native county he acquired his education, after which, at the age of eighteen years, he came to Montgomery township, Wood county, with his parents, Daniel and Polly (Merricks) Hathaway, both of whom were born in Fall River, Mass. About 1820 the grandparents of our subject removed to Geauga county, Ohio, and later came to Montgomery township, this county, where they opened up a farm; for many years made their home in Webster township, Wood county, where the grandfather died in 1856, and his wife in 1880. He served his country in the war of 1812. By trade the father was a shoemaker, but also carried on farming. In Webster township he enlisted, in 1861, as a member of Company K, 21st O. V. I., for three years, being mustered in at Findlay, Ohio, and served in the army of the Cumberland. At the close of his term he re-enlisted in the same company and regiment, and was killed on May 31, 1864, at New Hope Church. His wife still survives him, and makes her home in Luckey. Our subject is the eldest in their family of six children, the others being James and John, both of Luckey; Mary, who died in Webster township; Mrs. Elizabeth Nichols, of Michigan; and Mrs. Lasetta Hibbs, of Auburndale, Lucas Co., Ohio.

S. P. Hathaway was reared in the usual manner of farmer boys, receiving his education in the district schools of Webster township, but after the outbreak of the Civil war, although quite young, he laid aside civil pursuits, and in 1864 joined Company K, 21st O. V. I., enlisting for three years or until the close of the war. He was mustered into the United States service at Toledo, Ohio, and was assigned to the army of the Cumberland. He participated in many battles and skirmishes, including the engagements at Buzzard's Roost, Rocky Face Ridge, Resaca, Kingston, Kenesaw, Atlanta, Jonesboro, siege of Savannah, went in pursuit of Hood, and was with Sherman on the celebrated march to the sea. He was in the Carolina campaign, being in the battles of Averyboro and Bentonville, and at the latter place was taken prisoner. He was confined at Danville and Richmond. On being discharged at Columbus, Ohio, in June, 1865, he returned to his home in Webster township, where he followed farming for a time. At Toledo, in 1866, he joined the regular army, and during the three years of his service was stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Fort Randall and Fort Sully, after which he returned to Wood county.

On August 20, 1873, Mr. Hathaway was married to Delila (Bochman) Kinney, and to the marriage was born a daughter, Mary (Mrs. Clem



*S. P. Hathaway*



Eberhart), September 7, 1874. She was educated in the public schools of Luckey and of Albion, Ind., and is now a resident of Ann Arbor, Mich., and has one child, Gertrude.

In 1878, in Troy township, Mr. Hathaway was the second time married, this time to Miss Mary Bushnell, a native of Sandusky county, Ohio, and a daughter of William and Emily (Clough) Bushnell, who were early pioneers of Troy township, and are both now deceased. The lady is a sincere and faithful member of the Christian Church.

In his political relations, Mr. Hathaway is identified with the Republican party, served acceptably as postmaster under both Harrison and Garfield, and is a notary public of Troy township. He belongs to Benedict Post, No. 26, G. A. R., at Pemberville, in which he has filled the chair of quartermaster-sergeant, and is a member of Freedom Lodge No. 127, I. O. O. F. Personally and in a business sense he is popular among his townsmen, and considered a valuable addition to the community.

J. E. SOMMERS, M. D. This well-known and popular physician of North Baltimore was born May 22, 1854, on the Atlantic Ocean, while his parents were on their way to this country from Germany. He is the son of Frederick and Rosina (Groh) Sommers, both of whom were natives of Wittenberg, Germany.

The parents of our subject settled on a farm in Medina county, Ohio, where they lived until 1861, when they moved to Wood county, taking up their residence in Portage township. The year following Mr. Sommers offered his services in defense of the flag of his adopted country, enlisting in Company I, 111th O. V. I., and serving as a private for three years. In all this time he was not wounded, but contracted rheumatism from which he was a sufferer the remainder of his life. He was born in 1821, and died in 1878 in the prime of life. His wife, who was born in 1829, is still living in North Baltimore. Four children comprised their family, as follows: J. E., the subject of this sketch; Jacob, living in Henry township; Frederick, also in North Baltimore; and Christina, who was the wife of Dr. Knight, of Portage, and is deceased. The parents were both members of the Lutheran Church, although the mother is now connected with the Christian Church at Mungen.

Our subject was seven years old when his parents took up their residence in Wood county, and here he attended the public schools, acquiring a good common-school education. In 1889

he began the study of medicine under Dr. Bryant, of Toledo, afterward attending the Cincinnati Medical College, from which he was graduated in June, 1892, with the degree of M. D. He began his professional career in North Baltimore soon after his graduation, and in a short time has built up an extensive practice. He is a man of fine ability, a close student, and has the confidence of the people, a most necessary factor in the success of a physician. He is also popular on account of his genial ways and many excellent qualities as a neighbor and friend.

Dr. Sommers was first married, in 1878, to Miss Clara Wallace, who died a little more than two years after her marriage, leaving one child, Henry. The Doctor took for his second wife Mrs. Rebecca McCrory, of Liberty township, who was born June 3, 1852. She has one child, Mary, by her first marriage, and one by her marriage with our subject, Floyd. Dr. Sommers belongs to the Northwestern Ohio Eclectic Medical Association, and the Ohio State Medical Association, and is medical examiner for the lodge of Woodmen of the World at North Baltimore. He is a Democrat politically, and in religious connection is a member of the United Brethren Church at North Baltimore. In addition to his practice, he looks after a tract of land which he has leased to the Ohio Oil Co., and on which he has placed many improvements. He also owns city property in North Baltimore, and the Columbia Drug Store, in the same city, which is conducted by a professional pharmacist, F. M. Hoffman, the Doctor's time being entirely taken up with his extensive practice.

MARSHALL R. GORRILL owns and controls one of the leading industries of Middleton township, being engaged in the manufacture of lumber and staves at Dowling. Fully in sympathy with the spirit of progress and enterprise characteristic of the age, he carries forward his business interests with energy and perseverance, and is recognized as one of the leading representatives of commercial circles in his locality.

Mr. Gorrill is one of the native sons of the county, his birth having occurred in Troy township, August 3, 1854. His father, Thomas Gorrill, was born in Devonshire, England, in 1807, and about the year 1830 crossed the Atlantic, taking up his residence in Center township, this county. Subsequently he removed to Troy township, where he secured a claim of 260 acres, which he cultivated and improved. He married Miss Eliza Barr, a native of Peru, Ohio, and they had eight children: Robert W., a con-



tractor and farmer; Martha J., wife of Wesley Thurston, a lawyer of Toledo; Marshall R.; Samuel B., Thomas A., and Henry L., James C., all four now deceased; and Mary G., deceased wife of S. Smith, of Elmore, Ohio. Two of the sons—Samuel B. and Thomas A.—were soldiers in the Civil war, the former serving in the 189th O. V. I. some nine months; Thomas A., who had a gallant record, served three years in all, first in the 72nd O. V. I., but on April 8, 1865, he was commissioned lieutenant in the 189th O. V. I., receiving an honorable discharge with his regiment at the close of the campaign. The father of this family served as county commissioner of Wood county for several years, was justice of the peace in Troy township, and was an honored, respected man. In his political relationship he gave an unswerving support to the Republican party. His death occurred in 1874, that of his wife in 1880.

Our subject was educated in Troy township, and in the Normal Schools at Fostoria and Berea. For several terms he taught school, and then worked on the home farm until 1881, when he and his brother, Samuel B., built a hoop and stave factory at Stony Ridge, this county, expending thereon some \$4,000. On July 26, 1885, they were burned out, and, unfortunately, were uninsured; but with characteristic energy, they in the following year commenced the manufacture of staves and hoops, at Dowling, furnishing employment to from twenty-five to forty hands. On December 31, 1890, Samuel B. died from injuries received on the 26th of the same month, being crushed by a log, and then Marshall R. assumed exclusive control of the business, which he has since conducted with well-merited and gratifying success, shipping the product of his factory to all parts of the country. In addition to this he is interested in the oil industry, being a director in the Dunbridge Oil Co., who have ten wells in operation at present, and contemplate drilling more in the near future. Mr. Gorrill also owns and manages 120 acres of land in Middleton township.

On January 25, 1887, Marshall R. Gorrill was married to Ida A. Gast, daughter of George W. and Elizabeth (Lahman) Gast, of Troy township. They are farming people, natives of Pennsylvania, married in Ohio, and in 1887 moved to Alabama where they are now making their home. They had a family of six children, two of whom are living—Mrs. Gorrill, and John Mc., who is a merchant at Huntsville, Ala.; Emery, Joseph, George and Anna are deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Gorrill have been born two children: Irvin

A., May 8, 1889; and Grace, March 13, 1893. Our subject is a Republican in politics, and socially is affiliated with Phoenix Lodge No. 123, F. & A. M., of Perrysburg, also of Fort Meigs Lodge, I. O. O. F., of Perrysburg. He holds membership with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is serving as steward and trustee therein.

SIDNEY B. VAN TASSEL, who occupies a fine and well-improved farm in Washington township, is numbered among its well-to-do farmers, and from a small beginning has gradually worked his way upward, making all that he now possesses by his own well-directed and persevering efforts. He is a native of the Buckeye State, born in North Amherst, Lorain county, November 30, 1830, and is a son of Luke and Sallie (Richmond) Van Tassel.

The father was born in 1795 in New York, of Holland parentage, while the mother's birth occurred in Rhode Island, in 1800. They were married in 1818, and to them were born eleven children: Amelia, widow of A. H. Plant, of Maumee, Ohio; Lyman, who was born December 4, 1820, and resides with our subject; Isaac and Olive, both deceased; Ann, a resident of Wood county, and the widow of Josiah Kuder; Harriet, deceased wife of Hiram West; Silas, a farmer of McClure, Henry Co., Ohio; Sidney B. and Leroy A., both farmers; Luman, who works for the *Toledo Blade*, and resides in Bowling Green; and Reuben, also a resident of Bowling Green. By occupation the father was a farmer, and on coming to Ohio in 1837, located in Plain township, Wood county, but after one year removed to an Indian mission farm, on the banks of the Maumee river, at the mouth of Tontogony creek, where he made his home for four years. His death occurred December 2, 1869, on his farm of sixty acres, one mile north of the present home of our subject. The mother died in September, 1874.

Sidney B. Van Tassel (during the family's residence at the Indian mission, he found as his playmates the little Indians) obtained his literary education in the district schools of Washington township, and besides aiding in the work of the home farm also worked for others, his wages going toward the support of the family until he was twenty-five years of age. He then had no capital with which to start out in life, owning nothing but his clothes. At first he rented land, and besides general farming began raising stock—both horses and mules. He finally sold enough of his stock to purchase forty acres of the land,

on which he now makes his home, though he continued to operate rented land for several years, and, in the meantime, however, he cleared eleven acres of his tract, to which he subsequently added twenty acres, and, as his financial resources increased, added still another tract of thirty acres. With the exception of five acres of timber land, his place is now under a high state of cultivation, improved with good buildings, and is one of the model farms of the neighborhood. For the past five years he has also dealt in Jersey cattle, having now a fine herd of thirteen. He also gave some attention to sheep raising, having as many as two hundred in his flocks, but owing to the low price of wool has given up that enterprise.

In 1855 Mr. Van Tassel married Jane Ann McCauley, a daughter of Capt. John and Betsy (Hart) McCauley, farming people of Washington township. One daughter graced this union—Ann Elizabeth, born June 7, 1858, is the wife of William Mawer, a farmer of Washington township, by whom she had four children, only two of whom are still living—Septimus and Sidney R. Mrs. Van Tassel died in June, 1884. For his second wife our subject married Letta Moore on August 9, 1887, and they have a daughter, Jennie, born in June, 1888. Miss Moore was the daughter of J. C. and Mary Ann (Green) Moore, and by her first marriage became the wife of Mr. Dunbar, by whom she had two children—Hattie May, born August 9, 1883; and Cecil Urania, born November 29, 1885. Mr. Moore, the father of Mrs. Van Tassel, was formerly a prominent farmer of Washington township, but later engaged as a machinist in Blissfield, Mich. In his family were five children: Ellen, wife of A. O. Neifer, of Weston township, Wood county; Sarah Frances, wife of John Bullis, of Tennessee; Hattie, wife of D. C. Credicott, of North Baltimore, Ohio; J. W., a farmer residing in the southern part of Missouri; and Mrs. Van Tassel. The father now makes his home in Weston, Ohio, but the mother departed this life February 16, 1884. She was born in England in 1821, and when quite young was brought to America by her parents; her mother died when she was but eleven years of age, leaving her and her father the care of six children, with the Indians of the neighborhood as their only advisors.

During the Civil war Mr. Van Tassel was a strong Republican, but later voted the Democratic ticket, and now intends to give his allegiance to the men and measures of the Peoples party, whose principles he strongly endorses. For two terms he served as trustee, was consta-

ble seven years, and for a number of years was school director, ever discharging his various duties with promptness and fidelity. Socially, he holds membership with Tontogany Lodge No. 755, I. O. O. F., and formerly was a member of the Grange, of which for two terms he served as master, and the same length of time as overseer. His religious belief is that of the Spiritualists. He has ever been a hard-working, industrious man, and well deserves the success which now crowns his efforts. Each year, on August 16, the family hold a reunion.

GEORGE ROBINSON, a farmer and fruit raiser, of Troy township, came to Wood county in 1870 from England, his native land. He was born in 1843, in Cambridgeshire, and is a son of Nathaniel and Martha (Wright) Robinson, who were the parents of six children, five still living. In order of birth they are as follows: Charles; George, of this sketch; Mrs. Sabina Gatson, of England; Lizzie, deceased; and Henry and Mrs. Salena Howard, also of England. The father was born in Haddenham, Cambridgeshire, followed gardening as a means of livelihood, and died in his native land in 1880. The mother still survives, and has never left England. She had a brother, George Wright, who came to Perrysburg, Ohio, in 1853, and the following year located on the farm where our subject now resides. There his death occurred, in 1879, and his wife died in 1887, at the same place.

Mr. Robinson, of this review, received the benefit of a common-school education in his native land, and was otherwise fitted for the battle of life. At Haddenham, Cambridgeshire, in 1866, he was united in marriage with Miss Eliza Whetstone, a native of Cambridgeshire, and a daughter of James and Frances (Moxon) Whetstone. Her parents, who were also born in Cambridgeshire, crossed the Atlantic in 1871, locating on a farm in Des Plaines township, Cook Co., Ill., but in 1895 removed to Minnesota, where they now reside. Seven children came to bless the union of our subject and his wife, but Charles died in November, 1879, at the age of twenty-seven months. Those living are: Emily Jane; Nathan George; Lizzie, wife of Hiram Cabel, of Lime City, Ohio; James; Salena; and George.

In 1870 Mr. Robinson emigrated to the New World, locating first in Perrysburg, where he worked for some time, but in 1884 removed to his present farm, where he owns thirty-three acres of lime-stone land. He gives special attention to fruit culture, and his products find a ready sale in the market. He is not an active politician,

but, as his sentiments and beliefs dictate, votes with the Republican party. His wife is a sincere and faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

CURTIS PLOWRIGHT, who is among the prosperous young farmers of Plain township, is of English descent, his parents, Henry and Mary (Cross) Plowright, both being natives of that country. Henry Plowright was born August 1, 1821, and his wife July 21, 1829. They came to America in 1850, first settling in Huron county, Ohio, and fifteen years later coming to Wood county, where Mr. Plowright purchased a farm, which he put under good cultivation and made into a valuable piece of property. He died November 3, 1891, and his wife is still living. They were the parents of eight children, as follows: Susan died when eight years old; Bertha is the wife of L. Stoots; Elizabeth married J. Manges; Willie died when three years old; Ida is the wife of Henry Kramp; Curtis is the subject of this sketch; Cora is the wife of John Philips; Mary is at home.

Curtis Plowright was born in Huron county, Ohio, December 6, 1863, and was reared to manhood on his father's farm in Plain township, where he obtained a fair education in the district schools. He was married October 6, 1887, to Miss Mary Vernon, whose birth took place in Plain township, January 28, 1863. Three children have blessed their union, namely: Ethel A., born March 1, 1889; Otho C., October 11, 1892; and Harold V., May 18, 1894. After his marriage Mr. Plowright settled on ten acres of land which he owned in Plain township, and on the death of his father, he purchased from the heirs the old homestead on which he has since resided. He is a man of much energy and enterprise, and has made a success of farming, being considered one of the best and most thrifty of the younger class of agriculturists in the county. In politics he is a Prohibitionist, and is an active worker in the interests of his party. He is a man of integrity, highly esteemed by his associates, and with his amiable wife holds an enviable place in the community.

MYRON CHAMBERLAIN, a prominent educator of Wood county, and one of the well-to-do agriculturists of Webster township, was born in Lorain county, Ohio, November 11, 1849.

His father, Luther Chamberlain, was a native of Ontario, Canada; but in early manhood he came to Ohio and purchased sixty acres of land in Lorain county, where he remained some years,

afterward removing to Hardin county. Here he continued his occupation of farming until 1877, when he came to Wood county, and bought a farm in Webster township. He was married in 1848 to Miss Emily Smith, and they reared a family of eight children, of whom our subject is the eldest. The others are Jesse, Willard, Phillips, Louis, Frank, Bert and Lorin. Both parents are still living at the old homestead, where our subject's father has been for years one of the leading members of the Democratic party, and an active worker in all public movements, and especially in educational affairs, having been school director for many terms.

Mr. Chamberlain met with a sad accident at the age of sixteen, while feeding a cane-crusher with his hands, both were caught and so injured as to necessitate their amputation. He prepared for teaching as a life work, completing his education at the Normal University at Ada, Ohio, and for twenty-seven years has followed his profession. His fine mental gifts and professional training make him an unusually successful instructor, and he has taught in every district in his township with universal satisfaction, and is still teaching. Through his own efforts he has bought and paid for fifty-four acres of the finest land in Webster township, located near Fenton, and most of it is under cultivation. On April 3, 1877, Mr. Chamberlain was married to Miss Lavilla Loomis, of Scotch Ridge, who was born June 5, 1850. Six children were born to them: George L., January 15, 1878; Kenneth and Benjamin (twins); Permelia Ray, Fred and Winn E.

Mrs. Chamberlain died in 1888, her early demise bringing deep grief to her many friends as well as to the smaller home circle, who miss her loving ministrations. In all public affairs Mr. Chamberlain's advice and influence are given to the side of progress. As a justice of the peace, he has served the people of his township for three years with ability and impartiality.

GEORGE W. HARTMAN, farmer and stock raiser, Plain township, was born in Center township, May 26, 1841. He grew up on his father's farm, receiving his education in the common schools of his native place. In 1863 he enlisted in Company H, 67th Regiment, O. V. V. I., for the Union cause, and served nearly two years, doing duty at the siege of Richmond, Va., where his regiment was under fire for nearly a whole summer. The 67th was kept in Virginia, getting the State under martial rule, until December 19, 1865, at which time Mr. Hartman was discharged. He was fortunate enough to escape without

receiving a wound. After the war he sheathed his sword, came home and returned to pursuits of peace. Shortly after he returned he bought his present excellent farm in Plain township. He was married in October, 1871, to Miss Barbara Apel, who was born in Sandusky, Erie Co., Ohio, March 27, 1849. They have had three children: John, born May 21, 1873, died June 6, 1895; Walter, born November 19, 1878; and Irene, born March 18, 1881.

Mr. Hartman has continued to live upon his present farm since the war, and has been engaged in general stock and grain raising, his farm giving evidence of careful cultivation. It is fertile, and capable of producing a large amount of grain. Our subject is recognized by his fellow-citizens as one of the opulent men of the county. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in politics is a Republican.

Jacob Hartman, father of our subject, was born on the Lower Rhine, Germany, May 26, 1808. He came to America when about twenty-three years of age, and married Miss Margaret Listenburger, who was born in Germany, and who is still alive. They moved to Perrysburg in 1833, later to Center township, where they made their home.

ELLIOT M. WARNER, who is engaged in fruit culture in Ross township, belongs to a family that was early established in Connecticut. Near New Milford, that State, his grandfather, Martin Warner, was born April 27, 1781, and was the third of five sons born to Martin Warner, Sr., the others being, Orange; Solomon, who was married and had one son, Asa; Ruggles, who had two sons, Ashbel and Hiram, both of whom graduated at Yale College; and Lemuel, who also had two sons, Luzon and Elmer. There were also two sisters in the family, one of whom married a son of Rev. Brooks, a Congregational minister, for whom Brookfield, Connecticut, was named.

On November 20, 1803, the grandfather led to the marriage altar Miss Nancy Hart, daughter of Lewis and Anne Hart, and they became the parents of the following children—Elliot, Henry, Martin, John H., George L., Mary, Eliza, Harriet, Margaret, and Sarah, who were born in Brookfield, Derby, and Huntington, Conn. In 1806 the grandfather began farming on a thirty-three-acre tract, two miles northeast of Brookfield, in Fairfield county, Conn., and twenty-three miles from Bridgeport. In 1811, in company with his father-in-law, he built a schooner of 170 tons burden, which was sailed by Lewis Hart, and in the war of 1812 was shot and fired

by the British, off Bridgeport, Conn., but, after being run down, the fire was extinguished and the vessel saved. It was named the "Nancy," and was partly wrecked off the coast of Nantucket Island, but was repaired at a cost of \$500.00. Martin Warner removed to Derby, Conn., in April, 1815, where he engaged in distilling rum and whisky, which at that time was thought to be consistent in a Christian and deacon in the Church. Reverses of fortune followed, and in November, 1823, he went to Rochester, N. Y., making the journey partially by canal, which became frozen. On January 1, 1824, he proceeded to Black Rock; but on May 1, removed to Buffalo, locating on Pearl street, one and a half squares northwest of the junction of Main and Niagara streets. His wife and three children had joined him at Black Rock, and the same year they removed to Lyons, Wayne Co., N. Y., where he engaged in carpentering. In 1824, his son Elliot sailed as cabin boy on the "Red Jacket" and the "Erie," the former of which was sent over the Falls with a black bear on board. In 1827, the grandfather purchased 119 acres in Rose township, Wayne county, for \$6.00 per acre; but in September, 1833, with his son, Elliot, and his son-in-law, James Barber, he came, by way of Buffalo and Lake Erie, to Perrysburg, Wood Co., Ohio. However, in the latter part of October of the same year, he returned to New York, and the family came by way of Detroit to Perrysburg on Capt. Asa Hart's schooner. The grandfather built the first frame dwelling in Washington township, Wood county, in which religious services were held in 1835 and 1836, by Rev. Benjamin Woodbury, who organized a class of Presbyterians in Plain township, Martin Warner and Jacob Minton becoming deacons. In 1838 a house of worship was erected in Section 12, Plain township. In Washington township the grandfather departed this life November 14, 1854.

Henry Warner, the father of our subject, learned the hatter's trade, of Van Vorhes, at Lyons, N. Y., in 1827, and came with the family to Wood county in 1835. He was born March 11, 1811, and died April 24, 1894. On January 19, 1841, he was united in marriage with Jane Elizabeth Wright, whose birth occurred in Hardin county, Ky., in June, 1820, and to them were born five children—Liberty P., born May 11, 1842, became a member of the 21st O. V. I., during the Civil war, and was killed at the battle of Chickamauga; Elliot M. is the next in order of birth; Eliza J., born November 23, 1845, is now the wife of Charles E. Allen; Mary W.,

born September 15, 1847, is now Mrs. William Rhymers, living at 895 Bancroft street; and Hat-tie, who was born November 20, 1851, died at the age of ten years. For twenty-two years the father engaged in the work of the Methodist min-istry, preaching at the following places in this state—Findlay, Bucyrus, Congress, Copley, Doylestown, Fostoria, Mt. Blanchard, Mellmore, Port Clinton, Bryan, Sylvania and Waterville. In September, 1859, he located in Washington township, Wood county, where he made his home for fourteen years, when he retired to Perrysburg, where he resided for twenty years. He was a conscientious Christian gentleman, be-loved by all who knew him.

Elliot M. Warner, whose name introduces this sketch, was born January 23, 1844, in Waynes-burg, Wayne Co., Ohio. On attaining to man's estate, he married Miss Margaret E. Brown, who was born on Beaver creek, in Weston township, Wood county, in November, 1843, and is a daughter of Alexander Brown, of Grand Rapids township, this county. They now have three children—Howard N., a fruit grower, born De-cember 25, 1872; Otis Arthur, also a fruit grow-er, born March 26, 1874; and Jennie E., all at home. Until 1874, Mr. Warner devoted his at-tention to general farming, but since that time has engaged in fruit culture, at first having twenty-five acres, to which he has since added fifty-seven acres, which he has thoroughly cleared, drained, and erected thereon good buildings, in-cluding a fine residence. The following is the average production of his fruit farm—500 bushels of peaches, 400 of pears, 125 of plums, 100 of apples, 60 of cherries, 25 of currants, 10 of quinces, 8 of gooseberries, and 4 tons of grapes, all of the best varieties. He rents the remainder of his farm, for which he receives one-third of the crop raised, and his corn generally yields 100 bushels to the acre.

Mr. Warner is a member of the Clark street Methodist Episcopal Church, of Toledo, Ohio, in which he has served as trustee and class leader; has always been a Republican in politics, to which party his ancestors also belonged, after the dis-solution of the Whig party, which they had for-merly supported. For sixteen years he capably served as trustee of his township, and for several years was also school director.

On May 2, 1864, Mr. Warner enlisted at Perrysburg in Company B, 144th O. V. I., under Lieut. Miller, Capt. Luther Black and Col. Hunt, and participated in the engagements at Monocacy, Md., and Berryville, Va. Out of seventeen, twelve were captured by the Rebels,

our subject being among the five who escaped, and in September, 1864, he was honorably dis-charged at Columbus, Ohio. He now holds membership in Ford Post No. 14, G. A. R., at East Toledo. His brother Liberty, who was killed at the battle of Chickamauga, was buried in the National Cemetery, at Chattanooga, among the thousands marked "Unknown."

EDWARD BALDWIN, a prominent and well-known grain dealer and agriculturist, of Weston, was born November 28, 1843, at Townsend, Hu-ron Co., Ohio, and is the son of Watson and Almira (Church) Baldwin.

To some men there is no such word as fail. Unkind fortune may buffet them about, they may be now on the topmost wave of prosperity and to-morrow in the depths of adversity, but their courage never falters, and obstacles and disap-pointments seem to bring out all the force of their character, and to incite them to still more strenuous efforts. Mr. Baldwin has had a checkered career, but, thanks to his undaunted energy and unflagging perseverance, he has con-quired all difficulties, and sees before him smooth sailing, it is to be hoped, for the remainder of his life. The history of such a man is worth reading for the lessons it teaches.

The father of our subject was born November 2, 1805, at Wilkesbarre, Penn., and was there married April 15, 1832, to Almira Church, who was born April 27, 1814. He was a farmer, and also kept store at his native place. In 1837, he came with his wife and four children to Ohio, locating at Townsend, Huron county, where he bought a large farm. This he carried on for a year, when, owing to the fact that another person had a prior claim on the property, he lost it, and all he possessed. He afterward engaged in mer-cantile business, and also carried on the manufac-ture of potash. In 1846 he came to Wood coun-ty, making the trip, which occupied an entire week, with an ox-team. He purchased sixty acres of land in Portage township, afterward buying fifty acres more of wild land, which he improved. He resided on this place for nine years, and in 1852, when our subject was thirteen years old, he removed to Weston township. Here he carried on the manufacture of potash for two or three years, and then rented a farm. He traded the property, he had at this time in Weston, for a farm east of Portage, on which he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring January 15, 1867. His widow then disposed of this farm, and returned to Weston, where she purchased property and re-sided until her death in 1892.

The four children born to this worthy couple in Pennsylvania, were: Elinor E., born January 26, 1833, who died in infancy; Ruth Ann, born March 21, 1834, was married February 14, 1854, to D. A. Gunn, and died October 21, 1873; Helen E., born August 28, 1835, was married June 8, 1853, to Francis Franklin, and died October 21, 1873; Byron C., born December 6, 1836, was married February 4, 1864, to Emeline Clark. He was a soldier in the Civil war and was killed at the battle of Franklin, Tenn., November 30, 1864. The flag which he carried, and which was stained with his life's blood, is now in the Capitol at Columbus, Ohio. The children born in Ohio were: Charles B., born August 1, 1839, in Townsend, Huron county, was married June 20, 1874, at Weston, to Miss Ella Jeffery; Abid V., born April 11, 1841, was married January 29, 1866, to Miss Jane E. Caswell; Edward is the subject of this sketch; Wilson M., born March 22, 1845, died September 25, 1855; Mary J., born February 12, 1848, died July 23, of the same year; Sarah E., born June 13, 1849, was married December 17, 1868, to John Freyman, and died October 7, 1881; Alice G., born June 28, 1852, died November 29, 1852. The youngest children died in infancy. Of this family, Charles, Avid, Edward and William were born in Huron county, and reside in Wood county.

Edward Baldwin obtained his education in the schools of Weston and Portage, at which he was a student until he was seventeen years old, his leisure time being employed in assisting his father upon the farm. After leaving school the young lad determined to make his own way in world, and, following the advice of the poet to "seize the duty that lieth nearest," he took up the first occupation that presented itself, which was sawing and splitting wood. He worked at this until he had finished six cords at fifty cents a cord, which, at the rate he worked, gave him about ten cents a day. This was, however, the means of getting him a good job in a store, the proprietor of which admired the boy's pluck. He worked for this man three years, his wages the first year being \$5.00 a month, \$8.33 1-3 the second year, and \$12.00 the third year. Out of this he saved \$60.00, with which he speculated in produce with good success, making \$300 from fall until spring. The next summer he bought potatoes at fifty cents a bushel, on the advice of a stranger, who promised to buy them of him; but the price fell, and Mr. Baldwin shipped them to Cincinnati, where he realized \$138 from their sale.

On his way home from Cincinnati, Mr. Baldwin met a stranger who entered into conversation with him, and who soon discovered from the young man's appearance that he was feeling rather blue and discouraged. He inquired into the latter's history, and seemed favorably impressed with his story and his evident enterprise and ambition, and, without knowing anything more about him, advanced him \$600, taking not even a note for it, and advised Mr. Baldwin to return home and invest the money in hides. This he did, and the result of the transaction was that Mr. Baldwin made \$400 for himself, besides paying back the \$600 loaned him by his new friend, Mr. May, and also paid the latter \$50.00 for the use of the money.

Mr. Baldwin continued buying and selling hides until 1864, when he went to Milton Center and bought a store. This he carried on for six months, in which time he made \$2,000, then built a store in Weston, and, in connection with J. E. Clarke, engaged in general merchandising. At the end of a year Mr. Baldwin sold out his interest to his partner, and went on a farm, which after a couple of years he was obliged to sell on account of ill health. He then formed a partnership with W. B. Ladd, in the hardware business, and subsequently owned a gristmill which he operated for twelve years. During this time Mr. Baldwin was also speculating in lands, in 1870 buying the 120 acres where he now lives, and for which he paid \$55. per acre. On this property he erected a fine dwelling at a cost of \$3,300, and engaged in general farming for three or four years, when he purchased the stock of goods belonging to Mr. Clarke, afterward trading it for 200 acres of land adjoining his present home. This gave him quite an extensive farm; but owing to severe winters and other ill fortune he lost \$10,000. His next enterprise was the purchase of a stock of goods at Mt. Blanchard, where he carried on a store for six months, then removing it to Weston, and traded a farm for a stock of goods in Columbus Grove; he brought that to Weston, and in 1884 Mr. Baldwin cleared \$10,000, in his business, and the following year, \$11,000; in connection with the store he handled stock and grain. Fortune, which hitherto had smiled upon him, now turned a cold shoulder, for, in the following three years he lost \$42,000, owing to dishonest help. This caused his failure in business, and came near destroying his faith in mankind, for, when he most needed their assistance, those whom he had helped failed to show their gratitude, and left him to face the storm alone. He, however, put his trust in a

Higher Power, remembering how, when a lad of seventeen he started out on his career, his dear mother placed in his hands an old black Testament, and told him to guard against doing anything wrong, and, whenever he was tempted, to read his Testament and follow its teachings.

With renewed perseverance, and by diligent labor, he recovered from this disastrous blow, and to-day is the owner of a good farm of seventy acres, also of a grain elevator, and of various other business interests, which bring him in a good income. He is the gainer in many ways by his hard experiences, and, as he is now still in the prime of life, can look forward to many years of activity and it is to be hoped of uninterrupted prosperity. Mr. Baldwin was married January 1, 1866, to Maria Taylor, a sister of Thomas Taylor. Five children have blessed this union, as follows: Albert B., born March 14, 1867, travels for the wholesale notion and dry-goods house of L. S. Baumgardner & Co., of Toledo; Thomas Watson is deceased; James V. married a daughter of A. J. Munn; Almon is deceased; Harriet A. is at home.

Mr. Baldwin is a staunch Republican, but has never cared to run for office. He is a trustee in the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he is also steward and a class leader, and has been superintendent of the Sabbath-school for twenty-three years. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., and the K. of P., and is esteemed and respected by all who know him.

HENRY W. STERLING, a wealthy oil operator and real-estate owner of Wood county, now residing in Bowling Green, was born April 6, 1843, in Hancock county, Ohio, where his ancestors were among the earliest settlers. His grandfather, Jacob Sterling, came there from Ireland in early manhood, and cleared the land upon which he made his home until his death, at the age of seventy years. His wife lived to the advanced age of ninety-five.

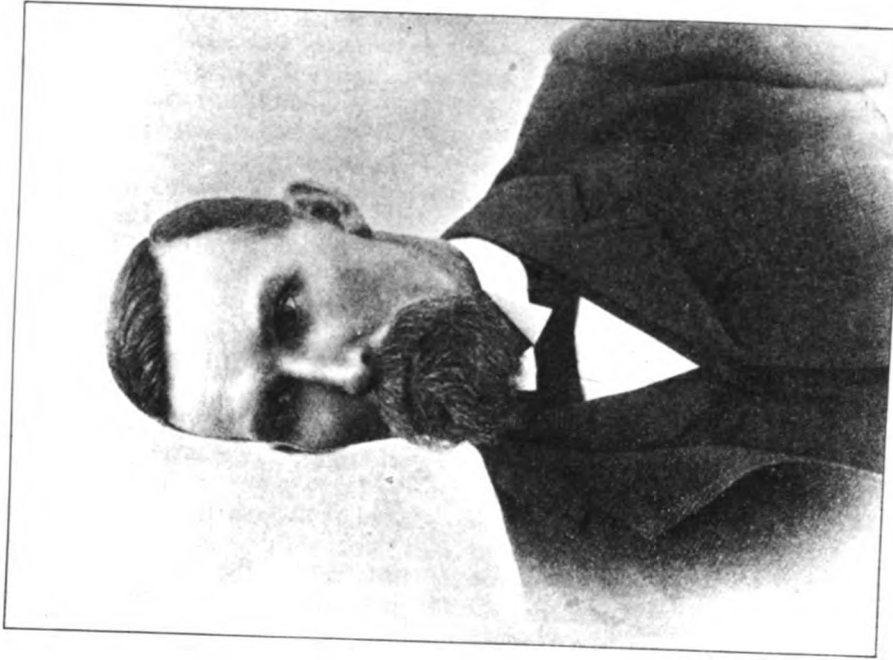
Their son George, our subject's father, was born in Guernsey county February 13, 1812, and died July 15, 1885, in Iowa. He was twice married, and had twenty children. At the age of sixteen he married Miss Delilah Cummings, who was born October 1, 1812, and died June 30, 1843. Ten children were born to this union, as follows: Olive M., born July 28, 1832, married James Lanning, of Hancock county; John Althans, born March 2, 1833, is a resident of Ham-mansburg, Ohio; George C., born November 27, 1834, lives in California; infant, born March 17, 1835, died two days later; twins, born in 1836,

died the same year; Mary Ann Isabel, born June 22, 1837, died October 11, 1887, the wife of N. Richmond; William Jackson, born February 15, 1839, was murdered in Umatilla, Ore., September 30, 1886; Nancy J., born August 20, 1841, died in 1892; Henry Wesley is our subject. Mr. Sterling's second wife was Miss Mary Ann Llewellyn, who was born March 26, 1828, and died August 16, 1888. Ten children were born to them: James Wellington, born October 7, 1846, now living in Wisconsin; Delilah, born November 13, 1840, died September 8, 1850; Melissa J., born April 5, 1850, married and living in Iowa; Arkinson B., born February 17, 1852; infant, born February 19, 1854, died when three days old; Margaret D., born May 25, 1855, the wife of George Helline, of Des Moines, Iowa; Francis M., born March 10, 1859, a resident of Des Moines; Hiram Perry, born July 5, 1861, living in Iowa; Rebecca E., born May 10, 1864, married and living in Montana; Amanda E., born July 19, 1869, died December 19, same year. Our subject's parents lived in Hancock county for some years after their marriage, then moved to Michigan and later to Indiana. Returning to the old home after about fourteen years of absence, they lived there a short time, and finally moved to Iowa. The father was a man of exceptional strength, and weighed 240 pounds. In politics he was a Democrat, first, last and all the time.

Henry W. Sterling spent his boyhood in Hancock county. When nine years old he went to live with Jacob Crist, remaining with him eight years, when, not being able to agree as to what he was to receive on reaching his majority, he left and hired out to do farm labor for \$4.00 per month. In September, 1862, at the age of nineteen, he enlisted in Company H, 21st O. V. I., which was assigned to the army of the Tennessee. He was taken prisoner at Murfreesboro, and spent three months in Libby prison, entering in good health, weighing 185 pounds, and coming out weighing 94 pounds, and wholly unfit for duty. The prison was so crowded while he was there that all the men could not lie down at the same time. After four months in a hospital, and a short stay at home, during which he was married, on December 24, 1863, to Miss Catherine Fellers, he rejoined his regiment in Atlanta, and took part in the famous march to the sea. He was in the battles at Bentonville, Fort McAllister and Savannah, and from the latter place went by boat to Raleigh. When the war closed his regiment marched to Washington, and had its place in the Grand Review. Returning home, he



*Julia Sterling*



*Henry W. Sterling*





spent a year there, and then located in Henry township, Wood county, buying a farm, where he lived some twenty-one years. Having invested in a place in Liberty township, he lived there for five years before purchasing his present residence in Bowling Green.

Mr. Sterling's first wife was a native of Hancock county, Ohio, born July 7, 1845. She died May 13, 1884, mother of nine children: Mary E., born September 24, 1864, married W. Thrush and has five children—Scott, Wesley, Gertrude, Earl and Burton; Daniel M., born January 9, 1869, married Miss Laura Courtright, and has one son—Clarence; Florence C., born January 9, 1869, is the wife of Cornelius Swope, of Wood county; Dallas W., born December 26, 1871, married Miss Addie Buchanan, and has one daughter—Melinda; Henry W., born May 19, 1875, and John S., born October 13, 1877, are both living at home; Oliver, born April 26, 1884, died July 15, 1884; Grace C., born August 15, 1881, died September 15, same year; Willie C., born April 6, 1874, died aged one month and seven days. On October 6, 1885, Mr. Sterling married, for his second wife, Miss Julia MacFaden, who was born in Bowling Green, March 26, 1848.

Mr. Sterling has been one of the most enterprising and successful business men in Wood county. At present he is engaged in the livery business. For fourteen years he ran a sawmill, and also made a specialty of contracting for the digging of ditches. He is a member of an oil company, which is extensively engaged in operating upon leased lands in various parts of the county, and he owns an interest in fifteen wells, having eleven on his farm in Liberty township. He never sold the farm in Wood county, which he bought when a young man, and his two farms in the county now comprise 340 acres of land. In politics he is a Democrat; socially he is a member of the I. O. O. F. and Encampment, and he is also an active member of the P. O. S. of A. and the G. A. R.

L. N. LEMBRICH, treasurer of Portage township, and one of its prosperous farmers and leading citizens, was born December 24, 1855, in Section 8, of the same township. His parents are Martin and Margaret (Amos) Lembrich. In District School No. 3, he received his education, and being the eldest son early began to assist in the labors of the home farm, remaining a member of his father's household until reaching man's estate, when he started out in life for himself.

Mr. Lembrich was first married in 1878 to

Miss Flora Johnston, of Portage, who bore him one child, Edith M., at home. This wife died December 6, 1881, and was laid to rest in Mercer cemetery. Later he wedded her sister, Miss Sophia Johnston, daughter of Robert Johnston, and they have two children—Ray A. and Wanda. She is an earnest Christian woman, a faithful member of the Disciples Church.

For a time after his first marriage, Mr. Lembrich rented land, and then purchased forty acres in Section 8, Portage township, which he yet owns, though his home is located on another tract of forty acres in Section 3, which he subsequently purchased. He has been quite successful in his undertakings, is progressive and enterprising, and all that he possesses is the result of his own industry and good management. He is one of the leading Democrats of the community, enthusiastic in the support of his party, has served as constable for four years, and in 1887 was elected treasurer of Portage township, which office he has since capably filled to the satisfaction of all concerned. Though quiet and unassuming in manner, he gains many friends, which he always retains, and socially is a member of Whitney Lodge No. 589, I. O. O. F., of Portage.

WILLIAM A. MANDELL, son of Henry and Frederica (Kreps) Mandell, was born February 1, 1849, in Perrysburg, Ohio, and at Mandell school, District No. 6, some four and one-half miles from Perrysburg, he received a liberal education.

At the age of eighteen years he left school, and during the succeeding twenty-three years he followed agricultural pursuits. He has always lived on the old homestead of his parents, and has a comfortable frame residence, and owns a well-kept farm near by. On November 18, 1880, he was married to Miss Ella Whitson, by whom he has had five children, as follows: Henry Elbert, born March 6, 1882; Mabel Edith, born September 11, 1883, and died July 5, 1887; Raymond A., born September 1, 1888; Harry W., born November 12, 1890, and died October 18, 1895; and Ralph E., born September 7, 1895. In his political preferences Mr. Mandell is a Republican, his first Presidential vote being cast for Gen. Grant. He has neither sought nor accepted office, merely taking a voting interest in public matters. Socially he is a member of the I. O. O. F., Fort Meigs Lodge No. 774, Perrysburg, Ohio.

CHARLES LEMART JUNKINS has, by his well-spent life, shown that success is not always a

matter of genius, or talent, but may be achieved through persistent, earnest and honorable effort. He was born in Weston township, September 25, 1863, his parents being Thomas and Elizabeth Nancy (Long) Junkins. He received a common-school education, and spent his boyhood days on his father's farm. At the age of twenty-two he was married in Weston township, July 2, 1885, to Inez Lucretia Wright, who was born May 19, 1864, and is a daughter of O. H. Perry and Mary Jane (Marks) Wright, both natives of Ohio. Their daughter, however, was born in Jay county, Ind., and during her early girlhood was brought by her parents to Wood county. Two children grace this union—Thomas Perry and Ethel Lotta.

Upon his marriage, Mr. Junkins took his bride to his parents' home, but after a short time purchased his present farm of eighty acres, for which he paid \$1,000. Many of the improvements on the place are the work of his hands, and he is well known as an enterprising, progressive agriculturist, whose well-directed efforts have brought him success. In politics he is a Republican, but has never sought office, giving his time and energies to his business interests. His estimable wife is a member of the Disciples Church at Milton Center.

JERRY LOMAN, of Bloomdale, is an encouraging example of a self-made man, having become, with but little help, one of the substantial men of that vicinity. His great-great-grandfather Loman, came from Old England at an early period, and settled in Maryland, where our subject's father, Richard Loman, was born in 1803. His father, Richard Loman, Sr., moved to Lancaster county, Penn., at an early day, later coming to Ashland county, Ohio, where he remained until April, 1832, when he moved to Wood county, and located on a tract of wild land in Perry township, there being at that time only four other settlers in that township. His first home was a shanty which had been abandoned by some Indians. The road to it had to be cut out for the wagon, as he proceeded through the almost unbroken forest of heavy timber. Richard Loman, Sr., was a heavy-set man of five feet eight inches in height, and was of an active and aspiring disposition. He died in 1853, and five years later his wife followed him, both being buried at Fostoria. They had six children—three sons and three daughters—of whom our subject's father was the eldest, and the one who lived longest.

Richard Loman, our subject's father, had

but limited opportunities for an education, and his youth was spent on his father's farm, which he afterward inherited. In 1842, he was married in Fostoria to Miss Caroline Ward, a native of Gallia county, Ohio, and four children were born to this union, our subject being the eldest; Thomas R. is a grain dealer, and owner of an elevator at Newmarket, Iowa; Nancy J. married William Fry, of Siam, Iowa; and Sarah married Samuel Hiller, of Bloom township. The mother of this family died in October, 1851, and was buried in Fostoria. In 1854, for his second wife, he married Miss Jane Hannan, of Fostoria, who died in 1879, leaving two children: Mary E., now Mrs. John E. Wineland, of Bloomdale, and Delilah, the wife of J. F. Smith, also of Bloomdale. Richard Loman was prominent in local affairs, and, although no office seeker, he held various offices in the township, and was school director for many years. He was a steadfast supporter of Democratic principles, but sometimes in local politics "scratched the ticket," if the Republicans nominated a better man. He was member of the U. B. Church at the time of his death, which occurred in 1886, when he was aged eighty-two years. He had enjoyed the best of health until within the last four years of his life, when he was seized with dropsy, and he then retired to Bloomdale. In 1884 he went to Iowa to visit his sons, but returned only to breathe his last at the home of our subject.

Jerry Loman was born April 5, 1844, on the old farm in Perry township, and in boyhood attended the district school, his first teacher being Rey. Andrew Hays. At the age of sixteen he began to study in Fostoria with the intention of preparing for a medical course—Dr. William Cake, of Fostoria, a cousin by marriage, having offered to assist him; but at the beginning of the third term this benefactor entered the army as surgeon of the 53d O. V. I., and on October 1, 1861, Mr. Loman enlisted in Company B, 57th O. V. I., under Capt. Phillip Faulhaber. They remained in camp at Findlay until January 14, 1862, and were then mustered in at Columbus. They took part in some of the fiercest battles of the war, including those of Shiloh, Corinth, Chickasaw Bayou (where their captain was killed, December 28, 1863), and Arkansas Post, where, on January 11, 1863, they captured the garrison and all. They then worked on the attempted canal at Vicksburg for a time, in Sherman's Fifteenth Corps, going up the Yazoo river to Haines' Bluff and Milliken's Bend, crossing the Mississippi at Port Gibson, and joining the fight at Champion Hills, May 12 and 13, 1863. Then

followed operations around Vicksburg, and on May 22, during the second grand charge, 600 volunteers were called for to proceed in the van of the line of battle, and carry ladders and planks to surmount the breastworks when reached—surely as brave a piece of work as any soldier ever did. Mr. Loman was one of that heroic band, of whom only 135 came out without a wound. A few days prior to that, he had been slightly wounded in the right arm. He worked for nearly two weeks in the tunnel leading under the fort at Vicksburg. After Pemberton's surrender, July 4, 1863, Mr. Loman's regiment left for Jackson, Miss., and took part in the battle there. They then joined the forces at Chattanooga, arriving the day before the engagement at Missionary Ridge. Their next work was to march to Knoxville to relieve Burnside; but when sixteen miles away Longstreet left for Virginia, and they moved on to Larkinsville, Ala., arriving December 31, 1863. On the next day Mr. Loman's regiment re-enlisted—the first regiment of the Fifteenth Corps to re-enlist. He came home on a thirty-days' furlough, and, April 1, re-joined the regiment. On May 5, they left Larkinsville to participate in Sherman's campaign, and then came the battle of Resaca, May 14; Dallas, New Hope Church, Kenesaw Mountain, June 27; Peach Tree Creek, July 20, and Atlanta two days later. On August 31, came the desperate and bloody struggle at Jonesboro, where the Rebels fought to recover the railroad which brought their supplies to Atlanta, and, on September 1, Atlanta fell. Mr. Loman took part in Sherman's raid of November 14, 1863, and the engagement at Fort McAllister was his next. He was one of the host that marched to the sea under that great leader, and was the detailed forager for Company B, during that historic journey. From Savannah the 15th and 17th Corps were taken to Port Royal by vessel, and after the battle at Bentonville, March 19, 1865, there followed the surrender of Johnson at Durham Station, without a struggle. After this affair Sherman's army marched to Washington, and took part in the grand review May 22, 1865. Although most of the participants in that glorious parade were allowed to go to their homes, the Second division of the 15th Corps was sent to Little Rock, Ark., to do guard duty, and Mr. Loman's brigade went several hundred miles into the Indian Territory. On their return to Little Rock, the "boys" concluded that they would go home, and one morning at bugle call they stacked their rifles and made known their intention, despite the severe threats of their officers, who telegraphed to Wash-

ington for instructions. An order to discharge them came forthwith, so they were mustered out at Little Rock, August 15, 1865, and at Columbus, twelve days later, were discharged. Mr. Loman lacked only four days of four-years' service, during which time he had three furloughs, and had spent twenty days in Cumberland Hospital, Nashville, having been injured by a log rolling on him while building breast-works.

On his return home he rented his father's farm, and October 28, 1866, was married, in Tiffin, to Miss Colletta Steckel, a native of Hamilton county, and daughter of William Steckel, a well-known farmer there. Two years later he bought forty acres of wild land in Clinton county, Mich., and began farming there, remaining until 1871, when he moved to Charlotte, Mich., and began clerking for Baughman & Fouts, dry-goods merchants; after two years he entered the carpet and dry-goods store of Hazlett Bros., in the same capacity. On August 22, 1874, his wife died, and was buried in Tiffin. Her loss so affected him that he resigned his position, but later resumed the work, until 1875, when he returned to Wood county and again engaged in farming, buying an eighty-acre tract adjoining the old homestead. On December 27, 1876, our subject was married, in Tiffin, to Miss Rosa Troxell, a cousin of his first wife, and a native of Lehigh county, Penn., and by her had three children: Nina, Lloyd R., and Carl C., all yet at home. In 1883 he made up his mind to go west, and sold his property, but undertook to do some teaming for E. S. Bryant, the lumberman of Bloomdale, later becoming superintendent of teams for him, finally the superintendent of the entire plant of Bryant & Linhart, continuing until 1895. His second wife died November 20, 1890, and was buried in Baird cemetery. Mr. Loman was again married, August 23, 1891, this time to Miss Rhoda S. Redfearn, daughter of Joseph and Ann (Phillip) Redfearn. She died December 1, 1894, and was buried at Fostoria.

Mr. Loman moved to Bloomdale in 1879, and two years afterward bought a house and lot there. In 1884 he traded eighty acres of land in Iowa for forty acres within the present limits of Bloomdale, and later added twenty-three and a half acres to it, making a fine farm where he now resides; he also owns several village lots. He is cautious and shrewd in his investments. In politics he has always been a Republican, casting his first vote while in the army, and that for Abraham Lincoln. He has been township trustee, and treasurer of the school board for three years, but is not an office seeker. In G.

A. R. affairs he is very active, and was a charter member of Urie Post No. 10, Bloomdale, and was first adjutant and has been commander. He belongs to the I. O. O. F. Lodge No. 406, Bloomdale, joining August 13, 1868, and is a charter member of Bloomdale Lodge No. 278, K. of P., and a member of Green Encampment at Bowling Green.

DAVID B. BROWN, M. D. The professional men of Pemberville are an element in the development of this progressive little city, to the reputation of which they are constantly adding by their talents and skill. To this class belongs Dr. Brown, who has conducted a general practice as a physician and surgeon here since 1881. As a physician he is patient, constant, sympathetic, yet, in the hour of extremity, cool, calm, and courageous, thus inspiring his patients with the greatest confidence in his skill. Although his practice requires almost his entire time, yet he still continues the study of his profession, keeping himself abreast with the practical details in the improvements of medicine.

For several generations the family to which the Doctor belongs has resided in Ohio. His father, Thomas Brown, was born in Knox county, this State, near the city of Mt. Vernon. He was reared upon a farm, and upon arriving at man's estate selected agriculture for his life occupation. Settling in Morrow county about 1850, he engaged in cultivating a farm there for about nine years. In 1859 he came to Wood county, and afterward made his home upon a farm seven miles south of Pemberville, where his death occurred in 1887. His widow, who is still living on the old homestead in this county, was a native of Maryland, and bore the maiden name of Rachel Mills. Orphaned by the death of her parents when she was a mere child, she came to Ohio with a family by the name of Meyers, with whom she remained until her marriage.

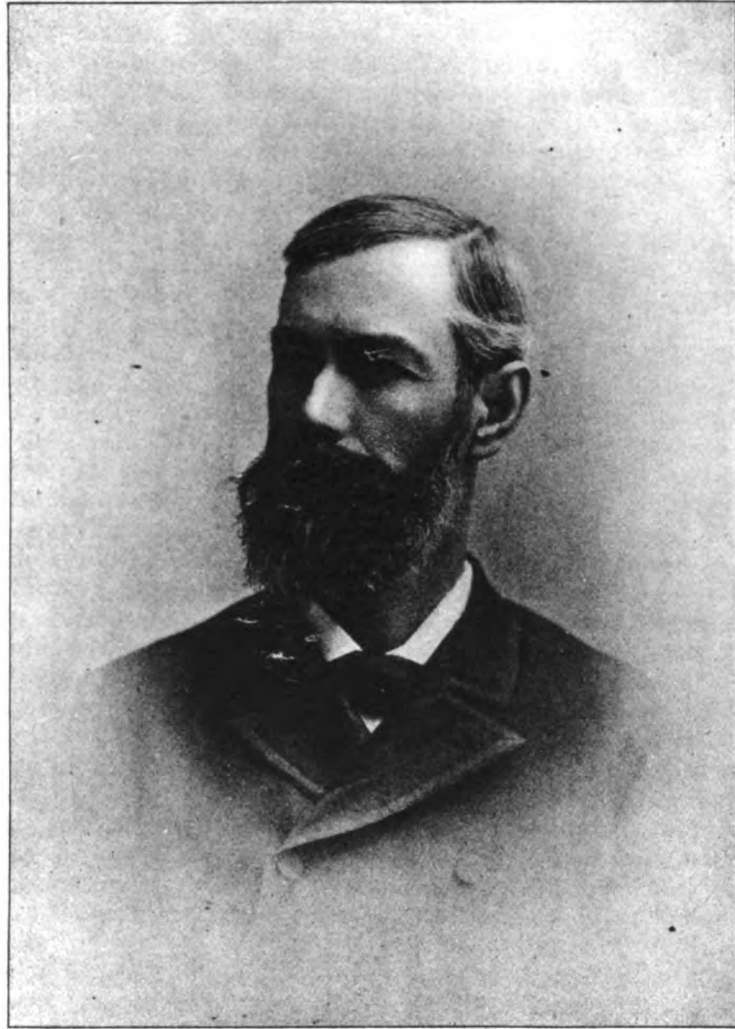
During the residence of the family in Morrow county, Ohio, the subject of this sketch was born April 17, 1852. The family of which he is a member consists of three brothers and three sisters, all of whom are living. Henry B. has for twenty-four years been principal of a college at Valparaiso, Ind.; William T. resides on a farm near Bradner, Ohio; Sarah is the wife of James Shoewalter; Ellen married Milton Ashley; and Mary is the wife of Joseph Jennings. The first seven years of the life of our subject were passed on the home farm near Mt. Gilead. In 1859 he came with his parents to Wood county, where he attended the district schools of the neighborhood,

and the public schools of Bradner. On completing his studies he began to teach, and followed that profession five years. It was not, however, his intention to make this his life work, and having resolved to become a physician, he in 1872 commenced the study of medicine at Freeport, Ohio, under the guidance of Dr. N. W. Goodrick, with whom he remained two years. In 1874-75 he attended lectures in the Cincinnati Medical College, from which institution he was graduated February 23, 1876.

At once, after completing his medical studies, Dr. Brown opened an office for practice at Sherwood, Defiance Co., Ohio, where he remained a number of years. In 1881, he came to Pemberville, where he has given his attention to professional duties ever since, and has built up a large and remunerative practice. Through devotion to his profession he has gained a place among the successful physicians of the county, and has also become the possessor of some valuable property, including a comfortable residence. Here he and his wife, with their three children—Truman Glen, Dale Benton, and Neva B.—have established a pleasant home. Mrs. Brown was Miss Minnie Truman prior to her marriage in 1881, and is the daughter of a farmer living near Woodville. In his fraternal relations Dr. Brown is a Scottish Rite Mason, and for five years filled the position of master of the Blue Lodge. In the Odd Fellows Lodge he is serving as noble grand. He is also connected with order of the Maccabees. His religious views incline him to the faith of the Baptist Church, with which his father was connected, having aided in the erection of the Ladd Hill Baptist church, of which he was a member until death. Mrs. Brown is an active member of the Presbyterian Church, and is always ready to aid in charitable enterprises to assist those in distress. While the Doctor has never been an aspirant for official honors, he never fails to cast his ballot for the men nominated by the Democratic party, and his views coincide with the principles promulgated by that organization.

AARON LESHER, the popular proprietor of the "Freeport House" at Prairie Depot, and a veteran of the Civil war, was born in Sandusky county, Ohio, November 5, 1845. When he was seven years old his parents, Daniel and Fannie (Cain) Lesher, came to Wood county, where his father purchased some 250 acres of land in Section 15, Montgomery township, near Freeport.

Daniel Lesher was born in Berks county, Penn., in 1801, his wife in the State of Virginia,



**DAVID B. BROWN, M. D.**



in 1811. He was a carpenter and shoemaker by trade, and followed the latter vocation after coming to Ohio, from the time of his settlement in Montgomery township, carrying on farming during the remainder of his life. He was educated in the common schools of his day, his attendance being limited to a few weeks in the winter season, and, as he was a bright, intelligent man, he accumulated, in the course of his life, a comfortable property. At the time of his marriage, which took place in Pennsylvania, his only wealth was an axe, and a large stock of energy and ambition. He was a Republican, and held some minor offices in the township. Both he and his wife were members of the Methodist Church, and were estimable people. He died in 1872, aged seventy-one years, and his wife in 1864, at the age of fifty-three years; both are buried in Minkler's cemetery, in Sandusky county. The children of this couple were as follows: David, who died when twenty-one years old; Susan, who married William King, and after his death wedded John M. Adams, of Montgomery; Elizabeth, who married George Bonlus, and died in Illinois; Rebecca, who became the wife of Frank Langworthy, and died in Illinois; Sarah A., deceased when eighteen years old; Joseph, living in Cripple Creek, Colo.; Jane, the widow of George Freatenburg, living in Toledo; Martha, who married Henry Miller, and resides in Columbus, Ohio; Fannie, who married John Scott, and died in Toledo; and Frances, Mrs. Oliver Hall, of Toledo.

Our subject's early schooling was obtained in the public schools of Freeport, Wood county, Phœbe Osborne being his first teacher. He remained at home with his parents until his enlistment, May 2, 1864, in Company K, 144th Regiment, O. V. I., under Capt. Philo Hathaway. Their first engagement was at Berryville, Va., where the entire company was captured by the Rebels, nine only escaping, and our subject was one of the fortunate number. Several Rebel cavalymen rode up to where he lay on the ground, and drawing their carbines ordered him to follow the rest, but he feigned sickness and refused to move. After they left he took to the woods, and made for Harper's Ferry, eighteen miles away. On the road he met another Union man, and in twenty-four hours they were both safe within the Union lines at Harper's Ferry. A few days after this adventure Mr. Leshar was sent to Columbus, Ohio, where he was honorably discharged in September, 1864. His mother died during his absence in the army. Mr. Leshar remained at home until 1868, when he entered the dry-goods business in Prairie Depot and later took as a

partner, James Yant. After several years he bought out his partner, and sold out the business to J. W. Graham, resuming farming in Montgomery township, in Section 21. Our subject was only twenty-one years old when he was married to Miss Caroline Chapman, of Freeport, the daughter of John Chapman. Since that time he has made his home in Prairie Depot, and in 1869 built his elegant residence, which is one of the most pleasant in the town. In 1895 he completed the present modern hotel known as the "Freeport House", of which he is proprietor, and which has a high reputation throughout the county. Mr. Leshar is a Republican and an active worker in the interests of his party. He served as mayor of the city for one year, also in the city council, and as clerk of the corporation of Prairie Depot. Both he and his wife are members of the Congregational Church, in which he is at present a trustee, and to which he has always been a liberal contributor. He is a member of the G. A. R. at Prairie Depot. Personally he is very popular, being a man of generous disposition, sincere and devoted in his friendships, and thoroughly reliable. He has been considerably interested in the oil business and in addition to his property in Prairie Depot, owns sixty acres of land in the township. He is considered one of the leading citizens and farmers of the place.

PROF. HENRY B. BROWN, now principal of the Northern Indiana Normal School, at Valparaiso, Ind., was formerly a resident of Wood county, his home having been with his parents, Thomas and Rachel Brown, near Bradner. He was born October 6, 1847, at Mount Vernon, Knox county. At the early age of two years, his parents removed to Morrow county, and later to their home near Bradner.

Until he was fifteen years old, Henry attended simply the country school; subsequently he went to Fremont to the public school one term, and then began to teach in the country. This laid the foundation for a still higher education, which was gratified, in part, by attendance for a brief period at the Wesleyan University of Delaware, Ohio. After additional teaching he entered the National Normal University, at Lebanon, Ohio, in 1869, and graduated from its Scientific Department in 1871. In September following he became one of the instructors in the Northwestern Normal School, at Republic, Ohio, under the management of Prof. J. Fraise Richard, and rendered acceptable service for two years. In September, 1873, he established at Valparaiso, Ind., the Normal School, of which he is now principal, taking



with him from Republic, as associate laborers, Miss Mantie E. Baldwin, Mr. M. E. Bogart, and Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Perrine. From a humble beginning of thirty-five students, he has developed the largest educational institution in America, its patrons coming from all parts of the United States, and being counted annually by the thousands.

Prof. Brown was married in February, 1886, to Miss Neva Axe, of Valparaiso, the union being a very happy one. Three interesting children—Helen A., Henry Kinsey, and Ruth A.—have blessed this union.

Prof. Brown and his wife are both active members of the Church of Christ, in Valparaiso. Politically, he has always been identified with the Democratic party. He is in many respects a most remarkable man; magnetic, industrious, self-sacrificing, ambitious, and thoroughly in earnest, he is a natural leader and organizer of forces. His presence is inspiring and encouraging, and his students are passionately attached to him. He is a thorough financier. These qualifications have enabled him to build up and maintain, not only the largest, but one of the best, schools in the nation.

Prof. Brown has always been devoted to his parents. His father, Thomas Brown, who died in 1887, was a deacon in the Baptist Church, and for many years served his neighbors in the capacity of justice of the peace. Mrs. Rachel Brown, mother of Prof. Brown, still lives on the old homestead, near Bradner, and cheers by her presence and kindly administrations her faithful children, as they come back to visit her under the parental roof. Possessed of the confidence of her neighbors, among whom she and her late consort lived so many years, she enjoys the satisfaction of knowing that her son has become not only one of the great educators of the age, but a man of influence and usefulness in the religious world.

L. L. YONKER, D. D. S. The subject of this sketch was born in Center township, October 16, 1865, and is the son of H. H. Yonker. His boyhood was spent in Bowling Green, where he attended school until thirteen years of age, when he started out in life for himself. He was, for a time, clerk in a store, but when seventeen years old, began studying dentistry with Dr. B. R. Taber, then a prominent dentist of Bowling Green. After remaining with Dr. Taber for several years, he entered the dental department of Vanderbilt University, at Nashville, Tenn., from which he was graduated, in 1887, with the degree of D. D. S. On his return to Bowling Green, he went

into partnership with his former preceptor, which continued until Dr. Taber's death, when our subject succeeded to the business.

Dr. Yonker is a skillful practitioner, and is highly respected both by members of his profession, and by the public generally. He has an extensive practice and is well-known throughout the county. He is a member of the Ohio State Dental Association and the Northwestern Ohio Dental Association, belongs to the Knights of Pythias, and is adjutant of the Sixth Regiment, Ohio Brigade, Uniformed Rank, K. of P. He is an ardent Republican, and has always taken an active part in politics, being for a number of years a member of the County Central Committee. Dr. Yonker was married June 20, 1892, to Miss Bell Goldamer, a daughter of the late Dr. Goldamer, the Rabbi, of Cincinnati, who, with Dr. Wise, were the leaders of the reformed Jewish Church in the United States. Dr. Yonker and his wife hold a high social position, and are popular with all classes.

WILLIAM T. BROWN is numbered among the most progressive and intelligent agriculturists of Montgomery township, where he has a good farm of forty acres in Section 1, and is a complete master of the calling which he is following. His sterling integrity, and honorable, upright manhood, fully entitle him to the position which he holds in the estimation of the people of the community. He was born at Mt. Vernon, Knox Co., Ohio, July 17, 1845, though at the time of his birth, his parents, Thomas and Rachel (Mills) Brown, were living near the town which now covers their land, and when fourteen years of age was brought to Wood county, the father purchasing eighty-one and a half acres in Section 2, Montgomery township, which was but slightly improved. The timber was very dense, little having been cleared. The family drove the entire distance from Morrow county, *via* Tiffin, Fostoria, and West Millgrove. Wild game was still found in the locality, deer and turkeys being often seen.

Thomas Brown, the father of our subject, was born at Mt. Vernon, Knox Co., Ohio, May 3, 1812. His father, David Brown, was of German descent, and died while Thomas was yet a boy. The young man worked faithfully on the farm, and at the age of thirty-one was united in marriage to Rachel Mills, who was born September 20, 1820, at Clear Springs, Md., and came to Knox county, Ohio, in 1835. Her ancestors were Scotch. They commenced life without any property, but by careful work and economy they

soon acquired a comfortable competency. In 1850 they moved to Morrow county, Ohio, and nine years afterward to Wood county, where Mrs. Brown now resides. He, while living, filled various offices, constable, justice of the peace, etc. He was a faithful member of the Baptist Church, of which he was for many years an officer, and to this Church almost all of his children belong. Perhaps no parents ever gave more careful attention to the direction of the lives of their children, and few children have followed more faithfully in the footsteps of their parents. To the training received at the home, all the children attribute whatever success they may have acquired. The word of Thomas Brown was always as good as his note. He was the soul of honor, and he, together with his most excellent wife, was held in the highest esteem by his neighbors and friends. He died April 25, 1887, at the ripe age of seventy-five years. His wife still remains at the old homestead, and makes a pleasant and happy home for the frequent gatherings of her children. Though quite old, he has successfully managed the farm and has taken care of the business in such a way that it has increased in value rather than decreased. She has shown marked business ability in the manner in which she has conducted the affairs of the estate.

To this couple were born seven children; three sons and four daughters: Elizabeth Ellen, William Thomas, Henry Baker, Emily Ann, David Benton, Sarah Katherine and Mary Emeline. Emily Ann died at the age of two years, and all of the others with the exception of one, are near the old homestead. The husbands of Sarah Katherine and Mary Emeline are also prosperous farmers, living in the immediate vicinity of the old home. (1) Elizabeth Ellen was married to John Stahl, March 17, 1861. Theirs was a happy marriage, but in 1867 Mr. Stahl died, leaving no children. In 1872 Mrs. Stahl married Milton Ashley, and is now residing with her husband and one child at Bradner. Mr. Ashley is a successful mechanic, and they have a very pleasant home. To them two children have been born, Allen and Dot. Allen died at the age of ten years. (3) H. B. Brown was interested in literary pursuits, and commenced teaching school when but a boy. In 1871 he completed his course of study and began teaching at the Northwestern Normal School at Republic, Ohio, where he remained two years. In 1873 he established the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso, Ind., at which place he has remained ever since. The school has been a great success. Starting with thirty-five students and four teach-

ers, it now has an average of more than 2,000 students, with more than twenty fully equipped departments and fifty teachers. He was married in February, 1886, to Neva Axe, and to them three children have been born, Helen A., Henry Kinsey, and Ruth A. (5) D. B. Brown gave his attention to medicine, completing his course at Cincinnati, Ohio, and since that time has had a very successful practice at Pemberville, Ohio. He was married on July 7, 1881, to Minnie Truman, and to them three children have been born, Glen T., Dale B. and Neva B. (6) Sarah Katherine was married to James Showalter, October 3, 1877. To them one child, Belva, has been born. (7) Mary Emeline married Joseph Jennings December 24, 1878. To them three children have been born, Rachel, Benson and Guy.

William T. Brown, the subject proper of this sketch, when young taught one term of school in Sandusky county, then returned to his parents' home, where he remained for two years. On April 28, 1867, in Montgomery township, he was united in marriage with Miss Roena Stahl, who was born in Section 1, of the same township, the daughter of Godfrey and Rosanna Stahl. To them were born five children—Hattie B., now the wife of L. O. Broyles, of Montgomery township, and they have three children; John T., at home; William R., who died August 1, 1888, at the age of fourteen years; and Jesse E., and Clarence B., also at home. The wife and mother departed this life October 16, 1888, dying in the faith of the Methodist Protestant Church, and was laid to rest in Bradner cemetery.

On his marriage our subject located on a rented farm in Section 1, Montgomery township, and later lived at other places until he purchased forty acres of land in Section 2, of the same township, going in debt for much of the amount. There he made his home for several years, but in the spring of 1883 bought his present forty-acre farm in Section 1. Mr. Brown has ever been quite a student, finding great pleasure in reading, and is a patron of literature. The cause of public education has always received his most earnest support, for three years he served as a member of the Bradner school board, and was also clerk of the board. As was his father, so is he an earnest Democrat, and for two terms was trustee of his township. Religiously he is a Baptist.

GEORGE K. DAILY, an old soldier of the Union, is now numbered among the thorough-going and enterprising farmers of Montgomery

but, as his sentiments and beliefs dictate, votes with the Republican party. His wife is a sincere and faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

CURTIS PLOWRIGHT, who is among the prosperous young farmers of Plain township, is of English descent, his parents, Henry and Mary (Cross) Plowright, both being natives of that country. Henry Plowright was born August 1, 1821, and his wife July 21, 1829. They came to America in 1850, first settling in Huron county, Ohio, and fifteen years later coming to Wood county, where Mr. Plowright purchased a farm, which he put under good cultivation and made into a valuable piece of property. He died November 3, 1891, and his wife is still living. They were the parents of eight children, as follows: Susan died when eight years old; Bertha is the wife of L. Stoots; Elizabeth married J. Manges; Willie died when three years old; Ida is the wife of Henry Kramp; Curtis is the subject of this sketch; Cora is the wife of John Philips; Mary is at home.

Curtis Plowright was born in Huron county, Ohio, December 6, 1863, and was reared to manhood on his father's farm in Plain township, where he obtained a fair education in the district schools. He was married October 6, 1887, to Miss Mary Vernon, whose birth took place in Plain township, January 28, 1863. Three children have blessed their union, namely: Ethel A., born March 1, 1889; Otho C., October 11, 1892; and Harold V., May 18, 1894. After his marriage Mr. Plowright settled on ten acres of land which he owned in Plain township, and on the death of his father, he purchased from the heirs the old homestead on which he has since resided. He is a man of much energy and enterprise, and has made a success of farming, being considered one of the best and most thrifty of the younger class of agriculturists in the county. In politics he is a Prohibitionist, and is an active worker in the interests of his party. He is a man of integrity, highly esteemed by his associates, and with his amiable wife holds an enviable place in the community.

MYRON CHAMBERLAIN, a prominent educator of Wood county, and one of the well-to-do agriculturists of Webster township, was born in Lorain county, Ohio, November 11, 1849.

His father, Luther Chamberlain, was a native of Ontario, Canada; but in early manhood he came to Ohio and purchased sixty acres of land in Lorain county, where he remained some years,

afterward removing to Hardin county. Here he continued his occupation of farming until 1877, when he came to Wood county, and bought a farm in Webster township. He was married in 1848 to Miss Emily Smith, and they reared a family of eight children, of whom our subject is the eldest. The others are Jesse, Willard, Phillips, Louis, Frank, Bert and Lorin. Both parents are still living at the old homestead, where our subject's father has been for years one of the leading members of the Democratic party, and an active worker in all public movements, and especially in educational affairs, having been school director for many terms.

Mr. Chamberlain met with a sad accident at the age of sixteen, while feeding a cane-crusher with his hands, both were caught and so injured as to necessitate their amputation. He prepared for teaching as a life work, completing his education at the Normal University at Ada, Ohio, and for twenty-seven years has followed his profession. His fine mental gifts and professional training make him an unusually successful instructor, and he has taught in every district in his township with universal satisfaction, and is still teaching. Through his own efforts he has bought and paid for fifty-four acres of the finest land in Webster township, located near Fenton, and most of it is under cultivation. On April 3, 1877, Mr. Chamberlain was married to Miss Lavilla Loomis, of Scotch Ridge, who was born June 5, 1850. Six children were born to them: George L., January 15, 1878; Kenneth and Benjamin (twins); Permelia Ray, Fred and Winn E.

Mrs. Chamberlain died in 1888, her early demise bringing deep grief to her many friends as well as to the smaller home circle, who miss her loving ministrations. In all public affairs Mr. Chamberlain's advice and influence are given to the side of progress. As a justice of the peace, he has served the people of his township for three years with ability and impartiality.

GEORGE W. HARTMAN, farmer and stock raiser, Plain township, was born in Center township, May 26, 1841. He grew up on his father's farm, receiving his education in the common schools of his native place. In 1863 he enlisted in Company H, 67th Regiment, O. V. V. I., for the Union cause, and served nearly two years, doing duty at the siege of Richmond, Va., where his regiment was under fire for nearly a whole summer. The 67th was kept in Virginia, getting the State under martial rule, until December 19, 1865, at which time Mr. Hartman was discharged. He was fortunate enough to escape without

receiving a wound. After the war he sheathed his sword, came home and returned to pursuits of peace. Shortly after he returned he bought his present excellent farm in Plain township. He was married in October, 1871, to Miss Barbara Apel, who was born in Sandusky, Erie Co., Ohio, March 27, 1849. They have had three children: John, born May 21, 1873, died June 6, 1895; Walter, born November 19, 1878; and Irene, born March 18, 1881.

Mr. Hartman has continued to live upon his present farm since the war, and has been engaged in general stock and grain raising, his farm giving evidence of careful cultivation. It is fertile, and capable of producing a large amount of grain. Our subject is recognized by his fellow-citizens as one of the opulent men of the county. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in politics is a Republican.

Jacob Hartman, father of our subject, was born on the Lower Rhine, Germany, May 26, 1808. He came to America when about twenty-three years of age, and married Miss Margaret Listenburger, who was born in Germany, and who is still alive. They moved to Perrysburg in 1833, later to Center township, where they made their home.

ELLIOT M. WARNER, who is engaged in fruit culture in Ross township, belongs to a family that was early established in Connecticut. Near New Milford, that State, his grandfather, Martin Warner, was born April 27, 1781, and was the third of five sons born to Martin Warner, Sr., the others being, Orange; Solomon, who was married and had one son, Asa; Ruggles, who had two sons, Ashbel and Hiram, both of whom graduated at Yale College; and Lemuel, who also had two sons, Luzon and Elmer. There were also two sisters in the family, one of whom married a son of Rev. Brooks, a Congregational minister, for whom Brookfield, Connecticut, was named.

On November 20, 1803, the grandfather led to the marriage altar Miss Nancy Hart, daughter of Lewis and Anne Hart, and they became the parents of the following children—Elliot, Henry, Martin, John H., George L., Mary, Eliza, Harriet, Margaret, and Sarah, who were born in Brookfield, Derby, and Huntington, Conn. In 1806 the grandfather began farming on a thirty-three-acre tract, two miles northeast of Brookfield, in Fairfield county, Conn., and twenty-three miles from Bridgeport. In 1811, in company with his father-in-law, he built a schooner of 170 tons burden, which was sailed by Lewis Hart, and in the war of 1812 was shot and fired

by the British, off Bridgeport, Conn., but, after being run down, the fire was extinguished and the vessel saved. It was named the "Nancy," and was partly wrecked off the coast of Nantucket Island, but was repaired at a cost of \$500.00. Martin Warner removed to Derby, Conn., in April, 1815, where he engaged in distilling rum and whisky, which at that time was thought to be consistent in a Christian and deacon in the Church. Reverses of fortune followed, and in November, 1823, he went to Rochester, N. Y., making the journey partially by canal, which became frozen. On January 1, 1824, he proceeded to Black Rock; but on May 1, removed to Buffalo, locating on Pearl street, one and a half squares northwest of the junction of Main and Niagara streets. His wife and three children had joined him at Black Rock, and the same year they removed to Lyons, Wayne Co., N. Y., where he engaged in carpentering. In 1824, his son Elliot sailed as cabin boy on the "Red Jacket" and the "Erie," the former of which was sent over the Falls with a black bear on board. In 1827, the grandfather purchased 119 acres in Rose township, Wayne county, for \$6.00 per acre; but in September, 1833, with his son, Elliot, and his son-in-law, James Barber, he came, by way of Buffalo and Lake Erie, to Perrysburg, Wood Co., Ohio. However, in the latter part of October of the same year, he returned to New York, and the family came by way of Detroit to Perrysburg on Capt. Asa Hart's schooner. The grandfather built the first frame dwelling in Washington township, Wood county, in which religious services were held in 1835 and 1836, by Rev. Benjamin Woodbury, who organized a class of Presbyterians in Plain township, Martin Warner and Jacob Minton becoming deacons. In 1838 a house of worship was erected in Section 12, Plain township. In Washington township the grandfather departed this life November 14, 1854.

Henry Warner, the father of our subject, learned the hatter's trade, of Van Vorhes, at Lyons, N. Y., in 1827, and came with the family to Wood county in 1835. He was born March 11, 1811, and died April 24, 1894. On January 19, 1841, he was united in marriage with Jane Elizabeth Wright, whose birth occurred in Hardin county, Ky., in June, 1820, and to them were born five children—Liberty P., born May 11, 1842, became a member of the 21st O. V. I., during the Civil war, and was killed at the battle of Chickamauga; Elliot M. is the next in order of birth; Eliza J., born November 23, 1845, is now the wife of Charles E. Allen; Mary W.,

born September 15, 1847, is now Mrs. William Rhymers, living at 895 Bancroft street; and Hattie, who was born November 20, 1851, died at the age of ten years. For twenty-two years the father engaged in the work of the Methodist ministry, preaching at the following places in this state—Findlay, Bucyrus, Congress, Copley, Doylestown, Fostoria, Mt. Blanchard, Mellmore, Port Clinton, Bryan, Sylvania and Waterville. In September, 1859, he located in Washington township, Wood county, where he made his home for fourteen years, when he retired to Perrysburg, where he resided for twenty years. He was a conscientious Christian gentleman, beloved by all who knew him.

Elliot M. Warner, whose name introduces this sketch, was born January 23, 1844, in Waynesburg, Wayne Co., Ohio. On attaining to man's estate, he married Miss Margaret E. Brown, who was born on Beaver creek, in Weston township, Wood county, in November, 1843, and is a daughter of Alexander Brown, of Grand Rapids township, this county. They now have three children—Howard N., a fruit grower, born December 25, 1872; Otis Arthur, also a fruit grower, born March 26, 1874; and Jennie E., all at home. Until 1874, Mr. Warner devoted his attention to general farming, but since that time has engaged in fruit culture, at first having twenty-five acres, to which he has since added fifty-seven acres, which he has thoroughly cleared, drained, and erected thereon good buildings, including a fine residence. The following is the average production of his fruit farm—500 bushels of peaches, 400 of pears, 125 of plums, 100 of apples, 60 of cherries, 25 of currants, 10 of quinces, 8 of gooseberries, and 4 tons of grapes, all of the best varieties. He rents the remainder of his farm, for which he receives one-third of the crop raised, and his corn generally yields 100 bushels to the acre.

Mr. Warner is a member of the Clark street Methodist Episcopal Church, of Toledo, Ohio, in which he has served as trustee and class leader; has always been a Republican in politics, to which party his ancestors also belonged, after the dissolution of the Whig party, which they had formerly supported. For sixteen years he capably served as trustee of his township, and for several years was also school director.

On May 2, 1864, Mr. Warner enlisted at Perrysburg in Company B, 144th O. V. I., under Lieut. Miller, Capt. Luther Black and Col. Hunt, and participated in the engagements at Monocacy, Md., and Berryville, Va. Out of seventeen, twelve were captured by the Rebels,

our subject being among the five who escaped, and in September, 1864, he was honorably discharged at Columbus, Ohio. He now holds membership in Ford Post No. 14, G. A. R., at East Toledo. His brother Liberty, who was killed at the battle of Chickamauga, was buried in the National Cemetery, at Chattanooga, among the thousands marked "Unknown."

EDWARD BALDWIN, a prominent and well-known grain dealer and agriculturist, of Weston, was born November 28, 1843, at Townsend, Huron Co., Ohio, and is the son of Watson and Almira (Church) Baldwin.

To some men there is no such word as fail. Unkind fortune may buffet them about, they may be now on the topmost wave of prosperity and to-morrow in the depths of adversity, but their courage never falters, and obstacles and disappointments seem to bring out all the force of their character, and to incite them to still more strenuous efforts. Mr. Baldwin has had a checkered career, but, thanks to his undaunted energy and unflagging perseverance, he has conquered all difficulties, and sees before him smooth sailing, it is to be hoped, for the remainder of his life. The history of such a man is worth reading for the lessons it teaches.

The father of our subject was born November 2, 1805, at Wilkesbarre, Penn., and was there married April 15, 1832, to Almira Church, who was born April 27, 1814. He was a farmer, and also kept store at his native place. In 1837, he came with his wife and four children to Ohio, locating at Townsend, Huron county, where he bought a large farm. This he carried on for a year, when, owing to the fact that another person had a prior claim on the property, he lost it, and all he possessed. He afterward engaged in mercantile business, and also carried on the manufacture of potash. In 1846 he came to Wood county, making the trip, which occupied an entire week, with an ox-team. He purchased sixty acres of land in Portage township, afterward buying fifty acres more of wild land, which he improved. He resided on this place for nine years, and in 1852, when our subject was thirteen years old, he removed to Weston township. Here he carried on the manufacture of potash for two or three years, and then rented a farm. He traded the property, he had at this time in Weston, for a farm east of Portage, on which he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring January 15, 1867. His widow then disposed of this farm, and returned to Weston, where she purchased property and resided until her death in 1892.

The four children born to this worthy couple in Pennsylvania, were: Elinor E., born January 26, 1833, who died in infancy; Ruth Ann, born March 21, 1834, was married February 14, 1854, to D. A. Gunn, and died October 21, 1873; Helen E., born August 28, 1835, was married June 8, 1853, to Francis Franklin, and died October 21, 1873; Byron C., born December 6, 1836, was married February 4, 1864, to Emeline Clark. He was a soldier in the Civil war and was killed at the battle of Franklin, Tenn., November 30, 1864. The flag which he carried, and which was stained with his life's blood, is now in the Capitol at Columbus, Ohio. The children born in Ohio were: Charles B., born August 1, 1839, in Townsend, Huron county, was married June 20, 1874, at Weston, to Miss Ella Jeffery; Abid V., born April 11, 1841, was married January 29, 1866, to Miss Jane E. Caswell; Edward is the subject of this sketch; Wilson M., born March 22, 1845, died September 25, 1855; Mary J., born February 12, 1848, died July 23, of the same year; Sarah E., born June 13, 1849, was married December 17, 1868, to John Freyman, and died October 7, 1881; Alice G., born June 28, 1852, died November 29, 1852. The youngest children died in infancy. Of this family, Charles, Avid, Edward and William were born in Huron county, and reside in Wood county.

Edward Baldwin obtained his education in the schools of Weston and Portage, at which he was a student until he was seventeen years old, his leisure time being employed in assisting his father upon the farm. After leaving school the young lad determined to make his own way in world, and, following the advice of the poet to "seize the duty that lieth nearest," he took up the first occupation that presented itself, which was sawing and splitting wood. He worked at this until he had finished six cords at fifty cents a cord, which, at the rate he worked, gave him about ten cents a day. This was, however, the means of getting him a good job in a store, the proprietor of which admired the boy's pluck. He worked for this man three years, his wages the first year being \$5.00 a month, \$8.33 1-3 the second year, and \$12.00 the third year. Out of this he saved \$60.00, with which he speculated in produce with good success, making \$300 from fall until spring. The next summer he bought potatoes at fifty cents a bushel, on the advice of a stranger, who promised to buy them of him; but the price fell, and Mr. Baldwin shipped them to Cincinnati, where he realized \$138 from their sale.

On his way home from Cincinnati, Mr. Baldwin met a stranger who entered into conversation with him, and who soon discovered from the young man's appearance that he was feeling rather blue and discouraged. He inquired into the latter's history, and seemed favorably impressed with his story and his evident enterprise and ambition, and, without knowing anything more about him, advanced him \$600, taking not even a note for it, and advised Mr. Baldwin to return home and invest the money in hides. This he did, and the result of the transaction was that Mr. Baldwin made \$400 for himself, besides paying back the \$600 loaned him by his new friend, Mr. May, and also paid the latter \$50.00 for the use of the money.

Mr. Baldwin continued buying and selling hides until 1864, when he went to Milton Center and bought a store. This he carried on for six months, in which time he made \$2,000, then built a store in Weston, and, in connection with J. E. Clarke, engaged in general merchandising. At the end of a year Mr. Baldwin sold out his interest to his partner, and went on a farm, which after a couple of years he was obliged to sell on account of ill health. He then formed a partnership with W. B. Ladd, in the hardware business, and subsequently owned a gristmill which he operated for twelve years. During this time Mr. Baldwin was also speculating in lands, in 1870 buying the 120 acres where he now lives, and for which he paid \$55. per acre. On this property he erected a fine dwelling at a cost of \$3,300, and engaged in general farming for three or four years, when he purchased the stock of goods belonging to Mr. Clarke, afterward trading it for 200 acres of land adjoining his present home. This gave him quite an extensive farm; but owing to severe winters and other ill fortune he lost \$10,000. His next enterprise was the purchase of a stock of goods at Mt. Blanchard, where he carried on a store for six months, then removing it to Weston, and traded a farm for a stock of goods in Columbus Grove; he brought that to Weston, and in 1884 Mr. Baldwin cleared \$10,000, in his business, and the following year, \$11,000; in connection with the store he handled stock and grain. Fortune, which hitherto had smiled upon him, now turned a cold shoulder, for, in the following three years he lost \$42,000, owing to dishonest help. This caused his failure in business, and came near destroying his faith in mankind, for, when he most needed their assistance, those whom he had helped failed to show their gratitude, and left him to face the storm alone. He, however, put his trust in a

Higher Power, remembering how, when a lad of seventeen he started out on his career, his dear mother placed in his hands an old black Testament, and told him to guard against doing anything wrong, and, whenever he was tempted, to read his Testament and follow its teachings.

With renewed perseverance, and by diligent labor, he recovered from this disastrous blow, and to-day is the owner of a good farm of seventy acres, also of a grain elevator, and of various other business interests, which bring him in a good income. He is the gainer in many ways by his hard experiences, and, as he is now still in the prime of life, can look forward to many years of activity and it is to be hoped of uninterrupted prosperity. Mr. Baldwin was married January 1, 1866, to Maria Taylor, a sister of Thomas Taylor. Five children have blessed this union, as follows: Albert B., born March 14, 1867, travels for the wholesale notion and dry-goods house of L. S. Baumgardner & Co., of Toledo; Thomas Watson is deceased; James V. married a daughter of A. J. Munn; Almon is deceased; Harriet A. is at home.

Mr. Baldwin is a staunch Republican, but has never cared to run for office. He is a trustee in the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he is also steward and a class leader, and has been superintendent of the Sabbath-school for twenty-three years. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., and the K. of P., and is esteemed and respected by all who know him.

HENRY W. STERLING, a wealthy oil operator and real-estate owner of Wood county, now residing in Bowling Green, was born April 6, 1843, in Hancock county, Ohio, where his ancestors were among the earliest settlers. His grandfather, Jacob Sterling, came there from Ireland in early manhood, and cleared the land upon which he made his home until his death, at the age of seventy years. His wife lived to the advanced age of ninety-five.

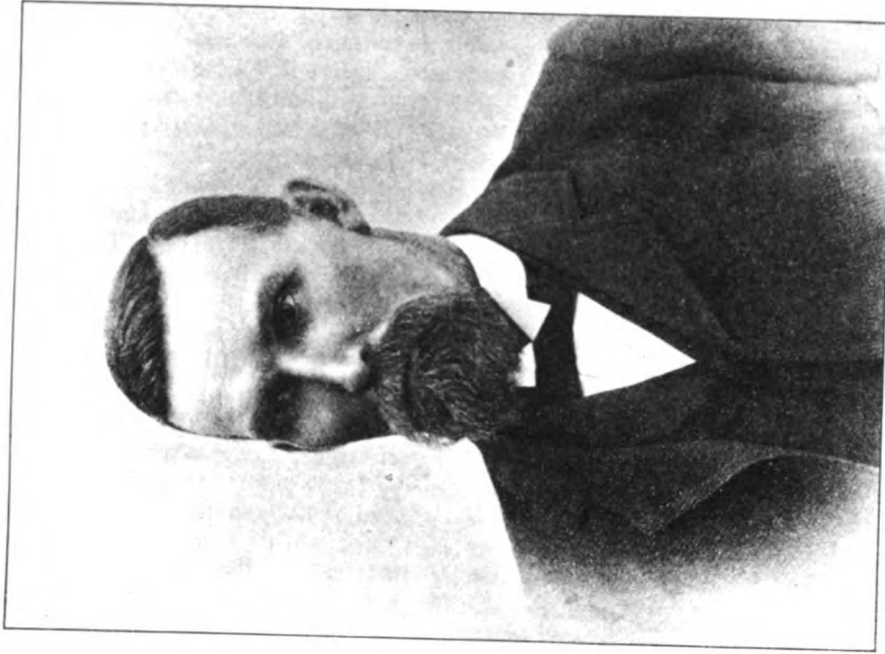
Their son George, our subject's father, was born in Guernsey county February 13, 1812, and died July 15, 1885, in Iowa. He was twice married, and had twenty children. At the age of sixteen he married Miss Delilah Cummings, who was born October 1, 1812, and died June 30, 1843. Ten children were born to this union, as follows: Olive M., born July 28, 1832, married James Lanning, of Hancock county; John Althans, born March 2, 1833, is a resident of Hamansburg, Ohio; George C., born November 27, 1834, lives in California; infant, born March 17, 1835, died two days later; twins, born in 1836,

died the same year; Mary Ann Isabel, born June 22, 1837, died October 11, 1887, the wife of N. Richmond; William Jackson, born February 15, 1839, was murdered in Umatilla, Ore., September 30, 1886; Nancy J., born August 20, 1841, died in 1892; Henry Wesley is our subject. Mr. Sterling's second wife was Miss Mary Ann Llewellyn, who was born March 26, 1828, and died August 16, 1888. Ten children were born to them: James Wellington, born October 7, 1846, now living in Wisconsin; Delilah, born November 13, 1840, died September 8, 1850; Melissa J., born April 5, 1850, married and living in Iowa; Arkinson B., born February 17, 1852; infant, born February 19, 1854, died when three days old; Margaret D., born May 25, 1855, the wife of George Helline, of Des Moines, Iowa; Francis M., born March 10, 1859, a resident of Des Moines; Hiram Perry, born July 5, 1861, living in Iowa; Rebecca E., born May 10, 1864, married and living in Montana; Amanda E., born July 19, 1869, died December 19, same year. Our subject's parents lived in Hancock county for some years after their marriage, then moved to Michigan and later to Indiana. Returning to the old home after about fourteen years of absence, they lived there a short time, and finally moved to Iowa. The father was a man of exceptional strength, and weighed 240 pounds. In politics he was a Democrat, first, last and all the time.

Henry W. Sterling spent his boyhood in Hancock county. When nine years old he went to live with Jacob Crist, remaining with him eight years, when, not being able to agree as to what he was to receive on reaching his majority, he left and hired out to do farm labor for \$4.00 per month. In September, 1862, at the age of nineteen, he enlisted in Company H, 21st O. V. I., which was assigned to the army of the Tennessee. He was taken prisoner at Murfreesboro, and spent three months in Libby prison, entering in good health, weighing 185 pounds, and coming out weighing 94 pounds, and wholly unfit for duty. The prison was so crowded while he was there that all the men could not lie down at the same time. After four months in a hospital, and a short stay at home, during which he was married, on December 24, 1863, to Miss Catherine Fellers, he rejoined his regiment in Atlanta, and took part in the famous march to the sea. He was in the battles at Bentonville, Fort McAllister and Savannah, and from the latter place went by boat to Raleigh. When the war closed his regiment marched to Washington, and had its place in the Grand Review. Returning home, he



*Fuhia Sterling*



*Henry W. Sterling*





spent a year there, and then located in Henry township, Wood county, buying a farm, where he lived some twenty-one years. Having invested in a place in Liberty township, he lived there for five years before purchasing his present residence in Bowling Green.

Mr. Sterling's first wife was a native of Hancock county, Ohio, born July 7, 1845. She died May 13, 1884, mother of nine children: Mary E., born September 24, 1864, married W. Thrush and has five children—Scott, Wesley, Gertrude, Earl and Burton; Daniel M., born January 9, 1869, married Miss Laura Courtright, and has one son—Clarence; Florence C., born January 9, 1869, is the wife of Cornelius Swope, of Wood county; Dallas W., born December 26, 1871, married Miss Addie Buchanan, and has one daughter—Melinda; Henry W., born May 19, 1875, and John S., born October 13, 1877, are both living at home; Oliver, born April 26, 1884, died July 15, 1884; Grace C., born August 15, 1881, died September 15, same year; Willie C., born April 6, 1874, died aged one month and seven days. On October 6, 1885, Mr. Sterling married, for his second wife, Miss Julia MacFaden, who was born in Bowling Green, March 26, 1848.

Mr. Sterling has been one of the most enterprising and successful business men in Wood county. At present he is engaged in the livery business. For fourteen years he ran a sawmill, and also made a specialty of contracting for the digging of ditches. He is a member of an oil company, which is extensively engaged in operating upon leased lands in various parts of the county, and he owns an interest in fifteen wells, having eleven on his farm in Liberty township. He never sold the farm in Wood county, which he bought when a young man, and his two farms in the county now comprise 340 acres of land. In politics he is a Democrat; socially he is a member of the I. O. O. F. and Encampment, and he is also an active member of the P. O. S. of A. and the G. A. R.

L. N. LEMBRICH, treasurer of Portage township, and one of its prosperous farmers and leading citizens, was born December 24, 1855, in Section 8, of the same township. His parents are Martin and Margaret (Amos) Lembrich. In District School No. 3, he received his education, and being the eldest son early began to assist in the labors of the home farm, remaining a member of his father's household until reaching man's estate, when he started out in life for himself.

Mr. Lembrich was first married in 1878 to

Miss Flora Johnston, of Portage, who bore him one child, Edith M., at home. This wife died December 6, 1881, and was laid to rest in Mercer cemetery. Later he wedded her sister, Miss Sophia Johnston, daughter of Robert Johnston, and they have two children—Ray A. and Wanda. She is an earnest Christian woman, a faithful member of the Disciples Church.

For a time after his first marriage, Mr. Lembrich rented land, and then purchased forty acres in Section 8, Portage township, which he yet owns, though his home is located on another tract of forty acres in Section 3, which he subsequently purchased. He has been quite successful in his undertakings, is progressive and enterprising, and all that he possesses is the result of his own industry and good management. He is one of the leading Democrats of the community, enthusiastic in the support of his party, has served as constable for four years, and in 1887 was elected treasurer of Portage township, which office he has since capably filled to the satisfaction of all concerned. Though quiet and unassuming in manner, he gains many friends, which he always retains, and socially is a member of Whitney Lodge No. 589, I. O. O. F., of Portage.

WILLIAM A. MANDELL, son of Henry and Frederica (Kreps) Mandell, was born February 1, 1849, in Perrysburg, Ohio, and at Mandell school, District No. 6, some four and one-half miles from Perrysburg, he received a liberal education.

At the age of eighteen years he left school, and during the succeeding twenty-three years he followed agricultural pursuits. He has always lived on the old homestead of his parents, and has a comfortable frame residence, and owns a well-kept farm near by. On November 18, 1880, he was married to Miss Ella Whitson, by whom he has had five children, as follows: Henry Elbert, born March 6, 1882; Mabel Edith, born September 11, 1883, and died July 5, 1887; Raymond A., born September 1, 1888; Harry W., born November 12, 1890, and died October 18, 1895; and Ralph E., born September 7, 1895. In his political preferences Mr. Mandell is a Republican, his first Presidential vote being cast for Gen. Grant. He has neither sought nor accepted office, merely taking a voting interest in public matters. Socially he is a member of the I. O. O. F., Fort Meigs Lodge No. 774, Perrysburg, Ohio.

CHARLES LEMART JUNKINS has, by his well-spent life, shown that success is not always a

matter of genius, or talent, but may be achieved through persistent, earnest and honorable effort. He was born in Weston township, September 25, 1863, his parents being Thomas and Elizabeth Nancy (Long) Junkins. He received a common-school education, and spent his boyhood days on his father's farm. At the age of twenty-two he was married in Weston township, July 2, 1885, to Inez Lucretia Wright, who was born May 19, 1864, and is a daughter of O. H. Perry and Mary Jane (Marks) Wright, both natives of Ohio. Their daughter, however, was born in Jay county, Ind., and during her early girlhood was brought by her parents to Wood county. Two children grace this union—Thomas Perry and Ethel Lotta.

Upon his marriage, Mr. Junkins took his bride to his parents' home, but after a short time purchased his present farm of eighty acres, for which he paid \$1,000. Many of the improvements on the place are the work of his hands, and he is well known as an enterprising, progressive agriculturist, whose well-directed efforts have brought him success. In politics he is a Republican, but has never sought office, giving his time and energies to his business interests. His estimable wife is a member of the Disciples Church at Milton Center.

JERRY LOMAN, of Bloomdale, is an encouraging example of a self-made man, having become, with but little help, one of the substantial men of that vicinity. His great-great-grandfather Loman, came from Old England at an early period, and settled in Maryland, where our subject's father, Richard Loman, was born in 1803. His father, Richard Loman, Sr., moved to Lancaster county, Penn., at an early day, later coming to Ashland county, Ohio, where he remained until April, 1832, when he moved to Wood county, and located on a tract of wild land in Perry township, there being at that time only four other settlers in that township. His first home was a shanty which had been abandoned by some Indians. The road to it had to be cut out for the wagon, as he proceeded through the almost unbroken forest of heavy timber. Richard Loman, Sr., was a heavy-set man of five feet eight inches in height, and was of an active and aspiring disposition. He died in 1853, and five years later his wife followed him, both being buried at Fostoria. They had six children—three sons and three daughters—of whom our subject's father was the eldest, and the one who lived longest.

Richard Loman, our subject's father, had

but limited opportunities for an education, and his youth was spent on his father's farm, which he afterward inherited. In 1842, he was married in Fostoria to Miss Caroline Ward, a native of Gallia county, Ohio, and four children were born to this union, our subject being the eldest; Thomas R. is a grain dealer, and owner of an elevator at Newmarket, Iowa; Nancy J. married William Fry, of Siam, Iowa; and Sarah married Samuel Hiller, of Bloom township. The mother of this family died in October, 1851, and was buried in Fostoria. In 1854, for his second wife, he married Miss Jane Hannan, of Fostoria, who died in 1879, leaving two children: Mary E., now Mrs. John E. Wineland, of Bloomdale, and Delilah, the wife of J. F. Smith, also of Bloomdale. Richard Loman was prominent in local affairs, and, although no office seeker, he held various offices in the township, and was school director for many years. He was a steadfast supporter of Democratic principles, but sometimes in local politics "scratched the ticket," if the Republicans nominated a better man. He was member of the U. B. Church at the time of his death, which occurred in 1886, when he was aged eighty-two years. He had enjoyed the best of health until within the last four years of his life, when he was seized with dropsy, and he then retired to Bloomdale. In 1884 he went to Iowa to visit his sons, but returned only to breathe his last at the home of our subject.

Jerry Loman was born April 5, 1844, on the old farm in Perry township, and in boyhood attended the district school, his first teacher being Rev. Andrew Hays. At the age of sixteen he began to study in Fostoria with the intention of preparing for a medical course—Dr. William Cake, of Fostoria, a cousin by marriage, having offered to assist him; but at the beginning of the third term this benefactor entered the army as surgeon of the 53d O. V. I., and on October 1, 1861, Mr. Loman enlisted in Company B, 57th O. V. I., under Capt. Phillip Faulhaber. They remained in camp at Findlay until January 14, 1862, and were then mustered in at Columbus. They took part in some of the fiercest battles of the war, including those of Shiloh, Corinth, Chickasaw Bayou (where their captain was killed, December 28, 1863), and Arkansas Post, where, on January 11, 1863, they captured the garrison and all. They then worked on the attempted canal at Vicksburg for a time, in Sherman's Fifteenth Corps, going up the Yazoo river to Haines' Bluff and Milliken's Bend, crossing the Mississippi at Port Gibson, and joining the fight at Champion Hills, May 12 and 13, 1863. Then

followed operations around Vicksburg, and on May 22, during the second grand charge, 600 volunteers were called for to proceed in the van of the line of battle, and carry ladders and planks to surmount the breastworks when reached—surely as brave a piece of work as any soldier ever did. Mr. Loman was one of that heroic band, of whom only 135 came out without a wound. A few days prior to that, he had been slightly wounded in the right arm. He worked for nearly two weeks in the tunnel leading under the fort at Vicksburg. After Pemberton's surrender, July 4, 1863, Mr. Loman's regiment left for Jackson, Miss., and took part in the battle there. They then joined the forces at Chattanooga, arriving the day before the engagement at Missionary Ridge. Their next work was to march to Knoxville to relieve Burnside; but when sixteen miles away Longstreet left for Virginia, and they moved on to Larkinsville, Ala., arriving December 31, 1863. On the next day Mr. Loman's regiment re-enlisted—the first regiment of the Fifteenth Corps to re-enlist. He came home on a thirty-days' furlough, and, April 1, re-joined the regiment. On May 5, they left Larkinsville to participate in Sherman's campaign, and then came the battle of Resaca, May 14; Dallas, New Hope Church, Kenesaw Mountain, June 27; Peach Tree Creek, July 20, and Atlanta two days later. On August 31, came the desperate and bloody struggle at Jonesboro, where the Rebels fought to recover the railroad which brought their supplies to Atlanta, and, on September 1, Atlanta fell. Mr. Loman took part in Sherman's raid of November 14, 1863, and the engagement at Fort McAllister was his next. He was one of the host that marched to the sea under that great leader, and was the detailed forager for Company B, during that historic journey. From Savannah the 15th and 17th Corps were taken to Port Royal by vessel, and after the battle at Bentonville, March 19, 1865, there followed the surrender of Johnson at Durham Station, without a struggle. After this affair Sherman's army marched to Washington, and took part in the grand review May 22, 1865. Although most of the participants in that glorious parade were allowed to go to their homes, the Second division of the 15th Corps was sent to Little Rock, Ark., to do guard duty, and Mr. Loman's brigade went several hundred miles into the Indian Territory. On their return to Little Rock, the "boys" concluded that they would go home, and one morning at bugle call they stacked their rifles and made known their intention, despite the severe threats of their officers, who telegraphed to Wash-

ington for instructions. An order to discharge them came forthwith, so they were mustered out at Little Rock, August 15, 1865, and at Columbus, twelve days later, were discharged. Mr. Loman lacked only four days of four-years' service, during which time he had three furloughs, and had spent twenty days in Cumberland Hospital, Nashville, having been injured by a log rolling on him while building breast-works.

On his return home he rented his father's farm, and October 28, 1866, was married, in Tiffin, to Miss Colletta Steckel, a native of Hamilton county, and daughter of William Steckel, a well-known farmer there. Two years later he bought forty acres of wild land in Clinton county, Mich., and began farming there, remaining until 1871, when he moved to Charlotte, Mich., and began clerking for Baughman & Fouts, dry-goods merchants; after two years he entered the carpet and dry-goods store of Hazlett Bros., in the same capacity. On August 22, 1874, his wife died, and was buried in Tiffin. Her loss so affected him that he resigned his position, but later resumed the work, until 1875, when he returned to Wood county and again engaged in farming, buying an eighty-acre tract adjoining the old homestead. On December 27, 1876, our subject was married, in Tiffin, to Miss Rosa Troxell, a cousin of his first wife, and a native of Lehigh county, Penn., and by her had three children: Nina, Lloyd R., and Carl C., all yet at home. In 1883 he made up his mind to go west, and sold his property, but undertook to do some teaming for E. S. Bryant, the lumberman of Bloomdale, later becoming superintendent of teams for him, finally the superintendent of the entire plant of Bryant & Linhart, continuing until 1895. His second wife died November 20, 1890, and was buried in Baird cemetery. Mr. Loman was again married, August 23, 1891, this time to Miss Rhoda S. Redfearn, daughter of Joseph and Ann (Phillip) Redfearn. She died December 1, 1894, and was buried at Fostoria.

Mr. Loman moved to Bloomdale in 1879, and two years afterward bought a house and lot there. In 1884 he traded eighty acres of land in Iowa for forty acres within the present limits of Bloomdale, and later added twenty-three and a half acres to it, making a fine farm where he now resides; he also owns several village lots. He is cautious and shrewd in his investments. In politics he has always been a Republican, casting his first vote while in the army, and that for Abraham Lincoln. He has been township trustee, and treasurer of the school board for three years, but is not an office seeker. In G.

township. He owns a good farm of forty acres in Section 4, of which he purchased in April, 1880, when only five acres had been cleared, and the house upon the place was a rude affair. He has made many valuable and useful improvements, including the substantial buildings now found there, and is accounted one of the most industrious, energetic and highly respected agriculturists of the community.

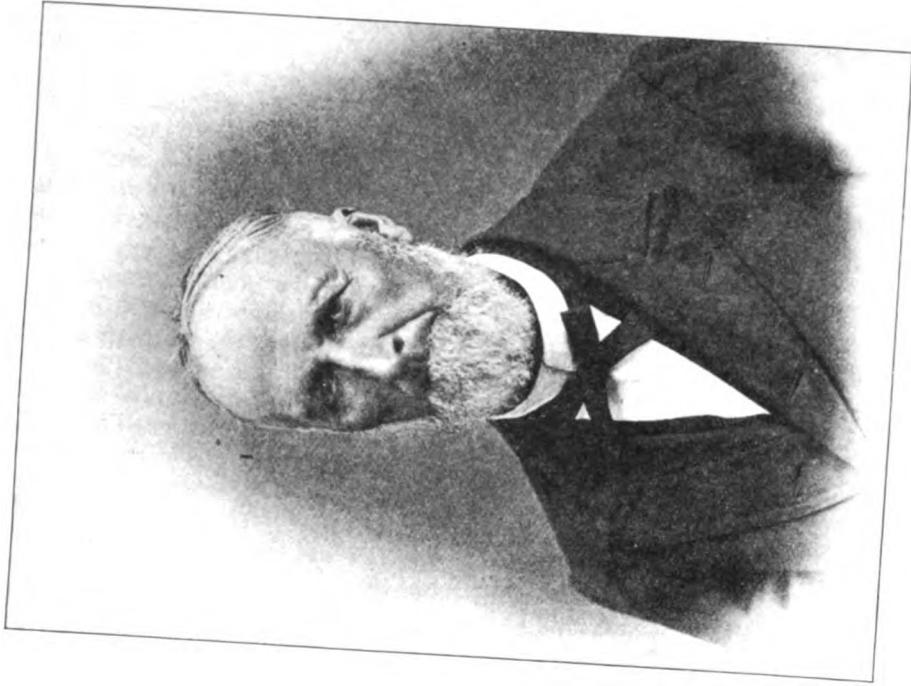
Our subject was born in Troy, Miami Co., Ohio, December 8, 1841, the sixth child and third son in the family of nine children born to William and Susan (Brown) Daily, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania; the latter is said to have been the first female white child born within the corporation limits of Troy, Ohio, where her father, William Brown, had located at a very early day. The father of our subject was a large man, above the ordinary height, and was a blacksmith by trade, though in early life he conducted a tavern at Troy. He was first a Whig, and on its organization, joined the Republican party. He died in 1861, in Troy, where both he and his wife are buried, the latter having died at La Fayette, Ind., while on a visit there in 1888. In religious belief they were both Methodists. The family of this worthy couple included the following children: David, who went to California in 1849, and returned in 1865, is now a printer of La Fayette, Ind.; Elizabeth is now Mrs. Jerry Layton, of Troy, Ohio; Catherine first married William Carroll, a colonel in the Union army during the Civil war, and is now the wife of William Creiger, of La Fayette, Ind.; William is a blacksmith of Troy; Mary is now Mrs. Washington Bemis, of La Fayette; George K. is next in order of birth; Thomas, a baker by trade, died at Homer, Ill.; Sarah is the wife of Robert Adams, of Chicago, Ill.; and Belle is now Mrs. J. L. Adair, of Frankfort, Indiana.

Mr. Daily, whose name opens this review, was reared at Troy, where he attended the public schools, and assisted his father in the blacksmith shop. At that place he enlisted, in 1861, in Company H, 11th O. V. I., and the first engagement in which he participated was along the Kanawha river, in West Virginia. He remained with his regiment until the battle of Chickamauga, where he was shot through the right foot, and it was a year before he was fit for duty. He was at Camp Dennison hospital when his three-years' service expired, and was discharged. In the fall of 1864 he began cabinet-making at Troy, under Andrew Helpman, and there continued to follow that trade until May, 1867. It was in the summer of 1865 that Mr. Daily first visited Wood

county, and on December 26, 1866, in Montgomery township, was celebrated his marriage with Miss Ella D. Adams, who was born in Section 9, of that township, November 20, 1847, the daughter of Thomas and Mary (McGill) Adams. They have become the parents of the following children: Thomas B., born October 14, 1868, now located at Bradner, Ohio; William I., born August 3, 1870, who is an oil-pumper of Montgomery township; Frank R., born September 22, 1872, who is also an oil-pumper, residing at home; David O., born July 10, 1874; Albert E., born October 4, 1876; Charles K., born March 6, 1878; Mary B., born November 12, 1879; Bessie M., born August 17, 1881, died in infancy; Leroy, born April 9, 1883; James L., born December 9, 1886; and Alpha, who was born August 23, 1889, and died in infancy.

Mr. Daily took his wife to La Fayette, Ind., soon after their marriage, and there worked at his trade until failing health compelled him to abandon it. For eight years he then made his home at Homer, Ill., where he was engaged in the bakery and confectionery business until 1875, when he came to Montgomery township, Wood county, and lived on his father-in-law's place until April, 1880. Since that time he has lived upon his present farm, and no man is more widely or favorably known within the limits of the township than George K. Daily. He was a Republican in politics until Gen. Weaver became a candidate, when he joined the Greenback party, and he is now a staunch supporter of the People's party. For fifteen years he has efficiently served as school director of District No. 1.

SILAS FOSTER is familiar with pioneer experiences in Henry township. He now owns a farm there, which he cultivates in addition to his labors as a minister of the United Brethren Church. He is now the oldest citizen of the community in which his home is located, and as an honored pioneer well deserves representation in this volume. He was born in Logan county, Ohio, February 17, 1822, and is a son of Jacob and Mary (Burket) Foster, natives of Maryland. After their marriage they removed to a farm in Logan county, Ohio, and in 1829 went to Hancock county, locating on a tract of land which now lies partly within the corporation limits of Findlay, spending their remaining days upon that farm of 160 acres. The father died in 1844, the mother in 1857. Their family of children was as follows: Jacob and Daniel, both deceased; Mrs. Sarah Carlin; John, Thomas and James, who have also passed away; Mrs. Mary Douglas,



*Silas Foster*



*Susan Foster*



of Findlay, Ohio; Elizabeth, deceased; Mrs. Rachel Greer, deceased; Mrs. Phoebe Hickson, of New Mexico; Jackson, deceased, and Silas.

Our subject, who was about seven years of age when his parents removed to Hancock county, attended the public schools of Findlay, and was reared on his father's farm, assisting in the work of cultivating and improving it until his marriage. In the spring of 1843 he wedded Susan Loehr, who was born in Plainfield township, Northampton Co., Penn., March 19, 1826, a daughter of Jacob and Sarah (Brood) Loehr. Her mother died in Pennsylvania, and when Mrs. Foster was twelve years of age she accompanied her father to Hancock county, Ohio, where he spent his remaining days on a farm near McComb. She was the fourth in order of birth in the following family: Adam, Sophia and Louisa, deceased; Susan; William, who has passed away; Catherine, wife of David Wilson, of Allen township, Hancock county; twins, who died in infancy; Abraham, deceased; and one other who died in infancy. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Loehr wedded Mrs. Frances Kemper, and to them were born these children: Sarah, Frederick and Harmon, all deceased; Jacob, in the West; Frances, wife of Cyrus Dillinger, of Hancock county; and twins, who died in infancy. For about four years after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Foster remained on the home farm, and then removed to Wood county, locating on their present place, containing ninety-five acres, which was given to our subject by his father. Their cabin was the first house in the township, built by Henry Shaw, in whose honor the township was named. They experienced many hardships and trials in those early days; but as the years passed prosperity smiled upon their efforts, a substantial residence replaced the log cabin, and the farm became a valuable and productive one. Mr. Foster has also given much time to the work of the Church, and in 1848 was appointed a minister of the United Brethren Church, since which time he has engaged in preaching through this section of the country.

Fifteen children have been born to our subject and his wife: Emeline, wife of Johnson Campbell, of Bloomdale, Ohio; Samilda, wife of Benjamin Bair, of Hancock county, Ohio; Thomas, who was State Senator from Fort Wayne District, Indiana, and died at the age of thirty-five; Matilda, wife of Charles Wilson, of Fulton county, Ohio; William, a painter of Jackson, Mich.; Elizabeth, wife of Jesse Berger, of Albion, Ind.; Rachel, wife of Nelson Anderson, of Findlay, Ohio; Corwin, of Wood county;

Minnie, wife of Olin Robbins, of Van Buren, Hancock Co., Ohio; A. Lincoln, at home, and a twin brother who died at birth; Nellie, the wife of Ben Thurston, of Bairdstown, Ohio; James Sherman, of Van Buren; Susie, wife of Jasper Elton, of Toledo, Ohio; and Jennie Olive, who died at the age of twelve years.

Mr. Foster is a supporter of the Prohibition party, and has served as assessor, school director, trustee and supervisor, discharging his duties with a promptness and fidelity that have won him high commendation. His life has been an upright and honorable one, commanding the respect and confidence of all.

ISAAC NEIFER. From Germany to America came the founder of the Neifer family in this country, Isaac Neifer, who was the father of our subject. He was then a young man of eighteen, who, with the hope of bettering his financial condition, had come to the New World, and for a year after his arrival worked in order to get money to pay for his passage. Locating at New Holland, Penn., he there married Elizabeth Miller. Subsequently he moved to Ohio, and later to Indiana, where his last days were spent. Our subject, Isaac Neifer (2), was born in New Holland, Penn., July 29, 1813, and was a cabinet maker by trade, following that pursuit until 1859, also, at odd times, for a few years later. On November 13, 1838, he married Harriet Oberly, who was born in Leacock township, Lancaster Co., Penn., May 16, 1821, a daughter of Adam and Catharine (Myers) Oberly, the former of whom made farming his life work, and both continued their residence in Lancaster county, until called to their final home, the father passing away in 1873 aged ninety-three years, the mother in 1856, aged seventy-eight years. Their children were: Elizabeth, deceased wife of Benjamin Miller; John and Isaac, deceased; Catharine, deceased wife of John Sullinberger; Daniel, who died in Lancaster county, in April, 1896, aged eighty-nine years; Samuel, deceased; Margaret, deceased wife of Christian Erb; Liddie, deceased wife of Samuel Hafer; Sarah, wife of Daniel Geist, of Lancaster county; Levi, also of Lancaster county; Harriet (Mrs. Neifer); and Adam, the last born, who died when two years old. The Oberly family was also of German origin.

Mrs. Clauser, the great-grandmother of Harriet Oberly Neifer, was killed by the Indians in Lancaster county, Penn., in 1743, being pierced under the left arm with a spear. A son was shot off his horse by an arrow from the bow of an In-



dian, and fell dead beneath the animal, and a daughter, Catharine Clauser, then a child of nine years, was taken from the wagon, carried away some distance by the Indians, who were in the act of scalping her when overtaken by the men of the party who were in close pursuit. The Indians had cut a great gash across her forehead from ear to ear, the scar of which she carried to her grave, living to be seventy-eight years of age. On growing up she married a Mr. Jacobs, who died three years subsequently, leaving one son who moved to Ohio and died. After the death of Mr. Jacobs, she was married to Valentine Myers, and to them were born two sons and three daughters, namely: Mary, Catharine, Jacob, Isaac and Margaret. Catharine became the wife of Adam Oberly, and mother of Harriet Oberly Neifer.

In 1848 Isaac Neifer (2) brought his family to Wood county, Ohio, and rented the farm, one mile south of the present village of Weston, known as the "Keeler Farm," in Milton township. The same year he purchased what is now the old family homestead, comprising 120 acres, to which he afterward added forty acres. He built a log house, and then a cabinet shop, also of logs, that are still standing, and in connection with farming he worked at his trade. Here he made his home until his death, which occurred May 17, 1892. His children were as follows: Catharine, who died in infancy; Adam O., born February 13, 1841; John M., born January 15, 1843, and died July 22, 1892; Amos M., born November 17, 1844; Sarah E., born May 25, 1848, died in infancy; and Isaac Newton, born October 5, 1854. Of the children who married and reared families, the following is a brief record: (1) Adam O., the eldest, at the age of eight years came with his parents to Ohio, where he worked in the cabinet shop with his father, but gave the most of his attention to farm labor. His education was acquired in Pennsylvania and Ohio. On November 12, 1863, he married Helen J. Moore, who was born in Milton township March 30, 1844, and they became the parents of four children: Sarah J., wife of Albert Smith, of Milton township; Mary Nettie, wife of Henry Steinman; John N., who married Gertie Stretchberg; and Jessie, a young girl at home. (2) John M. was married in 1872, to Eliza Sawyer, and to them were born eleven children, eight of whom are living; John's death occurred in 1892 from disease contracted while in the army. (3) Amos M. was married to Flora S. Bassett, and to them were born four daughters, of whom the eldest two are now married, while one died in infancy; Amos M. is now living in Bowling Green, Ohio. (4) Isaac New-

ton, the youngest, is spoken of more fully farther on. The father of this family in political affiliation was for the most part a stalwart Whig and Republican, but was never given to office-seeking, preferring to give his time and attention to his business interests, in which he met with good success. The widowed mother still remains on the farm where she has passed many years of her life, beloved and respected by all who know her. She is among the oldest settlers, and holds the U. S. patent for the farm she lives on, with only one transfer from the original enterer, Samuel Cobb, who made the entry and got the patent direct.

ISAAC N. NEIFER, a leading citizen of Weston, is a native of Milton township, Wood Co., Ohio, where he was born October 5, 1854. He is a son and youngest child of Isaac and Harriet (Oberly) Neifer, whose sketch appears above.

Our subject attended school at Weston, his spare moments being occupied on the home farm. He worked at various employments until his marriage, October 13, 1875, with Miss Addie Alice Henry, who was born November 26, 1857, in Ashland county, whence she moved with her parents to Weston in May, 1873. They have had two children: Willie, who died in infancy, and Annie Alice, who was born August 10, 1887.

In 1876, Mr. Neifer commenced in the produce-shipping business, for his father-in-law, and with the exception of one year, continued with him up to January, 1892, when he rented, and one year later bought out the business of the firm, since which time he has continued in the produce-shipping business with success. He is the only extensive dealer in the egg and poultry business in this section of Wood county, most of his produce being shipped to New York City. His trade is such as to necessitate the keeping of a wagon on the road continually, gathering in produce. Socially Mr. Neifer is a member of the I. O. O. F., and also of the F. & A. M.

John Henry, father of Mrs. Neifer, was born in Savannah, Ashland Co., Ohio, in 1824, and came to Weston in 1873. He entered the produce trade in which he continued until our subject purchased his business, as related above, when he retired. He amassed a comfortable fortune, and is to-day recognized as one of the monied men of Weston. Although over seventy, he is hale and hearty, and is recognized as one of the patriarchs of the town. In his political predilections he is a Democrat; and socially he is a member of the I. O. O. F., and also of the F. & A. M.

L. P. TRIBBLE, the genial host of the "Tribble House" at Haskins, was born April 14, 1846, in Clermont county, Ohio, where his paternal grandfather, Cornelius Tribble, a native of South Carolina, was among the earliest settlers.

Amos Tribble, our subject's father, was born in the same county April 10, 1820. He was married in Bethel, Clermont county, to Miss Margaret Higby, a native of New Jersey, born in 1819. Her family is of old New England stock, but her parents were born in New Jersey, and moved to Ohio during her girlhood. Amos Tribble and his wife lived in Clermont county until 1853, when they came to Wood county and settled on a farm in Middleton township, afterward removing to Portage for a few years. They were members of the Congregational Church, and honored for their consistent example. Our subject's mother died November 1, 1892, but his father is still living, and resides on his farm, near Haskins. He is a Republican in politics, and when inclined to active work was influential in local affairs. Mr. Tribble is second in a family of six children, the others being: Julia A., the widow of H. N. Rush, of Portage; Lizzie married Eli Chapman, of Bowling Green; Charles, a farmer in Middleton township; and Helen and Annie, who both died in childhood.

After acquiring a good education in the schools of District No. 6, and the town of Haskins, Mr. Tribble taught for ten years in different parts of the county, and then took charge of the C. H. & D. R. R. office at Haskins. This position he held for fifteen years, in the meantime establishing and conducting successfully his hotel business. He was married October 13, 1872, to Miss Jessie Pope, a native of Sandusky county, born September 12, 1855. Two children were born to this union: Julia, the wife of J. I. McCaslin, and Dwight, who lives with his parents. Mrs. Tribble is a lady of unusual mental endowments and force of character, and is a leader in various organizations. In all progressive movements both our subject and his wife are active supporters, and Mr. Tribble takes a prominent part in political affairs also, having been elected lately for the fifth time on the Republican ticket to the office of township treasurer. He is a member of the F. & A. M. and the I. O. O. F.

J. L. RUMLER is one of the highly-respected farmers of Montgomery—his native township—where he first opened his eyes to the light, February 19, 1860, in Section 21. He belongs to one of the prominent pioneer families of the county, his grandfather, John Rumler, having

arrived here in 1833. He entered at that time 160 acres of wild land in Section 21, receiving a deed for the same signed by Andrew Jackson. John Rumler was born in Lancaster, Penn., of German parentage, and on reaching manhood married Catherine Augustine, a native of Mahoning county, Ohio, where their wedding was celebrated. In Wood county he located upon the farm where our subject now resides, but at that time not a tree had been felled or an improvement of any kind made upon the place. There both he and his wife died at the age of eighty-eight years, his death occurring in 1862, and her's in May, 1864, and both were buried near Bradner, Ohio. In their family were five children: Eva, now Mrs. David Henline, of Sandusky, Ohio; Busias L., the father of our subject; Amelina, who became the wife of Benjamin Plants, and died in Sandusky county; John, a farmer of Montgomery township; and Elias, of the same township. In early life the grandfather learned the trade of a weaver, and he also followed teaming over the Alleghany Mountains from Lancaster, Penn., to Pittsburg; but his later life was devoted exclusively to agricultural pursuits. Religiously, he was a Lutheran.

Busias L. Rumler was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, July 12, 1816, and during his boyhood received a fair education in German, which language was used principally by his father and their immediate neighbors. At the age of seventeen years he accompanied his parents to Wood county, where he became a successful hunter, being very fond of the sport. He was very hardy and robust, and used to walk miles and miles in search of game, often staying out all night; but the exposure told upon his constitution in later years. He was a hard worker, and assisted many of the pioneers in clearing their land. On August 24, 1856, in Montgomery township, he was united in marriage with Miss Eliza J. Mogle, who was born in that township, May 6, 1840, daughter of David and Sarah (Stahl) Mogle, the former a native of Richland county, and the latter of Wayne county, Ohio. Mrs. Rumler was the second in order of birth in a family of eight children, the others being Mary, now Mrs. C. T. Hardaker, of Fulton county, Ohio; Susan, who died in infancy; John W., of Lime City, Ohio; Daniel J., who died at that place; Levina, wife of Isaac Whitson, of Lime City; Oliver, of Fulton county, Ind.; Annie, who became the wife of John Galbreath, and died at Prairie Depot, Wood county. The parents of these children were married in Wood county, where they arrived in 1833. The father

came in the spring with his father, Michael Mogle, who made a location in Montgomery township, and the mother accompanied her married sister, Mary, the wife of Daniel Edmunds, to the county in the fall of the same year.

After his marriage Mr. Rumler built a hewed-log house, upon the farm where our subject now resides, and upon the site now occupied by the latter's residence. Later he located on the old homestead, where he lived for two years, and then returned to the log house, which was destroyed by fire in October, 1877; the following year the present substantial brick residence was erected. Upon that farm his death occurred February 1, 1895. For about nine years previous he had been in failing health, but was never confined to his bed until the day before he died. His remains were interred in the Prairie Depot cemetery. He had been very active in his younger years, and his feats of strength were almost marvelous. He used his right of franchise in support of the Democratic party, and religiously was an earnest member of the Lutheran Church.

Since the death of his father, J. L. Rumler, whose name introduces this review, and his mother have lived on the home farm, which he operates. He obtained a common-school education, and early became familiar with the duties that fall to the lot of an agriculturist. He has picked up carpentering, and is also quite familiar with other mechanical trades; but he devotes most of his time to the care and cultivation of the farm, which under his able management ranks among the best of the township. In manner he is quiet and unassuming; but is one of the most industrious and enterprising agriculturists of the locality, where he has always made his home and has many warm friends. Though not strictly partisan, he usually supports the men and measures of the Democratic party. Living with Mr. Rumler and his mother are the two sons of her youngest sister, Sarah Annie, who married John M. Galbreath, and these little boys, aged respectively six and four years, there find a pleasant home.

A. E. SMITH, carriage manufacturer and dealer, is a native of New York State, born March 25, 1850, at Newburg. He resided in that town until twenty-six years old, learning and working at the trade of wagon-maker, which he followed in Newburg some four or five years. He then went to Hornellsville, N. Y., and various other places throughout the State, and, coming west, worked at Cleveland, whence he came to Tontogany in July, 1875. Mr. Smith remained

at Tontogany until the following March, and then he went to Van Wert, Ohio, staying there about two years. On March 1, 1878, he came to Weston, and engaged in business for himself, succeeding in building up a very substantial trade, and he has an extensive stock of carriages, wagons and harness.

Our subject was married in Grand Rapids, Ohio, April 19, 1877, to Miss Emma Yost, a daughter of Peter Yost. They have no children. Mr. Smith has two brothers: William P., an engineer in Weston, and Charles A., a salesman in our subject's factory. All the three brothers are Democrats in politics.

Eli Smith, the father, was a farmer, who came from New York State in 1880, and settled in Ohio. Politically he was a Democrat. He was married on January 18, 1848, to Miss Hannah E. Fergusson, of Newburg, Orange Co., New York.

H. N. VAN VOORHIS, a successful farmer of Montgomery township, was born September 25, 1825, in the township of Whetstone, Crawford Co., Ohio, and is the son of William and Hannah (Jones) Van Voorhis. The great-grandfather of our subject was born in Holland, and H. N. is of the fourth generation in the United States. William Van Voorhis, the father of our subject, was a farmer in Crawford county, where he and his family were early pioneers.

Mr. Van Voorhis is the oldest male representative of his family in Ohio. He did not receive over six months' schooling altogether. In 1836, when he was ten years old, his parents moved to Michigan, passing *en route* through Wood county, and along the "Old Stone Road." They were three days going from Fremont, Ohio, to Perrysburg, as the road was very bad and swampy, and they spent four years in St. Joseph and Cass counties, Mich. Mr. Van Voorhis lived with his parents until he was between twenty-three and twenty-four years old, with the exception of one year, during which he was learning the harness-making trade at Bucyrus. He taught school for four or five terms in Knox and Crawford counties, receiving for the first term \$8 per month, and "boarding round"; his highest salary was \$14 per month, without board. Mr. Van Voorhis was married in Crawford county, March 15, 1849, to Miss Sarah Beck, who was born near New Lisbon, Columbiana county, February 26, 1831, a daughter of Henry and Rachel (Roselle) Beck, both of whom were from New Jersey. When our subject was married he did not have a dollar; but he rented a small log house in Olen-

tangy, Crawford county, for which he paid \$12 per year, and his wife's parents gave them furniture with which to go to housekeeping. Later Mr. Van Voorhis bought two lots in the village, whereon he built a hewed-log house, and for seven years lived there, occupied in making shingles from rough timber, and teaching school. In the spring of 1858 he rented a farm in Morrow county, living there until the fall of the same year, when he returned to Whetstone township, bought ten acres of timbered land, and, moving an old house onto it, lived there until he came to Wood county, April 10, 1866. He located in Section 20, Montgomery township, buying forty acres, for which he went into debt \$1,100. After remaining there one year, he sold the farm at cost, and moved to Scott township, Sandusky county, bought thirty-seven acres, and after one year's residence there, removed to Section 7, Montgomery township, where he bought ninety-eight acres, for which he contracted a debt of \$1,200. An old log house and a barn were the only buildings on the place, and this was his home until 1880, when he built the excellent brick house which now stands on the farm. On November 14, 1895, Mr. Van Voorhis moved to Prairie Depot, where he now resides in his house on North Center street.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Van Voorhis were as follows: Augustus, born February 12, 1850, is a farmer of Portage township; George H., born August 27, 1851, died in Portage township; Augusta J., born August 22, 1853, is now Mrs. Joseph J. Harris, of Perry county, Ill.; David C., born August 14, 1856, is a resident of Bowling Green; Owen, born March 21, 1859, died in infancy; Isaac, born November 8, 1861, is a farmer in Portage township; Frank, born September 13, 1868, follows farming in Montgomery township; Seretta, born February 23, 1871, is now Mrs. George Histe, of Portage village; Orrin, born September 9, 1877, died in infancy. Mr. Van Voorhis is a Democrat, served as township clerk in Crawford county, and was trustee for several terms in Montgomery township. He and his wife are members of the Deciples Church. He is a self-made man, and by industry and economy has acquired a comfortable amount of this world's goods.

**SPENCER W. DEWITT.** The subject of this sketch is a well-known farmer residing in Weston township, one and one-half miles northeast of Weston village. His birth occurred February 3, 1859, in Weston township, on the farm where he now lives. Isaac Dewitt, father of our sub-

ject, was born in Pennsylvania, August 20, 1801. He was married three times, his third wife being Miss Theodosia Haughwout, the mother of Spencer W. They were married at her home in Erie county, Ohio, but in 1855, they removed to Weston township, Wood county, where they remained about six years, or until the death of Mr. Dewitt, July 7, 1861. Three children were born of this marriage, one of whom died in infancy; the others being Harriet, who married John Gingery, Jr., and died January 17, 1875; and Spencer W., our subject.

Spencer W. Dewitt, the subject proper of this sketch, was but two years of age when his father died, and was then taken by his mother to her former home in Erie county, where he found a home with an uncle. Here he attended the district schools; but when he was eleven years old, accompanied his mother on her return to the old homestead in Wood county. In 1873, Mrs. Dewitt was married to Abram Leonard, and our subject made his home with them, and worked upon the farm. Mr. Leonard died March 25, 1884.

On September 29, 1884, Spencer W. Dewitt was married to Miss Amanda J. McCrory, who was born in Wood county, September 7, 1865. They made their home with Mrs. Leonard on the old farm until the following spring (1885), when Mr. Dewitt built the house, in which he now resides, on the east half of the old homestead, making all improvements necessary to establish a comfortable home for his family. The marriage of our subject and his wife has been blessed with the following children. Charles Jesse, born September 18, 1885; George Spencer, born October 6, 1887; Harriet Elizabeth, born July 24, 1890; Alta Rosetta, born February 23, 1893; Vernie Wilson, born February 18, 1895, and died April 19, 1896.

Mr. Dewitt has never taken much interest in politics, but has always sought to vote, regardless of party, for the best man for the office to be filled. He is a member of the Disciples Church. Since his mother's death, October 8, 1890, the homestead farm has been divided between Mr. Dewitt and his neice, Mrs. Addie Heckerman, who was the only daughter of his sister, Harriet Gingery—Mr. Dewitt retaining the east half, on which he had built his house. Mr. Dewitt is much respected by all his friends and neighbors for his integrity, and good, honest citizenship.

**JOHN R. ARCHER, M. D.,** one of the younger members of the medical profession, and an enterprising and progressive citizen of North Balti-

more, was born in Wood county, October 14, 1861. He spent his early childhood there, later attending school at Fostoria, and having become sufficiently qualified he began teaching school, which occupation he followed some five years. At the end of that time he took up the study of medicine, paying his way from the money earned while teaching, and was graduated from Starling Medical College, Columbus, Ohio, in 1887. Locating first at Holgate, Henry county, with his brother, who is also a physician, he remained there for one year, and then came to Wood county, settling in North Baltimore, where, by industry, ability, and strict attention to business, he has acquired a large and extensive practice. He is a member of the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association, the State Medical Association, and the Wood County Medical Association. Dr. Archer is looked upon as a rising man in his community, and possesses the confidence of all who come in contact with him.

Joseph Archer, father of our subject, was born in Richland county, Ohio, September 3, 1827, and was married December 20, 1853, in Huron county, to Miss Nancy Jane Howard, a native of Hancock county, born April 22, 1836. They became the parents of the following children: James Dallas, born October 30, 1858; Sarah M., born March 15, 1860; John R., born September 14, 1861; Tebertha A., born January 2, 1865, died August 24, 1872; Millie B., born November 4, 1871, died March 16, 1874; Amanda E., born April 12, 1875, died March 30, 1880; Susie, born March 12, 1878. Mr. Archer settled in Bloom township from the time of his marriage until 1887, when he returned to North Baltimore, where he now lives, one of the respected pioneers of the place. He still owns eighty acres of land in Bloom township. He is a Democrat, and a member of the United Brethren Church.

Grandfather James Archer was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, of German ancestors. He lived in Richland county, where he followed the occupations of a blacksmith and farmer until 1834, when he moved to Wood county, and died in Bloom township at the age of forty years. He married a Miss Nancy Copas, who was born in Guernsey county, and who was over seventy years old at the time of her death. They were the parents of twelve children.

ALEXANDER SCHWARTZ, a prominent baker, confectioner, and ice cream manufacturer of Bowling Green, was born in Lorraine, a German province, August 20, 1863. He is the son of John and Mary (Riff) Schwartz, the former of

whom was born in Lorraine, June 2, 1817, and the latter in the same place, in 1828. She died in the old country, where her husband followed the occupation of a farmer.

Mr. Schwartz, Sr., came to America in 1882, and joined his son Alexander in Waverly, Ohio, later removing to Bowling Green, where he died July 27, 1895. He and his wife became the parents of seven children, as follows; George died at Batavia, Ohio, aged thirty-six years; Mary died in Germany; Victoria died in the old country; Paulina married John Bras, and lives in France; Alexander is our subject; Louisa lives in Nancy, France; Edward died in infancy.

The paternal grandfather, John Schwartz, was a weaver by trade, and died in Lorraine. He was in the French army under Napoleon I, and carried two bullets in his body, which were received at the battle of Waterloo. He lived to the good old age of ninety-five. Our subject's father was also a soldier, and fought in the Franco-Russian war.

Mr. Schwartz spent his boyhood days in Lorraine attending the public schools, where he learned the German language. For a while he worked in a mill, in order to learn the miller's trade, but left his position to come to America. Upon arriving in this country he first located in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he learned the baker's and confectioner's trade. He worked at this in various cities, among which were Jackson (Ohio), Batavia, Waverly, Nelsonville, Fostoria and Findlay. For the first year and a half he went in business for himself at Batavia; then sold out and came to Bowling Green in February, 1892, and immediately opened a place of business which he has been operating ever since. He met with success from the start, and to-day leads all others in his line. The building in which Mr. Schwartz carries on his work is fitted out with all the latest improvements, required in the manufacture of ice cream and confectionery, and a visit through his establishment would prove interesting as well as instructive. The immense ovens in which the baking is done, the engine and machinery used in the manufacture of ice cream, and all the equipments of his business are of the best. When he put in his machine for freezing his ice cream, he was laughed at, but the first year he sold 1,400 gallons, the second 2,200 gallons, and the third, over 4,200 gallons, and this year he sold over 7,000 gallons. Besides his ice cream and confectionery plant, Mr. Schwartz owns forty acres of land east of Bowling Green.

Our subject was married in Findlay, Ohio,

January 21, 1890, to Miss Anna M. Urschaltz, who was born in Plymouth, Ohio, June 5, 1871. Mr. Schwartz' politics are Democratic. Socially, he belongs to the C. K. of St. John. He justly deserves the large and growing patronage which he at present enjoys, as he is progressive and industrious, and although he came to America empty handed, possessing nothing but a desire to earn an honest living, he not only acquired knowledge of a trade, but stuck to it, until to-day he is one of the most prosperous and successful business men in the county.

JOHN D. ROSEN, a popular citizen and successful farmer, and oil operator, of Henry township, was born in Franklin, Warren Co., Ohio, February 12, 1848, and is a son of John and Eliza (Dial) Rosen. The father was a native of Pennsylvania, and followed the various pursuits of farming, carpentering and milling. In his native State he married Eliza Dial, who was also born in Pennsylvania, and subsequently removed with his wife to Warren county, Ohio, where he followed the trades previously mentioned. Later he carried on agricultural pursuits in Miami county, Ohio, and then returned to Pennsylvania, where he made his home for five years. On the expiration of that period Mr. Rosen purchased a 120-acre farm in Henry township, Wood county, and in an old log cabin made his home while he improved his farm. As time passed greater prosperity came to him. His last days were spent in the home of his daughter, Mrs. Sarah Jeffers, in North Baltimore, Wood county. In politics he was a Democrat, and, in religious belief, a Methodist. His wife passed away five years before him. Their family contained the following children: Mrs. Sarah Jeffers; Sargent J. and Joanna (twins), the former of whom died at the age of twenty-eight years, the latter when a child; John E.; Joseph, of Ashland county, Ohio; and Elizabeth, who became the wife of B. A. Lawrence.

The educational privileges of our subject were limited. When his father went to Pennsylvania he secured work as a farm hand in Miami county, Ohio; but after a year joined the family, and continued to reside in the Keystone State for three years, during which time he worked in a gristmill. He then came with his elder brother to Ohio, securing work on a farm near Cincinnati, where he remained for three years, receiving from \$10 to \$15 per month. He was afterward employed on another farm for six months.

On the 26th of February, 1874, in Butler county, Ohio, was celebrated the marriage of

Mr. Rosen and Miss Mary S. McCoy, who was born in that county in 1850. They now have one child—Albert, of North Baltimore, Ohio, who was born January 23, 1875. After their marriage they came to Wood county, locating on forty acres of land given Mr. Rosen by his father. In 1889, he discovered oil upon his place, and has since developed five wells which have proved a profitable source of income. He is an energetic and enterprising business man, and has won success in his undertakings. In politics he was formerly a Democrat, but his views on the temperance question have led him to give his support to the Prohibition party.

JOSEPH DREPS, SR. (deceased), was among the pioneers of Middleton township, his residence dating from 1856. He was long numbered among the leading and esteemed agriculturists of this locality, and the success he acquired also gave him rank among the substantial citizens. A son of Antony and Alener (Crotzburgh) Dreps, natives of Germany, he was born in that country, March 4, 1824, and was one of a family of five children, the surviving members being Elizabeth, wife of Joseph Roldorf, of Germany; and Augusta, residing in that country.

Joseph Dreps attended school in his native land, and was employed on his father's farm until nineteen years of age, when he began working as a farm hand for others in order to carry out his cherished wish of coming to America. When he had acquired sufficient money, in 1852, he took passage on a sailing vessel, and after a voyage of thirty-five days landed in New York. He at once went to Detroit, Mich., thence to Toledo, Ohio, where he worked for four years. In 1856 he came to Wood county, and entered forty acres of land in Middleton township—a timber tract, also covered by water. He cut and sold the wood, then drained and tiled the land, set out an orchard and planted crops. In 1886 he purchased an additional forty acres, and later bought another forty, so that he had at the time of his death, November 2, 1895, 120 acres, all under a high state of cultivation, with good buildings and modern improvements. He led an energetic, industrious life, and in clearing his land experienced those hardships known only to pioneer settlers. He came to this country with only three dollars, but steadily worked his way upward from humble surroundings to a position of affluence.

In September, 1854, in Toledo, Mr. Dreps wedded Mary Malter, of that city, who died January 26, 1856. In the month of May following he was again married, his second union being with

Barbara Auth, a native of Hessen, Germany. They had ten children: Joseph, born May 14, 1857; Barbara, December 14, 1858, wife of John Shiple, a farmer of Middleton township; Henry A., July 11, 1862; Andrew, May 30, 1863; John, February 11, 1865; George, October 26, 1866; Sylvester, who was born February 14, 1870, and died October 20, 1889; Mary, Lena and Elizabeth, triplets, born June 23, 1873. The last named is the wife of Charles Redouty, of Michigan, but the other two are single.

His fellow townsmen appreciating his worth and ability frequently called Mr. Dreps to office, and for seven years he efficiently served as road supervisor, while for six years he was school director. In politics he was a Democrat, and his religious connection was with the Catholic Church. His life was well spent, and his energy, resolute purpose and honorable dealing, brought to him success in business. His name is above reproach, his reputation spotless, and he possesses a genial disposition that won him many warm friends who held him in the highest regard.

HENRY A. DREPS, a worthy representative of this family, now living in Lansing, Mich., is one of the native sons of Middleton township, where he was born, reared and attended school, acquiring his education in the common schools near his home. He worked upon his father's farm until 1881, when he entered commercial life as a traveling representative of the Toledo Molding Company, and remained in the employ of that firm until 1885. With the capital he had then acquired through his own exertions, he embarked in business for himself at Lansing, Mich., where he has since continued as a wholesale and retail dealer in molding and frames, meeting with good success. He is a wide-awake and progressive business man whose standing is high in commercial circles, and his own efforts have brought him a prosperous trade.

In politics, Mr. Dreps is a supporter of the Democracy, and, like his father's family, he is a member of the Catholic Church. He was married April 21, 1890, to Marietta Bunline, who was born in Michigan, May 19, 1866.

JOHN FLOYD MCKEE, whose reputation as a stockman, particularly in the line of fine-bred horses, has become almost world-wide, as well as national, is a native of Wood county, having been born December 23, 1856, in Grand Rapids township.

Capt. John McKee, father of our subject, was born in Washington county, Penn., June 30, 1823, a son of John McKee, who first saw the

light in Ireland in 1777, emigrated to this country, and was married in Pennsylvania, whence he removed to Wood county, Ohio, in 1833, dying here the same year. He left a widow and four children, namely: John, father of John Floyd; Elizabeth, who married a Mr. Buckland, and died in 1886; Jane, who died young; and Nancy (Mrs. Smith), now deceased. The father of this family was a Freemason, having joined the order in Ireland.

Capt. John McKee was ten years old when he came with his parents to Weston township, Wood county, where he passed the rest of his days. He there married Caroline Brown, who was born in Grand Rapids township, March 10, 1823, daughter of Alexander Brown, one of the early settlers of Wood county, coming from Pennsylvania. To this union were born five children, three of whom are deceased—two daughters having died in infancy, and one son, Edward, born January 13, 1854, died October 18, 1854; the two living are John F. (our subject), and Alice, born December 22, 1848, married March 19, 1875, to William Meggison, of Grand Rapids, Ohio. The mother of these was called from earth December 26, 1856. In the fall of 1863 Capt. McKee enlisted in Company I, 144th O. V. I., of which, later, he was elected captain, G. Weddell being first lieutenant, and G. Kimberlin, second lieutenant. The company did not leave for the seat of war until May, 1864. At the battle of Monocacy Capt. McKee's command was badly scattered, and he received a severe wound in the thigh of the right leg, from which he suffered more or less until his death. His service in the war lasted four months. He died December 22, 1885, mourned by a large circle of friends. He was a successful farmer, a good citizen, straightforward and honest, and firm in the upholding of his principles of integrity. He was not a member of any church, although his family have always been Presbyterians, to which faith he strongly inclined, and of which denomination he had for years been a substantial supporter.

John Floyd McKee received his education at the district schools of his native township, and assisted his father in the work of the farm until he was twenty-one years old, when he assumed entire control of the homestead. To-day he is the possessor of over 500 acres of excellent land, whereon stands his magnificent residence, the admiration of all, and the finest barn in northwestern Ohio, one especially constructed with a view to the comfort and health of his numerous stock. For several years Mr. McKee has enjoyed a wide and enviable reputation as a breeder of



*J. F. McKee*





and dealer in fine-bred horses, in all varieties, his business in this line—matching and selling—having extended to the farthest limits of both the Eastern and Western States. Not long since he sold a car-load of matched horses (bought in Chicago), in Bowling Green, and his market is not confined to the United States, for he has from time to time bought and sold many valuable animals for European purchases. To-day the King of Belgium is driving a fine team of horses which Mr. McKee bought in the Chicago market, and is said to have been the best team ever bought or sold in that market up to that time. Mr. McKee paid \$670 for the team; within ten days sold them for \$1,800 to John Miller, who in turn sold them to the King of Belgium for \$4,400. Mr. McKee also feeds a large number of cattle, and at the present time has on his farm some twenty-three head of as fine cattle as can be found anywhere. As a thoroughly reliable, practical and expert stockman, and a master of the business, he has as we have already said, almost a national reputation, and that he has every facility for caring for and handling the finest of stock goes without saying.

On December 20, 1882, John Floyd McKee was married, in Grand Rapids township, to Miss Flora Heymann, daughter of Philip W. Heymann, and three children have blessed this union, their names and dates of birth being as follows: John, June 22, 1884; Grace, September 21, 1887; and Maud, August 17, 1892. Mr. and Mrs. McKee are members of the Presbyterian Church; in politics he is a Republican, but is no office seeker, though he has served as supervisor three terms, and on the board of education three years. He has inherited many of his father's characteristics, and is greatly respected for his uprightness, genial nature and philanthropy.

**R. W. KELLY.** One of the best known and most prominent agriculturists of Perry township, is the gentleman whose name opens this sketch, and whose birth took place May 1, 1826, in what was then Richland county, Ohio, but is now Ashland county.

The parents of our subject were John A. and Rachel (Shawhan) Kelly, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania, in 1796, and the latter in Virginia July 13, 1806. Their marriage took place in eastern Ohio on August 22, 1822, and on June 19, 1832, they came with their family to Montgomery township and settled in Section 32. The father had come to Wood county the previous month, and pre-empted 160 acres of land, on which not a stick of timber had been cut.

The family made the journey from their former home by ox-team, with one horse as a leader. On the first night of their arrival they slept in the wagon, there being no building of any kind on the place or in the vicinity. A large maple tree, four feet in diameter, was cut down, and the body hollowed out and covered with puncheons, with blankets for the front and ends, this rude habitation affording them shelter until a round-log house was built. Drinking water was scarce, and their first effort was to dig a well, which they succeeded in doing after much difficulty. The first crop raised was potatoes and corn, and wild animals, such as wolves, deer, and bear, were plentiful. In reaching this isolated spot the father had to precede his family with an axe, cutting his way through the woods for four miles before reaching their future home, and in the eight miles from Risdon, now Fostoria, to their destination, they passed the homes of only two settlers, who were Isaac Keely and William Shawhan. Tiffin, Fremont, and Green Springs, were their milling points, which were reached with ox-teams, and about six days were consumed in making the trip.

To this brave pioneer couple eight children were born, of whom the following record is given: Josiah S., born September 21, 1824, died of cholera at Ellsworth, Kans., where he kept a boarding house during the construction of the Union Pacific railway through that section; Eleanor W., born November 24, 1828, is the widow of Josiah Kiger, and lives in Millgrove; Lorenzo D., born October 15, 1830, died at Maple Rapids, Mich.; Frederick S., born May 15, 1832, lives in Gratiot county, Mich.; Mary, born July 14, 1834, married Samuel Fayler, and died in Kansas; William H. H., born May 12, 1836, lives in Coffee county, Kans.; Elizabeth, born April 15, 1838, married Amos K. Rainey. He was a soldier in Company B, 111th O. V. I., and was captured by the Rebels on his return from a visit to his sick wife, and died in Andersonville prison June 18, 1864. His wife died October 19, 1863, in Perry township. The mother of these children died January 23, 1840, and is buried at Millgrove.

Mr. Kelly was married, a second time, in Seneca county, in 1841, to Miss Nancy Patterson, who bore him one child, Rachel, who was born December 20, 1842, and became the wife of Lewis Heller and died in Toledo. The father died August 8, 1859, and his second wife in 1866. Mr. Kelly was a strong, robust man, and very active in his early days. He served as land assessor of Wood county, and spent many days and nights also showing land to persons wishing to

pre-empt it, for which purpose he kept a rude chart of lands not already entered. For this work he received one dollar a day. He was originally a Whig, and afterward became a Republican, being a leading man in his party in his locality. He held at various times the offices of county commissioner and probate judge, and was justice of the peace in Montgomery township. At the time of his death he owned 280 acres of good land, and was one of the most prominent citizens of the township.

Our subject was but six years old when his parents removed to Wood county, and his first schooling was in a log cabin, 14 x 16 feet, his teacher being a lady by the name of Emeline Palmer. He did not learn his "A, B, Cs," until he was thirteen years old, and then had but few advantages for pursuing his studies, as there was always plenty for him to do, and he only went to school when it was too wet to work. He afterward attended school for two winters in Tiffin, Ohio, living with Abel Rawson, an attorney of that place, and working for his board. One of his reminiscences of this time is his attendance in June, 1840, of a meeting at Perrysburg during the celebrated "hard cider campaign" at which he saw William H. Harrison, who was afterward elected President. When nineteen years old, Mr. Kelly entered the store of his uncle, R. W. Shawhan, at Tiffin, Ohio, as a clerk. This gentleman was a general merchant who owned two stores, one in Tiffin and one in Fort Ball, the latter now being a part of the former city. He remained in this position until February 1, 1849, when he became one of a company of four sent out by his uncle to California to dig gold on shares.

Mr. Shawhan gave this party \$2,800 under the following conditions: they were to refund this money out of their first profits, and in case the project was a failure Mr. Shawhan was to lose the whole amount; if a success, he was to receive one-half of the proceeds of their work. They set sail from New York to Chagres, on the eastern coast of the Isthmus, well provided with six months' provisions, camp outfit, and other necessaries. At the Isthmus they hired natives to take their outfit to Panama for \$100. Eight dimes went to the dollar, and they had supplied themselves with \$100 in dimes. They had shipped one year's extra provisions around Cape Horn, and when these reached San Francisco they did not even take them from the steamship offices. Each man also had a trunkfull of clothing, which was more than needed and which was never taken from the storage room. On their arrival at Pan-

ama, no vessels yet being running in the San Francisco trade, they waited ten days, and then with over a hundred other passengers boarded a British mail vessel, plying between Panama and Valparaiso. They all agreed to stay on this boat until they could put in at a port and charter a vessel for San Francisco. At Callao, Peru, they found a whaler four months out from Nantucket, which they chartered, and after ten days' delay, which was necessary to transform this vessel into a rudely equipped passenger boat, in which they finally set sail, and fifty-two days later arrived at their destination. Soon after they went to Sacramento, and found they had but \$280 left out of their \$2,800. This was the first party that left Seneca county, Ohio, for California, and consisted of the following men: R. E. Brewster, William Holt, John Schmitt, and R. W. Kelly. It took them from February 1 to June 8, to make the journey from Tiffin, Ohio, to San Francisco, California.

Soon after their arrival this party began mining in what is now Eldorado county, Cal., on the middle fork of the American river, and wintered four miles from Sutter's mill, the place where gold was first discovered. The party remained together for two months, when our subject and William Holt formed a partnership, and worked together during the remainder of their stay there. On October 1, 1850, Mr. Kelly and his partner, Mr. Holt, left San Francisco on a steamer, and returned to New York by Panama, reaching Tiffin on the first of the following December. These men were strictly honorable, and carried out their agreement, dividing their profits with Mr. Shawhan, each having a snug sum of money left, and which, in the case of our subject, was the foundation of his success in business.

His first enterprise was the purchase of 159 acres of land in Section 14, in Perry township, for which he paid \$2,000 cash, leaving a balance of \$900 on time. He was married June 5, 1851, in Portage township, to Miss Eliza J. Dresser, who was born in Richland county, Ohio, May 23, 1830. Aaron Dresser, her father, was a son of Samuel Dresser, and was born in New Hampshire. When he was eighteen years old his time was given him by his father, and he came to Richland county, Ohio, about 1820. He had a good common-school education, and taught school for a number of years. He married Esther Davis, and in the summer of 1834 came with his family to Portage township, Wood county, the journey being made with ox-teams, and they crossing many deep streams, some of which the cattle had to swim. Their land was in an uncleared forest,

where they built a small house, and much hard labor was expended in preparing the land for cultivation. The children of this family were as follows: Sarah A., who died when fourteen years old; Eliza J., wife of our subject; Susan L., who married Andrew J. Hall, and died at twenty-two years of age; Daniel, who died when twenty-four years old; John, who died at sixteen; Margaretta (now Mrs. Henry Adams), who lives in Portage township; Mary A., who became the wife of Reuben Hillard, and died in Portage township. Aaron Dresser lived to be over ninety-two years old, his wife passing away at the age of forty-seven years. Both are buried in Millgrove cemetery. Mrs. Kelly taught school for four years before her marriage, the salary being \$1.50 per week, which was considered excellent wages in those days.

When Mr. Kelly located on his farm, in Perry township, it was in poor shape, its only improvements being a small frame house and a round-log stable. He spent considerable time and labor on it, and in March, 1852, traded farms with Justus Stearns, of Montgomery township, receiving 200 acres in exchange for his 159 acres. Later he sold this farm for \$3,000, and in 1854 opened up a general merchandise store in West Millgrove, buying his goods in New York City. He was very successful in this business, which he carried on for five years; but failing health compelled him to retire from business, and he traded his store and other property for 400 acres of land in Montgomery township, and, renting his father's old-home farm in that township, removed to it in the spring of 1860, where he lived until March, 1882. He then removed to his present location, in Section 4, Perry township, where he has ever since resided. He has practically been a farmer continuously since 1859, and now owns over 700 acres of valuable farming land. In 1881 he built one of the best farm residences in Wood county, which is situated near West Millgrove, and where he and his family are enjoying all the comforts and conveniences of life.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Kelly were as follows: Josiah D., born April 5, 1852, lives in Damascus township, Henry Co., Ohio; Rachel E., July 31, 1853, resides with her parents; Charles W., October 31, 1855, died August 11, 1857; Eleanor E., October 20, 1860, married George A. Adams, and died in Montgomery township, June 25, 1886; John A., January 19, 1861, lives in Montgomery township; Rezin W., Jr., December 12, 1864, resides with his parents.

Mr. Kelly has always been a public-spirited citizen, and has contributed liberally toward get-

ting the railroads through his portion of the county. He was originally a Whig, becoming a Republican on the formation of that party. In 1854 he served as assessor in Perry township, and in 1856 was elected justice of the peace, which office he resigned after one year. In 1870 he was elected land assessor of Montgomery township, and later served for one year as trustee. In 1871 he was elected county commissioner, and, after serving four and a half years, was re-elected; but resigned the office. In 1880 he served as real-estate assessor in Montgomery township. In all these responsible positions he showed much business ability and good judgment. He has for thirty-one years been a member of the Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to the various lodges at Perrysburg, Tiffin, and Fostoria. In 1886 Mr. Kelly took a trip to the Pacific coast, visiting places where he had been in 1849, and noting with pleasure the wonderful growth and development in that portion of the country.

Mr. Kelly is a man exceedingly well preserved for his years, and possesses a wonderful memory, which makes him a very entertaining companion. He is a man of good judgment and much common sense in business matters, and is consulted by his neighbors on many subjects. He is one of the best citizens of Perry township and, with his wife, has a host of friends throughout the county. Mrs. Kelly has for many years been a member of the Congregational Church, and is a most estimable woman.

GEORGE ELLSWORTH, fruit grower, etc., was born June 3, 1828, in Allegany county, N. Y., whence, when six years old, he came with his mother to Scott township, Sandusky county, Ohio, where he received his education in a log school house.

Mr. Ellsworth learned the trade of carpenter and joiner, and followed the occupation of contractor and builder in Scott township, until 1865, when he came to Wood county, and located in Milton township, on a tract of land which he improved, working at farming in connection with his trade. He remained in Milton township until 1878, going from there to Center township, where he bought fifteen acres of land, now situated in the corporation of Bowling Green, and began the cultivation of fruit, making a specialty of grapes, from which he produces some excellent wine. Mr. Ellsworth was married July 4, 1852, to Miss Elizabeth Clinger, who was born March 12, 1838, a daughter of John and Sarah Clinger. They are the parents of the following children: Reuben M., born December 11, 1854, is a police

officer in Bowling Green (he married Belle Ferriot, and they have two children); Francis H., born March 30, 1856, is in the insurance business in Kansas (he married Nellie Finnucan, and they have three children); George W., born November 16, 1864, is a music teacher and piano tuner in Bowling Green (his wife was Hattie Shutt); Willis G., born November 19, 1867; Eugene E., born April 22, 1880; and one child died in infancy. Mr. Ellsworth was justice of the peace for four years in Scott township, Sandusky county, and no appeal was taken from his court while he was on the bench; he also held the office of assessor in the township. He is a man of broad mind and liberal views, and his sense of justice so clear that even his political opponents acknowledge his worthiness, and were satisfied with the manner in which he conducted the office. In politics he is liberal, voting for the man rather than the party. In all matters pertaining to the moral advancement of the community, he has always acted a zealous part. Mrs. Ellsworth is a devout member of the Adventist Church, accepting its primitive doctrines as orthodox. She is an extensive reader, a student in all Church matters, and her friends consult her as an authority on all religious topics.

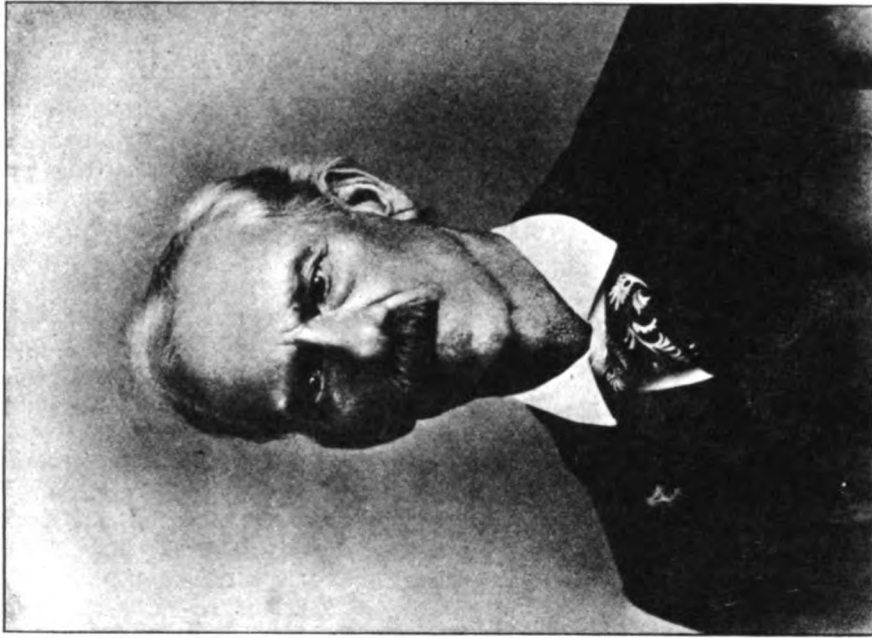
James Ellsworth, the father of our subject, was born in New York State in 1768, and was by occupation a building and contractor. He died when our subject was four years old. He married Miss Margaret Smith, who was born in Pennsylvania, and in 1832, after the death of her husband, she came to Ohio, locating in Scott township, where she bought ten acres of land, which her sons helped to clear. Those who see the present prosperous condition of the county can not fully realize the struggles and hardships endured by this noble pioneer woman in her efforts to make a home in the wilderness for her four small children. They were fifteen miles from mill, and hence they pounded their corn for the customary "Johnny cake" and "mush;" it was of frequent occurrence, when the mother had prepared a meal for her children, that some Indian squaw would come in and demand her share—a share sufficiently large to make it inconvenient for the hungry children. Wild animals carried off the poultry and stock, and the necessity of guarding their possessions early developed the instincts of the hunter in the son George. In spite of all the difficulties that beset the widowed mother, she succeeded in accomplishing her purpose, and, in the consciousness of a duty performed, passed to her final rest in the eighty-fourth year of her age.

**DANIEL FRALICK.** Prominent among the men who have carved out their own fortunes by honest toil and careful management, is the subject of this biography, a highly respected agriculturist of Montgomery.

He was born in Dauphin county, Penn., December 28, 1828, the son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Shupp) Fralick, and was brought to Ohio, during his childhood, by his parents. His father secured a tract of woodland near Bucyrus, where a brother resided, with whom he made a temporary home while constructing a log cabin upon his own property. He was a hard worker, but remained comparatively poor, owning at his death only a small farm. He lived to the age of eighty-eight years, but his wife died a number of years before him. They had eleven children, of whom five were boys.

Mr. Fralick, who was the third child and second son, from an early age was made useful upon the home farm, and did some work for others. The schools were distant, the roads bad, and at best the instruction was poor, and his chances for an education were limited. At twenty years he began working, on his own account, as a farm hand at fifty cents a day, and in a few years saved several hundred dollars. At twenty-six he was married in Crawford county to Miss Ann Newcomer, who was born in Delaware county, Ohio, about 1835, the daughter of Samuel and Polly (Houseworth) Newcomer, who both died during her childhood, leaving her to be reared by strangers. Mr. Fralick rented a small log house which he furnished very simply, and here the young couple began housekeeping, and for some years he lived upon rented farms in different parts of Crawford county.

In 1858 he came to Wood county and bought forty acres in Section 3, Montgomery township, near Bradner, upon which a few trees had been cut here and there, the cleared portion not being more than five acres in all. A log cabin stood upon the place, which, though small, had the unique charm of being the first home that he could call his own, and, when he could look over five acres of growing corn and two of wheat, he began to feel truly independent. His labor was rewarded with increasing prosperity, and he added small tracts of land until his farm now contains 120 acres—less the amount taken by the T. & O. C. R. R. for a right of way. His buildings and other improvements are excellent; but we regret to say that his success was not won without the impairment of Mr. Fralick's health by overwork. He is a steadfast believer in Democratic principles. Of five children, Edwin,



**DANIEL FRALICK.**



**MRS. ANN FRALICK.**



the youngest, is the only survivor; Calvin died at thirty years of age, Nelson at twenty-eight, and two daughters — Minerva and Mary — were called from earth in childhood.

**DANIEL PHILO**, a prominent agriculturist and stock raiser of Webster township, was born in 1827 in Luzerne county, Penn., where his father, Hurlbert Philo, was for many years engaged in agricultural pursuits. On reaching his majority Mr. Philo left home and worked as a laborer for three years. He then rented a farm of 200 acres in Erie county, Ohio, where he remained until April, 1858, when he came to Wood county and settled on a farm near Tontogany. He was married in Erie county, January 19, 1854, to Miss Caroline Marks, a native of England, born April 27, 1835, who came to America with her parents when she was seven years old. Of this union seven children were born: James Dell is a farmer; Mary is the wife of Isaac Emmett; William Albert, George, and Ward are prosperous farmers; William L. died September 22, 1859, aged one year and ten months; Sarah Jane, the second in the family, who became the wife of Job Walker, died September 12, 1888, aged twenty-seven years and one day.

In 1866 Mr. Philo removed with his family to Webster township, where he bought twenty acres of land, to which he has added by subsequent purchases until he now owns 200 acres, and ranks as one of the largest land owners in the township. His thrifty and energetic management have been well rewarded, and his farm is considered a model one. In 1895 he built a residence costing \$2,700. For the last twenty years, he has borne a heavy affliction, the gradual loss of his sight from cataract. He is interested in several business enterprises, and holds stock in the Dunbridge Elevator Company and the Lime City Mutual Fire Association.

Politically he is a Democrat, and the esteem in which he is held among his neighbors has given him much influence in local affairs. He has been school director for twelve years, and has also served as supervisor of his township. He and his family are leading members of the M. E. Church.

**JOHN ERVEN**, deceased. Among the enterprising agriculturists of Grand Rapids township, there were none who commanded in a greater measure the esteem and confidence of the community than did the late John Erven. His parents, Henry and Sarah (Ward) Erven, were

prominent residents of Noble county, Ohio, where he first saw the light, November 27, 1850. Henry Erven, the father, was killed in a railroad accident in 1862, leaving his wife with five children to support, of whom our subject, then a lad of twelve years was the eldest.

John Erven received a good education there, and for some years was engaged in teaching, and later in farming and stockraising. In 1875 he came to Wood county and purchased fifty-six acres of land, which he cleared and improved, digging ditches, planting an orchard, and erecting neat and substantial buildings. To this home he brought his bride, formerly Miss Lucretia McLain, to whom he was married in Jefferson county, November 6, 1878. She was born February 20, 1852, and was one of the eleven children of William McLain, a prominent agriculturist of Jefferson county, Ohio, and his wife Elizabeth (Clarke) McLain. Mr. McLain died April 12, 1878, and his wife survived him until August 3, 1887. After his marriage Mr. Erven added sixty-eight acres to his original purchase, making in all a fine farm, which is now under the judicious management of his widow, a lady of unusual executive ability.

Four children were born to their union: Orrin, December 4, 1879; Lottie, May 1, 1881; Lewis, December 18, 1884; and Bessie, November 11, 1886, all of whom are living. To his little family the death of the father on January 17, 1893, was an irreparable loss, and outside the home circle the cutting off of so strong and vital an influence for good, was felt wherever he was known. To use his mother's words, "John always was a good boy." In the Methodist Church, which he and his wife had joined in early years, he was an active worker, holding the office of steward, and doing faithful work in the Sunday-school, both as teacher and superintendent. In politics he was a Republican, and his generous assistance was given to every local movement, especially those which promised educational advancement, and he served as school director a number of years.

**ANDREW P. JAMESON**, a prominent agriculturist and teacher of Webster township, was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, July 2, 1831, of Irish parentage.

Rev. Ira Jameson, the father of our subject, an ordained minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, sometime in the early '30s settled on a large tract of land in Hancock county, and engaged in agriculture, at the same time continuing his ministerial labors among the settlers and Indians. Of the three sons of Ira, our subject is



the eldest; C. S., the second son, is an agriculturist still residing on the old homestead; and Ira M., the youngest in the family, is an ordained minister in the M. E. Church.

On September 25, 1861, Andrew P. Jameson enlisted in the Federal army, becoming a member of Company H, 57th O. V. I. He was appointed sergeant; but was disabled at the battle of Shiloh, and on October 28, 1862, at Corinth, Miss., he was discharged on surgeon's certificate of disability.

In 1863, our subject was married to Miss Mary A. Boltz, daughter of Jacob and Mary C. Boltz, of German descent, born in Lebanon county, Penn., January 9, 1836. Four sons graced the union of our subject and his wife: (1) Elmer was engaged in the agricultural-implement business for some years, but is now a farmer in Jackson township. In October, 1889, he was married to Fannie L. Egbert, of Vanlue, Ohio, and to them three children have been born—Mary, Ralph S. and Ira Deloy. (2) Milan, the second son, completed a course at the N. A. N. S., and then taught school for some years. Under Gov. Campbell's administration, he was appointed guard in the Ohio penitentiary; but since the change in the administration he has had charge of the old homestead near Dowling, where his mother resides with him. In 1895 he was elected assessor of his township. On December 29, 1892, he was married to Miss Althea Hanney, a daughter of John and Maretta Hanney, of Dowling. One child has been born to them, Jewell J., born January 30, 1895. (3) Curtis, more familiarly known as "Curt," is a practical machinist, having engaged in that work almost from boyhood. At present he is running a line of farm machinery on Jackson Prairie. He is still unmarried. (4) Deloy H., the youngest of this family of boys, was ordained a minister in the M. E. Church, and is now stationed at Kingston, Tenn. When only seventeen he began teaching in the public schools, and was elected superintendent of the schools at Gibsonburg, Ohio, before he was twenty-one, and he held this position until he entered the O. W. U., at Delaware, Ohio, to prepare himself for the work of the ministry. His health failing, he went to Tennessee, where he entered the U. S. Grant University; but while in his Sophomore year, his health failed him again, and he entered at once on the active work of the ministry. In 1894, he was married to Miss Kate Wetzel, who at that time was principal of the Grammar Department of the Perrysburg, Ohio, schools. They have one son; Raymond Deloy, born August 15, 1895. Rev. D.

H. Jameson is a member of the F. & A. M., I. O. O. F., and K. P. fraternities.

In 1870, Andrew P. Jameson, the subject of this sketch, moved, with his family, to Wood county, purchasing 128 acres of the northwestern corner of Webster township, principally forest land, which he cleared and improved. For a number of years he taught school in the county, but consumption having fastened upon him, he went to Santa Barbara, Cal., for his health; after which he returned to Wood county, but died January 18, 1876, shortly after his return. Socially, he was a member of the F. & A. M., and politically, he was a member of the Democrat party, as are all of his sons, but one.

MILTON ASHLEY, a well-known carpenter and manufacturer residing at Bradner, is one of the prosperous business men of that town, and his success in business is due no less to his skill as a mechanic than to the confidence which his integrity in his dealings has won in the community. Since he started in his chosen calling he has always found plenty to do wherever he might be, and there is no one who has employed him for whom he could not work again. He is of "Down East Yankee" stock on both sides, and was born March 30, 1830, in what is now Bennington township, Morrow Co., Ohio, then a part of Knox county.

William H. Ashley, his grandfather, came from New England with his family in 1818, descending the Ohio river to Portsmouth, and from there going up the Scioto to Morrow county. Our subject's father, William T. Ashley, was among the oldest children, and was the first son. He was married a few years after their arrival, to Miss Nancy Davis, a daughter of Samuel Davis, a New Englander by birth. Of the four children of this marriage our subject was the second, and is now probably the only survivor. Leroy, the first child, died at the age of four years; Harlas died in Cardington, Ohio, and Seaman, an expert jeweler, went to Washington State, and all trace of him has been lost. The father owned a small farm, and also followed the mason's trade. He died in 1845, and about five years later his widow married William Maley. She was a woman of fine executive ability and artistic tastes, and was engaged in the millinery business for many years. Her death occurred March 10, 1895, while she was in Bradner visiting her son.

Mr. Ashley's educational advantages were of the primitive order, the log school house of his district, with puncheon seats and floor, giving him his only opportunities. These were well-im-

proved, however, and there is no one more desirous of better facilities for the youth of to-day than our subject. At twenty he began to learn the carpenter's trade, serving two and one-half years at three dollars per month. In April, 1851, he was married in Sparta, Ohio, to his first wife, Ruth Rees, a daughter of Theophilus Rees, of Chester township, Morrow county. They began house-keeping at Sparta, where three children were born to them: Mary, now Mrs. John Sanderson, of Mt. Vernon, Ohio; William, who engaged in stove manufacturing and the tinware business at Newark, Ohio, but died at the age of twenty-eight; and Wallace, now a leading plumber and gas-fitter at Newark. For a number of years Mr. Ashley followed his trade at Sparta, but after the death of his wife, which occurred December 31, 1867, he worked at different places, and was employed to some extent in the manufacture of carriage bodies. On December 24, 1872, he contracted a second marriage, with Ellen Brown, who was born January 5, 1845, a daughter of Thomas and Rachel (Mills) Brown, and widow of John Stahl, of Company I, 72nd O. V. I. They have had two children: Allen B., a remarkably talented boy, possessing great mechanical skill, died at the age of ten years; and Dot, an accomplished musician, is now attending school at Valparaiso, Indiana.

In 1873 Mr. Ashley moved to Freeport, Ohio, and after about three years, established himself in Bradner, where he has since remained with the exception of three years in Mt. Vernon in a sash, door and planing mill. He is a man of excellent business ability, and aside from his trade he has carried on the manufacture of sucker rods, tanks and other contrivances in demand for various purposes. He owns fifty-five acres of valuable land adjoining Bradner, and his home is a most pleasant one from every point of view. He and his wife are prominent members of the Baptist Church, and take an interest in the various lines of work. Mr. Ashley has always been a Democrat, in principle, although not a strict partisan, and he belongs to the Masonic order, and the I. O. O. F.

JOHN RUSSELL, a prominent carriage dealer of Bloomdale, is a native of Bloom township, and a representative of one of our oldest and most highly esteemed pioneer families.

John Russell, his father, for many years known as Squire Russell, was born in Austintown, Mahoning county, August 23, 1814. He was married at Middlesex, Mercer Co., Penn., by Rev. William Nesby, to Miss Lois May, a

native of New Troy, Kingston township, Luzerne Co., Penn., born August 6, 1820. They lived in Mahoning county for about six years, Mr. Russell following the occupation of millwright. Two of their eleven children were born there: Caroline, who was born in Boardman township, June 11, 1840, and died January 23, 1850, at their later home in Wood county; and Benton, born on Mill creek, January 11, 1843, who enlisted in Company F, 49th O. V. I., and died of typhoid fever at Nashville before seeing any active service. His remains were brought home and buried in Bloom township. In October, 1843, our subject's parents came to Wood county by wagon, the father having previously bargained for eighty acres of land in Bloom township. His brother Jonathan had come two weeks before to prepare a shelter, and on their arrival they found a 20x20 cabin, minus floors, doors and windows; blankets supplied the places of the latter, and with true pioneer spirit they made the best of everything. The father had only \$20 left at the journey's end; but he began to work as he could at carpentering, and the mother made some money by tailoring. They went to mill at Fostoria, Tiffin or Perrysburg, their ox-team taking two days to make the trip. The timber on their land was heavy, and they had to hire help to assist in clearing, paying for it in farm produce. Nine children were born at their new home: Mary, October 20, 1844, who now resides in Bloomdale; John, February 17, 1847; our subject; Homer, September 24, 1849, a farmer of Cass township, Hancock county; Pierce, November 20, 1851, who met his death by accident, June 4, 1870, while shearing sheep; Frank, September 1, 1853, a resident of Jackson township, Hancock county; James, March 21, 1855, who died November 26, 1872; Lois, July 19, 1857, who died August 30, 1878; Adaline, March 17, 1860, now a resident of Youngstown; and Lorinda J., March 18, 1863, who died April 9, 1866. In spite of some misfortunes, including the entire loss of home by fire in 1868, Squire Russell managed to acquire a fine property, and owned at the time of his death 200 acres in good condition. He was a Democrat until the Dred Scott decision, when he became an ardent advocate of Republican principles. He was a man of sterling integrity, possessing the courage of his convictions, and was highly respected throughout the community. He was a justice of the peace for twenty-three years, and held that office during the stirring time attending the removal of the county seat. He died December 24, 1884, and his wife, who was a devout and

consistent member of the Disciples Church, greatly loved for her many good qualities, survived him but a few years, dying January 17, 1890. She had lived on the farm forty-five years.

The subject of this sketch found plenty of work to do in his early days upon the farm, but he availed himself of the advantages afforded by the schools of his day. At twenty-one he began working for wages on neighboring farms, and in 1870 he went to Kansas and followed the same occupation in Jefferson and Douglas counties. Later he pre-empted 160 acres, not then surveyed, in Howard county, now Chautauqua county. He remained two years, keeping "bachelor's hall" in a plank house, and in the fall of 1872 returned to Bloom township, with health permanently impaired by chills and fever. He remained at home until after his mother's death, working at the carpenter's trade, and in November, 1890, he and his sister Mary went to Bowling Green to reside. In September, 1892, they moved to Bloomdale. For some time Mr. Russell has been engaged in selling carriages, and in 1894 he built a repository to accommodate his rapidly extending trade. He is a stockholder in the Bloomdale Building & Loan Association, and by the success of his various enterprises he has won a high rank in business circles. In politics he is a Republican, and has taken an active share in local work, serving as township trustee and supervisor. He is a member of Lodge No. 406, I. O. O. F., at Bloomdale, and Green Encampment No. 210, at Bowling Green.

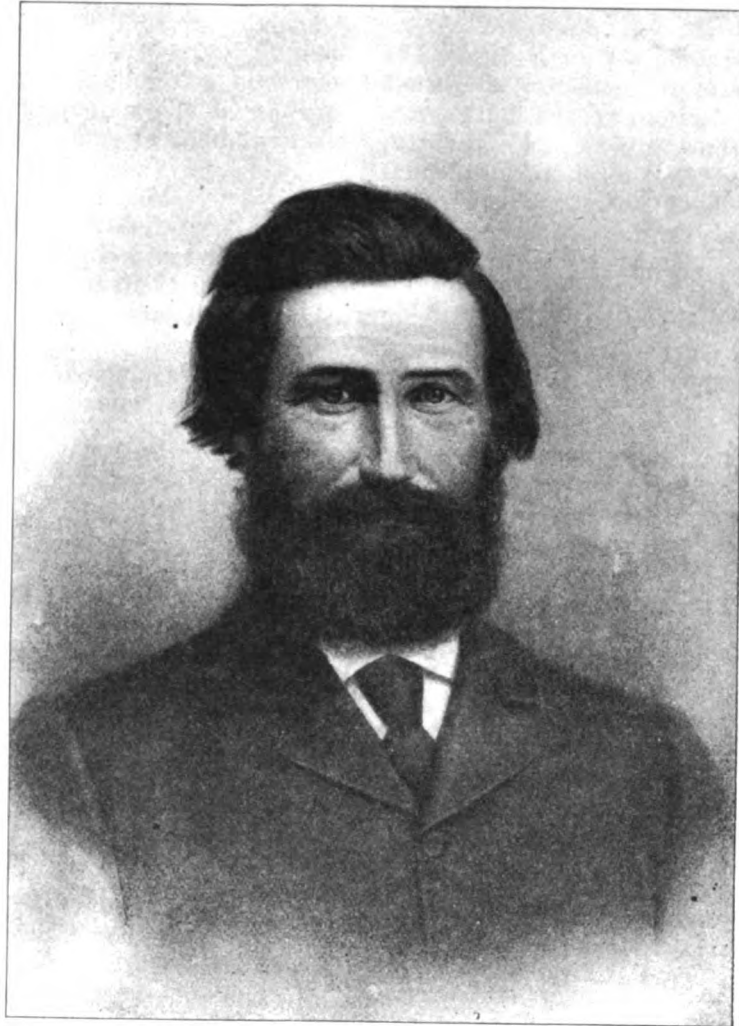
D. K. BROUGHER, one of Wood county's intelligent and progressive farmers, belongs to that class of representative citizens on whom the welfare of every nation depends. History usually deals with the lives of those who are prominent in political, military or literary circles; but it is the men who remain quietly at home, faithfully and honorably performing each day's duties to whom the stability of the country is due. Such a man is our subject.

Mr. Brougher was born October 18, 1828, in the village of Liberty, Randolph Co., N. C. His great-grandfather was the founder of the family in America. The grandfather, Adam Brougher, was a native of Pennsylvania, whence he emigrated to North Carolina. His son Frederick was born and reared in the latter State, and when a young man learned the trade of shoemaking, but on account of his health was obliged to abandon this, and turned his attention to the tanning business, which later he carried on in connection with farming. In Randolph county

he married Miss Nellie Staley, a native of that county. Her father's mother was a cousin of the royal family of Germany. Frederick Brougher, after some years, removed with his family to Florida; but as his wife did not like that country, he returned northward, and for a short time lived in Ohio. He then removed to Fort Wayne, Ind., where he left his family, and on horseback journeyed over that part of the country in search of a suitable location. Not finding what he wanted, he spent a short time at Ft. Wayne, Ind., and returned to southern Ohio, where he remained two years, then removed to Allen county, Ohio, thence to Putnam county, where he entered ninety-three acres of land in Greensburg township, being the third settler there. From Allen county he brought with him a hand-mill in which he used to grind corn, otherwise he would have been compelled to go forty miles to a water-mill. This old mill of his has been on exhibition at the Pioneer meetings of Putnam county, as a relic of pioneer days. His farm he increased from time to time until it comprised 493 acres, and to its cultivation he devoted his energies until his death, which occurred there June 13, 1875. His wife passed away in 1889.

This worthy couple were the parents of the following children: Brockmon, who died on the old homestead in Putnam county, in 1894; Jackson, who entered the army in 1861, and died in a hospital at Vicksburg; Hoadley, a farmer of Monroe township, Putnam county; Hogan, also of Putnam county; Staley, who enlisted in the army at the beginning of the war, served throughout the struggle, and is now following farming in Oklahoma; Bersheba, who became the wife of William R. Crow, and died in Putnam county; Mrs. Tennie Goris, of Montana, and Ann, widow of William Ault, of Putnam county.

Our subject was quite young when, with his parents, he left his native State. He accompanied them on their various removals until their final settlement in Putnam county, Ohio, where he was reared to manhood and acquired his education in the district schools. When about eighteen years of age he inherited eighty acres of land from his father, and to this he added eighty acres, for some time clearing and cultivating sixty acres. He then sold, and purchased 520 acres in Palmer township, Putnam county, of which he remained owner for a year. He then disposed of the property, and returned to the old homestead, buying out the interest of the other heirs. This he afterward sold, and in the spring of 1882 came to Wood county, where he purchased his present farm of 320 acres. He has



*H. H. Brougher*



tilled and fenced the place, erected thereon good barns, and has made other excellent improvements, until he now has one of the valuable and desirable places of the community. He is a man of energy and determination, one who carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes, and his industrious efforts have brought to him a handsome property. In politics he is independent, voting for the best man regardless of party. In religion he is a Free-thinker, regarding man's duty to man to be the only requisite.

WASHINGTON LINK, deceased, was born in Ingham county, Mich., on February 22, 1840. His parents, William and Sarah Link, were natives of New York, but their marriage was celebrated in Ingham county, Mich., where the father carried on blacksmithing in connection with the improvement and development of his farm. There he died in March, 1889, but his wife still makes her home in that county.

On attaining man's estate Washington Link was married in his native county, the lady of his choice being Elizabeth Guisfert, who was born in Seneca county, Ohio, and they became the parents of three children, namely: Mrs. Myrtle Mitchell, of Plain township, Wood county; Wellington, and William. In Ingham county, Mich., Mr. Link engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred in 1888, and his wife, who still survives him, now makes her home in Plain township, Wood Co., Ohio, where she has gained many warm friends. She is a lady of kind and generous impulses, was ever a devoted wife, and is a loving mother.

The early home of WILLIAM LINK was in Ingham county, Mich., where he first opened his eyes to the light of day in 1876. He was reared under the parental roof, and early became familiar with the duties of farm life. His education was obtained in the schools of his native county, and on coming to Wood county, in 1889, he located in Liberty township, but in 1895 removed to Plain. For two years after coming to the county he was engaged in the oil business, working on a salary, and is also employed now in the oil fields. He is one of the rising young business men of the county, and will, no doubt, make a success in life.

FREDERICK STROBLE, one of the thrifty and prosperous agriculturists of Perrysburg township, residing near Stony Ridge, was born March 7, 1831, in Wellenberg, Germany. He grew to manhood there, acquiring a fair education in the

public schools, and for a short time worked in a mill, but later determined to make farming his occupation. In 1859 he came to America in search of better opportunities than his native land afforded, and after thirty days on the ocean, in a sailing vessel, he landed in New York.

On coming to Ohio Mr. Stroble located first at Liverpool, Medina county, but soon moved to Columbia township, Lorain county, where he worked for five years. He was married there April 10, 1862, to Miss Anna Eckler, a native of that township, born January 8, 1844. Her parents, Henry and Ann Eckler, were both natives of Germany, where they were married, coming shortly afterward to this country and settling upon a farm in Erie county for some years, but finally making their home in Lorain county, where they died, the father at the age of eighty-six, the mother at the age of fifty-seven. They had seven children: Catherine, the wife of H. Hempy, of Cleveland; John, who died at the old home in 1893; Margaret, who married Louis Ganss, and died at Toledo; Anna, Mrs. Stroble; May, the wife of Julius Kinesy, a miller of Lorain county; Elizabeth, the wife of Edward Bickle, a farmer of the same county, and Emanuel, a teamster in Elyria.

A few years after his marriage Mr. Stroble moved with his family to Wood county, settling upon the farm of seventy-two acres upon which they have since resided. Politically he is a Democrat, but he is not an active worker in party affairs, giving his influence in quiet ways to the support of the men and measures he deems worthy. He and his wife are leading members of St. John's Church (Lutheran) at Stony Ridge, the ancestors of both for generations having been adherents of the Lutheran faith. They have two children--Frank L., born December 17, 1862, and Mary E., born October 21, 1878.

FRANK L. STROBLE is one of the sturdy, enterprising young men who promise to make the future of our county a worthy advance upon the achievements of the past. He was educated in the schools of his district, and of late has assumed much of the labor and responsibility of the farm. In politics he is a supporter of the Republican party, and he is a member of the Knights of Honor at Stony Ridge.

JAMES TELLER, a successful farmer, business man, and financier of Portage township, was born in Westchester county, N. Y., one mile below the Croton Dam, April 14, 1831, and is the son of Samuel and Bashaba (Underhill) Teller.

Solomon Teller, the paternal grandfather, was

born of German parents, who came to America at about the time of the Colonial settlement at New York. He and two of his sons were in the war of 1812. He was a hatter by trade, and accumulated considerable property. He was twice married, his first wife dying when Samuel, father of our subject, was eight years old. When he married again his second sons were bound out to various trades, Samuel going to work in a woolen factory, which was situated just above the old Quaker bridge, near the mouth of the Croton river. He was born October 25, 1797, and had no opportunity for schooling. He served his apprenticeship from the time he was nine years old until he reached his majority, when he rented the factory, operated it for a number of years, making cloth from the raw material. Samuel Teller was married January 4, 1825, to Miss Underhill, who was born October 11, 1806, in Westchester county, N. Y. She was the daughter of Benjamin Underhill, a farmer and a descendant of an old Colonial family. The following children comprised the family of Mr. and Mrs. Teller: Phoebe, born November 21, 1825, married and died in Huron county, Ohio; Charity, born April 22, 1829, was accidentally burned to death when twelve years old; James is our subject; George, born July 22, 1834, died in Greenwich township, Huron county; Benjamin, born February 22, 1836, died in Portage township; Robert, born November 24, 1840, died when young; Mary, born January 8, 1843, died at the age of nineteen years; Martha, born April 4, 1846, died young; Emily, born April 4, 1850, married Henry Cline, and died in Greenwich township.

About the year 1836 the family came to Ohio, via the Hudson river and Erie canal to Buffalo, and our subject remembers the details of the trip. They came by boat from Buffalo to Sandusky, thence by wagon to Greenwich township. The father had means; but rented some land instead of buying it, as it was a new business to him. Besides operating the farm, he worked two or three years in a woolen factory at Monroeville, Ohio. His first wife died in Greenwich township, Huron county, in 1860, and was buried in Ruggles township, Ashland county. Mr. Teller afterward married a Miss Foster, by whom he had no children. He died suddenly in Greenwich township, in 1876, and was buried by the side of his first wife. Both were Christians and strict observers of religious customs. In politics he was a Democrat, and a regular voter, but never sought office. He was robust and active up to the time of his death.

James Teller attended the district schools near his Ohio home, and worked upon his father's farm until he was twenty-one years old, occasionally doing some odd jobs for an outsider. In the fall of 1861 he left by wagon for Wood county, where, after looking around for a favorable locality, he bought 129 acres of land in Section 8, Portage township, which he paid for out of his own earnings. It was in its primitive condition of wilderness, and, while he was clearing a part of it, he boarded with some neighbors, until his marriage, July 22, 1862, in Perrysburg, with Miss Frances Casswell. She is a native of Jackson county, Mich., born October 29, 1840, a daughter of Asa Casswell, a blacksmith, and Lucinda (Lewis) Casswell, both of whom were born in New York. They had five children: Frances, our subject's wife; Jane and George, twins; Harriet, wife of Frank Stratten, of Portage village, and Isa. George was a member of Company C, 21st O. V. I., and died in Andersonville prison.

Mr. Teller's first house was built of round logs, hewed on the inside of the house, and was 18 x 26 feet in dimensions. It stood north of and adjoining the present home. Subsequently he bought forty acres in Section 4, also eighty acres in Section 5, and in 1880 built his present substantial residence. To our subject and his wife have been born children as follows: Emily, born December 14, 1863, now the widow of George Lembrick, of Portage; Nettie M., born December 10, 1865, unmarried J. F. Wollam, of Jerry City, Ohio; Charles J., born July 20, 1868, lives on a farm in Portage; Harriet L., born September 29, 1870, became Mrs. E. W. Fisher, of Portage village; Charity, born January 5, 1873, is at home; Anna, born September 16, 1875; Andrew, born September 8, 1878, is at home.

Mr. Teller is a Democrat, has served twelve consecutive terms as township trustee; has also served as director in District No. 3; and has refused other offices. In the spring of 1895, he had 320 acres of land, eighty of which he gave his son Charles. His farm is drained by 75,000 tiles, which, together with all the improvements of the place, has either been done by him personally or under his direction. He is a self-made man, possesses good common sense and excellent judgment, and is one of the successful farmers of the township. He has been a member of the Masonic Lodge No. 112, at Bowling Green, for over twenty years.

A. C. WALKER. The well-appointed farm of this gentleman is located in Section 11, Portage township, and to it he has given his close atten-

tiop with results which can hardly fail to be satisfactory to himself and where his labors have met with success. He is a native of Scotland, born in the vicinity of Aberdeen, January 16, 1854, and in the following fall was brought to America by his parents, James and Anna (Mitchell) Walker.

The father took his family to Ruggles township, Ashland Co., Ohio, where with his limited capital he purchased thirty acres of partially improved land. On that farm he passed his remaining days, dying in 1878, at the age of eighty-four years. His wife survived him until February 15, 1896. To them were born eight children, namely: George, of Bay City, Mich.; Anna, now Mrs. C. A. Neuman, of Ruggles township, Ashland county; William, of Fitchville township, Huron county; Robert and John, both of Ruggles township, Ashland county; Jennie, now Mrs. David Crowell, of Savannah, Ohio; A. C., of this review; Jeannette; and Isabel, wife of Oliver Carping, of Ruggles township, Ashland county. The father was a well-educated man, six feet tall and weighed about 185 pounds. He regularly supported the Republican party by his ballot, and was a faithful member of the Presbyterian Church, which he joined in Scotland.

Until reaching his majority, our subject remained a member of his father's household, aiding in the labors of the farm and attending the district schools of Ashland county; but at that time started out in life for himself, being employed at farm labor. On February 19, 1879, he was joined in wedlock with Miss Anna Emslie, who was born October 17, 1858, in Rochester township, Lorain Co., Ohio, whence her parents removed to Ruggles township, Ashland county, when she was but an infant. There she was educated in the district schools and later married. Three children grace this union: Clyde M., born May 26, 1882; Alice W., born November 3, 1885; and Lillian Lucile, born August 22, 1896.

On a rented farm in Ruggles township, our subject began housekeeping, and there resided until August, 1884, when he removed to his present farm of forty acres in Section 11, Portage township. He has made many substantial improvements upon the place, and thirty-four acres are now under a high state of cultivation. In the spring of 1891 he returned to Ashland county, but at the end of a year came again to his farm in Portage township, which he is now successfully conducting. He is public-spirited and progressive, giving his support to all worthy enterprises for the advancement of the community,

and socially is a member of Excelsior Lodge No. 223, K. O. T. M., at Prairie Depot. In religious belief both he and his wife are Methodists, and he is at present trustee of Bethel Church of Portage township. His political affiliations are with the Republican party.

GEORGE AND CLAYTON ROGERS, who, under the firm name of Rogers Brothers, conduct an extensive trade in drugs and kindred articles at Bowling Green, are natives of Wood county, educated in her schools, and trained here to business life. Thus identified from birth with the interests of this locality, they have early taken a prominent place among the young business men of the county seat. The elder brother George, was born in Portage, May 10, 1864, the younger, Clayton, in Bowling Green, June 18, 1868.

Their father, the late Charles Rogers, was for many years a leading druggist in Bowling Green. After attending the excellent public schools there, during boyhood, they worked in the store, to which they succeeded on the death of their father, on March 10, 1891. Under their energetic management the prestige of the firm is not likely to suffer.

George Rogers was married April 24, 1888, to Miss Addie Clayton, of Weston, and on June 14, 1893, Clayton Rogers was united in marriage with Miss Kittie Theal, who was born in Tiffin, Ohio, in 1868. Both brothers are Republicans in politics, and while the elder is a member of the K. of P., the other belongs to the fraternal order of Odd Fellows.

CHARLES R. GERDING, the efficient postmaster at Pemberville, and one of the most prominent citizens of that locality, was appointed July 1, 1893, by the Honorable Byron F. Ritchie, of Toledo, Ohio, under Grover Cleveland's administration.

His father, Yost Henry Gerding, was born in Vardendorf, Amt Witlaga, Hanover, near Osnabruck, Germany, in 1820. He married Anna Maria Harr, who was born in 1820, in Essen Amt Village, near Osnabruck, a sister of John, Fred, Lewis, Charles, and Eliza Harr, all of whom are married, the last named being now Mrs. John Avers, of Gibsonburg, Sandusky county. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Gerding were born the following named children: Charles R., our subject; Harmon, Henry, Mary, and Fred. In 1846, soon after their marriage, the young couple came to New York City. After acquiring a knowledge of the English language, during a period of six months, Mr. Gerding opened a grocery at the



corner of Division and Forsyth streets, in New York City, where he carried on a successful business for nine years. During the cholera epidemic in 1854 he was attacked by the disease, which left his lower limbs partially paralyzed, and after trying many remedies without avail he was advised to take an ocean voyage. He accordingly started for his native land with his wife and the four older children, and before he had been on the water three days, he began to regain the use of his limbs, and by the time the trip was over he had entirely recovered. He stayed at his birth-place for nine months, and as he was the legal heir to the family estate he almost decided to remain there. The home was, at the time, occupied by his stepfather, who was expecting to marry Mrs. Graver, of Hurbenfelt, Amt Witlaga, near Essen, Germany, and who strongly urged him to remain, or to rent the estate to Fred Harr, who is now a resident of Troy township. Mr. Gerding had left his business and household goods in charge of Mr. Swacker, residing on Forty-first and Ninth avenue, New York City, and thought it best to come back and dispose of everything before finally retiring to his ancestral property. But three days before his arrival in New York a fire swept away his possessions there, upon which he received no insurance. Mr. Clousing P. Betts, of Forty-fourth street, between Eighth and Ninth avenues, an old and valued friend, saved a few effects and stored them away for him, but otherwise the loss was complete. In 1856 Mr. Gerding opened another grocery in Brooklyn, in Green Point, corner of F and Franklin streets, still intending, however, to rent his estate, or return to it himself. But on July 3 he was taken suddenly ill, and died the next day at 4 P. M., at the age of thirty-seven years, three months and eighteen days. He was buried on July 7, in the Lutheran cemetery, near Williamsburg, Middle Village, Brooklyn. Mr. Gerding was a prominent man in his day, and for seven years was second lieutenant in the 5th Regiment, W. H. Jefferson Guards, and was honorably discharged in 1856, by Mayor Fernando Wood, of New York. His widow and children are still living.

Charles R. Gerding was born January 31, 1846, on Fifth avenue, between Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth streets, New York City. He left home six months after his father's death, and has made his own way in the world since that time. He clerked for C. H. Bulthaupt, corner of Amity and Sullivan streets, New York City, until the war broke out, when his employer sold out his business and went to the front with the regi-

ment of militia to which he belonged, having enlisted for three months at the first call to arms. Mr. Gerding then entered the employ of Capt. Henry Barlach, at the corner of Forty-seventh street and Seventh avenue, remaining there until the fall of 1861, when he came to Ohio, locating first in Washington township, Wood county, where an uncle, Charles Harr, resided. For four years he worked for Lewis Avers, as a carpenter and joiner, and then for Hiram Helgenick and A. W. Luckey, of Elmore, Ottawa county, for short periods, and, in 1868, he came to Pemberville, and worked for John Hathaway, Sr., until the spring of 1879. Here he met and married Miss Mary Herman, a native of the place, born May 1, 1847, one of the eight children of John Henry and Mary Herman, who were among the early settlers in Freedom township. They came to this country in 1844, locating on a farm northeast of Pemberville, where, by industry and thrift, they acquired a fine property. In his later years Mr. Herman invested his savings in a sawmill and flourmill, and failed. He died in 1872 at the age of sixty-five, and his wife followed him seven years later, aged seventy years. Mrs. Gerding has lived at Pemberville all her life. Her brother, John, now the only other surviving member of the family, is a prominent farmer there, owning 120 acres two miles southeast of the town.

The first year after his marriage, February 28, 1879, Mr. Gerding rented a farm on the Portage river, five miles below Elmore; but the summer of 1879 was an extremely wet season, and, of fourteen acres planted in corn, seven were completely drowned out, and four acres of oats, out of twenty, were also lost. He secured 350 bushels of corn from the other seven acres, and had some oats to sell, for which he received thirty-one cents per bushel. Discouraged with these results, he sold out to his brother, Harmon, and went back to Pemberville, where he joined his wife's brother, W. Herman, in a combined sawmill and shingle factory, which they conducted successfully for one year. He also clerked for eight years for William Keil & Co., hardware dealers.

In 1871 he built his present home on Water street, where five of his six children were born, the eldest, Anna, having been born at Elmore. The others are — John F., Alice, Amelia G., Carrie, and Carl, all of whom are at home. Mr. Gerding holds a prominent place in the community, and was one of the members of the first council of Pemberville, corporation mayor for one term, member of the school board for nine years, and township clerk for eight years. He

is a member of the Lutheran Church, having been confirmed in 1861 at Hessville, by Pastor Crowell, of Woodville. He belongs to the Masonic order, Blue Lodge No. 516, and Crystal Chapter, of Bowling Green.

**A. E. BENTON.** The New England branch of the Benton family has, at various times in our history, furnished men of brains and courage, both moral and physical, to meet the public questions and emergencies of their day. Such a memory is indeed a goodly heritage, and those of the name whose lives are spent in quieter and less-known paths of duty, may find there opportunities for the exercise of the same qualities, in a measure, which in other circumstances have made their ancestors distinguished.

Our subject was born in Berkshire county, Mass., October 30, 1823, the son of Allen and Deidamia (Allen) Benton—the former born November 18, 1801, died March 18, 1864; the latter born May 16, 1805, died February 26, 1857. When he was ten years old his father, a farmer by occupation, came to Ohio, locating in Litchfield township, Medina county, then a new section, and there both parents died. Of their five sons and three daughters, our subject was the second in order of birth. His schooling was so limited that he was eighteen or nineteen years old before he could write. The improved educational methods and appliances of to-day meet with his hearty approval in behalf of the rising generation. He was reared as a farmer boy in old pioneer style, and well knows what hard work is. Before he was ten he had received cuts and scars, which have handicapped him seriously all his life. In early manhood he worked at making axe handles, and still follows sledge-handle manufacturing to a considerable extent. At twenty-one he went to Cleveland and found employment on a lake vessel. At this time his strength was enormous, and on one occasion, while the ship lay at Mackinac Island, he lifted seven hundred pounds of iron—dead weight—he and a half-breed Indian being the only ones out of five hundred men who could lift it. He is now exceedingly well-preserved, considering his mishaps and laborious life.

Mr. Benton was married at the age of twenty-seven in Medina county, Ohio, to Miss Sarah Gunsaulis, a native of Pennsylvania, and daughter of Benjamin Gunsaulis. He took his bride to a farm of forty acres, which he owned in Litchfield township, in the same county, where they made their first home. Later he bought eighty acres in Scott township, Sandusky county,

slightly improved—a little log house sheltering them for some time, until he could build a finer residence. He lost one excellent barn by fire, but replaced it. The farm was in good shape when he moved in the spring of 1886, to Bradner, and he still owns it. Mrs. Benton died at the old home, and her remains were laid to rest in the cemetery at Bradner. Four children survived her: Mary, who married Cornelius Houtz, and died in Sandusky county; Reuben F., a plasterer by trade, who owns an extensive farm in Kent county, Mich., where he resides; Charles W., a noted educator, now a professor in Valparaiso, Ind., and Gilbert H., a resident of Cleveland, Ohio.

In December, 1885, Mr. Benton married, for his second wife, Mrs. Emma Stover, a native of Northampton county, Penn., and the widow of Cyrus Stover, an extensive flour merchant, of Stockton, N. J. Three children were born to their union: Warren P., who died in infancy; and Mary E. and Irvin S., both at home. His children have enjoyed fine educational advantages, and he has given them, as they left home, sufficient capital to begin life in a creditable way. He and Mrs. Benton belong to the M. E. Church, in which he is treasurer and a member of the board of trustees. Politically he is a strong Republican, but he has not been an office seeker.

**R. E. MILBOURN, D. D. S.** North Baltimore has a number of ambitious young men whose desire to succeed in the world, and make a name for themselves, is most creditable. Among these may be mentioned the subject of this sketch, Dr. R. E. Milbourn, whose birth took place in Bloom township, December 8, 1864. He is the son of Mandeville and Rebecca (Whitacre) Milbourn.

Both the Milbourn and Whitacre families are pioneers of Wood county, Reason Whitacre, our subject's grandfather, being one of the oldest residents in point of time.

Dr. Milbourn was married, September 12, 1895, to Miss Sylvia Wight, who was born January 19, 1863, in Lake township, Wood Co., Ohio. In politics he is a Republican. In religious connection he is a member of the Christian Church.

**LEVI SMITH WARNER,** who has been postmaster at Lime City for the past ten years, is an agriculturist of Perrysburg township, born in Sandusky county, Ohio, January 23, 1844. He is the son of Levi S. and Mary F. (Francisco) Warner. The father of our subject was born in

New York State, and came with his parents to Lake county, Ohio, when he was two years old. When he was a young man he had the contract for furnishing wooden rails for the Ohio R. R., one of the first in the State. At Fremont, then called Lower Sandusky, he married Mary F. Francisco, the daughter of Jacob Francisco, a native of New York State and a soldier in the war of 1812 (he was taken prisoner at the battle of Queenstown Heights, but was exchanged soon after; he died in Fremont, Ohio). Shortly after his marriage with Miss Francisco he removed to Lake county, and in the fall of 1849 came to Wood county, settling in Walbridge, Lake township, where his death occurred in 1854, from cholera. He was a Jacksonian Democrat. Seven children were born to this worthy couple, and grew to maturity: Zophar, Levi S., Byron J., Emerett, Harriet, Blanch, and Henry. Zophar served four years in the 14th, and Byron three years in the 67th, O. V. I., during the Rebellion. Emerett is deputy postmaster. Harriet was the wife of Samuel Perry, and died in 1887. Blanch is the wife of F. J. Shovar, who is a member of the city council of Toledo. Two years after her husband's death, Mrs. Warner married his brother Samuel, and two children were born of this union: Lillian, the wife of L. Philes, and Wilber, now deceased. Mrs. Warner was of French and Spanish descent, the name being originally Franseco. She was left a widow the second time, her husband dying in 1869, from a disease contracted in the army; she still survives, at the age of seventy-eight years.

L. S. Warner, our subject, grew to manhood in this State, acquiring his education in the district schools. On October 8, 1861, he enlisted in Company A, 14th O. V. I., at Toledo. His regiment was assigned to the army of the Cumberland, and they remained in Kentucky until about the time of the capture of Fort Donelson; from whence they were sent under Gen. Buell to Pittsburg Landing. At Nashville Mr. Warner was seized with typhoid fever, and when convalescent, was sent home, but as soon as he was able he rejoined his regiment. He was in the battle of Chickamauga, where he was wounded, and after the memorable battle of Missionary Ridge, veteranized December 8, 1863. He was with Sherman on the famous "March to the Sea," and was honorably discharged July 11, 1865, after serving throughout the entire war. After his return home he worked as a carpenter and joiner, which trade he picked up, being naturally inclined to architecture. He lived for some time in Lake township, where he bought a

half interest in a sawmill, which he afterward exchanged for vessel property; he then engaged as mate on the vessel "Maumee Valley," on which he sailed three years. After leaving the lakes he again took up the carpenter trade, and eleven years ago located in Lime City, where for a few years he conducted a country store, and attended to his farm of seventy-four acres.

On February 8, 1887, Mr. Warner was married to Miss Mellie E. Brownsberger, and to them have been born two children: Albert Levi, deceased at the age of one year, three months and fourteen days, and Milo Joseph. They now reside in a modern residence built by Mr. Warner in 1888. Socially Mr. Warner is a member of the Masonic order, and politically is a staunch Democrat.

R. PRESCOTT MORRISON, the well-known photographer of Bowling Green, is descended on both paternal and maternal lines from early settlers in this country. Since the establishment of our national government there has never been a time when the United States Army has not enrolled some member of the family. Mr. Morrison himself was named after Col. Prescott, a relative of his mother, and served during the Civil war, in Company H, 133d O. V. I., and was for four months in front of Petersburg, Va. His only brother, J. V. Morrison, died in 1867 of disease contracted in the army. Charles A. Varnum, a son of Gen. John Varnum, who was a brother of Mr. Morrison's mother, was a survivor of the ill-fated Custer expedition. He had charge of a detachment of Indian scouts, and was in advance of the troops at the time of the massacre. The Indians deserted him, but he escaped unharmed, and is now in command of the 7th Cavalry, U. S. Regulars.

Mr. Morrison's paternal grandfather was of Scotch-Irish descent, and a native of Lowell, Mass., where he was a machinist by occupation. He had three children—William, Henry, and Robert. The latter, our subject's father, was born in Keene, N. H., and became overseer of a factory in Lowell. He married Miss Charlotte Varnum, a native of that town, and a few years later went to California, where he met his death, in 1851.

Our subject was born in Granville, Ohio, March 16, 1848, and received his early education in the public schools there, and in the Business College at Columbus. His mother was married, in 1855, to Col. D. M. Baker, of Granville, and had one daughter, Jessie M., now Mrs. Wallace M. Smith, of Bowling Green. Mrs. Morrison

died in Granville, at the age of sixty-seven, an early age for one of her hardy and long-lived race. Her mother, who died at ninety-five, had nineteen children, and her five sisters all lived beyond the age of ninety. Mr. Morrison learned photography in Columbus, and for two years was engaged in that business in Fostoria; but in 1879 he established his present well-equipped gallery in Bowling Green, where he has since resided.

In 1871 Mr. Morrison married Miss Linnie Ball, who was born in Millersport, Fairfield Co., Ohio, February 21, 1849. She is descended from one of the wealthiest and most honored families of that locality. Mr. Morrison is a man of fine physique, and is noted for his artistic tastes and accomplishments. In his professional work he ranks among the leaders, while he also finds time to take a prominent part in local affairs. In politics he is a Democrat, and he is a member of the G. A. R., the F. & A. M., the K. of P., and of the order of Maccabees.

CHARLES W. BENSCHOTER, a leading agriculturist of Grand Rapids, was born in Erie county, Ohio, April 7, 1846, a son of Samuel Wetherlow and Nancy A. (Bassett) Benschoter. His father, Samuel W. Benschoter, was born March 27, 1811, a son of Jeremiah Benschoter, who moved from New York State, about 1800, and settled in Erie county, Ohio. He was married in 1838 to Nancy A. Bassett, who was born March 4, 1821, the daughter of A. Biron Bassett, who also came from the Empire State to Erie county about 1800. To this honored couple were born the following children: W. A.; J. S.; C. W. (our subject); J. W.; C. E.; L. M.; and Mrs. E. E. Black, all of whom are proving worthy representatives of the family name in this generation.

Charles W. Benschoter finished his education at the excellent high school in Grand Rapids, in 1871, and in early manhood began to clear up and improve a farm of forty acres, a gift from his father. After improving this he bought forty acres more, the whole being conducted in a model manner. He has a fine barn and a handsome brick dwelling house. For twelve years he was engaged in dealing in horses and other live stock, but his attention is now given to general farming. He was married in 1874 to Miss Frances Jones, daughter of William Jones, a well-known resident of Center township. Four children were born of this union: Ada, who finished her education at Grand Rapids; Howard, also at Grand Rapids; Joseph Guy, and Lewis J., all of whom reside with their parents.

Our subject and his wife are actively interested in temperance and other reforms, Mr. Benschoter voting the Prohibition ticket. He belongs to the F. & A. M., Grand Rapids Lodge No. 289, and ranks as a Master Mason.

L. RHOAD, one of the most successful and enterprising agriculturists of Bloom township, was born July 29, 1857, in Crawford county, Ohio, to John and Catherine (Strong) Rhoad.

The father's birth occurred in Cumberland county, Penn., February 5, 1816, and at Republic, Seneca Co., Ohio, he wedded Miss Strong, who was born August 2, 1833. He was a son of Frederick and Elizabeth Rhoad. For many years he made his home in Seneca county, but in the spring of 1861 he brought his family to Bloom township, locating on eighty acres of land known as the Slater farm, for which he went in debt. The improvements upon the place were not extensive, but included a small story-and-a-half house, and in the orchard was one row of trees. There the mother of our subject died July 21, 1865, and she was buried in Van Buren cemetery, Hancock county. To them had been born the following children: Sylvester, born August 6, 1852, who died January 4, 1853; William, born October 27, 1853, who is now a farmer of Hoytville, Ohio; our subject; Lucinda, July 4, 1860, who died of spotted fever March 27, 1866; and John W., born March 24, 1864, died of the same dread disease March 23, 1866. The father was absent in Michigan at the time his children took the spotted fever, and arrived home just in time to see them alive. He was later attacked by the same disease; but his strong constitution saved him, though after any illness large spots would appear on his body. Five years after the death of his first wife Mr. Rhoad married Catherine Shireman, who was born May 4, 1837, and they had one daughter, Margaret A., born June 14, 1874, who is now the wife of William Brandeberry, of Bloom township. Mr. Rhoad passed away February 23, 1894, and Mrs. Rhoad died October 30, 1884. They were also interred in the cemetery at Van Buren. In connection with his farming operations, Mr. Rhoad also ran a threshing machine for twenty seasons. He was exceedingly neat both in his agricultural pursuits and dress, was fond of good horses, always keeping a spirited team, and was a model farmer in every respect. He was a member of the United Brethren Church, and his political support was given to the Democratic party.

Mr. Rhoad, of this review, was only four years old when brought to Wood county, where he ob-

tained his education, and as his own mother died when he was quite young, he found a loving substitute in his father's second wife, a kind-hearted, agreeable lady, to whom he became much attached. He was married at Eagleville, October 23, 1879, the lady of his choice being Miss Emma O. Crozier, who was born in Cass township, Hancock county, September 1, 1862, the second daughter of Thomas and Mary (Campbell) Crozier, prominent farming people. To them have been born seven children—Charles W., Ellis C., John L., Howard, Lewis, Ethel and Leila, all at home with the exception of Howard, who died at the age of four years.

After his marriage Mr. Rhoad rented the old home farm for a couple of years, his entire possessions at the time comprising a light team, buggy and harness, and the first plow he owned was given him by his father. In the spring of 1882 he purchased thirty-eight and a half acres in Section 33, Bloom township, for which he went in debt \$700, and there made his home for four years. In July, 1885, he sold the land, and the following month bought eighty acres in Section 32, of the same township, going in debt \$2,700; but he went earnestly to work, and each year the amount became less. In May, 1893, he added another eighty acres, so that he now has an excellent farm of 160 acres. In October, 1889, he suffered quite a loss, as his house and its contents were burned; but he erected a more comfortable dwelling, which he has surrounded by good and substantial outbuildings, and the neat appearance of the place indicates the thrift and enterprise of the owner. He deserves much credit for the success he has attained, and deserves to be classed among the most active and energetic farmers and business men of the locality. His political affiliations are with the Republican party, in the success of which he takes a lively interest.

JONAS HANLINE, a gentleman of genuine worth, a valued and enterprising citizen of Liberty township, claims Pennsylvania as the State of his nativity, his birth having occurred in Morrison's Cove, Huntingdon county, December 10, 1825. His parents were Michael and Hannah (Owerant) Hanline.

During his early boyhood the father came from Germany, with his parents, to the United States, and settled on a farm in Huntingdon county, Penn., where his father's death occurred about 1825. Michael Hanline was married in that county, and after living for many years on a farm there, removed to Stark county, Ohio, where he operated a tract of rented land until

coming to Wood county, in September, 1836. He located at Freeport, and for five years carried on a hotel there. Subsequently he removed to Genoa, where he died soon afterward, his wife surviving him many years. They were the parents of nine children: John, of Wauseon; Samuel, of Napoleon, Ohio; David, who died in Findlay, Ohio, many years ago; Eliza, wife of Charles Beyers, of Toledo, Ohio; Jonas, of this sketch; Catherine, wife of John Shoffstall; Mrs. Louise Chamberlin, who died in Bradner, Wood county; Harriet, deceased wife of William Gregg, of Sandusky county, Ohio; and Joshua, who resides in Bradner, Wood county.

Our subject acquired the greater part of his education in Freeport, Ohio, and attended school until eighteen years of age, when he worked at anything that he could find to do in order to earn an honest living. When a young man he learned the trade of carpenter and joiner. In Liberty township, in 1849, he was married to Fidelia Norton, who was born in Sherburne, Chenango Co., N. Y., December 13, 1827. They located in Liberty township, and Mr. Hanline worked as a farm hand, until purchasing an acre and a half of land in Section 4. There he built a log cabin which later was destroyed by fire, and was then replaced by a comfortable home. He afterward added five acres of land to his original purchase, and has now upon his place two good oil wells, which yield on an average 640 barrels per month, thus furnishing him with a good income. His life has been one of industry and earnest labor. In his business career, he has met with reverses; but steady application and diligence have now brought to him a comfortable competence.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Hanline are: Julia, born December 8, 1854, became the wife of Nelson Emmons, of Kansas, where she died April 18, 1882; Mary Eliza, born July 1, 1857, is the wife of Charles Ferris, of Liberty; and Jessie, born July 8, 1862, was burned to death in the fire which destroyed their home. In her sad death the loss to the family has been an irreparable one. Mr. Hanline takes quite an active interest in politics, and by his ballot supports the Republican party.

W. H. RIDGELY. The life of this gentleman, a resident of Bloom township, is a striking example of perseverance and industry. He is a native of Maryland, born in Anne Arundel county, November 3, 1827, and is a son of Elijah and Mary (Higgins) Ridgely, who came to Ohio in November, 1829, locating in Seneca county, on Honey creek. The father there secured eighty



*Jonas Hamline*



*Fidelia Hamline*



acres of land from the government, and at the time of his settlement wild game of all kinds was plentiful, and his nearest neighbor on the east was six miles distant. The first home was a log house 18 x 22 feet, and upon that farm the parents both died, the father at the age of fifty-seven years, and the mother when sixty-six. They were buried at the old stone church on Honey creek.

Our subject is the third in order of birth in the family of six children, three sons and three daughters, and in the district school, three-quarters of a mile from his home, he received his education. As a partner on life's journey he secured Miss Mary A. Mohr, a native of Lehigh county, Penn., born July 28, 1837, and a daughter of Charles Mohr, their wedding being celebrated at Tiffin, Ohio, October 5, 1859. They became the parents of the following children: Arthur C., who died at the age of twenty-six years; Mary I., now Mrs. F. J. Pelton, of La Grange county, Ind.; George M., a farmer of Bloom township; J. W., of New York State; Ellen, wife of John Monasmith, of Bloom township; and Emma, wife of Rev. John Stove, of Canada, a minister of the Disciples Church. The mother, who was a consistent member of the German Reformed Church, died November 7, 1872, and was laid to rest in Bloom Chapel cemetery.

After the death of his father our subject and his eldest brother, Charles A., took charge of the home farm comprising 175 acres, which they operated in partnership for nine years, during which time they purchased 120 acres in Bloom township, Seneca county. In April, 1861, Mr. Ridgely removed to that place, where a hewed-log house had been constructed, and a part of the land cleared, but in January, 1867, he removed to Eagleville, where, in connection with Henry Mohr, he carried on wagon making, which trade he had picked up at different times. For two years he followed that business, during which time he sold his farm, and in 1872 he erected the first gristmill in Eagleville, which he operated for eleven years. Being unfortunate in his financial affairs, in February, 1882, he bought eighty acres of wild land in Section 13, Bloom township, and at the age of fifty-five began life anew. He continued to reside in Eagleville, however, until November, 1888, as at the time of his purchase the land was covered with a heavy growth of timber, and not a building stood upon it. It is now well improved and equipped with an excellent class of farm buildings. From the time of casting his first vote up to 1880, Mr. Ridgely supported the Democratic party; but he

now affiliates with the Peoples party, in whose principles he firmly believes. He occupies an honorable position in society, enjoying to the fullest extent the confidence and respect of all with whom he is associated, and is widely and favorably known in business circles as an upright, incorruptible man, whose word is as good as his bond.

WILLIAM H. STROCK is spoken of by his neighbors as an excellent farmer and a good citizen, and such a tribute from those who know him best is certainly an enviable one. His life record is as follows: Born October 12, 1837, in Mahoning county, Ohio, he is the son of Abraham Strock, who was born in eastern Pennsylvania, April 7, 1813. The grandfather, Henry Strock, was one of the earliest settlers of Mahoning county, Ohio, and there spent his remaining days. With the exception of one daughter, his five sons and five daughters all reached adult age.

Abraham Strock was married in Mahoning county to Sophia Whetzel, who was born in eastern Pennsylvania. They became the parents of the following named children: Sarah A., wife of Daniel Blatt, of Mahoning county; William H.; Eliza, wife of Henry Shaffer, now deceased; Benjamin F., who died in infancy; Caroline, wife of Andrew Shefenstine, of Mahoning county; Lucy, wife of J. P. Hill, of Canton, Ohio; and George W., of Niles, Ohio. The father of this family followed carpentering, and was quite successful. In politics he was a Whig and Republican, and with his wife held membership with the Lutheran Church. He died at the age of seventy-seven years, his wife at the age of seventy-one, and their remains were interred in Smith cemetery, in Mahoning county.

Mr. Strock, the subject proper of this sketch, is indebted to the district schools for his education, which, however, was limited to a few months attendance during the winter season until he was twenty years of age, when he spent a term and a half in Hiram College, Ohio, of which James A. Garfield was then principal. He then began learning carpentering with his father, which he followed for about eight years. On September 21, 1865, Mr. Strock was married in Jackson township, Mahoning county, to Drusilla Duer, who was born in that township, July 23, 1844, a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Eckenrode) Duer, the former a native of Ohio, and the latter of Pennsylvania. They had nine children, of whom Mrs. Strock was the fifth. Previous to his marriage Mr. Strock had purchased 160 acres of land in Bloom township, and in July, 1866, he removed



with his wife to that farm. The purchase price of the property was \$1,900, and he paid for it as he could, until it was cleared from all indebtedness. It was heavily timbered, and he transformed it into a highly cultivated tract, also erecting all of the buildings upon the place. During the first few years of his residence here he worked at the carpenter's trade, for his farm in its unimproved condition did not yield him a livelihood. As the result of his labors, however, it is now a very productive place, and he derives therefrom a good income.

Mr. and Mrs. Strock have two daughters—Leona, wife of J. M. Baird; and Mary S., wife of Charles Brubaker. Mr. Strock has given his daughters eighty acres of his land, retaining eighty acres for himself and wife. This estimable couple are members of the Church of God, of Bloom Center, of which he is serving as trustee. In politics he is a Republican, and for fourteen years has served as treasurer of Bloom township. His life has been well and worthily passed, and he has the sincere regard of many friends.

JAMES P. KRAMER, the senior member of the firm of Kramer & Chaney, leading hardware merchants in Bowling Green, was born April 14, 1846, in Franklin county, Ohio.

David Kramer, his father, who was born in Pennsylvania, in 1805, of an old and highly-respected Dutch family, settled in early manhood upon a farm in Franklin county, Ohio. He was married there to Miss Elizabeth Moore, who was born of New England parents in 1809. They were consistent members of the U. B. Church in Canal Winchester, Ohio, for many years, the father dying in February, 1859, the mother in June, 1890. Of their twelve children, seven lived to maturity: Eliza, who married the late J. B. King, of Dayton, Ohio, and now lives in Columbus; Mary, deceased, formerly the wife of John Gehm; Ellen, the wife of George Powell, of Canal Winchester; Levi, a hardware merchant at the same town; Benton, a resident of Young county, Texas; J. P., our subject; and David, now in Colorado.

Mr. Kramer attended the common schools of Franklin county during boyhood, and, after working for a year on a railroad, he continued his studies in Dayton and Westerville, Ohio. He prepared himself for teaching, and in 1868 went to Iowa hoping to find an opening in that profession, but that locality was not then sufficiently developed to provide profitable employment in that line, so he learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed in Marshall county, Iowa, for three

years. Returning to his old home, he continued the same business for thirteen years, and then opened a hardware store in Canal Winchester. He sold this in 1887, and removed to Bowling Green, where he and his partner, Mr. Chaney, bought out the stock of Lynch Bros., to which they have added until they now have one of the best hardware stores in Wood county.

Mr. Kramer married Miss Marilla Waters, of Columbus, Ohio, and has one child, Mildred, the wife of Elmer Spafford, the well-known civil engineer, of Bowling Green. In politics our subject adheres to the faith of his father, and is a member of the Democratic party.

JOHN C. WEBB, one of the oldest settlers of Wood county, where he arrived in 1822, when Bowling Green was unknown, has seen the complete growth and development of that region. The land was then covered with a dense forest, and much of it was under water for a portion of the year; the wild game of all kinds, which was very plentiful, furnished many a meal for the early pioneers. His boyhood and youth were passed amidst such surroundings, so that he early became inured to the arduous task of clearing and cultivating wild land. On the 26th of November, 1822, he was brought to Wood county, and it was in 1857 that he located in Troy township, where he owns a good farm on Road Tract No. 62.

Mr. Webb was born September 2, 1822, in Canton, Stark Co., Ohio, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Charles) Webb. The father's birth occurred in New York, August 27, 1795, and on attaining manhood went to Mifflinburg, Union Co., Penn., where he married Miss Charles, who was born in that State in 1794. Immediately afterward they came on horseback over the mountains to Stark county, Ohio, arriving there in March, 1820. By trade Mr. Webb was a hatter, and carried on a shop in Canton until coming to Wood county, in November, 1822. At Perrysburg he continued the manufacture of hats for about two years, when he was appointed county clerk, which office he capably filled for thirty years. He was also sheriff for three terms, and at one time held the position of internal revenue collector.

The mother of our subject died at Perrysburg, December 17, 1833. In her family were seven children, namely: Susanna, deceased; John C.; Rebecca, Catherine and Sarah, all three deceased; Thomas, who enlisted in 1861, becoming a member of the Commissary Department, and now makes his home in Dayton, Ohio; and Henry, who died at the age of fifteen years. In Perrys-

burg, the father again married in July, 1834, his second union being with Mary Dean, who died February 14, 1849, leaving four children, three of whom are still living—Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Marshall, of Canada; Mrs. Sarah Ann Smith, of Columbiaville, Mich.; Corwin, of Perrysburg; and Clayton, deceased. Corwin enlisted in an Indiana regiment during the Civil war, and lost an arm at the battle of Pea Ridge, Ark. For his third wife Mr. Webb married Mary A. Jones, of Perrysburg, February 23, 1851, and she still makes her home in that city. By this union three children were born—Ellen Dustin, of Perrysburg; Mrs. Eliza H. Taylor, of Conway, Ky., and Lewis, of Maumee, Ohio. The father was widely known throughout northwestern Ohio, and took an active part in political matters in Wood county, being a leader of the Whig party in this community at an early day. He continued to make his home in Perrysburg until his death on the 27th of August, 1885.

Our subject was educated in the schools of Perrysburg, and there learned the trade of a tanner and currier, after which he traveled about, working at that occupation until he located upon his present farm. On January 16, 1861, in Perrysburg township, he led to the marriage altar Miss Eliza Polly Jones, a native of New York, and a daughter of Daniel S. and Polly Jones, who were also born in that State, where the father died in 1832. His widow, in 1856, removed to Wood county, where she passed away in 1870. To our subject and his wife have been born three children: John Charles, who is married and resides in Troy township; Florence Savanna, a graduate of the Michigan State Normal, and a teacher for several years in Michigan; and Lyra Claribel.

In Troy township, February 11, 1864, Mr. Webb enlisted in Company C, 21st O. V. I., for three years' service or until the close of the war, and was mustered into the United States service at Columbus, Ohio, being assigned to the army of the Tennessee. He participated in the engagements at Goldsboro and Resaca, and was in all the battles under General Sherman during his March to the Sea. He took part in the Carolina campaign, and was in the Grand Review at Washington, D. C. At Louisville, Ky., he was honorably discharged July 25, 1865, and returned to his home in Troy township with an untarnished war record, having always been found at the post of duty. Since the organization of the Republican party, he has supported its banner, being previously was a Whig, and though never an office seeker, has served as a member of the school

board. He belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic, being a member of Benedict Post, No. 26, at Pemberville, Wood county.

ALFRED SIMON is a prominent representative of the family of that name in Wood county, and is one of Bloom township's progressive farmer citizens. He was born in Jackson township, Mahoning Co., Ohio, January 8, 1837, and is a son of Reinhart and Maria (Brougher) Simon. His paternal grandfather, Adam Simon, was one of the six sons born to the first marriage of Michael Simon, the founder of the family in the Buckeye State.

The father of our subject was born in Boardman township, Mahoning county, January 13, 1811, and on November 13, 1834, he wedded Miss Brougher, also a native of Mahoning county, born May 28, 1817, daughter of Daniel Brougher. Five children blessed this union—Lorinda, born October 8, 1835, is the widow of James Hamilton, of Bloomdale; Alfred is next in order of birth; Daniel, born December 18, 1838, enlisted August 15, 1861, in Company H, 49th O. V. I., and died at Nashville, September 5, 1862; Rebecca, born in September, 1840, is the wife of Rev. J. Whistler, a Methodist Episcopal minister of Denver, Colo.; and Lucy Ann, born June 13, 1843, died September 19, 1855. In September, 1854, Reinhart Simon brought his family and household goods in two covered wagons to Wood county, driving the entire distance. He bought 160 acres of land in Section 15, Bloom township, and made his temporary home with his brother Cornelius. He was at first forced to buy supplies, as there was not land enough cleared to raise crops sufficient for the family's use; but he soon converted the place into an arable tract, and his first crop of corn from fifteen acres amounted to 1,500 bushels in the ear. From that time prosperity attended his efforts, the greatest trouble experienced by the family being sickness from fever and ague. Mr. Simon reached the ripe old age of seventy-three years, while his wife passed away at the age of sixty-four, and they were laid to rest in Bloom Chapel cemetery. They were active workers in the Lutheran church, and in politics he was formerly a Whig, and on its organization joined the Republican party; for six years he served as treasurer of Bloom township.

During his boyhood Alfred Simon attended the subscription schools, but the greater part of his education has been obtained since leaving school, being acquired through reading and observation. He was seventeen years of age at the

time the family came to Wood county, and remained upon the home farm until his marriage, with the exception of one summer, when he worked by the month. About 1858, he bought an eighty-acre tract of school land in Section 16, securing the same from his father, to whom he paid interest until the land became productive, when he paid off the principle. His land lay just across the road from the old homestead, where he often worked during the day, while he cleared and improved his own place in the evening. He believes in using the latest methods and machinery in his agricultural pursuits, and now has seventy-eight and three-quarters acres of the best developed land in Bloom township.

At Portage, Wood county, Mr. Simon was united in marriage, October 20, 1859, with Silvana Milliron, who was born in Westmoreland county, Penn., in 1841, a daughter of Jacob Milliron. Five children were born of this union—Olive, wife of Robert Wiers, of Liberty township, Wood county; Emma I, wife of J. Repass, of Bowling Green, Ohio; Laura E., wife of George Vick, a machinist of Detroit, Mich.; William G., of Toledo, Ohio; and Carrie M., wife of Sanford Lea, of Liberty township. The mother, who was a faithful member of the United Brethern Church, died December 13, 1872, and was buried in Bloom Chapel Cemetery. On July 18, 1876, in Perry township, Mr. Simon was again married, his second union being with Harriet M. Baily, who was born June 6, 1844, and is a daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Simon) Bailey. They have become the parents of one son—Myron O., born August 20, 1881.

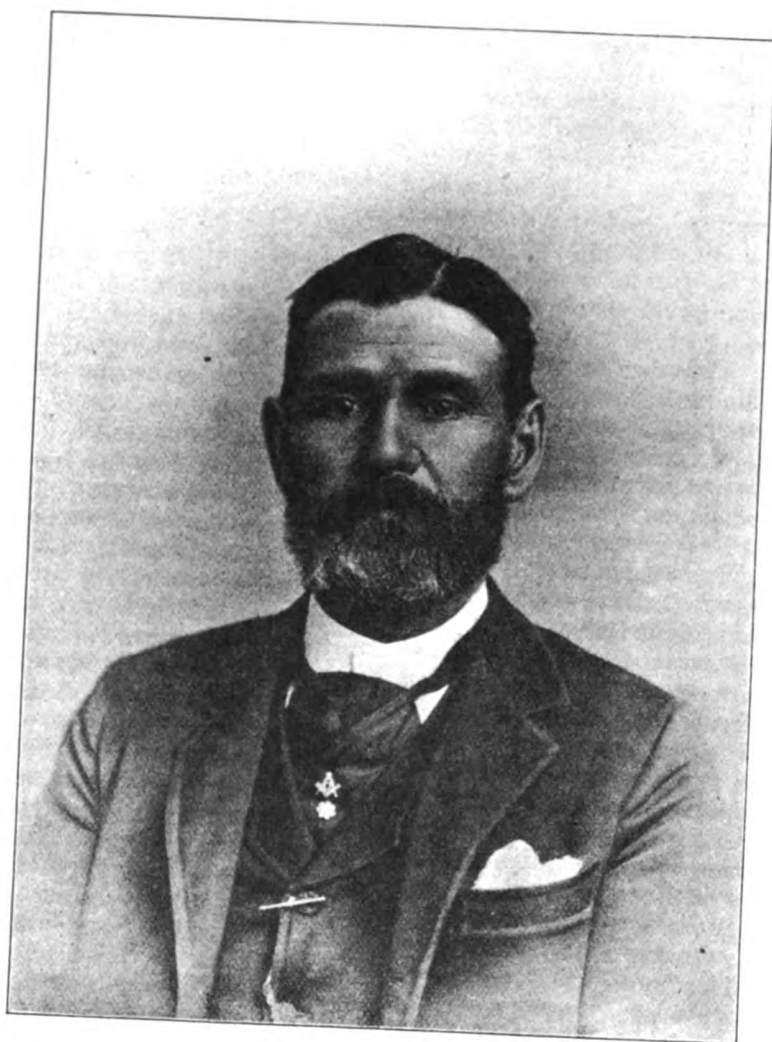
During the Civil war Mr. Simon became a member of the Ohio National Guards, and enlisted in the United States service in May, 1864, as a member of Company E, 144th O. V. I. He did guard duty at Wilmington, Del., and at the end of his one-hundred-days' service was honorably discharged and returned home. His support has always been given to the Republican party, and he served for two years as trustee of his township, but has never been an office seeker, having steadily refused political honors. He and his estimable wife enjoy the friendship and society of the best people of the community, and are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, belonging to the Bloom Chapel congregation.

GEORGE KLINE, a public-spirited and progressive citizen of Wood county, was born November 12, 1830, in Dauphin county, Penn., and is a son of Jacob Kline, who was born in Ger-

many, in 1779, and during his boyhood came to America with his parents, the family locating in Dauphin county, Penn. He there learned and followed the gunsmith's trade, in connection with the grandfather, for a number of years. When a young man he went to Pittsburg, Penn., where he married Miss Elizabeth Rheinhardt, subsequently returning to Dauphin county. Several years later he removed to Cumberland county, Penn., whence he and his wife afterward came on a visit to our subject, in Wood county, where they spent two years. Their last days were passed at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Maria Hess, of Harrisburg, Penn. The members of the family were: Maria, deceased wife of William Hess, of Harrisburg; Mrs. Elizabeth Shirk, of Pennsylvania; Mrs. Catherine Heck, of Pittsburg, Penn., now deceased; Annie, widow of William King, of Pittsburg; Margaret, who died in childhood; John, who died in Andersonville prison; Albert, who died during the war, at Knoxville, Tenn.; Henry, who died in Andersonville prison; George, subject of this sketch; Jacob, a gunsmith, of McComb, Ohio; and two who died in infancy.

The educational privileges which our subject received were very meager. When he was a child of six years his father bound him out to a tailor to serve a six-years' apprenticeship. He then followed the business for fifteen consecutive years, in Pottsville, Chambersburg, and Newburg, Penn., and afterward worked at his trade in Crawford county, Ohio, and also in Leesville, this State. While in Crawford county he, in 1852, married Miss Elizabeth Campbell. Soon after he abandoned his trade, and began the cultivation of an eighty-acre farm in Jackson township, which was given him by his father-in-law. He located thereon in 1858, erected a rude log cabin, and in course of time the wild land was converted into rich fields of waving grain. His farm labors, however, were interrupted by his service in the army, for in 1865 he enlisted, at Leipsic, Ohio, in Company D, 192nd O. V. I., in which he served until the close of the war. After his return home he gave his entire attention to farming for some years. In 1884, however, he sold that property and purchased twenty acres of land in Hoytville, erecting thereon a comfortable dwelling, in which he is now living retired, enjoying the comfortable competence which his own energy brought him.

On December 17, 1891, Mr. Kline was called upon to mourn the death of his first wife. On September 7, 1892, he married Annie Deremer, who was born July 2, 1858, in Lonaconing, Alleghany Co., Md.; she was educated in Sunbury,



*George Kline*



Delaware Co., Ohio, from the high school of which place she was graduated in 1874. She has also made a study of music, and plays the organ to the entertainment of her many friends. In politics Mr. Kline was formerly a Democrat, but he is now a stalwart Republican. For one year he served as marshal, but he has never been a politician in the sense of office-seeking. He holds membership with the Christian Church, and his life is one well worthy of emulation in many respects. Mrs. Kline is a Roman Catholic in Church connection, having been baptized in that faith April 9, 1877.

JAMES M. BRONSON, son of Stephen Bronson, of Vermont, and one of the pioneers of Bloom township, was born in Onondaga county, N. Y., in 1809. Like contemporary boys, his opportunities for obtaining an education were nothing more than presented by the winter term of his district, but he used them to the limit, and was rewarded for his diligence. His marriage with Hannah Almira, daughter of James and Catherine Helmer (natives of Germany and Holland respectively), took place April 4, 1826, Squire Samuel Edwards, of Manlius, N. Y., performing the marriage rite. She was born in Montgomery county, N. Y., April 12, 1806. A woman small in stature, but great in woman's courage, she was a faithful wife in the wilderness of Wood, from 1840 to 1864, in which latter year her husband died. In November of the former year, she accompanied her husband and children to the site of Eagleville, where early in the spring of that year, he had purchased 160 acres of land. A tract of about one and one-half acres in area was cleared, some corn planted, and a log cabin constructed. Then Mr. Bronson returned to New York for his wife and five children. In coming hither the family traveled on a canal boat from Rochester to Buffalo, on steamer to Sandusky, and thence on wagon to their new home, which they reached November 17, 1840. He had then only \$3.50 and a tract of 160 acres of wild land; but with it he possessed natural ability, physical strength and a desire to succeed. Soon after coming he opened a school in Ora Baird's cabin, in Section 35, then the only dwelling in the township that could boast of two rooms. His success as a teacher was such that his services were in ready demand, and for a number of winters he taught school in Bloom, giving his time, during the spring, summer and fall to chopping, clearing on the homestead, and cultivating it. His command of Scripture texts was phenomenal, however at vari-

ance with the majority were his interpretations. He believed in the salvation of the human race, and for this reason refused the kind offer of his maternal grandfather to send him to a Baptist school, if he would consent to become a Baptist preacher. As related in the history of Bloom township, he built a house of worship at Eagleville, after he had the village surveyed, which was free to the use of all, organized a society known as the Universalists, and urged the formation of other religious bodies. He opened a store, as described in the chapter on Bloom, and was postmaster, teacher and preacher. During the war for the Union he was a loyal, patriotic advocate in support of the old flag. In all respects Mr. Bronson was an exemplary citizen, beloved and esteemed by all who knew him.

Of the eleven children born to his marriage with Miss Helmer, three died in infancy; of the eight that grew to manhood and womanhood, three are deceased, namely: Mary A., who married James Baird, of Charlotte, Mich., James D., and Charles O. The five survivors of this old Wood county family are Ellen E. Bartow, of Milan, Ohio; Charlotte F. Bonnell, of Campe Verde, Texas; Sarah C. Evers, of Bowling Green, Ohio; Angelia A. McClellan, of Adrian, Mich.; and Horace W. Bronson, of Hudson, Mich. The mother of this family became a widow in 1864, but ten years later married Joel Hale, of Fostoria. After his death, in 1877, she passed her years visiting her children, and died October 30, 1893. In 1842, her husband had a herd of six milch cows, and with this beginning she established a dairy, selling butter at six cents a pound; she also established a little cheese factory, the product of which, for one season, was 300 pounds. The press used in this primitive factory was a rail, one end of which was fixed in the fence while the other was attached to a brass kettle filled with rock. In addition to the butter and cheese industries, was a hennery, where numerous eggs were found daily, which sold readily for three cents a dozen. Then there was the ginseng root, dug up, washed, and dried by the children, worth eighteen cents a pound, and the ordinary farm products to help out the income of the house; but with all these means at the disposal of the bread winners of the house, there were privations and disappointments with which American pioneers could alone cope. In 1843, the six cows starved to death. In 1844, the husband and two children were stricken with typhus fever, and, for six weeks, the noble self-sacrificing wife and mother attended the sick without thought of self. When the clothing, brought hither from her old home

in New York State, was worn to shreds, and there was no money to purchase new goods at Fostoria or Perrysburg, she dyed the blankets, and made them into comfortable and well-fitting clothes for her children, and when the baking soda was exhausted she reduced corn-cobs to ashes, placed the ashes in a bowl of water, waited until precipitation took place, and then poured off the clear liquid to be used in place of soda in the manufacture of corn bread. Her courage, patience and endurance with her happy expedients made her a woman with few equals in the settlement; one to be honored by the pioneers and to be adored by her family.

JACOB C. DAUER, a representative pioneer of the county, was born in Nassau, Germany, December 10, 1831, and is a son of George and Dora Dauer, the former a farmer by occupation. In their family were six children: Catherine, deceased; Christine, widow of Joe Hofner; Wilhelmina, wife of Christ Asmas; Theodore, a farmer, of Middleton township; William, deceased; and Jacob C. The mother died in her native land; but the father came to the New World in 1864, and spent his remaining days in Huron county, Ohio.

In 1853 Jacob C. Dauer left the shores of Germany on a vessel which was nine weeks in reaching America, and on landing he remained some four months in New York. For the nine years following he made his home in Erie county, Ohio, where he rented a farm of seventy acres. He then bought an unimproved tract of land in Wood county, which he has since ditched and tiled, and has one of the best farms in the vicinity. He erected a fine residence and barns, and has upon his place nine productive oil wells, one operated by Alexander McDonald, and the others by the Standard Oil Company, and John Watts.

In 1859, in Erie county, Ohio, Mr. Dauer married Miss Anna Brand, a sister of F. J. Brand, of Middleton township, this county, and eleven children were born to them, four of whom have now passed away: John, born June 2, 1861, died in 1880; Julius, born July 22, 1862, died in 1874; William, born September 30, 1873, died in 1880; and August, born April 11, 1874, died in 1875. Those living are: Chris, born January 18, 1864, who wedded Mary Opperman, a daughter of Anton Opperman, a farmer of Washington township, Wood county (they have four children); Mary, born May 15, 1865, married to Henry Weihl (they have two children); Charley, born September 14, 1866, married to Louisa Moore (they have three children); Frederick,

born October 17, 1869, married to Lizzie Beil, a daughter of Adam Beil (they have one child); Emma, born June 29, 1871; Adam, born December 16, 1875, at present taking a classical course in a school at Tiffin, Ohio; and Anna E., born September 7, 1877. Mrs. Dauer was born November 26, 1835, in Hessen, Germany, a daughter of Adam, a shoemaker, and Catherine (Hof) Brand, who, in 1867, came to America and to Wood county, where they both died. They had ten children, four of whom died in Germany, the others being: Julius J., John, Fred, Mary (Mrs. Meyer, now deceased), Catherine, and Eckert, the last named living in Lucas county. Mrs. Dauer came to this country when twenty-three years old, in company with three other young people.

Mr. Dauer is a Democrat, has served as school director, and for one term was a member of the city council at Haskins. In religious faith he is identified with the German Reformed Church, in which for four years he has served as trustee, and is now a deacon. The entire life of Mr. Dauer has been one of unusual activity and industry, and he is a self-made man in the fullest sense of the word. On his arrival in the country all his worldly possessions were tied up in his handkerchief, and his capital, of nothing save willing hands and a strong determination to succeed.

G. C. HOUSKEEPER, a leading horticulturist and farmer of Center township, was born in Lancaster, Fairfield county, December 24, 1854. He is a son of Aaron Houskeeper, a native of Pennsylvania, who now resides with him.

The subject of this sketch was educated in the schools of his native town, and early gave evidence of the energy and enterprise which have distinguished his later career, by becoming an efficient helper to his father in the business of harness making before he was twelve years old. On arriving at that age he hired out as a farm laborer at four dollars a month, and continued in the same line of work until he reached his majority. In 1876 he came to Wood county and bought forty acres of land in Center township, part of which was improved. He was married January 3, 1876, at Bowling Green, to Miss Amelia Klopfenstein, a daughter of Peter Klopfenstein, a well-known resident of Center township, and not contented with the work of his farm he also engaged for the next three years in the manufacture of lime, in partnership with his father-in-law. In 1878 he sold his first farm, and rented one belonging to George Klopfenstein,

which he conducted for five years, when he bought forty acres near Bowling Green, and has since improved it. The orchard, his especial pride, covers fifteen acres, and is one of the finest in the county. He is now renting sixty acres of land in addition to his own farm, keeping the entire tract under cultivation.

Mr. Houskeeper and his wife are prominent members of the U. B. Church. They have four children: Edith, born in 1879; Willard, 1881; Ernest, 1883; and Dora, 1885. Mr. Houskeeper is a Prohibitionist in politics, and is an active worker in local matters, his popularity resting upon his admirable personal qualities. He is now the official weather reporter for the U. S. Meteorological Bureau, and the crop reporter for the State Department of Agriculture. Progressive and original in ideas, he is one of the foremost of his profession in this county, was master of the Grange for three years, and one of the chief promoters and supporters of the Wood County Farmers Institute.

WILLIAM OLMSTEAD KEELER, deceased, was a leading and influential citizen of Milton township, and one of the honored pioneers of Wood county. He was born in Weston, July 28, 1833, and was a son of Ralph Olmstead Keeler, a native of New York. The grandfather was Major C. I. Keeler, who won his title in the war of 1812, and settled in Toledo, Ohio, at a very early day. The father of our subject married Orlantha Brown, of Wood county, and purchased 400 acres of land on which the town of Weston now stands. He died in Weston, and his wife died in Maumee, Ohio. In the family were four children: Amelia became the wife of Martin V. Seeley, and removed to Illinois, where her death occurred; Ralph went to Cuba on the 14th of December, 1874, as a correspondent for the *New York Tribune*, engaged in writing up the insurrection. He was on a Spanish vessel going from Cuba to Havanna, and disappeared in the night, although the ship had stopped at no port. It is believed he was killed by the Spaniards, and then thrown overboard. He had won considerable prominence as an author, having written the following: "Gloverson," "His Silent Partner," and "Vagabond Adventures," the last mentioned being a true history of his own boyhood. At the time of his death he was writing an article called "Owen Brown's Escape from Harper's Ferry," which afterward appeared in a number of magazines. He was an excellent linguist, speaking and writing eight different languages, and one of his literary works was the translation of George Sand's

novel "Marquis De Viliner." The youngest member of the Keeler family is Mrs. Grace Machin, whose husband is a noted lawyer of New York.

The father, at his death, left considerable property, which was placed in the hands of an administrator, and through some mismanagement was lost. Our subject was at that time fifteen years of age. He was educated in the common schools of Weston and Grand Rapids, Ohio, and received a good business training while clerking for his uncle, Charles Keeler, of Toledo. About 1850 he crossed the plains to California, where he prospected and located what has since proven a very rich claim; but after a short time he disposed of it. At the beginning of the war, he enlisted in the Union service at Denver, as a member of the 1st Colorado Cavalry, and afterward veteranized, continuing at the front until the preservation of the Union was an assured fact. He partially lost his eyesight during that time.

Returning to Weston at the close of the war, Mr. Keeler embarked in general merchandising, but afterward sold out and established a grocery store at Custar. He was married, in Tontogany, to Miss Sarah Crom, who was born at Beaver Creek, January 22, 1840, a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Dull) Crom. The wedding of her parents was the first celebrated in Weston township, and the neighbors attended for twenty miles around. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Keeler was celebrated May 26, 1868. She was a maiden of seven summers when the family went to Tontogany, and was educated in the district schools, in Bowling Green and Waterville, obtaining a teacher's certificate when only fifteen years of age. She followed teaching for twenty-one terms, and was very successful in that work. Upon their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Keeler located in Custar; and in 1875 the former erected a large store building with a hall above, which at that time was the finest business block in the county. A year later it was destroyed by fire, causing a loss of \$10,000. Mr. Keeler was at the time postmaster of Custar, and did not resume mercantile business for three years, but engaged to some extent in buying stock. He then came to Milton Center, where he opened a general store, to which he subsequently made a large addition. For nine years the family resided over the store, and then removed into a beautiful brick residence which Mr. Keeler had erected, and which was his place of abode until his death. In 1891 he erected a large new grain elevator at Milton Center, to take the place of one destroyed by fire, and while examining a car-load of corn, he fell from the car and broke his leg. He had



met with reverses in his business career, but his determination, energy and upright dealing nevertheless secured him success, and he became the possessor of a comfortable property.

Mr. Keeler was a man of generous and benevolent nature, and the poor and needy found in him a friend. He was a member of Neibling Post, G. A. R., of Weston, the Knights of Pythias fraternity, and the Uniformed Rank, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of Bowling Green. Mr. Keeler passed away October 31, 1892, leaving the widow and one son to mourn the loss of a loving husband and father. In his death the community at large lost a valued citizen and faithful friend. The son, Ralph Olmstead, was born May 21, 1869, and is a graduate of Fostoria College. Mrs. Keeler has since her husband's death successfully carried on the business; she is a lady of superior ability, and has a host of warm friends in the community who hold her in the highest regard.

TOBIAS HANLINE is numbered among the honored pioneers of Wood county, belonging to one of the first families that settled in Montgomery township. Those who come to the county today can in no way realize the hardships and difficulties which were met by the pioneer settlers who blazed the way through the forests, and transformed the wild land into comfortable homes and farms.

Our subject was born in Section 1, Montgomery township, August 7, 1836, the eldest child of David and Eve (Rumler) Hanline. His father was born in Somerset county, Penn.; December 8, 1810, and his parents were David and Catherine (Wahrier) Hanline. David Hanline, Sr., was born in 1777, and became a pioneer of Richland county, Ohio, where he entered government land. In the spring of 1833 he came to western Ohio, in search of a location, and entered 160 acres in Section 11, Montgomery township, Wood county, laying claim to the same in the office at Bucyrus, Ohio, after which he returned to Richland county. In the fall of 1833 he moved his family to Wood county by team, and spent the first night in Montgomery township, at the cabin of John A. Kelly, the first settler in the township. On reaching their land, the father and sons at once began building a home of their own, a log cabin with a clapboard roof. In the spring of 1834 they were joined by the mother and other members of the family. The children were Betsey and Rebecca, both of whom married and remained in eastern Ohio; Catherine, who married John Stevens, and died in

Bradner, Ohio; David J.; Samuel, who died in Montgomery township; Tobias, who died in Wells county, Ind.; Michael, of Indiana; Sophia, who is married and lives near Fort Wayne, Ind.; Ann, who married Amos Arnold, and died in Sandusky county, Ohio; and Eve, who became the second wife of Amos Arnold, and died in Indiana. In the early "forties" the grandfather of our subject removed to Wells county, Ind., again settling in a frontier region, his farm being now a portion of the city of Bluffton. There his death occurred in 1854, and his wife died in 1855.

David Hanline, Jr., spent the first twelve years of his life in Pennsylvania, then went with his parents to Ohio, but afterward returned to his native State. Later he resided in Stark county and Richland county, Ohio, and in 1833 came to Wood county. He was married in Montgomery township, June 11, 1835, to Eve, daughter of John and Catherine (Augustine) Rumler. She was born in November, 1814, in Columbiana county, Ohio, and came to Wood county with her parents in 1833. The father of our subject entered eighty acres of land in Section 1, Montgomery township, erected a log cabin with a stick chimney, and there lived in true pioneer style. In 1849 he removed to Madison township, Sandusky county, where he secured 160 acres of partially improved land, there making his home until his death, July 30, 1890. He was buried in Eisenhaur cemetery, in Freedom township. In politics he was a Democrat, and for many years served as township trustee of Madison township. In religious belief he was a Lutheran, and was a most highly respected man; his widow is still living on the old home farm in Sandusky county. Their children were: Tobias; David and John, both of Freedom township; Eve, wife of John Kimball, of Freedom township; Mollie, wife of Christ Foster, of Freedom township; Catherine, wife of Reuben Kiser, of Madison township, Sandusky county; Cornelius, of Livingston county, Ill.; Elias, Loy and Isaac, all of Freedom township.

Tobias Hanline attended the "Old Prospect School" that stood on the site of Bradner. The German language was spoken in his parents' home, and when he entered school he could not speak a word of English. His educational facilities were limited, for, being the eldest son in the family his services were needed on the farm. He remained under the parental roof until his marriage, which occurred September 18, 1860, in Monroe county, Mich., the lady of his choice being Miss Helen Gibbs, who was born in Tioga



*Tobias Hanline*



*Helen A. Hanline*



county, Penn., October 25, 1844, a daughter of Cyrus and Emily (Hunter) Gibbs. Eleven children have blessed this union: David H., of Cowlitz county, Wash.; Eva A., wife of Edward Donald, of Bradner, Ohio; John, of Pemberville; Estella, wife of Winter Kille, of Freedom township; William, a farmer of Freedom township; Grace, of Toledo, Ohio; Clarence, of Bradner; Winifred, who died in infancy; and Donna, Aenid, and Hugh, at home.

Before his marriage, Mr. Hanline purchased forty acres of land in Madison township, Sandusky county, for which he paid \$250.00, the greater part of which he had earned by hunting. He lived in a hewed log house on that farm until 1867, when he traded it for eighty acres in Section 25, Freedom township, and received \$100.00 additional. A log house stood on this place, but only five acres were cleared. He energetically began the work of developing the farm, and within eleven years had cleared almost the entire amount, placing it under a high state of cultivation. He erected all of the buildings thereon, and made it a valuable property, continuing to reside there until March 24, 1896, when he came to Pemberville, where he now owns a pleasant residence. In politics he is a stalwart Republican. He was formerly a member of the Grange, and of the I. O. O. F., and is a thirty-second degree Mason. His life has been one of industry and steady application, and as a result he is now living retired in the enjoyment of a comfortable competence.

JOHN BAMER, a progressive and enterprising agriculturist of Grand Rapids township, was born February 29, 1852, on the present site of Pottertown, Weston township. Jacob Bamer (or Boehmer), the father of our subject, was born in Schoenborn, Germany, August 25, 1815. In 1838 he came to America—crossing the ocean before the advent of steamships, and for six weeks he did not see land. He first located in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, remaining there but a short time, thence coming to Gilead, now Grand Rapids, Wood county, where he remained from 1839 to 1846, in the employ of Elijah Dodd and James Steedman, who had the contract from the State to build the dam across the Maumee river at that place. In 1846 he bought eighty acres of land in Weston township, from Elijah Dodd, where he continued to reside until 1888, when he removed to the town of Weston, and there resided until his death, which occurred August 10, 1889. He was twice married; his first marriage was on September 5,

1847, when Mrs. Sarah (Purkey) Cling, widow of Joseph Cling, became his wife. To this union were born three children: Jacob, Jr., born August 22, 1848, married Nancy E. Strobe, December 31, 1875 (she was born March 28, 1856); Elizabeth, born March 23, 1850, married Jacob Reaker, September 26, 1877 (he was born May 20, 1843); and John, the subject of our sketch. The mother had two daughters by her former marriage: Flora, who was born March 29, 1846, and married George Heller May 9, 1868; and Samantha, who died while young. Mrs. Bamer died in 1855, and in 1861 the father again married, his choice being Ellen Huffman, of Pennsylvania. To them were born two children: (1) Lewis H., born May 15, 1862, married Miss Idora B. Wood, March 27, 1887 (she was born April 16, 1861, and died May 13, 1890), and one son, Ray Harrison, born August 9, 1889, blessed this union. (2) Bentley H., born October 24, 1865. The mother died December 1, 1888, and the father survived her but eight months. He was engaged in the mercantile business for a number of years at Pottertown. He was honest and honorable in his dealings with his fellow-men, moderate in all things, and quiet and peaceable. He was a faithful member of the German Reformed Church.

John Bamer, the subject of our sketch, was married on January 2, 1873, to Sarah M. Rowland, who was born December 21, 1853, the daughter of John and Catherine Rowland, highly respected residents of Grand Rapids township; the former died June 11, 1887, while the latter had passed away ten years before, dying June 22, 1877. To the union of our subject and his wife were born four children, as follow: Merton L., September 15, 1873, was made a Master Mason June 9, 1896, and is superintendent of the Latcha schools for the year 1896-97; Cora E., June 8, 1876; Fred H., November 6, 1879; and Edna A., born April 28, 1889, died October 22, 1893.

The subject of our sketch bought the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 19, Grand Rapids township (eighty acres of land), on June 27, 1887, which he at once began to improve and transform into a comfortable home. In one year on this farm he put in six and one half miles of tile drain, planted a great variety of fruit, and erected a barn that is equal to any in the country for convenience. Socially Mr. Bamer is a member of the Masonic fraternity, having joined the order April 17, 1879, in Grand Rapids Lodge No. 289; he is a charter member of Kenilworth Lodge No. 340, K. of P.

SAMUEL HERRINGSHAW, who is the owner of one of the valuable farms of Jackson township, which he conducts in the most improved and progressive manner, is a native of Sandusky county, Ohio. He was born January 15, 1853, and is a son of John and Mary Ann (Lyon) Herringshaw. He began his education in the district school near the family home, and when seven years of age accompanied his parents to Liberty township, Wood county, and completed his school course in Liberty and Jackson townships. When the day's session was over, he would return to the work of the home farm, and was busily engaged in the fields during the vacation months. All his earlier years were devoted to agricultural pursuits.

As a companion and helpmeet on life's journey, Mr. Herringshaw chose Miss Anna Eliza Watson, and the wedding was celebrated in Findlay, Ohio, November 15, 1882. The lady was born in England, August 29, 1857, and at the age of twenty-five years came to America with her three sisters. Mr. Herringshaw and his bride took up their abode on the old homestead, and he operated forty acres of land, which he had purchased in Jackson township just prior to his marriage. He continued to reside at the old home place until December, 1888, when he erected his present store building in Hoytville, and there embarked with his brother, John Y., in the hardware business. By his well-directed efforts and honorable dealing he has secured a liberal patronage, and his trade has increased so that he has added to his original store in order to have more commodious quarters.

Mr. Herringshaw also erected a fine residence in Hoytville, and the members of the household are now himself, wife and three daughters, Edith, Florence and Gracie. In politics he is a stalwart Democrat, unswerving in his support of the party principles, but has never sought or desired the honors or emoluments of public office. He belongs to the United Brethren Church, and socially is connected with the Knights of Pythias Lodge at Hoytville. His life is worthy of emulation, in its progressive, enterprising characteristics, and the success which he now enjoys is justly merited.

Mr. Herringshaw is a son of John and Mary Ann (Lyon) Herringshaw, both of whom were natives of England, and Samuel was the first of the family born in America. The others were: Ann Rebecca, who is the widow of Thomas Harrison; Joseph, of Hoytville; Rebecca, at present on the old homestead in Liberty township; John, deceased; John Y., of Jackson Prairie (all of the

above were born in England); Fred, of Liberty township, and William, of Hoytville (both born in this State). The father of this family died September 14, 1861; the mother is still living at the advanced age of eighty years.

H. E. SMITH. The joys of youth have been so often dwelt upon in prose and verse, that the later years of life are looked upon by the average person as necessarily less happy than those of childhood; but those who realize the ripe spiritual development and peaceful outlook of one who has learned life's lessons, and is waiting for the promotion which is sure to follow, would not exchange the latter state for the first. And when wealth has added its possibilities for wide usefulness in various fields, there are but few indeed who would hesitate to pronounce the maturer life as likely to furnish fuller, more constant, and more rational enjoyment, than the happiest childhood knows.

The subject of our sketch, a well-known retired agriculturist of Risingsun, was born in Orange county, N. Y., March 7, 1824. His father, Timothy Smith, was also a native of that county, and for some years was a farmer there. He married Miss Catherine Tier, who was born in New York City, and moved to Orange county, with her parents when she was eleven years old. In 1831 Timothy Smith came to Ohio with his family by canal and lake, and entered 200 acres of land in Big Spring township, Seneca county, at the site of the present village of Alvada. The land office was at that time located at Bucyrus. He made many improvements, and at the time of his death, when he was aged seventy years, he had a fine farm. His wife lived to be over eighty-six years old. They had thirteen children, of whom eleven lived to adult age: Eliza, who married William Boucher, and died at Powell's Creek, Ohio; William, a resident of Alvada, Ohio; John, who lives in Defiance county, and has been twice married; Almira Russell; H. E., our subject; Elizabeth, Mrs. Samuel Fry, of Fostoria; Catherine, who married William Bates, and lives near Tiffin; George, of Arcadia, Ohio; Clarissa, who married Michael Fry, and died in Fostoria; Franklin, a resident of South Bend, Ind.; Francis, who lives in Fostoria; and a daughter who lives in Defiance county.

Mr. Smith was only seven years old when his parents came to this State, and his youth was spent in the hard toil of a pioneer farmer's life. As the older boys left home his father needed his help, and he sacrificed his education rather than see his parents suffer. He never at-

tended school, not even to learn his "A B Cs," but as he fully realized the value of the opportunities of which he was deprived, he studied alone, often sitting up at night in front of the big fireplace with his books. As the years passed on, and he might perhaps have gone to school occasionally, the humiliation of beginning in a class with small children prevented him from making the trial, so that his knowledge is entirely self-acquired. At twenty-two he left home to make his own way, his worldly possessions being limited to a suit of clothes worth about \$10; but he had, however, a capital of ambition, energy and common-sense which served him well.

When twenty-three years of age he married his first wife, Miss Lydia Fry, and their only son, Hiram, grew to manhood, entered the army during the Civil war, and was captured by the enemy, and so nearly starved, that when he was released, and food given him, his enfeebled system failed to rally, and he expired. His mother died in Seneca county, and two years later, Mr. Smith married Miss Anor Bates, who was born in Stark county, Ohio, July 24, 1830, the daughter of Andrew and Anor (Homan) Bates. Five children were born to this union: Oliver, a farmer in Montgomery township; Cinderella, the wife of Rev. Tobias Koogle, of Findlay, Ohio; twins, Emma E. (now Mrs. Lee Garns, of Sandusky county), and Sarah A. (Mrs. Peter Ushel, of Risingsun); and William, who lives in Scott township, Sandusky county. Mrs. Smith has been a great help to her husband in the battle of life, as he is the first to acknowledge.

The first land that Mr. Smith ever owned was forty acres in Big Spring township, Seneca county, and later he bought eighty acres in Scott township, Sandusky county, which he sold, to buy 112 acres in the same township, where he lived until his removal to Risingsun, in the fall of 1881. He has retired from active business, but takes an active and generous interest in every worthy public movement, and he and his wife belong to the Radical U. B. Church, in which he has held many offices. As a contributor he has been very liberal, giving over \$1,100 to one Church. It would be difficult to find a more devout Christian and conscientious man, and he is held in high esteem by all who know him. He has never been a politician or office seeker, and, although formerly a Democrat, now votes for the "Christian Party."

M. D. McEWEN, an honorable and well-to-do farmer of Wood county, is a native of Perry township, where he still resides. He made his appear-

ance on the stage of life January 11, 1846. His father, William McEwen, was born in Northampton county, Penn., nine miles from Easton, April 29, 1810, and was a son of William and Sarah (Johnson) McEwen, who were the parents of twenty-one children. The grandfather, who was a blacksmith by trade, came to Ohio, in 1823, bringing sixteen of his children, the journey being made by means of wagons, and requiring four weeks. He located four miles east of Tiffin, where he purchased a farm of 160 acres, on which stood a small log cabin, where the family of eighteen persons lived for some time. There his death occurred at the age of sixty-five, and his wife passed away at the age of sixty-three. Of the children who came with him to Ohio, five are still living—Henry, of Allen county, Ind.; William, father of our subject; Sarah, widow of Moses Friese, of North Baltimore, Ohio; Rachel, now Mrs. George Deuzler, of Republic, Ohio; and Martha, widow of James Craum, of North Baltimore.

The education of William McEwen, Jr., was very limited, and his first teacher was an old Revolutionary soldier, who had lost one arm. He remained at home until his marriage, January 20, 1835, to Miss Margaret Clark, who was born in Lancaster county, Penn., March 11, 1813, and is a daughter of Thomas and Hannah (Bennett) Clark, who were early settlers of Seneca county, Ohio. The family born to this worthy couple consists of the following children—Hannah, born November 6, 1836, married Jacob Sidel, and died in Seneca county; George, born May 24, 1838, was a member of Company H, 49th O. V. I., during the Civil war, was killed at Pickett's Mills, Ga., in 1864, and was buried by the enemy; Sarah, born December 22, 1839, married Nathan Henry, and lives at Fostoria; Thomas, born November 7, 1841, died near Jerry City, Portage township, Wood county; William, born November 21, 1843, died in Minnesota; M. D. is next in order of birth; Matthew, born April 30, 1848, is a farmer in Seneca county; Henry, born November 20, 1850, died in Perry township; and Margaret J., born July 19, 1854, married Robert Wilson, and died at Arcadia, Ohio. In 1833 the father entered eighty acres of government land in Section 13, Perry township, where he removed three years later, and previous to that time lived near Tiffin, on land which is now comprised within the city limits, where Main street crosses the Sandusky river. Until 1874, he made his home in Perry township, but in that year removed to Fostoria, Ohio, where he has a comfortable brick residence. After a happy married

life of over fifty-seven years, his wife died on July 11, 1892, and was buried at Fostoria. Since a young man he has been a faithful member of the Methodist Church, and in politics was first a Democrat, but now supports the Prohibition party. He is numbered among the honored pioneers of this section, and well deserves mention in this volume.

M. D. McEwen was educated in the district schools, and remained upon the home farm until his twenty-fourth year. On March 10, 1870, in Hancock county, Ohio, was solemnized the marriage ceremony which united our subject and Miss Sarah Miller, a native of Seneca county, and a daughter of Isaac Miller, an early pioneer of that locality. One child blessed this union—Alfred D., born April 22, 1873, and on May 7, 1896, was married to Myrtle Gossard, of Sandusky county. The mother died May 11, 1879, a few months after her husband's return from Texas. Later Mr. McEwen wedded Miss Mary Gossard, who was born in Scott township, Sandusky county, Ohio, April 25, 1849, and is a daughter of Alvin P. and Mary (Cooley) Gossard, the former born in Ross county, Ohio, in 1808, and the latter in Canada in 1809. In the family of eight children, Mrs. McEwen is the next to the youngest, and at the age of eighteen she began teaching school, which profession she followed for many terms.

Before his first marriage, Mr. McEwen had bought eighty acres of land in Jackson township, Seneca county, all wild and uncultivated, and eight years of his married life were there passed. In 1878 he removed to Austin, Texas, and later to Williamson county, that State, but the following year returned north, locating upon his present farm in Perry township, Wood county, where he owns 100 acres of good land, supplied with excellent farm buildings. He and his wife are sincere Christians, members of the Methodist Church, in which he is serving as steward. In political opinion he is now a Prohibitionist, though he was at one time a Democrat. He is widely and favorably known throughout the community, and his circle of friends is only limited by his circle of his acquaintances.

AVERY O. CHAPMAN, an intelligent and prosperous farmer of Liberty township, is a native of Wood county, born in Weston township, on the 25th of June, 1855, and is a son of William H. and Sylva Ann (Avery) Chapman. The father's birth occurred in Connecticut, August 11, 1820, and while still single removed to Huron county, Ohio, where he wedded Miss Avery, who was

born in New London, Conn., in 1830. It was in 1850 that he came to Wood county, locating first in Weston township, where he began the improvement of a farm, which he sold five years later, and, on selling that tract, purchased another in the same township, where his widow still resides. He was well and favorably known throughout the county, and his death, which occurred in Connecticut, July 19, 1890, was deeply mourned. In politics he was a staunch Republican.

In the family were ten children, nine of whom are still living, namely: Oliver, and Mrs. Lucy Lewis, both of whom reside in Milton township, Wood county; Avery O., of this review; Isandra, wife of Clarence Palmer, of Weston township; Fannie, wife of Dr. Lathrop, of Deshler, Ohio; Charley, of Weston township; Eulalia, wife of James Hutchinson, of Liberty township, Wood county; Fred, who resides on the old homestead; and Amasa, who is married, and lives in Liberty township. Zackeus died in Weston township, September 5, 1855, at the age of four years.

Our subject was educated in the common schools of Weston township, and in early life received a practical training in the labors of the farm. In 1883 he purchased his present farm of eighty acres of rich and productive land, which he immediately began to improve and cultivate, erecting thereon good and substantial farm buildings, and has converted his place into one of the most highly developed farms of the community.

In Weston township, in 1880, Mr. Chapman led to the marriage altar Clara C. Allyn, a native of Hopkinton, Delaware Co., Iowa, a daughter of Phineas and Celia C. (Butler) Allyn, who were born and reared in Connecticut. The father had removed to Delaware county, in 1854, but he later returned east, locating near Wellington, Lorain Co., Ohio, but now makes his home in Michigan. His wife died in Traverse City, that State, on the 27th of December, 1870. To our subject and his wife have been born five children: Sherman, Edward, Ula, Mabel and George. In her younger days, Mrs. Chapman successfully engaged in teaching, being for four years employed in the schools of Weston, half of the time having charge of the primary department, and, the other half, of the intermediate grade. For four months she also taught at Pottertown, having one year taught through the entire twelve months without interruption.

Mr. Chapman has identified himself with the interests of the township, especially in educational affairs, realizing that the future prosperity of the county will be in the hands of the rising generation, and it must be fitted for the respon-

sible position it is soon to occupy. He has served as a member of the school board, and has also been supervisor of his township. In politics he is a Republican, and works for the interests of that party, firmly believing in its principles.

**CHARLIE E. BAKER**, a worthy representative of one of the honored pioneer families of Montgomery township, was born on the farm which is still his home, in Section 35, on November 1, 1867, and is a son of Adam and Lydia (Zimmerman) Baker. The birth of his father occurred in April, 1840, upon the same farm, where the grandfather, Jacob Baker, had located on coming to Ohio from Maryland at a very early day, when the land was in almost its primitive condition. He was the second owner, and our subject now has in his possession the deed for eighty acres that is dated 1837, and signed by Andrew Jackson.

The father was one of the youngest in a family of ten children. His marriage was celebrated in Sandusky county, where his wife was born in 1849, the daughter of Adam Zimmerman. He then located upon the old homestead in Section 35, Montgomery township, where the grandfather had passed his remaining days. By trade he was a carpenter, which occupation he followed during his younger years; but, after his marriage, he bought out the interests of the other heirs in the home farm, and later devoted his entire attention to agricultural pursuits. There his death occurred on April 7, 1881, and he was laid to rest in the Prairie Depot cemetery. He was a good citizen, a staunch Republican in politics, and served as school director in his district. He was a large man, being six feet in height. In the family were four children—Charlie E.; Emma, now Mrs. Clark Graber, of Montgomery township; Alta, of the same township; and Jessie. After the death of the father, the mother became the wife of George Gebhart, by whom she had one son, Clifford, who now lives in Sandusky county, Ohio. She departed this life in May, 1888, and was also interred in the Prairie Depot cemetery.

During his boyhood and youth Charlie E. Baker attended the district schools of his township, his first teacher being Rose Griffin, who conducted the school in District No. 7, and his life was passed in the uneventful manner of most farmer lads. He worked for some time as a farm hand on several different places, but in 1893 began buying the interests of the other heirs in the old home farm, which he now owns with the exception of a quarter interest. It consists of

seventy-one acres of excellent land. He is a steady-going, prosperous young farmer, and with continued good health can place himself in the front rank among the substantial farmers and citizens of Montgomery township. Politically, he is identified with the Republican party.

**H. W. KELSEY**, one of Portage township's prosperous young farmers, is a native of New York State, born September 15, 1860, in La-Salle, Niagara county. His parents, Henry and Caroline (Michael) Kelsey, had four children: John, who is now a resident of Buffalo, N. Y.; Ida, Mrs. J. W. Lindower, of Portage township; Henry, who died young, and H. W., our subject. The father was a sailor, sailing on the great lakes, and, as he was a man of somewhat limited means, the children commenced to work early in life.

When H. W. Kelsey was about eight years old the family came to Ohio, and he received the greater part of his education in the schools of Fremont. When only ten years of age he commenced to work and support himself, doing such labor as his strength permitted until he reached manhood, after which he was engaged in various lines of employment. He sailed on the lakes, worked in the pine woods of Michigan, was engaged on the railroad, building in Dakota and Minnesota, and for some time was employed in a freight house at Buffalo, N. Y., during these years seeing much of the country, and living in several different States. In 1884 he came to Wood county, Ohio, where his sister Ida was living, and took up his home in Portage township, where, on December 25, 1885, he was united in marriage with Miss Winnie B. Northrup, who was born in Plain township, Wood county, daughter of William Northrup, a farmer. Up to this time Mr. Kelsey had saved but \$125, and he invested that amount in forty acres of land in Section 23, Portage township, his present farm, removing thereon in the following year, after he had moved a house there from Six Points. Farming was new work to him, as he had only spent one season at it, and that, in a vineyard on Catawba Island. However, he set to work to do the best he could, and the result of his labors would do credit to many an older man, for he has placed his land under fine cultivation, and conducts a profitable, general-farming business. He is much esteemed and liked in his neighborhood, and his thorough honesty and untiring industry have won him the respect of all.

To Mr. and Mrs. Kelsey have come three children: Melvin R., born in March, 1888, killed



in a runaway August 3, 1896; William H., born in July, 1891, died August 21, 1896; and John W., born in 1893. Politically Mr. Kelsey is a lifelong Democrat, and an ardent believer in the principles of his party; he has served as supervisor of his township. Socially he is a Mason, being a member of the lodge at Pemberville.

CHARLES S. WOODFORD, the able and popular postmaster at Haskins, and a leading merchant of that town, was born September 7, 1855, in Riley township, Sandusky Co., Ohio.

His paternal grandparents, Sylvester and Sarah Woodford, were "down-east Yankees" who made their home in Riley township at an early day, and died there at a good old age. Zera Woodford, our subject's father, was a native of Connecticut, born April 6, 1812, and came to Ohio with his parents when a boy. His first money was made by hiring out by the month to "shoot deer," then plentiful near his home. He afterward taught school for eight years, and is said to have been the first teacher in Sandusky county. The greater part of his life was spent, however, in agricultural pursuits, and he died at the old farm June 26, 1872. He was married December 25, 1839, to Miss Sarah Karshner, a native of Circleville, Ohio, born August 1, 1820. She survives him, and resides with our subject, who is the youngest of their six children. Of the others the names with dates of birth and death are as follows: Lucy, October 15, 1840, died August 31, 1876, was the wife of H. H. House; Louisa, April 3, 1842, died November 6, 1867, married H. H. Arlin; Sarah, November 16, 1843, died April 12, 1870, married Daniel Mackey; Rachel, February 28, 1845, died August 11, 1870; and Henry, March 25, 1849, died August 11, 1870.

Our subject spent his boyhood days at the old homestead, where he worked on the farm, and attended the district school. Later he studied in the Union schools at Fremont, and attended the Northwestern Normal at Republic and at Fostoria. He taught school for eight years, and received the highest salary which had been paid up to that time in his native township, as he was considered the best disciplinarian and the most competent teacher obtainable in that locality. He was clerk of Riley township for four years, and then came to Wood county, and engaged in mercantile business at Grand Rapids, where he remained five years. Selling out his store, he traveled for three and a half years as salesman for Leland Smith & Co., of Toledo, and then came to Haskins and established his present store,

of which he has made a decided success. Since August 16, 1892, he has been postmaster, and fills the position with characteristic ability and tact.

On September 13, 1877, Mr. Woodford married Miss Jennie Matthews, of Millbury, who was born June 13, 1857, in Center township, Wood county. They have five children whose names with dates of birth are here given: Stewart L., July 7, 1878; Estella E., August 10, 1880; Wilbur W., October 7, 1881; Gordon R., April 6, 1884; and Ettie, October 3, 1885. Politically Mr. Woodford is a Democrat, and holds an influential place in the local management of the party. He is a member of the I. O. O. F. Encampment at Bowling Green.

SAMUEL J. DERN, a well-known citizen and a wide-awake, energetic business man of Prairie Depot, is a native of Seneca county, Ohio, born in Jackson township, July 11, 1848, son of Hezekiah and Susanna (Hyter) Dern. The father's birth occurred in Frederick county, Md., in 1808, and he was one of a family of six children who grew to adult age, the others being Susan, Amy, Mary, Isaac and William. The paternal grandfather, William Dern, followed the occupation of an agriculturist in Maryland, where his death occurred.

On reaching manhood, Hezekiah Dern wedded Miss Susanna Hyter, who was also born in Frederick county, Md., August 7, 1814, the daughter of Jacob and Margaret (Kuntz) Hyter. By trade the father of our subject was a carpenter, but he was for the most part engaged as a huckster in Baltimore until 1839, when he brought his family in a covered wagon to Ohio, passing through Pittsburg, Penn., where the eldest daughter, Theodocia, strayed away, but was found after a short search. His first location was upon an acre of ground six miles north of Tiffin, in Seneca county, where the family made their temporary home in a log school house, while their hewed-log dwelling was being built, and they afterward used the former as a barn. There the father followed carpentering, but he later removed to a tract of forty acres in Jackson township, in the same county. His death occurred January 14, 1854, upon another forty-acre farm there, and he was laid to rest in Dysinger cemetery. The mother passed away at Fostoria, Ohio, in August, 1882, and was interred by the side of her husband. They were devout members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in politics the father was an Old-line Whig. The family circle included the following children:

Theodocia R., now Mrs. I. W. Nestlerode, of Fostoria, Ohio; Theodore D., who was a member of the 72nd O. V. I., during the Civil war (he died at Memphis, Tenn., August 9, 1879); Margaret E., wife of C. H. Fundom, of Loudon township, Seneca county; William C., a farmer of Montgomery township, Wood county; Wesley W., of Keokuk county, Iowa; Samuel J., who is the subject of this sketch; Frances A., now Mrs. Christopher Deal, of Jackson, Mich.; and Mary I., wife of Almon Baker, of Montgomery township.

S. J. Dern was educated in the district schools of his time, which were much inferior to those of the present day, and the improved educational institutions now find in him a stanch friend and supporter. Reared as a farmer boy, he aided in the labors upon the old homestead, and after reaching his majority began to accumulate some property for himself. He bought the shares of the other heirs in the home farm from time to time, until he owned three-quarters of the place, and continued to reside there until his removal to Prairie Depot, November 1, 1876. On August 17, 1875, Mr. Dern had been married in that village to Miss Flora A. Bryant, a daughter of William R. and Melissa (Sherman) Bryant, and by her he had one son, Charles W., born July 19, 1877. From Prairie Depot our subject removed to a rented farm in Plain township, Wood county, where his wife died July 24, 1880, and she was buried in the cemetery at Prairie Depot. There he was again married, September 12, 1883, his second union being with Miss Jessie B. Gould, a daughter of John Gould, a veteran of the Rebellion, who during his younger days was a sailor, and is now a highly respected citizen of Prairie Depot. Mrs. Dern was born August 13, 1860, and has become the mother of two children—Hazel, born January 3, 1886; and Edgar G., born June 9, 1889.

For nine years after his return to Prairie Depot, Mr. Dern was engaged in the hardware business, being a member of the firm of Johnston & Dern the first three years, at the end of which time he purchased his partner's interest, and was sole proprietor for the following three years. Lewis Newcomer then became a member of the firm, which assumed the name of Dern & Co., and they carried on business very successfully until July 8, 1890, when they sold out to the Buckeye Supply Company. For a year and a half Mr. Dern was then traveling agent for the Woodmen of the World Insurance Company, and has since been engaged in the oil business. He has also been more or less engaged in leasing

land, taking options, buying and selling real estate, etc., and has become one of the well-to-do citizens of the place. His commodious and pleasant residence in Prairie Depot was erected in 1883. Mr. Dern is a stanch and influential Republican, always attending the conventions of his party in the county, and, while not an office seeker, served for four years as treasurer of Montgomery township, during which time his books were spoken of by the trustees, as the neatest, best-kept and most systematic of any ever kept in the township. He has also been a member of the city council of Prairie Depot. He is a charter member of Petroleum Lodge No. 499, K. of P., of that place, and he and his estimable wife are connected with the Disciples Church, in which he is now serving as deacon.

E. H. MYERS, senior member of the firm of Myers Brothers, his partner being J. A. Myers, established business in Luckey in 1883. Their first store was located on their present site, and was a building 22 x 35 feet, where they carried a stock of general merchandise; but a year later they added to it a room 22 x 60 feet, in which they placed a stock of hardware and farming implements. That building, however, was destroyed by fire in July, 1893, but the following fall they erected their present two-story brick block, which has a 44-foot frontage and is 60 feet deep. There they have a full and complete line of hardware and general merchandise, and the upper story is used for a store room. Their stock is well selected, and their courteous, kindly treatment of customers has gained them a liberal patronage.

In 1852 the birth of our subject occurred in Sandusky county, Ohio, and he is a son of C. H. and Dora (Deidmyer) Myers, natives of Germany, where they were reared and married. On coming to the New World they first located in Buffalo, N. Y., but in 1852 removed to Sandusky county, where the father followed agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred in 1857. His wife later married Frank Rolfes, with whom she came to Troy township, Wood county, where she passed away in 1893. By her first marriage she became the mother of six children: C. H., who resides on a farm near Elmore, Ohio; Mrs. Schroder, of Pemberville, Ohio; Mrs. L. Rolfes, of Troy township; E. H., of this sketch; J. A., who is in partnership with our subject; and W. F., who also makes his home in Luckey.

The district schools afforded our subject his educational advantages, and at an early age he

entered a grocery store at Elmore, Ohio, where he was employed for a time. For two years he also worked at the carpenter's trade in that place, and in 1861 came to Wood county. At Pemberville, he was first employed in the store of a Mr. Rosinger, later with A. Froney & Schroder, and then worked for Mr. Froney until coming to Luckey.

In Troy township, Mr. Myers led to the marriage altar Miss Anna Rolf, a daughter of John Rolf, now deceased, and their wedding was celebrated in 1873. They have no children of their own, but have an adopted daughter—Bertha. They are members of the Lutheran Church, and hold an honorable place in the estimation of their fellow citizens. The political support of Mr. Myers is given to the Democratic party, and for seven years he efficiently served as township clerk. Both in business circles and in private life he is honored and esteemed for his upright character.

JOHN W. SMALLEY, a substantial self-made citizen and prominent agriculturist of Bloom township, resides near Jerry City, his farm being one of the best of its size in that vicinity.

He is a native of Lincolnshire, England, born September 2, 1832. His father, William Smalley, a day laborer, married Sarah Freeman, and died in June, 1839, leaving seven children—four sons and three daughters—whom Mrs. Smalley, a woman of unusual energy and good judgment, supported for some years by working on neighboring farms. As the boys grew older they contributed a little to the family expenses, our subject and his brother James going to service in aristocratic families, while another brother, Robert, worked on a farm. Their wages were small, never more than \$15 per year. In the spring of 1848, Mrs. Smalley's father, Richard Freeman, sold his property, consisting of three acres of land and two tenement houses, and used the proceeds to bring a party of his relatives to America. Besides himself and his wife Sarah, there were Mrs. Smalley and her seven children (one of her family having died), and another daughter, Ann, and her husband, William Winter. They sailed from Liverpool in April, 1848, in the "Colonist," and reached their destination in Akron, Ohio, where some relatives lived, on July 3. Mr. Freeman died from a sunstroke, shortly after reaching New York, and the others joined another party of emigrants going to Akron. Mrs. Freeman survived her husband but a short time, dying in August of the same year.

John W. Smalley has had only a few weeks

schooling in his life, as he was kept too busily at work in boyhood to take advantage of the good schools of his native place. His first work in this country was binding wheat at 37½ cents a day. Later he worked as driver on the Ohio canal, going as far south as Chillicothe, and on the Sandy, Beaver and Ohio canal through Waynesburg, Minerva, and Hanover. After working some two years at from \$10.00 to \$17.00 per month, he determined to secure a home in which his mother could pass her declining years. In February, 1853, he walked from Spencer, Medina county (where she then lived), to Wood county, and bought eighty acres in Section 33, Portage township, for \$450.00, paying \$60.00 down. He returned on foot, and in April of that year brought his mother, two brothers, Robert and Joseph, and two sisters, Elizabeth and Eliza, traveling by wagon. They built a log cabin 10 x 24, which had neither doors nor windows until the frosts of autumn made them an absolute necessity. Mr. Smalley returned to his work on the canal for three seasons, in order to raise money on his payments, and during the winters he cleared his farm.

On July 4, 1861, he married Miss Rebecca Snyder, a native of Mahoning county, and a daughter of Samuel Snyder, a prominent farmer of Bloom township. He mowed clover all the morning of his wedding day, and his wife helped him to make hay the next day. With this beginning it would be safe to predict financial success for the young couple; but Mrs. Smalley did not live long to enjoy their growing prosperity, dying July 20, 1871. Five children were born of this marriage: Andrew J., a farmer in Bloom township; Lucy, now Mrs. Jacob Spackey, of Six Points; Jerusha (deceased), who married Elliot Simons, of North Baltimore; William H., who farms the homestead; and Eliza J., who died in infancy. Mr. Smalley's second wife was formerly Mrs. Susan (Riggle) Heckman, a native of Pennsylvania, the widow of Martin Heckman, and daughter of George Riggle, who came to Wyandot county, when she was an infant. He was a man of prominence in his vicinity, and for twenty years was a justice of the peace. One child was born of this union: Lorinda A., the wife of John Riggle, now the county surveyor of Hancock county.

In 1865 Mr. Smalley sold his first farm and bought 120 acres in Bloom township. But little clearing had been done, and the land was swampy, causing him to lose several crops before his drainage was perfected. He sold forty acres, and by diligent effort has brought the remainder into



*John W. Smalley*



good order, paying for it all, and securing a competence for the future. He is a typical Englishman, asking only for what he thinks belongs to him by right, and is ready to fight for that. His vitality is remarkable. He has had a shoulder and a leg broken at different times, and has recovered without any doctor attending him. In his business dealings Mr. Smalley is noted for his strict sense of honor, and once, when he had agreed to lease a certain oil land for a bonus of \$500, he refused an offer of \$1,500 for the same right, although the agreement was a mere verbal one, which could not have been enforced, and no money had been paid him. Six oil wells are now in operation on his farm, producing a tankful of oil per month. He is the only one of his family in Wood county, but the others have done well in life, those who had educational advantages following professional occupations. His wife is a member of the Church of Christ, and he himself sympathizes with all movements for the improvement of the community. In politics he has been a Democrat since the days of Stephen A. Douglas, and has been township supervisor and director of schools.

JACOB STAHL, one of Wood county's well-known citizens, is among the prosperous men in Montgomery township, and enjoys the distinction of being one of the four farmers who have successfully operated their own properties in search of oil, a notable feat, and one which sufficiently demonstrates the possession of sound business ability and unflinching determination.

He was born June 28, 1837, near the present site of the village of Bradner, of a line of ancestry in which he may well take pride, some member of it having yielded up his life in each war in which our country has been engaged. His great-grandfather, Jacob Stahl, was a lieutenant-colonel in the Revolutionary army, and met his death in the service. Jacob Stahl (2), the grandfather, was killed near Fort Meigs during the war of 1812, while the father, Godfrey Stahl, lost his life in the Civil war, and an uncle, John Stahl, was killed in the Mexican war. Godfrey Stahl was born in Somerset county, Penn., October 15, 1808, and was reared upon his father's farm. He was the youngest of four children: Mary, the eldest, married Daniel Edmonds, and died at Bradner at the age of ninety-one. Sarah married David Mogle, and is now living in Indiana at over eighty-five years of age; and John, as has been stated, completed the remarkable record of this family, and gave his life in the service of his country in the war with Mexico.

Our subject's father was married at his early home to Rosannah Weigle, also a native of Somerset county, born of German parents. In 1835 he came to Fremont, Ohio, in the spring of 1837 settling in Section 12, Montgomery township, Wood county, and, being unable to buy, he rented a home, taking leases and clearing up land. He and his wife were devout members of the M. P. Church. In politics he was a Democrat previous to the Civil war, but he voted for Abraham Lincoln, and in the fall of 1861 enlisted in Company I, 72nd O. V. I. He took part in the battle of Shiloh, was taken sick, and died in April, 1862, his remains being interred in the vicinity of Pittsburg Landing. His widow passed away at the age of sixty-four years at the old home, and was laid to rest in the cemetery at Bradner. They had seven children: Catherine, wife of A. A. Jellison, of Wilson, Kans.; John, who died in 1866 in Montgomery township; Jacob, our subject; Elizabeth J., the widow of Henry Pope, of Risingsun; Rebecca, the widow of Morris Hill, of Bradner; Roena, who married William Brown, and died in Montgomery township; and Daniel, a resident of Bradner.

Mr. Stahl attended the common schools of his day, and remained at home until his enlistment, September 10, 1861, in Company D, 3rd Ohio Cavalry. He was wounded in his first regular battle, at Stone River, and after three months in hospital was discharged on account of disability, on April 2, 1863. He came home; but in February, 1864, when his regiment veteranized and reorganized, at Nashville, he rejoined his old company, and served until the close of the war. During the interval spent at home he bought his first piece of land, eighty acres in Richfield township, Henry Co., Ohio, but he never lived there. On March 6, 1864, he married Miss S. Caroline Lamb, a native of Franklin county, Vt., born February 10, 1841, the daughter of George W. and Sarah K. (Durkee) Lamb, who came to Wood county about 1852, and are now living in Montgomery township. Mrs. Stahl taught school in Wood and Sandusky counties previous to her marriage. One child was born of this union—Pearl A. M., who is at home.

In the fall of 1865 Mr. Stahl purchased forty acres of partially cleared land, with log buildings, in Section 24, Montgomery township, incurring a debt of \$500. Since that time he has bought and sold extensively, and at present he owns 200 acres in this county, and some in Minnesota. His oil interests are very valuable, and he is the founder of the Pearl Oil Co. His influence is felt in various lines of effort, and his

advice and opinion are often sought upon important questions. He has served two terms as township trustee, and in 1887 was elected to the office of county commissioner, which he held for six years. He belongs to Randall Post, G. A. R., at Prairie Depot, of which he was a charter member, and he is a leading member of the Christian Church, having been an elder therein for twenty-seven years. Mr. Stahl's competence was not acquired by self-denial; he lives well, and his Pennsylvania-German descent is shown in his unbounded hospitality, for no man ever turned away from his home hungry. Kind-hearted and generous, he has many friends, and his help is given readily to any worthy public movement. His home is a most pleasant one. His reading shows an intellectual activity far beyond that of the average man, and he keeps well abreast of the advancing tide of thought. He has a good memory, and, considering his years and his abundant labors, both in war and in peace, he is remarkably well preserved.

LOUIS MYERS, a prominent agriculturist of Center township, was born May 14, 1845, in Baden, Germany. His father, Fredline Myers, was a native of the same province, born December 20, 1799. He married Mary Gross, and had five children: Rosa, deceased; Caroline, the wife of John Nagel; Clara, deceased, formerly the wife of Leonard Smith; Lewis, our subject, and Wilhelmina, deceased.

The subject of this sketch was educated in Germany, and was trained in early life to his chosen occupation upon his father's farm. He served in the German army two years, taking part in the war between Prussia and Austria in 1866, and in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-71. He was married in 1868 to Theresia Schauble, who was born July 14, 1847. They had thirteen children, of whom the three eldest were born in Germany, and are now farmers in Center township. The names with dates of birth are as follows: Joseph, July 9, 1869; Frederick, March 10, 1871; Louis, December 14, 1872; Martin, November 11, 1875; Mary, March 18, 1877; Rosa, January 24, 1879; Julius, April 11, 1881; William F., February 12, 1883; George L., January 5, 1885; Clara, November 16, 1888; August M., September 26, 1891, and two who died in infancy.

In 1873 Mr. Myers came to this country and located at Tiffin, Ohio. His mother had died in 1847, and his father accompanied him to his new home, and died there in 1879. In 1882 Mr. Myers moved to Hancock county, where he re-

mained until 1885, when he came to Wood county and rented a farm of 160 acres in Center township, which he still operates. He has also bought eighty acres near by, the greater part being improved. With the help of his sons, he has brought the entire tract under cultivation, making one of the finest farms in the township. He is enterprising and progressive, and stands high in the regard of the community. He has at times taken an active part in local affairs, and has been school director and township supervisor. In politics he is a Democrat, and he and his family are leading members of the Roman Catholic Church at Bowling Green.

EBENEZER DONALDSON, one of the most prominent residents of Grand Rapids, and known throughout the community as "Squire Donaldson," is a descendant of a family which became distinguished for valor and ability in Colonial times, and has always held an honored place in the history of this country.

The first of the family in this country was Jacob Donaldson, who was born in Scotland, and came to America in 1730. He settled in eastern Pennsylvania, but was killed, in 1756, by the Indians, in the French-Indian war, while he was striving, as a settler on the frontier of his day, to extend the limits of civilization. He had three daughters and two sons, Isaac, and Ebenezer, the former of whom married Martha Reynolds, and a few years later removed with his growing family to Indiana county, Penn., taking up a tract of government land, and entering vigorously upon its improvement. While living there, in 1780, Isaac, in company with a Mr. Barnhill, was returning from a visit to a neighbor, when they were pursued by Indians, and Mr. Barnhill was captured. Mr. Donaldson outran the Indians, but was shot by one of the savages lying under the fence not far from the house, and scalped and tomahawked.

Ebenezer R. Donaldson, son of Isaac Donaldson, grandfather of our subject, moved from Pennsylvania, where he was born, to Harrison county, Ohio, in 1810, and later to Perry county where he spent the remainder of his life. He married Rebecca Hillis, and had children as follows: Matthew, James, Elizabeth, Rebecca, John, Sarah, and Mary. James Donaldson, our subject's father, was born in Washington county, Penn., May 5, 1803, and was married in Perry county, in 1824, to Miss Anna Pugh, a native of Wood county, Va., born June 11, 1804. He settled first in Perry county, but later entered eighty acres of land in Weston township, Wood

county, where he became a leading farmer. In politics he was in early life a Democrat, but afterward adopted the faith of the Whigs, and, on the struggle over the slavery question, he became a Republican. He and his wife were prominent Methodists of their locality. She departed this life February 18, 1881, her husband following her to the grave March 27, 1886. They had four children: Alexander P., born September 17, 1825, was a private in the famous 49th O. V. I., and was killed May 27, 1864, in the battle of Pickett's Mills; Ebenezer, our subject; David, born in 1829, is a civil engineer and surveyor, well-known in Wood county, and now resides in San Antonio, Texas; Colin, the youngest child, died in infancy.

Ebenezer Donaldson, the subject proper of these lines, first saw the light in Perry county, September 8, 1826, but his parents came to Wood county during his boyhood, and his education was obtained here, his first school being in an old log cabin on Beaver creek owned by Alexander Pugh. Reared upon a farm, he followed agriculture in early manhood. He was married in 1849 to his first wife, Miss Anna C. Dubbs, a native of Wayne county, born November 1, 1824, and settled upon a farm in Weston township, removing in 1854 to Washington township, where he remained until 1873 when he came to Grand Rapids. Six children were born of his first marriage. (1) Mary E., born in 1852, married W. A. Watson, and has had nine children—Alexander, Lowell, Myrtle, Donald, Richard, Stanley, Florence, Arthur and Margaret. (2) Stella, born in 1854, married Paul V. Palmer, of Adams township, Lucas county, and has three children—Carleton, Florence and Raymond. (3) Florence, twin sister of Stella, born in 1854, married V. H. Richards, of Wood county. (4) Olive, born June 5, 1860, is a teacher in the Sisters' Select School at Toledo. (5) Carrie, born October 20, 1863, married W. W. Edwards, a banker, of Leipsic, Ohio, and has two children—Ruth and Katharine. (6) Alexander, born December 30, 1865, now a resident of Henry county, married, and has two children—Annie and Ebenezer John. The mother of this family died February 24, 1887, and our subject in 1888 married the widow of Col. S. H. Steedman.

For a few years after coming to Grand Rapids "Squire Donaldson" was engaged in farming exclusively; but, in 1881, he was appointed postmaster at the place, in which incumbency he served some four years. He is a man whose sterling qualities command the confidence and esteem of his acquaintances; he has been a justice

of the peace at intervals for many years, his first election to the office being in 1876. Since 1892 he has held the office without interruption. He is one of the honored ex-soldiers of the Union, having enlisted in 1861, and serving three years in Company H, 21st O. V. I., as a sergeant attached to the army of the West. His chief battles were the engagements at Jonesboro, and on the Chattahoochee River. He is a member of Bond Post No. 24, G. A. R. Politically he is a Republican, but in early years he was a Whig, and his first vote was cast for Zachary Taylor. For nearly half a century he has been a member of the M. E. Church, and he has often shown his sympathy with the best interests of the community by his advocacy of progressive measures.

HENRY R. LONGACRE, a prosperous agriculturist of Portage township, is a native of the Keystone State, born December 12, 1836, in Skipback township, Montgomery county, son of John and Catherine (Reed) Longacre.

John Longacre was born February 2, 1815, and was married in Pennsylvania to Catherine Reed, who was born May 23, 1811. When a boy he learned the miller's trade, which he followed, for the most part, during his earlier years, and, in about 1837, he came to Columbiana county, Ohio, where he operated a mill for some years. Later he moved with his family to Alliance, Stark county, where he ran a mill for John Miller, and, when our subject was about twelve years old, the family came to Wood county, settling on a farm in Bloom township. The father purchased forty acres of land here, of which six acres were cleared, and a log stable and log dwelling house were the only improvements. Mr. Longacre's capital was limited, and by the time he had paid for his land, and bought a yoke of oxen, his funds were exhausted. He lived on this place the remainder of his active life, becoming a prosperous man, and during his later years, lived retired in West Millgrove, where he died March 26, 1894, at the age of seventy-nine years; his wife preceded him to the grave, dying in Bloom township, August 26, 1880, aged sixty-nine years. They were the parents of the following named children: Henry R.; Mary A., who died young; William, who became a member of the 57th O. V. I., and died in hospital at Pittsburg Landing; Sarah J., of West Millgrove; Abraham, of Fostoria, Ohio; and John, who died December 30, 1850, in infancy.

While living in eastern Ohio, our subject had the advantages of pretty fair schools; but he attended little after the family removed to Wood



county. He had a thorough training to agriculture on the pioneer farm; but he also worked at the carpenter's trade to some extent, having picked up a knowledge of that business himself, for he was a natural mechanic. At the time of his marriage he rented a farm in Montgomery township, and being the possessor of a team and a few farming implements, he farmed here for two years, at the end of that time purchasing and removing to a farm in Section 36, Portage township, which then comprised twenty-five acres. He was obliged to go in debt for this, and they began life here in an old log house. Only a few acres of this land were cleared, and he had a difficult task before him; yet he not only succeeded in clearing this tract, but also added to it, until he is now the owner of sixty acres of good land. He has a good residence, barn and outbuildings, and has done most of the carpenter work about the place himself, saving many a dollar in this way. By industry and good management, he has acquired a comfortable property, of which he may well be proud.

On March 18, 1866, Mr. Longacre was married, in Portage township, to Miss Fannie Ziegler, who was born May 29, 1836, in Venango county, Penn., daughter of George and Catherine (Murray) Ziegler. The father was a farmer, and when Mrs. Longacre was eight years old the family came to Ohio, settling in Ashland county, where he rented a farm, having met with reverses in Pennsylvania which placed him in limited circumstances. On the breaking out of the Civil war they came to Wood county, and they both died in Portage township, the mother surviving the father eleven years, and passing her last years with her daughter, Mrs. Longacre. To our subject and wife have come children as follows: Eliza, Mrs. Calvin Myers, of Perry township; Mary, Mrs. F. B. Adams, of Portage township; Perry H., at home; John, who died at the age of two years; Ella, at home, and George I., at home. Mrs. Longacre is a member of the Methodist Church. In politics Mr. Longacre is, like his father, a Democrat, and has served as school director and supervisor of his township; but he gives little time to public matters, attending strictly to his agricultural affairs.

**FREDERICK BOWER.** Like many of Wood county's best citizens, the subject of this biography is of German birth, and his successful career has given proof that he possesses in abundant measure the intelligence, public-spirit and admirable business qualifications which distinguish his race. A leading resident of Rising-

sun, Montgomery township, he is widely and favorably known, and his influence is a helpful factor in every advance movement in his locality.

The family home for many generations has been Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany, and John P. Bower, the father, was a native of that Duchy, born October 14, 1790; was a man of limited means, supporting his family by his daily wages at the stone-mason trade. Three years of his early manhood were spent in military service. He accompanied the army of Napoleon in Russia, as a cavalryman, going as far as Moscow, and suffering untold hardships from the intense cold, one side of his face being frozen badly. Later he served in the German army when it was a foe instead of an ally of Napoleon. He often told to his son stories of the retreat from Russia, and the agonies endured by the heroes of that disastrous campaign.

After the expiration of his term of service, he married Miss Regina Stodinger, who was born September 25, 1796, and afterward, in 1847, they emigrated to America, bringing with them such goods and chattels as might be needed in this country. They sailed from Antwerp on the "Globe Richmond," and after fifty-two days arrived in New York, having only a five-franc piece left when they landed; but kind friends helped them to reach their destination in York county, Penn., where they made their home for more than ten years. The father followed his trade most of the time, and as he was very industrious, scrupulously honest and a thoroughly skilled mechanic, he succeeded in gaining a foothold, and soon bought twenty acres of timber land.

Frederick Bower, son of the above, was born October 13, 1833, and as he was about fourteen years old when he came to America, he had already received good educational advantages in his native land. He continued his studies in the schools of eastern Pennsylvania, making such rapid progress that at an early age he was competent to teach. This profession he followed for several years, \$20 a month, without board; being considered good wages at that day. He used to walk three miles each day to reach his school. His mental abilities would have won him a high place in any profession had he gone on with his education, but circumstances were not favorable, and the comfort of his parents was his chief care. He worked at the carpenter's trade for some years, although he had never served an apprenticeship, his natural mechanical ability enabling him to adapt himself to it readily. Of the twelve children of his parents, he was the only one to live to adult age, and he became their mainstay.



*Fred. Bower*



On April 18, 1856, Mr. Bower was married in York county, Penn., to Miss Mary Stump, who was born May 27, 1837, in Baltimore county, Md., a daughter of Daniel Stump, who later removed to Wood county, and died in Montgomery township. After his marriage our subject continued to reside with his parents, and in the spring of 1858 the entire family came to this county, the journey to Fremont, Ohio, being made by rail. From that point they made their way over rough wagon roads to Montgomery township, where they bought eighty acres of land in Section 27; it was in a primitive condition, and their cabin of hewed logs was of the true pioneer sort. The father did not live long to enjoy the comforts which they began to gain by their united efforts. He was a man of medium height and build, and was active until a short time before his death. He possessed more than average mental ability, and was so upright in his dealings that no one ever suspected him of doing a wrong. His wife was a small woman, but a very industrious one, and her efforts were a great help to him. Both were devout members of the Lutheran Church, and held the esteem of every one who knew them. On November 10, 1860, the father breathed his last, and his faithful helpmeet followed him September 14, 1865, the mortal remains of both being consigned to the grave in the cemetery near Bradner.

The task of beginning life in the wild woods, as Mr. Bower did, is one of which his posterity will never have a practical idea. The finances of the family were low at the time, and in order to secure food they made haste to plant crops, but the first year brought poor returns for their labor. The second year promised better, and in June they had a fine field of wheat just beginning to ripen, when the great hail-storm, which marked that month, laid the entire crop low, together with all their vegetables. This storm wrought destruction throughout the county, but it did not represent to many the suffering which it caused the Bower family under the circumstances. Any human being would have been discouraged, and they certainly were; but they bravely went to work to make the best of it. Our subject followed farming exclusively until 1872, when he engaged in the sawmill business, with which he has been connected ever since, sometimes in partnership, and again on his own account. For several years past he has been the sole proprietor of his business, and in 1895 he erected his present substantial sawmill, which employs from ten to fifteen men. In his career as a lumber dealer he has dispensed thousands

and thousands of dollars for labor and timber, and he is familiar with every detail of the milling and planing business, whether it is buying large tracts of standing timber or the actual toil of the mills. As a business man he is noted for shrewdness and foresight—in fact, some less discerning persons have predicted failure for his ventures at times, but they always turn out satisfactorily. He also has valuable oil interests, and operates portions of his own land.

His home is a pleasant one, the farm of sixty acres being a part of the land which he helped to redeem from the wilderness, and every improvement represents the labor or oversight of some member of the family. Of fourteen children, all are living except one, and a brief record of them is as follows: (1) John P., a sawmill owner, of Portage township, is married, and has one child; (2) Elizabeth, now Mrs. John Harmon, of Prairie Depot, has one son; (3) William lives in Lorain, Ohio, and has been for several years employed as a lineman by the N. Y. C. & St. L. Ry. Co.; (4) Adam F., a sawmill owner, of Portage township, is married, and has two sons and two daughters; (5) Eliza (Mrs. Harry Blackman, of Perry township), has two sons and one daughter; (6) Lavina is at home; (7) Martin L. died in infancy; (8) Albert J., and (9) Daniel W. are partners in the sawmill business, in Perry township; and the others—(10) Charles H., (11) May, (12) Frank, (13) George, and (14) Angie, are all at home. This forms a family of which any parent might well feel proud. The sons have made good use of the assistance given by their father toward their start in life, and are steady-going and prosperous, while the daughters are accomplished and womanly, the older ones being established in good homes.

Mr. Bower is intelligent and fond of reading, and is well-informed upon subjects which an ordinary mind would take no interest in. His memory is excellent, and the observations of his long life make his conversation both entertaining and instructive. In his locality his influence is widely recognized, and he has the respect of all who know him at all, and the friendship of those who know him well. He is strictly temperate in his habits, having never used liquor or tobacco in any form. A Democrat on national issues, he is willing to support a good and competent candidate in local politics without regard to party lines, and no one stands higher in the confidence of the independent voting public than he. While living in a Republican stronghold, he has been elected justice of the peace by a plurality of one hundred on the other side, and defeating one of

the best men in the township. He has also served creditably as township trustee, and was school director in District No. 5 for years. Of the Lutheran Church he is a leading adherent, and was a charter member of Onward Lodge No. 329, K. of P. at Risingsun, in which he has held various offices, and has also been chosen as representative of the Grand Lodge. Six of his sons, now of age, are members of the same Order.

W. SWARTZ. As a representative of the intelligent and hardy pioneers who opened up Perry township for settlement, and have since taken a conspicuous part in developing that region, we are pleased to place in this volume a brief sketch of the life of the gentleman whose name stands at the beginning of this notice. The place of his nativity is Rockingham county, Va., and the date of his birth is January 29, 1826. When but a child he removed to Hampshire county, W. Va., with his parents, Christopher and Mary (Burger) Swartz. There the father bought land, but, unfortunately the title was defective, and he lost everything. By trade he was a carpenter, and, in 1853, he removed to Seneca county, Ohio, where he rented land until coming to Milton township, Wood county. In that township he and his wife made their home with their sons—Levi, Isaac and Jacob—until they were called from this life, the father at the age of seventy-six, and the mother when seventy-five years old. In the family were the following children: Elizabeth, who first wedded Wilson Messick, but is now the widow of Jacob Oates, of Hampshire county, W. Va.; Mary A., who was the wife of Samuel Park, and died in Crawford county, Ohio; Jesse, the first son of the family to come to this State, who died in Highland county several years ago; John, of Hampshire county, W. Va.; Esther, who wedded John Rodeffer, and died in Hampshire county; our subject, who is next in order of birth; Samuel, of Hampshire county; Sarah, now Mrs. Josiah Hall, of Perry township, Wood county; Frances, wife of Hiram Hunter, of Plain township, Wood county; Barbara, wife of Hunter Robinson, of Henry county, Ohio; Isaac W., of Milton township; Jacob, a farmer of the same township; and Caroline, who married Hiram Hunter, and died in Milton township.

The early life of Mr. Swartz was passed amidst the surroundings of slavery. As his parents were in limited circumstances, he was able to attend school only about six months altogether, and as soon as he was old enough he was hired out by his father, and his work was

often very arduous. In 1851 he concluded to come to Ohio, making the journey by conveyance, in company with his brother-in-law and sister Sarah, who had been on a visit to their old home in West Virginia, which was about forty miles from Cumberland, Md. By stage they proceeded to West Newton, Penn., thence down the river to Pittsburg, where they boarded a train for Mansfield, Ohio, thence going by rail to Shelby, from which place they were driven to their destination. On his arrival our subject had about \$10, and with that amount began life in Crawford county, where he found work during the winter in the lumber woods, making his home with Mr. Parks. He then worked at whatever he could find to do, often making shingles by hand, for which he received twenty-two cents per hundred.

On September 28, 1854, in Lykens township, Crawford county, Mr. Swartz was united in marriage with Miss Rebecca Hall, who was born in Walnut township, Fairfield Co., Ohio, March 14, 1827, daughter of Joseph and Mary (Mills) Hall, both natives of Virginia, who had come with their parents to Ohio, when small, being reared in Fairfield county, where they were married. Their last days were passed in Lykens township, Crawford county. To our subject and his wife have been born five children, namely: Silas, a farmer of Milton township, Wood county; Rosella, who died at the age of twenty years; Isaac W., of Bloom township; Samuel, who operates the home farm in Perry township; and Mary, who died at the age of twenty-two.

It was in March, 1855, that Mr. Swartz removed to Perry township, Wood county, and there he rented land until 1859, when he bought eighty acres, which he later sold, buying another tract. This he afterward traded for his original farm in Section 19, where he had located on coming to this county in 1855, at which time the land was almost entirely covered with water, and once while chopping a tree trunk into the desired lengths after he had felled it, the portions would float away. The season of 1865 was exceedingly wet, and, becoming discouraged, he would have left the county had he been able to get away. His farm is now a fertile, productive tract, made so by draining and tiling, and the rich fields yield bountiful harvests. Since the 20th of November, 1894, he has made his home in Bloomdale, enjoying a well-earned rest. Besides his excellent farm of 130 acres, he has two lots and a comfortable residence in that place. Although starting out empty-handed, he has secured a comfortable competence, the re-

sult of his own indefatigable energy and perseverance. Mr. Swartz was a Democrat until the formation of the Republican party, since which time he has fought under its banner, taking an active interest in the success of the party, while in religious belief he and his estimable wife are faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

JOHN S. BARND, the Baltimore & Ohio railroad telegraph operator and station agent at Hoytville, Ohio, was born January 24, 1874, in Hancock county, this State, and is a son of Hiram and Melissa (Barnd) Trout. His father died in February, 1875, and he was then adopted by George M. and Mary Ann (Myers) Barnd, the former being his maternal uncle, and since that time he has been known by the name of Barnd. His mother is still living, and is now the wife of Henry Roberts, a farmer residing near North Baltimore. The children of her first marriage are Flora, wife of George Connell, of North Baltimore; John S., and William H., who is living with his mother.

When our subject went to live with his uncle, that gentleman was residing in Van Buren, Ohio, where John attended school until eleven years of age, when the family removed to Marseilles, Wyandot Co., Ohio. He there continued his studies until fifteen years of age, and afterward pursued his lessons under the direction of Prof. Shefler, in Risingsun, Wood county, where his adopted parents located in 1889. A year later the family removed to Bloomdale, this county, and he completed his education in the high school under Prof. John Todd. He next learned telegraphy at the Bloomdale station on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, and on the expiration of eight months was filling the position of night operator at that place. He was afterward promoted and made day operator and station agent at Bairdstown, Ohio, where he continued until February, 1893. He was then transferred to Whiting, Ind.; but after three months he resigned, and became the relief agent, being thus employed until July, 1894, when he was given his present position in Hoytville. He is now acceptably serving in this capacity, and is well liked by all.

Mr. Barnd was married in Michigan, January 9, 1895, to Miss Ida V. Kratz, who was born in Ida township, Monroe Co., Mich., February 28, 1872. Since locating in Hoytville, he has purchased a comfortable home. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias fraternity in Hoytville, and also holds membership with the Senior United American Mechanics of Bloomdale, and the Order of Railroad Telegraphers.

URIAH DISHONG is a successful business man who, depending entirely upon his own resources, has made the best of his opportunities, and by his diligence and good management worked his way steadily upward to a place among the substantial farmers of Jackson township. He was born in Fulton county, Penn., January 26, 1859, and is a son of John and Anna (Dishon) Dishong, natives of the same county. The father was a farmer and stock dealer. Some years after his marriage he removed with his family to Hancock county, Ohio, where he rented land for three years, and then came to Jackson township, Wood county, where he also operated a rented farm for a time. Later he purchased a tract of land; but sold it after three years. He then bought five acres, and afterward forty acres, and both he and his wife are still living on that property. Their family numbers three sons—Uriah; Elias, a farmer of Jackson township; and George, who is living with his father.

Our subject was only three years old when his parents removed to Hancock county, and in the public schools there he began his education, which was completed by attendance for one term in Jerry City, Ohio. No event of special importance occurred during his childhood days, which were passed in the usual manner of farmer lads. On March 23, 1884, was celebrated his marriage to Miss Ella A. Butterfield, who was born in Lorain county, Ohio, January 23, 1866, and is a daughter of — and Esther A. (Thompson) Butterfield. They began their domestic life in Hoytville, where, for two years, Mr. Dishong had been carrying on a notion store. He continued that business for about six months, then erected a larger store building, and put in a stock of general merchandise. This was destroyed by fire August 29, 1888, causing a loss of about \$2,500; but within a week he began the erection of a new store building, and now has a large two-story structure, stocked with an excellent line of dry goods, clothing and groceries. He is a very successful merchant, and his honorable dealing, courteous treatment and earnest efforts to please his customers have brought to him a liberal patronage.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Dishong—Maudie, who was born February 18, 1885, and died on August 25, following; Dimmis, born August 7, 1886; Dauvray, born March 12, 1888; Lloyd, born August 4, 1890; and Lena, born March 15, 1893. On matters of national importance Mr. Dishong is a Democrat, but at local elections he pays little attention to party ties. He served as councilman one year, has been

township treasurer for two years, and was postmaster during President Cleveland's first administration. In manner he is pleasant and genial, a kind-hearted, broad-minded man who has the confidence of all with whom he has been brought in contact.

CHARLES SOLETHER, one of the most highly respected citizens of Bloom township, a prominent agriculturist and veteran of the Civil war, was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, October 15, 1827.

John Solether, his father, who was a farmer there, married Dorethea Anger, and after a few years spent in trying to make a living from thirteen acres of land, they came to America with two boys, of whom our subject was the elder. They left Bremen in the spring of 1833, on the sailing vessel, "Amelia," and forty days later landed at New York. They came by way of the Hudson river, Erie canal, and Lake Erie to Cleveland, and thence on the Ohio canal to Bethlehem, Stark county, where the mother and children were left while the father went to Holmes county, their destination, and secured the help of a brother-in-law, who brought his ox-team, and carried the little family home in his wagon. The father had \$30 left, and this he invested in some land; but the title being defective, he lost it. In the spring of 1834 Mr. Solether moved to Bolivar, Tuscarawas county, where he rented a house and garden, and he and his wife worked out to support the family. The next year he rented fifteen acres of timber land in Stark county, which he cleared and fenced, and in the fall of 1840, having now become the possessor of a wagon, three horses, a colt and \$100 in cash, representing years of hard work and close economy, he came with his family to Wood county. They had started for Indiana, but wisely concluded that State could hold nothing better than the lands of Bloom township, where he entered eighty acres in Sections 8 and 4, covered with heavy timber. Their first home was a log cabin, 18 x 22, a rude affair, and the preparation of the land was such a task, that, if they had not raised some crops on the Limestone Ridge, they would have fared badly. Perrysburg was their marketing point, and at first their milling was done at Freeport, later at Findlay. Wild game was plentiful, but often proved destructive to the crops. By trading one of his horses, the father secured a cow, a plow and some corn, and a few years of steady toil placed him in comparatively easy circumstances. He added more land to his farm after a time, and at his death owned 260 acres. In politics he was a Democrat; but

gave no attention to party work, the welfare of his family being an absorbing interest. He died December 22, 1854, from the effects of a kick from a horse, received while hitching up a team. His wife survived him until March, 1863, and the remains of both now rest in Sugar Grove cemetery. Both had been for many years faithful members of the Evangelical Church. Of their six children, John, the second, born in Germany, resides in Fostoria; the four younger children, born in America, are Harriet, the widow of Amos Stettler; Mary, the widow of Marquis Hamman; Catherine, now Mrs. Simon Gilbert, of Fostoria; and Julia, who lives at Fostoria.

Charles Solether attended school irregularly in his youth, the farm work requiring his help. When he was eighteen years old he began working for Charles Mercer at \$10 per month, but his time was mainly spent on his father's property. On March 14, 1854, in Portage township, he was married to Miss Sarah Miller, a native of Lancaster county, Penn. He settled upon a farm of eighty acres in Section 5, which he still owns. It was then covered with forest, and Mr. Solether cut the trees for his first home, and then invited his neighbors to help him to raise the building. Four children were born of his first marriage: J. Calvin, now a professor in the schools of Jerry City; C. Wilson, of Jerry City; Caroline, who died at the age of thirteen, and Frances, who died in infancy. Mrs. Solether died August 13, 1861, sincerely mourned by all who knew her, and was buried in Sugar Grove cemetery.

On August 31, 1862, Mr. Solether enlisted in Company B, 111th O. V. I., with Capt. Thomas Norris. They went into camp at Perrysburg and Toledo, and then joined the forces in Kentucky, going to Covington Heights, Louisville, Shelbyville and other places. Mr. Solether was taken ill at Frankfort, Ky., October 26, 1862, the day of the remarkable snow-fall, and was sent to the hospital at Louisville; but a week later he rejoined his regiment at their winter quarters at Bowling Green, Ky. On July 5, 1863, he was again prostrated by sickness, and when his regiment moved to East Tennessee he was left behind at Glasgow, and later was sent to Lebanon and Louisville; but he did not recover, and on October 19, 1863, was discharged for disability. For some time after his return home he was unable to do any active work, but he gradually regained his health, and is now quite well preserved for his age.

On February 14, 1864, in Jerry City, he was married to his second wife, Miss Elizabeth Stull, a native of Wayne county, born March 7, 1833,



*Charles Solether*





the daughter of Jonathan and Mary (Hockenberger) Stull, who came to Bloom township in July, 1834. She had never seen a school house until she was ten years old, and as she grew older she assisted in the support of the family by working for other people, one of her employers being Reason Whitacre. Five children were born of this union: Jerius, who died at the age of thirteen years; Ora, married to Samuel Brecht, of Bowling Green; Getta, Rosa and Charles F., now attending the Normal School at Valparaiso, Indiana.

Mr. Solether's later years have been eminently blessed. He has the satisfaction of seeing his children occupying useful and honorable positions in life, and his worldly possessions have been greatly increased by the development of the oil industry. He added to his first farm from time to time until he owned 470 acres; but he has since sold all but 190 acres, where he has a handsome and commodious residence. As a reliable and substantial business man, he takes a high rank in the community. Politically he was a Democrat until the breaking out of the Civil war, since when he has been a staunch Republican; but he has never sought official preferment, his private business requiring his constant care.

Mr. Solether is the author of a neat little work of thirty pages, in pamphlet form, entitled, "Thy Kingdom Come," in which he sets forth his religious belief, and in which he discusses the following topics: What is it to confess Christ? Church and Churches, The Seven Pillars of the House of the Devil, Blasphemy against the Holy Ghost, Jews and Gentiles, Differences in Discipline, The Rejected Stone, Parable of the Tares, What the Kingdom is like, Baptism, and Gathering Home. Mr. Solether has not prepared this volume to sell, but furnishes copies to all who ask for them.

REZIN JEWELL, deceased. The subject of this sketch, formerly a prominent agriculturist and stock breeder of Plain township, was a native of Pennsylvania, born January 16, 1839. His father, John Jewell, married Miss Nancy McCullough, by whom he had children as follows: Aaron, deceased; Jane, the wife of B. Franklin, of Lucas county; Samuel, a farmer of Plain township; Margaret, the wife of Myron LeGalley; William, a farmer of Portage township; George, a farmer of Weston township; Celia, the wife of William T. Le Galley, Jr.; Henry, a farmer in Michigan; Rezin, our subject; and John, who died in infancy. In 1840 the family came to Wood county and settled in Plain town-

ship, where the father died in 1864, the mother surviving him six years.

Mr. Jewell received an excellent education in youth, his fine natural abilities enabling him to make the most of every opportunity. After attending the schools of his district for some years, he studied in Waterville and West Millgrove, paying his own way, and then taught for twenty-five terms, farming at intervals. When his father died he bought the homestead, where he afterward resided, making many improvements, and conducting the estate upon progressive methods. He was married, in 1862, to Miss Catharine Alexander, who was born in Bellevue, Ohio, December 26, 1847. Her father, William Alexander, was a native of Huron county, Ohio, born August 29, 1822, and her mother, Susanna (Moore), of Bellevue, was born September 15, 1827. They had twelve children: Catharine (Mrs. Jewell), Albert, John, James, Judson, Edwin, Ida, William, George, and Chester M.; the others died in infancy. In the year 1856 Mr. Alexander came with his family to Wood county, and became one of the leading farmers of Plain township. His wife died in 1889, and he still survives, residing in the county.

Mr. Jewell was a man of kindly and genial nature. Loving and considerate in his domestic life, he was ever ready to respond to any call upon his sympathies from outside the family circle. He took pride in advancing the interests of his township and county, and for a number of years served in a number of official positions—constable, school director and supervisor. He was a great lover of horses, and was one of the first to introduce good breeds of horses, cattle, sheep and hogs into this county. Thoroughly progressive in his ideas, he was always among the foremost in advocating any change which would benefit the community, and his early death, in August, 1892, was deeply mourned by a wide circle of friends, who cherish the memory of his good deeds.

Mrs. Jewell still conducts the homestead, the active management being in the hands of Edward E. Everett, who married Ida Alexander, a sister of Mrs. Jewell. They have three children: Blaine, born August 4, 1884; Imogene, born September 19, 1886; and Clyde E., born October 7, 1889.

JOHN HIPSHER, who is engaged in farming in Center township, is one of the substantial and reliable citizens of the community, and a prosperous and able agriculturist. He is a native of Allen county, Ohio, born February 14, 1844.

His father, Jesse Hipsher, was born in Pennsylvania in 1810, and was a son of Lawrence Hipsher, one of the honored soldiers who served in the Continental army during the Revolutionary war. By trade the father was a cooper, but devoted most of his time to agricultural pursuits. He was married at Clear Creek, Penn., to Charity Myers, and to them were born nine children: (1) Mary, the deceased wife of Jeremiah M. Buckmaster. (2) William H., also deceased, was a Union soldier in the Civil war. (3) Ezra, also a Union soldier, in the 57th O. V. I., served four years and was twice wounded; after the close of the war he went to Michigan, and was drowned in Lake Huron. (4) Samuel, also a Union soldier in the 57th O. V. I., died of typhoid fever while in the service. (5) John is next in order of birth. (6) Sarah is the wife of Isaac Shively, of Allen county, Ohio. (7) George W. is operating the old homestead farm. (8) Eliza is the deceased wife of Charles Oxburger, a farmer of Allen county. (9) One child died in infancy. From the Keystone State the father removed to Van Wert county, Ohio, where he remained a short period engaged in farming, and in 1870 bought forty acres of land in Allen county, on which he resided until death called him hence in 1895, when he was at the advanced age of ninety-six years. The mother is yet living, and has reached the age of ninety years.

The subject of this biographical notice was reared in his native county, and there received the elements of his education in the district schools, and laid the foundations of his future life. He remained at home until the breaking out of the Civil war, when, prompted by a spirit of patriotism, he enlisted at Bluffton, Ohio, in Company B, 61st O. V. I., under Col. Schleich and Capt. Miller. From Camp Chase the regiment went to Virginia, and our subject participated in all the battles in which his company was engaged. On account of a sunstroke, he was for a few days incapacitated for service, but on his recovering resumed his position in his company. At the last battle of Bull Run he received a wound on the left shin, after which he was sent to convalescent camp, and there received his discharge April 20, 1863. He then returned to Pennsylvania, and there re-enlisted, this time in the 19th Penn. Cav., which was sent to participate in the battle of Lookout Mountain, Tenn. Mr. Hipsher remained in the army until May 14, 1866, when he was discharged at New Orleans, and then returned home to Allen county.

For a short time Mr. Hipsher remained in Allen county, and then went to Michigan, where

he spent eight years in the lumber camps. In 1874 he removed to Wood county, locating in Center township, where he purchased forty acres of land, which he has improved, making it one of the best cultivated farms in the township. Here he was married February 22, 1875, to Miss Mary Sader, a daughter of Lawrence Sader, a farmer of Center township. Ten children grace this union, their names and dates of birth being as follows: Martin, January 7, 1876; John, April 9, 1878; Jane, April 23, 1880; Lawrence, January 7, 1882; Sarah, September 25, 1883; Rosie, June 11, 1886; Eliza, March 30, 1888; James, April 17, 1892; Bertha, March 18, 1894; and Howard, March 4, 1896. The eldest died while young. The family are devout members of the Catholic Church, and in his political views Mr. Hipsher is a Republican. He is regarded as among the leading men of the township, the friend of every worthy enterprise, and for two terms he held the office of school director, while for four terms he served as supervisor.

H. G. STRAWSER was born November 30, 1851, at Hallsville, Ross Co., Ohio, where he resided until 1872, in the meantime obtaining what education he could in the village schools, and working on the farm in his spare moments.

In 1872 Mr. Strawser went to Marysville, Ohio, and worked three years for W. E. Baxter, with whom he learned the jewelers' trade, and who had twenty-eight years' experience in the business. In June, 1875, Mr. Strawser came to Weston, and worked for D. A. Avery until March 28, 1878, at which time he opened up a jewelry store in the post office, acting, at spare time, as assistant postmaster under F. M. Young for two years. Then Mr. Strawser formed a partnership with E. D. Gallagher, and continued with him until January, 1881, when the firm dissolved, Mr. Strawser buying out his partner, and the branch store, which had been operated during the partnership, at Deshler, Ohio, was discontinued, and the two were consolidated into one store, located at Weston. In 1883 Mr. Strawser erected a two-story brick block, twenty feet wide and ninety feet long, which he now occupies, and in which he carries the largest jewelry and musical instrument stock in the city.

In 1878 Mr. Strawser was united in marriage to Miss Eva A. Gunn, who was born in Waterville, Ohio, May 3, 1857. They have two children: Mamie Mayree, born July 19, 1882, and Leroy Wheeler, born October 19, 1887. Mr. Strawser is a Republican, a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and of the following fra-

ternities: I. O. O. F., past grand of the Weston Lodge No. 681; Columbian Encampment No. 274, of Weston; Master Mason of the F. & A. M. No. 560, Weston; Canton Alpine, Uniform Rank, I. O. O. F. No. 26, Bowling Green, Ohio; Kenilworth Lodge, K. of P., No. 340, Weston; and Anthony Wayne Tent, K. O. T. M., No. 140, Weston. He is also a director and stockholder in the Citizens Bank of Weston, and is interested in the oil business.

Jacob Strawser, father of Mr. Strawser, was born in Pennsylvania, March 31, 1817, and was a blacksmith by trade. On February 9, 1840, he married Miss Susan Rockaway, who was born in Pennsylvania, February 8, 1822. He located at Hallsville, Ross Co., Ohio, where for twenty years he followed his trade as a miller, and then that of blacksmithing. To him and his wife were born ten children, one of which died in infancy; the names and dates of birth of the others are as follows: Katie, June 1, 1844; John S., October 1, 1846; H. G., November 30, 1851; Mattie, February 16, 1853; Ella, March 2, 1856; Byron, March 27, 1858; William, September 25, 1860; Lizzie, January 20, 1863; Franklin, November 12, 1866.

**WILLIAM A. SARGENT.** Success can always be achieved through enterprise, indefatigable industry and sound judgment, and these have made our subject one of the substantial citizens of Liberty township. He was born in Ross county, Ohio, February 10, 1833, and is a son of John and Agnes (Linn) Sargent, the former a native of southern Ohio, the latter of Virginia. They were married in Ross county, Ohio, and in the spring of 1833 came to Wood county, arriving in Liberty township, April 6. The father entered 400 acres of wild land, later adding 240 acres. He erected a rude log cabin, which after fifteen years was replaced with a substantial frame dwelling. His death occurred on the old homestead, May 11, 1857; his widow died in 1872. In their family were seven children: Snowden L., a liveryman, of Jerry City; Nancy Ann, who became the wife of Ambrose Shiveley, and died in Center township, at the age of twenty-three; Sarah A., who became the wife of John Fearnside, of Liberty township, and died at the age of twenty-three; George, who died in infancy; William A., subject of this sketch; and John Wesley, who died in St. Louis, Missouri.

Our subject received a common-school education in Liberty township, and was reared on his father's farm. His privileges in this direction, however, were limited, for his services were much

needed on the farm. He was married in Plain township, December 24, 1857, to Mary E. Frank, who was born in 1839. They have one child, La Vendee, wife of A. V. Powell, of Bowling Green, Ohio. Their grandchildren are Frank S., Alice Lillian, John Avery, Gerald Alonzo, Dr. William McMahon Powell, and Vivian. For five years after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Sargent resided on the old homestead, and then removed to their present farm, which comprises 140 acres of land. At the time of the purchase it was mostly wild and unimproved. Mr. Sargent erected his home in 1865 and has made his farm a very productive one. He now has ten good oil wells upon his place. He is a practical, intelligent farmer, one who carries on business on scientific principles, and, though he had not a dollar when he came to his present home, he has to-day one of the most valuable farms in the neighborhood. In politics he is a staunch Republican, and he is an advocate for temperance. He has served as town trustee for three years, and has been treasurer of the Portage township school board some eighteen years.

**W. H. H. KIGER** is a leading agriculturist of Montgomery township, and an excellent citizen who has to his credit an unblemished war record. He is a native of Ohio, born in Fairfield county, November 13, 1839, and is the son of Henry and Mercy L. (Williamson) Kiger, who never left that county, and there the former died when our subject was quite young, and the latter is still living at the ripe old age of eighty-four years.

Mr. Kiger, of this review, was the only son in a family of four children, and in his boyhood secured his education at the district schools of his native county. Like most farmer boys he was reared to habits of industry, early becoming familiar with the work of an agriculturist; he remained under the parental roof until answering the call of President Lincoln for troops to put down the Rebellion, he enlisted in August, 1861, in Company I, 17th O. V. I. He served as fifth sergeant until discharged in May, 1862, on account of disability, and returned to his native county; but the following year came to Wood county, renting a farm in Perry township, which he operated, but made his home with his uncle, Josiah Kiger, as he was at that time unmarried. In May, 1864, however, he re-enlisted, this time becoming a member of Company E, 144th O. V. I., and was engaged in guard duty at Wilmington, Del, until discharged in the following August, after which he resumed farming in Perry township.

In the winter after his return to Wood county,

Mr. Kiger was married in Perry township to Miss Mary Norris, a native of Wayne county, Ohio, and a daughter of John and Rebecca (Cuthbertson) Norris, and to them have been born the following children—Kate, now Mrs. F. M. Adams, of Montgomery township; Rebecca, who for four years successfully engaged in teaching in the schools of Fostoria, Ohio, but is now the wife of H. O. Yant, of Toledo, Ohio; Frank M., also of Toledo; William H., who is attending college at Delaware, Ohio; and Emma, at home.

In Perry township, Mr. Kiger made his first purchase of land, consisting of eighty acres, partially improved, and for which he went in debt; but in 1867 he removed to Franklin county, Iowa, where he remained for one winter. Becoming dissatisfied there, he returned to Wood county, and later bought forty acres of land in Montgomery township, a small portion of which had been cleared, and on which stood an old log cabin. That has been replaced by a comfortable dwelling, the land has all been cleared and placed under a high state of cultivation, and all the improvements, there found, stand as monuments to this thrift and enterprise. The place comprises fifty acres of excellent land. In his political affiliations Mr. Kiger entirely coincides with the doctrines and platforms of the Republican party, and in the exercise of his elective franchise supports the candidates of that organization. He ranks among the better class of citizens, and has served as trustee of the township and a member of the school board. Socially, he is connected with the I. O. O. F., at Prairie Depot, and both he and his wife are earnest and consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he serves as one of the trustees.

**HOMER C. BROWN**, the well-known architect of Bowling Green, to whose fine artistic taste that vicinity is indebted for many of its handsomest buildings, is among the group of "Wood county boys" who are rapidly rising to prominence and usefulness in the business life of their native county.

His family originated in Scotland, but his great-great-grandfather, a weaver by occupation, came to Virginia, at an early date, from Ireland. His son Matthew, our subject's great-grandfather, was born in Loudoun county, Virginia. He followed the trade of carpenter and joiner in early manhood, but later became a Baptist minister. In 1828 he came to Ohio with his family, and located first in Perry county, and finally in Wood county, where he died at the age of ninety-eight years and eight months. His son Isaac, the

grandfather of our subject, was born in Hampshire county, Virginia, in 1812. He was a carpenter and joiner in Perry county for many years, and died in Wood county, in 1887.

His son Simon, our subject's father, was born in Perry county, August 2, 1842, and in the fall of 1862 came to Washington township, and engaged in contracting and building. With the exception of two years, spent in bridge building on the B. & O. R. R., he has resided in this county ever since, and is now a leading contractor at Bowling Green. He takes a prominent part in all local movements, and is a Democrat in politics and a leading supporter of the United Brethren Church. He has been twice married, first in 1863, to Miss Martha Alexander, who was born in 1844, and is deceased. They had three children: Homer C., our subject; Richard, a clerk in Bowling Green; and Arthur, who died in boyhood. His second wife was Miss Caroline Hutchison, a native of Wood county, born in 1859, by whom he has had two children: one who died in infancy, and Nellie. He saw four months active service during the Civil war, in the 144th, O. V. I., and is a member of the G. A. R. at Weston.

Homer C. Brown was born in Plain township, August 25, 1869, and received his early education in the schools of Weston and Bowling Green. He learned the carpenter's trade with his father, and followed it for six years, in the meantime studying architecture, in which he has since engaged as a profession with marked success. He designed the new Central School building at Bowling Green, and many of the most tasteful and commodious residences of that city are his work. In politics he is a Republican, and he belongs to the I. O. O. F. Lodge.

**A. B. WITMORE**. One of Perry's best citizens and farmers, and the oldest male representative of his family, is the subject of this sketch, who is the son of Jonathan and Catherine (Cover) Witmore.

Mr. Witmore was born in Franklin county, Penn., August 23, 1837, and was reared in that county until over thirteen years old, up to which time he attended such schools as those days afforded. When his parents came to Wood county in the fall of 1850, he attended school there until he was eighteen years old. The schools of his days and the opportunity for learning were much inferior to those of the present time, and the progress in this line is earnestly advocated by Mr. Witmore, who fully realizes that the advancement of the coming generation requires ed-

ucation, accomplishments, and a practical knowledge of work. At the age of eighteen our subject began to learn the carpenter trade under instructions from Jonathan Myers, with whom he worked, making furniture, cabinet work, etc. His first investment was the buying of a sawmill, which he ran for two years at a handsome profit, and then went into partnership with Mr. Myers, with whom he remained for several years.

On January 26, 1865, Mr. Witmore was married in Montgomery township, to Miss Katy Legron, who was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, April 3, 1845, and is the daughter of John and Fannie (Gahmen) Legron. Her parents came to Wood county in 1854, and settled in Montgomery township, where she went to school. Mr. Witmore located in West Millgrove, where he engaged in the sawmill business with George Ketcham for about six years, and then traded his interest to Lewis Whitman for eighty acres of land in Section 12, Perry township, and went to farming in partnership with his brother. They remained together for six or seven years, until the spring of 1875, when the partnership was satisfactorily dissolved, and our subject moved to his present farm, where he has 120 acres of excellent land, which he has improved in many ways at no little expense and trouble. To Mr. and Mrs. Witmore were born the following children: Severina E., August 31, 1866, who is now Mrs. A. M. Sellers, of Perry township, and has four children; John I., December 21, 1868, met with an accident while at school in Fostoria, and suffered from an ailment that baffled all the medical skill that money could procure, and from which he finally died February 12, 1894; Fannie A., September 2, 1869, married Ira W. Ingle, of Wood county, Ohio; Ada, December 28, 1875, died when seven months old; Ora Willis, November 30, 1878, resides at home.

Mr. Witmore is a deacon in the German Baptist Brethren Church, to which he is a most liberal contributor. He is well off in this world's goods, is one of Perry township's substantial citizens, and is highly respected by a large circle of friends.

**JAMES STAFFORD**, a leading citizen of Liberty township, was born in McComb, Hancock Co., Ohio, April 17, 1862, and is a son of Nathan and Marinda (McCracken) Stafford. He acquired a common-school education in Liberty township, being but three years of age when his parents removed to Wood county, locating in that township. No event of special importance occurred in his childhood, which was passed in the usual

manner of farmer lads—working on the farm through the summer months, and attending school in the winter. He remained under the paternal roof until his marriage.

That important event in the life of Mr. Stafford occurred in Liberty township, in March, 1884, when Miss Laura Powell became his wife. They began their domestic life on an eighty-acre farm in Section 2, Liberty township, partially inherited by Mrs. Stafford from her father. On this place our subject erected a large and commodious residence in 1888, and in 1895, he erected a fine, large, up-to-date barn, and now has one of the finest homes in the community, while the farm, in its neat and thrifty appearance, well indicates his careful supervision. The home has been brightened by the presence of two interesting children: Glenna and James DeWitt. In his political preferences, Mr. Stafford is an unswerving Republican, and does all in his power to promote the growth and insure the success of his party. For one term he served as township trustee. He is a member of the Mt. Zion class of the United Brethren Church, and is a wide-awake, industrious and energetic business man.

**BERLIE W. MERCER.** The same enterprising spirit which has led to the rapid development of the West causes this gentleman to be numbered among the progressive citizens of Wood county. He was born in Liberty township, April 7, 1865, and is a son of Pierce and Mary E. (Robinson) Mercer. The father was brought to Wood county during his early childhood, and was twice married, the mother of our subject being his second wife. They began their domestic life on the place which is now owned by James Grange, and the mother is still living on a part of the old farm, where the father died in 1883, respected by all who knew him. The children of their family are Berlie W.; James F., of Henry county, who died at midnight September 18, 1896, and was buried in Bethel cemetery (he left a widow to mourn his loss); Nancy Elizabeth, a music teacher, living at home; Charlotte L., wife of E. A. Stratton, of Bradner, Ohio; and Stella M., at home. After the father's death the mother married Bernard O'Brien, who is now also deceased, and by this marriage was born a daughter, Anna B.

The early educational privileges enjoyed by our subject were afforded by the common schools, and were supplemented by a two-years' course in the Normal School of Ada, Ohio. Subsequently he engaged in teaching for two years in this county, and he has always been a warm friend of education and improvement. He entered upon his

business career as a farm hand. With the money he acquired through his own exertions, and a small inheritance from his father, he at length purchased a farm of forty acres in Section 21, Liberty township. He was engaged at work four years with the Ohio Oil Co., and now has upon his place five producing oil wells. He also owns a ninety-acre farm in Henry township, which he purchased in 1891, and the two properties yield him a good income.

On November 12, 1884, in Bowling Green, Mr. Mercer was united in marriage with Libby M. Seymour, who was born in Franklin county, Ohio, September 13, 1867, daughter of Martin S. and Caroline Seymour. They have one son, Leonard V., who was born April 11, 1887. In 1890 Mr. Mercer was visiting through the West with George B. Harris. In 1894 he went to Cincinnati and entered upon a four-years' course of study in the Eclectic Medical Institute, as a preparation for the practice of medicine, and, the same enterprise which has won him success in his business career thus far, will undoubtedly make him an able physician. In politics he is a Democrat, and has served as township clerk four years. His religious connection is with the Disciples Church at Rudolph, of which he has been a member since he was thirteen years old.

WILLIAM NORTON was born in Springfield, Ohio, January 29, 1853. His father, Michael Norton, was born in Kildare, Ireland, and on coming to this country located near Springfield, where he engaged in farming. He was united in marriage in Clark county, Ohio, to Catherine Smith, a native of Kings County, Ireland, born August 8, 1833. They became the parents of eight children, four sons and four daughters, namely: William; Elizabeth, wife of William Snyder; Mary, wife of Charles Young; Annie, wife of William Brunthaver, a farmer of Middleton township; John, a cooper of Sugar Ridge; Michael G., a farmer of Dunbridge; Elsie, at home; and James. The father of this family removed to Wood county in 1853, and located in Middleton township, where he purchased sixty-five acres of land. This he improved, successfully continuing its cultivation until his death, which occurred April 1, 1873. He was a Democrat in politics, and a member of the Catholic Church of Bowling Green.

Our subject acquired his education in the district schools of the neighborhood, and early began work on the home farm. After his father's death he conducted the sixty-five acres that constituted the home place, for four years, and then went to

a home of his own. He rented a farm for two years, when, with the capital he had acquired, he purchased his present farm of eighty acres, one-half of which was unimproved. This he placed under a high state of cultivation, and now, in the midst of well-tilled fields, stands a fine residence and good barns, while his farm is one of the best in the township.

On December 23, 1876, Mr. Norton wedded Miss Mary Entsminger, who was born in Sandusky county, September 30, 1856. They had two children—Maud, born November 22, 1877; and Frank M. (who died in infancy), March 24, 1884. For six years our subject has served as school director, was supervisor two terms, and in both offices has discharged his duties with a promptness and fidelity that has won him high commendation. Socially, he is connected with the Knights of Pythias fraternity, and, politically, with the Republican party.

FRED S. AMOS, who is pleasantly located in Section 8, Montgomery township, is operating successfully as a farmer, and is numbered among the industrious and enterprising young men of Wood county. He was born April 28, 1868, on the farm where he still resides.

Adam Amos, his father, was born in Bavaria, Germany, on the 27th of September, 1825, and when quite small was brought by his parents to the United States, and they became one of the pioneer families of Wood county, locating first in Section 1, Portage township, in 1838. During his youth he was employed by different farmers in the neighborhood, and his limited education was mostly in German. His knowledge of figures was first taught him by his oldest daughter Caroline, who was a bright little child and instructed her father before she was nine years of age. In 1850, in Portage township, was celebrated the marriage of Adam Amos and Miss Martha E. Lein, who was born in Germany, January 1, 1825, and came with her father, Andrew Lein, to the New World, in 1844. The Lein family first located in Scott township, Sandusky Co., Ohio, whence they removed to Portage township, Wood county, where the daughter remained until her marriage. Mr. Amos took his bride to the present home of our subject, he having purchased eighty acres there some time previous, paying for the amount by his own labors. Seven children came to brighten the household by their presence, namely: Caroline, who died at the age of nine years; John, a farmer of Portage township; William, an agriculturist of Center township; Adam and Jacob,

also farmers of Portage township; Mary, now Mrs. Warren Orr, of the same township; and Fred S., of this sketch.

At the time of his purchase few improvements had been made upon the farm, but the father gave his entire time and attention to its cultivation and development, until he had converted it into one of the most highly improved places of the locality. He had increased the boundaries of his land until at the time of his death the home farm comprised 200 acres of rich and arable land, and he had assisted each of his children in securing places of their own. He was a successful agriculturist, and a self-made man in the fullest sense of that oft misused term, having acquired all that he possessed through his own industry, energy and perseverance. The first home was replaced by a good brick residence, built in 1888. His earthly career was ended on the 28th of September, 1891, and he was laid to rest in Bradner cemetery. He was a worthy representative of the German-American citizens, respected by all who knew him. His political support was always given the Democratic party, and religiously he was a member of the Lutheran Church.

Since the death of his father, Fred S. Amos has had complete charge of the farm, and with him his widowed mother resided until her death, which occurred April 27, 1896, when she was laid to rest by the side of her husband in Bradner cemetery. During his boyhood and youth he attended the district schools in the neighborhood. He is possessed of more than ordinary intellectual ability, and learned very rapidly. He early began to assist in the labors of the field, and has become a thorough and skillful farmer, energetic and industrious.

**SIMON BROUGH**, a representative farmer of Troy township, is finely located in Section 1, where he is maintaining his place among the progressive and intelligent men around him, engaged in farming. His birth occurred in Sandusky county, Ohio, in 1858, and he is a son of George and Catherine (Shoemaker) Brough, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter of Germany. The father was reared in Pennsylvania, and when a young man came with his father, Simon Brough, to Sandusky county, where the latter died. In that county was celebrated the marriage of the parents of our subject, the mother having located there at about the age of ten years. In 1866 they became residents of Wood county, and the father passed away March 14, 1884, at Pemberville. His widow is still living,

and now makes her home at Bowling Green. The parental household included five children—Simon, of this sketch; Frank, a resident of Locust Point, Ottawa Co., Ohio; Jane, now Mrs. Sweet, of Bowling Green; Charley, who lives in Coldwater, Mich.; and Mrs. Cora Davis, of Toledo, Ohio.

Mr. Brough, of this review, was eight years of age when the family located upon a farm in Troy township, and there became familiar with agricultural pursuits, which occupation he has made his life work. He was married in that township in December, 1892, the lady of his choice being Miss Anna Hintz, daughter of Fred Hintz, of Lake township, Wood county, and they have become the parents of two children—Otto and Ernest.

In politics, Mr. Brough is an uncompromising Democrat, and is an energetic, wide-awake citizen, keenly alive to the interests of his township and county, and ready to meet and aid any scheme for their benefit. His public spiritedness and unquestioned integrity make him a desirable citizen.

**W. W. LONG**, of Montgomery township, is prominent in the county not only as an advanced and scientific agriculturist, but also in local affairs, his able discharge of the duties of various public offices reflecting credit upon him.

Samuel Long, his grandfather, an old-time minister of the U. B. Church, was a pioneer farmer of Sandusky county, Ohio, where he settled with his family when his son, John W. Long, our subject's father, was a boy. The latter was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, but grew to manhood at the new home, and was married January 29, 1850, to Miss Elizabeth Sampson, by his brother, James, who was a minister of the U. B. Church, and a justice of the peace. Entirely dependent upon his own resources, he followed farming for some time near the old home, and early in April, 1856, moved to Wood county, where he bought eighty acres in Section 34, Montgomery township, from Seth Richardson, for \$800. About six acres had been chopped over, and a house of round logs stood upon the clearing in which they found shelter until another round-log house was built. Not long after they had moved into this Mr. Long entered the army, enlisting May 2, 1864, in Company K, 144th O. V. I. He took part in the battles of Monocacy, Md., Snicker's Gap, Va., and Berryville, Va., and lost his life in the latter engagement, August 13, 1864. Like many other heroes of that cruel war, his remains were laid to rest



where he had breathed his last, far from his home and kindred. He had won a high place in the esteem of his neighbors in Montgomery township during his residence there, had been chosen to several local offices, and was one of the earliest and most influential members of the Republican party there. Although not large in build, he was robust and active. Fond of reading, and especially of Bible study, he was a valued worker in the U. B. Church—the old Montgomery Church—at Risingsun, and had been a class-leader for ten years previous to his death, in addition to his service in other Church offices. Of his five children, W. W., our subject, was the eldest; the second, John W., died in infancy; Sarah A. married Wilson Dunlap, of Montgomery township; Samuel S. is a prominent resident of this county; and James F. resides in Trombly, Ohio. At the father's death a debt of \$500.00 still remained upon the home; but through the united efforts of Mrs. Long and her children, they were able to meet the payments, and keep the little family together. All had their home there until they married and settled elsewhere, and Mrs. Long still resides there, the property being now owned by our subject and his brother, Samuel.

W. W. Long was born in Scott township, Sandusky county, February 21, 1851, and the schools near the Wood county home were the only ones that he ever attended. He learned rapidly, but his father's untimely death made it necessary for him to take up the battle of life in earnest at the age of thirteen, as the eldest son of his bereaved mother. He remained at home until his marriage, May 21, 1876, at Prairie Depot, to Miss Amanda J. Graber, a native of Ashland county, Ohio, who was born July 29, 1856. Her father, Adam Graber, was a well-known farmer, who, with his wife, Catherine Blessing, came from Germany in the early part of the "fifties," and after some years spent at other localities, finally located, in the fall of 1862, in Section 26, Montgomery township, Wood county, where they spent their remaining days. Mrs. Graber died February 20, 1865, and her husband survived her twenty years, dying June 12, 1885; the remains of both rest in Trinity cemetery, Scott township, Sandusky county. They had four sons and eight daughters, and all of the twelve lived to adult age except one who was fatally burned in childhood.

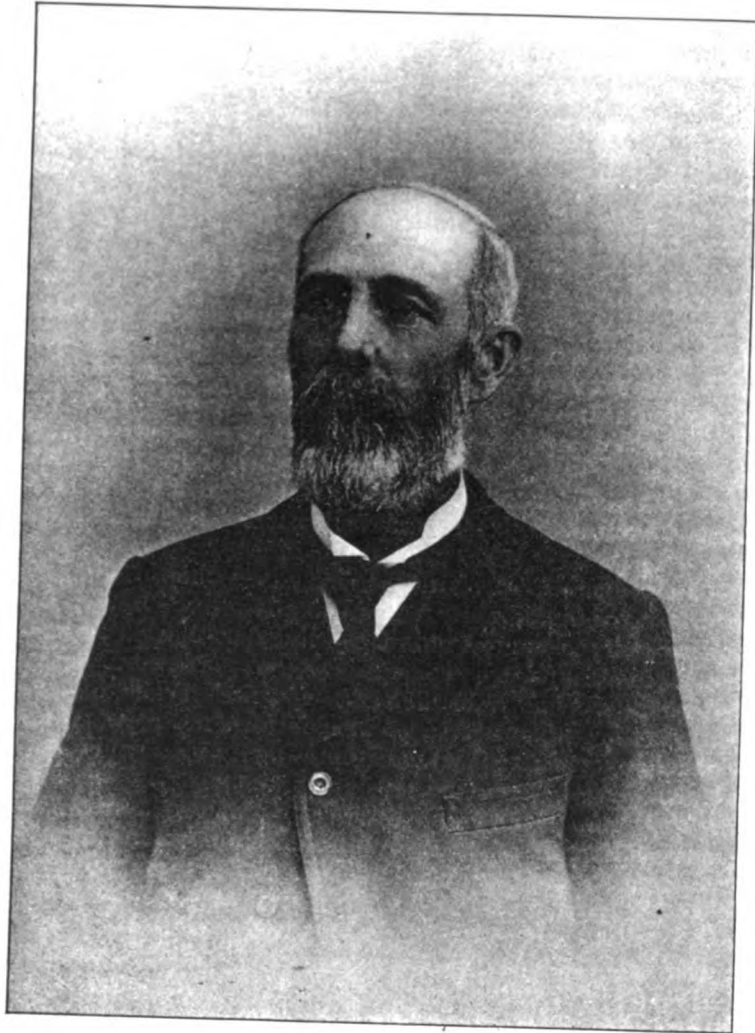
Mr. Long spent the first years of wedded life at his present farm of eighty acres in Section 26, Montgomery township, and then rented the "Arnold Farm," in Section 36, where, although he paid a large cash rent, he secured his start

toward prosperity. He lived there nine years, and on April 1, 1890, returned to his first farm, which he now owns. His first child, Cora M., was born May 29, 1877, and died November 25, 1878; and the second, Rosa, born June 7, 1879, is a member of the class of '96, in the Risingsun High School. Mr. Long's own disadvantages in early life have made him feel keenly the need of bringing educational opportunities within the reach of all, and he has been an active friend of improvement in this regard; he served on the Risingsun school board when the new school building was erected. He is a leading member of the U. B. Church, in which he has held the offices of trustee and superintendent of the Sunday-school, and is now steward. Politically he has always been a Republican, and he has served as township trustee four years and constable two years.

C. H. MILBOURN, a well-known and honored pioneer of Bloom township, is a native of Ohio, born in Columbiana county, January 23, 1835, and is a son of David and Emma (Taylor) Milbourn. The paternal grandfather, Andrew Milbourn, who was born in the Old Dominion, served in the war of 1812, and died in Columbiana county, this State.

David Milbourn was one of the youngest in a family of nine children—eight sons and one daughter—and his birth occurred in 1801. He was married in Columbiana county, March 26, 1826, to Emma Taylor, who was born in Lancaster county, Penn., February 4, 1802. They became the parents of the following children: Levi D., born November 15, 1828, was a member of the 144th O. V. I., as a 100-day man, and now makes his home in Bowling Green, Ohio; Richard T., born June 9, 1830, was killed in July, 1857, by a falling tree, while driving along the road returning from a visit in Wood county to his home in Hancock county; Rachel E., born August 21, 1832, is now Mrs. Michael Auverter, of North Baltimore, Ohio; our subject is next in order of birth; Mary J., born February 23, 1837, is the wife of Peter Boozer, of Bloom township; Lydia, born November 3, 1839, died June 23, 1846, and Jacob H., born March 18, 1842, was a member of Company F, 8th O. V. I., and now makes his home in Barry county, Michigan.

On December 3, 1838, the father arrived with his family in Wood county, locating in Section 8, Bloom township, and they were sixteen days in making the trip from Minerva, Ohio, where he had owned a house and lot. He there worked in a gristmill and at the carpenter's trade; but the



*Charles H. Milbourn*



cheap lands of Bloom township enticed him, and he entered eighty acres. He cleared two acres, and erected a cabin, 18 x 24 feet, into which the family moved. They were compelled to go to Perrysburg or Maumee to mill, which required five days; but a great deal of their grist was ground in an old hand-mill. On that farm the father lived until his death, which occurred March 8, 1851, and his remains were interred in Sugar Grove cemetery, Bloom township. He was a Whig in politics, and for several years had been constable of that township. The mother lived to the advanced age of eighty-six years, and was buried in Jerry City.

There were no schools in the locality at the time the family located here, and our subject was nine years of age before he began his education in the subscription school. At the age of twenty he left the farm, and began learning the carpenter's trade with John McMillen, of Portage township, Wood county. Later he followed that occupation, receiving \$16 per month and board, which was considered good pay at that time, and in the winter would chop wood at twenty-five cents per cord and his board. On August 27, 1862, in Bloom township, Mr. Milbourn wedded Miss Rachel Stull, a native of that township, and daughter of Urie and Mary (Hockenbarger) Stull, who at an early day owned the present site of Jerry City. In November, 1865, our subject purchased forty acres of wild land in Section 9, Bloom township, to which he removed in the following March, and has since bought eight acres additional. In 1885 he erected a pleasant home, which is surrounded by good and substantial outbuildings; and there are found all the accessories seen on a modern farm of value. For several years he worked at his trade in connection with his agricultural pursuits, thus securing a comfortable competence. He is a man of the strictest integrity, and his upright, honorable life had gained him many friends.

During the Rebellion, Mr. Milbourn enlisted August 13, 1862, at the Red School House, in Portage township, in Company D, 111th O. V. I., under Capt. J. E. McGowan. For two weeks he remained at Perrysburg, and while at Camp Toledo returned home to be married. His first engagement was at Huff's Ferry, in Tennessee, and he continued with the regiment until March 5, 1864, while at Dandridge, East Tenn., when he was sent to the hospital at Knoxville, afterward to Nashville, and later to Ward 5, General Hospital, at Jeffersonville, Ind. On November 5, 1864, he rejoined the regiment at Chattanooga,

serving as corporal, to which rank he had been promoted in September, 1863, while at Smithland, Ky., on top of the Cumberland Mountains. He received his discharge at Salisbury, N. C., June 27, 1865, and arrived home at midnight July 14, following. During his absence his wife had made her home with his widowed mother.

Our subject and wife became the parents of six children: Lewis W., who was born April 17, 1866, and died in Bloom township, October 9, 1891; Thomas E., born July 27, 1867; Willis, born July 25, 1868; Riley, born October 6, 1869; Emma, who was born in November, 1870, died in January, 1873; and Jennie, who died in infancy. Thomas and Willis are still with their father, while Riley is now in Cygnet, Ohio. The mother's death occurred October 12, 1875, and she was laid to rest in Sugar Grove Cemetery. On May 17, 1877, at Tiffin, Mr. Milbourn was again married, this time to Iona S. Rollins, who was born in 1831, in Seneca county, Ohio. At the age of sixteen she began teaching in Wood county, and she subsequently worked at tailoring for twenty years. Her parents, Almerin and Mary (Sherwood) Rollins, died in 1846 and 1847, respectively; the mother was a native of New Jersey. They had a family of seven children—six daughters and one son—four of whom are now living. The son, W. B. Rollins, is now a resident of Fostoria; he was a soldier during the Civil war in the 49th O. V. I.

Our subject belongs to Bronson Post No. 85, G. A. R., of Jerry City, and is a firm believer in the principles of the Republican party, which he supports with his ballot. For three terms he served as assessor of the township, was school director of District No. 2, and has also been a member of the board. Mrs. Milbourn is a member of the Methodist Church.

MORRIS B. REIDER, proprietor of the Union flour mills at Bowling Green, was born in Berks county, Penn., December 18, 1857. He lived in his native county until of age, and attended the public schools; and when eighteen years old he commenced to learn the miller's trade. He worked at this for three years, and then removed to Ohio, locating in Tiffin, Seneca county, where he worked on a farm for nine months. He then went to Hancock county, where he worked in a mill for four years, and in 1883 came to Wood county, and with a partner purchased the flour-mill in Bowling Green, which he has operated ever since. He has devoted his entire attention to his business, and since he took charge of the mill has remodeled it, taking out the old burrs

and putting in the new system of rolls. The mill now has a capacity of fifty barrels per day, and is doing a large custom exchange business, all its products being sold at home.

Mr. Reider is an energetic business man, progressive in his ideas, and has made a success of his present enterprise. His mill runs the year round, and has gained an excellent reputation for the fine quality of its flour, as well as for the straightforward dealings of its proprietor. Mr. Reider was married November 8, 1883, to Miss Katie Sharp, who was born in Hancock county, Ohio, September 21, 1860. Three children have blessed their union, namely: Nellie Gray, Joy Frank, and Roxie Rachel. In politics our subject belongs to the Prohibition party, and uses his influence in the cause of temperance whenever possible. He is a worthy member of the United Brethren Church, and fraternally belongs to the I. O. O. F. and F. & A. M.

The parents of our subject were Simeon and Rachel (Breidegam) Reider, both natives of Berks county, Penn., where they are still living. They are of German descent, their grandparents coming to America from that country at an early day. Grandfather John Reider was a stone mason by trade, and one of his brothers was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and was made prisoner by the English. Benjamin Breidegam, our subject's maternal grandfather, was a shoemaker by trade. The paternal family consisted of nine children, namely: Mary, who died in infancy; Benjamin, who died when twelve years old; Ezra, residing in Pennsylvania; Morris B; James, also residing in Pennsylvania; Catherine, who married Joseph Hoch; Jonas, who lives in Pennsylvania; Sally, who married A. Nein, of Pennsylvania; and Elizabeth, deceased.

GEORGE W. SMITH, a farmer of Plain township, was born in Monroeville, Huron Co., Ohio, December 9, 1847. Daniel, the father of our subject, was born in New York, and while still young came west, and located at Monroeville, where he bought 160 acres of land, which he built upon and improved. He was united in marriage with Miss Fanny Phillips, and five children were born of this union, namely: Hannah, the wife of Philip Kitchen, of Plain township; Judson D., a farmer of Middleton township; Phœbe, who married D. D. Johnston, of Toledo; George, the subject of this sketch; and one who died in infancy. In 1851, Mr. Smith went to California, and never returned. Mrs. Smith was married again, this time to R. Winton, and four children were born to them: Millie, wife of Calvin Fox; Josiah, of

Toledo; Eli, a farmer living in Plain township; and one who died in infancy. Mrs. Winton, formerly Mrs. Smith, died in 1882.

The subject of this sketch was educated in Norwalk, Huron county, and remained on the old homestead until 1871, when he bought eighty acres of land in Plain township, on which he built a house, barn, etc., and making all necessary improvements. In 1871 he was married to Miss Anna Mears, a daughter of William Mears, of Plain township, and six children were born to them. Daniel W., born November 25, 1873, attended the high school of Bowling Green, and works on the homestead; Phœbe, born March 8, 1875, married George Wilson, a blacksmith; Frank, born May 25, 1876, attends school at Haskins; Florence and Helen, twins, born June 3, 1878—Helen died in infancy, and Florence is attending school at Union Hill; Ralph, born April 2, 1893. Mr. Smith was school director and supervisor for six years. He is a Republican in politics, and is a member of the Baptist Church, the I. O. O. F., Rôché-de-Bœuf Lodge No. 530, of Haskins, and of the Rebekah Lodge No. 387.

DEWEE H. RUNNEALS. There is, perhaps, no medium through which the masses of the people are educated equal to the journalistic; and on the editors of our great papers rests the responsibility of molding the opinions of men on issues of national and even universal importance. It is a great undertaking for a man old in years and in knowledge of the world to assume the position of "popular educator;" but how much greater is the undertaking for a comparatively young man! Dewee H. Runneals, the genial owner and publisher of the *Bradner Advocate*, was born on September 1, 1867, at Adrian, Seneca Co., Ohio, the son of James C. and Cora (Weber) Runneals.

James C. Runneals was born in Rehoboth, Ohio, June 2, 1837. He enjoyed the benefit of an unusually good education for those days, and followed the profession of teaching, together with the occupation of bookkeeping, all his life. Inspired by the patriotic ardor that leads men to offer up their lives, if need be, on the altar of their country, on August 14, 1861, Mr. Runneals laid aside the birch and quill, and enlisted in Company D, 49th O. V. I., for the three-years' service. Bravely enduring all the hardships incident to the life of a soldier, and faithful in the discharge of every duty, he bore his musket through the years of his enlistment, and at Atlanta, Ga., on the expiration of the three years, October 20, 1864, he was mustered out and re-

turned home. June 22, 1865, he married Miss Cora Weber, who was born in Paris, Stark Co., Ohio, August 9, 1845. Two children blessed this union: Frank C. and Dewee H., both of whom survive. The father passed away in Fostoria, Seneca county, May 4, 1884, at the age of forty-seven, but the mother is still living, making her home in Fostoria.

Dewee H. Runneals, the subject proper of this sketch, was educated in the public schools at Fostoria, until September, 1884, when he laid aside his school books and began to learn the printer's trade, in the office of the *Democrat*. In 1886 he went to Abilene, Kans., thence to Denver, Colo.; in 1889, in partnership with A. L. Clark, he published the *People's Advocate*, at Marysville, Kans. In 1890 he established the Fostoria Daily *Journal*, but after nine months sold out to the *Democrat*, and again went west, this time locating in Trinidad, Colo.; here he remained until February, 1893, when he settled at Deshler, Ohio, and with his brother leased the Deshler *Flag*, and successfully conducted it for one year.

On February 9, 1892, at Manhattan, Kans., Mr. Runneals was united in marriage with Miss Nellie I. Barksdale, of Bigelow, Kans. She was the daughter of Madison and Mary (Wilson) Barksdale, and was born February 9, 1873, at Salem, Washington Co., Ind. To the union of our subject and his wife have been born two sons, namely: James Madison, January 13, 1893, in Oketo, Marshall Co., Kans., and Cecil Howard, December 8, 1895, in Bradner, Wood Co., Ohio.

On October 26, 1894, Mr. Runneals started the *Advocate*, and, although a complete stranger, proved his business ability, and in a year had achieved a success seldom reached by the newspaper of several years standing. The paper is wholly independent in politics, and the agreeable owner has made many friends by his strict impartiality, and his manly bearing has won him the respect of all with whom he has come in contact. Socially he is a member of the Knights of the Macabees, and the International Typographical Union.

CLARK CUMMINGS, a well-known agriculturist of Middleton township, was born in Perrysburg, October 8, 1834.

His father, the late Josiah Cummings, one of the pioneers of this county, was born in Connecticut, where he followed the occupation of farming for some years, removing later to Massachusetts. There he married Miss Lucy Churchill,

by whom he had four children, of whom our subject was the youngest. Walter, a resident of Tontogany, died in 1837; Mary Ann married Richard Hollington; and Abner died in 1876. Josiah Cummings came to Wood county in 1832, locating first in Perrysburg, and later at Tontogany, in Washington township, and in 1836 on a farm of forty acres, near Tontogany, which he cleared and cultivated. He died there, in 1848, his wife surviving him until 1877.

Mr. Cummings attended the schools of Tontogany until the age of fourteen; but after his father's death he worked upon the homestead, his labor being needed for the support of the family. When he attained his majority he bought eighty acres of land in Plain township, and cleared and improved a portion of it. He sold this farm, and bought fifty acres of improved land near the Maumee river, where he remained several years. He was married in 1857 to his first wife, Miss Caroline Bliss, a native of Pennsylvania, by whom he had five children, whose names, with dates of birth, are as follows: Lottie, September 10, 1859, married John Kuirth, a carpenter; Charles, July 2, 1861, is a carpenter at Hastings, and married Hattie Hogland; Nettie May, born May 13, 1866, is the wife of Fred Ryder; Hulda Ann, October 2, 1873, married J. T. Twining, an oil operator; and Minnie, January 13, 1879, is at home.

In 1862, Mr. Cummings enlisted at Tontogany, in Company K, 67th O. V. I., Capt. Lewis and Col. Voris, commanding. He remained at home a few weeks, and recruited fourteen men for his company, which he rejoined at Suffolk, Va., where they had gone into winter quarters. In January, 1864, at Port Royal, S. C., he re-enlisted, and took part in the battle of Richmond, June 26 to July 1, 1864, and was in a number of other engagements, among them the battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Winchester, and Charleston, and was at the surrender of Lee at Appomatox. He had an attack of the measles, and took cold, which affected his lungs, his health being seriously and permanently impaired as a result. He was discharged June 21, 1865, at Richmond, Va., and returned home.

His wife had sold the farm during his absence, and bought sixty acres near Bowling Green, where they remained until March, 1872, when he disposed of it to buy sixty acres in the same township, where he operated for two years. He then bought 100 acres in Middleton township, thirty of which were unimproved. He brought it all under cultivation, and lived there until Au-

gust, 1888, when he again sold out, buying a farm near Haskins, where he now resides, enjoying the fruits of his labors. His first wife died August 19, 1884, and he married Miss Emma Dawson, a native of Norfolk, England, born April 21, 1845. No children were born of this union.

Mr. Cummings is highly regarded among his associates, and takes an active interest in all progressive measures in his locality. He is a Republican in politics, and has been supervisor in Plain township, and school director in the district where he now resides. He is a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church (joining in 1858) at Tontogany, and belongs to the G. A. R., Harry Carter Post, 56, at Haskins.

**D. H. REX.** Prominent among the representative citizens and respected and influential men of Troy township is found the subject of this biographical notice, who resides on Section 36, where he owns eighty acres of land, and also forty acres in Sandusky county, Ohio; both tracts are well improved and highly cultivated, and show conclusively that the owner has not mistaken his calling in adopting agriculture. Mr. Rex was born in Adams county, Penn., December 31, 1818, and is a son of Jonas and Leah (Myers) Rex, natives of the same county, where they were reared and married. The paternal grandfather, Daniel Rex, served as a soldier in the Revolutionary war, thus aiding the colonies in freeing themselves from British oppression. In 1826 the father located in Crawford county, Ohio, in the midst of the wilderness, where he opened up a farm. In 1863 he became a resident of this county, and died in Troy township, August 1, 1865. His wife had preceded him to the other world, dying in Crawford county, on January 1, 1842.

Their only child was our subject, who was about ten years of age when taken by them to Crawford county, and there he acquired a limited education, though for five years after his arrival he never saw a school house. He was reared to agricultural pursuits. It was in 1863 that he located upon his present farm, since which time he has been very successful in his business affairs. He has fifteen oil producing wells upon his place (the first having been bored in his orchard), and they add not a little to his income.

In Richland county, in 1843, Mr. Rex was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Stentz, who was born near Harrisburg, Penn., December 24, 1823, and is a daughter of John and Sonia (Wentz) Stentz, also natives of that locality, who at an early day removed to Richland county,

Ohio. There the father made his home until his death, which occurred in 1869, and his wife departed this life in 1880. In their family were children as follows: Mrs. Rex, honored wife of our subject; Mary Crawl, who makes her home in Richland county; Harriet, deceased; Mrs. Sophia Fullmer, of Ashland county, Ohio; Mrs. Eliza Knott, of Richland county; Mrs. Susan Sears, of the same county; Rebecca, who died unmarried; Mrs. Elizabeth Rife, who died in 1893; John, a resident of Shelby, Ohio; and Philip, who lives on the old family homestead.

To Mr. and Mrs. Rex have been born three children—Mrs. Sophia Amelia Spada, of Castalia, Ohio; Mrs. Sarah Ann Hartman, of Woodville, Ohio; and John, who makes his home with his father. He was married, but his wife died, leaving one child, Henry J. Mr. Rex takes quite an active interest in political affairs, voting with the Republican party; and he and his wife are sincere and faithful members of the Lutheran Church. He well merits the deep respect and high estimation in which he is held by his friends and neighbors, and has been a prominent factor in the upbuilding of his township, aiding in everything for its advancement.

**HENRY BERNTHISEL**, a well-known pioneer agriculturist, now residing at Haskins, was born in February, 1820, in Perry county, Ohio. His reminiscences cover an interesting period, and he is one of the few men now living who attended the great mass meeting at Fort Meigs in 1840, during the "hard cider and log cabin campaign."

His parents, Jacob and Jane (Willey) Bernthisel, were born in Pennsylvania, the father in the year 1784, the mother in 1772. They came to Ohio a few years after their marriage, and located first in Perry county, where they remained fifteen years before finally settling in Wood county. They were the first to locate on the bank of Tontogany creek, and the land on which they made their home was originally a swampy forest. Their goods, which they unloaded under a large white oak tree; had been brought from Perry county with two teams, one of oxen, the other of horses. They were devout members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mrs. Bernthisel died November 11, 1857; Mr. Bernthisel on September 28, 1858. Nine children were born to them: Anna, deceased, the wife of James Bradley; Levi, who went to California, and was never heard from afterward; Jane, the wife of David Mardook, both now deceased; Sarah, the widow of Thomas Heflinger, of Scotland, Ill.; Henry; Parmelia, who married Daniel



*D. H. Roe*



*Sara Rex*





Blodgett, of Weston; Mary Ann; deceased wife of Charles Holloway; Susan, who died in infancy; and Isaac, who lives at Whitehall, Illinois.

Mr. Bernthisel was a boy when his parents came to this county, and his early schooling was obtained in a log cabin in his district. He worked for his father until he was twenty-three, and then farmed on shares for others some four years, after which he engaged in farming on his own account, buying some wild land at Haskins, which he cleared and improved. On May 23, 1844, he married Miss Julia Ann Jenkins, who was born in Pennsylvania, in 1825, and died October 23, 1861. They had six children: Samuel, deceased in childhood. Nettie, who married David Bash, and has three children—Willie, John and Julia (of these, John is a school teacher at Dickey, and is married to Ida Robinson, by whom he has two children). Lottie married Joseph Garrett, of Bowling Green, and has two children living—Charles and Fray (Julia died when twelve years old). Ollie, who married Peter Penny, of Tontogany, and was murdered there in 1895. Wallace married Alice Ashley, and has five children—Willey, Willie, Floyd and Burnette, living, and one that died in infancy; and Charles, who married Miss Frankie Pitcher, and lives at the old homestead; they had three children—Henry, Electa and Stella. After the death of the mother in 1861, Mr. Bernthisel married Mrs. Matilda (*née* Barnes) Sargeant, widow of William Sargeant. Two children were born of this union, one of whom died in early childhood; Lillie, the survivor, is the wife of William Garrett, the adopted son of Elwood Garrett; they have one son, Ross. Our subject's second wife died in 1883, and August 14, 1883, he was married to Mrs. Emma J. Rigg, daughter of Clark and Elizabeth (Stackhouse) Chapman, natives of Vermont; the latter was of German descent, and died in 1846, leaving five children. Mr. Chapman, by trade a cabinet maker, died in 1876. Emma J. Chapman was born in Seneca county, N. Y., January 26, 1840, and was quite young when she accompanied her parents to Ohio. By her first husband, Joseph Rigg, she had six children, named respectively: William, Hiram, Charles, Sherman, Alice and Albert. Mr. Rigg died in 1879.

About three years after his first marriage, Mr. Bernthisel left his old home and moved to a farm a half mile from Haskins, where he now owns 150 acres of land. In 1882 he retired into the village, there to spend his declining years free from business cares. He owns an eighty-acre farm on the river, forty acres west of Haskins,

besides a good home in the village and his old home above alluded to. In politics he is a Democrat, as was his father before him, and has held some minor township offices. Socially he is a member of the I. O. O. F., Roche-de-Bœuf Lodge, No. 530, Haskins, in which he has passed most of the chairs, and he and his wife are affiliated with Rebekah Lodge No. 387, Haskins. In religious belief they are members of the Baptist Church at Haskins, with which organization he has been identified several years, and has served as trustee thereof.

E. L. BARTON, the genial and efficient manager for The Buckeye Supply Company (since merged into The National Supply Company), at Haskins, was born September 14, 1866, in Crawford county, Pennsylvania.

His ancestors were early settlers in that State, and his grandfather, Johnathan Benn, was born there, in Westmoreland county, in 1810. He was a minister of the Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal Church, and died near Titusville, Penn., in 1883. Our subject's father's father, Henry Barton, was born in New York, in 1800, and moved to Pennsylvania, in 1826.

Our subject's parents were both natives of Crawford county, Penn. His father, A. B. Barton, was born November 19, 1842, and is still living near Titusville. He was one of the early operators in the oil fields of that region, but left his business in the first year of the Civil war to enlist in Company C, 150th P. V. I., one of the gallant "Buck Tail Regiments." At the close of the war he returned to the oil business, only to lose all his money in the famous "Pit Hole." Since that time he has been engaged in agriculture. In politics he is a Republican. He was married in March, 1865, to Miss Mary Benn, of Crawford county, Penn., who died in 1877 leaving four children, of whom our subject is the eldest. Mae is a graduate of the State Normal School at Clarion, Penn., and is now a teacher in the public schools of Butler, Penn. J. W. is a fireman on the P. S. & L. E. R. R. Alice lives in Bowling Green. Mr. Barton, Sr., was married a second time, in June, 1881, to Miss Mary E. Nelson.

Our subject lived at his father's farm until he was nine years old, when his mother died, and he was placed in the care of an aunt, Miss Rachel R. Benn, now a missionary in China, but at that time principal of the Model School at Edinboro, Penn. After one year there, he, with his brother and younger sister, were sent to the School for Soldiers' Orphans, at Mercer, Penn., where he

remained until the age of sixteen. Mr. Barton then took a course in the Commercial College at Titusville, graduating in 1884. He at once engaged in the oil business, working in the fields of Clarendon, Red Valley, and Grand Valley, and came to Findlay, Ohio, during the second year of the excitement over the discoveries here. He has worked in nearly every capacity in the oil fields, but in March, 1891, he quit the business, and became a clerk in the post office at Bowling Green for G. W. Gaghan, remaining two years. He then became manager for the branch store of the Buckeye Supply Company, at Montpelier, Ind., remaining there two years, then returning to Wood county, Ohio. In this position his intimate knowledge of the requirements of the oil business makes his services peculiarly valuable. He is widely popular, and is always ready to give the results of his own experience to perplexed oil operators.

On June 1, 1893, he was married to Miss Effie L. Royal, who was born in Michigan, November 19, 1867. They have one child, Raymond. Mr. Barton was for five years a member of the National Guards of his native State, serving as corporal of Company K, 16th Regiment. He is a member of the F. & A. M. and U. R., K. of P., belonging to both lodges at Bowling Green, Ohio (Wood County Lodge No. 112, F. & A. M.; Kenneth Division No. 90, and Subordinate Lodge K. of P. No. 158).

FREDERICK J. BRAND, one of the most prominent citizens of Middleton township, was born January 6, 1849, in Hessen, Germany. Adam Brand, his father, a shoemaker by occupation, married Catherine Hof, and had a family of ten children, four of whom died in infancy; the others were Anna, who married Jacob Dower; Mary, deceased, who was the wife of Philip Meyer; John and Julius, farmers in Paulding county, Ohio; Frederick J.; and Catherine, the wife of F. Eccard. The parents of these, and the youngest daughter, came to this country in 1868; the father died at his home in 1889, the mother passing to her final rest in 1886, at the home of her eldest daughter.

Our subject attended the schools of his birthplace in early youth, and later worked three years at his father's trade. At the age of seventeen he came to America on a steamer, which made the voyage in twelve days. When he landed at New York he had a German piece of money in his pocket, and this he exchanged for a one-dollar note of a defunct bank, thereby leaving himself penniless. With the help of his brother and

sister, however, he managed to come west, and located in Wood county, working some four years as a farm hand. In 1871, he rented a farm, and kept it seven years, when he bought eighty acres of land at \$60 per acre, giving \$600 down, and paying six *per cent.* interest on the balance. He now has one of the best farms of its size in the community, containing 100 acres, having thereon an elegant residence built at a cost of \$1,500, and he has ten oil wells on his property, which are operated by a local company.

In 1871 Mr. Brand married Miss Regina Beil, a sister of Adam and Conrad Beil, well-known farmers of this county. Four children were born of this union: Rosa, the wife of Henry Holzhauser; Emelia, the wife of Julius Mohr; and Albert and Emanuel, both now living at home. In 1886 Mrs. Brand died of consumption, and in 1888 our subject married Miss Louisa Smith, a native of Switzerland. They have two children, Ernest and Ruth.

Mr. Brand is a man of great influence in the community, his ability, integrity, and sound discretion gaining for him the confidence of all who know him. He has been a school director for fifteen years; president of the township board for four years; assessor for three years; real estate appraiser for Middleton township in 1890; is now serving as county commissioner, having been elected on the Republican ticket in the fall of 1895. In the German Reformed Church, of which he is a charter member, he is trustee and elder, and is superintendent of the Sunday-school, of which he has been a teacher for twenty years.

G. M. BARND, a retired merchant of Bloomdale, was born in Perry county, Ohio, March 17, 1832, the eldest son and second child of eleven children of John and Sarah (Garlinger) Barnd, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter of Virginia. When only six weeks old he was taken by his parents to Portage, now Allen, township, Hancock Co., Ohio, of which locality they were early settlers, and where the latter died.

In the usual manner of farmer boys in a frontier settlement Mr. Barnd spent his early days, and on arriving at man's estate, he was married in Findlay, Ohio, by David Gray, on July 31, 1862, Miss Mary A. Myers becoming his wife. She is a native of Trumbull county, Ohio, and a daughter of Jonathan and Charlotte (Hull) Myers, who came to Bloom township in 1843, accompanied by the family of John Russell. The father located on a heavily-timbered tract, which is now within the corporation limits of Bloomdale,

and, within a radius of a mile and a half, their only neighbor was Daniel Robbins.

Jonathan W. Myers was born in Trumbull county, December 11, 1810, and on April 3, 1834, was married to Charlotte Hull, who was born in Mahoning county, February 5, 1812, and to this union were born: Henry B., January 7, 1835, married Martha Curtis, of Paulding county, and they now reside in St. Louis; Mary A., September 24, 1836, the wife of our subject; Caroline, November 27, 1838, married Joseph B. Clayton, and they now reside at Van Buren, in Hancock county; and John A., born January 5, 1847, married Matilda Hollingshead, of Hancock county, now residents of that county. On September 19, 1849, Mrs. Charlotte Myers died and on December 30, Mr. Myers was married to Elmira Robbins, of Wood county, and to this union were born: Rachel L., November 3, 1850, died July 12, 1853; Ella E., August 19, 1854, married Lorenzo D. Hatfield, who died July 15, 1891, and the widow lives at Bloomdale; and Jonathan E., March 30, 1857, married Emma J. Wineland, who died November 5, 1892, and he then married Emma Hays, and they reside in Tennessee. Jonathan W. Myers died September 21, 1892. He had resided on the same farm for forty-nine years, living to see his children settled in life before whom he had set a good example. He was a member of the M. E. Church.

Our subject and wife began their domestic life upon his farm in Allen township, Hancock county, which, in 1875, he sold, going to North Baltimore, than a very small place. He there conducted a sash and door factory under the firm name of Barnd, Cameron & Co., for three years, when he disposed of his interest, and removed to Van Buren, Hancock county, where he engaged in the grocery business, and was also a justice of the peace. In 1885 he began general merchandising in Marseilles, Wyandot Co., Ohio, which he conducted for three years, when in the fall of 1888 he went to Risingsun, Wood county, and carried on a similar store until, in May, 1889. He then disposed of his stock, and on the 1st of August, 1890, opened a five and ten cent store in Bloomdale, carrying on the same until his retirement to private life in March, 1894.

Mr. and Mrs. Barnd have no children of their own, but have an adopted son, John S., who was born January 24, 1874, and is now located at Hoytville, Ohio, where he is station agent and telegraph operator on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad.

In his business dealings, Mr. Barnd has ever been straightforward and honorable, pleasant

and courteous to his customers, and well deserves the success that has come to him. In his efforts he has been ably assisted by the support and counsel of his loving wife, a most estimable lady, and they now rank among the most highly esteemed people of Bloomdale. Politically, he is a strong Democrat, was clerk of Allen township, Hancock county, and a member of the village council of Van Buren, Ohio, while for nearly thirty years he and his wife have been active and consistent members of the Primitive Baptist Church.

DAVID BATES. No country affords a greater opportunity to the poor man than our own; it is, indeed, the poor man's country; here an industrious frugal man has a chance to accumulate property. Many fail to do so, but the best of our population lay by some of their earnings, and soon find themselves in the possession of a good competence. Among the latter class is the gentleman whose name introduces this article.

Mr. Bates is a native of Ohio, born in Scott township, Sandusky county, in 1855, and is the son of Adam and Betsey (Metcalf) Bates. The father still resides in that township, but the mother died when our subject was only three years old, after which he was reared by his uncle, David Phillips, and his education was obtained in the district schools. On attaining man's estate, Mr. Bates was married November 16, 1876, in Scott township, Sandusky county, the lady of his choice being Miss Margaret E. Fiandt, who was born in Jackson township, that county, October 10, 1857, the daughter of Martin and Catherine (Good) Fiandt, farming people of that locality. They have become the parents of six children: Ada E., born April 8, 1878; Etta M., born March 5, 1883; Rosa B., who died in infancy; David M., born October 2, 1889; Amby C., who died in infancy; and Merrill E., born November 3, 1893.

For two years after his marriage, Mr. Bates rented land in Scott township, Sandusky county, but in the spring of 1879 purchased forty acres there in Section 22, at a cost of \$800, going in debt for half the amount. At the end of two years he rented an eighty-acre farm in Section 27, Montgomery township, Wood county, for a year, which he then bought, after selling his original tract at a profit. He lived upon that place until April, 1893, when he rented and operated a farm of 240 acres, for four years, but now has 120 acres of fertile and productive land in Section 27, Montgomery township, on which, in 1896, he erected a fine dwelling at a cost of

\$3,000, and will make it his future home. He has ever been a hard worker, energetic and enterprising, and is destined to become one of the prosperous farmers of the locality. Both Mr. and Mrs. Bates hold membership with the Church of God, in which he has been deacon, and superintendent of the Sunday-school, while she has been a teacher in the latter. They are kind-hearted, considerate people, and have the respect of the entire community.

GEORGE BAIRD QUIGLEY, a prominent resident of Bowling Green, has won the distinction of having spent more years in the oil business than any other man in this region, if not in the entire State of Ohio. Fortune has not always smiled upon his ventures, and he has lost as well as made money; but his pluck and persistence have in later years brought him rich rewards, and he is counted among the leading operators in the State. He was born March 25, 1841, in Warren, Penn., the only child of W. B. and Mary Ann (Williams) Quigley, both of whom were natives of the Keystone State. His father went to California in 1849, and soon decided to return, but died on his way back, in 1852, in St. Louis, Missouri.

Our subject spent his youth with his mother's parents at Warren, Penn., where he received his education in the district school. His mother died there in 1863 at the age of fifty-five. Her father, Isaac Newton Williams, was born April 6, 1796, and was a soldier in the war of 1812, afterward moving to Canada, where he conducted a hotel for some years. Coming back to the United States, he lived for a time at Black Rock, N. Y., finally returning to Pennsylvania, where he engaged in carpentering. He married Miss Susan Guyon, who was born December 5, 1799, and died in 1859, at Warren, Penn., where Mr. Williams was also living at the time of his death, May 6, 1856.

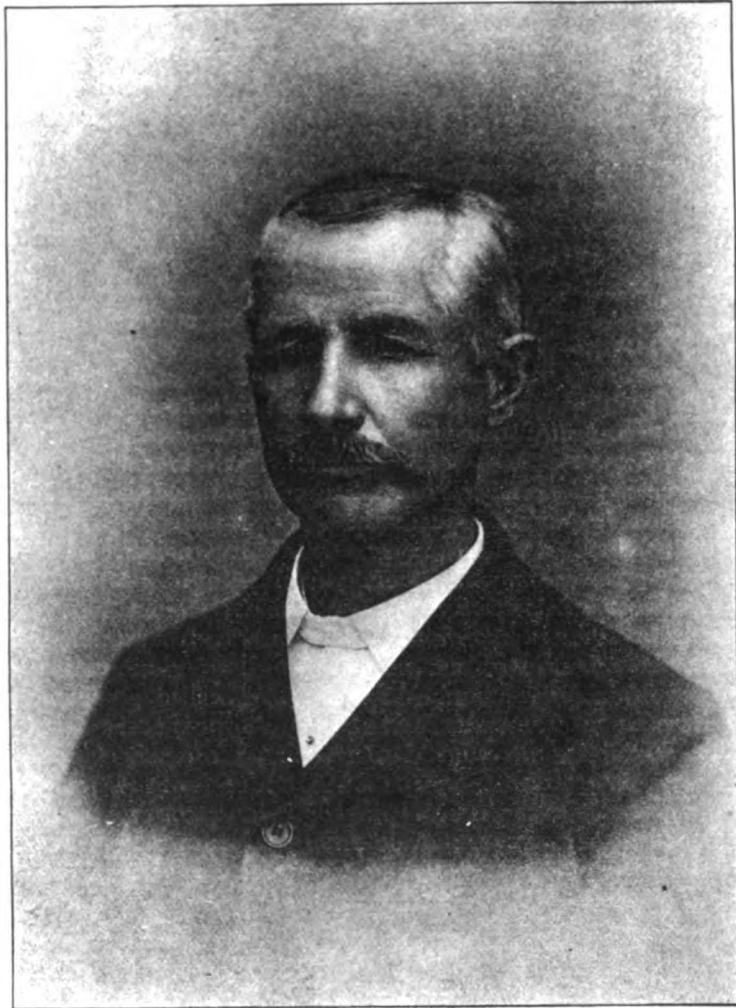
In 1851 the subject of this sketch started in business as a clerk at \$50 a year, without board, but he made himself so useful that the following year another firm offered him a salary of \$300, which he, of course, accepted. In 1860 he went to Titusville, Penn., and established the first livery stable ever opened there, owned by the firm of Struthers & Whitmore. He managed this for a time, but becoming interested in prospecting for oil, he devoted his attention to drilling wells, putting down four, all of which proved to be dry holes in the ground. He then entered the army, enlisting April 28, 1861, in Company D, 42nd P. V. I., known as the "Buck Tail" regi-

ment. He served over two years, and was in many engagements, among them the battles of Malvern Hill, Gaines' Mills, Mechanicsville, and the second battle of Bull Run. He was also in the Peninsula campaign, including the Seven-days retreat. His last fighting was at Stony Ridge, where he was taken sick, and sent to the hospital at Mt. Pleasant, Washington.

Returning home at the close of the war, Mr. Quigley began clerking again, at a salary of \$900 a year, in Warren, Penn. In 1866 he became a partner in the store, but he sold his interest two years later, and engaged in the lumber business at Balltown, Penn., making a specialty of square timber. In 1869 he disposed of this business, and went west, visiting Chicago, St. Louis, Cairo, Kansas City and other places. On returning to his native State he drilled the famous "Buck Tail" oil well, after which he furnished the money to conduct the suit of the Fulmer Brothers against Judge Keating for the Gas Flats oil property. This was decided adversely in 1876, and Mr. Quigley, being then out of funds, accepted a position with the Standard Oil Company at St. Petersburg, Penn., refusing the assistance offered by friends. He continued in their employ eighteen years, meanwhile operating on his own account in various places, notably Duke Center and LaFayette. In 1888 he came to Bowling Green, and bought out a company which had been operating there, and since that time he has been exclusively engaged in developing this field. He is now a large shareholder in the leading producing companies in Wood county, and has several wells of his own.

Mr. Quigley was married July 13, 1879, at Duke Center, Penn., to Mrs. Livia Aldrich Giles, who was born in New York State in 1853. They had one child, Edna G., who died September 29, 1889, aged four years. A step-daughter of Mr. Quigley, Miss Hettie Giles, is a successful teacher in the public schools of Bowling Green. Politically, Mr. Quigley is a Republican; socially, he is a member of the A. O. U. W.

CHARLES F. REDFERN, one of the solid, reliable and representative agriculturists of Perry township, residing in Section 32, is a native of the county, born January 22, 1854, on the old Redfern homestead, near Bloomdale, and and is a son of Joseph Redfern. His elementary education was acquired in the district schools, which were quite inferior to those of the present day, and he completed his studies in Oberlin College in 1873 and 1874, thus securing a good education, which fits him for life's practical



*Geo B Dingley*



duties. Under his father's able instructions he learned the best methods of farming, which vocation he has always followed.

On November 16, 1876, in Perry township, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Redfern and Miss Emily E. Hyter, a native of that township, and a daughter of Samuel and Rebecca (McKee) Hyter. Three children grace this union—Fred H., Rolla and Bennie, at home.

For a short time after his marriage, Mr. Redfern lived with his father-in-law, after which he removed to his present farm of eighty acres of valuable oil land in Section 32, Perry township. Since 1879 he has there resided, during which time he has made many useful and substantial improvements. Though no office-seeker, he is an ardent champion of the Republican party. He is a man of remarkably good judgment, sound common sense and ability, which traits have made him prosperous and influential, and the respect in which he is held is due to his high moral character and disinterested benevolence. Both himself and wife are members of the Methodist Church, and are distinguished for their earnest religious character and firm faith. For fifteen years he served as trustee, and has been a class-leader and steward.

SAMUEL R. LIGHT is one of the younger representatives of the business interests of Portage; but his prominence in commercial circles is by no means limited by his years, for he ranks among the most progressive citizens of the place. He was born December 26, 1871, in Weston, Ohio, and is a son of Adam Light, a native of Bucyrus, Ohio, and a farmer by occupation. In his native city the father was united in marriage with Miss Lucinda Hocker, and afterward removed to Weston, where he purchased a farm of eighty acres, and carried on agricultural pursuits until his death. During the Civil war he manifested his loyalty to the Union in a way that could not be mistaken. In 1861 he joined Company K, 64th O. V. I., and served until after the cessation of hostilities, faithfully following the old flag on many a Southern battle-field. He was wounded, a ball passing through his head, but he ultimately recovered. His death occurred in 1874. The mother of our subject still resides in Weston, and is now the wife of Mr. Morgan, of that place. Of the first union there were three children: Frank, who is now living on the old homestead; Samuel R. and Daniel, twins, the latter of whom is now a farmer of Henry county, Ohio.

The subject of this review began his education in the district schools near his home, but his

privileges along that line were more meager than his farm training. He early became familiar with all the duties that fall to the lot of the agriculturist, and aided in the farm work until fifteen years of age, when he began clerking in the drug store of D. L. Aldrich, of Weston, Ohio, and made a study of pharmacy. For five years he continued in the employ of that gentleman, and then entered the Ada Normal School, of Ada, Ohio, where he pursued a two-years' course. He afterward spent one year in the Normal College at Valparaiso, Ind., and then took a forty-weeks' course in the School of Pharmacy in Ada, Ohio. On the expiration of that period Mr. Light went to Toledo, where he secured a clerkship in a drug store, there remaining for six months. In February, 1894, he bought out a drug store in Portage, and, in the spring of 1895, removed his stock of goods to his present location. He carries a full line of staple and fancy groceries and drugs, has a well-equipped establishment, and is doing a good business, having secured an excellent trade by his courteous treatment and honorable dealing.

On June 10, 1894, in Milton Center, Wood county, Mr. Light was united in marriage with Emma Rickly, and immediately afterward located in Portage, where they have since made their home. One son, Ralph Emerson, was born to them on November 28, 1895, but died August 28, 1896. They have many friends, and occupy a high position in social circles. Mr. Light belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and in politics is a Republican. He is an enterprising, progressive man, wide-awake, and industrious, and his present successes indicate still greater prosperity in the future.

ERASTUS BOSSLER, a well-to-do and highly esteemed farmer of Portage township, was born September 20, 1851, in Perry township, this county, on the farm of his father, Tobias Bossler.

Tobias Bossler was born in Pennsylvania, and there, in Westmoreland county, married Catharine Slatterbeck, also a native of that State. In 1846 the parents migrated to Ohio, settling on a farm here in Section 18, Perry township, which contained 160 acres, Mr. Bossler paying the previous owner \$7.00 per acre for it. Their first home was a rudely constructed log house, in keeping with all its surroundings, for the farm was still practically a wilderness, and it took many years of hard labor to convert it into the fine farm it now is. Mr. Bossler was a moderate sized man, but strong and robust, and he lived



through all the hardships and vicissitudes of pioneer life to a good old age, being seventy-nine years old at the time of his death, which was caused by a stroke of paralysis. He passed his later years in Millgrove, retired from work, though he was always active. His first wife died on the farm in 1878, and in 1880 he wedded Matilda Campbell, but no children were born to their union. To the first marriage came children as follows: Henry, who was born in Pennsylvania, and now lives in Florida (on August 15, 1862, he enlisted in Company I, 111th O. V. I., was appointed sergeant September 9, 1862, and served to the close of the war); Sarah, who married James Valance, and died in Bloom township; John, who died in Pennsylvania, whither he returned after coming to Ohio with his parents (he served in the 57th Regiment); Jonas, who became a member of the 8th O. V. I., and died in the service, being wounded at Antietam; Mary, who married Orrin Henry, and died in Toledo, Ohio; Hattie, who married Thomas Henry, and died in Perry township; George, who died in Bloom township; Eliza J. (the first member of the family born in Wood county), who married Samuel McCormick, and died in Pemberville; Erastus; and Ella, Mrs. James Dindore, of Perry township. The parents both sleep their last sleep in Millgrove cemetery. Mr. Bossler was a Democrat in political sentiment, but took no part whatever in party affairs, giving all his time to his family and home affairs. He and his wife affiliated with the Congregational Church, and were highly respected by all who knew them.

Erastus Bossler was reared to agricultural pursuits on the home farm, and during his earlier years attended school a few months in the winter time. But there was plenty of work for him at home, and as soon as he could help with the farm work he seldom attended school. Up to the age of seventeen years he lived at home altogether, and he then went to Fremont, Sandusky county, to learn the tinner's trade, continuing at that until his employer failed, when he returned home. On September 13, 1878, Mr. Bossler was married, in Findlay, Ohio, to Miss Minerva Adams, who was born on a farm in Section 2, Bloom township, daughter of David and Lucinda (Henry) Adams. He then located on the home farm in Perry township, which he had previously worked on shares, renting it for three years, and subsequently bought eighty acres in Section 35, Portage township, of which forty acres were cleared, but the only building was a log dwelling. Mr. Bossler went into debt \$1,400 for this tract, and he immediately set to work to make it pro-

ductive, succeeding so well that he now has one of the best farms in the vicinity. In 1882 he erected the comfortable home which the family now occupy, and in 1883 built a good barn, besides which there are other buildings and many improvements which testify to the thrift of the owner and enhance the value and appearance of the farm. He has added forty acres to the original purchase, his place now comprising 120 acres of good land. Mr. Bossler is a hard worker, and has a reputation among his neighbors for industry and good management, of which he may well be proud.

Mr. and Mrs. Bossler have had children as follows: Arthur (who died at the age of eight years), Fay T., Etta P., Floyd L. and Henry O. They are members of the Congregational Church. In politics he is a Republican, but, though interested in public affairs, he is not active in politics, preferring to devote himself to his agricultural interests exclusively.

JAMES FRUSHER was born December 18, 1839, in Norfolk county, England, a son of Thomas and Frances (Lois) Frusher, who came to the United States and settled in Monroeville, Huron Co., Ohio, when our subject was twelve years old. In 1855, the family removed to Wood county, and took up their residence on the plank road near Perrysburg, where the father died in 1863, at the age of fifty-four years, the mother surviving him until about twelve years ago. Three of their children were reared in this country, namely: Thomas; James, our subject; and Frances, who is now Mrs. James Byrn.

James Frusher spent his boyhood upon his father's farm, and obtained such schooling as was possible in the district schools of the locality. He had scarcely attained his majority when the Civil war broke out, and he at once offered his services for the defense of the government, enlisting August 8, 1861, in Company A, 14th O. V. I., and serving until the close of the war. He was first discharged in 1863, but veteranized and continued in the army until his final discharge on July 11, 1865, after peace had been declared. During this time he took part in many important battles, among them, the siege of Corinth, Mission Ridge, Lookout Mountain, Chickamauga, and Resaca. He marched with Sherman to the sea, and entered Savannah about Christmas.

On October 11, 1867, Mr. Frusher was married to Miss Laura M. Tracy, and three children have been born of this union: Chester W. died at the age of one year and ten months; Edith M. married John M. Pope, and has one child—Win-

ifred Dorothy; Winifred is now teaching in Plano, Ill. These daughters have received superior educational advantages, and with their mother are among the brightest and most highly cultured women in the community.

Mrs. Frusher was born in Blandford, Hampden Co., Mass., November 16, 1844, the daughter of Avery and Polly Ann (Lathrope) Tracy. Her paternal grandfather was a soldier during the Revolutionary war, and was on Long Island at the time of the battle there. He was among the early settlers of Blandford, the town being named for the ship which brought the people of the colony over. He left a family, of which the following record is given: Henry died in Wellington, Lorain Co., Ohio; Levi has been lost trace of by the family; Roswell Watson died of yellow fever in Savannah, Ga.; Bathena died in Massachusetts; Emily married Myron Hawley, and lives in Huntington, Lorain county; Avery, father of Mrs. Frusher, was the youngest child of this family. He was born and educated in Blandford, Mass.; his first wife was Charlotte Shepherd, and after her death he married Polly Ann Lathrope. They came to Ohio when their daughter, Laura M., was a child, locating first in Lorain county, and later removing to Perrysburg, where the father died in 1877, at a good old age, his birth having taken place in 1790. He was originally a Whig, and on the formation of the Republican party joined its ranks. Both he and his wife were members of the Presbyterian Church. Polly Ann Lathrope was born in Litchfield county, Conn., and died in Winsted, that State, in 1874, at the age of fifty-seven years. She was the mother of four children—Charlotte, who died in early youth; Frederick H., living in Winsted, Conn.; Laura M., now Mrs. Frusher; and Ellen A., the wife of John Hood, of Perrysburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Frusher, with their family, have a large circle of friends, and hold a prominent place in the community.

THOMAS CROSSE, a prominent agriculturist of Center township, residing near Bowling Green, was born July 13, 1846, in the County of Hereford, England. His father, James Crosse, a native of the same place, and a farmer by occupation, married Elizabeth Tew, and had nine children: James, who lives in England; Elizabeth, deceased; Harriet, who resides in England; Susanna, deceased; John, who resides in England; Thomas, our subject; and three who died in infancy. The father of this family died in 1871, and the mother survived him only five years.

Mr. Crosse received a good education in his early days, and worked upon his father's farm until the age of twenty, when he became a member of the police of the County of Hereford, England. In August, 1874, he came to Ohio, locating in Wood county, where he worked for the first two years on a farm in Center township. He then bought fifty acres of land in the same township, which he improved, putting in tiling and ditches, planting an orchard, and erecting suitable buildings. Later he added eighty acres to the original purchase, the farm being all under good cultivation at the present time. He was married in England, in 1870, to Miss Emily Luggar, who was born March 3, 1846. They have seven children, whose names and dates of birth are as follows: Alice L., December 28, 1872, the wife of Henry Nixon, a farmer of Van Wert county; Rosa A., February 21, 1875; Albert S., November 28, 1876; Minnie G., October 30, 1878; May F., April 2, 1880; Thomas E., February 18, 1882, and Earnest J., November 18, 1888, all, except the eldest, being at home.

Mr. Crosse is a Republican in politics, and has always taken a deep interest in all public questions and in local affairs, serving nine years as school director. He and his family are leading members of the U. B. Church at Maple Grove, of which he was one of the first trustees, and he has been the superintendent in the Sunday-school for ten years.

NOAH BAIGHTEL, a farmer and fruit grower of Washington township, was born in Maryland, July 13, 1843, and is a son of Samuel and Mary (King) Baightel, whose family numbered six children—Emmet, who died in Frederick county, Md., at the age of twenty-three; Ezra, who died in Carroll county, at the age of sixteen; Uriah, a resident of Nevada City, Cal.; Isaiah, who died in Sandusky county, Ohio; Jonas, a resident of Frederick county, Md.; and Noah. The parents were of German lineage. The father was a cooper by trade, but made milling his life work. His death occurred in Maryland, in 1846, and his wife died in Maryland, July 13, 1894.

Our subject acquired his education in the county of his nativity, and remained on his father's farm until twenty-three years of age, when he started out in life for himself. In 1870 he removed to Sandusky county, Ohio, and for eleven years operated a rented farm near Fremont. In 1881, he went to Putnam county, where he purchased and improved eighty acres of land, which he sold eighteen months later. He next came to Wood county, and having purchased eighty acres of his present farm in Wash-

ington township has here since made his home, devoting his energies to the cultivation of his land which is now most highly improved.

In 1873, in Fremont, Ohio, Mr. Baightel married Caroline Hite, a widow. Her father belonged to an old Virginia family, and was twice married; by his first wife he was the father of twelve children, and eight children graced his second marriage; and her mother was born in Pennsylvania, in 1827. They had the following children—Noah, a resident of Henry county, Ohio; Mary, wife of T. Minkuits; Uriah, of Iowa; Josiah, deceased; Phœbe Ann, wife of M. Bundy, of Paulding county, Ohio; and David, of Baltimore. Mr. Hite died near Fremont in 1862. He was a member of the United Brethren Church, and a minister of that denomination. He and his three brothers were soldiers in the war of 1812. After his death, Mrs. Hite married Robert Vanaman, by whom she had two children—Rebecca, wife of Harrison Clay; and Chester Leroy, formerly of Putnam county, who died May 29, 1891.

To Mr. and Mrs. Baightel were born two children—George D., born May 19, 1876, seems to possess much natural talent for art, and if he develops this will undoubtedly do some most creditable work. He is a member of the Independent Order of Good Templars of Tontogany. Eva E., born February 20, 1887, is still in school. Mr. Baightel is a stalwart Republican, always voting the ticket of the party, in whose principles he so firmly believes.

**E. B. WILCOX.** The subject of this sketch, who is one of the enterprising, intelligent and influential business men of Bowling Green, was born in Sandusky county, Ohio, November 12, 1854, and is a son of Sterling and Nancy (Bush) Wilcox.

The father of our subject was born in Onondaga county, N. Y., January 9, 1827, and came to Ohio when eighteen years of age, settling in York township, Sandusky county, where he was married; he died December 15, 1889, near Hastings, Mich., when over sixty-two years old. His wife was a native of Connecticut, where she was born in 1824, but was reared in Sandusky county, and is now making her home at Bowling Green, Ohio. To this worthy couple, eight children were born, as follows: Otis lives in Michigan, near Hastings; Phœbe died when two years old, and Freeman when a year and a half old; Lydia is the wife of Isaac Van Voorhis, and lives in Howell county, Mo.; E. B. is the subject of this sketch; Emma is the wife of Michael Amos, of

Portage township, Wood county; Frederick died when eighteen years old, and Elmer resides with his mother in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Our subject spent his boyhood days near Clyde, Ohio, and when fourteen years old came to Wood county where he worked on a farm near Portage township, at the same time attending the district school. When about twenty-eight years old he went to Michigan, locating on a farm near Hastings, where he spent four years, during that time being united in marriage, March 13, 1888, with Miss Lou Miller, who was born in Barry county, that State, April 22, 1867. Three children have been born of this union: Blanche, Beatrice and Mildred.

Soon after his marriage Mr. Wilcox removed to Bowling Green, and in the fall of 1888 became a partner with S. Becker in the livery business, in which he remained until August of the following year. He had in the meantime taken the agency for the Grasser & Brand Brewing Company, of Toledo, and after giving up the livery business devoted his attention to the interests of this company, also putting up a small ice house on the lot adjoining his residence, and engaging in the sale of pure lake ice. He has lately built a large ice house with cold storage for beer, etc., and is doing a flourishing business. During 1894 he sold over thirteen hundred barrels of beer for the brewing company, and had 12,580 tons of lake ice stored in his ice house. This is located on the C. H. & D. railway, where he owns eighty feet of coal sheds, and handles the Jackson, Ohio, soft coal and Lehigh Valley hard coal. He also handles all kinds of soft drinks for the Hoppe & Strube Mineral Water Co., and is agent for the L. Z. Foerster Co., of Ypsilanti, Mich., brewers. He is one of the progressive and enterprising men of Bowling Green, and contributes liberally to whatever is of public interest. In politics he is a Democrat, and socially belongs to the K. of P.

**ADAM E. LEYDORF**, a leading agriculturist and influential politician of Perrysburg township, was born May 25, 1856, in Ersrode, Hessen Nassau, Germany, the home of his ancestors for many centuries. Fred Leydorf, father of our subject, was born there October 1, 1822, and married Katie Eve Sdippig, also a native of that province, born January 27, 1823. He came to America with his family in 1865, and located first at Hull Prairie; but after one year moved to Perrysburg township, on the Findlay pike, where he followed the blacksmith's trade, and cleared and cultivated the farm on which he still resides.

He is one of the most prominent of the sturdy German settlers in this vicinity, remarkable for his physical strength, doing the work of a man of middle age, notwithstanding his seventy-four years. He is a Democrat in politics, and has been for many years a member of the German Reformed Church, exemplifying his Christian faith in his daily life. To Mr. Leydorf and his wife were born five children, namely: Dora E., the wife of Jacob Mutchler, of Middleton township; John C., a resident of Perrysburg; Mary E., the wife of Jacob Artz, of Chicago Junction; Adam E., our subject, and Henry C., a well-driller in this county.

Our subject obtained his early education in the county, attending the district schools near his home, and the German school at Haskins. Practical work on the farm and in his father's shop taught him the all-important lesson of earning a livelihood. He followed the blacksmith's trade for seven years, and has a shop on his farm now, but his attention has been given chiefly to the cultivation of his seventy acres of fine land, which he works by the most improved methods. A man of keen and active intellect, he takes great interest in all public measures, and is one of the influential workers in the Democratic party in this locality. He is now serving his second term as township trustee, and has discharged this and every other trust committed to him, with a faithfulness and discretion which have still further strengthened him in the confidence of the community.

On January 17, 1882, Mr. Leydorf was married to Miss Mary E. Landefeld, who was born in Oberthalhausen, Germany, June 12, 1859. They had five children, whose names with dates of birth are as follows: Fred G., August 15, 1883; Henry J., November 10, 1885; Cris. C., November 18, 1888; Annie M., March 19, 1891, and Louise E., October 15, 1894. Mr. Leydorf and his family follow the religious faith of his forefathers, and adhere to the German Reformed Church.

JACOB BAIR, a prosperous farmer of Wood county, was born in York county, Penn., November 3, 1835, and is the son of Jacob Bair, who was a farmer in York county, and there died September 25, 1845. The death of Mr. Bair left his widow with four children and a small amount of property. In the fall of 1848, she and her family moved to Richland county, Ohio, where some former neighbors lived. In the spring of 1849, Mrs. Bair removed to Jackson township, Seneca county, where she bought

eighty acres of land, paying part cash for it. Later she sold this, and came to Montgomery township, where she bought eighty acres of land. She subsequently moved to Fostoria, where she died in 1872, at the age of sixty-six years. Her children were as follows: Susan, now Mrs. Nicholas Burchard, of Fostoria; Jacob, our subject; Lydia, who married Henry Wollam, of Portage township; George, of Hancock county, Washington township.

Our subject, being the eldest son of his widowed mother, assumed the responsibility of a father while still young, so that his chances for getting an education were limited. He remained with his mother until his marriage. The first property he ever owned was a half interest in a sawmill, in Montgomery township, and it was while working here that he was married, August 2, 1863, at Freeport, to Miss Sarah Graham, who was born October 1, 1842, in Portage township, a daughter of William and Elizabeth (Lefler) Graham. After his marriage, Mr. Bair located in Montgomery township, in an old plank house that stood near his sawmill. His first purchase of land was eighty acres in Portage township, which he bought of an acquaintance. The latter deceived him, as a mortgage of \$500 was on the property, which resulted in our subject being forced to sell it. He lived awhile in Fostoria, and was employed in a sawmill there until an attack of typhoid fever laid him up for a year. Upon recovering, he moved to the Graham home farm in Portage township, where he farmed for two years. In 1868, he bought, in Section 34, Montgomery township, eighty acres of land, with a log house on it, which had to be roofed before it could be occupied. In December, 1868, he moved to his present farm, which at that time had only two buildings, a log cabin and a barn. Twenty-four acres had been chopped over, but they were in no shape for farming, and considerable work was required before the land was in proper condition. Mr. Bair has added to his farm at different times until now he has 240 acres, and he also owns five town lots in Hatton. Two children have been born to him and his wife: George A., a farmer in Montgomery township; and Irene M., at home. Politically, Mr. Bair has always been a staunch supporter of the Republican party. He has held the office of director in District No. 5. He and his wife are members of the Congregational Church, at West Millgrove, where he is a trustee. Aside from the \$2,800 received by his wife from her father's estate, his property is the result of his own industry, economy and business sagacity. He is a well-known citizen, an excellent neighbor,

highly respected by everyone. His good wife has been of much assistance to him in his endeavors.

George A. Bair, son of our subject, was born in Section 36, Portage township, January 6, 1868. He attended the district schools of his time, and was reared to the duties of a farmer's boy. He remained at home, helping his father, until December 22, 1889, when he was married, in Bowling Green, to Miss Carrie M. Pelton, a native of Perry, where she was born October 27, 1870, the daughter of Henry J. and Amanda (Baird) Pelton. Mr. Bair first located on a portion of his father's farm, there remaining until February, 1892, when he moved to his present farm of eighty acres, in Section 33, Montgomery township. Here he is carrying on general farming, and, having been well instructed in the business, under his father, has prospered in his vocation, and is now one of the most promising young farmers in the county. He is a straightforward, honorable man, a hard worker, and is on the highway to financial success. Mr. Bair has two children: Charles J., born March 10, 1891, and Jacob P., born August 9, 1895. In politics he is a Republican, but has never aspired to public office.

FRED BURGESS, a prominent young agriculturist of Webster township, residing near Fenton, was born November 7, 1861, son of O. S. and Sarah (Myers) Burgess, well-known and highly respected residents of Webster township.

Mr. Burgess was educated in the district school near the old homestead, and at the age of twenty-five, having thoroughly learned the business of practical farming at home, he bought forty acres of land in Webster township, and began to improve it. In 1886 he was married to Miss Eva C. Van Pelt, of Bowling Green, a lady of fine mental culture and genial nature. She was born at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, August 28, 1859, the daughter of Louis and Henrietta (Anglaire) Van Pelt. Her father was a native of Sylvania, Ohio, and a shoemaker by trade; her mother was a native of Paris, and at the time of her marriage was teaching music and French in Cincinnati. The first years of their married life were spent in Iowa, but they later removed to Bowling Green, Ohio. Here, in 1877, Mrs. Van Pelt died of grief over the sudden death of her fourteen-year-old son, Willie, who was killed in a runaway in Toledo (where he lived with an uncle). Mr. Van Pelt married, for his second wife, Josephine Frame, by whom he has had four children—Floyd, Lula, Eda and Vera. He is a Republican in politics.

Shortly after their marriage Mrs. Burgess pur-

chased a farm of 120 acres, which, with what Mr. Burgess had previously secured, now makes one of the finest estates in the vicinity; they also own a nice house and lot in Bowling Green. Mr. Burgess devotes his attention chiefly to stock-raising, and especially to the breeding of fine horses. His home is a charming one, the social center for a refined circle of acquaintances. Mrs. Burgess is a member of the Episcopal Church, and her rare gifts and accomplishments make her prominent in the society of that locality. Three children gladden this home: Mary B., born March 21, 1887; Lavada Carmelite, born July 17, 1889; and Luella Alpha, born October 3, 1891.

Mr. Burgess is a Democrat in politics, and is actively interested in all local affairs, serving as school director for several terms. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., Middleton Lodge, of Dunbridge, and his wife is a member of the Rebekah Lodge of the same city.

O. N. BRYANT, the postmaster at Prairie Depot, comes of the old well-known family of that name, and was born in Prairie Depot August 25, 1854. His parents were William R. and Melissa (Sherman) Bryant.

Our subject's early education was obtained in the common schools, his first teacher being Mr. William Vetter. Later he attended the academy at Fostoria, where J. Fraise Richard was principal. Mr. Bryant taught three terms of school, beginning when eighteen years of age. On December 23, 1875, he was united in marriage to Miss Lucy Shue, who is a native of Montgomery township, born in Section 23, a daughter of Frederick and Elizabeth (Kizer) Shue, early settlers of that township. Mr. and Mrs. Bryant resided on his father's farm for a short time, and then went to Jerry City with his brother, Dr. W. Bryant. Our subject remained in that town several years, engaged in trading, and for four years holding the office of postmaster. He then returned to Prairie Depot and resumed farming. After a time he began clerking for Palmer Brandow, a dealer in general merchandise, with whom he remained until he sold out, and then accepted a position with H. L. Hathaway. His last position as a clerk was with O. A. Diver, a merchant of Prairie Depot. On October 1, 1893, Mr. Bryant was appointed postmaster at Prairie Depot, which position he at present fills, with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of the public. He is a Democrat, a hard worker, interested in his party's success, and, although no office seeker, is foremost in the Democratic ranks in his portion

of the county. He has served as township clerk of Montgomery, and was corporation clerk while at Jerry City.

Mr. Bryant is a charter member of Petroleum Lodge No. 499, K. of P., belongs to the I. O. O. F., and with his wife is a member of the Rebekah Lodge, all of Prairie Depot. Mrs. Bryant is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. They have one child, Ober W., who was born August 8, 1880, and is at home. Our subject owns considerable real estate in Prairie Depot, and is an excellent citizen, wide-awake and popular.

CHARLES W. SMITH, one of the energetic and progressive farmers of Montgomery township, resides upon the well-improved farm which he owns in Section 18. There he has spent his entire life, his birth having occurred on the place November 2, 1855, and since old enough he has devoted his attention to its improvement and cultivation with most excellent results. He is honored and respected by the entire community, which looks upon him as one of its most wide-awake farmers and model citizens.

Thomas Smith, the father of our subject, was born March 11, 1823, in East Union township, Wayne Co., Ohio, and was the eldest son and third child of Charles and Elizabeth (Witherspoon) Smith, who had located in that county about 1818. Charles was the son of Thomas Smith, who was born in Maryland, in which State the family had been founded in America, but he spent most of his life in Pennsylvania, where his death occurred. It was in April, 1834, that the grandfather of our subject arrived in Montgomery township, Wood county, where he built a cabin in Section 8, but most of his land was in the northwest quarter of Section 17. He brought with him three of his children—Sarah, Thomas and Samuel, and after his home was prepared, returned and brought the remainder of the family, in June following. Later he built a log house upon his land in Section 17, where he died at the age of fifty-eight years, having at that time 160 acres, and leaving his widow and family comfortably provided for. He was a man of ordinary build, but was never robust on account of an accident in early life. He was one of the representative pioneers of the township, and a stalwart Democrat in politics. Mrs. Smith lived to be nearly ninety years of age, and at her death was buried by the side of her husband in West Millgrove cemetery. All of her children were living at that time, and attended her funeral. They are as follows: Sarah, widow of William

A. Pryor, of Prairie Depot, Wood county; Nancy, widow of Hosea Henry, of Perry township, this county; Thomas, father of our subject; Samuel, of Montgomery township; Charles, of Milton township, Wood county; and Elizabeth, wife of David Lusk, of Prairie Depot.

Thomas Smith was quite small when he accompanied his parents to this county, where, during his youth, he experienced all the trials and difficulties of pioneer life. Schools had not yet been established, and his education was therefore quite meager. He remained at home until his marriage, in Montgomery township, February 24, 1847, to Miss Jane McGill, who was a native of Scotland, born near Glasgow, June 9, 1823. When ten years old she came with her father, John McGill, to the United States, where the parents died of cholera soon afterward, at Tiffin, Ohio. She then made her home with a Mr. McDowell, of Carey, Ohio, until fourteen years of age, when she came to Montgomery township, making her home here with her sister Mary, wife of Thomas Adams, until her marriage.

The parents of our subject began housekeeping upon the same farm where he now resides, in a small log house that stood just north of his present home. There they lived until called from this life, the mother dying August 18, 1874, and the father March 29, 1892. Their remains were interred at West Millgrove, Ohio. Their family comprised the following children: Mary, the wife of Daniel Hile, of Montgomery township; Charles W., subject of this sketch; Ellen, now Mrs. W. G. Lawhead, of Portage township, Wood county; and Ida, wife of Stephen Morgan, of Montgomery township. In his political views the father was a Republican, and he was an upright, honorable man, one who had the respect of all who knew him.

The district schools afforded our subject his educational advantages. Being the only son he early became familiar with the duties that fall to the lot of an agriculturist, and his entire life has been passed upon the old family homestead, which he purchased of the other heirs. On March 30, 1879, in Montgomery township, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Smith and Miss Edna Hastings, a native of that township, and a daughter of Robert Hastings. She passed away August 30, 1880, and was laid to rest in the cemetery at West Millgrove. In politics Mr. Smith is a Republican, with no aspirations for office. He is largely interested in any movement that is for the improvement of the township and county, or that will elevate or benefit the people among whom he lives.

DANIEL M. YATES, one of the successful agriculturists of Perry township, was born in Sycamore township, Wyandot Co., Ohio, October 23, 1839, and is a son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Craun) Yates.

Thomas Yates was a native of West Virginia, was the son of poor parents, and had to rely on his own efforts for a start in life. He was married in Seneca, Ohio, and bought a small farm of sixty-five acres in Wyandot county, where he resided until the fall of 1860, when he located in Section 7, Perry township, on 160 acres of land. He cleared forty acres of this, and built a log house, in which he and his wife lived. Their children were John W., who was a member of Company H, 49th O. V. I., and was killed at Nashville, December 16, 1864; he had been appointed first sergeant November 2, 1864. Thomas E., of West Millgrove. Sarah J., who married F. R. Sherman, of Charlotte, Mich. Daniel M., our subject. William L., of Butler, Ind. Lewis L., a farmer in Perry township. Ruth E., deceased. Henry and Andrew, twins—Henry being now in Henry county, and Andrew in Perry township. James A., residing in Perry township. Mr. Yates resided in Section 7 until his death, which occurred when he was aged seventy-four years. His wife died when seventy-two years old, and was buried in West Millgrove. Mr. Yates was spare in build, taller than the average man, and capable of a great deal of hard work. In his youth he had been employed in a distillery and tobacco factory, but was always strictly temperate and a friend to the cause. Politically he was at one time a Democrat, then he joined the Republican ranks; but toward the latter part of his life was a strong sympathizer with the Prohibition movement. For sixty years he was a member of the Methodist Church, was class-leader and steward, and foremost in all Church work.

Daniel M. Yates was reared a farmer's boy, working out at various places and attaining such education as was afforded by the district schools. He lived at home until the breaking out of the Civil war, when he enlisted, August 15, 1861, in Company H, 49th O. V. V. I., under Capt. O. B. Hays. His first fight was in the battle of Shiloh, after which he participated in all the engagements with his regiment. After his time had expired he re-enlisted, and was appointed corporal November 1, 1864, and sergeant April 15, 1865. He remained with his regiment continually, and only missed one battle (Chickamauga), at which time he was with the ambulance corps. During the campaign of Atlanta, from Chatta-

nooga, he was wounded in the head by a minie ball, which, had it struck one inch lower, would have caused instant death; as it was, he was able to report for duty the next day. He was honorably discharged November 30, 1865, after a service of four years and six months, and then came to Wood county. He was married November 28, 1872, in Perry township, to Miss Ella Kiger, who was born in that township June 2, 1854, a daughter of Josiah and Eleanor (Kelley) Kiger, the former of whom was an early settler of Perry township.

Previous to his marriage Mr. Yates, with his brother William, bought 120 acres of the "home farm," which they cultivated together. Later our subject bought out his brother, and when he was married went to housekeeping on the Kiger farm. He afterward bought his brother's interest in the 120 acres which they first bought, and he has since purchased the remaining forty acres of the quarter section. To Mr. and Mrs. Yates have come the following children: Josiah C., born October 14, 1874, is a farmer of Perry township; Thomas H., August 24, 1878, at home; Dwight R., June 8, 1881, at home; Roxie E., February 9, 1886, at home. Mrs. Yates died October 17, 1888, and is buried at West Millgrove. Our subject now has 162 acres of his own, and has, since 1872, looked after 160 acres of the Kiger farm. He also has five town lots and two acres of land in West Millgrove, on which are three houses. He has always been a Republican, his first vote being cast for Abraham Lincoln when he first ran for President, and he has served two terms as trustee of Perry township. He is a member of the Methodist Church, as was also his wife, and belongs to Yates Post, G. A. R., at West Millgrove, of which he is a charter member. He is at present class leader and steward of the Methodist Church, in which he was licensed to exhort, but has never done so.

Mr. Yates started in life a poor boy. Part of the \$400 he received for his services in the army was lost in oil speculation; the remainder he invested in land, and to-day he possesses comfortable means and is one of the substantial citizens of Perry township. He is generous, hospitable, an excellent neighbor, and is regarded as one of West Millgrove's best citizens.

SAMUEL B. HENGSTELER, one of Risingsun's leading citizens and substantial business men, is also the owner of a farm which, for fine improvements and scientific management, ranks among the best in Montgomery township. He is extensively interested in oil producing as a partner in



*Daniel Yates*





the enterprising firm of Hengsteler Bros. and Bigely & Hengsteler Bros.

The family is of German origin, his father, Lewis Hengsteler having come from the Fatherland with his parents at twelve years of age. They settled in Pennsylvania, where the young emigrant grew to manhood and married Miss Mary Bauders, locating afterward upon a farm in Westmoreland county. He started with nothing but his own abilities and robust health as a capital, but he succeeded, although his hard work undoubtedly shortened his life. In 1865 he came with his family to Ohio, and secured a farm of 160 acres in Jackson township, Seneca county, of which only eighteen acres were cleared. The dwelling house and other buildings were of logs, and, while the soil was rich and productive, much labor was necessary to bring the property into good condition. Later he removed to Pleasant township, Logan county, where he died in January, 1892, at the age of sixty-six years. In the fall of 1893 his widow followed him, and the mortal remains of both now rest in Logan county. He was highly respected among his associates. In religious faith he was a Lutheran. While his political sympathies were with the Democratic party, he was no politician. Our subject is the eldest of six children: Lizzie married Samuel Shaw, of Perry township; George W. is a prominent business man of Risingsun; John L. and Lewis A. are well-to-do farmers in Logan county, and Charles E. resides in Wood county.

Samuel B. Hengsteler was born in Westmoreland county, Penn., October 9, 1854, and attended the district schools of the time in his native State, and in Ohio. Believing that the schools upon which the people at large must depend solely for their education should be of the best sort obtainable, he endorses the improvements in those of to-day, and advocates still greater advance for the future. He remained at the family homestead until his marriage, in October, 1877, in Seneca county, Ohio, to Miss Laura A. Bates, who was born May 9, 1860, in Scott township, Sandusky county, the daughter of William and Catherine (Smith) Bates. For some time he was engaged in farming upon his father-in-law's estate in Seneca county, and later he bought forty acres in Jackson township, in the same county, where he remained some time. This was not his first purchase of real estate, however, as he already owned a town lot in Risingsun. After a few years he came to Wood county, where he and his father-in-law bought 120 acres of land in the western part of Montgomery township, and five years later Mr. Heng-

steler removed to his present farm of eighty-six acres in Sections 34 and 35, where he has made many improvements and constructed substantial and tasteful buildings. Since the fall of 1892 he has been a resident of Risingsun, his first home there being on Walnut street, and in the latter part of 1894 he completed his present residence, on the corner of Main and Mervin streets, one of the finest homes in the town. Aside from the farm and dwelling houses mentioned, he owns twelve city lots in Fostoria, Ohio. His only son, William L., born March 23, 1878, is at home.

Mr. Hengsteler is a Democrat in State and National affairs, but is not radical, and in local politics he selects the most honest and capable man without regard to party. He served two years in the village council, and two on the board of health. Thoroughly progressive and public-spirited, he is prompt to assist any worthy movement. Socially he is a member of the I. O. O. F. of Risingsun.

O. W. SMITH, one of the most successful agriculturists in Montgomery township, is not only a shrewd and prosperous man of business, but he has identified himself with various movements tending to the public welfare, and thus made his influence a power for good.

He is a son of H. E. and Hannah (Bates) Smith, and was born March 12, 1850, in Scott township, Sandusky county, where he attended the "Earl Schoolhouse" in boyhood, with John Long as one of his first teachers. There has been a vast improvement in educational methods in the rural districts since that time, and no man is more ready to forward the movement than he. His early years were passed at the old homestead. On June 19, 1871, he was married in Fostoria, Ohio, to Miss Elizabeth Riley, daughter of Thomas Riley, an Englishman by birth, and a leading agriculturist of Jackson township, Seneca county, who left at his death an estate of 240 acres. Mr. Smith took his young bride home for a short time, and then worked one year for Daniel Earl, a farmer in his native township. The next two years he spent upon the farm of Rufus Gossard, of Greensburg, Sandusky county, now Tinney. In 1874 he purchased seventy-five acres in Wood county, in Section 34, Montgomery township, paying \$700 down, and incurring a debt of \$2,100. The only buildings were a log house and barn, and the land was sadly in need of tiling and ditching, and he promptly went to work to improve the place, which is now one of the best of its size in this section. With the exception of two years of work upon his father's

farm, he has lived at this place ever since. His residence is tasteful and comfortable, and his other buildings are models, the scale-house being notably fine. He also owns three dwelling-houses in Risingsun, and has given another to his eldest daughter. His children are five in number, and the three older ones are married and live at Risingsun: Bertha is the wife of James Meeker; Blanche married Walter Clay, and Jennie married LeRoy Stahl. The other two, Eldredge and Eskil, are at home. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are leading members and liberal supporters of the Radical U. B. Church, in which he is a trustee. Politically he was at one time a Democrat, but he now votes the Prohibition ticket; he is no office-seeker, and has declined offers of minor positions more than once.

**SYLVANUS O. CRANDALL** is a worthy representative of the agricultural interests of Wood county, and in Section 34, Ross township, operates a fine farm, that he has brought to a high state of cultivation. The childhood of our subject was spent in the Green Mountain State, his birth taking place at Jay, Orleans Co., Vt., in 1840.

Adna Crandall, his father, was born and reared in New Hampshire, and there married to Anna Sanborn, by whom he had five children, namely: Mary, who died in Manchester, N. H.; George W., who died at Jay, Vt., August 7, 1877; Ebenezer, who died at the same place, October 5, 1867; Sylvanus O., of this review; and B. M., who resides in Lake township, Wood Co., Ohio. During his early life the father served for some years as captain of militia, and not long after his marriage removed to Jay, Vt., where he died in 1872, at the age of seventy-four years, and his wife in 1854, at the age of fifty-five years.

Sylvanus O. Crandall spent his early life at Jay, where he attended school, and followed farming. At East Harwick, Caledonia Co., Vt., August 8, 1862, he enlisted in Company B, 15th Vt. V. I., for nine months, and was mustered into service at Brattleboro, that State, as a member of the army of the Potomac. He was later transferred to the Sixth Army Corps, and participated in the battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. On August 5, 1863, he received an honorable discharge at Brattleboro, and returned to Caledonia county, where he remained until March, 1866, when he migrated to Wood county, Ohio, locating upon his present farm in Ross township.

In 1868, in Ross township, Mr. Crandall was married, the lady of his choice being Miss Angela Stevens, a native of Madison county, N. Y., and

a daughter of Perry and Lydia (Kent) Stevens, who were also born in New York, where their marriage was celebrated. The father was of Scotch ancestry. In 1845 he brought his family to Wood county, and in Section 33, Ross township, purchased eighty acres of timber land, to which no road had been laid out, the only path being an Indian trail. He there opened up and cleared a farm, on which he departed this life in 1890, at the age of seventy-five years. His wife also died in Ross township in 1874. They were the parents of six children, namely: Angela, wife of our subject; Sarah and William, who both died in New York; Mrs. Frances Barclay, of Colorado, Tex.; Henry, of Clay Center, Ottawa Co., Ohio; and Edwin, who died in Wood county, in 1855. The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Crandall, Gaylord Stevens, served in the war of 1812, and was always known as "Captain."

To our subject and his wife have been born eight children—Perry, Louise, Chester, Wallace, George, Roy, Allen and Bradley. For twenty-one terms, or in all eight years, Mrs. Crandall engaged in teaching in Middleton and Ross townships. She formed an intimate acquaintance with the hardships and privations of pioneer life, and has been an eye witness of almost the entire development of Ross township. Her uncle, Oliver Staves, was one of the first settlers of this section of Ohio. Mr. Crandall is a supporter of Republican principles, in behalf of which he casts his vote, and has served as supervisor of his township. He holds membership with Ford Post No. 14, G. A. R., of East Toledo.

**DE WITT STEVENS.** There is a peculiar interest attached to the history of the pioneers of any portion of our country, and particularly to that part of it with which we are closely connected. In this connection a brief sketch of De Witt Stevens, one of the early settlers of Ross township, will be of unwonted delight to those interested in local history. He was for several years identified with the history of Wood county, but now makes his home in Kansas.

Our subject is a native of Wisconsin, born in Walworth county, in 1845, and is the son of James and Betsy (Scott) Stevens, natives of the Empire State. In 1838 they became pioneers of Wisconsin, and as early as 1853 located in what is now Ross township, Wood Co., Ohio. Both parents died in Lucas county, Ohio, the father in 1881, and the mother in January, 1896. Their family consisted of six children, who are still living: Mrs. Evaline Perrick, of Walworth county, Wis.; De Witt, of this sketch; Charles,

a resident of Lucas county, Ohio; Ellen, wife of Ebenezer Davidson, of Walworth county, Wis.; and Emma and William, both of Lucas county.

Filled with patriotic ardor, De Witt Stevens enlisted, in Perrysburg township, Wood county, in 1864, in the Heavy Artillery, at first belonging to the army of the Potomac. After the close of the Civil war he was ordered to Brownsville, Texas, and continued in the service for five years. His army experience was similar to that of thousands, whose sufferings, dangers and hardships have remained among the unwritten records which comprise so large a part of the life of a private soldier, faithfully performing his duty. After being discharged he returned to Perrysburg township, where he remained four years, but since that time has lived in Kansas.

E. J. ROSENDALE, one of Wood county's representative farmers, residing in Bloomdale, is a native of Yorkshire, England, born February 16, 1834, son of William and Jane (Brown) Rosendale, who came to America when our subject was nine years old. They had a large family and but limited means, and their earliest years in this country were full of toil and hardships. Their first home was in Grafton township, Lorain Co., Ohio, then a frontier section, and in April, 1854, they came to Wood county, and bought a tract of heavily timbered land in Sections 24 and 25, Bloom township, where the father died July 23, 1870, at the age of sixty-three years, the mother surviving him three years. The remains of both now rest in Bloom Chapel cemetery. The father was a man of active habits and powerful physique, six feet tall and as "strong as an ox." He was a Democrat until the war issues arose, when he became a staunch Republican.

E. J. Rosendale, "Ted Rosendale," as he is called by his many friends, was the third son and fourth child of his parents, and in his early years he enjoyed the usual privileges of pioneer farmer boys—poor schools and plenty of work. He was a robust young man when the family came to this county, and he and his brother William walked all the way, driving the cows. Their new home did not present an inviting appearance, swampy and covered with fine large trees, which to the homesick boy represented merely so many days of hard work in clearing the way for the plough. When he was twenty-five he began working in a sawmill, and later built and operated one of his own. At the age of twenty-five he married Miss Alice Hebbert, a native of Delaware county, and a daughter of William Hebbert, a prominent farmer of Bloom township. The first land that

he purchased was a tract of forty acres, which he cleared and cultivated, although he never lived there. About 1873 he bought his present farm near Ted, and he is now one of the largest resident landowners in Bloom township, his farms comprising 685 acres of choice land. He has been a hard worker, few if any men of this vicinity equaling him in this respect. A shrewd and careful manager, he has at the same time established a well-deserved reputation for fairness in his dealings with others. In 1883 he opened a general store at Eagleville, conducting it successfully until 1893, when he sold out. He and his wife are prominent members of the Church of Christ. They are spending their later years in freedom from care, and in 1889 Mr. Rosendale made a trip to England, visiting the scenes of his youth. Their children are doing them credit, settling down in life near them, and taking honorable positions in society. James is a dealer in implements at Bloomdale; Edward B. is a farmer in Bloom township; Carrie married Harry Richard, who died, and she is now at home; William and Charles are farmers in Bloom township, and Harry, Scott, Ray and Edna are at home. In addition to this large family Mr. and Mrs. Rosendale have provided a home for one other child. In politics our subject is a Republican, and he has always been influential in local affairs, has been township trustee for two terms, and school director for many years. For eight years he was postmaster at Ted, which office he established, and in whose honor it was named, and after the discontinuance of the office he was instrumental in its re-establishment. He is a member of the Odd Fellows Fraternity.

S. A. LINHART, one of the most progressive and popular business men of Bloomdale, junior member of the firm of Bryant & Linhart, manufacturers of lumber, was born April 20, 1850, in Allegheny county, Penn. Christopher Linhart was a farmer there, and his son Phillip, our subject's father, was born March 28, 1813, and was married October 27, 1833, to Miss Eliza Huttenhower, who was born June 6, 1812, at the present site of Pittsburg, daughter of Louis Huttenhower, a blacksmith, and his wife, Margaret Bergman.

Before his marriage Philip Linhart had learned the millwright's trade, but he afterward followed farming. In 1863 he moved to Cass township, Hancock Co., Ohio, there remaining until December, 1875, when he came to Bloomdale and bought a tract of land within the present corporation limits, on the west side of Main street,

upon which he built a substantial brick house, then one of the finest residences of southern Wood county. Many of the handsomest houses of the town now occupy the land once owned by him. While he had not enjoyed good educational advantages in youth, he was a man of good common sense and wide practical information. He was a Republican, and a regular and conscientious voter, but he never sought office. On business and public matters his advice was often sought and found valuable. He possessed high moral principles, and his word was never questioned. In early life he united with the Lutheran Church, in which he held the office of elder for fifty years, and he was one of the founders of the Church at Bloomdale. His death, which occurred July 21, 1894, when he was aged eighty-one, was quite unexpected, as his powerful constitution had not been apparently much weakened by the hard toil of his life. The sad event caused sincere mourning throughout the community, and the mayor issued a proclamation closing business houses from 9 to 12 A. M. on the day on which his remains were laid to rest in the cemetery at Fostoria. His estimable wife survived him until February 23, 1896, when she, too, passed away, and was buried beside him. This honored couple were the parents of eighteen children: William P., of Pittsburg; John B., of Bloomdale; Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, triplets, of whom the first two died at the age of three months, and the last when twelve years old; Lewis H., now of Denver; Margaret, the widow of David Boyd, of Tippecanoe City; Harriet, Mrs. Jerry Miller, of Bloomdale; Elizabeth, Mrs. J. L. Andress, of Bloomdale; Joseph F., of Fostoria; Ann, Mrs. John Kelley, of Bloomdale; Mary, Mrs. Peter Sheats, of Bloomdale; Sarah E., Mrs. Morris Hosler, of Findlay; S. A., our subject; Susan E., Mrs. Samuel Shank, of North Baltimore; Letitia A., Mrs. John Hyter, of Perry township; Frank K., of Bay City, Mich.; and Christopher P., of Schenectady, New York.

S. A. Linhart was thirteen years old when the family removed to Hancock county. He remained at home until he was twenty-two years of age, attending the school of the district during boyhood. In 1872 he returned to Pittsburg, and studied in a business college, afterward securing a situation with the Iron City Spice Co. as bookkeeper. Later he worked for De Haven & Co., stove manufacturers, in the same capacity. In the spring of 1881 he came to Bloomdale, where he engaged with his brother Joseph and E. S. Bryant in the lumber business, and

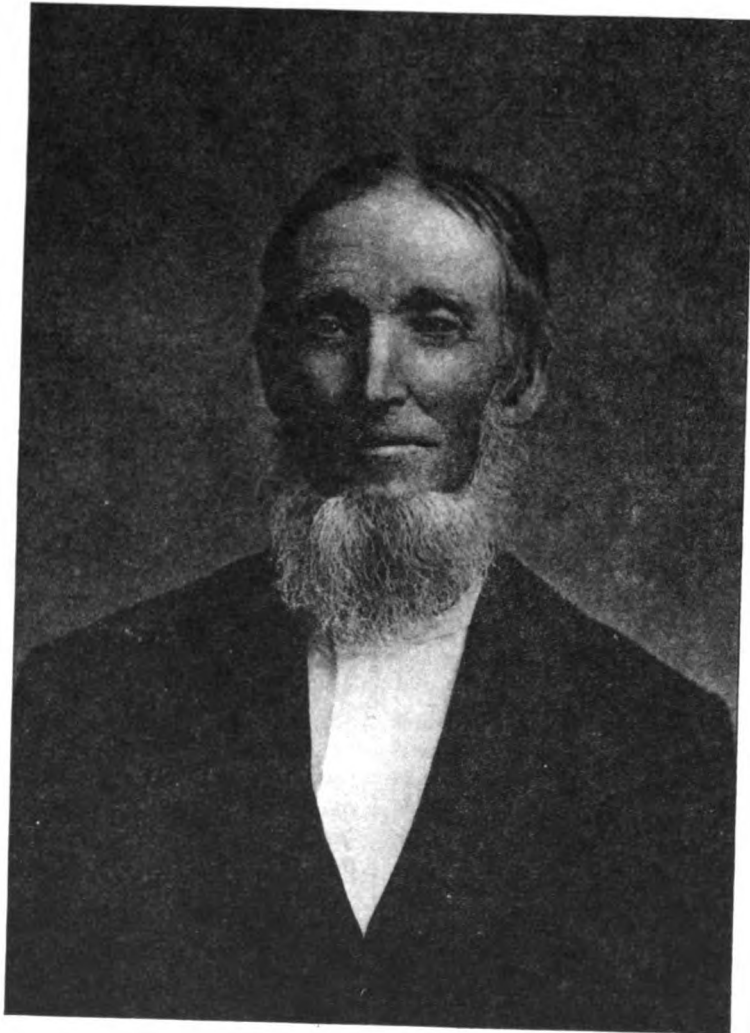
since his brother's withdrawal, in 1883, he has continued in business with Mr. Bryant. He is an enterprising and diligent worker in various lines of effort, his integrity and sound judgment giving him great influence in business circles. He is a director of the Bloomdale Building & Loan Association, and a stockholder in the Bloomdale Creamery.

Mr. Linhart was married May 6, 1888, in Bloomdale, to Miss Lillie Greer, a daughter of William Greer, a well-known citizen of Wyandot county. Their pleasant home is gladdened by one daughter, Louise, born April 17, 1890. In politics Mr. Linhart is a Republican, and he is among the leaders in local affairs. He has served two terms as a member of the city council, and is now a member of the school board and treasurer of the village. He is a charter member of Lodge No. 278, K. of P., of Bloomdale.

ADAM GRAHAM. The subject of this sketch was born in Wayne (now Ashland) county, January 6, 1830, and is the son of William and Elizabeth (Lafter) Graham.

The father of our subject moved to Portage township, in 1836, settled in Section 36, having entered land there some time before, and began to make improvements on the place, which consisted of 160 acres. There he died, aged over seventy-two years; his wife passed away at the age of seventy years. Their children were as follows: Elizabeth, who married Harry Adams, and died in Bloom township; Mary, who became the wife of Bernard Soule, and lives in Fostoria; Sarah (now Mrs. Jacob Bair), of Montgomery township; Caroline, who married L. Soule, and died in Bloom township; Adam, our subject; and William, a resident of Minnesota.

Our subject, who was fourteen years old before he went to school, was reared a farmer's boy, and was thirty years old before he ever had an overcoat. His first land was forty acres in Perry township, which his father had given him when he reached his twenty-first birthday. He went to work on his land, and later bought twenty acres in Section 32, which had a small log house on it, and where he removed to when he was married, which event occurred when he was twenty-five years of age, the lady of his choice being Miss Mary J. Lee, of Bloom township, a daughter of George J. and Hannah (Wolam) Lee. After his marriage our subject never left Montgomery township, although he lived at various places within its limits. His present home is on 360 acres of land in Section 32, where



**ADAM GRAHAM.**



he has resided since the spring of 1889. To him and his wife have been born the following children: Sarah A. (now Mrs. George Stearns), of Seneca county; Mary E., who married John Adams, of Bloom township; Charlotte E., who became the wife of J. W. Fry, and died in Portage township; Clorinda married Francis Dicken, of Seneca county; Orrin is a farmer, of Montgomery township; Charles lives at home; Adam W. follows farming in Montgomery township.

Mr. Graham has 160 acres in Henry county, making a total of 520 acres, and of this he has cleared over 200. Few men in Wood county have done as much to improve their section as has our subject. He is a Democrat, but no office-seeker, although he has served in several minor offices in his district. He is a highly respected citizen, and, despite the years of hard labor he has passed through, may yet be found actively engaged in farm work. To just such efforts of the old pioneers is it that Wood county owes her position as foremost in the ranks of Ohio's best counties.

**L. WOOSTER.** As the able cashier of the First National Bank of North Baltimore, of which he was also one of the organizers, the subject of this sketch holds a high place among the representative business men of his locality. He is of German parentage, his father, Mathias Wooster, having been born in the Fatherland in 1808, and his mother, Catherine Snellbaker, in 1812. They came to America in 1835, and the father followed the shoemaker's trade in Hancock county for many years. His death occurred in 1883, but the mother passed away eight years before, and the mortal remains of both were interred in Hancock county. They had ten children, of whom four are now living: Catherine married H. Ernest, a farmer in Putnam county; Eliza is the wife of W. H. Lawhead, a merchant in Fostoria; and Margaret married A. J. Rich, a shoe dealer in Fostoria.

Mr. Wooster, the youngest of the family, was born in West Independence, Hancock Co., Ohio, October 12, 1855. His literary training was obtained at his native place, and at fourteen he went to Fostoria and became a salesman in the dry-goods store of Weaver & Adams. In 1883 he engaged in the shoe business with Mr. Adams, and continued until 1887, when he was appointed postmaster at Fostoria, by President Cleveland, there being nineteen applicants for the position. He filled this place creditably until 1890, when he resigned to take his present responsible post,

On October 28, 1879, Mr. Wooster was united

in wedlock to Miss Amanda Emerine, who was born April 1, 1859, the daughter of the well-known banker of Fostoria, Ohio, Andrew Emerine. He was a native of Germany, born December 2, 1830, and at an early age accompanied his parents to Hancock county, Ohio, where they settled. In 1849 he embarked in the saddle and harness business in Fostoria, and later engaged in farming and in the brokerage business, but in 1880 he was elected president of the First National Bank of Fostoria, and has since given his attention to the management of that institution.

Mrs. Wooster was educated in Fostoria, graduating in 1878. Two children were born of her marriage: Laila, April 8, 1882, and Trude, December 15, 1887. The family residence, one of the most elegant homes in North Baltimore, was a gift to Mrs. Wooster from her father. Politically, Mr. Wooster is a supporter of the principles of the Democratic party. He and his wife are leading members of the M. E. Church of North Baltimore, and are actively interested in all that tends to the advancement of the town.

**B. Z. COUTANT,** who is recognized as one of the progressive and prosperous farmers of Bloom township, is the owner of over sixty-six acres of fertile land, which is supplied with a good set of farm buildings, and all the other improvements requisite to the carrying on of agriculture in a profitable manner. The place has been transformed by him, through his industrious labors and good management, from an uncultivated tract of land to one of the most valuable pieces of property in that locality.

Monroe county, Penn., is the birthplace of our subject, where he began life November 23, 1828, at the home of his parents, Jasper and Phœbe (Birdsall) Coutant. His first teacher was his mother, who conducted a small school on the home farm; but his educational privileges were meager, being limited to a few months' attendance at the district schools during the winter seasons. He was reared as a farmer boy, and remained at home until his marriage, November 1, 1856, with Miss Sarah A. Miller. She was born in Monroe county, Penn., January 26, 1826, and was a daughter of John Miller. Two children blessed this union: William H., a farmer of Bloom township, who was born in Greenwich township, Huron Co., Ohio; and Nathan G., at home. The mother died March 11, 1889, and was laid to rest in Beaver cemetery, Bloom township. In Cleveland, Ohio, on September 21, 1892, Mr. Coutant was again married, this time to Mrs. Johnson, widow of George Johnson,



and a native of Buffalo, N. Y., born in 1830, daughter of Stephen and Ruth (Blackmore) Kelley, the former of whom was a mason by trade.

In the spring of 1857 Mr. Coutant removed to Greenwich township, Huron county, where many of his relatives and friends were living, and he was the last one of the family to leave Monroe county. His mother made her home with him, and he operated her farm in Huron county for twenty-seven years, but in April, 1884, he came to Wood county, locating on eighty acres of land—the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 36, Bloom township, which he had purchased in 1864. On his arrival only ten acres had been cleared, and he erected the first house upon the place that summer. Mr. Coutant cast his first vote with the Whig party, and is now a strong Republican, taking a deep interest in the success of his party. Since 1858 he has been a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, is at present holding the office of trustee, and filled the same position when the house of worship was erected in Bloomdale. He is a member of the Lodge No. 406, I. O. O. F., Bloomdale, and both he and his wife belong to the order of Rebekah.

**DAVID M. PHISTER.** Some of the finest types of citizenship are to be found among the upright, forceful natures which have been fostered and developed by an independent country life, and the subject of this sketch, a well-known agriculturist of Montgomery township, furnishes a convincing example.

He is an Ohioan by birth, having first seen the light in Knox county, November 15, 1840. His father, a native of Washington county, Penn., came to Wood county in the latter part of 1840 with his wife, Charlotte Zedacker, and their family, and located upon a tract of 200 acres in Sections 13 and 24, Montgomery township, which he had acquired by a trade. A log house stood upon it, in Section 24, and here and there a knoll was cleared, but the place was generally in a primitive condition, covered with water and heavy timber. Few can imagine the effort necessary to support a family in that early time, and it was fortunate that his skill as a hunter enabled the father to secure a supply of meat. For some time his family occupied the cabin, but later he erected a house upon the other part of the property. He was a finely-built man, six feet high in his bare feet, and was a hard worker, engaging in broom making in addition to the labor of the farm. As a member of the Evangelical Church he took an active part in religious work, serving

as an exhorter and class-leader, and in other positions. In politics he was a Republican after the formation of that party; but his assistance extended only to the expression of his own opinion by his ballot. He died at the age of sixty-nine years, and the faithful partner of his joys and sorrows survived him only six years, their mortal remains being laid to rest in the cemetery at Prairie Depot. Mr. Phister was fond of his home and family, and toiled cheerfully to give his children such comforts as his circumstances afforded. They were eight in number, viz.: Roxie, who married Thomas Hunt, and died in Montgomery township; Lucy J., the widow of George Foulk, of Bellefontaine, Ohio; Julia, who married Solomon Theasley, and died in Michigan; Charlotte, who died in girlhood; John, who died in southwestern Ohio; Mary, the widow of Jeremiah Mackey, of Risingsun, formerly a member of the 25th Regiment O. V. I.; David M., our subject; and Jacob D., a resident of Risingsun.

David M. Phister's early education was obtained during the brief terms of the neighboring district school, in a building of the old-fashioned sort with puncheon seats, and in later years his hearty approval has been given to the educational movements which have resulted in better schools. His attendance was often interrupted because of home needs, and by frequent hunting trips, which he enjoyed better than his books. On attaining his majority he began to work the homestead on shares; but, on May 2, 1864, he enlisted in Company K, 144th O. V. I., which was assigned to duty at Washington. In August he was taken sick and sent to Mt. Pleasant Hospital, near Washington, on his recovery rejoining his company, and serving until his discharge, September 2, 1864. Returning home he resumed the work of the farm upon the same terms, and on November 29, 1864; he was married in Madison township, Sandusky Co., Ohio, to Miss Mary E. Houtz, a native of Scott township, Sandusky county, born February 7, 1844, the only child of John and Catherine Houtz. She was left motherless when three weeks old. Naturally bright and intelligent, she availed herself of the opportunities given by the district schools of the time, the methods and apparatus of which were of the crudest, and she learned to write with a goose quill.

At the time of his marriage Mr. Phister had but few worldly possessions, including a horse and cow, and a small sum of money, which he had hoarded up from his limited income. He rented a small house in Scott township, Sandusky county, and continued to work his father's

farm. In 1866 he purchased his first home, the east quarter of the east half of the southwest quarter of Section 13, Montgomery township, and moved into a log house there. The buildings were poor, and much work was necessary to put the place into good shape; but, although he went in debt for the property, he took great satisfaction in the thought that his hard work was beginning to show tangible results. As he could not make a living from this farm alone, he worked, as before, at the homestead. His real start toward prosperity was from a contract to build two miles of the West Division of the Toledo & Ohio Central railway, in 1871 and 1872, in partnership with Jacob Stahl. They only completed one and three-quarter miles of it but their profits were large. After the death of his father, Mr. Phister purchased the claims of the other heirs, and now owns the old homestead, which has been in the family over fifty years. He has erected all the buildings now on the farm, his substantial brick residence having been completed in 1882. He has eighty-six acres of excellent land, while his wife owns seventy-three acres in Scott township, Sandusky county. They have three children who are reflecting credit upon their parentage and training: William H. taught school successfully for some time in Fostoria, and is now engaged in the laundry business at Bowling Green; Charlotte L. married John C. Lyberger, of Risingsun, and John C. Phister, one of the most promising young men of that vicinity, lives at home.

Mr. Phister is one of the kindest and most generous of men, and is held in high esteem as a neighbor and friend. His wife has been a true helpmeet to him, and both are consistent members of the Church of Christ. Politically, Mr. Phister is a Republican, but he has more than once declined to become a candidate for office. He is a member of the G. A. R. at Prairie Depot.

J. W. BLESSING, a leading citizen of Risingsun, is one of the men whose broad views and keen appreciation of the intellectual side of life make them important factors in the best element of a community. Although he lacked the advantages of a liberal education in his youth, he has succeeded through his own exertions in gaining more than ordinary familiarity with a great variety of subjects, and his example must be full of encouragement for those young people of today whose intellectual aspirations are thwarted by unfortunate circumstances.

The old home of his family was near Heidelberg, Germany, where he first saw the light Au-

gust 19, 1846. The emigration of the family to this country took place when he was a child, and included three generations. His grandfather, Benedict Blessing, spent his last years in Montgomery township. He had three sons—Adam, who also came to America; Andrew, who was drowned in a small stream during a freshet, in Germany; and George, our subject's father. The latter was married in early manhood to his first wife, Mary E. Yeager, who died leaving one son, our subject. Soon after this sad event the family came to America, spending forty-three days upon the ocean in the sailing vessel "Westminster." George Blessing was a millwright, and found employment for a time in New York State before coming to Ohio, where he located successively in Doylestown, Bristol (now Marshallville), where he built a mill, and Copley township, Summit county, where he and his brother Adam bought a gristmill, to which they added a sawmill with steam power. In 1855 he and this brother came to Wood county, here buying ten acres of land where the village of Risingsun now stands, and there he passed his remaining years, and died August 11, 1866, aged about fifty years. His remains were interred in Trinity cemetery, Sandusky county. He followed farming to some extent, but was mainly engaged in the lumber business, and, notwithstanding a few unprofitable ventures, he secured a competence. He was medium in stature, of active habits, industrious and ambitious. In religion he was a Catholic, and, politically, he was in sympathy with the Democratic party, but although he was a regular voter, he despised the professional politician. Not long after his arrival in America he was married at Bristol, Ohio, to his second wife, Margaretta Schmidt, a native of Germany, born November 2, 1823, who came to this country in the same ship with him. She survives, and resides in Risingsun. They had nine children: Eva, Mrs. J. W. Bonawitt, of Scott township, Sandusky county; Margaret, who married Abraham Miller, and died in Jackson township, Seneca county; Elizabeth, Mrs. William H. Wight, of Mitchell county, Kans.; Mary, Mrs. W. W. Billman, of Montgomery township; Annie, Mrs. William Wollam, of the same township; Leonard and Joseph, who died in infancy; Christina, Mrs. A. Stephens, of Philadelphia, Penn.; and Augusta, Mrs. C. A. Huston, of Pawnee, Oklahoma Territory.

The first school which our subject attended was in Summit county, and he was only nine years old when his father came to this locality, where he pursued his studies in District No. 7,

Montgomery township, his first teacher here being James Lincoln. The changes in methods of instruction, which time has brought, have given him great satisfaction, and he has done all in his power to forward the movement, taking an active part in securing a special district for Rising-sun, and introducing improvements there. At eighteen his school life ended, the necessity of earning his own living interfering with his desire for wider opportunities. As a boy he had worked about his father's mill, and also among neighboring farmers, and had displayed rare mechanical skill. In the latter part of the "sixties," he purchased an old mill from his father's estate, and paid \$100 down, going in debt for the remainder. He has successfully conducted the business ever since, and is familiar with every detail of its management, thoroughly efficient in every branch of the work, from filing a saw with skill and judgment, to throwing coal or wood in the furnace. Several lots of timber have passed under his control at times, furnishing material for his mill to work up, and he has engaged in agriculture in this connection. He also has valuable oil holdings, and, among others is a member of the Rising-sun Oil Company.

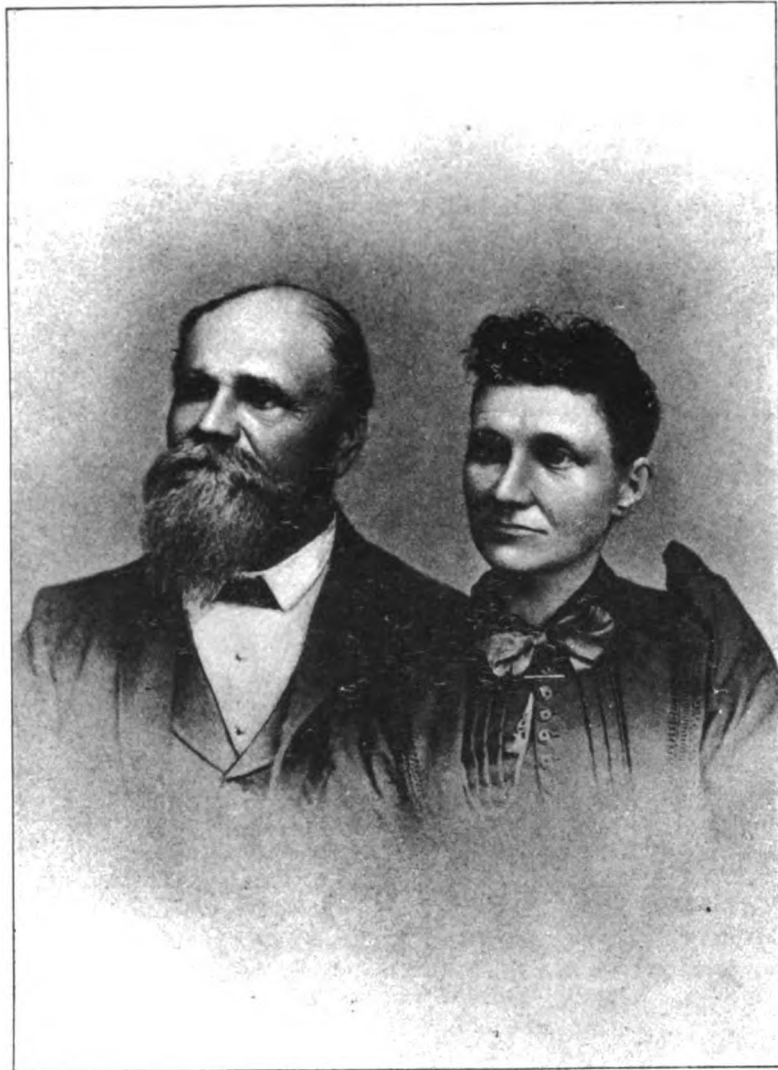
On January 7, 1869, Mr. Blessing was united in matrimony at Rising-sun to Miss Celia Reade, a native of New York, and a lady of rare intelligence. She is an earnest Christian, and a leader in good works. Her father, David Reade, a cabinet maker by trade, had a large family, and one of his sons, Rev. T. C. Reade, is a noted Methodist divine, and president of Taylor University, at Upland, Ind. The only surviving son of this marriage, Thaddeus C. Blessing, born August 19, 1870, lives at home, and is in business with his father. As prosperity has smiled upon him, Mr. Blessing has been able to satisfy, in some degree, the cherished desires of his early years for a thorough education. A great reader, and an independent, original thinker, he has traversed a wide field of thought, covering the works of the most celebrated writers upon varied subjects, and his retentive memory has enabled him to hold the information thus gained. His knowledge upon scientific questions, including all branches of physical science, is remarkable, while a naturally refined taste in literature is shown in his study of the best writers in prose and verse. He has traveled extensively in his own country, as well as in Europe, visiting especially the South and West, and the years 1878 and 1879 he spent mainly in southwestern Texas, in the hope that Mrs. Blessing's health would be benefited by their stay. In the spring of 1889 Mr. Blessing

sailed from New York on the "Arizona," and passed the entire summer in Europe, traveling through England, Scotland, Belgium, Holland, Germany, France, Switzerland, and Italy, making liberal stays in the principal cities and most historic places of each country named, among others Paris, where the Exposition was in progress, Rome, Genoa, Venice, the ruins of Pompeii and Herculaneum, and the St. Gothard and Mt. Cenis tunnels. The scenes of his childhood were revisited, and the beauty of the Fatherland revealed to his maturer vision in a trip up the Rhine. He returned on the steamer "Alaska."

Until 1884 Mr. Blessing was identified with the Democratic party; but since that time he has sympathized with the Prohibitionists. Although he does not indorse all the ideas incorporated in their platforms, he believes that the liquor traffic should be overcome, first, by *scientific* temperance instruction in the public schools, and, second, at the ballot box, by the united force of public opinion. He has held office at times, and served as justice of the peace, president of the school board after the organization of the new district, and for several terms as councilman.

JOHN PHILLIPS, SR., a leading farmer of Montgomery township, is one of the men whose shrewd business judgment has been profitably applied in agricultural pursuits. Reared in a typical pioneer home, he early acquired habits of industry and thrift from which he has reaped in later years a gratifying harvest.

His father, the late David Phillips, was born in New York, September 6, 1804, the son of Ves Patient and Cynthia Phillips. His mother died during his childhood, and for some years his home was among strangers; but later he came to Ohio with his father, who, after a short stay in the extreme eastern part of the State, settled in Stark county to spend his remaining days. David Phillips worked there for nine years upon the canal, receiving ten and twelve dollars per month, and also engaged in wood chopping and similar work; but despite the fact that he could accumulate no capital upon his low wages, he was married in December, 1827, to Miss Mary A. Bates, who was born in Pennsylvania, April 13, 1810, a daughter of Andrew and Anna (Homan) Bates. They had come to Ohio, in an old-fashioned covered wagon when she was a child, and settled in Stark county, seven miles west of Massillon. She was the eldest of a family of five sons and five daughters. After their marriage our subject's parents settled in Stark county, but later moved to a small tract of land, on Sugar



**JOHN PHILLIPS, SR.**  
**MRS. HANNAH PHILLIPS.**



creek, Trumbull county, which was the first home of his own that David Phillips had. In 1843 he brought his family to Scott township, Sandusky county, traveling in wagons upon roads where the horses were often knee-deep in water. He bought eighty acres of woodland for \$250, giving a horse for the first payment. The log house which he built was the first on the place, and its bark floor, stick chimney, and clapboard roof were of the most primitive sort. The snow often lay several inches deep on the beds in the cabin loft, and their fire was kept up with huge logs which were drawn into the house by a horse. Wild game was sometimes their only food, and johnny-cake was very popular. The mother spun the flax and wove the cloth from which she made the clothing for the family. They prospered, notwithstanding their hardships, and acquired 160 acres of land, all redeemed from the wild state.

David Phillips was a stanch Democrat, and, although he never sought office, he never missed an election. For over forty years he was an active member of the Church of God, to which our subject and his wife also belong, and his upright life and integrity of character were a potent evidence of the sincerity of his faith. His mental abilities were of a high order, and the lack of early education was a misfortune to be deeply regretted. Although he was over ninety-one years of age at the time of his death, which occurred January 14, 1896, he had been working on his well-kept farm seven weeks before, clearing up the fences. The faithful helpmeet of his sixty-eight years of wedded life survives him and still resides at the old home, in excellent health for her years. Eleven children were born to this worthy Christian couple: Mary A., now Mrs. Stephen Day, of Perry township; Lucinda, Mrs. Stephen Winchell, of Risingsun; Henry, a farmer in Scott township, Sandusky county; David, of Marysville, Mo.; Sylvester, a farmer in Sandusky county; John, our subject; Hiram, a soldier in the 72d Regiment, O. V. I., who went west and has not been heard from; Eliza J., Mrs. Fry, of Scott township, Sandusky county; Mariah, who married Joseph Riley, and died in Perry township; George, who died in infancy, and Sarah, now Mrs. George Wise, of Seneca county.

Mr. Phillips was born in Trumbull county, March 18, 1838, and was five years old at the time of the removal to Sandusky county, where the advantages in schooling were indeed limited at that day. His education is practically self-acquired, and his sympathy with the movement to

secure better schools for the rising generation is doubtless the result of his own restrictions. When a boy he went three years on crutches, and had a narrow escape from losing his left limb entirely. At twenty years of age he began to work for others, and August 20, 1860, he assumed the responsibilities of married life, his bride being Miss Marian Baker, who was born December 20, 1843, a daughter of Henry Baker. Ten children were born of this union: Wilbert, June 14, 1861, is a farmer in Scott township, Sandusky county; Zerusha, January 22, 1863, is the wife of Frank Smith, of Cleve, Tenn.; Mary E., March 4, 1865, married David Loe, of Scott township; Delbert, April 18, 1867, lives at Risingsun; John A., February 22, 1869, is a resident of Perry township; Retta J., July 29, 1871, died April 18, 1873; David F., November 2, 1873, died in November, 1875; George H., December 10, 1875, is a carpenter by trade; Charles, July 9, 1877, is at home, and Daisy B., August 30, 1878, lives in Fostoria. The mother of this family died December 30, 1878, and her remains now rest in Trinity cemetery, Scott township, Sandusky county.

On December 10, 1879, Mr. Phillips formed a second matrimonial union, this time with Miss Hannah Ash, who was born June 20, 1852, in Bedford county, Penn. Her parents, Emanuel and Elizabeth (Rose) Ash, came to Wood county in October, 1859, locating in Perry township, where her mother died. Of her eleven children Mrs. Phillips was the fifth child and second daughter. Mr. Ash married a second wife, Eliza Cessna, who bore no children. He was an excellent farmer, and owned over two hundred acres of land. On December 6, 1885, he departed this life, and his interment took place in the cemetery at Fostoria. Mr. Phillips has two daughters by his second marriage: Elsie M., born December 7, 1880; and Rose Ellen, born January 27, 1883, both at home.

The first farm owned by Mr. Phillips was an eighty-acre tract in Section 25, Montgomery township; Wood county, for which he went in debt. Later he went back to Sandusky county, and after a short time came to his present farm. In 1871 he settled upon his present farm in Sections 25 and 26, Montgomery township, near Risingsun, purchasing eighty acres at first, to which he has made additions until he now owns 186 acres of excellent land. His improvements are of a very high order, his residence, built in 1893, being elegant and commodious. He is known as a shrewd and careful business man, and he is now engaged in settling his father's estate. Zealous in his duties as a citizen, he never fails to express

his convictions at the polls, voting the Democratic ticket; but he does not seek political place for himself, although he has served as supervisor. He is active in local improvements, and was a member of the school board of Risingsun when the new school house was built.

WILLIAM R. BARTON, a prominent educator, now residing near Grand Rapids, was born in Killbuck township, Holmes county, September 17, 1848. His family is of German origin, and his ancestors emigrated at an early date to Pennsylvania where his grandfather, Samuel Barton, was born. He married Elizabeth Read, of Ireland, and settled upon a farm in Jefferson county, Ohio. In later years he moved to Holmes county, and from thence in 1848 to Wood county, where he purchased forty acres of land in what is now Grand Rapids township, on which he made his home until his death in 1855, at the age of seventy-eight.

Hugh Barton, our subject's father, was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, in 1812, and grew to manhood in Holmes county. In 1833 he was married there to Miss Sarah Garwood, a native of the same county, who was born in Jefferson county, Pennsylvania, in 1814. They came to Wood county in 1850, and both died at the old homestead in 1884. Twelve children were born of their union: Elizabeth, deceased; Nancy J., the wife of William Keller, of Grand Rapids township; Margaret deceased; James, who died in Libby prison, in December, 1863; Lavinia, deceased; Sarah A., deceased, formerly the wife of John Ervin; Matilda J., deceased; William R., our subject; Samuel R., a farmer of Grand Rapids township; Harvey K., a farmer in Alabama; Silas R., who conducts the old homestead; and John V., a farmer in Grand Rapids township.

Prof. Wm. R. Barton attended the district schools near the old farm during his early boyhood, and later studied at Grand Rapids, and in Lebanon, Ohio, taking the classical and scientific courses in the latter place and graduating in 1879 with the degrees of A. B. and B. S. He taught as professor in graded schools for twenty-two years in parts of Ohio, and also in Kentucky. In 1864 he enlisted, at the age of fifteen, in Company I, 144th O. V. I., with Capt. McKee, and participated in several battles. July 9, 1864, he was wounded in the right leg at Monocacy, and, after seven weeks in a hospital, he returned home and resumed the work of teaching. In politics Prof. Barton is a Republican, but he has never sought or held public office.

On April 2, 1878, he was married at Leban-

on, Ohio, to Miss Nettie Manson, a native of Portsmouth, N. H., born March 15, 1852. They had two children: Sprague, born May 19, 1879, died July 14, 1880; and Clara B., born November 20, 1885, died July 20, 1887. Prof. Barton bought a farm of forty acres in 1885, added many substantial improvements, making one of the pleasantest residences in the township, mental culture and genial manners combining with outward attractions to create an ideal home. He recently sold this forty-acre farm, and purchased fifty acres one and one-fourth miles southeast of the town of Grand Rapids.

SIDNEY GREELEY, an honored resident of this county, is now carrying on agricultural pursuits in Jackson township, where he owns a valuable farm of eighty acres, whose many improvements stand as monuments to his thrift and enterprise. A native of Lorain county, Ohio, he was born February 16, 1848, and is a son of Abel Greeley, who was born in Weston, Vt., and when twenty-one years of age removed to Ohio. He located in Carlisle township, Lorain county, where he married Amanda Sweet, and carried on farming until after the death of his wife in 1885. The following year he sold his farm, and has since lived with his children, being now with a son in Michigan. In politics he is an unswerving Democrat. The family numbered the following named members: Charles, of Milton Center, Ohio, who died June 8, 1896; Julius, who was killed in the battle of Franklin, Tenn., during the Civil war; Russell, who died in the hospital at Memphis, Tenn., while in the Union army; Emily, wife of Ben Campbell, of San Francisco, Cal.; Albert, who died in infancy; Horace, who died at the age of eighteen; Alva, who works in the steel plant in Lorain county, Ira, a farmer of Kalamazoo county, Mich.; Elbert, a carpenter in Lorain county, who died December 6, 1895; D. Abel, a farmer of Michigan; and Frank, of Holgate, Ohio.

Mr. Greeley, of this sketch, acquired a district school education in his native county, and to his father gave the benefit of his services on the home farm until his seventeenth year. Our subject worked as a farm hand for about two years, and then removed to Michigan, where he was employed in the lumber woods for two years. On the expiration of that period, he came to Wood county, and purchased forty acres of land in Milton township, entirely destitute of improvements, but he continued its development until 1874, when he sold that property. In the spring of 1875, he purchased his present farm of eighty acres, in Jackson township, and has made upon

it many excellent improvements, including the erection of a comfortable home and substantial barns. The fields are well tilled, and indicate the careful supervision of the owner, and at the same time yield to him a golden tribute.

Mr. Greeley was married in Milton Center, Ohio, September 9, 1874, to Cynthia Keiffer, who was born April 27, 1849, in Hocking county, Ohio. They have one child, Melvin. In politics, our subject is a stalwart Republican, and capably served for two years as township trustee. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias fraternity, at Custar, Ohio; the Masonic fraternity at Grand Rapids, Ohio; the Odd Fellows Lodge at Milton Center; and the Grand Army Post at Custar. His public and private life are alike above reproach, and Wood county numbers him among its valued citizens.

ISAAC SMITH, a prominent farmer of Webster township, was born February 27, 1831, near Harrisburg, Penn. Abraham Smith, his father, was a native of the same State, born in 1806. He was married in 1826 to Miss Elizabeth Shutt, and in 1837 moved to Crawford county, Ohio, where they spent the remainder of their lives upon a farm. Ten children were born to them: Josiah; Urias; Isaac, our subject; Eliza, the wife of Andrew Deppler; Lavinia, deceased; Simon, deceased; Matilda, deceased; William, deceased; Caroline, the wife of George White, of Galion, Ohio; and Sullena, wife of John Hayes, of Sulphur Springs, Ohio.

Mr. Smith's early life was passed mainly in Crawford county, where he attended school during the winter months, and in summer helped to clear and cultivate his father's land. In 1860 he came to Wood county, and bought land in Webster township, which he has improved and made into a fine farm, with a dwelling house costing \$1,800, and barns built upon modern principles. He enlisted early in the Civil war in Company F, 144th O. V. I. (Capt. Cook and Col. Miller commanding), and served one hundred days, receiving his discharge at Columbus, August 24, 1864.

On October 21, 1858, Mr. Smith was married, at Bucyrus, to Miss Susan Wolf, a native of that place, born October 11, 1836. She was one of the eleven children of Michael Wolf, a well-known citizen of Crawford county, a shoemaker, mason, and farmer by occupation. Two children were born of this union: (1) Mary E., born in Crawford county, March 27, 1860, married William Phillips, and has two children, Elnorah and Walter. (2) John Andrew, born January 27, 1862, died February 1, 1865. The

family attend the Presbyterian Church, and take a prominent part in various lines of social and religious life. Mr. Smith's industry, thrift, and sound business judgment give him a high standing among those who know him. In politics he is a Democrat.

JOHN E. CLARK, a prominent business man of Weston, and the proprietor of a leading grocery store there, was born in Milton township, March 21, 1840. His grandfather, John Clark, was a native of New York State, and came to Ohio in 1827, locating in Seneca county, where he died in the spring of 1851. His ancestors had been early residents of New York, and among his possessions was a silk handkerchief over one hundred years old, and which is now the property of John E. Clark. Alvin Clark, our subject's father, was born in the same State at Mecklenburg, August 15, 1815. They were married in Seneca county, Ohio, where both had come with their respective families at about the same time. In 1836 they moved to Milton township, in this county, and settled upon land which had been entered by John Clark in 1822. Alvin Clark was one of the substantial citizens of his locality, an Old-line Whig in early life, and afterward a Republican, and he was a member of the Presbyterian Church, as were his ancestors before him. He died in 1872. His wife, who still survives him, at the age of eighty years, is a Methodist, to which faith our subject also adheres. He was the third in a family of six children, the others being as follows: Elizabeth is the widow of Henry Atkins, of Tiffin, Ohio; Emeline is the widow of Byron Baldwin, of Weston; Anna is the deceased wife of George Pore, of Loudonville, Ohio; Daniel, is a resident of Weston; and Ella is the wife of Edward H. Baggely.

Our subject received his first instruction in a log school house in his district, and later attended the public schools of Tiffin and Defiance. In 1858, after clerking a few years, he opened a store in Weston, dealing in groceries and other supplies. In 1862 he enlisted in Company B, 111th O. V. I., and served in Kentucky, in the army of the Ohio; but was taken sick and discharged for disability in December, 1862. Returning home, he resumed business after his recovery, keeping a general store which is now the oldest mercantile establishment in the town, and enjoys a well-earned reputation for enterprise and fair dealing. He has engaged in other lines, being at one time a large shipper of stock, and he now owns and cultivates 188 acres of land. He is a director of the Exchange Bank of



Weston. On January 1, 1866, he married Miss Sarah Bonney, who was born in Penn Yan, N. Y., August 11, 1845, and they have had five children, two of whom—Samuel C. and Glenn—died in childhood; the others are: William L., born December 17, 1867, now living in Toledo (he married Miss Jennie Rosenberger December 6, 1887, and has two children, Joy and John); Edson, born May 9, 1872, was married to Miss Jessie Harrison, September 18, 1895; and Alvin, born April 20, 1882, is at home. Mr. Clark is an influential Republican, and a member of the G. A. R., and of the K. of P., Kenilworth Lodge No. 340, Weston, Ohio.

Benjamin Bonney, grandfather of Mrs. Clark, was a native of Connecticut, whence, in 1801, he moved to Madison county, N. Y., where was born, November 8, 1813, his son Lester, father of Mrs. Clark. In 1817 the family moved to Penn Yan, N. Y., where, on December 31, 1842, Lester married Miss Caroline Merritt, of Hammondsport, N. Y., and on October 18, 1863, they came to Weston, Ohio. To them were born six children, as follows: Adelbert, who married Miss Frances Hubble, of Monroeville, Ohio, and they now live in Missouri; Sarah L. (Mrs. Clark) comes next; Lucy J., married to John W. Brownsberger, of Weston; Jethro, who was accidentally killed on the railroad October 4, 1879, while in the employ of the L. E. & W. R. R., at Elliott, Ill.; Merritt H., who married Miss Phœbe Elliott, of Martin's Ferry, Ohio, and is now living in Weston; and James F., who died in infancy.

F. G. SWARTZ, one of the active, prominent and enterprising citizens of Montgomery township, is quite extensively engaged in general farming in Section 18. He is a native of Wood county, born in Troy township, April 21, 1858, where his parents, John and Dora Swartz, located on their emigration from Germany, their native land. They made a home in this new country, clearing and developing the land, and there reared their family of six children. They are still living, and have the esteem of all who know them.

Our subject, being the eldest of the children, was called upon at an early age to assist in the work of the farm. His educational privileges were consequently limited, and at the age of eighteen his school days were over. His father could always find plenty of work for his five sons, and under his able guidance our subject became a thorough and painstaking agriculturist. Until his marriage he remained upon the home farm,

with the exception of one summer, when he worked for his uncle, Jacob Swartz, in LaGrange township, Lorain Co., Ohio. On April 15, 1886, Mr. Swartz married Miss Annie Hastings, who was the daughter of R. C. Hastings, a highly respected citizen of Montgomery township. She died the following year, and her remains were interred in Rochester cemetery. In Freedom township, Wood county, our subject was again married, on January 31, 1889, his second union being with Miss Mary Ruch, who was born in Canton Berne, Switzerland, June 18, 1865, and is the daughter of Peter and Mary (Messer) Ruch. In that country her father was employed as a butcher, and in 1872 brought his family thence to the United States, sailing from Havre, France. At the end of nine days they landed safely in New York, whence they came to Wood county, the father purchasing sixty acres of land in Webster township, where he and his worthy wife still reside. In his family are nine children, one son and eight daughters. Mr. and Mrs. Swartz have two children—William L., born June 5, 1890; and John Arthur, born June 25, 1895.

In February, 1883, Mr. Swartz bought seventy-four acres of land in Section 18, Montgomery township, paying \$25 per acre for the same, which was then in its primitive condition, and not a building of any kind stood upon the place. He at once began the work of improvement, clearing away the timber, and placing the land under cultivation; and spent a portion of three winters in a little shanty, keeping "bachelors hall" while he was developing his land. He encountered on his farm the same conditions that the earliest settlers were forced to meet. The land was heavily timbered, and of the character of all the wild land in the "Black Swamp." However, he went industriously to work, and has transformed the place into one of the best farms of the community, making every improvement thereon, so that it now stands a monument to his thrift, enterprise and persistent efforts. The buildings are of a substantial character, and in 1896 he erected an excellent new barn. He is a man of the strictest integrity and reliability, and is regarded as a valued citizen, progressive and public-spirited.

S. S. LONG. Among the wide-awake and enterprising citizens of Prairie Depot, this gentleman holds a leading position. He is a native of Wood county, born in Section 34, Montgomery township, November 25, 1857, and a son of John W. and Elizabeth (Sampsel) Long. During his boyhood he attended the district school near his home, his first teacher being Emma Gould. He

remained upon the farm where his birth occurred until his marriage, with the exception of the one season, when, at eighteen years of age, he worked elsewhere.

In October, 1882, Mr. Long led to the marriage altar Miss Sarah M. Gangwer, of Montgomery township, who bore him one son, Virgil, who died in infancy. The mother's death occurred October 22, 1883, and they were buried together. In Michigan, May 25, 1887, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Long and Miss Lettie A. Algyre, who was born in Fremont, Ohio, May 24, 1868, and is the daughter of David H. and Sarah (Keller) Algyre. After his marriage, Mr. Long located on the home farm, but shortly afterward removed to Prairie Depot, where he remained until 1890. He next lived upon his farm in Section 34, Montgomery township, but since October, 1894, he has made his home in Prairie Depot, occupying his comfortable and handsome residence on Maple street. He has done considerable contract work in Wood, Seneca and Sandusky counties, building bridges for township and county authorities, and has also been extensively engaged in ditch contracting. He still owns the home farm of sixty acres in Montgomery township, and also forty acres of land in Somerfield township, Monroe Co., Michigan.

Mr. Long takes an intelligent and earnest interest in public affairs, and is active in promoting every scheme that will in any way benefit the town. He upholds the principles of the Republican party, but takes no prominent part in political affairs; and he is eminently worthy of the trust and high regard in which he is held by his fellow-citizens. A thorough business man—his success is entirely due to his own unaided efforts, and he justly ranks among the representative self-made men of Wood county.

J. W. UNDERWOOD, the well-known assistant cashier of the First National Bank of Bowling Green, was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, October 2, 1858. His father, the late Gideon Underwood, was born August 22, 1820, in Lawrence county, Penn. His mother, Mrs. Margaret (McMahan) Underwood, was a native of Lowell, Mahoning Co., Ohio, born in 1822, and is still living in Center township, where she has had her home since November, 1861.

The subject of this sketch was but three years old when his parents came to Wood county, and he obtained his early education in the country schools near his home, and in the graded schools of Portage. At an early age he became a clerk in a drug store at Bowling Green,

and after serving in that capacity three years, went to Weston and engaged in the drug business on his own account, in partnership with Dr. Ranger. Two years afterward he sold out his interests there and came back to Bowling Green, becoming a partner with Dr. Lincoln in a similar enterprise, to the building up of which business he devoted himself for five years, and then he disposed of his share, and bought a farm in Plain township which he still owns. He married a native of that township, Miss Allie J. Hartman, a daughter of John Hartman, and he built on his property a pleasant and commodious residence, which they occupied for some time. But the busy marts of trade are more congenial to Mr. Underwood than the solitude of farm life, and, after spending some months in improving his land, he again engaged in the drug business with a brother-in-law, at Weston, under the firm name of Underwood & Hartman. Seven months later he sold out and returned to Bowling Green, where he has since remained. The work of selling out the stock of a grocery store occupied some time, and then, in March, 1891, he assumed the duties of bookkeeper in the First National Bank, of which he became assistant cashier January 1, 1893. He possesses excellent business judgment, and holds the entire confidence of the stockholders and the community. Still young, he has the best of his life before him, and is regarded as one of the "coming men" in this locality.

Mr. and Mrs. Underwood are members of the Methodist Church, and are among the leaders in the social and philanthropical activities of the city. They have two daughters, Stella and Esther. Mr. Underwood is a member of the I. O. O. F.

JAMES M. FORRESTER. The fine farm occupied by our subject in Center township, invariably attracts the eye of the passing traveler, as being under the supervision of a thorough and skillful agriculturist, and a man of good business qualities. The residence of Mr. Forrester in Wood county, dates from his birth, which occurred May 8, 1859, and he is a son of Thomas Forrester, a native of Scotland.

The district schools of Webster township afforded our subject his educational privileges, and on completing his literary studies he gave his entire time to the operation of his father's farm until 1886, when he bought 120 acres of land in Center township. This he has since cultivated and improved with excellent buildings, and there are found all the conveniences that go to make

up a model farm of the 19th century. Besides his rich fields of grain he has a good orchard, and the place yields him a bountiful return for the care and labor he expends upon it.

On June 8, 1886, James M. Forrester was married to Miss Iona Ickes, the only daughter of Levi Ickes, of Webster township, Wood county. Their union has been blessed by the birth of a son—Hugh, born on September 28, 1890, and a daughter—Lola, born May 5, 1896. Mr. Forrester is numbered among the most industrious and enterprising farmers of the county where his entire life has been passed, and those who have known him longest are numbered among his staunchest friends. He filled the position of school director for four years, and is at present trustee of his township.

JOHN W. CLEMENS, who is now living retired on his farm in Portage township, is a native of Ohio, born March 18, 1844, in Loudon township, Seneca county, a son of Daniel Clemens.

Daniel Clemens came to Ohio when a young man, from western Pennsylvania. He entered land in the woods of Seneca county, where he married Hannah Kizer, and there lived for some years, coming with his family to Wood county when our subject was a mere child. He had bought eighty acres of new land in Section 26, Portage township, near Six Points, and as there was no house on this place, the family lived with a neighbor until a board shanty was erected. At this time the old corduroy road was the only one leading to Six Points, and the entire country was sparsely settled and unimproved. Mr. Clemens commenced at once to clear his land, also following his trade of shoemaker, which he worked at evenings on a bench in the corner of their shanty. In those days each customer would bring his own leather, and the work was usually paid for in farm labor or provisions. Mr. and Mrs. Clemens were the parents of fourteen children, four sons and ten daughters, all of whom lived to maturity but Charles, who died in infancy, and only three of the others are now deceased—Jacob, Charles and Delilah. The parents both lived to advanced ages, dying when seventy and seventy-two years old, respectively, and both are buried in Mt. Zion Church cemetery.

Our subject received such advantages for education as the schools of his boyhood days afforded, and was reared by his father to agriculture. He also worked away from home, husking corn and doing other farm work, and for a time was engaged in hauling lumber to Fostoria, during the days when fine poplar brought only \$8

per thousand. On October 12, 1864, he enlisted at Cincinnati, Ohio, in Company B, 55th O. V. I., Capt. H. Osborn, joining his regiment at Atlanta without any drilling whatever. Being taken sick here, he was returned to Cumberland Hospital, where he was confined ten or twelve days, afterward serving in Thomas' Division, and then starting for Savannah by way of New York. On the way he was captured by the enemy, who had torn up the railroad; but was shortly afterward paroled and went on to New York, where he was seized with inflammatory rheumatism, and lay in a hospital one month. He rejoined his regiment at Goldsboro, N. C., followed the campaign to the close of the war, participated in the Grand Review at Washington, D. C., and on July 11, 1865, was mustered out at Louisville, Ky., being honorably discharged at Cleveland, Ohio.

On his return from the army our subject engaged in teaming and farming for some time. On March 12, 1868, he was united in marriage, in Portage township, with Miss Elizabeth Palmerton, who was born February 13, 1852, in Marion, Ohio, daughter of Lyman and Nancy (Leslie) Palmerton, who came from New York to Marion county, Ohio, and thence to Wood county. Lyman Palmerton died in 1854, leaving a widow and twelve children, and, though he left them eighty acres of land, it was little more than a swamp and a forest, and at that time would not have yielded enough for them to live on. But the brave mother worked earnestly and faithfully to keep her large family, and supported them in comfort until they were able to take care of themselves, doing all kinds of hard labor, cutting corn, shearing sheep, working on the farm, sewing and spinning. She was a noble Christian woman, and her children revere the memory of a devoted, loving mother, who spared neither energy nor pains to rear her family in industry and comfort. She was buried in Sugar Grove cemetery, where Mr. Palmerton's remains also rest. At the time of his death there were no horses to take him to his grave, and oxen were used.

At the time of his marriage our subject was the owner of a horse and buggy, and he traded the buggy for another horse, afterward trading the team for the land on which he now lives. At first he did his farm work with a yoke of oxen, but by hard work and good management he prospered, and was able to provide himself with implements and horses, and to improve his farm in many ways. The forty acres of land in Section 25 which he still owns and on which he lives, are

highly improved, and he made a most comfortable home out of what was once a wilderness. Since 1891 he has lived comparatively retired, ill health compelling him to abandon active farm work, but he well deserves the rest he is now enjoying, having wasted no time in his younger days. He has resided on this farm with the exception of ten months, when he lived on rented land in Portage township.

Mr. and Mrs. Clemens have had five children, as follows: Alonzo F., born January 19, 1869, who is a farmer and teamster of Portage township; Nancy J., born September 21, 1872, now Mrs. Henry McEwen, of Portage township; Rosa M., born September 12, 1875, now Mrs. Frank Shaffer, of Portage township; Eva M., born October 25, 1881, and Lillie D., born June 1, 1888. Mr. Clemens, like his father before him, is a staunch Republican in political sentiment. Socially he is a member of Randall Post No. 53. G. A. R., Freeport, Ohio.

MICHAEL AURAND, one of the enterprising, prosperous farmers of Portage township, is a native of Ohio, born March 30, 1843, in Liberty township, Hancock county, a son of Samuel Aurand.

Samuel Aurand was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, where he passed his youth and early manhood, and was reared to agricultural pursuits. During early life he also learned the cooper's trade, which he continued to follow as long as it was profitable; but he gave the greater part of his attention to farming, and was in comfortable circumstances. In Pickaway county he was married to Miss Rachel Truce, and the young couple removed to Hancock county, where Mr. Aurand's father had given him a piece of land, at that time unimproved and covered with timber, and they built the first house on the place. Here they passed the remainder of their long, busy lives, Mr. Aurand living to the advanced age of eighty-two years, his wife to the age of seventy-six. They reared a large family, as follows: Jonathan, who is a farmer of Hancock county, Ohio; Elizabeth (Mrs. William Tanner), who died at Dunkirk, Ohio; Rachel, who is the widow of Allen Twining; Susan (Mrs. Henry George), of Findlay, Ohio; Matilda, who is unmarried; Henry, a farmer of Hancock county, Ohio; Michael, whose name opens this sketch; Lucinda (Mrs. Michael Louck), of Findlay; Lydia (Mrs. James Irvin), of Putnam county, Ohio; Simon, who is a sheep rancher in Montana; and Clifton, of Findlay, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Aurand both sleep their last sleep in the cemetery at Findlay,

Ohio. He was a Republican in politics, and served as constable and justice of the peace in Liberty township, Hancock county, though he did not devote much time to public affairs.

During his boyhood Michael Aurand attended the district schools in the neighborhood of his home, which in those days were far inferior to the schools of the present time. He was trained to farm work, and remained on the home place until his enlistment in the Union army, at Findlay, Ohio, on August 22, 1862. He became a member of Company G, 118th O. V. I., Capt. Samuel Howard, and after camping at Lima for some weeks, they were sent to Cincinnati, at the time of Morgan's threatened invasion. After this they were detailed to guard the Kentucky Central railroad, being engaged thus for ten months. Their first active duty was in the engagement at Moss Creek, Tenn., and our subject participated in that, and in all other battles in which his command took part, being unfit for duty only two weeks during his entire term of service, which lasted until the close of the war. He was honorably discharged in July, 1865, and returning to Hancock county commenced to work as a farm hand on his own account, continuing thus until his marriage. At that time he had about \$300 saved, and he rented a house on the home farm, and also rented land, which he worked four years, finally buying land in Jackson township, Hancock county, part of the home farm of his wife's parents. This he traded for a forty-acre tract in the same township, and later sold and bought fifty-six acres there, living in Hancock county until October, 1884, when he removed to his present farm in Portage township, Wood county. He bought eighty acres of land lying in Section 24, which was then in a very poor condition, almost entirely unimproved, and they lived in a log house for some time. But Mr. Aurand has worked steadily on the land since removing here, and its present condition is a credit to him, for he has sixty acres in a good state of cultivation, made fertile by care and good underdraining, and equipped with good buildings and other improvements, which give the place a neat and thrifty appearance. In September, 1893, the family moved into their fine new home.

In 1868, in Jackson township, Hancock county, Mr. Aurand was united in marriage, with Miss Catherine S. Misamore, a native of Hancock county, daughter of George and Sarah A. (Stout) Misamore, farming people. Ten children have blessed this union, viz.: Sarah A. (Mrs. Fred Metter), of Portage; Sherman E., who lives at home; Susan, who married Charles Musser, and

died in Portage township; Nora E. (Mrs. Robert Bateson), of Six Points; William H.; Bertha M.; Early J.; Florence H., who died in infancy; Harry L., and Harvey M. Mr. Aurand is a Republican in political belief, and has served as school director of District No. 5, in Portage township; but aside from that he has not taken any active part in public affairs, devoting his time to his farm and home.

**JACOB DIETER.** Of the many German-born citizens who have assisted in the work of opening up the varied activities of this section, and establishing its prosperity, the hardy pioneer whose name introduces this sketch is among the oldest now living.

He is a native of Wittenberg, Germany, born September 25, 1824, the eldest son and second child of Andrew and Barbara (Keller) Dieter. He attended such schools in the Fatherland as his father could afford, and, at the age of sixteen, came to the United States with his parents. Here he spent one term in school, familiarizing himself with the English language; but, being the eldest son, he was the first to be of use to his parents, and his help was given at the expense of his education. Though not large, he was strong and robust, and could perform much work. He assisted at home until his marriage in Wayne county, Ohio, to Miss Altha Geer, a native of Westfield township, Medina Co., Ohio, who was born December 28, 1827, the only daughter of Amasa Geer, a Yankee by birth, and his wife, Cynthia Hays, who was born in Maryland, of Scotch parentage. Their children were as follows: Warren went to Utah, and has not been heard from for many years; Joseph, a soldier, lost his life during the Civil war; Amasa died in childhood; Edward and Thomas died in youth; Alexander was killed while in the army; John, a peddler, mysteriously disappeared in Illinois, being probably murdered; Altha married our subject, and Wesley died in Indiana. Mr. Geer died at the age of eighty-four years in Vermilion county, Ind.; but Mrs. Geer departed this life when her daughter was only seven years old, and this caused the young girl to be placed among strangers to make her own way. She was a large, well-built girl, and possessed more than ordinary strength, being able to do the work of any boy of her age, and more than some could do. Fortunately she found a good home, with the family of Calvin Putnam, a farmer, of Medina county, where she lived for some time. Her opportunities for schooling were poor, one winter term being the most that she had.

The young couple had but few household

goods and fewer dollars, but each was healthy, strong and industrious, with the energy of youth to sustain them, and such an entrance on life's pathway did not discourage them. Mr. Dieter rented land in Medina county, and began farming, remaining in that locality until early in the spring of 1850, when with his wife and baby he moved to Wood county and settled in Montgomery township. They drove through from their old home, and one wagon was sufficient to carry their entire belongings. It was necessary to rent land again, and not until 1853 did they have a home which they could call their own. Previous to this purchase they spent one year in Vermilion county, Ind., but on their return they bought twenty acres in Section 22, Montgomery township, a part of the "home farm" of the Dieter family. Mr. Dieter built a hewed-log house with his own hands, and here he and his wife spent many happy days. It was sparsely furnished, but it was their very own, and Mrs. Dieter took quite as much pride in keeping it neat and clean as she does in the appearance of their present modern residence. She was a powerful woman, and often helped her husband in the fields, doing a remarkable amount of work. Mr. Dieter enlarged his income by working for others, chopping in winter and farming in summer. Money was scarce and wages low, and he walked seven miles to split rails at fifty cents per day. Thus they toiled, each year seeing their condition improved, and soon more land was bought, and a better home built.

Nine children were born to them, whose names, with dates of birth are given here: Barbara M., July 16, 1849, married Thomas Laffure, of Bettsville, Ohio, and has three children—Clara, Alla, and Maggie. (2) Alexander P., February 19, 1851, a farmer in Portage township, has three children—Bert, Charles, and Jacob. (3) Mary J., March 30, 1853, died October 15, 1856. (4) Julia A., December 25, 1855, married John Richards, of Idaho, and has two children—Ella and Frederick. (5) John H., August 31, 1857, a farmer in Montgomery township, has three children—Carrie, Allen, and Frederick. (6) Christena C., born September 10, 1859, married Reuben Gardner, of Helena, Ohio, and has one child—Charles. (7) Mary E., February 10, 1862, married Charles Lawhead, of Montgomery township, and has three children—Wilbur, Harvey, and Mahlon. (8) Clara J., March 25, 1864, married Charles Cook, of Georgia, and has two children—Maud and Claude. (9) Charles F., born in 1872, died in infancy.

In 1870 Mr. Dieter moved to a farm in Sec-



*Jacob F Dieter.*



*Altha Dieter.*



tion 28, Montgomery township, near Prairie Depot, and he now owns about 100 acres of valuable land there, as well as one of the most desirable residences in Risingsun, where he lived from April, 1894 to April, 1896. He now resides upon his farm. He has a goodly competence won by the efforts of the past years, and his estimable wife receives from him a large share of the credit for its accumulation. They have given each of their children a liberal start in life, and are generous contributors to any worthy cause. Mr. Dieter is a man whose integrity no person would question, and his thrift and economy have not caused him to forget all aims except the securing of property. He and his wife have been consistent members of the Evangelical Church for more than forty years, and he has held various offices and is one of the pillars. To this and other churches he has given freely, helping to erect many new buildings, and his place will be hard to fill when he passes to his eternal reward.

Mrs. Dieter is held in affectionate regard among a wide circle of acquaintances for the kindly deeds which her strong but gentle hands have done in many sick rooms. Day after day she has spent in tender care for others, and her wholesome presence is of itself a help to recovery. Her vitality is wonderful, and, indeed, except for that fact, she could scarcely have lived through such a life as hers, and still be as active and well-preserved as she is. Few women will be more missed; a kinder-hearted neighbor or better mother could not be found.

In public affairs Mr. Dieter has always taken an intelligent interest. Until Lincoln's candidacy he was a Democrat, but since that time he has been a Republican, and while he has not been an office seeker, he takes keen interest in the success of his party, and attends elections regularly. In local politics he is independent, supporting the best man, whatever ticket his name may appear upon.

**HENRY ADAMS**, a well-to-do, progressive farmer of Portage township, and a member of one of the pioneer families of the county, was born September 12, 1845, in Bloom township, on a farm in Section 2. He is the eldest son and the second child of David and Lucinda (Henry) Adams.

In his boyhood Henry Adams attended the district schools of the home neighborhood, and subsequently spent two terms at school in Fostoria, one at a select school, and one at the Union school there, receiving altogether a much better school training than most farmer boys of that

day. On January 20, 1867, he was united in marriage, in Portage township, with Miss Margaretta Dresser, who was born in that township, October 22, 1840, daughter of Aaron S. and Esther (Davis) Dresser, the former of whom was from New Hampshire, the latter from New Jersey. Aaron S. Dresser was born July 1, 1800, in New Hampshire, and when twenty-four years of age migrated west to Ohio, where he married, on June 18, 1834, settling in Portage township, Wood county, on the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 25. Here he died at the advanced age of over ninety years, preceded to the grave by his wife, and they both rest in Millgrove cemetery.

For three years after his marriage Mr. Adams continued to work on the home farm, during that time serving as guardian of his minor brothers and sisters. He then purchased forty acres of land in Section 36, Portage township, half of his present farm, which had been improved and cultivated, and was equipped with very fair buildings, which at that time stood on the east side of the tract, and were moved by our subject when he purchased the forty acres adjoining, in 1880. He has remodeled most of the buildings and erected others, and his farm has a look of thrift and neatness which would do any man credit. He has been a lifelong agriculturist, devoting himself to this business exclusively, and has acquired a comfortable property.

To Mr. and Mrs. Adams have been born children as follows: F. B., born May 15, 1869, who is a prosperous young farmer of Portage township; and Mettie, born July 5, 1875, who is the wife of Charles Dicken. Mrs. Adams, in her younger days, was a school teacher, having taught with great success for seven terms in Portage and adjoining townships. Her first certificate bears the signature of Dr. Ranger, then living at West Millgrove. Mr. Adams is a Democrat politically, but takes no active part in public affairs. He is a representative go-ahead farmer of this section, and one of Portage township's most substantial citizens.

**DAVID SMITH** is an industrious, energetic man, and all that he has in life he owes to his own efforts. Dependent upon his own resources from an early age, he has made the best of his opportunities, and now, as the reward of his labor, has a comfortable home. Mr. Smith is a native of Pennsylvania, his birth having occurred in Perry county, April 4, 1836. His father, Jacob Smith, was born in the Keystone State, July 8, 1797, and was a farmer by occupation. In Perry county he was married, April 1, 1820, to Anna



Snyder, who was there born, June 27, 1798. They located on a farm of fifty acres, in Perry county, and in 1837 came, by team, to Ohio, the father purchasing an eighty-acre tract of timber land in Jackson township, Crawford county. He built a hewed-log cabin, and continued the development of his land. His wife died September 9, 1838, and on July 12, 1840, he married Miss Ruth Shorts, who died in August, 1852. Mr. Smith remained on the home farm until 1864, when he sold out, and removed to Wood county. Here, in Jackson township, with his daughter, he purchased one hundred acres of land, and there lived until his death, on July 5, 1883. To our subject's parents were born ten children: Susanna, who was born October 20, 1822, and died September 21, 1882; Elizabeth, who was born December 25, 1823, and died in childhood; John, who was born March 13, 1825, and died in childhood; Joseph, who was born February 9, 1827, and was never heard from after he left home in early manhood; Maria, who was born May 25, 1828, and is the wife of Jerry Schwartz, of Morrow county, Ohio; Caroline, who was born June 14, 1830, and is the widow of Frank Rentz, of Bowling Green, Ohio; Catherine, born December 30, 1831, widow of Henry Parr, of Crawford county; Jonas, who was born August 9, 1833, and died in childhood; David, who was born April 4, 1836; John Jacob, who was born in September, 1838, and died in early life. The children born of Jacob Smith's second marriage are Samuel, born July 16, 1841, a carpenter of North Baltimore, Ohio; Anna Eliza, born November 6, 1842, wife of Otha Castle, of Gallia, Ohio; Sarah, born May 2, 1844, wife of John Speaker, of Toledo, Ohio; and Amanda Ruth, who was born October 9, 1846, became the wife of Peter Ockerman, and died February 22, 1878.

Our subject was only a year old when brought by his parents to Ohio. He did not attend school until fifteen years of age; but, largely through his own efforts obtained a practical education, and is now well informed. He is a capable carpenter, having learned the trade himself, and until twenty-seven years of age aided in the work of the home farm. He was married July 21, 1863, and on the 31st of August, 1864, brought his little family to Wood county, purchasing eighty acres of timber land in Henry township. He has since ditched, fenced and improved this place, and in the midst of the well-tilled fields now stands a large and substantial residence and good barns. The first home, however, was a log cabin, which was replaced by a more modern structure in 1888.

Mr. Smith first married Hannah Magner, who died on the homestead farm May 8, 1879, at the age of forty-one. They had the following named children—Ortha Elma, born July 10, 1864, wife of William Henning, of Henry township; Charles Wesley, born March 22, 1866; Clara Belle, born June 16, 1868; Minerva Ellen, born October 22, 1870, now the wife of Albert Phoenix, of Bowling Green; Albert A., who was born October 15, 1872, and died February 12, 1874; Bertha I., born June 2, 1875; and Lettie Cyria, born January 4, 1879. For his second wife, Mr. Smith married Leah Ronk, the wedding taking place in Crawford county, September 21, 1880. The lady was born November 23, 1835, in Dauphin county, Penn., and is a daughter of Jacob and Rebecca Ronk. Her mother is still living. Her father died when she was fourteen years of age.

Mr. Smith has always followed carpentering in connection with farming, and is not only the architect and builder of his home, but has made almost all of the furniture. He still has in use the cook stove which his father used throughout his life, and a water pail which his father purchased in 1820. In the United Brethren Church, of which Church all his children, save one (who belongs to the Disciples Church) are members, he is an active worker, and has been a reader of the *Telescope*, the Church paper, for forty-eight years, while he has read the Bible completely through seven times. His life has been an honorable, upright one, and all who know him esteem him highly for his genuine worth.

JAMES M. FERGUSON, a public-spirited and progressive citizen, devoted to the best interests of Wood county, and having a wide circle of friends and acquaintances within its borders, is a native of Tuscarawas county, Ohio, born June 1, 1839. He is the fourth in order of birth in a family of nine children, whose parents were James and Mary (Scroggs) Ferguson. He attended the district schools of his native county until thirteen years of age, when he accompanied his parents to Wood county. Here he engaged in hunting, and the money he thus made went to the support of the family. On one occasion he had a narrow escape, being attacked by a catamount, which sprang upon him, but after a time he succeeded in killing the animal.

In July, 1863, in McComb, Ohio, Mr. Ferguson enrolled his name among the members of Company L, 1st O. H. A., and soon after went to the front, where he remained until the close of the war, when he was mustered out at Knoxville, Tenn., in 1865, and immediately returned home.

The following year he was married in Milton Center, Ohio, to Miss Mandana Richardson, who was born October 8, 1846, and is a daughter of Asa and Jane (Staples) Richardson, the former a native of Vermont, the latter of Maine. Mrs. Ferguson was born in the Pine Tree State, and when a little girl accompanied her parents on their removal to Lorain county, Ohio, where they lived for two years, then came to Wood county. In 1870 Mr. Richardson and his wife went to Isabella county, Mich., where he died at the age of eighty-four. The mother is still living in that State at the age of ninety. They were parents of twelve children, namely: Polly, Seth, Caroline, Fidelia, Bernard, Lucy, Fannie, Leland, Victoria, Charles W., Mandana and Abbie.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson located on a forty-acre farm in Jackson township, and in 1883 Mr. Ferguson purchased his present place, to which he has since added until he now owns seventy-five acres. Their home has been blessed with twelve children—Jesse, who is married, and lives in Jackson township; and Madilla, James, Demus, Malcolm, Winfield, Clark, John Allen, Ern and Vern (twins), Charles, and Ola May, all yet under the parental roof.

Mr. Ferguson is a stalwart Republican, unswerving in support of the principles of his party. Socially, he is connected with the Grand Army Post, of Hoytville, and, in the discharge of all his duties of citizenship, he displays the same loyalty that he manifested on Southern battle fields. He has been self-supporting from his boyhood, and as the result of his diligence and capable management is now the possessor of a comfortable home.

**JACOB C. YOUNG.** Among some of the most enterprising citizens of Lake township are those who were born in Germany, and who have brought to this fertile and productive country the thrift and economy of the Old World. Among these there is no figure that stands out more prominently in the history of the township, than Jacob C. Young, one of the bold pioneers, who first broke the way for civilization into the timbered regions of this locality.

He was born in Hessen-Darmstadt, on May 20, 1831, and is a son of John and Eva Catherine (Tiefdeler) Young, also natives of the same province, the father born in 1784, and the mother, in 1791. There the former engaged in farming throughout life, dying in 1851, and his wife also died in Germany in 1876. In their family were four children: Philip is still a resident of Germany. Antoine located in Ottawa county, Ohio, in 1852,

where he still resides, and there enlisted in the 89th O. V. I., for service in the Civil war. Sabine is also living in Germany. Jacob C. completes the family.

In the Fatherland the last named was reared and educated, and became familiar with the duties that fall to the lot of an agriculturist. Resolved to try his fortune in America, he took passage on a sailing vessel at Havre, France, and, after a long and tedious voyage of forty-six days, landed safely at New York, in 1853, whence he came direct to Lake township, Wood county, where he worked by the day and month for some time. However, in 1857, he purchased forty acres in the woods, and at once commenced clearing the same, and erected thereon a log house, which continued to be his place of abode until 1871, when he built his present substantial residence. Notwithstanding all the obstacles he met in developing his wild land, he has by hard and persistent work placed it under a high state of cultivation.

During the Civil war, Mr. Young aided his adopted country in her struggle to preserve the Union, being a member of Company B, 189th O. V. I., and was mustered into service at Camp Chase, Columbus, whence he was sent to Brownsboro and Huntsville, Ala., where he was stationed most of the time. He was detailed to the quartermaster's department, in which he served until discharged in September, 1865, at Nashville, Tenn. He then returned to his home in Lake township.

In that township, in 1862, he was married to Miss Catherine Crossmann, a native of Germany, born November 23, 1844. Her parents, Peter and Margaret Elizabeth (Sayer) Crossmann, were born in Hessen-Darmstadt (the former March 23, 1810, the latter November 16, 1816), and, in 1850, crossed the Atlantic, locating first at Toledo, but six years later becoming residents of Lake township, this county, where, June 8, 1891, he passed away, and where also his wife died May 9, 1893. Five children graced the union of Mr. and Mrs. Young—Mrs. Eva Tanner, of Toledo; Adam, who died in 1864; Mrs. Elizabeth Whiteman, of Ottawa county, Ohio; Mary, who died in 1869; and Henry, who died in 1873.

The parents are both worthy members of the Lutheran Church at Millbury, Wood county, thoroughly identified with its interests, and are highly respected and esteemed as valued members of the community. In politics, Mr. Young affiliates with the Republican party. In his younger days he was a great hunter, and in this frontier region had ample opportunity to indulge

in that sport, as at the time when he arrived the country was sparsely settled, and game was quite numerous.

HENRY SCHWENK, an agriculturist of Middleton township, was born near Hunt's Corners, in Huron county, Ohio, March 12, 1861, and is a son of Martin and Mary (Lydorf) Schwenk, natives of Germany. From Huron county the father removed to Middleton township, where he carried on farming until his death in 1870. Mrs. Schwenk afterward became the wife of Charles Keller, a farmer of Perrysburg, and died in 1889.

Our subject was the only child of the first marriage. In the common schools of Middleton township he acquired his early education, and afterward spent three years as a student in the German school at Perrysburg. He began life as a farm hand, and to-day is the owner of fifty-two acres of land which he received from his parents, being the only heir. By ditching and tiling he has drained the place, and a fine residence, good barns and other necessary outbuildings stand as monuments to his thrift and enterprise. He is successfully engaged in farming and stock-raising, and, in addition to his home property, he is to-day the owner of three good residences in Huron county.

Mr. Schwenk has been twice married. In 1886 he wedded Rekie Huebner, who was born in Lucas county, in 1865. She died in 1890, and their only child died in infancy. April 16, 1891, Mr. Schwenk was married to Setta Keiner, who was born in Huron county, March 1, 1866. They have one son, Martin H., born June 26, 1893.

Mr. Schwenk gives his political support to the Democratic party, and in religious faith is a Lutheran. He is in the truest sense of the word a self-made man.

DANIEL STAHL, of Bradner, a well-known landholder and agriculturist, is one of the influential citizens of Montgomery township, where (in Section 1) he entered upon life's journey November 20, 1846, the youngest son of Godfrey and Rosannah (Weigle) Stahl.

He attended in boyhood the old Prospect School, and his first teacher was his sister Catherine; but at the age of fifteen, as he was the only boy at home, and his father was in the army, he was obliged to devote his time to farm work. Although his studies were thus interrupted, he passed the teacher's examination at Fremont when he was twenty-one, receiving a license to teach. He followed this occupation for four terms in Scott and Madison townships, Sandusky

county, living at home during the time, and giving his spare time to farming. On July 17, 1873, he was married, at Bowling Green, to Mrs. Sarah (Minkler) Hamilton, the widow of George Hamilton. She was born January 1, 1848, a daughter of Caleb G. and Alsina (McCormick) Minkler, of Scott township, Sandusky county. Her father was a millwright by trade, and followed the business in several different States. His death occurred at his home when he was eighty-four years of age.

Mr. and Mrs. Stahl located first upon a farm of thirty-six acres, a part of the old homestead of the Stahl family. After a short time they moved to a farm in Sandusky county, but in November, 1895, they came to Section 12, Montgomery township, where they now reside. They have six children: Rose E., Edna, Mertie M., Fred, Harry, and Reed McK., all at home. Mr. Stahl owns forty-five acres of very valuable land at Bradner, and eighty acres in Section 7, Scott township, Sandusky county, as well as an interest in some oil holdings, and of his comfortable competence the greater part has been acquired by his own efforts. A man of great foresight in business matters, he manages his affairs with discretion, and he has never sued anyone, or been sued. Politically he has always been a Republican, and in 1896 was elected assessor in Bradner precinct. For some years he was identified with the Methodist Church, but he is not now connected with any denomination. In fraternal affiliation he is a member of the I. O. O. F. at Bradner.

SAMUEL STERNAMAN, a prominent agriculturist of Webster township, was born March 31, 1830, in Erie county, N. Y., ten miles east of Buffalo. His father, Jacob Sternaman, a native of Pennsylvania, and a wagon maker by trade, married Miss Catherine Slaybaugh, of Adams county, Penn. In October, 1836, they moved from Erie county, N. Y., to Portage county, Ohio, then in October, 1844, to Wood county, locating upon a farm of forty acres in Troy township, then moving to Webster township, in 1867. The father died in 1856, the mother on February 13, 1878. Eight children were born to them: William, deceased; Jonas, a farmer of Troy township; Peter and Benjamin, both deceased; Elizabeth, who married Hiram A. Kyes, of Freedom township; Susanna, the wife of James Booth; Samuel, the subject of this sketch; and one that died in infancy.

Our subject's early education was obtained in an old log school house in Troy township, but



*Samuel Sternaman*



his time was largely given to the farm work on the old homestead, where he remained until he was twenty-six years old. He then bought eighty acres of wild land in Webster township, near Luckey, which he has transformed into a fine farm with modern improvements. He was the first to operate drilling machines for water wells in his township. The experiences of pioneer life are fresh in his recollection, and he has seen Indians, bears, wolves and turkeys roaming at will on land which is now dotted with farms and villages. In 1869 he was married to Miss Mary Brown, a native of Perry county, Ohio, born September 20, 1828, a daughter of Matthew and Mary (Queen) Brown, prominent residents of Bowling Green. No children were born of this union, but Mr. and Mrs. Sternaman have cared for and educated Zerna Myers, an adopted daughter, and Mary and Erastus Sternaman, the orphan children of Wm. Sternaman, our subject's brother. Mary married John E. Myers, of Pennsylvania, and has seven children: Zerna, Julia Ann, Clemson, Robert, Rosena, Lottie and Gertrude.

Mr. Sternaman is a Democrat in politics, as was his father before him, and he has taken an active part in the affairs of his locality, serving as supervisor for a number of terms. His progressive spirit and industry and honesty of purpose, make him a valuable official.

D. E. NIVER, superintendent of water works at Bowling Green, and who for a number of years was a well-known educator of Wood county, was born in Huron county, Ohio, three miles north of Chicago Junction, March 4, 1856. The parents of our subject were George M. and Adaline (Van Liew) Niver, the former a native of New York State, who removed to Huron county, Ohio, about 1840, where he was married. His wife, the mother of our subject, died when the latter was only nine days old, and the father married, for his second wife, Miss Lovenia Bartlett. They still reside in Huron county, and have one daughter, Carrie A., who is the wife of Stanley Gage. The Nivers are of Scotch descent.

After the death of our subject's mother he was reared by his grandparents, beginning work on his grandfather's farm when thirteen years old, where he was employed by one of his uncles at a regular salary. The following three years he spent alternately at work and in attending school at Republic, Ohio, and when sixteen years of age taught his first school, which was a short summer term. He then went to Fostoria, where

he attended a Normal school, teaching during the vacations in the country districts, and in this way supporting himself, and at the same time acquiring a sufficient degree of mental discipline to fit him for taking a place among the educators of this great State. His first work in a department school was at New Stark, Hancock county, and in the fall of 1879, after his graduation from the Northwestern Ohio Normal University, at Ada, Ohio, he was made principal of the public schools at Nevada, Wyandot Co., Ohio, which comprised six department schools. In 1885, after six years' service, Mr. Niver resigned his superintendency of the Normal schools, and removed to Bowling Green, where he held the office of superintendent of schools for four years, when he resigned to engage in other business.

Mr. Niver was a member of the hardware firm of Cumming, Ross & Co., for two and a half years, at the end of which time he sold out his interest, expecting to engage in business for himself. The financial panic which at this time swept over the country, caused him to defer his plans, and in the meantime he was appointed superintendent of the water works, which responsible position he at present holds. Mr. Niver is a man of sterling qualities, well informed on all topics of the day, of good business judgment and executive ability, and is popular with all classes. He was a member of the city council of Bowling Green from 1892 to 1895, and has always used his influence to further the interests of his community. He is a member of Wood county Lodge No. 112, F. & A. M., of which he was master for four years, and also belongs to Crystal Chapter No. 157, R. A. M.

Mr. Niver was married July 29, 1879, to Miss Mary Davenport, who was born in Delaware county, Ohio, November 24, 1855. They have one child—Clair E.

JAMES F. BYRNE. The subject of this sketch was born in Maumee, May 3, 1844, and is the son of John and Esther Byrne, the former of whom was born in Queens County, Ireland, and came to America when eighteen years of age, settling in Maumee. He was a whip sawyer by trade, and was employed in the shipyards. He was a member of the Roman Catholic Church, and died in 1882, and was buried in Fort Meigs cemetery. To Mr. and Mrs. Byrne were born seven children—six sons and one daughter—only two of whom are living: Edward, now living in Ironville, Ohio, and our subject.

James F. grew up in Perrysburg, and obtained his education in the Union schools of that place.

He learned the printer's trade, which he followed for three years, working in Perrysburg and elsewhere. In 1865 he was married to Mrs. Frances Frusher, who was born in England, in 1845. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Byrne settled on a farm in Middleton township, and have done general farming ever since. Four children have been born to them. They are: Evalene, John, Esther, and Chester—all at home, except Evalene, who, on April 15, 1896, became the wife of E. J. Spilker. In politics Mr. Byrne is a Democrat.

FRED GOEKE, one of the most progressive and enterprising, as well as one of the most successful, farmers in Perrysburg township, is a man deserving of the highest credit for the way in which he has risen by his own efforts, from a poor boy to his present comfortable position in life.

Mr. Goeke was born in Wehrendorf, Amt Wittlage, Germany, June 12, 1857. His parents were Fred and Elizabeth (Bemning) Goeke, both natives of Hanover, where they spent their entire lives, the father dying there when fifty-four, and the mother when sixty-three years of age. They were members of the Lutheran Church, and were estimable people. They reared a family of five children, who were named—Frederick, Henry, Elizabeth, William and Claymore; the first named, our subject, preferred to be called Fred, by which name he is now known. When Fred Goeke was eighteen years old, in company with his brothers, William and Henry, he emigrated to America, and finally reached this State, and settled in Perrysburg township, where he worked around on various farms until he had saved money enough to purchase a place of his own. This he was finally able to do, and some eight years ago bought the farm of sixty-one acres on which he now resides. He has made many improvements, has the land under good cultivation, and owes no man anything.

Mr. Goeke was married February 20, 1881, to Miss Leah Stauffer, who was born in Perrysburg township, January 3, 1862. Two children have blessed this union, Henry, born October 11, 1883, and John, born January 3, 1886. Mrs. Goeke is a daughter of Henry and Catherine (Echelbarker) Stauffer, both of whom were born in Germany, near the famous river Rhine. Her mother came to America when a little girl, and was the second wife of Mr. Stauffer. By his first marriage, the children of Mr. Stauffer were—Abraham, Annie, Mary and Henry. Those by his second marriage were—Chris., who died in childhood; John; Leah, wife of our subject; Ed.;

Katie; Lena; and one who died in childhood. The father died at the age of seventy-seven, and the mother at the age of fifty-four years.

Mr. Goeke began life a poor boy, working at small wages as a farm hand, but is now better off than were his employers. He has prospered in a remarkable manner, and holds an enviable position in the community as a citizen and agriculturist. His integrity is unquestioned, and his many sterling qualities have won him hosts of friends. He is a Democrat, and has taken considerable interest in county politics. Both he and his wife are consistent members of the Lutheran Church, and are always ready to assist in any good work.

JOHN C. KAZMAIER, a prominent farmer of Perrysburg, was born in Wittenberg, Germany, February 9, 1841, and is the son of Andrew and Mary (Renz) Kazmaier, both of whom were natives of Wittenberg. They came to America in 1846, and settled in Liverpool, Medina county, and in 1866 came to this county, and located on eighty acres of land in Middleton township. He died in Perrysburg, in 1891, at the age of seventy-seven years. Mrs. Kazmaier is living in Perrysburg, where she is a member of the Lutheran Church. To this couple were born eleven children, namely: John C. (our subject), Theresa, August, Annie, Andrew, Mary, Christ, Catherine, George, Helen, and William. All grew to maturity, and are married.

John C. came to this county in 1866, and bought some timber land in Middleton township, which he cleared and cultivated. In 1864 he was married to Miss Mary Harthneck, who was born in Liverpool, Ohio, and to them have been born eleven children, as follows: Charles, February 25, 1865, married Alice Goodman, and they have two children, Clyde and Lulu; George, November 3, 1866, married Emma Shider, and one child has been born to them, Merlin; Albert, July 28, 1869, married Jane Frusher, and they have two children, Addie and Hazel; John, June 11, 1871; Henry, March 11, 1874; Frank, January 4, 1876; Andrew, November 18, 1877; Harry, September 1, 1879; Harvy, October 6, 1881; Rosa, October 10, 1884; Robert, June 5, 1887; all are alive.

Our subject is a self-made man, and, by perseverance and industry has accumulated a comfortable fortune. He now owns 174 acres of excellent farm land. He is a Democrat in politics, and a member of the Lutheran Church. Mrs. Kazmaier is a daughter of George and Rosa (Renz) Harthneck, both of whom were born in

Wittenberg, Germany, the former in 1808 and the latter in 1820. They were married in Medina county, Ohio, where they now live, and where the wife of our subject was born, September 18, 1844. The Kazmaier family are among the leading people of the county.

**ABRAHAM M. WHITE**, whose honorable and straightforward dealing in all business relations has won him the confidence and regard of those with whom he has been brought in contact, is a native of Pennsylvania, his birth having occurred in Orange township, Columbia county, September 16, 1836. His parents were William and Jane (McMurtrie) White. The father was born in Columbia county, Penn., in 1803, and there married Miss McMurtrie, whose birth occurred in New Jersey, in 1812. When a young man he learned the trade of weaving, which he followed at intervals, but his principle vocation was farming. He became the owner of an excellent farm of 400 acres in his native county, which at the time of his death was valued at \$30,000. In the family were ten children: Elizabeth, wife of Jacob Mallick, of Muncy, Penn.; Mary, wife of George Connor, of Columbus, Penn.; John M., of the same county; Sarah J., deceased wife of Howard Grimes, of Pennsylvania; Abraham M.; and Isaiah, W. Pierce, Samantha (wife of Peter Evans), Anna Margaret (wife of Harry Townsend), and Alvaretta (wife of Alonzo P. Howell), all of Columbia county.

Mr. White, our subject, attended school in his native township until twenty years of age, and for two years was a student in Greenwood Seminary, New Columbus Academy, near his home. He then began teaching in the county of his birth, and for fifteen years followed that profession. In 1863 he went to Unionville, Mich., where he was married on April 20, of that year, to Miss Elmira Edgar, who was born in Columbia county, Penn., in 1841. She was the daughter of John B. and Elizabeth Edgar, who moved from Pennsylvania to Unionville, Mich., in 1858. They were noted for their strict integrity and firm religious convictions, both of the parents and also their children being faithful and consistent members of the Presbyterian Church. They were instrumental in founding a Church of their denomination in their own new home. Mr. Edgar lived to the age of seventy-one, with a mind clear and well-stored with religious and political knowledge. He was also a great student of ancient and modern history. Mrs. Edgar descended from a good old English family named Willet.

Immediately after the marriage of our subject and Miss Edgar, they returned to Pennsylvania, and located in his native township where, for a year, they both engaged in teaching school. Mr. White then rented a farm of his father until 1870, when he purchased one hundred acres of land, cultivating the fields through the summer months, and teaching in the winter season. In 1885 he gave his farm in Columbia county for his present farm of 160 acres in Milton township, Wood county. He has since erected a large dwelling, and has made excellent improvements upon the place.

To Mr. and Mrs. White have been born six children—Charles Edgar, a farmer of Milton township; Minnie A., wife of Will Stearns, of Liberty township; Betty Edgar, wife of Ernest Hartman, of Weston; John C., A. Myra and Nellie Virginia, at home.

In 1864 Mr. White entered the 109th O. V. I. for one hundred days' service. He has always been deeply interested in the welfare and upbuilding of his resident community, and is a valued energetic citizen. Politically he affiliates with the Democratic party, and religiously with the Presbyterian Church, of which he is an active worker, now serving as one of its elders. In 1895 he became tired of farming, and removed to the pretty village of Weston, where he now lives with his wife and two daughters in the modern and tasty home he has erected.

**JOHN LANCE** was born in Sandusky county, Ohio, April 22, 1845. His father, Jacob Lance, was born in Lancaster county, Penn., in 1798, and when a young man went to West Virginia, where he married Sarah Slack, a native of that State. They afterward came to Ohio, making the journey on horse-back, and the father purchased 160 acres of land in Riley township, Sandusky county. Fremont at that time contained only three houses, and the entire region was wild and unimproved. There the parents continued to make their home until called to their final rest. The father died in 1861, and the mother passed away in June, 1888, when almost seventy-eight years of age. The children of their family were William, who is living on the old homestead; Julia Ann, wife of E. C. Lindsay, of Riley township, Sandusky county; Henry, a farmer of that county; Emily, who died at the age of eighteen; Franklin, who died in a hospital at Louisville, Ky., in 1862, while serving in the Union army during the Civil war; Sarah, who is living on the old homestead; John, the subject of this sketch; Hiram, a farmer of Riley town-



ship, Sandusky county; and Martha, who died at the age of two years.

John Lance was reared on the old home farm, and educated in the district schools of his native county. In 1863, he enlisted in the National Guards for five years' service, and was called out in May, 1864, for duty at Point Look-out, Md., near Washington, to guard the Rebel prisoners. He served for four months, and then returned home. At the age of twenty-two he began teaching school in Sandusky county, which profession he followed for two years, working through the summer months upon the farm. He then went to Cedar county, Missouri, with a view of locating there, but after teaching school for one term, returned to Sandusky county, where he remained until coming to Wood county.

During his residence in Missouri, Mr. Lance was married to Wealthy O. Richardson, who was born in Wood county, Ohio, November 6, 18—, a daughter of Joseph and Sallie Miranda (Sweet) Richardson, the former a native of Lancaster county, Penn., the latter of Ohio. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Lance was celebrated June 19, 1869, and while living in Missouri their eldest child, Ira Grant, was born March 22, 1870. Soon after they returned to Sandusky county, and lived on the old Lance homestead until 1874, when they came to Milton township, Wood county, locating on a forty-acre tract of land in the midst of a dense forest. Here the wife and mother died April 11, 1891, and her remains were interred in Milton cemetery. The other children of the family are Sarah M., born April 6, 1872, now the wife of Fred Jemison, of Webster township; Joseph Roy, born January 30, 1875; Condessa O., who was born October 6, 1876, and is the wife of Thomas Davidson, of Webster township; Wilbur J., who was born January 31, 1879; Arthur H., born August 8, 1880; James F., born July 18, 1884; George W., born June 26, 1887; and Ethel C., born January 14, 1889.

Mr. Lance is a member of the Methodist Church, as was his estimable wife, who had the warm regard of all who knew her. By his ballot he supports the men and measures of the Republican party, but has never been an office seeker.

CHARLES W. EVERS was born at Miltonville, Wood Co., Ohio, July 22, 1837.

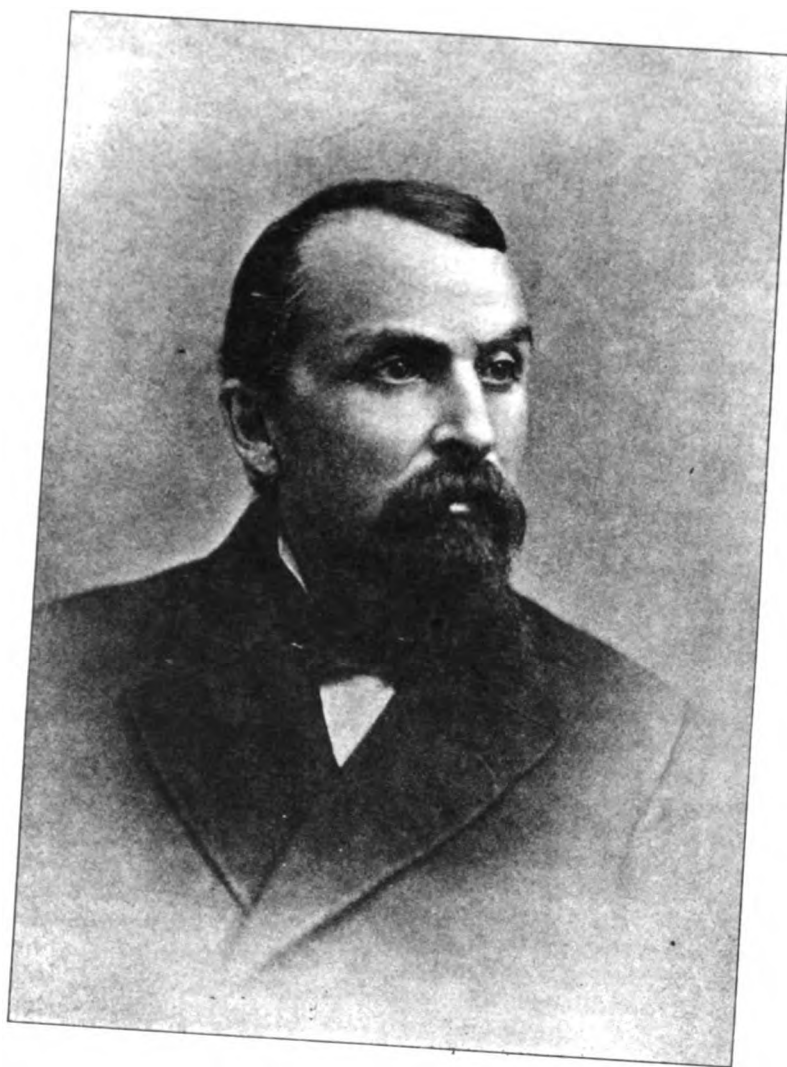
His father, John Evers, who was a bright, energetic man of good intelligence, after finishing his apprenticeship at Cleveland and Akron, as a cabinet maker and carpenter, came out to the Maumee to go into business for himself in 1834. Johnston White, who kept the river ferry between

Waterville and Miltonville, had two daughters, Celinda and Margaret. The former and John Evers were married in 1835, at Miltonville, and, in the year 1839 or 1840, moved to central Plain township, where Charles passed his boyhood days.

The ancestors of Mr. Evers, the Whites, who were English, crossed the Cumberland Mountains from Virginia into Tennessee, soon after the war of 1812. Mrs. White was a Miss Fuller before marriage. Just what year the family came to the Maumee is not known, but the records show Mr. White to have been one of the judges at the first election in Middleton township, November, 1832. The ancestors of John Evers were German, on the father's side. John's father, after serious business reverses in Maryland, moved with his family to western Pennsylvania, near Pittsburg, and, later, located in Wayne county, Ohio. His mother, in childhood, was a captive with the Indians for seven years, and, at the age of thirteen, ran away from them to escape an abhorrent marriage with the chief's son, whom she disliked. In her flight she came to a stream beyond which she saw some white men, at work, to whom she called, at the same time leaping into the water. She was none too soon, for her pursuers were on the bank before she reached the far side, which she did with great difficulty, in her exhausted condition. The white men's rifles shielded her from further molestation, and she was restored to her surviving kindred. With all the hardships she endured in common with the Indians while in captivity, they treated her kindly, and she always had a sympathetic word for them. After she came west, her house was a great resort for them, because she fed them, and could talk with them, both in word and sign language.

Charles W. Evers, the subject of this sketch, had about the usual experiences and opportunities of boys in that day in the Wood county wilderness. With the duties of the farm he became familiar, and acquired a fair degree of skill in the use of tools in his father's workshop. He also acquired book learning enough to enable him to teach successfully in the district schools.

In 1856 he went West in quest of government land for a farm of his own. He expected to proceed to Kansas, but, instead, turned to Minnesota, in order to secure some money he had loaned a man who had located there. Seeing the fine openings there for energetic young men in the professions, he shaped his affairs, and in 1859 returned to attend school. After he had been one year at Oberlin, came the war, in



*Chas. N. Evers*



1861, in which he was an early volunteer on the Union side. His regiment, the 2nd Kentucky Infantry, served mostly in the West, beginning with the battle of Shiloh. One of the things Mr. Evers takes pride in, is the fact that he carried his musket faithfully, and never missed a march or battle of his regiment, until wounded and captured at Chickamagua, September 19, 1863. This ended his army service. After two months' imprisonment at Richmond, he was paroled, and reached the Annapolis hospitals, just in time to save the amputation of his injured leg.

Soon after his return home in 1864, he was elected sheriff, and afterward re-elected to a second term. In the duties of the office he had the reputation of being diligent and efficient, both in the civil and criminal administration of the office. It was at this time, 1866, that he was united in marriage with Sarah C. Bronson, daughter of James M. Bronson, of Bloom, whose sketch appears on another page. By this union there are two daughters and one son living: Lena, Mrs. J. A. Murray, of Manchester, Ohio; May, Mrs. B. H. Ross, of San Antonio, Texas; and John, who is attending school. A year or so later Mr. Evers bought a half interest in the *Sentinel* office, moved to Bowling Green, and assumed the editorship of the paper, which at that time was having a hard struggle for existence at the new county seat. It had a paid subscription list of less than three hundred names, and a small advertising patronage. Mr. Evers threw his whole energy into the work of increasing the paper's circulation, making it aggressively Republican in politics; also, he vigorously advocated local and county interests of every kind. Within the year 1870 he bought the interest of his partner, Robert M. Travis (a bright, talented young man, whose career was cut short by disease), and became sole owner of the office. The subscription list soon ran up to one thousand, and the advertising, official and private, increased, and the paper was on a paying basis. In June, 1872, Mr. Evers sold the office to M. P. Brewer, and gave his attention for a time to some farm interests, and to real-estate dealing in general. In the spring of 1875, he was again drawn into the newspaper business by the pending county seat contest, and to be decided at the polls the following October. To further the cause of Bowling Green, he took a managing interest in a campaign paper called the *News*. At the end of the campaign, the *News*, which had done good service, and gained some standing, was merged with the *Sentinel*, and A. W. Rudolph and Mr.

Evers became owners of the united concern. Under this joint management the *Sentinel* prospered, and grew in circulation and influence. In 1880, Mr. Rudolph retired from the business, and Mr. Evers remained sole owner until 1884, when he sold the office to his old associate Mr. Rudolph, since which time he has given his attention to improving his farm lands, town property, etc.

Mr. Evers was the first president, and, with S. Case, the mover and organizer of the Bowling Green Natural Gas Company, which sunk the first deep well in Wood county, and which was the forerunner of the wonderful development in oil and gas, now the leading cash-producing industry of the county. He is yet a director and considerable stockholder in the company.

He has, on account of his well-known conservative good judgment, backed with a strong public spirit, been frequently called into service in local offices, such as town trustee, city council and school board. As told in the soldier roster in this volume, his brother, John J. Evers, lost his life in battle, and a half brother, Orlando W., died of camp fever, in the war of the Rebellion.

While the above are the cold outlines of fact, such as historians put in form and print, and are all properly put so far as they go, the writer of this paragraph and those succeeding it, who, from long and varied association, probably knows Chas. W. Evers better than any other man does, feels that it is not even justice to the history of the development of Wood county to let it go at that. His life has been too prominent a factor in that development; too essentially a part of its hitherto unwritten history, to be allowed to pass down to posterity with no word of eulogy save that which the unfamiliar, and, therefore, unfeeling statistician could elicit from one so naturally retired and unassuming as he.

A few men make the history of every community in each succeeding generation. That is, a few shape the destinies, blaze the way—in short, do the thinking for the people, and urge them on to success or failure, according as the judgment and inclinations of the few are good or bad. No one has done more, no one has done as much, to shape the destinies of Wood county in the past three decades, as has Chas. W. Evers; and that the judgment and wishes of himself and associates have been for the greatest good, the blooming, garden-like fields of her twenty townships; her fifty-odd towns and ham-

lets; her \$150,000,000 wealth, and her 60,000 good and prosperous citizens are here to testify.

A faithful advocate, a far-seeing and ever watchful and fearless champion of Wood county and its interests, his peculiar "*forte*" has always been to start a project for the good of the people; stand in the vanguard of the battle, often bedaubed with the mud and slime of calumny, and pierced by the arrows of envy, jealousy and prejudice; and fight on unfalteringly until himself and friends have planted the standard of victory on the walls which crowned their efforts with success; and then, just as credit for a good work was about to be passed over to the champion—like the good Black Knight at the Passage of Arms at Ashby—he might be seen, by a close observer, slipping quietly out of sight down the green aisles of some distant wood, only to appear, later on, the leader of some new scheme for the advancement of the people, while some other man was wearing the mantle of glory for achievements past.

Thus we find him in 1864, going into the management of the old jail, at Perrysburg, as sheriff; twenty-seven years old, unmarried, a boy, scarce well of wounds from Rebel bullets, and almost without financial resource. He finds a number of incurable insane persons confined in the same small building, along with other prisoners of all classes. His instinct of humanity immediately rebelled against such an arrangement, or want of arrangement, and, in a few months after his first incumbency of the office, we find him before the board of county commissioners, zealously laboring, in the face of almost overwhelming opposition, based on economic grounds, for the founding of a county infirmary, where the infirm of mind and the aged poor could receive proper attention. The fight was bitter; but our infirmary, counted the best managed institution of the kind in the State, is the result.

Within a few months we again find him, with Auditor Geo. N. Parsons and Commissioner Walter Davidson (both since deceased), planning, and, with the help of others interested, carrying to success the deepening and enlarging of Ditch 12, or that part of the Portage river which extends through Liberty and Jackson townships. This was the most colossal ditch project conceived in the history of the county, or northwestern Ohio, for that matter, up to that time; and was the turning point in the fortunes of the townships containing the most fertile lands in Ohio.

Mr. Evers was elected sheriff on one of the first straight-out Republican tickets elected in

Wood county, the politics of the county having been so uncertain up to that time that mixed tickets were largely in favor; but when he took hold of the *Sentinel*, as editor, in 1870, he made the paper unqualifiedly Republican, and supported Dr. E. D. Peck, of Perrysburg, for Congress, he being the Republican nominee. In this he met with the almost united opposition of the voters of central Wood county, who opposed the Doctor on county-seat grounds, and they harassed the new editor in every way short of tar and feathers. Mr. Evers, feeling that he was right, and rising above the petty local squabble, bravely loaded his, at first, poor weakly (spelled both ways) little gun to the muzzle with red-hot Republican and Peck doctrine, and fired it out among people on schedule time throughout the campaign, and walked the streets of Bowling Green with that peculiar light in his cold, grey eye which all men soon learned to respect. He had the satisfaction of seeing his friend Peck elected to Congress; and, better still, taught the people, before he finally retired from its management, to think that "if the *Sentinel* says so, it's so." Whether or no all readers may agree with him in politics, must not all concede that the seeds of Republicanism, sown by the pen of Mr. Evers in those days, had much to do with propagating the 1,200 reliable Republican majority old Wood now rolls up at each election, though surrounded by strong Democratic counties?

About 1876 Mr. Evers, Auditor J. B. Newton and Probate Judge Geo. C. Phelps, drafted a law under which Rocky Ford, the Toussaint, Two Ropt, and several other immense ditches were constructed, deepened, straightened, which under the old law could not be done if any taxpayer objected in court.

When Bowling Green's school facilities were found to be inadequate, and the new central building was projected, Mr. Evers, in command of the *Sentinel*, led the van against virulent opposition; and though defeated in the first attempt, made a second fight with better results, and our elegant central school building is the result. He led a similar fight to secure the purchase of the city park grounds, about fifteen years ago, when the land could be bought cheaply, and he could foresee that the time would come when they would be wanted and would cost much more. Many more instances of his leadership in the inception of worthy public projects could be told of Mr. Evers, but in no instance was he ever known to stay to receive any of the credit or share in the glory of conquest.

His genius as a writer is not excelled by many

who claim authorship to more numerous and pretentious works that have appeared from his pen. The pioneer sketches which appeared from time to time in the columns of the *Sentinel* years ago, from his writing; the hearty sympathy with all those advance guards of the nation endured, as evinced by those writings; their truth to life, early in his career as a newspaper man, endeared him to the hearts of every old citizen, and make him respected by their children of to-day. The most considerable bit of literary work ever published from his pen was the adventures of the Mitchell raiders, a true story of the war, written for his old friend Alf. Wilson, who was one of the raiders. It is one of the most touching and thrilling narratives ever put in print.

If ever the writer knew a man utterly void of fear, C. W. Evers is that man. Not reckless, foolhardy fearlessness, but a bravery backed up by an iron will that leaves danger out of every calculation, has been the characteristic of the man. As some incidents in connection with his official career are part of the county history—as the history of nations is largely made up of battles fought and men brought low—the writer is tempted to give a few in confirmation of the assertion of his absolute fearlessness.

To be sheriff of Wood county, even as late as the close of the war, was no joke. Much of the year the roads were almost impassable; and all the year the immense forests in some portions of the county afforded hiding places for gangs of horse-thieves, counterfeiters, and other marauders, who were much more numerous and bold than at present. In his official capacity Mr. Evers had to do with many of the worst criminals in the Northwest, and his dealings with them were not often in the nature of Sunday-school picnics. A remarkable judge of human nature, he seldom had to give a man a second look to size him up. He was, and is, if he would exercise his talents, a natural detective—of the school not made by politics or supported by blackmail, a species now almost extinct—and it went hard with a criminal when he got after him, for he was pretty certain to come to book sooner or later.

At one time he arrested a great big ruffian up near Milton Center, and was riding in the "caboose" on an evening train on the C. H. & D. R. R., on the way to Perrysburg, when the fellow, though handcuffed, and the train going twenty miles an hour, jumped out by the side door, which was open. Without a moment's hesitation Evers sprang after him, and was severely injured by falling on a pile of ties at the side of the track. Staggering up, however, he gave chase and finally

overhauled his man, and was walking back toward Tontogany, near which village the escape occurred, when the fellow struck him a terrific blow on the head with the handcuffs, knocking him momentarily senseless. Arousing himself, he heard his man climbing a fence a little distance off, again gave chase, and by firing a couple of shots at the man induced him to stop. The two men then sat down on the ground, only a few feet apart, and glowered at each other; both bleeding profusely from the wounds and bruises, both completely dead-beat. A posse from Tontogany, who had been informed of the escape by the trainmen, who had run the train back when the men were missed, came out, attracted by Mr. Evers' shots, and, when they found how badly used up the sheriff was, were only prevented by stern threats from using violence to the prisoner on the spot.

Late one Sunday evening he went in to lock the prisoners in their cells, when one of them, secreted at the entrance, struck him a heavy blow on the head with a stick of wood, and at the same time threw a cup full of ashes in his eyes; the intention being to let all the prisoners escape, and all preparations had been made with that end in view. But in this they reckoned without their host; for Mrs. Evers, who always accompanied her husband on these occasions, quickly closed and barred the corridor door as soon as she saw the first blow struck, and then called coolly to the men, telling them that under no circumstances would she open the door. This was not what the men had counted on. They had presumed that she, woman-like, would, on seeing her husband in danger, either run screaming away, or run in the corridor, in either case leaving them free to go as soon as they could dispose of Mr. Evers. But she was not that kind of a bride. With a wit quick as lightning, and a nerve as cool as her husband's, she took in the situation at a glance, and knew that, with the doors closed against them, the men would have no further provocation to hurt her husband, as they could not secure indemnity for themselves for so doing by flight. And she judged rightly, for no sooner did she get the men to understand that the door was locked than they became docile, and apologized, and went meekly to their cells; though Mr. Evers was so blinded by the ashes, and stunned and exhausted by the terrific struggle and blow, that Mrs. Evers had to call the servant girl to come and let her into the corridor to lock the cell doors, and find her husband's keys which had been dropped on the floor in the melee. It will be observed, by the way, that Mr. E. does not possess quite all the old-fashioned grit there is in that family.

"Naturally secretive and undemonstrative, one has to run across Mr. Evers' tracks, as I have done" (continues the writer), "to detect the many acts of unassuming but liberal charity which have—I was near saying—marked the course of Mr. Evers' life; but it was not so, for it has been his way that these things should leave no mark. But, nevertheless, they have filled many a flour barrel and warmed many a heart and body, just as well as if performed with brass-band accompaniment.

"A great lover of nature, both animate and inanimate, I believe he observed, almost with regret, the gradual but sure retirement of the great forests of Wood county before the advance of the hardy pioneers, and, at the same time, no man has evinced throughout his life a stronger affection for, and sympathy with, those same pioneers. It seems as if in his fancy he has always associated his memory and reverence for them with the lordly oaks of the primeval forests which they tamed, and felt that they, like himself, possessed, truly, 'hearts of oak.'

"I have trod with him the great forests of the far north, and with him admired, hours long, the gorgeous, changing hues of the maple, oak, and birch, as the frosts of autumn touched them with their magic hand; drank from the same spring; eaten our venison and bacon from astride the same log; slept under the same blanket, and watched the alternating clouds and stars in the grand vault of the heavens, and listened to the many voices of the night together; toiled many a long day together, in sunshine and shower; and now, with all the vicissitudes of his extremely useful life, past and to come, I say, most heartily, I want the Almighty to send me no truer, more unassuming or more appreciable companion, to the day or occasion, than Charles W. Evers. And this, and much more, I deem his due and history's due, when it is being written of Wood county."

**HENRY F. ARNDT.** Among the well-to-do agriculturists who came to Wood county in the latter days of its prosperity, and who are becoming identified with its material interests, is the citizen whose name begins this sketch, who resides in Section 5, Lake township. His birth occurred in Toledo, Ohio, January 4, 1857. His father, Christ Arndt, was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, in 1821, and was single on coming to the New World, but in this country married Fredreka Sanders, also a native of the Fatherland, born in 1822. They were sincere members of the Lutheran Church, and the mother now finds a pleas-

ant home with our subject. To them were born two children, Henry F., of this review, being the only one now living. His education was obtained in Lake township, he having attended the schools at Walbridge.

In 1878 was celebrated the marriage of Henry F. Arndt and Miss Dorothea Consor, who was born in Germany December 10, 1860, and they have become the parents of five children, who, in order of birth, are as follows: Fred; Elsie; Walter, who died at the age of two years and four months; Amelia; and Leona, who died at the age of one year and ten months.

Mr. Arndt has lived on his present farm since he was four years old, and he has his land under a high state of cultivation, being numbered among the most thoroughly reliable and enterprising farmers of Lake township. Politically he affiliates with the Republican party, in whose principles he sees the best guarantees for the preservation of our popular form of government; is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and his religious views are those held by the Universalists.

**CORTLAND R. HOPKINS**, whose well-known probity and upright character class him among the valued citizens and representative business men of Custar, well deserves mention in the history of Wood county. He was born in Blanchard township, Hancock county, April 23, 1848, and is a son of Matthew E. and Mary Maria (Runnels) Hopkins. He is of Scotch extraction, and a descendant of John Hopkins, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, who emigrated to America with his two brothers. The parents of our subject were both natives of Ohio, and the father was a farmer by occupation. After their marriage they removed to Hancock county, locating on a farm of 450 acres which Mr. Hopkins cultivated until his death. His widow still survives. In the family were eight children, namely: Cortland R.; Amanda, wife of Joab Moffet, of Putnam county, Ohio; Meroa, wife of Jasper Dukes, of Hancock county; Caroline, wife of Nelson Coleman, of Hancock county; Cary M., a farmer of Harper county, Kans.; Laura, who died in infancy; Nora, wife of F. M. Hummons, of Putnam county, Ohio; and Alma, who died at the age of five years.

Our subject completed the course of the public schools of his native town, and then pursued a three-years' scientific course in Oberlin College, after which he entered Cornell University, New York, where he remained for two terms. After his return home he was married at Warsaw, Ind.,

September 23, 1873; to Miss Quincie A. Sorbie, who was born in Hancock county, Ohio, in September, 1852. Mr. Hopkins then went to the West through the influence of an uncle in Iowa, who offered him great inducements to go to that State. He located on a 1,000-acre tract of land owned by his uncle, and farmed that successfully for five years, after which he purchased eighty acres of wild land in Liberty township, Wood county, and returned to his native State. He afterward added, to this, 300 acres, and became the owner of a valuable farm. In the fall of 1892 he was taken ill, and for a year was unable to engage in active business. Owing to financial difficulties with one who pretended to be his friend, he was forced to sell 400 acres of his land. Previous to his illness he had built a grain elevator in Custar, and in the spring of 1894 he removed to this place, and has since given his attention to the business there, handling coal, hay, grain and straw, and enjoying a good business. He also owns considerable town property in Custar, and through his own efforts has acquired a comfortable competence.

Mr. Hopkins is a Republican in politics, and was elected mayor of Custar in the spring of 1896; although the town is strongly Democratic, he was elected by a large majority over his competitor for the office, which he fills to the satisfaction of the people, and with credit to himself. He is an intelligent, popular and enterprising citizen. He and his wife had two children, but both are now deceased. Minnie, born in Iowa, October 12, 1874, died December 20, 1879. Mabel, born in Wood county, died at the age of six months.

F. K. STACY, one of the leading business men of Bloomdale, was born in Lowellville, Mahoning Co., Ohio, on August 5, 1846, and is a son of Thomas and Margaret (McGill) Stacy. The father, who was also a native of Mahoning county, was by trade a carpenter, and died in that county at the age of seventy-three years. The mother died at Lowellville when past the age of eighty years. They were the parents of a large family, only a few of whom lived to adult age. The paternal grandfather of our subject, Thomas Stacy, became one of the early settlers of Mahoning county, where he owned a great deal of land, and was very wealthy.

Leaving home at the age of sixteen, Mr. Stacy, of this sketch, began work on the Beaver & Ohio canal, there holding different positions for two years, at the expiration of which time he went to Hancock county, Ohio, having an ac-

quaintance living in Cass township. For a few years he there worked as a farm hand, receiving \$30 for six months' work. Later he learned broom making, which trade he followed in Cass township until 1876, when he came to Bloomdale, being the first broom maker in the place, and there engaged in that pursuit for seven years. In 1883 he became a member of the firm of Stacy, Linhart & Co., who owned 320 acres of timber land in Pleasant township, Hancock county, where they were engaged in getting out lumber until the fall of 1888, during which time his family lived in a small plank house in the midst of the woods, near the sawmill. Mr. Stacy then returned to Bloomdale; but for two years still continued to buy lumber with the firm, and also conducted a restaurant. In the spring of 1891, he purchased the interest of S. W. Strimple in the elevator business, becoming a partner of T. J. Campbell, and also carried on a grocery store. He has been identified with the tile factory at different times, having built the original factory about 1878, and was one of the company that platted the Star addition to Bloomdale. On February 1, 1895, he became sole owner of the grain and elevator business, which is the only business of the kind in the city.

In Allen township, Hancock county, on December 21, 1871, Mr. Stacy led to the marriage altar Miss Alice E. Markle, a native of Canada, and a daughter of E. C. Markle, a pumpmaker by trade. The father is an own cousin of W. F. Cody, so well known as "Buffalo Bill." She was but a child when brought to the United States. By her marriage with our subject she has become the mother of two children—Jennie I. and Eugene C. The latter was a member of the first class to graduate from the Bloomdale High School (1895), and has been engaged in writing biographical sketches.

Mr. Stacy is one of the foremost citizens of Bloomdale, enterprising and public spirited, wide-awake to every improvement and advancement of that beautiful little city, and was one of the party who built the first sidewalk and set out the first shade trees, and also contributed ten dollars toward the completion of the school house. He was a charter member of McComb Lodge, Knights of Pythias order, and for over twenty years belonged to the Odd Fellows Society, but has now dropped his membership. His political support is given the Republican party. For two terms he served as alderman, being a member of the first city council, and was elected mayor to fill out the unexpired term of T. J. Campbell, after which he was re-elected, serving



in all three years. For years he has been a member of the hunting parties from Bloomdale to northern Wisconsin, Michigan and the Rocky mountains. On September 27, 1895, while on one of these hunting expeditions in the Rocky mountains, being alone, and a half mile from camp (which was about twenty miles north of Meeker, Colo.), he killed a large male mountain lion measuring seven feet and two inches from the end of the nose to the tip of the tail. When Mr. Stacy shot, the animal was just thirty feet from him, and was creeping slowly toward him, looking him in the face all the time.

Mr. Stacy has been quite successful in his business ventures, for which he deserves much credit, as his property has all been acquired through his own unaided efforts and perseverance. Mrs. Stacy, a most estimable lady, is a member of the Lutheran Church.

J. F. SMITH, the senior partner of the firm of Smith & Wineland, well-known brick and tile manufacturers of Bloomdale, is one of the representative self-made men, and belongs to a prominent family. He is an Ohioan by birth, of Scotch descent, and first saw the light in Logan county, July 12, 1858. He came to Wood county with his parents, W. E. and Margaret Smith, when he was but seven years old, and passed through the ordinary experiences of the boys of that time, with an abundance of work, and but limited educational privileges. The improved schools of today have no firmer friend than Mr. Smith, his own deprivations giving him a keen appreciation of their value. Up to the age of twenty-one he remained at home, except for two seasons on the farm of Thomas and Jerry Loman, in Perry township. In the fall of 1879 he went to Page county, Iowa, and, after working for one year on a farm, he bought a team and rented a farm, starting in business on his own account. He returned home, and on April 24, 1882, was married, in Bloom township, to Miss Dillie Loman, youngest daughter of Richard Loman, a pioneer of Perry township. For two years after this happy event, he clerked in the store of Emerson Bros., of Bloomdale, where he bought a home. In the fall of 1885 he went to Iowa again, and rented a farm for two years, in Page county, expecting there to make his home; but in October, 1887, yielding to the desires of others, he came back to Bloomdale, and resumed his work in the store. Early in 1889 he bought a one-third interest in the Bloomdale Brick and Tile Works, the firm being Stacy, Smith & Co., and in 1891 he became a half owner, with Mr. Wineland.

This business has prospered under his energetic management, and he has engaged in other enterprises at the same time, helping to organize the Bloomdale Building & Loan Association, and serving as its first president, a position which he declined the second year. He is a stockholder in the Bloomdale Creamery Co., and managed it in 1895. He is also a stockholder in the Lakeside Encampment, at Lakeside, Ohio. It is said that it is the really busy people who can find time to do things, and Mr. Smith furnishes an example to support the rule, as he is an active worker in the Radical United Brethren Church, a trustee, class leader, and superintendent of its Sunday-school. He is a liberal contributor to Church work, and to all measures designed to benefit the community. His pleasant home is brightened by two children: Hazel, now eleven years old, and Ruth, aged two years.

In February, 1895, Mr. Smith met with a sad accident. While feeding a chopmill at the works, on a very cold morning, his right hand, on which he wore a glove, was caught, necessitating its amputation one inch above the wrist. Mr. Smith is one of the active managers of the Prohibition party in this vicinity, having left the Republican fold in 1888. He has been secretary of the county organization, and in 1894 was the candidate for county recorder. He was elected village councilman for the one-year term, in the spring of 1891, and in 1894 was elected for three years, in which position his abilities and qualifications for righteous government are manifest. In the recent Presidential campaign, Mr. Smith took great interest; he is a strong advocate of the free coinage of silver, and was a candidate for Presidential elector on the National ticket.

THOMAS W. TAYLOR. Among the well-known and prosperous farmers of Wood county, is the gentleman whose name we here present.

Thomas Taylor, father of Thomas W., was born in Huntingdon county, Penn., April 19, 1800. At a mature age he was married to Miss Sarah Keeth, who was two years his junior, she being born in the same county, January 3, 1802. His occupation was that of a farmer and stock-dealer. Some time after their marriage they moved to Richland county, Ohio, and while here six children were born to them: Levi, September 30, 1821; Mary Jane, September 10, 1823; George W., August 23, 1825; Louis K., November 15, 1827; Thomas W., March 22, 1830, and William, October 30, 1832. In April of the year 1834, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor moved to Wood county, Ohio, and while here four more children were

born to them: Andrew J., April 11, 1836; Martha A., September 10, 1838; James, March 20, 1841; and Harriet M., August 29, 1843. On June 27, 1852, Mrs. Sarah (Keeth) Taylor died. In the spring of 1854 Thomas Taylor, Sr., married Margaret Warner Clark, and to them were born three children: John W., September 19, 1856; Henry L., April 7, 1860; and Sarah E., August 15, 1863. Thomas Taylor, Sr., died April 9, 1870, and his widow followed him January 12, 1892. Six of the children are yet living, namely: Louis K., Thomas W., Martha A., Harriet M., John W., and Henry L. Three of the boys were in the army: William was a member of Company H, 21st O. V. I., and was killed at Stone River, January 2, 1863; James was a member of Company H, 21st O. V. I., and was killed at Vining Station, Ga., July 9, 1864; Thomas W. was a member of Company K, 111th O. V. I. He enlisted August 21, 1862, and by reason of a "Surgeon's certificate of disability," was discharged at Bowling Green, Ky., after eight months and twelve days service.

The early education of our subject was acquired by working nights and mornings for his board, and paying for his tuition by working at from 25 cents to 50 cents per day. At the age of twenty-three, in company with his brother Levi, he crossed the Plains with a drove of sheep, transporting their provisions with three yoke of oxen, two horses and a mule. When they left Council Bluffs, Iowa, their flock consisted of over nine hundred head; but, before they reached their destination, it had dwindled to about four hundred; they also lost four oxen. In 1859 he returned to Ohio and engaged in farming, which occupation he again resumed on his return from the army. By hard work and good management Mr. Taylor has made himself a financial success, being the possessor of three fine farms besides considerable town and personal property.

Although Mr. Taylor has never married, he has been a husband to the widow and a father to the fatherless, always kind, and liberal to charity and to enterprise. He has been a member of the town council; is a member of the G. A. R. and K. of P., and has held several positions of trust. He has always been a great reader, and has a large library well-stocked with choice books; is a well-posted man on almost any subject, and is always "up to date" on the political issues of the day. Both Mr. Taylor and his father voted the Democratic ticket until 1860, when they joined the Republican forces.

In 1853, Thomas Taylor, Sr., laid off thirty-one lots of what was then "Taylortown," but later

on was called "New Westfield," and later still "Weston." The town has now grown to be a thriving village of 1,500 inhabitants—in fact there is no better town in northwestern Ohio. It has finer residences, is morally better, and has church and business ability second to none. Its schools give a complete course preparatory to a college education.

JOHN OSBURG, one of the oldest German pioneers of the vicinity of Perrysburg, and a retired farmer, is a native of Prussia, Germany, where he was born June 24, 1816. The parents of Mr. Osburg both lived and died in Prussia. Mr. Osburg, Sr., was married four times, our subject being the only child by his first wife. His second marriage resulted in two children: Ignatius, who died in St. Louis, Mo., and Mary, who married Mr. Cenging, and died in Lucas county, Ohio.

Our subject was educated in Prussia, and served in the German army one year, after which he learned the blacksmith's trade. He was married in Prussia, October 16, 1836, to Miss Dorothea Nolte, who was born March 4, 1813. They embarked from Bremen for America in a sailing vessel, and after a voyage of seven weeks landed at New York, and came direct to Perrysburg, reaching here November 10, 1848. In 1851 Mr. Osburg bought six acres of land then heavily timbered, but now comprising a part of the corporation of Perrysburg, besides which he has twelve more acres, also inside the corporation. He followed the occupations of teaming and farming until he retired, in 1880. Mrs. Osburg died April 12, 1895, at the age of eighty-two. Of their ten children, a record of the following is given: Marguerite died at the age of ten on the way to America, and was buried in mid ocean. Mary was born in Germany, came to Perrysburg, this county, with her parents, and in 1854 married John Snyder, a native of Switzerland, who came to the United States when a young man, and settled in Perrysburg, where he now resides. His wife died in 1862. Three children were born to them: Mary was married in 1886, to C. F. Koschland, and died in 1888; Elizabeth became the wife of John C. Hahn, in 1890, and has one child—Arthur J. (they now live with our subject at Perrysburg); Carrie is now living in Toledo. Mr. Snyder's second marriage resulted in five children: Alice, now Mrs. Fred Henry, of Perrysburg; Frank, Harry, Ada and Clarence. Mr. Osburg is a Democrat, and a member of the Roman Catholic Church, and in spite of nearly eighty-one years, is a prominent factor in his community.

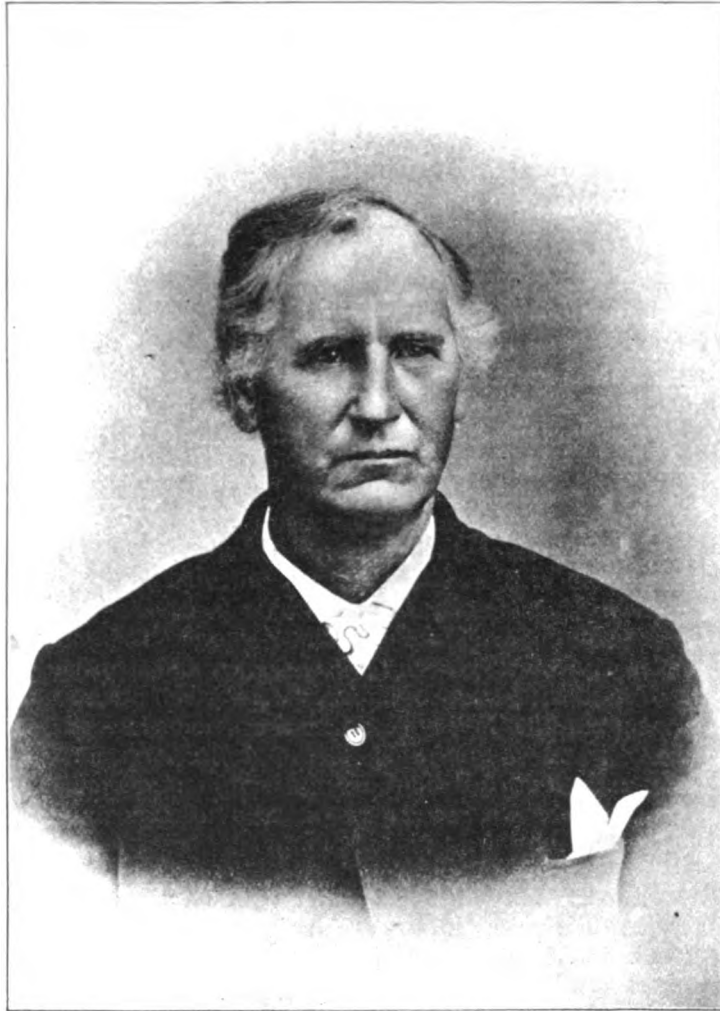
**JOHN C. BAKER.** Occasionally one meets a man pursuing with apparent contentment some quiet calling, whose mental powers seem so far beyond any possible chance of development and use in his present surroundings, and so superior to those of some who fill a prominent place in the public eye, that one wonders what would have been the result had the man been given in youth a liberal intellectual training, and the opportunity to bring his forces fully into play in contact with the world's best thinkers. Some such thought must cross the mind of any one who converses long with John C. Baker, a hard-working and successful farmer of Bloom township. Born in Fairfield township, Columbiana county, April 5, 1831, of parents who were far from wealthy, his energies have, from an early age, been devoted to the task of securing a competence. That he has done, and done well, as his 315 acres of fine farming land give convincing evidence; but had his strong will been fixed upon any other purpose, his success might have been even more remarkable.

John Baker, our subject's grandfather, came to Columbiana county in 1817, from Adams county, Penn., and settled as a pioneer farmer. He and his wife, Catherine (Mummert), reared a family of eleven children: Sarah, William, Elizabeth, Abraham, Catherine, Jonas and Moses (twins), Isaac, Samuel, Lydia and Rebecca. Abraham Baker, father of our subject, was born March 30, 1808, in Adams county, Penn., and when nine years of age accompanied his parents to Ohio. On June 22, 1830, he was married, in Columbiana county, to Elizabeth Cope, a native of Frederick county, Va., born October 13, 1808, whose parents, John and Mary (McCabe) Cope, came to Columbiana county in 1810. The ancestry of this family has been traced back to the time of the landing of William Penn, and W. T. Cope, the present State treasurer of Ohio, is one of its representatives. In the fall of 1854 Abraham Baker moved to Hancock county, where he rented a farm in Allen township for a year. In the spring of 1856 he came to Wood county and bought forty acres in Section 31, Bloom township, where he and his wife spent their remaining years. In politics he was at first a Whig, later becoming an ardent Abolitionist and joining the Republican party on its formation. He was a regular voter, but never sought or held office. He died May 27, 1888, his wife surviving him until August 15, 1894, and both now rest in Van Buren cemetery. Of their eight children John C., our subject, was the eldest; Sarah A. is now Mrs. J. R. Slatteback, of Allen

township, Hancock county; Joshua C. is a resident of the same locality; Elisha M. is a farmer at South Auburn, Neb.; Jason was a member of Company G, 21st O. V. I., and was wounded at Chattahoochie River, Ga., July 9, 1864, dying two days later (he is buried in the Chattanooga cemetery); Joseph N. is a teacher at Bowling Green; Isaac P. enlisted February 2, 1862, in Company G, 21st O. V. I., and died February 6, 1863, at Nashville, Tenn., where his remains now rest; Mary C. married Frank Pattee, and they reside in Douglas county, Wisconsin.

John C. Baker grew to manhood at his native place, and was given the best educational advantages that the neighborhood afforded, in the subscription schools of the day. These he has since improved upon by reading and observation, his remarkable memory enabling him to gain a wide range of practical information. At the age of nineteen he began to learn the carpenter's trade, which he afterward followed for many years. On September 26, 1852, he married Miss Mary Haberstick, who was born in Salem township, Columbiana county, September 30, 1827, the daughter of Casper Haberstick, a native of Switzerland. On October 1, 1861, Mr. Baker left his native county with his family and located in Allen township, Hancock county, where they remained until March, 1867, when he came to Henry township, Wood county, and purchased twenty-seven acres of land, partly improved. For several years he followed his trade in connection with farming, and thus secured a start; but his attention is now given to the management of his estate. He owns 235 acres in Bloom and Henry townships, and eighty in De Kalb county, Ind. His homestead near North Baltimore is an excellent farm, upon which he erected substantial buildings before he quit working at his trade. On September 26, 1864, he enlisted in Company F, 47th O. V. I., and joined the regiment at Marietta, Ga. His first battle was at Fort McAllister, and he participated in the other engagements of Sherman's campaign until he reached Beaufort, S. C., where sickness compelled him to enter the hospital. On May 7, 1865, he left for Washington on the "General Barnes," and entered Finley Hospital there. He was discharged on general order June 5, 1865, and five days later arrived home.

Mr. Baker's first wife died September 22, 1875, leaving three children—Jeremiah, a resident of Garrett, Ind., and an engineer on the B. & O. R. R.; Joshua, a farmer of Garrett, Ind.; and Vine (now Mrs. Loren Eycler), of Henry



*John C. Baker*



township. On December 5, 1878, Mr. Baker married Mrs. Amelia Erb, the widow of Peter Erb, and daughter of Andrew and Leah (Christ) Simon. In politics Mr. Baker has been a Republican from his first vote for John P. Hale. He is no office seeker, but was once elected supervisor against his wish, his well-known ability, his capacity for hard work, and genial nature, having made him the choice of his friends throughout the community for that position.

**JAMES D. ANDERSON**, a leading agriculturist and stock-dealer of Wood county, now residing in Bowling Green, is a native of the county, born in Center township, December 25, 1845.

The grandfather of our subject, James Anderson, was born in Ireland, and came to America in early manhood. He married Catherine McMullen, of Trumbull county, Ohio, and they had ten children. James Anderson lived on a farm, although he was a school teacher by occupation. He died in about 1828, in Trumbull county. The father of our subject, the late Stewart Anderson, was born in 1811, in Trumbull county, Ohio, where he lived until 1833, when, having learned the cabinet-maker's trade, he came to Wood county and established himself in that business, and also worked at the carpenter's trade, making specialties, as trade developed, of chair-making and undertaking. In the latter branch of his business he had a practical monopoly for many years. For some time previous to his death, which occurred in 1885, he gave his attention to agricultural pursuits. His sterling qualities of character made him influential among a wide circle of acquaintances, and he was locally prominent as a member of the Republican party and in all progressive movements. He married Miss Eliza Phillips, who was born in Stark county, Ohio, in 1820, and is still living. They had three children, of whom Albert, the eldest, enlisted under Capt. Day, of Bowling Green, in the 111th O. V. I., and died at Raleigh, N. C., after he had served his time and received his discharge. Mary, the youngest, is the widow of Aaron Drumheller, of Center township.

The subject of our sketch, the second of the family, received his early education in the district schools near his birthplace. In the spring of 1864 he enlisted in Company F, 144th O. V. I., for one hundred days, under Capt. Cook, of Perrysburg, and spent the greater portion of his term of enlistment at Annapolis Junction, Md. He was the youngest member of his company. On his return home he engaged in the lumber business, and ran a sawmill for nine years in Cen-

ter township. He then turned his energies to farming, beginning with a tract of forty acres, and to fattening and shipping cattle, in which business he has ever since continued. Of late years he has dealt chiefly in sheep, and in both these lines he is among the most prominent in the county, having 473 acres of land under cultivation, and fattening annually about 1,600 head of sheep, besides other live stock in small lots; this year he fattened 3,500 head. He also deals heavily in stock, shipping on an average three car-loads a week, principally to Buffalo. Mr. Anderson has been the architect of his own fortune, and this simple record of results accomplished speaks more convincingly of thrift and wisely-directed energy than could any words of praise.

In 1878 Mr. Anderson was married to Miss Isabella Reed, who was born in Wood county. March 8, 1854, and they have two children: Louis and Florence. In July, 1891, the family moved to Bowling Green, where they have a fine home, though Mr. Anderson still conducts his farm. Politically our subject is an Independent, and in 1878, he was nominated for sheriff of Wood county on the Greenback ticket. Socially he is a member of the I. O. O. F., of Bowling Green, and of the Royal Arcanum.

Mrs. Anderson's parents, Robert and Isabella (Forester) Reed, were both born in Scotland, the father in 1804, the mother in 1812. They came to the United States in 1833, settling in Perrysburg, Wood Co., Ohio, where he conducted a store and bakery, he being a baker by trade. He died in 1855, the mother in December, 1861. They had a family of ten children: John, Thomas, Ellen, Robert, William, Archibald, James, Elizabeth, Isabella, and one that died in infancy in Scotland. Only three of this large family now survive: Robert, who lives in Michigan; William, near Findlay, Ohio; and Mrs. Anderson. Five of the sons served in the army during the Civil war; Thomas and Robert were members of a Michigan regiment; William of the 21st O. V. I., and Archibald and James of the 72nd O. V. I. After the battle of Stone River, James, being ill, was put on a boat to be sent home, and was never heard from afterward.

**ABRAM FIKE**, a prominent merchant and business man of Prairie Depot, was born in Ashland county, Ohio, May 14, 1847. When he was quite young his parents moved to Osceola, Crawford county. Samuel Fike, his father, married Miss Mary Heltman, and engaged in the mercantile business in Osceola, where, through the dishon-

esty of others, he became greatly reduced financially. In 1860 the family came to Wood county, and located in Montgomery township, along the "McCutchenville pike," on an eighty-acre tract, known as the "Schuman Farm." Mr. Fike was one of the early settlers in the township, and was at that time in comfortable circumstances, having sold his farm in Crawford county for a good price. He remained on the "Schuman Farm" until his death, which occurred when he was forty-eight years of age. His widow is now Mrs. Dennis Pember, of Prairie Depot. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Fike were as follows: Frank, a druggist, of Prairie Depot; Abram, our subject; Fianna, now Mrs. B. O'Dell, of Jerry City; and Nellie, married to Dr. Brooke, of Prairie Depot. Samuel Fike was a Democrat, but took only a voting interest in politics. He was a member of the Disciples Church, a respected citizen and a good neighbor.

Our subject attended the district schools, acquiring such education as it was possible to obtain in those days, and was twelve years old when his parents came to Wood county, from which time he was reared as a farmer's boy. On December 10, 1868, he was married in Fostoria to Miss Jerusha E. Hays, who was born May 11, 1847, in Fostoria. Her parents were James and Emily S. (Chapman) Hays, the former of whom was born July 15, 1816, and was a son of Henry and Hetty (Marshall) Hays, early pioneers of Perry township. He was in his "teens" when his father brought him to Perry township, where he was reared as a pioneer farmer's boy. On May 9, 1844, he was married in Fostoria to Miss Emily S. Chapman, who was born in Montville, Ohio, daughter of George and Lois (Bates) Chapman; when a girl she came to Fostoria, attended school there, and worked at the trade of a tailor, which she had learned; she also taught school for a time. James Hays had been teaching school before his marriage, after which he lived in Fostoria for awhile. He was a well-known instructor, having taught school for forty-nine years, at different places in Wood county. On May 10, 1854, he and his family left Fostoria for Polk county, Iowa, where he taught school, later teaching at Hartford, same State, where he built a home. His wife died in Polk county March 15, 1857, and was buried in Des Moines, Iowa. Two children came to them: Edward T., born July 12, 1845, a minister in the Christian Church at Lawrenceburg, Ind.; and Jerusha E., born May 11, 1847, wife of our subject. James Hays married, for his second wife, in Hartford, Iowa, Miss Elizabeth K. Middleton, a native of Indiana,

and the following children blessed this union: Arthur B., born November 8, 1859, an attorney of Ogden, Utah; Mary, born July 19, 1864, who died in infancy; and Bertha Z., born April 2, 1872, now Mrs. L. V. Petre, of Wells, Minnesota.

In 1860 Mr. Hays returned to Ohio and located in Fostoria, where he had owned property since his first residence there. While in Iowa he had lived at Des Moines, Hartford, Palmyra and Wheeling, and he taught school in each place. After his return from Iowa he lived in Fostoria continuously until his death, on July 31, 1888. Mrs. Hays now lives in Wells, Minn., with her daughter. Mr. Hays was an excellent disciplinarian in the schoolroom, and was most successful in training the young mind. At seventy-two years of age, but a few weeks previous to his death, he taught in the public schools of Fostoria. He was a thoroughly systematic man, and the chores around his house were all performed with the same care and precision that characterized his work in the schoolroom. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was superintendent of the Sunday-school for years, and was at one time a licensed exhorter, but throat trouble compelled him to abandon that. Politically he was at one time a Republican, but in his later years was a Prohibitionist.

After his marriage our subject lived on the home farm, which he rented, until about 1875, when he removed to Prairie Depot. At this period of his life he was only a common workman, being employed as a hand in his brother's sawmill. Subsequently, however, he formed a partnership with David Reed, and opened a tinware store, with a stock worth about \$300, to which they afterward added a small line of hardware. Later Mr. Fike sold out his business interests to a Mr. Childs, from Norwalk, Ohio, and, again renting the home farm, resumed the tilling of the soil, remaining there for some time, and then going again to Prairie Depot. At this time he could command some capital and he engaged in various business enterprises, among others that of butchering. Then he was employed as a clerk in the store of Addison Lansdale, where he remained two years, or until his employer sold out. Mr. Fike then went to Risingsun, Ohio, where he was in the employ of a merchant named Ensminger for about six months. Returning to Prairie Depot, he embarked in the brokerage business, having his residence a part of the time in Toledo. He was then for two years in partnership with O. A. Diver, dealing in general merchandise in Prairie Depot, and was instrumental in starting the first exchange bank

in the place, in 1893, forming a partnership in that business with A. F. Basey, and is at present carrying on the same. In 1884 he built the comfortable home where he now resides, and he also owns his store building. Mr. Fike has been a shrewd, careful business man, and has amassed a competency in his later years. He has always been considered an excellent buyer, and has been very successful in his trades in land and other property. His reputation as an honorable citizen is of the highest, and he is popular with all classes of men. Mr. Fike is a Democrat, but has never mixed up much in political matters, beyond casting his vote for the men he considers best qualified to hold office, and he has served as a member of the city council of Prairie Depot. Socially he is a member of the I. O. O. F., Lodge No. 402, of Toledo. Mrs. Fike was before her marriage a school teacher in Wood county, having secured a teacher's certificate before she was eighteen years old. She is a most estimable lady, and shares with her husband the regard of their fellow citizens.

**JOSIAH RICHARDSON**, a well-known and substantial farmer of Perry township, is a native of Vermont, born April 3, 1823, in the town of Weston, Windsor county.

The parents of our subject were Josiah and Ann (Davis) Richardson, the former born in Temple, N. H., October 25, 1786. The mother was a native of the same State, born about 1800.

They came west in the spring of 1834 with their family of four children, their destination being La Porte, Lorain Co., Ohio, and their journey being made via the Erie canal from Troy to Buffalo, and from there by lake to Cleveland, thence to La Porte. Here the father rented land for a time, afterward purchasing a tract in La Grange township, which was heavily timbered, and required much labor to clear. This was afterward sold at a profit, and forty-two acres, also timber land, purchased in Grafton township. In three years this land was almost entirely cleared, and here the mother died in 1842, leaving the following children: James M., residing in Richland county, Ohio; Isaac W., who died in February, 1893, in Granger township, Medina Co., Ohio; Josiah, the subject of this sketch; Betsey A., who married a Mr. Gray, and on his death became the wife of Hiram Newhall, who is also deceased (she resides at Brighton Center, Lorain county). After the death of the mother the father came to Wood county, and made his home with our subject until he, too, passed away, January 8, 1862, his remains be-

ing interred in the cemetery at Center. He was a man of robust health until his last illness, which baffled the best medical skill. He was in his early years a Democrat, but afterward became a Republican.

Our subject was eleven years old when his parents removed from Vermont, and his schooling was such as was common in those early days; after coming to Ohio he experienced the hardships and privations of the pioneers, whose efforts were given to wresting from the forests the land on which they intended making their homes, and whose virgin soil was to blossom with fruitful fields and glow with golden harvests. To this work his youthful days were given, and he remained on the home place until his marriage, which event took place December 5, 1844, when he was united to Miss Elmina Crane. She was born in Schoharie county, N. Y., August 9, 1829, daughter of Charles and Lydia (Fuller) Crane, who came to Ohio in the fall of 1834 and located in La Grange township, Lorain county, where Mrs. Richardson was educated in the district school and grew to womanhood.

At the time of our subject's marriage he had the management of the home place of forty-two acres, but in the spring of 1853 he removed to Perry township, Wood county, where the previous fall he had purchased 120 acres of partially improved land in Section 21. He made the journey by rail to Fremont, and from there by team. He remained on that farm until the spring of 1860, when he purchased 146 acres in Section 31, Perry township, where he has since made his home. During this time he has sold a portion of his land, which is now part of two other farms, retaining 103 acres, which are under a state of good cultivation. Politically Mr. Richardson was for many years a staunch Republican, but his bitter enmity to the liquor traffic has caused him to take an active interest in the success of the Prohibition party, and the highest ambition he has is to see the sale of intoxicating liquors, as a beverage, abolished. He is a well-informed man, and while not a Church member, he is a Christian in his belief and practice, and is greatly beloved and esteemed by all who know him. His wife joined the Free-Will Baptist Church when she was ten years old, but at present is a member in good standing of the United Brethren Church. This worthy couple have spent over fifty years of happy wedded life together, sharing each other's joys and sorrows, and proving by their devotion and faithfulness that marriage is not "a failure." Now that the shadows are growing longer in the west, they are enjoying



in their pleasant home the well-earned rest after years of labor, and await the going down of the sun in peace and contentment.

Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Richardson, as follows: Melissa J., born February 20, 1846, died in infancy; Orrin S., born November 28, 1848, enlisted March 1, 1865, in Company G, 189th O. V. I., and died four weeks later at Huntsville, Ala., of measles, his body being brought home and interred at Perry Center; Anna A., born June 5, 1861, is the wife of J. A. Perrine, of Perry township, and has three children; Etta M., born May 13, 1865, died July 13, of the same year; and Herbert O., born October 29, 1873, was married March 28, 1895 to Miss Melinda Taylor, and they reside with his parents.

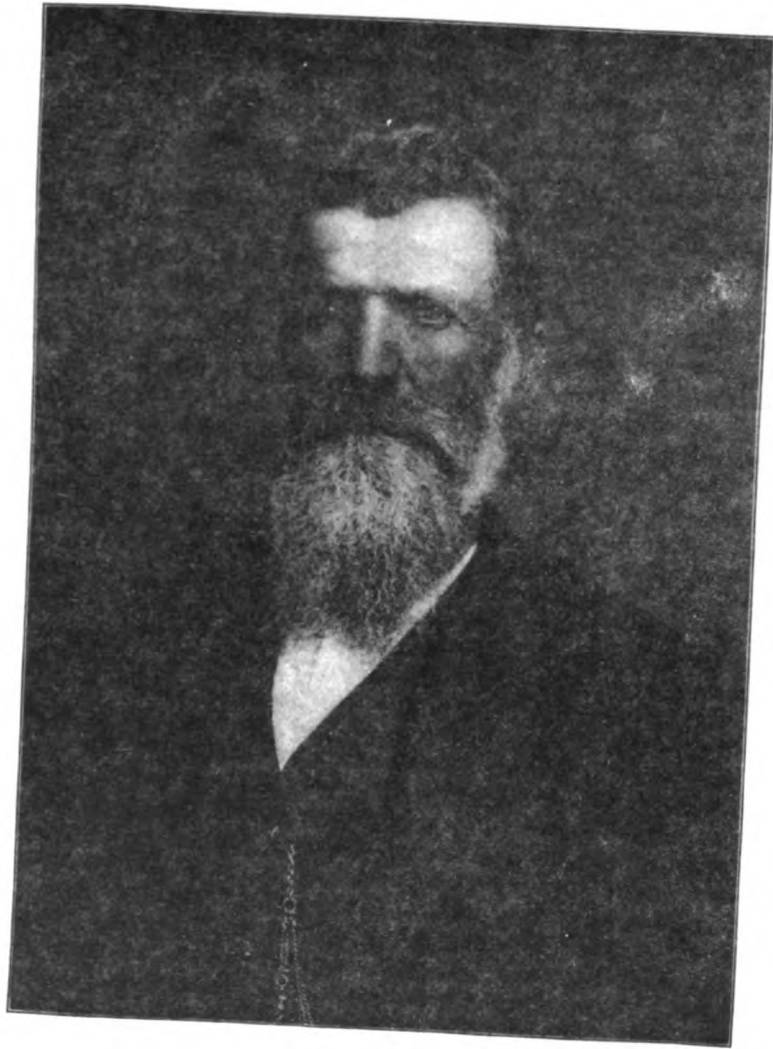
ALEXANDER E. LASHUAY, a retired farmer and highly respected citizen of Bowling Green, was born July 8, 1839, in Monroe county, Mich. His father, Alexander E. Lashuay, Sr., was of French descent, and was a native of Canada, where he married. Removing to Monroe county, Mich., he carried on farming there for a number of years, and came to Wood county when our subject was about fifteen years old, settling on a farm in the timber of Weston township. There he passed the remainder of his life, dying at the advanced age of eighty years. The mother of our subject died in 1842, leaving three children: John and James, who are farmers in Weston township; and Alexander E. The father married, for his second wife, Miss Rebadue, and one child of this union is living, David, who resides in Washington township.

Mr. Lashuay was only about four years of age when his mother died, and he was bound out to a family at Petersburg, Mich., with whom he remained until he was some ten years of age. He then ran away and hired out to a farmer near Adrian, Mich., there remaining till about 1853, when his father brought him to Ohio. In his early years he attended the common schools for some time. He assisted his father upon the farm, and also did farm work for others until able to commence for himself. On March 10, 1865, he was married to Charity E. Mercer, who was born in Liberty township, daughter of Abraham and Harriet (Rice) Mercer. The young couple settled on a farm near Rudolph, which was their home for nearly thirty years. This place comprised eighty acres, on which he carried on general farming, and on which are now ten producing oil wells, from which he derives a handsome income. On September 12, 1894, Mr. Lashuay removed to Bowling Green, where he is living a

quiet life, enjoying the results of many years of active labor, and the respect and esteem of a large circle of friends and acquaintances. He has been a Republican ever since attaining his majority, and cast his first Presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln. Both he and his wife are active members of the Church of Christ, better known as the Disciples Church, to which his wife has belonged since she was fifteen years of age. While residing in Rudolph they were members of the Missionary Society, and have always taken a great interest in Church work.

To Mr. and Mrs. Lashuay have come the following children: Abraham M., born October 4, 1867, married Luella McMahan, and lives on the old home place; they have two children—Flossie B. and Eldon Stanley. Hattie I., born June 22, 1870, married William A. Kidd, of Juniata, Penn., and died November 27, 1894, leaving one child—Kenneth, who lives with Mr. Lashuay. Cline, born February 6, 1873, died September 1 of the same year. Clarence B., born September 2, 1875, resides with his parents.

JOHN B. LINHART, one of Bloomdale's leading citizens, is well-known throughout Wood and Hancock counties, owning a large farm in the latter locality, to which he devotes much of his time. He is a native of Pennsylvania, born in Baldwin township, Allegheny county, January 7, 1836, the son of Philip and Eliza (Huttenhower) Linhart. Our subject is the second in a family of eighteen children, of whom fifteen are still living, all occupying useful and honorable positions in society. He attended the district schools near his birthplace, and learned to work upon the farm in the days when labor-saving machinery was not yet in use. His father, a man of great shrewdness and enterprise, and a farmer by occupation, determined to give his boys a good start in life, by securing farms for them in northwestern Ohio, where land was cheap, and in 1856 he came to Seneca county, and bought 160 acres, ten of which were improved. February 11, 1858, our subject was married to Miss Elizabeth Yohe, a daughter of Isaac Yohe, a prominent farmer of Washington county, Penn., and early in April he brought his young bride to this new home. For six years he labored to bring the property into condition for farming; having accomplished the task, and becoming the possessor of same, he sold it, and bought an improved farm of eighty acres in Washington township, Hancock Co., Ohio. His father had moved some years before to Cass township, in that county, and in 1872 Mr. Linhart went there with



*A. C. Lathrop*



his family, and soon after (July 18, 1872) his wife died, her remains being interred at Fostoria. Five children were born of this union: (1) William C. now conducts the homestead for his father. He married Margaret Keefer, and has three children. (2) David died when nine months old. (3) Carrie B. married Chares Overholt, of Hancock county, and has four children. (4) Anna married George Rice, of Bloomdale, and has four children. (5) Jesse died at the age of eleven years.

On October 28, 1873, Mr. Linhart was married to his second wife, Miss Elizabeth McKee, a native of Allegheny county, Penn., and a daughter of Robert McKee, of the same county, and soon afterward he moved to a farm of 110 acres, six miles from Charlotte, Mich. In 1875 his father moved to Bloomdale, and Mr. Linhart bought the homestead, consisting of 163 acres of as good land as can be found, which he has ever since operated, living there until 1886, when he came to Bloomdale, leaving the active work of the farm to his eldest son. April 12, 1890, his second wife died, and January 12, 1892, he was married to Miss Elizabeth Logan, a daughter of James H. Logan, a prominent farmer of Bethel township, Allegheny county, Penn., and his wife, Matilda (Simmons) Logan.

Mr. Linhart has been a hard worker, and is still quite active, taking a prominent place in various lines of effort. He holds stock in the Bloomdale Creamery, and the Bloomdale Building and Loan Association, and in public affairs has always exercised wide influence in a quiet way. He has been elected on the Republican ticket to various township offices, and was a member of the first city council of Bloomdale, serving two terms. He is no office-seeker, but is always greatly interested in the success of the candidate of his choice. His friends are many, won to him by his own friendly and unassuming manners and sterling qualities. In the Lutheran Church, of which he and his wife are leading members, he has held many offices, and is now a trustee.

GEORGE H. BAKER, one of the leading citizens and self-made capitalists, of Risingsun, is still comparatively young; in fact is just entering upon the usual period of accumulation in the life of the average man, and his rapid rise from a clerkship to this present position in financial circles is the result of rare business ability, attentiveness, and fair and honest methods with his patrons.

He was born March 14, 1858, in Jackson township, Seneca Co., Ohio, the second son and

third child of John and Louisa (Strouse) Baker. He was but a child, when his parents came to Wood county, and the first school that he attended was at Prairie Depot. At the age of fifteen he entered the store of that old pioneer merchant, Addison Lansdale, at Prairie Depot, and here gained invaluable training in the business which he so successfully carried on in later years. His first wages were but little more than board and clothes, and after a year and a half he went home to the farm for a short time. His second clerkship was in the general store of Charles Bell, at Portage, Ohio, but owing to Mr. Bell's failure, he was there only one year. Another short siege at farm work for his father followed before he began clerking for A. F. Munn, of Weston, Ohio, where he remained some time, and his next work away from home was a brief period as a section hand on the C. H. & D. R. R. Soon after this experience he began clerking for Wyman, North & Co., at Risingsun, and during his ten years of service in that capacity, he made friends and formed acquaintances upon which his later success as the head of the store was largely based—a strong evidence of the esteem in which he was held even then. In July, 1887, he purchased the business at a cost of over \$5,000 payable in four years in installments, and he succeeded in making the store pay for itself in that time. Each year increased his trade, which became the largest of any store in the county in a town the size of Risingsun, and before he disposed of his business, in April, 1896, he had had a career which has never been approached by any merchant in that place.

In addition to his mercantile enterprise Mr. Baker has been extensively interested in oil, being a member of nearly every local company, and of some which are not local, and has probably the largest investments of any local producer of which Risingsun has a goodly number. He also conducts a coal business, of which some idea may be gained when it is mentioned that over 550 car loads were shipped during the seasons of 1895 and '96.

In 1885 Mr. Baker erected one of the best residences in Risingsun. His first wife, Miss Phoebe Winchell, daughter of L. C. and Jane (Baker) Winchell, was born June 17, 1865, in Scott township, Sandusky county. They had five children: Belle, Flo, Reed, Nina and Marie, all of whom are living except Flo, who met a tragic death at the age of six years, the result of her clothing catching fire. The mother of this little family departed this life September 23, 1893, while under medical treatment at Toledo. In June, 1895, Mr. Baker again entered the

matrimonial state, his second wife being Miss Minnie Hodgeman.

Politically Mr. Baker is a Democrat, but not a strict partisan, the fitness of the various candidates being always considered, and at times he has given his hearty support to a Republican. Although he is an active worker in local politics he has never been a politician in the sense which that word now conveys to the public. August 15, 1893, he was appointed postmaster at Rising-sun, and September 18, 1894, he was re-appointed to that position. He was a charter member of Onward Lodge No. 329, K. of P., at Rising-sun, and was its first treasurer.

WILLIAM BOLLINGER, a leading citizen of Wood county, operates a good farm of eighty acres, in Section 12, Portage township. He came to the county in 1873 a poor man—poor in everything but pluck and indomitable will-power. He has met with serious reverses in his business career, suffered a great deal from fever and ague, which resulted disastrously to his financial interests, but he commenced life on his present farm with renewed zeal. His sound judgment and shrewd management brought him success, and gave him an assured footing among the well-to-do farmers of the community.

Mr. Bollinger was born in York county, Penn., February 5, 1834, and is the second in a family of fifteen children, eight sons and seven daughters. His father, John Bollinger, was a millwright by trade. In the subscription schools our subject was educated, then learned the trade which his father followed. On June 5, 1862, in his native county, he married Lydia Stump, who was born in Maryland, January 4, 1841, and they have become the parents of the following children: Amelia, born April 28, 1863, in York county, Penn., was married to John Huber, of Montgomery township, Wood county, March 10, 1881; Oliver J., born July 29, 1865, died January 12, 1866; John, born October 19, 1866; Albenia, born August 2, 1868; William, born December 3, 1871, died in infancy; Barbara E., born March 5, 1873, married Frank A. Hastings, March 31, 1896; Elias, born September 16, 1874; and Jacob, born April 11, 1882.

On coming to Wood county, in 1873, Mr. Bollinger rented land for four years in Montgomery township, and then purchased his present place, which was covered with timber. For a time he made cross ties, which he would haul to Woodville, Ohio, and sell; but now devotes his time wholly to the cultivation of his land. He is straightforward and honorable in all his dealings;

but has lost considerable money through unprincipled men with whom he has had transactions. He casts his ballot with the Democratic party; and he and his wife attend the Dunkard Church.

JOSEPH HERRINGSHAW was born in Nordelph, County of Norfolk, England, November 19, 1841, and is a son of John and Mary Ann (Lyon) Herringshaw, the former of whom was a farmer and boatman in England. He was born in 1814, and died in 1861, leaving a widow and seven children, our subject being nineteen years old at the time, while the youngest child was but two years old. A brief record of the family is as follows: Ann married Thomas Harrison, also of England; Joseph comes next; John married Eliza Roush, of Sandusky county, Ohio; Saul married Eliza Watson, of London, England; Frederick married Beatrice Needham, of North Baltimore, Ohio; William married Mary Hough, of North Baltimore, Ohio; and Rebecca is at home taking care of her mother, who is now seventy-nine years old, having been born December 21, 1816, at Somerson, Huntingdonshire, England. She never remarried. When our subject was two years old the family removed to Stickney, Lincolnshire, England, where he attended a subscription school. When he was a lad of six his parents returned to Nordelph, where he completed his education, paying one penny per week for his tuition. In April, 1851, the family crossed the Atlantic to America, and after a voyage of twenty-nine days landed at New York, on the 15th of May. They then started by boat for Albany, and there some "sharper" claimed that the father had not paid money enough for his passage, and withheld his luggage. Mr. Herringshaw then consulted the mayor, who sent an officer, and compelled the men to give up the goods. The family then proceeded by canal boat to Buffalo, and for a year resided within eight miles of that city, the father working as a farm hand for \$13 per month. He then went to Sandusky City, Ohio, and on to Bellevue, in which locality he again secured farm work. His next home was at Townsend, Sandusky Co., Ohio, where he remained until 1856, when he removed to Huron county, making his home near Hunt's Corners until 1860, spending the following year in Weston. In 1861 the family came to Liberty township, and bought eighty acres of land in the wilderness, in the southwest corner of the township, having Henry, Jackson and Milton in the other corners. At the northeast corner is a nice brick school house; at the southwest corner, a dry-goods store; on the southeast corner (in Henry township) is a store, the

place being known as *Honey*. Four of the family reside in Jackson, one in Liberty, and all own good farms.

In the various communities in which the family lived our subject attended school. He remained at home working on the farm until twenty-six years of age, when in Bowling Green, Ohio, June 6, 1867, he married Mary Ann Scott, who was born in the County of Norfolk, England, February 24, 1838, and is a daughter of Darius and Charlotte (Fletcher) Scott. Mrs. Herringshaw was in her sixteenth year when she came with her two sisters and brother to America, on the sailing vessel "Woodcock," which after a voyage of five weeks landed at New York. Her mother died in England when the daughter was only ten years old, and Mr. Scott came to this country three years before his children, establishing a home for his family near Cleveland, Ohio. About 1860 they all came to Wood county, and he purchased a farm in Webster township, which he afterward sold, buying property in Liberty township. Later he owned another farm in Webster township, and afterward bought the "Ten Mile House," which he carried on until 1894, then sold, and is now living on a farm in Lucas county, Ohio. He has been three times married, and by the last union had eight children. Mrs. Herringshaw is one of six children by the first marriage, the others being: Sarah, wife of Jacob Grim, of Jackson township; Charlotte, widow of Peter Marker, of Clay county, Iowa; Darius, who enlisted, in 1861, in Company K, 21st O. V. I., and was starved to death in the prison where he was incarcerated by the Rebels; Susan (deceased), first married to James P. Daley, and after his death wedded Frank Powers; and Levi, a soldier of the Civil war, who went from Iowa to California about 1891, and is now living at Oceanside, that State.

Upon their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Herringshaw located in Jackson township, where for five years he rented a farm, and then purchased forty acres on Jackson Prairie, being the first to build on that prairie. He still owns his first farm, but since the spring of 1889 has resided at his present home, where he also owns forty acres of land, a fine residence, good barns and all the other accessories of a model farm of the nineteenth century. He takes quite an active interest in politics, and supports the men and measures of the Democratic party. He and his wife hold membership with the United Brethren Church, and he belongs to the I. O. O. F. of Milton Center, and is a Master Mason, his lodge connections being at Deshler. In 1889 he re-

turned on a visit to his native land, also went to Ireland and France, and attended the World's Fair in Paris, returning to his home after an absence of three months.

**F. FAIRBANK.** Among the active farmers and well-known citizens of Montgomery township, the gentleman whose name begins this sketch holds a prominent place. A native of Ohio, he was born in Medina county October 31, 1850, and belongs to a family noted for longevity, his great-grandfather having lived to the extreme age of one hundred years.

His father, J. M. Fairbank, was a native of Massachusetts, and was quite young when his father died. He was brought to Ohio by his stepfather, who located in the eastern part of the State, where he grew to manhood, and in Medina county married Miss Savina Bowman, who was born in that county, of Pennsylvania-Dutch extraction. He followed his trade of carpentering there until 1854, in that year removing to Section 1, Montgomery township, Wood county, where he erected a sawmill which he operated for some time. Later he went to Sandusky county, and in 1872 located at Helena, where, although over seventy years of age, he still follows the carpenter's trade. He is entirely a self-made man, having, at the time of his marriage, only \$6; but he now has a comfortable home, 160 acres of farming land, and money out at interest, all of which have been acquired through his own unaided efforts and strict economy. The mother of our subject passed away long since, leaving five children—Lewis, of Madison township, Sandusky county; F. Fairbank, of this sketch; Minnie, wife of William Peck, of Scott township, Sandusky county; Charles, also of Madison township; and Christopher, of Helena, Ohio. An uncompromising Republican, the father has always taken a prominent part in political matters, and was once a candidate for county commissioner in Sandusky county; but as it was strongly Democratic he failed of election, though by only one vote, which plainly indicated his popularity. During the dark days of the Rebellion he enlisted in Company I, 72nd O. V. I., in 1861, and served for over three years. At Guntown he was taken prisoner, and held in captivity for nine months.

Our subject was only a child when brought to Wood county, and his education was such as could be obtained by a two-months' attendance during the year at the district schools, at first entering the "fractional school." As his help was needed upon the home farm, his educational privileges were necessarily limited, but his train-

ing at farm work was not so meagre. At the age of twenty years he started out as a farm hand.

In Montgomery township, on December 6, 1871, Mr. Fairbank was joined in wedlock with Miss Lucinda Hartman, who was born in Section 12, that township, October 31, 1851, and is the daughter of William and Esther (Butchel) Fairbank. They have become the parents of nine children, namely: Grant, a carpenter, residing at home; Nellie, widow of William Holcomb, who was killed in the oil fields February 5, 1894; Tillie, now Mrs. David Williams, of Pemberville, Ohio; Eulo, Pearlle, Hattie, Healon, and Frankie, all at home; and Milo, who died in infancy. Mr. Fairbank began his domestic life upon his father-in-law's farm in Section 12, Montgomery township, but at the end of one year removed to his father's farm in Madison township, Sandusky county, which he operated in connection with his brother Lewis. Later he rented land in Scott township, that county, but on April 14, 1884, located upon his present farm in Section 10, Montgomery township, Wood county, making his home at first in a log house. In 1890, however, he erected his present excellent residence, and in 1894 built his barn, which is a substantial structure, 38 x 56 feet. He has made many other useful and valuable improvements upon his place, and ranks among the leading agriculturists of the community. He casts his ballot in support of the men and measures of the Republican party, is now serving his second term as township trustee, and socially is a member of the Odd Fellows fraternity at Helena, Ohio.

ORLIN S. BURGESS, an enterprising and successful agriculturist of Webster township, was born in Ashtabula county, Ohio, May 20, 1832. He is a descendant of Abraham Burgess, the third of the House of Burgess of England, who came with two brothers to this country in the "Mayflower," landing at Plymouth Rock in the year 1620.

Alvah Burgess, his father, who was a native of New York State, came to Ohio about 1830, and after short periods of residence in Ashtabula and Lorain counties, settled, in 1838, in Wood county, and entered eighty acres of land in Montgomery township, which he cleared and improved. He was an Old-line Whig in politics, and a consistent and faithful believer in the doctrines of the Disciples Church. He married Miss Betsey Frost, who was a native of Maine, and they had eight children, the youngest of whom died in infancy. Seven lived to adult age: William, Rus-

sell, John, Daniel, Bradley, Harriet, and Orlin S. (our subject), who is now the only survivor of the family.

Orlin S. Burgess began work on his own account at the age of sixteen, renting fifty-five acres of land which he afterward bought. He has since made additions from time to time until he now owns 186 acres of the best land in Webster township, which he has improved according to modern methods. He is an extensive stock-raiser, and one of the first in the township to breed thorough-bred horses. Among the noted horses now in our subject's possession is "John Harper Longfellow," a dark bay with black points, weight 1,300 pounds. He is a first-class race horse, having taken first premium and sweepstakes at the Northern State Fair at Cleveland in 1879, and first premium at the State Fair at Toledo the same year. He also has three thorough-bred mares which have never been trained, but possess a good record. Of all his horses he prizes "Longfellow" the most, and will keep him to the end of his natural life.

On October 12, 1853, Mr. Burgess was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Myers, a daughter of Michael Myers, a prominent farmer of Freedom township. She is a native of Steubenville, Ohio, born February 9, 1834, and moved to New Rochester, Wood county, the same year. Six children were born of this union: Emily, the wife of James P. King; Mary, who died at the age of twenty-two; Fred, a successful stock-raiser and farmer in Webster township; Clay, who now has charge of the old homestead; Kitty Luella, the wife of W. D. Isman; and Celia, who died September 27, 1873, aged two years. Mr. Burgess is a Democrat in politics, but, although he takes an intelligent interest in all public movements, local, State or National, he has never engaged in the active work of his party. He is a member of Phoenix Lodge No. 123, F. & A. M., of Perrysburg.

FRED M. SMITH, one of the most progressive and scientific of our agricultural workers, is a leading citizen of Montgomery township, and a veteran of the Civil war.

Patriotism flows in his blood as a heritage from a hero of the Revolutionary war, his grandfather, Conrad Smith, a native of New York, having served eight years on special duty. He was at Valley Forge during the historic winter, and carried to his grave two bullets, one British and the other Indian. The Government gave him 160 acres of land in western Pennsylvania, but his last years were spent in Portage county,



*O. S. Burgess*





Ohio, where he died at the age of fifty-five. He reared a large family, among whom was a son Michael, our subject's father, who was born in Pennsylvania February 22, 1800, and was only a child when his parents moved to eastern Ohio. As may be supposed his educational opportunities there were not of the best. He was married in eastern Ohio to Miss Elizabeth Hemminger, who was born in Pennsylvania November 19, 1809, daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth (Yunkman) Hemminger. In the latter part of the "thirties" Michael Smith came to Wood county, where he entered forty acres in Section 5, Montgomery township, the last entry in the section. The land was in its wild state, and he built a log house and lived through the usual experiences of a pioneer farmer. He was small of stature, but was robust and free from ills, and when sixty-five years old walked to Prairie Depot to vote; he was a Democrat, and never failed to support his convictions, but he was not an office seeker. He and his wife were members of the Lutheran Church. His death occurred April 15, 1869, and she survived him until May 27, 1880, their mortal remains being consigned to earth near Bradner, Ohio. They had six children, of whom Conrad enlisted in Company A, 100th O. V. I., and died at Andersonville in May, 1854; Moses resides in Portage township; Ann married Clark Flaugher, and died in Bloom township; Fred M. is the subject of this sketch; Aaron is a resident of Portage township.

Mr. Smith was born at the old farm December 4, 1844, and during his lifetime that locality has undergone a wonderful transformation. The old log school house, known as the "Hill School house," was the first that he attended, and his own inferior opportunities have made him desire better advantages for the children of this day. His time was spent at home assisting upon the farm until November 19, 1861, when he enlisted in Company C, 72nd O. V. I., under Capt. Snyder. His first battle was at Shiloh, and he took part in all the engagements of his regiment until he was captured, at Guntown, Miss., June 12, 1864; he was sent to various prisons—Mobile, Andersonville, where he contracted gangrene, and Milan, Ga.—and in the latter part of November was paroled at Savannah. In December he returned home on furlough, and was discharged February 14, 1865, from further service. He was wounded at Vicksburg, and lost sight of his left eye. After his return home he worked for his father as his health permitted, and after the death of his parents he bought the interests of the other heirs, and now owns, the

original homestead. In all, he has 100 acres in Montgomery and Freedom townships, and as a farmer he is noted for his good business qualities and systematic management, while his neatness and love of order are shown in every part of his estate. He is gifted with fine mechanical ability, and has worked at various trades, including that of painting, and he also clerked for one year at Pemberville, Ohio.

On March 2, 1880, Mr. Smith was married in Montgomery township to Miss Eliza Adams, a native of Sandusky county, Ohio, who was born January 22, 1864, the daughter of William and Christina (Smith) Adams. Four children brightened their comfortable home—Chester F., born November 20, 1880; Elsie E., June 9, 1882; Chauncey A., January 11, 1887; and Archie F., January 19, 1892. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are not Church members, but they contribute to the support of different denominations, and take a generous interest in all progressive movements. Possessing a keen and active intellect, and a good memory, Mr. Smith has made himself familiar with much good literature, and is well-informed upon the questions of the day. While in Andersonville prison he voted for Abraham Lincoln, and has ever since been a Republican of the staunchest sort, but, he has always declined any overtures looking to official position. He is an active member of the I. O. O. F.

THOMAS C. BRANDEBERRY, a most genial and companionable gentleman, has made his home in Bloom township since pioneer days. He at once made his way into the esteem and confidence of the people of his locality, and is numbered among the most valued citizens. He was born in what was then Richland county, but is now Ashland county, Ohio, October 17, 1825, and is a son of Philip and Catherine (Zimmerman) Brandeberry, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter of Virginia. They were married before the war of 1812, in which the father participated, being in the engagements at Fort Meigs. They came to Ohio in the early part of the present century, locating first in Columbiana county, later going to Richland county, and on August 9, 1839, arrived in Wood county, making a settlement in the geographical center of Perry township. The township elections were often held in their pioneer home. The father later purchased three eighty-acre tracts of land in Bloom township, which he subsequently gave to three of his sons. Thomas C. is one of the family of nine children, the others being Betsy, who became the wife of John Chilcote, and died

in Perry township at the age of sixty years; Jonathan, who died in Portage township, Wood county, at the age of seventy-one; Philip, who died in Bloom township at the age of sixty; William, who died in February, 1894, in the same township, at the age of seventy-four; Isaac, who was a wealthy farmer of Perry township, where he died in 1886, at the age of sixty-six years; Tena, who became the wife of William Burk, and died in Freedom township, Wood county, at the age of fifty years; Mary, who was the wife of Henry Hays, and with her husband was poisoned in Perry township; and James, a farmer of that township. The father passed away in January, 1867, at the age of eighty years, and the mother died in the fall of 1865. The former was a shrewd, far-sighted Pennsylvania-German, who made the best of his opportunities, and became a successful agriculturist. In early life he was a Whig, but later joined the Republican party, with which his sons also affiliated.

The educational advantages of our subject were such as the subscription schools of those early days afforded, and he remained upon the home farm until his marriage, which was celebrated in Freedom township, Wood county, in September, 1850, Miss Catherine Miller becoming his wife. She was born in Schuylkill county, Penn., September 2, 1828, and is the daughter of David and Susan (Ketrie) Miller, who became residents of Bloom township, in 1842. At the time of her marriage she was working as a domestic, and out of her meager wages paid part of the funeral expenses of her father. Mr. and Mrs. Brandeberry became the parents of eight children, namely: Mary A., who was born April 21, 1851, and died when young; Albert, who was born August 2, 1852, and now operates the home farm; an infant daughter, who was born November 26, 1853, and died unnamed; David, who was born December 6, 1854, and, besides conducting his farm, also engages in the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church; Lorina, who was born January 24, 1859, and is now the wife of William Rider, of Bloom township; T. J., who was born March 3, 1861, and died at the age of three months; Alice C., who was born March 6, 1864, and is now the wife of James E. Long, of Bloom township; and Charles, who was born November 27, 1866, and is a farmer of the same township.

Mr. Brandeberry was given eighty acres of land, by his father, in Freedom township, but this he traded with his brother Jonathan for a like amount in Section 27, Bloom township,

where he still makes his home. His first dwelling was of logs, with puncheon floor, clapboard roof weighted down, stick chimney and large fireplace; but it was a happy home, where sociability and good cheer abounded.

The farming operations of Mr. Brandeberry were interrupted by his service in the Union army during the Civil war. On May 2, 1864, he became a member of the Home Guards, entering the United States service as a member of Company E, 144th O. V. I., for one hundred days, and was stationed at Relay House, between Washington and Baltimore, where he was detailed for post duty under the quartermaster. While handling heavy bags of grain for horses' feed he strained himself, from which he has never recovered. On the expiration of his term of service, he returned home, resuming agricultural pursuits, which he followed until 1880, when, on account of his physical condition, he was obliged to lay aside the more arduous duties of farm life, and for several years engaged in buying and selling stock. He has a wide acquaintance throughout the county, and by his friends is familiarly known as "Uncle Tommie." He is a staunch adherent of the Republican party, but has refused all offices except that of school director of District No. 8, Bloom township, and he and his family are faithful members of the Methodist Church.

**JAMES J. SMITH.** The subject of this sketch is one of the oldest pioneers of the county, and perhaps the oldest in Perrysburg township. He was born in Johnstown, N. Y., November 18, 1817, and was in his seventeenth year when his parents came to Ohio. He has, therefore, grown up with the country, and the wonderful changes which have occurred during its growth and development, have taken place under his observation. At that day many parts of this section were mere swamps overgrown with grass and weeds, the forests, dense with thick underbrush and teeming with wild animals, the home of settlers, made in a little patch of clearing were "like angels' visits," few and far between.

It is to such brave pioneers as this man and his father, that this great State owes her present high standing in the commonwealth. They are the men who literally "blazed" the path for those less daring, who sought, in the fertile lands of the West, that return for their labors denied them in the more circumscribed and less easily cultivated domains of the East. The debt of gratitude, which the people of to-day owe to these hardy and industrious early settlers, can never be repaid, but no occasion should be lost in which

to give them the credit due their toils and sacrifices.

Mr. Smith was the thirteenth in a large family of children born to John and Caroline (Griswold) Smith, both members of old New England families. The father was born in Woodstock, Mass., August 23, 1764, and his wife, February 7, 1774. They were married September 21, 1790, and came to Ohio, September 15, 1835, locating on the banks of the Maumee river in Perrysburg, where he died March 1, 1842, his wife surviving him until August 14, 1848. Their farm comprised what is now the site of Lime City. Of their family the following record is given: Mary, born August 14, 1791; Almira P., August 7, 1793; Caroline, May 31, 1795; John P., December 12, 1797; Lucius J., November 21, 1800; Solomon, April 14, 1802; Harriet, October 1, 1804; William, November 23, 1807; Sidney, October 2, 1809; Henry G., and Benjamin, twins, March 26, 1812; and James Jay, November 18, 1817, our subject. The parents at one time lived in Rutland, Vermont.

James J. Smith received his education in New York, spending his boyhood days on a farm, and then learned the cooper's trade. This he followed for twenty years, and also carried on farming at the same time. He made the first barrel that ever went into Pearl Mills, at Maumee. He did much hard work on the farm, the ground being swampy and at times covered with water; but years of patient industry brought him his reward in rich harvests from fertile fields, and a pleasant home where once stood the virgin forests. He recalls many events of interest of those early days, and remembers when the Maumee pike was built. Mr. Smith is an interesting talker, and, did space permit, many of his stories of pioneer times would be of interest to our readers, presenting, as they do, such vivid contrasts to the history of to-day.

Our subject was married in Syracuse, N. Y., December 23, 1840, to Miss Marana J. Barker, who was born in Livingston county, N. Y., December 6, 1820. Her parents moved to Syracuse when she was six years old, and both died there, the mother when forty years old, the father when ninety. Of this union there were four children: (1) Sidney, born September 23, 1841, died when ten years old. (2) Gustavus, a stone contractor, and a member of the Michigan Stone Supply Co., of which he is also superintendent, making his home in Detroit; he served in the war from August, 1862, to May, 1865, as private, sergeant-major, second lieutenant, and first lieutenant, respectively, Companies D and E,

111th O. V. I.; he married Miss Frances Woolson, of Syracuse, N. Y., and they had one child, Herbert, born June 17, 1874, died in infancy. (3) Charles died when four years old. (4) Kittie M. is teaching school; she was educated in Perrysburg, was principal of schools at Upper Sandusky for five years, and held the same position at Defiance for three years, and in Marion for four years, and now is principal of the high school at Warsaw, Indiana.

Mr. Smith is a Jacksonian Democrat, and has been trustee of his township; in the fall of 1895, he was nominated by his party for representative, but declined on account of his age. At one time he was an active member of the old Fort Meigs Lodge, I. O. O. F. He has been so long a resident of the community, and so prominent in its affairs, that he is considered almost an oracle by its citizens. A man of superior character, public spirited, and ever ready to assist in all worthy enterprises, he is one of the most highly respected residents of Perrysburg township.

M. D. CHILCOTE is numbered among the prominent and progressive farmers of Montgomery township, now making his home in Section 33, where he has a fine farm of 120 acres of highly cultivated and productive land. He is a native of Wood county, born in Section 26, Perry township, April 11, 1839, and is a son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Jones) Chilcote, who were worthy representatives of the honored pioneers of the county.

The father was born November 12, 1802, in Maryland, where he was reared, but was not married until after his arrival in Wood county. The mother's birth occurred in Gallia county, Ohio, April 2, 1812. She was a daughter of James Jones, one of the oldest pioneers of Perry township, who was present at the time of its organization. In his youth Mr. Chilcote had learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed in this county, and also helped to build some of the first houses erected at Fostoria, Ohio, where he located at the time of his marriage. He later went to Jackson township, Seneca county, from there came to Perry township, and at West Millgrove his last days were passed, dying there January 21, 1889, at the age of eighty-seven years. The death of the mother also occurred at that place, July 10, 1834, and they were there laid to rest. In 1846 the father was injured by a runaway horse, from which he never entirely recovered. He was naturally quite robust, of powerful build, being six feet two inches in

height, and built in proportion. Previous to the war he had been a Democrat, but at that time became a stalwart supporter of the Republican party, and served in several township offices during pioneer days. He came to Wood county from Ashland county, Ohio, as early as 1833. Both himself and wife held membership with the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The family of which our subject is a member comprised the following children: James F., born August 8, 1835, served as lieutenant of Company I, 111th O. V. I. during the Civil war, and died at Bradner, Ohio, December 10, 1869. He was elected justice of the peace when a young man, and became a well-to-do citizen of Wood county. Sarah A., born May 1, 1837, became the wife of George Turner, and died at West Millgrove, March 1, 1878. M. D. is next in order of birth. Perry C. is a prominent citizen of this county. John W., born January 10, 1843, belonged to Company H, 49th O. V. I., during the Rebellion, and now makes his home at Saginaw, Mich. Priscilla V., born July 7, 1845, lives at West Millgrove. Surviah H., born October 21, 1847, married Stewart Fralick, who lives in Toledo, Ohio, and died in November, 1873. G. Sylvester, born March 24, 1851, died April 4, 1852.

Mr. Chilcote, of this notice, attended the district schools of Seneca county, Ohio, where his parents lived during his boyhood, and early became familiar with the life of a farmer. He remained under the parental roof until his marriage, which important event in his life was celebrated January 1, 1874, in Montgomery township, Miss Helen Adams becoming his wife. On Section 33 of that township, she was born May 16, 1844, and is a daughter of Alexander and Elizabeth (McCormick) Adams, the latter a cousin of Cyrus McCormick, the well-known inventor of the reaper. The father was born in Beaver county, Penn., November 12, 1817, and was the son of Asa and Elizabeth (Adams) Adams, who were the first of the name to locate in Montgomery township, having come from Beaver county, Penn., in the early '30s, and located in Section 29, where he lived to an advanced age. Alexander Adams was the seventh child in a family of ten children, and was brought by his parents to Wood county in 1833. By his first wife he had two children—Mrs. Chilcote; and Maurice, who died in Montgomery township, leaving two children, Charles and Mary E., the latter now deceased. After the death of his first wife, in April, 1872, Mr. Adams was again married, and he departed this life June 27, 1886, being laid to rest in the West Millgrove ceme-

tery. He was a conscientious Christian, having united with the Presbyterian Church of that place in 1841, and always faithfully followed its teachings.

After his marriage, Mr. Chilcote located at West Millgrove, where he engaged in shingle-making with his brother Perry C., until April, 1876, when he removed to Hatton, Ohio, there engaging in agricultural pursuits. In March, 1883, however, he located upon the old Adams homestead in Section 33, Montgomery township, where he and his family still reside. Four children came to gladden the household—Bessie E., Jessie I., Maurice A. and Leander J., all at home. Mr. Chilcote was one of the boys in blue during the Civil war, having enlisted May 2, 1864, in Company E, 144th O. V. I., at Eagleville, Ohio, and was on guard duty most of the time at Wilmington, Del., until August 24, following. Before entering the United States service he had been a member of Company E, 64th O. N. G. He now belongs to Conley Post, G. A. R., at West Millgrove, of which he is a charter member. He takes quite an active interest in political affairs, supporting the principles of the Republican party, and he and his estimable wife are faithful members of the Congregational Church. They hold an enviable position in the esteem and confidence of their fellow-citizens, and have contributed greatly to the happiness and comfort of those less fortunate than themselves.

ALBERT W. SPINK is a worthy representative of the farming interests of Montgomery township, where he has always made his home, his birth having occurred in Section 21, June 14, 1862. He is a son of Solon and Martha (Burns) Spink, who were worthy and prominent citizens of that locality. His early life was spent in the usual manner of farmer boys, aiding in the labors of the fields and attending the district schools of the neighborhood. At the age of fourteen years, his father having died, he and his elder brother, J. L., went to work to pay off the debt left by the sudden death of their father.

In 1885, in Montgomery township, Mr. Spink was united in marriage with Miss Ella Wise, who was born in Logan county, Ohio, August 20, 1865, and is a daughter of George W. and Loretta J. (Miller) Wise. The latter having died when the daughter Ella was but a child, she made her home with her parental grandfather, John Wise. Three children have come to bless the union of our subject and his wife. Minerva, born May 2, 1886; Pearlle, born August 16, 1888;

and Celia, born October 25, 1889. After his marriage, Mr. Spink took his bride to the old homestead, where they lived until January, 1890, when they removed to their present modern dwelling, which was erected in 1889 on a piece of land, which he had purchased, adjoining the home farm. He has also put up substantial out-buildings, including a good barn, 36 x 64 feet, which was built in 1895. He is an industrious, energetic and progressive man, of more than ordinary ability, and is held in the highest regard by his fellow citizens, who appreciate his genuine worth. He and his brother still continue to own and manage the old home farm of 159 acres, and are numbered among the well-to-do and prosperous farmers of the community. Though not active in political affairs, our subject gives his unflinching allegiance to the Republican party.

SAMUEL SWOPE, a well-known and popular farmer of Troy township, is a native of the Buckeye State, born in Fairfield county, in 1844, and is a son of Thomas and Rebecca (Lafever) Swope. His paternal grandfather, David Swope, became one of the earliest pioneers of Fairfield county, locating there on a farm in 1801, where his death occurred on August 9, 1826. The father, who was a native of Pennsylvania, was reared and married in Fairfield county, where he extensively engaged in farming and stock dealing until his death, in 1884. His wife also died on the old homestead, in 1886. In their family of twelve children, two are now deceased—David, who died at the age of nine years; and Mrs. Emma Peters, the youngest of the family, who died at the age of twenty-two. Those living are Margaret, who still resides on the home farm; Jacob, of Wellsville, Mo.; Mrs. Mary Sturgeon, of Middletown, Mo.; Mrs. Rebecca Wood, of Mt. Sterling, Ohio; Thomas, of Reynoldsburg, Franklin Co., Ohio; Mrs. Jane Ingman, of Barnes, Kans.; Mrs. Louisa Ashbrook, of Lithopolis, Fairfield county; Abner, of Bloomburg, Fayette Co., Ohio; Samuel, of this sketch; and Felix, a stock grower, who resides near the old home farm.

Mr. Swope, of this sketch, began his education in the schools of his native county. His loyalty to his country was manifested August 9, 1862, at Royalton, Fairfield county, by his enlistment in Company D, 90th O. V. I., for three years, and he was mustered into service at Circleville, Ohio, being assigned to the 21st Corps, afterward 4th Corps, army of the Cumberland. He participated in the battles of Perrysville, Chickamauga, went on the march to Atlanta, and later returned to Nashville. At Marietta,

Ga., he had received a gunshot wound, and June 21, 1865, at Camp Harker, Tenn., was honorably discharged, after which he returned to his home. For one year he was a student at Athens, Ohio, and then went to Cass county, Mo., where he remained until coming to Wood county in 1870. Here he is successfully engaged in the operation of his good farm of fifty-two acres.

In March, 1870, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Swope and Miss Frances LaFarree, who was born in Lake township, Wood county, in 1844, and is a daughter of James and Elizabeth (Sifford) LaFarree. Her father's birth occurred in Carlisle, Penn., January 9, 1797, and in 1807 he removed to Fairfield county, Ohio, with his father, David LaFarree, who was of French descent, and also a native of Pennsylvania, where he was reared and married. His death occurred in Lancaster, Ohio, in 1807, he leaving a widow with five small children. She was a tailoress, and supported her family with her needle until the farm was cleared. Near Carroll, Ohio, she later married Elijah Dove, and passed away in Fairfield county, in 1862, when nearly eighty-four years of age. By her first husband she became the mother of the following children—James, the father of Mrs. Swope; Mary, who became the wife of John Cheney, senator from Fairfield county, and died in that county; John C., who departed this life in Mt. Vernon, Ind.; George, who died in Baton Rouge, La.; and Mrs. Betsy Connor, who also died in Indiana.

The early days of James LaFarree were passed in Fairfield county, where he was educated and learned the trade of a cabinetmaker. In Middletown, Md., March 28, 1819, he married Miss Elizabeth Sifford, a native of that place, and a daughter of Christian and Lizzie (Stottlemire) Sifford, also natives of Maryland. Her father, who was a well-read man, always occupying some public office of trust, judicial or otherwise, came to Fairfield county, on a visit, and died at Lancaster in 1848. His wife died in Maryland about 1846. In 1820, Mr. LaFarree came again to Fairfield county, where he resided for three years, during which time his wife made a trip on horseback to her old home. At the end of that time he returned to Maryland, where he lived until 1828, when he removed to Lancaster, Ohio, and became overseer of the poor. In 1831 he located in Perrysburg, Wood county, where he conducted a cabinet shop, and two years later bought 400 acres of land in Troy township at \$1.25 per acre. He named the village of Stony Ridge, where he served as postmaster several

years, and was one of the prominent early settlers of the locality. He was an earnest Christian, and an exhorter in the Methodist Episcopal Church. He continued the improvement and cultivation of his farm until his death on August 4, 1852. His faithful wife was called from this life September 10, 1888. Of their ten children, seven grew to maturity, namely: John S., who died in 1888, leaving a family of nine children; Augustus, who died in 1865, leaving a wife with two children; Cornelia, wife of M. B. Richmond, of Crawfordsville, Ind.; Samuel, a boat builder, who went to Washington Territory in 1864, where he was killed two years later, and buried at Umatilla, Ore.; James, a resident of Bowling Green, Ohio; George, who is married, and resides at Perrysburg, Ohio; and Frances, wife of our subject.

To Mr. and Mrs. Swope have been born five children—Thomas; Edna and Grace, twins, who for the past three years have engaged in teaching in Wood county; Percy and Frances. The family made a trip to California in 1888, spending two years on the Pacific slope, during that time going as far north as Seattle, Wash. The family are sincere members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Swope in politics is an ardent silver Republican. In manner he is pleasant and genial, in disposition is kindly, and the high regard in which he is universally held is well deserved.

WILLIAM U. BAKER is one of the most genial and whole-souled men of this county, and a brave defender of the Union during the Civil war. He is a native son of Ohio, born in Portage county, March 7, 1837, and is a son of Michael and Susan (Rymer) Baker, the former born in Pennsylvania, March 31, 1812, of German parentage, and the latter born in the same State, September 18, 1818. The parents were married in Portage county, Ohio, and to them two sons were born—William U., and John M., a prominent farmer of Washington township. The father was reared and educated in Portage county, Ohio, from whence he removed to Ottawa county, where he engaged in farming, though by trade he was a carpenter, and there he remained until 1863, when he came to Wood county, buying a farm of forty acres of partially improved land in Washington township. With the aid of his sons he cleared and cultivated this, and thereon made his home until his death, March 23, 1884. His widow still resides upon that place. A Republican in politics, he was recognized as an honest man and a good citizen, and

the encourager of religious works, being a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

On reaching a sufficient age, our subject entered the common schools of Ottawa county, where he pursued his studies until eighteen years of age. On leaving the school room he learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed until his enlistment, September 16, 1861, at Port Clinton, for service in the Union army during the war of the Rebellion, and was made first corporal of Company I, 41st O. V. I., under Capt. J. H. Williston and Col. Hazen. The regiment was made up at Camp Wood, in Cleveland, whence it proceeded to Louisville, Ky. In that State the winter was spent, during which time Mr. Baker was confined in a hospital for three months on account of illness, and on March 1, 1862, he went to Nashville, thence marching on St. Patrick's Day to Pittsburg Landing in time to participate in the battle at that place. On the second day of the fight our subject was wounded, a ball passing near the spinal cord, so that for nine months he was unable for further service. He returned to Ottawa county, having been discharged at Camp Chase, and there remained until the fall of 1863, when he came to Tontogany, Wood county, where he worked at his trade for a year. On the expiration of that time he again enlisted, this time becoming a member of the 179th Battalion, under Lieut. T. J. Wonnell, with whom he went to Point Lookout, and later guarded Blakiston Island, being at that time first sergeant, and having charge of nineteen men. He received his final discharge at Camp Dennison, Cincinnati, after having valiantly served his country in her hour of peril.

On his return home, Mr. Baker purchased twenty acres of fine land where he now resides, and erected thereon a comfortable house, good barns and other outbuildings, which are surrounded by well tilled fields and a productive orchard of his own planting. He also owns a half interest in the old homestead. On February 8, 1870, our subject was joined in wedlock with Cynthia Hannah, a daughter of William P. Hannah, a leading farmer of Grand Rapids township, Wood county, and three children graced their union—one who died in infancy; Clara Belle, born April 6, 1873; and Rolla M., born August 19, 1875. The last named received his elementary education in District School No. 3, which he supplemented by a three-years' course in the schools of Tontogany. He is now engaged in teaching in District No. 2, and intends to fit himself, by a thorough education, for a professional or commercial career.

The family hold membership with the United Brethren Church, attending services at Washington Chapel, and all take a deep interest in religious work, while the son is at present a teacher in the Sunday-school. Socially, Mr. Baker belongs to Walter A. Wood Post No. 48, G. A. R., at Tontogany, while politically he is connected with the Republican party, and was trustee of Washington township three years, and supervisor for several years. His uprightness, integrity and public-spiritedness have won him the confidence and esteem of his neighbors, and he is classed among the most respected representative citizens of Wood county.

**R. B. ANDRUS.** No man in Wood county is more worthy of representation in a work of this kind, than he whose name stands at the beginning of this sketch. He has been identified with the agricultural interests of the county since 1874, and is the owner of a fine farm of 120 acres on Sections 13 and 24, Ross township. A fine set of farm buildings, in close proximity to the flourishing apple orchard and smaller fruit trees, forms a beautiful picture of the ideal country home. The estate is one of the most valuable in this section of the county, and indicates in all its appointments the supervision of a man of intelligence and sound judgment, and one who has been remarkably judicious in his investments.

Mr. Andrus was born at Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co., Ohio, in 1845, and is a son of Howard Bennett and Experience (Worden) Andrus. The father, whose birth occurred February 16, 1808, in Connecticut, was brought by his father, Howard Andrus, to Ohio, as early as 1824, making his first location in Portage county, and in 1832 removed to Lucas county, where he entered land in Perrysburg township. There in 1833 he wedded Miss Experience Worden, a native of Oswego county, N. Y., and a daughter of Dr. Sylvester Worden, who were also born in the Empire State. In 1828 her father erected the first residence in East Toledo, and was one of the pioneer physicians of that city. At the time of his death he was almost ninety-eight years of age, and for three years had been blind.

After his marriage the father of our subject took his bride to his farm in Lucas county, on which he resided until 1834, when he removed to Cleveland, and later for some years conducted a hotel at Newburg, Ohio, but in 1848 he returned to Lucas county. He there engaged in farming until 1873, when he came to Wood county, and on May 11, of the following year,

died at the home of our subject, where his wife also departed this life September 26, 1886. In politics he affiliated with the Democratic party. The parental household included two children, the brother of our subject being Cornell Eli, who engaged in farming in Lucas county, until 1873, when he removed to Kansas, but died on January 5, 1882, at the home of our subject, and was removed to Kansas for burial.

In Washington township, Lucas county, Mr. Andrus, of this review, was reared and educated, and has always turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. Since locating upon his present farm, in 1874, he has erected a good brick residence, and made many useful and valuable improvements. On September 18, 1866, in Washington township, Lucas county, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Andrus and Miss Maria Hannah Mooney, a native of that county, and a daughter of Morris and Deborah (Cook) Mooney. Her parents, who were born in New York, became residents of Toledo, Ohio, May 19, 1845, where he worked as a mechanic, but now finds a pleasant home with our subject. Nine children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Andrus, namely: Ida Lucinda, wife of Charles Hicks, in the mail service of East Toledo, Ohio; Cora P., wife of Charles Hickox, train dispatcher for the Pennsylvania railroad at Toledo; Charles B.; Irving Morris; Lynn, who died at the age of nineteen months; Howard Rollin; Lillie Marie, who died at the age of nine months; Clifford, who died at the age of one year; and Justin Grover.

During the Civil war, Mr. Andrus enlisted, but was not accepted. Politically, he is identified with the Democratic party, and has served as treasurer and assessor of his township for four years each. Socially, he is connected with Yondora Lodge No. 572, F. & A. M.; and Toledo Tent No. 8, K. O. T. M. He is public spirited and liberal, and there are few men more popular in the community than he. He takes a commendable interest in educational affairs, and is now serving as president of the school board.

**WILLIAM B. POTTER**, a pioneer farmer of Weston township, was born in the city of Nottingham, County of Nottingham, England, June 28, 1819, and is a son of Thomas and Esther (Radford) Potter, both also natives of that county, the former born in 1779, the latter in 1782.

Thomas Potter was a lace manufacturer in England, and inventor of pearl edging; but on coming to this country, in 1832, he took up farming pursuits in Mercer county, Ohio. His death occurred in that county May 2, 1848. He was



twice married, and by his first wife, Elizabeth, he had seven children: Mary, Ann, Samuel, Lucy, Maria, John and Thomas. By his second wife, Esther (Radford), five children were born, as follows: Dr. Henry Radford, a physician, who resided near Weston; William, who died in infancy; William B., the subject of this sketch; Hannah B.; and Joseph, who died in infancy.

William B. Potter obtained a part of his education in England, and, after coming to this country with his parents, worked in a printing office in Piqua, Ohio, for two years. He then worked on his father's farm until he was twenty-four years old, at the end of which time he went to Clark county, where he was employed some three years. He then returned home, and buying out the other heirs took the management of the home place, and the care of his widowed mother, who died in 1854. In 1864 he came to Wood county, and bought eighty acres of land in Weston township, on which he still resides. This place has been well improved with a handsome residence, capacious barns, granaries, etc., and here Mr. Potter carries on general farming. He is a man of broad and liberal ideas, progressive in his methods, and has been successful in his undertakings. Well and favorably known throughout the county, he has a large circle of warm friends, who thoroughly appreciate his many good qualities.

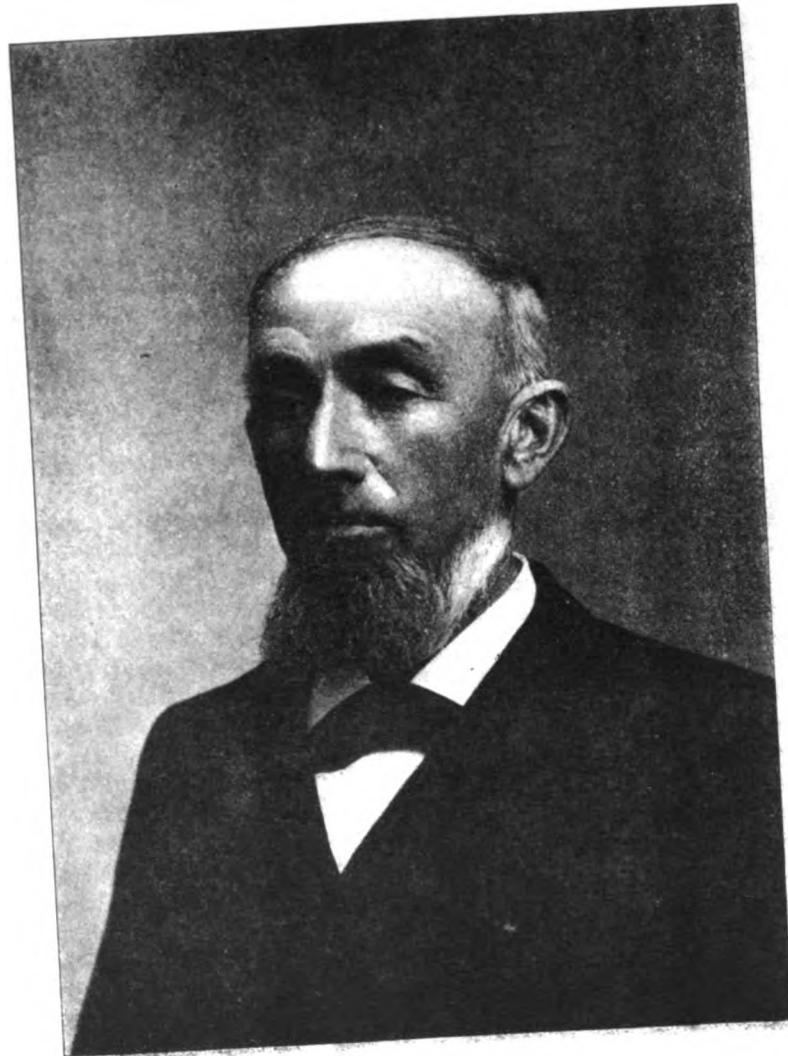
Mr. Potter was married in Mercer county, Ohio, in 1852, to Miss Clarissa Shipman, who was born January 29, 1829, and ten children have blessed their union, as follows: Thomas, born October 28, 1853, is a farmer in Bellevue, Ohio; Sarah Jane, born February 11, 1855, died January, 1885; Henry S., born September 11, 1856, is a farmer in Bellevue; Lydia, born June 17, 1858, is the wife of J. Barton, a farmer in Plain township, Wood county; Esther S., born May 5, 1859; George W., born October 12, 1861, is farming on the old homestead (he married Miss Nettie Revenaugh, a lady of French descent, and they have one child); Harriet L., born September 22, 1863, now the widow of Henry Abbott, who died February 17, 1889; Mary E., born December 6, 1866, died April 6, 1884; Harmon, born April 6, 1868, is a fireman on the Wheeling & Lake Erie railroad; and Cora B., born September 6, 1871. The mother of these children died November 8, 1887. She was a most estimable woman, one who reared her large family carefully, and devoted her life to the interests of her household. Mr. Potter is a Republican in his political views, has held the office of trustee of Franklin township, Mercer county, and

has served as school director. He is a consistent member of the Disciples Church.

J. G. HELTMAN, a well-known and greatly respected citizen of Prairie Depot, was born in Center county, Penn., November 24, 1831. When he was six years old his parents, Joseph and Catherine (Goldman) Heltman, moved to Richland (now Ashland) county, the journey being made in wagons. In the latter county the father bought 160 acres of land, part of which was improved, on which he built a double hewed-log house, which was pretty comfortable for those days, and there reared a family of eight children. In his earlier days he was a millwright and a thorough mechanic, being an expert in that line. He was also a cabinet maker, and when his older daughters were married he made them each a set of furniture. All the children grew to maturity, and four sons and one daughter are still living. Mr. and Mrs. Heltman were members of the Evangelical Church. They both died in Ashland county, he at the age of eighty-four years, and she when ninety-five.

J. G. Heltman, our subject, received his early education in the district schools of Ashland county, where his father built, on his farm, the first school house our subject ever attended. He worked on the farm and hauled wheat for his father when he was too small to set up a sack in the wagon. At home he remained until he was twenty-one years old, and was married, in Ashland county, to Miss Elizabeth W. Wheeler, who was born in Rochester township, Lorain Co., Ohio, a daughter of Thomas and Matilda (Link) Wheeler. The mother of Mrs. Heltman died when the latter was a child, and left her and a younger sister, who were reared by their maternal grandfather, Adam Link, a farmer in Ashland county. Mrs. Elizabeth W. Heltman was educated in the Union school in Ashland, and there learned dress-making with an aunt, which business she followed, more or less, for thirty-five years.

After his marriage, our subject and his wife located on the paternal homestead, where he followed farming until the spring of 1858, when he moved to Osceola, Crawford county, where he bought land and began to work for a home of his own. On that place he lived for over three years, and then moved to a farm near Annapolis, Crawford county, where he intended going into the hardware business, but changed his mind, and farmed for two years. In the summer of 1861 he enlisted in Capt. Keller's company, 49th O. V. I., and went to Galion for examination,



*J. G. Heltman*



but was rejected. Not satisfied, however, he again made application before the examining board at Toledo, but was again rejected. In the spring of 1863 he came to Section 29, Montgomery township, and bought eighty acres of land, fifteen of which were cleared. His house was part frame and part hewed logs, and there he lived for three and a half years; at the end of which time, as his health was poor, he went to West Independence, Hancock county, and engaged in a general merchandise business. In that he remained for three years; but indoor work did not agree with him, so he returned to his farm in Wood county, which he had rented during his absence. His health was completely broken down, and for a year or more he was unable to work. Subsequently he bought sixty acres of land in the same section, and built a home, where he lived until January 2, 1891, when he moved to Prairie Depot, at which place, in 1890, he had built the finest house to be seen there. At one time he was engaged in the stock business, and raised many fine horses and cattle.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Heltman are as follows: Leander, who died when thirteen years old; Ora B., deceased at the age of three years; Elmer W., who lives in Toledo, where he is a well-known specialist and physician, and a lecturer in the Toledo Medical College; Arthur A., now of Prairie Depot, where he is engaged in the general merchandise and oil business. At present our subject has 120 acres of land, all of which is cleared except ten acres. He has one of the best barns in the township, besides a fine horse-barn and other buildings, all of which are in excellent condition, and which he has put up by his own means. Mr. Heltman is a Republican, and has served as township assessor; for many years was president of the board of education, of which he has been a member some twenty years. He and his wife are identified with the Methodist Church, in which he has been an elder, trustee and for sixteen years superintendent of the Sunday-school. He has always been liberal in his support of all Church work, and was active in building the one at Prairie Depot. He is a charter member of Prairie Depot Lodge No. 646, I. O. O. F., and was one of the committee selected to erect a monument to the soldiers of Montgomery township, at Prairie Depot, the design chosen being the one selected by him. He is a warm friend of better education, and has spent a great deal in the education of his sons. Withal he is an honest man of unquestionable integrity, and one of the most prominent citizens of his vicinity.

A. L. HEMINGER, an esteemed citizen and honored veteran of the Civil war, is now practically living retired upon his good farm of fifty acres in Montgomery township. He was born on January 24, 1843, in Loudon township, Seneca Co., Ohio, and is the son of Henry and Catherine (Kiser) Heminger. He acquired his education in the district schools, which then were not as proficient as at the present day, and he heartily endorses the great improvements that have been made in educational institutions. Like most farmer boys, as soon as large enough, he began to assist in the labors of the fields.

While calmly employed in the peaceful vocation of a farmer's life, the storm of war, which had been gathering for so many years over our beloved country, broke, and bidding adieu to home and its influences, Mr. Heminger enlisted in September, 1861, in Company B, 55th O. V. I., under Capt. Bement, and first took part in the engagements in the Shenandoah Valley. He was with his regiment on duty continuously until after his re-enlistment in 1864, when, in August of that year, he was taken ill. He refused to go to the hospital, and instead rode in the wagon of a friendly teamster. After a few weeks absence he rejoined his regiment, and, aside from detail duty on several different occasions, he remained with the command until the close of the war, being discharged in July, 1865, with an honorable war record.

Resuming his duties as a civilian, Mr. Heminger has since made his home in Montgomery township, with the exception of two years spent near Green Springs, in Sandusky county. At his marriage he had twenty-five acres of land in Section 21, but rented another farm in Montgomery township for one year, and it was the following two years that he passed upon a rented farm in Sandusky county, while in the winter seasons he engaged in teaming. Returning to Montgomery township, he lived on different places until the spring of 1882, when he purchased twenty-seven acres of land in Section 22, where he yet resides, and now has fifty acres under a high state of cultivation.

On December 26, 1867, Mr. Heminger was married in Montgomery township to Miss Anna Peebles, who was born in Fayette county, Ohio, in April, 1845, and is the daughter of Andrew Peebles, of Perry township, Wood county. To this worthy couple were born seven children—Lewis, of Bloomdale, Ohio; Albert, at home; Clara, now Mrs. Samuel Pierce, of Montgomery township; Leroy, at home; May, wife of William Brown, of Perry township, Wood county; and

Charles and Ralph, both at home. Mr. Heminger has been called upon to mourn the loss of his faithful wife, who died April 1, 1890, and was laid to rest at Prairie Depot.

Physically, Mr. Heminger has been nearly a wreck since the war ended, and is compelled to leave the operation of his farm to his sons. He has always been a stanch Republican in politics, but never an office seeker, and, socially, is a prominent member of Petroleum Lodge No. 329, K. of P., and Randall Post, G. A. R., at Prairie Depot, in which he has served as junior vice-commander. He is a well-known and highly respected citizen, and has the confidence of the community.

HENRY STERNAMAN, a leading and progressive farmer of Middleton township, is a native of Portage county, Ohio, born October 17, 1843, and is a son of Jonas and Maria Sternaman. The father was born in Pennsylvania, and when nine years of age removed to Buffalo, N. Y., where he learned the carpenter's trade. He afterward took up his residence in Portage county, Ohio, where he followed contracting and building, and there married Maria Gearhart, also a native of Pennsylvania, and a daughter of John Gearhart. They became the parents of five children: Henry; Cordelia, widow of Daniel Myers; Ellen, wife of Enoch Kramer; Ettie, wife of Herbert Cobb; and Addie, who died in childhood. In 1846 the father removed with his family to Troy township, Wood county, where he purchased a small farm, and where he continues to reside. His wife passed away in 1894.

Our subject was only three years old when the family came to Wood county. He received a very limited education in a log school house, but his training at farm work was far from meagre. Prompted by a spirit of patriotism, he gave his services to the government during the Civil war, and at Woodville, Ohio, enlisted in the 68th O. V. I., under command of Capt. H. H. Poe, and Col. R. K. Scott. He participated in the battles of Port Gibson, Jackson, Champion Hills, Black River, and Vicksburg, also in the siege of Atlanta, and was with Sherman on the memorable march to the sea. He afterward went to Washington, where he received an honorable discharge at the close of the war. On his return he purchased forty acres of land in Middleton township, which he cultivated until 1870, when he purchased a farm in Michigan, making his home thereon for a year. Returning to Wood county, he bought a farm of eighty acres in Troy township, which he afterward sold, and became the owner of forty acres in Middle-

ton township—his present home. This he has cleared and improved, having erected a good residence and barn, and he now has one of the well-equipped country homes of the locality.

Mr. Sternaman was married in Troy township, in 1865, to Jane Goodell, who was born in Huron county, Ohio, in October, 1846, a daughter of Cyrus and Lucretia (Studley) Goodell. They have two children, Mary E., born February 12, 1866, wife of Lew Ward; and Fred, born September 23, 1870, who, in 1892, married Katie Munson, who was born at Point Pleasant, W. Va., in 1874, daughter of Henry and Caroline (Rouch) Munson. Our subject has served as township trustee for four years; as school director seven years; and has been a member of the township board of education. He belongs to Middleton Lodge No. 786, I. O. O. F., and Robert Stewart Post No. 690, G. A. R., of Dunbridge. His diligence and good management may be said to have been the essential factors in his success.

JOHN P. TUNISON is one of the most prominent business men of Hull Prairie, where he is engaged in general merchandising and grain dealing, and is also agent for the C. H. & D. Railroad Company. He was born in Seneca county, N. Y., July 1, 1836, a son of Thomas Tunison, who was born in New Jersey, and was a shoemaker by trade. He married Annie Cole, of Seneca county, N. Y., and they became the parents of six children: Sarah C., wife of William Conkling, of Rochester, N. Y.; Daniel C., a farmer of Michigan; Susan S., wife of W. H. Williams, a retired farmer of Nebraska; John P.; Elizabeth, wife of C. Crissey; and Ezra C., deceased. In 1848 the father removed with his family to Lucas county, Ohio, where he carried on farming until 1863, in which year he went to Michigan, and there carried on agricultural pursuits until 1886, in which year both he and his wife died, he at the age of eighty-nine years, and she at eighty-three years, having lived together sixty-seven years.

Our subject was about thirteen years of age when the family emigrated to Lucas county, and he was there educated, completing his course in the high school at Maumee. He then taught school for one year. After the breaking out of the Civil war, he enlisted, August 25, 1861, in the 14th O. V. I., under Gen. Steedman, Capt. Chase commanding the company. He participated in the battles of Stone River, Mill Springs, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Nashville, Mission Ridge and Atlanta, and in all his service

he escaped wounds, but had a couple of very narrow escapes at Chickamauga, one bullet passing through his hat and another through his pants. He served as a private, being some ten months on detached service, at Gen. Thomas' headquarters, the rest of the time with his regiment. He secured an honorable discharge September 11, 1864, with the record of a faithful and brave soldier.

Returning to his father's farm in Michigan, Mr. Tunison continued his residence in that State until 1883, when he came to Wood county, and has since engaged in general merchandising and grain dealing. He is straightforward and honorable in all his business transactions, is enterprising and far-sighted, and has steadily worked his way upward to a position among the substantial citizens of the community. For several terms he has served as school director, was a member of the township board of education for two terms, and postmaster two terms, discharging his duties with a promptness and fidelity that won him high commendation. His political support is given the Republican party, and both he and his wife are prominent members of the Baptist Church. He takes an active interest in its work, is serving as deacon and trustee, and has been both teacher and superintendent in the Sunday-school.

In July, 1865, Mr. Tunison was united in marriage with Miss Helen Ten Brook, a native of Michigan, and their children are Gertrude, wife of L. I. Brown, a contractor of Kansas City, Mo.; Lottie, at home; and Della, wife of David Parker, of Bowling Green. The mother of this family died in 1881, and Mr. Tunison, in 1883, wedded Mrs. Elvina C. (Carpenter) Brown, widow of H. S. Brown.

WILLIAM R. WALKER, a representative of the mercantile interests of Dowling, carrying on a general store at that point, was born in Webster township, May 14, 1859, and is a son of William and Lydia (Bowen) Walker. He attended the district schools of the neighborhood, also pursued his studies at Bowling Green and Fostoria, working on the farm at intervals. He afterward engaged in teaching school for fourteen years, and was a successful educator, giving general satisfaction.

In 1891 Mr. Walker removed to Dowling, where he purchased the store of E. S. Townsend, a general merchant of the place. He now carries a large and complete stock of general merchandise, and is a successful, energetic business man, who has succeeded in building up a large

trade, his earnest desire to please his patrons, and his honorable dealing, winning him a liberal patronage. He is also the popular postmaster of Dowling, and formerly, during President Cleveland's first administration, held the same position at Scotch Ridge for four years. His political support is given the Democracy, and socially he is connected with Middleton Lodge No. 786, I. O. O. F., of Dunbridge. In religious belief he is a Methodist, and contributes liberally to the support of the Church, and to all enterprises calculated to prove of public benefit.

On March 21, 1888, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Walker and Miss Amy Grim, daughter of Jacob Grim, the ceremony being performed at the "Russell House," in Bowling Green. They have three children—Goldie, born September 14, 1889; Eulilee, born February 25, 1891; and Gerald E., born August 12, 1894.

JOHN H. CALLIN, a prominent and leading farmer of Middleton township, was born in Ashland county, Ohio, August 10, 1840. His father, William H. Callin, was born at Callinsburg, Clarion Co., Penn., September 10, 1813, and was the fourth son in a family of nine children. He was an industrious, hardy, persevering man, possessing great physical strength, but had only a limited knowledge of books. He had a mind of keen perception and sound judgment, and was well fitted for pioneer life. In 1831 he accompanied his parents to Ashland county, Ohio, where his father entered a tract of land from the government, becoming one of the first settlers of that locality. William Callin aided in clearing and improving this property, and finally, on the death of the father, in paying it out of the land office and receiving title (the land having been entered on what was termed the ninety-nine-year lease). In 1835, he married Elizabeth, daughter of John Barlin, of Ashland, and of their union were born eight children, the eldest and youngest dying in infancy. The surviving members of the family are Harriet, widow of William Sly, of Bowling Green; John H.; James M., and George W., both of Bowling Green; Hugh H. and Zimri L., of Pioneer, Ohio.

In 1849 William Callin removed from Ashland county to Peru, Huron Co., Ohio, locating on a farm of eighty acres which he sold in 1860, preparatory to his removal to Wood county. Here he settled on 160 acres of land in Plain township, and, on his retirement from farming, took up his residence in Bowling Green. He was an exemplary man, of high Christian character, and a consistent and faithful member of the

Methodist Episcopal Church. He supported the first Republican presidential candidate, John C. Fremont, and was ever afterward a staunch advocate of the party. His death occurred in Bowling Green, December 11, 1881. His widow still makes her home there, and is now in her seventy-ninth year.

John H. Callin, subject of this sketch, and the eldest son of the family, removed with his father from Ashland to Peru, Ohio, in 1849, and aided in the farm work during the summer months, while in the winter he attended the district school. At the age of eighteen he became a student in the Western Reserve Normal School at Milan, Ohio, and in the spring of 1861 removed with the family to Wood county, where, in the succeeding autumn, he taught his first district school. Dismissing his pupils, however, in the middle of the term, he enlisted in the Twenty-first Battery of the Ohio Light Artillery, Capt. Patterson commanding, and went to Camp Denison. The battery was ordered to West Virginia to operate against Gen. Williams, and Mr. Callin was placed in command of detachment B of the battery, which, however, was soon recalled to Ohio, to oppose Gen. Morgan, who was raiding through the southern portion of the State. The battery was effectual in checking this raid, and in the capture of Morgan's army at Pomeroy, Ohio; 1,600 prisoners were escorted to Cincinnati under the Federal guns, and Mr. Callin participated in the final capture of Morgan. The battery was afterward sent to join Gen. Burnside in Tennessee, and, having participated in the battles of Walker's Ford, Bean Station, Strawberry Plains and the siege of Knoxville, it built, and mounted its guns on, Fort Dickinson. At the close of the war the guns were removed to the State House yards, at Columbus, Ohio, where they still remain.

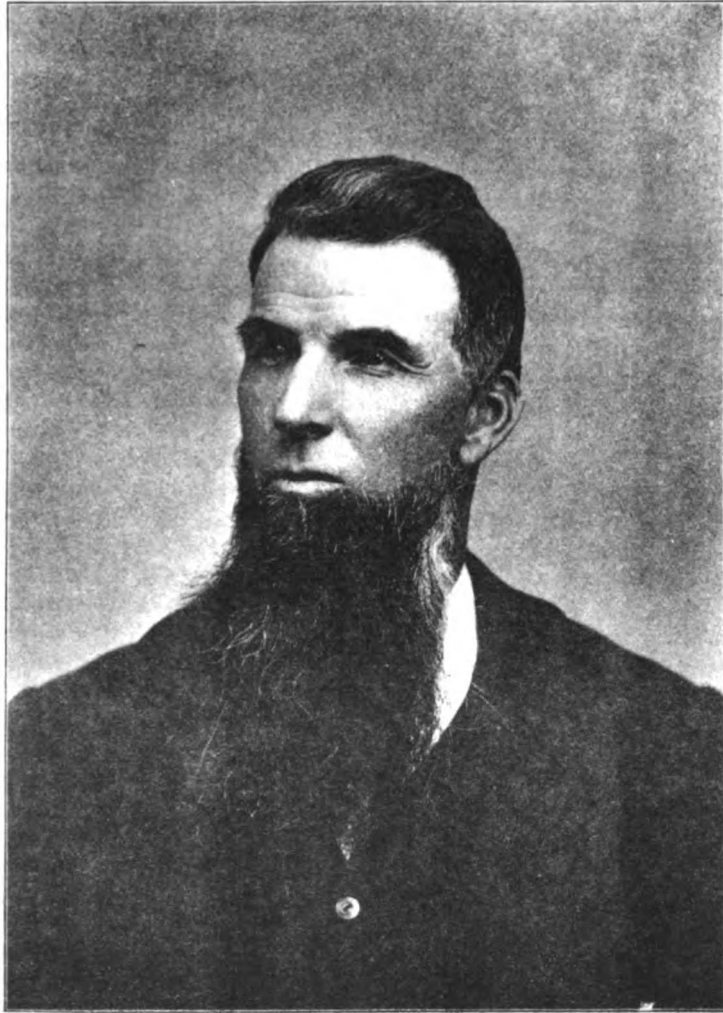
Mr. Callin received an honorable discharge from the army at Louisville, Ky., May 27, 1865, and immediately returned home. He then entered Hillsdale College at Hillsdale, Mich., and, on completing the course there, resumed school teaching, which he successfully followed for twenty-two years, being an educator of excellent ability.

In the spring of 1874 Mr. Callin married Miss Amanda L., the eldest daughter of William Walker, a prosperous farmer. Her father is now living at Scotch Ridge, Ohio, where her mother died October 13, 1879. To our subject and his wife were born seven children—Leota, who died in infancy; Byron H.; John V. D.; Emma B.; George Prentice; Wells M.; and Ray.

After residing for a number of years in Bowling Green, Mr. Callin, in 1887, removed to Middleton township, where he and his wife have improved and beautified their pleasant home and farm. He here owns eighty acres of valuable land, which is now under a high state of cultivation. In 1895 he further added to its value and attractive appearance by erecting a handsome residence at a cost of \$2,000. Through industry, progressiveness and strict application to business, he has one of the best cultivated farms in Middleton township. He is also secretary and stockholder of the Dunbridge Elevator Co., and in business circles has a most enviable reputation. He and his family adhere to the faith of the Presbyterian Church, in which he has held the office of trustee for a number of years, and has also been superintendent of various Sunday-schools. He is a charter member of Robert Stewart Post, G. A. R., in which he has filled with ability all the offices, and is its present commander. His wife is a member of the Woman's Relief Corps. In politics he is a staunch Republican, having been identified with that party since casting his first Presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln. Genial in manner, he is a popular citizen; his well-spent life and genuine worth having gained him high regard. Always cheerful and ready to surmount the common struggles of life; rising above all barriers and bridging all chasms, he feels sure to arrive at the summit. With untiring zeal to accomplish the grand purpose of life, and all things that are right, he is led by an eye of faith to Christian reward, that it might be said of him — "Blessed are they who strive to enter in at the straight gate."

J. C. LOY, a prosperous farmer of Perry township, was born December 25, 1840, in Big Spring township, Seneca Co., Ohio, and is the son of Abraham and Elizabeth (Elarton) Loy.

His grandfather was born in Germany, and at eighteen years of age came to the United States. He taught school in Virginia, where he was married and reared a family of six boys. Abraham was born in Virginia, where he was obliged to go five miles to school. When he first came to Ohio he located in Franklin county, going from there to Wyandot county, where he worked in a sawmill owned by Judge Carey. Later he moved to Big Spring township, Seneca county, which was then in a primitive condition, and here bought 173 acres of land for \$470. Here he married Miss Elizabeth Elarton. He built a cabin on his land, and lived there until the spring of 1869, when he passed away at the age of



*John C. Logg*





sixty-seven years. His wife died six years later in Big Lick township, Hancock county. Their children were eight in number, three of whom are now living, viz.: James, in Putnam county, Ohio; F. Marion, in Hancock county, and our subject. Mrs. Loy was a Methodist in her religious belief, and Mr. Loy belonged to the Evangelical Church, in which faith he died.

Our subject attended the common schools of his time, and although his opportunities were few he learned rapidly. Had his early education been better he would not have been a farmer. As it was he remained on his father's farm until his enlistment, September 4, 1861, in Company D, 49th O. V. I., Col. W. H. Gibson. He remained with the regiment, and participated in all the battles until December 31, 1862, when he was wounded at the battle of Stone River and taken to hospital, where he remained three months; this hospital was taken by Rebels within three minutes after our subject arrived. His injury consisted of a gunshot wound in the right elbow, and he was discharged from service March 27, 1863, for disability. Returning home, he spent one summer at school which was taught by the lady who afterward became his wife—Miss Sarah A. Copley, who was born in Wyandot county, and who is the daughter of Benjamin Copley. The marriage took place in Wyandot county, October 12, 1864, the young couple going to house-keeping on a rented farm, near Adrian, Seneca county. In October, 1868, they moved to Andrew county, Mo., which was then a pioneer section, and Mr. Loy bought 170 acres of land. Seven years they lived there, four of which was during the season of grasshoppers, when those insects caused such great destruction throughout the State. That venture cost our subject \$3,000 in all. For six weeks at a time he did not have the price of a postage stamp, which condition was general in his section. In the winter of 1876 he returned to Seneca county, Ohio, and was for five years a resident on Judge Carey's farm of 1,240 acres, at Center, Big Lick township, Hancock county. Here it was that Mr. Loy "got on his feet," and when he left the farm he came to Perry township, Wood county, and bought eighty acres of land in Sections 12 and 13 in the spring of 1882, where he has remained ever since, improving the farm in many ways from time to time. To Mr. and Mrs. Loy have been born six children, namely: Ulysses E., who lives at home; Benjamin B., a farmer of Seneca county; Marian O., who died when twenty-two months old; Edward W., at home; Effie U., a dressmaker, at home; and Clara, who

was married July 29, 1896, to H. E. Corfman, an estimable gentleman of Wyandot county, Ohio, and they are now living near McCutchenville, that county.

Politically, Mr. Loy is from principle a Prohibitionist, although until 1888 he affiliated with the Republican party. He is a member of the County Central Committee, and is representative for Perry township. He has been director for District No. 5, and is a great advocate of better education. With his wife he is a member of the Evangelical Church, with which he has been connected thirty-five years, holding, during that time, various offices. He is a member of the Quarterly Conference, and has served as a delegate to several important conventions of the Church. He also belongs to the P. of I., and was at one time agent of the Phoenix Insurance Co. for several years. He is a well-informed man, being an extensive reader, is a good conversationalist, and a popular citizen.

HENRY GOODENOUGH is a native of England, having been born in Wiltshire, September 20, 1842, where his parents, Robert and Ruth (Limerick) Goodenough, were also born. His father was a stone cutter by trade, and came to America in the spring of 1849, locating in Greenfield, Huron county, where he died when our subject was twelve years old. His wife died in Bowling Green at the age of sixty-four years. She was a Baptist, and he was a member of the Church of England. They had five children who grew to maturity: Henry, our subject; Harriet, the wife of William Buvinger, of Bowling Green; Thomas, living in Weston township, Wood county; Liza Ann, wife of James Carr, of Plain township; Esther, who died when about sixteen years old.

Henry Goodenough came, with his mother, to America in the fall of 1849, landing in New York. He was but a boy, and his first employment, in England, was keeping birds off wheat-fields with a rattle-box. He lived with his parents in Huron county until the breaking out of the Civil war, when he enlisted in Company C, 123d O. V. I., and served in the army of the Potomac for three years, lacking one month. He entered on August 19, 1862, and was in the following battles: Romney Station, Winchester, Snicker's Gap, Cross Keys, below Stanton; Lynchburg, Va.; Cedar Creek, under Phil Sheridan; Strasburg, under Sigel; and Winchester, under Gen. Crook; he was in the grand charge of Grant on the assault round the rear of Petersburg, and was in the last battle of High Ridge, where he went on a scouting expedition, reaching

there at daylight, when the enemy charged, and he was taken prisoner with the rest. This was just four days before Lee's surrender, during which time he was a prisoner, and was then let go on parole at the same time as was Lee's army. He was a private all through the war, and was at one time detailed for blacksmith service—which trade he had learned when young. After the close of the war, he went back to Huron county, but found that his parents had moved to Wood county, where he also went.

On January 15, 1873, he was married to Miss Mary Coen, who was born in Plain township, October 20, 1847. Five children have been born to them: Hattie May (wife of Edwin Russell, of Bowling Green), Ruth, Sarah, Harry and Walter. The eldest daughter attended school at Findlay, and another daughter is now attending school at Bowling Green. After his marriage, Mr. Goodenough settled in his present home, where he is occupied in general farming. He has 143 acres of land, on which are located five oil wells, and he has also a one-half interest in five other wells on leased land. He has not leased his land and oil interests, as most of the farmers in the township do, but has drilled and developed all his own wells, and is now one of the successful operators in his section of the county. His first well flowed for three months.

Socially, Mr. Goodenough is a member of the I. O. O. F. and the G. A. R. In religious connection, he is a member of the Presbyterian Church. Politically, he is a Republican, and though he is not what might be termed a politician, he has held many offices of trust; he was trustee three terms, and school director for fifteen years, always taking great interest in local educational affairs.

**NATHANIEL FIFE.** The name of this gentleman is both widely and favorably known throughout Wood county, and he has been an honored resident of Bloom township since pioneer days. He is of Scotch extraction, and was born in Cecil township, Washington Co., Penn., on July 5, 1827, to John and Anna (Hill) Fife. Accompanied by his brother, John, the paternal grandfather, William Fife, came from Scotland to the New World before the Revolutionary war, in which struggle they aided the Colonies in securing their independence. Both the grandfather and the father of our subject died in Washington county. In the family of the latter were eight children who grew to adult age; namely: William, John, James, Thomas, Robert, Nathaniel, Margaret and Andrew.

Our subject received his education at the subscription schools, held in rude log buildings, with puncheon floors and furnished with primitive wooden benches. As a farmer he was reared to manhood, and on reaching maturity was married September 7, 1848, to Miss Letitia Harsha, of Chartiers township, Washington Co., Penn., a daughter of John Harsha. For one year the young couple lived with his father, after which Mr. Fife rented land in his native county until 1854, when in November of that year he came to Wood county, where he and his brother William had bought 160 acres of land in Section 31, Bloom township. Our subject became sole owner of 100 acres of the amount, on which he still makes his home. Only ten acres had ever been cleared, but it was then as badly covered with brush and timber as the remainder. The land was then dry, but in the spring it was mostly covered with water, and where now is one of his best and most productive fields, at one time was good fishing ground, catfish being caught there a foot long. On April 1, 1855, he brought his family, which then consisted of his wife and three children, to Bloom township, and they made their temporary home with Andrew Campbell, a neighbor and relative, who had once lived in Washington county, Penn. Clearing away the trees, Mr. Fife erected his first dwelling, 18 x 20 feet, of hewed logs, and in the fall it was ready for occupancy.

By his first marriage he became the father of six children, namely: John B., of Bairdstown; William H., who died in Bloom township; James T., of North Baltimore; Mary E., a native of Wood county, who married John M. Wright, and died in McComb, Ohio; Esther A., now Mrs. Thomas Patterson, of McComb, and Andrew T., who is sergeant-major in the 2d United States Cavalry, stationed at Fort Wingate, N. M. The mother of these children died August 29, 1865, and was buried in Van Buren cemetery, Hancock county. On September 26, 1867, Mr. Fife was married in Van Buren, to Frances J. Presler, widow of Samuel Presler. The lady was born in Wayne county, Ohio, November 26, 1830, and is a daughter of Richard and Nancy (Bovard) Bayless, who became pioneers of Big Lick township, Hancock county, in 1838. Three children grace this union: Robert H., at home; Cassandra E., now Mrs. Oscar Marvin, of Findlay, Ohio; and Emma L., now Mrs. J. F. Luden, of Toledo.

On buying his land, Mr. Fife was obliged to go in debt for it, but, being young and robust, he went to work with a resolute will and soon had it free from encumbrance. By clearing, draining,

and otherwise improving his land, he has made it one of the best farms in the township, on which are seen substantial buildings and all the accessories of a model farm. On May 2, 1864, he joined the Home Guards, and was mustered into the United States service as a member of Company E, 144th O. V. I. From Camp Chase the troops were sent to Wilmington, Del., where they did guard duty until discharged at Columbus, Ohio, at the expiration of the one hundred days for which they had enlisted. Mr. Fife now holds membership with Urie Post No. 110, G. A. R., of Bloomdale. His political support is given to the Republican party, and religiously he and his wife belong to the Presbyterian Church of Van Buren, Hancock Co., Ohio.

JOSEPH X. DURLIAT was born near Niagara Falls, on the Canada side, May 28, 1858, and is of French lineage. The founder of the family in America was Xavier Durliat, a native of Alsace, France, who with his family crossed the Atlantic to Canada, where he and his wife spent their remaining days. The father of our subject, Joseph Durliat, Sr., was born in Alsace, in 1830, and when fifteen years of age came with his parents to America. He was married in Canada to Magdalena Trendall, who was born in that country in 1837, and there he followed farming for many years. In 1865 he brought his family to Ohio, taking up his residence on a tract of wild land in Jackson township, Wood county, where he made his home until his death. In his business undertakings, principally sawmilling, he was quite successful, and accumulated 520 acres of valuable land. He passed away in 1889, but his widow is still living in Custar. The following named constituted their family—Joseph X.; Mary Ann, wife of Joseph Metzger, of Custar; Elizabeth, wife of Peter Louy, of Toledo, Ohio; Regina, wife of Henry Wentzink, of Henry county, Ohio; Frank X., of Custar; John M., a farmer, of Milton township; Henry, of Custar; Charles, who is living on the old homestead; and Martin and Louis, who are also residents of Custar.

Mr. Durliat, of this review, spent the first seven years of his life in his native land, and then came with his parents to Wood county. He acquired his education in Jackson township, and as soon as old enough to handle the plow his training at farm labor began. He also worked in his father's sawmill in Jackson township.

In 1880 Mr. Durliat was united in marriage in Custar with Miss Emma Metzger, who was born in Dunreath, Iowa, April 4, 1861. Their union has been blessed with seven children, name-

ly: Joseph B., William H., Fred M., Magdalena J., Mary E., Lawrence M. and Agnes L. Mr. and Mrs. Durliat, after their marriage, lived for one year in Jackson township, and then located on their present farm, comprising seventy-six acres, which is a part of the estate left by his father. In 1881 he erected his present residence, and now his entire time and attention is devoted to his business interests, which he is capably and successfully managing. In politics he is a Democrat, and has served for two years as supervisor. He belongs to St. Louis Catholic Church of Custar, and takes quite an active interest in its work.

T. J. MEARING, who is one of the most esteemed residents of Plain township, where he is recognized as a man of integrity, good judgment, and also honored as a brave veteran of the Civil war, is one of the many citizens of foreign birth who have contributed in no small degree to the growth and prosperity of Wood county. Mr. Mearing is a native of Cheltenham, England, where he was born January 30, 1838. His parents, James and Isabella (Wiley) Mearing, were natives of the same country, the former born in 1808, and the latter in 1807. Their family comprised six children, namely: Sarah, who married Thomas Sessor, and died at Newark, Ohio; Martha, the widow of James Drake, is living in Bloomington, Ill.; T. J., the subject of this sketch; Emma, who married Charles Hartkorn, and died at Wabash, Ind.; Mary Ann became the wife of William Hahn, and died in Peoria, Ind.; Charles lives in Miami county, Ind.

The mother of these children died when our subject was about eight years old, in 1846, the family having come to America in 1843. The father had been a coachman in the old country, and followed the same occupation after locating in Newark, Licking Co., Ohio, being in the service of Nathaniel B. Hogg. In 1854, some years after the death of his wife, he removed to Indiana, and purchased a farm in Miami county, on which he spent the remainder of his life. Both were consistent members of the Episcopal Church and were estimable people. On the death of his mother, our subject and his sister Martha were bound out to a man living at Utica, Ohio, with whom they were to remain until of age. The death of the latter's wife set them free, but his sister was induced to remain with the family. The gentleman married again, and our subject returned to him, remaining there some years. In this home the two children were always treated as if they were children of the family, their pro-

tector, a wealthy stockman, being a genial, kindly man, able to provide abundantly for them. Two years after his second marriage he died, and thus what had been more a home to our subject and his sister than their own father's house, was broken up.

Mr. Mearing then worked on a farm during the summers and attended school in the winter time until the latter part of 1859, when he went to Miami county to visit his father. He was not pleased with the country, and went on to Illinois and stopped at Monticello, Piatt county, where he worked at various occupations until July 27, 1862, when he enlisted in Company E, 107th Illinois Infantry, to defend the stars and stripes against the Rebels of the Confederacy. He enlisted as a private, but was made duty sergeant before any active service was seen. Soon afterward he became orderly sergeant, and filled this position throughout his three-years' service, receiving his honorary commission of second lieutenant at the time of his discharge. Among the important engagements in which he participated were those of Franklin, Tenn.; Nashville; siege and battle of Knoxville; and skirmishes all the way from Strawberry Plains to Nashville.

After his return to Illinois, Mr. Mearing worked by the month on a farm for a short time, and then went to Indiana, where he was married, November 2, 1868, to Miss Mary E. Cook, who was born in Wood county, Ohio, March 3, 1847. Of this union three children have been born: Bertha, wife of Frank Hughes, of Plain township; Pearl and Frank, both of whom are at home.

Mr. Mearing lived in Indiana until 1882, when he removed to Wood county. In his earlier years he was a Democrat in principle, but cast his first Presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln, and has voted the Republican ticket ever since. It is one of his most gratifying remembrances that he once met the martyred President at his home, and had the pleasure of shaking hands with him. Mr. Mearing is a member of the G. A. R., and is justly proud of his war record. He is highly respected and esteemed in the community, and is a public-spirited and loyal citizen.

LORIN THOMPSON is a retired farmer, who, after a well-spent life, is now resting from business cares in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil. He was born in the State of New York, March 30, 1821, and is a son of William and Sarah (Cook) Thompson, the former a native of Rhode Island, the latter of Connecticut. Their marriage was celebrated in Rhode Island,

and to them were born twelve children, namely: Reuben, Sally, Hannah, Washington, William, Rial, Lewis, Wealthy, Luman, Johial, Phœbe and Lorin. The father died in Michigan, and the mother's death occurred in Wisconsin.

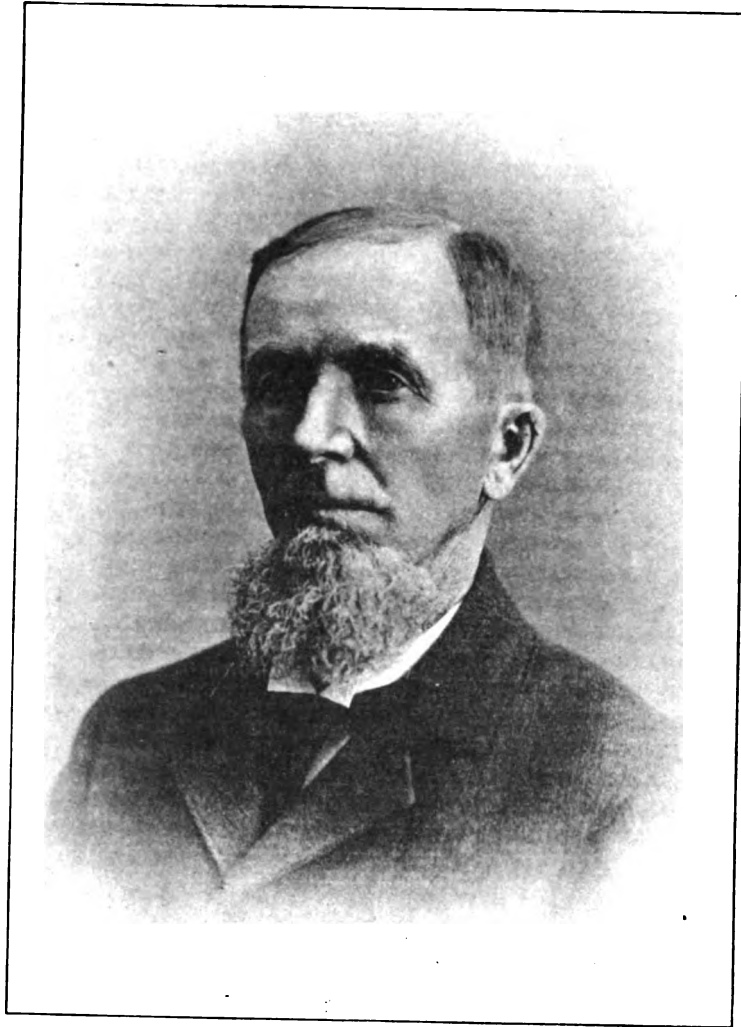
Our subject attended school and worked on the home farm in Pennsylvania during his boyhood days, continuing under the parental roof until twenty-six years of age. He then learned the blacksmith's trade, which he followed until 1864, when he came to Wood county, and located on forty acres of land covered with timber and water. This he cleared and improved, and extended the boundaries of his farm by the additional purchase of 100 acres. The wild land was transformed into a rich and valuable tract, and by his energetic efforts and good business ability he acquired a handsome competence, which now enables him to lay aside all business cares.

In Erie county, Penn., in 1848, Mr. Thompson was united in marriage with Alvia Wright, a native of the State of New York, and a daughter of Nirum and Polly (Allen) Wright, and to them were born seven children, as follows: Rosina, Russel, Roxana, Laura, Alvah, Alvira, and Henry. Mr. Thompson has the high esteem of his fellow townsmen, for he is a man of sterling worth and strict integrity.

Nirum Wright, the father of Mrs. Thompson, died at Jerry City, this county, and the death of his wife Polly, occurred at North East, Erie Co., Pennsylvania.

JACOB HUFFMAN. Among the representative citizens of Washington township, none stands higher than the subject of this review, who is now engaged in the manufacture of brick and tile. He is a native of Pennsylvania, born in Dauphin county, August 3, 1834, a son of John and Nancy Huffman, both born in Pennsylvania, the father in 1808, the mother in 1813.

Our subject received his education at the public schools of Pennsylvania, and then commenced to learn the trade of a tailor, which he followed some four years. In 1850, when sixteen years old, he came with his parents to Ohio, locating in Weston township, on a partially-improved farm, which he assisted in clearing and improving. After his marriage, which event will be spoken of presently, he bought eighty acres of wild land, and at once set to work to improve it. In 1862 he built a log house, into which he and his wife moved, and he has since added to his property until his farm now consists of 190 acres, all well-improved, besides land in Lucas



*Jacob Huffman*



county and in the West. In 1882 he erected his tile and brick factory, the second in Washington township, which he has since successfully managed, finding a ready sale for his products in Wood and adjoining counties. In this enterprise he employs from six to twelve hands. He is enterprising and industrious, and his honest dealing and straightforward business methods have won him a liberal patronage. He is also engaged in stock dealing, selling in Buffalo and Eastern markets.

In 1858 Mr. Huffman was married in New York to Miss Elizabeth Kraus, a native of that State, born in 1839, daughter of Melchior and Elizabeth (Letwyler) Kraus. Her father, who was a farmer, was born in Wurttemberg, Germany, whence, when eighteen years old, he came to America. Her mother was born in Switzerland, and was fourteen years old when she came to this country; both her parents died on the voyage, leaving four children on the ship without any means; but when they landed in Philadelphia, they found homes. The mother of Mrs. Huffman died November 10, 1884, the father, a farmer by occupation, on August 18, 1885, in Erie county, N. Y. They had a family of five children: Anna (Mrs. Shiffley), living in Ohio; John, a farmer in Erie county, N. Y., a member of the Legislature, and holding other prominent positions; Fannie (Mrs. Stutzman), also of Erie county; Susan (Mrs. Rupp), of Lucas county; and Elizabeth (Mrs. Huffman). Mr. and Mrs. Huffman have no children of their own, but have an adopted son, who is nineteen years of age, and was four years old when adopted. During the Civil war, Mr. Huffman served as a member of Company B, 144th O. V. I., under Capt. Black and Col. Miller. Politically he is a Republican, and for several years he served his township as supervisor and trustee, discharging his duties with strictest fidelity.

ANDREW BURDITT is a representative of one of the honored pioneer families of Wood county, and was born in Washington township, July 3, 1855, his parents being Greenbury and Martha (Grey) Burditt. The common schools of the neighborhood afforded him his educational privileges, and at the early age of nine years he began the work of clearing land, thus aiding in the development of his father's farm. His early years formed a period of labor, but he developed thereby a self-reliant spirit and force of character that have been important factors to him in his business career. In 1879 he started out in life for himself, and for three years owned and

operated the Van Tassel farm, which he then sold and bought sixty acres of the Chubb farm, which, when he had improved it, he traded for forty acres of the eighty-two where he now resides, receiving the other forty-two for taking care of his parents. The same he has placed under a high state of cultivation.

On November 11, 1878, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Burditt and Miss Clara Coleman, who was born in Huron county, Ohio, in 1860. They have two children—Georgie and Frankie. They hold membership with the United Brethren Church, and Mr. Burditt gives his political support to the Republican party. The true worth of his character is shown by the fact that for the past five years he has supported his parents, of whom it will be interesting in this connection to note something further.

Greenbury Burditt, who is now living with Andrew, was born May 1, 1818, near St. Clairsville, Belmont Co., Ohio. His parents, William and Ruth (Fitzgerald) Burditt, were natives of Montgomery county, Md., and were of English and Welsh lineage. They had the following children: Elias, deceased, who was a resident of Guernsey county, Ohio; James, who resides in Washington township; William, who served in the Mexican war, and was killed by a horse in Tuscarawas county, Ohio; Meletha, who became the wife of John W. Tullis, and died in Hardin county, Ohio; Tamzon, deceased wife of John Peters, of Tuscarawas county; and Bentley, who was wounded during his service in the Civil war, and died in Tuscarawas county. The parents of this family also passed away in that county, and of the children only Greenbury is now living. He obtained the greater part of his education by the side of the home fireplace in Belmont county, and in the subscription schools. When he was eighteen years of age the family removed to Tuscarawas county, where he remained for four years. At the age of twenty-two he went to Port Clinton, where he was employed on his brother's farm for four years, and then leased a tract of land on which he located.

He was married September 12, 1841, to Margaret Bowlus. They had three children, two of whom died in the war of the Rebellion, Lewis Hanson and George, William H. Burditt, of Washington township, being the survivor. The mother died in 1847, and the following year Mr. Burditt married Martha Ann Gray, by whom he had eight children: Maletha Ann, wife of Lawrence Long; Lucy Ann, wife of Zahm Stevens; Andrew; Martha Jane, wife of William Digby; Maggie, wife of Newton Petteys; Levi, who died



in infancy; Sarah Jane, wife of L. S. Woodruff, a minister of the U. B. Church, and Greenbury.

In 1855, Mr. Burditt came with his family to Wood county, and after renting land for a time purchased seventy-eight acres. Of this he retained possession of thirty-eight acres for some time, then traded it for eighty acres of land on the river, to which he afterward added another eighty-acre tract. Later he traded a portion of this for eighty-two acres, the farm which Andrew now occupies, and later increased its size by the additional purchase of 120 acres. His property he has divided among his children, thus aiding them in getting a start in life.

Mr. Burditt cast his first Presidential vote for William Henry Harrison, and on the organization of the Republican party joined its ranks. His sons have also given their stalwart support to its principles. He has served as supervisor and school director for several terms, acceptably discharging his duties. His has been a noble and honorable life. For more than fifty years he has been a member of the United Brethren Church, and has a life membership in the Bible Society of Bowling Green.

JOHN W. HAMLIN, a worthy representative of the agricultural interests of Wood county, was born in Marion township, Hancock Co., Ohio, March 28, 1857. There his father was born in 1830, and in Findlay, Ohio, wedded Mary Corkrell, also a native of the same county. The mother's death there occurred in 1865. Her children were as follows: Susan, wife of Dennis Sloan, of Michigan; Sarah, wife of John Fullwiler, of Hancock county; Isaac, of Hancock county; John W.; Samuel, a farmer of Hancock county; David, of Findlay, Ohio; and Margaret, wife of Sherman Powell, of Hancock county. After the death of his first wife the father married Deborah Long, widow of John Hidecker, and by this union were born five children, namely: William, of Wood county; Theodore, of Findlay; Fred, of Wingston, Wood county; Sadie and Nettie. The paternal grandfather, Samuel Hamlin, was a native of Pennsylvania, whence he emigrated to Fairfield county, Ohio, and subsequently to Hancock county.

Mr. Hamlin, of this sketch, acquired his education in the district schools, and during vacation worked in a handle and stave factory, also as a farm hand. During four years of his life he was employed as an engineer in a sawmill, but with the exception of that period has always carried on agricultural pursuits. He was married in Findlay, Hancock county, December 8, 1881, to Miss

Ella Powell, who was born in Liberty township, that county, June 15, 1861, a daughter of Andrew and Caroline (Dotson) Powell, both natives of Ohio, the former born in Fairfield, and the latter in Allen county. The father was only about six years old when his parents went to Hancock county, and he is now a prosperous farmer there. His wife departed this life in 1878.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hamlin have been five children—Ellsworth J., born June 6, 1883; Emerson Kenneth, born April 2, 1885; Howard Elroy, born July 9, 1888; Florence Ermo, born December 20, 1890; and Edna May, born January 14, 1893. The parents began their domestic life on a fifty-one-acre farm in Hancock county, but after a year Mr. Hamlin sold that property and came to Wood county, where he purchased eighty-one acres in Henry township. This is improved with a good house and barns, is fenced and tiled, and the well-tilled fields indicate the care and supervision of the owner, who is an energetic, wide-awake farmer, owing his success in life to his own enterprise. In politics he is a Democrat, and in religious belief he is a Methodist.

FRANK SNYDER, a retired capitalist and farmer of North Baltimore, is a native of Lehigh county, Penn., born January 9, 1846. His father, Peter Snyder, was born in the same county, in 1822, and died in 1895. He was a stonemason and farmer by occupation. His wife, Rebecca (Weaver), was born in Pennsylvania in 1827, and died in 1882. Our subject's paternal grandfather, Peter Snyder, was born in Lehigh county, Penn., and was a soldier in the war of 1812. He was over seventy years old at the time of his death. The maternal grandfather, James Weaver, and his father, Jacob Weaver, were both of old Pennsylvania stock. The subject of this sketch was one of five children, the others being: Nathan, now living in Lehigh, Penn.; Levi, who died after attaining manhood; Edwin, who now lives in Wood county, and Mantana, who married H. Kunkle, and lives in Lehigh county.

Mr. Snyder passed the early part of his life in his native county, remaining on his father's farm until twenty-one years old, and securing in the meantime a limited education. He then moved to Mahoning county, Ohio, where he stayed about eight months, at the end of that time returning to his home in Pennsylvania. He made several trips between Mahoning and Lehigh counties, and finally, in 1869, settled in Henry township, Wood county. He engaged in the sawmilling business, as it was the only possible means of making money at that time, was successful in his

venture, and purchased land in Liberty township on which he built a comfortable home. He retired in 1891, and is to-day one of the prominent citizens of North Baltimore, where he owns a block, among other interests too numerous to mention in detail. He also has 160 acres of land in Liberty township.

Mr. Snyder was married, November 2, 1869, to Lucy Brobst, who was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, October 16, 1842. She is a daughter of Daniel and Magdalena (Fullweiler) Brobst, the former of whom was born in 1798, and died in 1894; the latter was born in 1797, and died in 1858. They had ten children, six now living, of whom Mrs. Snyder is the youngest. Mrs. Snyder has one daughter, Belle, born in 1863, who now resides in Alma, Mich. Our subject is a Democrat, and he and his wife are members of the German Reformed Church. He is one of the leading men in Wood county, and does everything in his power to further the interests of his community. A man of upright purposes and conscientious principles, he commands the respect of all who know him.

WILLIAM A. KINNEY, a prominent agriculturist of Grand Rapids township, was born July 24, 1842, in Crawford county, Ohio. Abraham Kinney, his father, was born in Berks county, Penn., February 4, 1806, of Irish parents, and learned the trade of shoemaker there. In early manhood he came to Ohio and located first in Stark county, but finally bought 240 acres of land in Crawford county, 160 acres of which he cleared and improved. He was married in Stark county to Miss Catherine Lichtenwalter a native of that county, born July 23, 1829. Some years after his marriage he moved to Indiana, where he died in 1890, his wife having died two years previous (1888). Fourteen children were born to them: Isaac, a farmer residing near Milford, Ind.; Mary, deceased, who married the late Henry Brubecker; Elizabeth, the wife of Jacob Lichtenwalter, of Milford, Ind.; Emeline, the wife of Wesley Pinkerton, of near Milford, Ind.; Michael, deceased; John, deceased; William A., our subject; Melissa A., the wife of John Pinkerton, of near Warsaw, Ind.; Anna, deceased; Harriet, the wife of Edward Beckwell, of Elkhart county, Ind.; George C., deceased; and three who died in infancy.

William A. Kinney remained at his father's farm during his youth, attending the district school and enjoying the usual initiation into farm work, which forms so large a part of the life of a country boy. On August 7, 1862, at the age of

twenty, he enlisted in Company C, 101st O. V. I., and served throughout the war. He took part in a number of engagements, the most important being the battles of Stone River and North Gap, and the siege of Nashville. He was wounded at Stone River and taken prisoner, and received only one meal in twenty-six days, while confined in Libby prison, enduring, besides, other hardships too numerous and painful to record. On giving his parole he was released, and soon after rejoined his regiment at Franklin, Tenn., and was mustered out at Camp Harker, Tenn., June 12, 1865.

After his return home, in 1865, he went to Indiana and bought eighty acres of land, where he lived for ten years. Selling out in 1881, he came to Wood county, and bought eighty acres of improved land near Grand Rapids, which is now a valuable property, with a good orchard, first class farm buildings, and a handsome brick residence.

On March 9, 1857, he was married to Miss Sarah Shafner, daughter of Samuel Shafner, a well-known agriculturist of Crawford county. Six children were born to this union: Henry F., June 28, 1869, and Samuel O., October 17, 1871, are employed in the Clayport factory at Findlay, Ohio; Edgar B., March 23, 1876; Ira Calvin, August 12, 1882, and Roy A., January 5, 1884, are at home; and Catherine died in infancy. Mr. Kinney's energy, integrity, and progressive spirit as shown in his generous support of all worthy local movements, as well as in the management of his individual affairs. He is especially interested in educational matters, and has been a member of the township school board for four years, and a school director for several terms. In politics he is a Prohibitionist, and he is a leading member of the M. E. Church. He belongs to the G. A. R., Bond Post No. 24, at Grand Rapids.

JOSEPH H. SANDS, president of the Bowling Green Natural Gas Co., Bowling Green, and a representative self-made man, is a native of Pennsylvania, born July 3, 1852, at Rohrsburg, Columbia county. Joseph E. Sands, father of our subject, was also a native of Columbia county, Penn., where he first saw the light July 18, 1811. By occupation he was a woolen manufacturer, during the Civil war operating two woolen-mills in Pennsylvania, the first of which was established in 1835 at Rohrsburg, the second one at Mordansville in 1858, which latter is now being operated by his son, Charles L. Joseph E. Sands married Miss Esther Lundy, also of Columbia

county nativity, and eight children were born to them, all of whom lived to maturity, there being no death in the family until that of the eldest son, (1) John, who died in Pennsylvania at the age of forty-five years. (2) Henry H., the next in order of birth, resides in Pennsylvania; at the commencement of the Civil war he enlisted in the Union army, in the 132nd, later in the 210th P. V. I., and served till the close of the Rebellion. (3) William E. also has his home in Pennsylvania; he served in the war of the Rebellion one year. (4) Thomas E. first enlisted for one year, in the P. V. I., then joined a scouting party composed of a company of one hundred picked men, in which he served till the close of the war, over three years in all. (5) Anna M., the only daughter in the family, married W. W. Eves, of Millville, Penn., and died December 8, 1894, leaving five children. (6) Charles L. lives in Pennsylvania. (7) Joseph H. is the subject of sketch. (8) James, who was a merchant in Pennsylvania, died in 1889. The father of this family, who during the later years of his life followed mercantile pursuits in Columbia county, Penn., died February 24, 1881, at the age of seventy years, the mother passing away at Mordansville, that county, September 3, 1886, aged seventy-three years. Mr. Sands was a strong Union man during the critical years of 1861-65, a member of the State militia, and, had his health permitted, would gladly have entered active service at the very commencement of hostilities. John Sands, his father, who was a miller by trade, died in Pennsylvania at the advanced age of eighty years, and his father (the great-grandfather of our subject), came from England to America, and died on Block Island, New York.

Joseph H. Sands, the subject proper of these lines, lived in his native State until seventeen years of age, and then became a student at the Starkey (N. Y.) Seminary. On leaving school he came west, determined to "grow up with the country," arriving in Bowling Green, in 1871. After about a year he moved to Cincinnati, sojourning there only a short time, however, as he returned to Bowling Green, where for a time he was employed as clerk in a hotel. He then moved to Portage, and clerked for a Mr. McMahan four years, at the end of which time he once more came to Bowling Green, and in partnership with William Goit, later with R. W. McMahan, conducted a hardware business. The venture proved a success financially, but, Mr. Sands' health becoming impaired through overwork, he was obliged to sell out his interest in the business and seek some other less confining occupa-

tion. He then became a member of the oil-producing firm of Hankey Bros. & Sands, and was one of the organizers of the Bowling Green Natural Gas Co., of which he became president, in 1891.

On September 5, 1877, Mr. Sands was married to Miss Mary D. Turner, who was born April 22, 1856, in Huron county, Ohio, daughter of Rev. Elisha B. and Catherine (Bross) Turner, all of Portage, Ohio. In politics our subject is a staunch Republican. Socially he is a member of Lodge No. 589, I. O. O. F., of Portage. For several years he has spent the winters in the South and on the Pacific coast, for the benefit of his health. In spite of his poor health, Mr. Sands has always been energetic in his ideas, and foremost in all good works, looking to the advancement of Bowling Green and Wood county. He is one of the leading men in the county, one who has risen in the world entirely unassisted, and is highly esteemed by all with whom he comes in contact.

JOHN PHILLIPS, an enterprising and successful agriculturist of Grand Rapids township, was born February 24, 1854, in Holmes county, Ohio, where his grandparents were among the earliest residents. John Phillips, his father, and his mother, whose maiden name was Susan Mets, were both born there, but removed after their marriage to Wayne county, where the father died February 22, 1864, and the mother, January 7, 1895. On the paternal side Mr. Phillips is of English descent, while his mother's people came originally from Germany.

John Phillips spent his boyhood mainly in Wayne county, where he attended district school, and worked until the age of nineteen upon his father's farm. In 1875 he came to Wood county, and rented a farm of sixty-four acres near Grand Rapids, which he conducted some seventeen years, the half of which his wife owns, and which he still cultivates in a scientific way and keeps in a high state of improvement. He was married in 1877, to Miss Mary J. Keys, a native of Grand Rapids township, born September 11, 1856. She is the daughter of George Keys, one of the pioneer settlers of that locality, and a sister of D. W. Keys. Two children came of this marriage: James F., born April 16, 1883, still with his parents, and one that died in infancy.

Progressive in thought, and industrious in habits, Mr. Phillips has a promising future before him. He is a Republican politically, and has served one term as supervisor, giving to his pub-

lic duties the same energy which brought him success in his private business. He is associated with the I. O. O. F., No. 529, of Grand Rapids.

EDSON K. SMITH, one of the most extensive agriculturists of Henry township, is also one of the youngest to achieve prominence in that line of work, and his management of the 400 acres which he has under cultivation would do credit to a man of fifty years of experience. He was born in Eagle township, Hancock Co., Ohio, July 21, 1865, the only son of Jacob B. and Eliza J. (Helms) Smith. His education was begun in the district schools near his home, and he supplemented this rudimentary instruction by a course in the Normal School at Ada, Ohio, and in 1887 enjoyed still better advantages in Findlay College. From an earnest student he became a successful teacher, as is evident from the fact that for twenty-one months he was employed in the same school where he received his own elementary training. All who are familiar with the profession will recognize the difficulties which he must have overcome in the place, where his pupils were among his own immediate acquaintances; success, there, being a test of personal worth as well as of ability as a teacher. He afterward taught successfully in Wood county for some time.

On September 30, 1888, Mr. Smith married Miss Adda L. Hartman, who was born in Crawford county, Ohio, January 8, 1868. Her parents, J. N. and Mary E. Hartman, removed later to Allen township, Hancock county, and she was educated in the Van Buren High School. The young couple began their married life at the Smith homestead, where they remained five years. March 22, 1893, they came to Wood county and took up their abode upon a tract of eighty acres which they had previously purchased in Section 17, Henry township. Since April 1, 1895, Mr. Smith has rented the farm of 320 acres belonging to the Fellers estate, and operates the two properties with marked ability. In politics Mr. Smith is a Democrat, and in religious faith he and his wife adhere to the doctrines of the Predestinarian Baptists, but they are not members of any Church.

The late Jacob B. Smith, our subject's father, was born October 21, 1841, in Adams township, Seneca Co., Ohio. He was a man of remarkable intellect, and, from 1871, was a preacher in the Baptist Church, although he was indebted to no man for a livelihood, working in early years as a blacksmith, carpenter and farmer. He left a good estate in Hancock county, and in his will

his son was appointed executor. Politically he supported the Democratic party, and in various township offices he proved his efficiency and trustworthiness. On August 10, 1864, he married his first wife, our subject's mother, who departed this life July 9, 1873, leaving three children, Edson K., the eldest; Laura I., now Mrs. F. M. Hartman; and Nellie I., who died April 10, 1881. On December 13, 1874, the father married a second wife, Miss Evaline Barnd, and of this union five children were born, of whom, two, Mary O. and Elva J., are the only survivors. They reside with their widowed mother in Hancock county. The father's death occurred under circumstances of peculiar sadness. He had been in Cleveland to undergo treatment for fibroid tumors, and an operation had been performed upon them, and while on his way home, May 29, 1896, he took inflammation of the brain, and died at Fremont, Ohio, among entire strangers.

JEREMIAH S. BENSCHOTER, a well-known agriculturist of Grand Rapids township, and a veteran of the Civil war, was born in Erie county, Ohio, September 19, 1843, son of Samuel Wetherlow and Nancy Ann (Bassett) Benschoter, who were pioneers of Grand Rapids township, having settled there upon a tract of wild land in 1853.

Samuel W. Benschoter was born March 27, 1811, in Erie county, Ohio, near the mouth of Rock river. His education was somewhat limited, but he was a bright and industrious man, and, by hard work and judicious management as a farmer and stock dealer, accumulated a comfortable competence. In 1838, in Milan township, he married Miss Nancy Ann Bassett, by whom he had ten children, as follows: Sarah A., who died at the age of three years; William A., of Bowling Green; Jeremiah S., subject of these lines; Charles W., a farmer of Grand Rapids township; Ella Eugene, now the wife of J. J. Black, of near Tontogany, Ohio; J. W., in the insurance and real-estate business at Bowling Green; Lucy M., single; Alice H., who died in 1862, when eight years old; Jennie, who also died in 1862, at the age of five; and Curtis E., of Bowling Green. The mother of this fine family is still living. The father passed from earth September 2, 1884, at Lakeside, Ohio, a consistent member of the M. E. Church; during the later years of his life he was a strong advocate of temperance. Politically he was originally a Democrat, but in 1861 he voted for Lincoln, and ever afterward supported the Republican party.

J. S. Benschoter attended the district schools

of the neighborhood of his boyhood home, later the schools of Grand Rapids. On July 4, 1863, he enlisted in Company F (Capt. Squire), 86th O. V. I. (Col. Lemert) "six-months service men," and, after a short stay at Camp Chase, the regiment took part in capturing Morgan's men when they made their raid into Ohio. Later it served in the army of the Cumberland, participating in the battle of Cumberland Gap, and the siege of Knoxville. Mr. Benschoter received his discharge February 14, 1864, returning home, resumed his studies for a time at Perrysburg, and then spent three years in teaching. He and his brother William took charge of the homestead for several years, but, in 1869, our subject began farming independently, and now owns an eighty-acre farm near Grand Rapids, besides his interest in the old homestead of 240 acres. His farm is well tiled, has a productive orchard, fine barns, and a brick dwelling house costing \$2,000.

He stands well in the esteem of the community, is a Republican in politics, and has held many local offices, such as supervisor and school director, for a number of years, trustee for two terms, member of the school board twelve years, and he is now serving as justice of the peace. He is a member of the M. E. Church, in which he has been steward for many years, and has faithfully discharged the duties of trustee, class-leader, and Sunday-school superintendent. He belongs to the G. A. R., Bond Post No. 24, Grand Rapids, also to the F. & A. M., Grand Rapids Lodge No. 289, and is past master of the Lodge; also of the Enterprise Grange, in which he has served both as secretary and master. He has always taken an active interest in the Farmers Institute, and for three years was president of the Tri-county Institute of Henry, Lucas, and Wood counties.

On February 25, 1869, Mr. Benschoter was married to Miss Rachel S. Hannah, and three children have blessed their union: Lilly May, a young lady of fine abilities, who was educated in Grand Rapids, and is now at home; Charles E., a graduate of the Grand Rapids schools, later attending Oberlin College; Effie Belle, now at school. Rachel S. Hannah was born February 10, 1845, in Portage township, Ottawa Co., Ohio, and is a daughter of William P. and Elizabeth (Dalzell) Hannah, who were the parents of ten children, as follows: Nancy Isabel (Mrs. McMann), now deceased; James Gill, who died when nineteen months old; Robert D., a farmer of Grand Rapids township; Elizabeth Jane, wife of C. C. Gundy, county commissioner of Wood county, and residing in Washington township;

Mary Ann, deceased wife of William Spangler; Rachel S., Mrs. J. S. Benschoter; Sarah M., deceased wife of George Cummings, farmer of Washington township; Cynthia R., wife of W. U. Baker, a farmer of Washington township; William H., a farmer of that township; and Alice E., wife of R. J. Collin, mayor, and a druggist, of Tontogany.

William P. Hannah, father of Mrs. Benschoter, was born January 1, 1809, in Adams county, Ohio, of Virginia parentage, of Welsh descent; was a farmer by occupation, and settled in Wood county, in 1864. On December 26, 1833, he was married in Marion county, Ohio, to Miss Elizabeth Dalzell, who was born February 8, 1813, in County Down, Ireland, and when six years old came to America with her parents. She died August 22, 1891. Mr. Hannah passed from life February 27, 1867, in Grand Rapids township. In politics he was first a Whig, later a Republican, a zealous worker for his party, but no office-seeker, and was a self-reliant, trustworthy man, highly respected. On the 8th of February, the anniversary of the birth of Elizabeth Dalzell, the Hannah family have each year, for twenty-seven years, held reunions, happy events that serve to link the past with the present, and preserve the unity of the family. In June, 1895, the descendants of the Dalzell family held their first reunion, at the home of C. C. Gundy, near Tontogany, Ohio. Their second reunion was held the 18th and 19th of August, 1896, at the home of Milton H. Rhoads, near Cochranon, Marion Co., Ohio.

W. H. MILLIKIN is one of the largest oil operators in Wood county, and a wealthy and influential citizen of Bowling Green. He is the architect of his own fortunes, and, as an example of a successful self-made man, his life record is worthy of more than a passing notice.

Mr. Millikin was born April 3, 1854, in Venango county, Penn. During his earlier years he attended the common schools, and later became a student at the State Normal School at Edinburg, in his native State. For six winters he was occupied in teaching. Some twenty years ago Mr. Millikin was induced to go into the oil business, in which he was at once successful, and in which he has been interested ever since. He at first operated in Pennsylvania and southern New York, coming thence to Ohio, and for a time making his home in Lima. He afterward removed to Wood county, finding a more extensive field for his operations in this section. Besides having a number of wells of his own, he is

interested with others in some eighty-seven wells, and also owns the leases of a large amount of land in the vicinity of his oil fields, which he superintends in person. He is an enterprising, energetic business man, and the oil industry is not the only line of business in which he is interested. He owns considerable valuable property at Bowling Green, where he is now completing a hotel and business block, with all modern improvements, which will take place among the finest in this part of the State. The cost of the building will be at least \$50,000, and it is a material improvement to the business section of the city. Mr. Millikin is also a director in the First National Bank of Bowling Green. He is the owner of a fine 300-acre farm in Hardin county, on which he raises onions, potatoes and corn. Mr. Millikin is a shrewd financier, and one of the best oil operators in Wood county, and by his skillful management he has accumulated a snug fortune. His success is well merited, for he has risen to his present high position by energetic application to his business affairs, conquering the obstacles that rose in his path by his indomitable perseverance, and allowing nothing to discourage him, or destroy his ambitious spirit. Unassuming in manner and honorable in purpose, with a just regard for the rights and feelings of others, he is popular among both his business and social acquaintances, and occupies an enviable position in the city where he makes his home.

Mr. Millikin is a leader in, and liberal contributor to, all enterprises that have for their object the welfare and advancement of Bowling Green, and he is regarded by his fellow citizens as a valuable member of the community, loyal to all its interests. He has twice been elected a member of the city council of Bowling Green, his good judgment and business ability making him valuable in this important position.

In 1884 Mr. Millikin was married to Miss Alice Delphine David, who was born in New York in 1857, and four children have blessed their union, namely: Carrie, Mary, Grace and Charles William. Mrs. Millikin is a lady of intelligence and refinement. She is a leader in Church work, she and her children belonging to the M. E. Church, to which Mr. Millikin is a liberal contributor, though he is not a member. He is a strong advocate of temperance, and in political sentiment is a staunch Republican.

Charles B. David, Mrs. Millikin's father, was a native of Maine, born in October, 1830. When a boy he removed with his parents to Fort James, N. Y., and later to Allegany county, that State, where he was married to Miss Clarissa Burns,

who was born September 17, 1834, in Connecticut, removing thence with her parents to Allegany county, when she was six years old. Mr. David was a stock farmer, became quite well-to-do, and was highly respected in the community in which he resided. He died in August, 1894, leaving a widow and four children, viz.: Alice D., Mrs. Millikin, born in May, 1857; Charles E., a merchant at Belmont, N. Y.; Frank E., a merchant; and Minnie A., now Mrs. George H. Osborn, of Watertown, N. Y. Mr. David and all the family became members of the M. E. Church. He was a member of the Masonic Fraternity, and took great interest in that order, becoming a Master Mason.

The parents of our subject, John and Ann (Smullin) Millikin, were natives of Ireland, the former born in County Donegal, near Strabane. They were married in that country, and after the birth of one child, James, came to America, in about 1840, locating in Venango county, Penn. There the father carried on farming until his death, in 1877, at the age of seventy-four years. His wife survived him until 1883, when she, too, passed away, at the age of sixty-seven years. They were estimable people, and consistent members of the Methodist Church. Twelve children were born to this worthy couple (of whom ten are still living): James resides in Springfield, Mo.; Eliza married Samuel Weaver; John died in Salina, Kans., when forty-nine years old; L. S. lives in Fremont county, Iowa; Mrs. Mary Cramer lives in Pennsylvania; Maggie is the widow of Homer Hull; Thomas S. lives in Saline county, Kans.; Charlotte is the wife of W. R. Christy, and lives in Hardin county, Ohio; Peter P. resides in Warren, Ind.; Canston Z. is an attorney at Salina, Kans.; Sarah died when two and a half years old; W. H. is the subject of this sketch.

**ORRIN HENRY.** The subject of this sketch, who has been a resident of Bowling Green since 1877, is a native of Wood county, Ohio, his birth taking place October 24, 1840. His grandparents, ——— and Rebecca (Follett) Henry, were born in New Hampshire, and at an early day came to Ohio, settling in Portage township. They had thirteen children.

Hosea Henry, the father of our subject, was born in New Hampshire in 1807, and accompanied his parents to this State. He settled on a farm near Millgrove, Perry township, and there spent the remainder of his life, dying on March 17, 1883, at a good old age. His wife, whose maiden name was Nancy Smith, was a native of

Pennsylvania, born in 1820, and is still living on the farm where they first made their home. They were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Mr. Henry was an Old-line Whig. To this estimable couple nine children were born, of whom six grew to maturity, namely: Orrin; Charles, a physician residing in Fostoria, who served during the Civil war in the 144th O. V. I.; Lorinda, deceased, was the wife of D. Lusk; Perry lives in Millgrove, Wood county; Alice married D. O. Furth, and lives in Chicago, Illinois.

Orrin Henry grew to manhood in Perry township, attending the public and select schools during his boyhood, and on December 5, 1861, was married to Miss Mary S. Bosler, who was born in Pennsylvania, April 2, 1842, and who died April 22, 1891. Three children were born of this union: W. O.; Hattie, who died when eight years old; and Dwight L.

Soon after the breaking out of the Civil war, Mr. Henry enlisted in Company I, 100th O. V. I.; but being unable to leave when his regiment was mustered in, he again enlisted, August 18, 1862, in Company A, 111th O. V. I., at Toledo. His command was assigned to the army of the Ohio, subsequently known as the army of the Tennessee. Mr. Henry was sergeant of his company. Among the battles in which he took part were the siege of Knoxville, the Atlanta campaign, Perryville, Wilmington and Raleigh. He was honorably discharged from the service, at Salisbury, N. C., and reached Cleveland, Ohio, July 5, 1865, it lacking but a few days of being three years he had spent in the army.

On his return from the South Mr. Henry took up farming for a time in Perry township, and also had the management of a sawmill. For some six years he had charge of a hotel, but in 1876 sold out his interests in that business, and went out West to the Black Hills, remaining there some two months. In the fall of the same year he was elected sheriff of Wood county, and held that office for four years, afterward serving for one term as deputy sheriff under his successor. He was then appointed U. S. Deputy Internal Revenue Collector, filling that position for two years, when the district was changed, and he lost the place.

Mr. Henry remained at home for over a year when he was appointed captain of the night watch in the State Penitentiary, where he was employed for twenty months, at the end of which time, on December 31, 1887, he was given a clerkship in the trust fund department of the State Auditor's office, where he served for four years.

On January 1, 1892, he was appointed land clerk in the State Auditor's office, which position he still holds. Mr. Henry is a Republican in politics, a Chapter Mason, a K. of P., and a member of Wiley Post, G. A. R., at Bowling Green. He has filled the various positions of trust which he has held with great ability, and is esteemed by all who know him.

**ENOS GOLDNER.** Among the energetic and prosperous tillers of the soil who have made Bloom township the center of a high type of rural life, the subject of this sketch ranks with the foremost. Twenty-seven years ago his fertile fields were a stumpy waste, and now his farm is second to none in the county for productiveness and beauty.

George Goldner, the father of our subject, was a native of Schuylkill county, Penn., and a carpenter by trade. He married Miss Susan Folk, of Austintown township, Mahoning Co., Ohio, and settled in that vicinity, purchasing a farm of 160 acres, whereon he made his residence. He died in 1879, at the age of sixty-six, and his wife in 1873, aged fifty-eight.

Enos Goldner was born October 1, 1839, in Jackson township, Mahoning Co., Ohio, the eldest of ten children—four sons and six daughters. His boyhood was spent in useful work at home, indoors as well as out, as he lightened his mother's labors whenever he could. He never liked to go to school, probably because the advantages then offered to the pupil were not strikingly apparent. At the age of seventeen he began to learn the carpenter's trade with his father, a younger brother taking his place on the farm, and he followed his trade for seven or eight years, but has since been a farmer. On November 16, 1868, he was married at his native place to Miss Christina Handwerk who was born there May 20, 1850, the only daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Brobst) Handwerk. Mrs. Elizabeth (Brobst) Handwerk was the daughter of Daniel Brobst, who was born November 1, 1797, in Pennsylvania, and died August 14, 1894, at our subject's home, where he had lived for eighteen years. In 1818 he married Magdalena Folwiler. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church, he of the Lutheran. Joseph Handwerk was born in Schuylkill county, Penn., and came thence to Ohio with George Goldner, our subject's father, driving across the country. He died December 3, 1893, at his home in Bloom township, aged seventy-six years, nine months and twenty days. In 1848 he married Elizabeth Brobst, who was born October 13,



*Ernas Goldree*





1825, in Campbell, Mahoning Co., Ohio, and now makes her home on the old home farm. Both were members of the Lutheran Church.

In March, 1869, Mr. Goldner and his father-in-law came to Bloom township, and bought eighty acres in Section 29, and 160 in Section 32, adjoining, for which they went in debt to the extent of one thousand dollars. A small old house was the sole improvement, the fields standing full of stumps. They took up their residence in the township the same year, commenced to clear the tract, and afterward added to it until the farm now comprises 444 acres, with 335 acres under cultivation. In 1892 they built the handsomest farm house in this region at a cost of \$4,200, but Mr. Handwerk, did not long enjoy it, his death occurring December 3, 1893.

Mr. and Mrs. Goldner have no children of their own, but four boys and two girls have found a home under their hospitable roof at different times. Mr. Goldner was a strong man physically, and was always a hard worker until 1889, when his health was affected by "La Grippe." He is a Democrat politically, but in local matters votes for the ablest and most honest candidate without regard to party. He and his wife are leading members of the Lutheran Church, and to bring a case of need to their attention is to secure ready and generous help.

WILLIAM HARMAN, one of Montgomery township's best citizens, is a native of Prussia, born June 13, 1829. His father, who was a carpenter in Germany, married Miss Catherine Sturmer, and in 1836, when our subject was seven years old, they sailed from Bremen on the vessel "Brilhiff," bound for New York, the trip taking eleven weeks and three days. They first went to Albany, N. Y., thence to Toledo and Sandusky, and remained a short time in each place, the father working at various odd jobs. He was employed on the Wabash canal at Toledo, and in the same capacity at Napoleon, Ohio, where he remained two years. He next went to Maumee City, helped to put in locks and side-cut, and lived there until September 1, 1842, when he came to Section 30, Montgomery township, here buying seventy acres of land, a few acres of which had been chopped over, and on which was a small log cabin. He had saved \$350 from his work on the canal with which to get a home. Here he lived until September, 1852, when he moved to Freeport and opened a hotel called the "Washington House," of which he was the proprietor for twenty-seven years. He then returned to Section 30, where he died August 21, 1883.

In politics he was a Democrat. His widow passed away August 7, 1896, in Montgomery township, at the age of ninety-two years, mourned by a host of friends who knew this grand old pioneer lady only to love her.

Our subject attended the district schools of his time, and was in his "teens" when his parents came to Montgomery township. On May 27, 1849, he was married to Miss Mary Kyser, who was born near Philadelphia, August 21, 1825, daughter of George and Mary (Shut) Kyser, who came to Columbiana county in 1833, and died there. Afterward Mary visited her sisters in Montgomery township, where she met and married our subject. They began their married life on the home farm, and in 1872 came to Section 29, where they now reside. The following children have been born to them: George H., who is a farmer of Montgomery township; Frederick William, who lives near Hicksville, Ohio; Milton, who died in infancy; John H., a resident of Freeport; Frank P., a farmer of Portage; Daniel, living in Pulaski county, Ky.; Catherine, who died when twelve years old; and Andrew J., who is farming in Montgomery township. Mr. Harman has helped all his children to obtain homes, and has plenty of means left. He is no partisan in politics, but his sympathy is with the Democrats, and he has held a school office. He is a member of the Lutheran Church, as was also his wife. He has been a successful farmer, and is one of the good citizens of his township, than whom no one is more respected. On January 14, 1894, he had the misfortune to be completely burned out; but he has rebuilt the farm buildings, and to-day has one of the best homes in the township.

ADDISON LANSDALE, who is well and popularly known not only in Montgomery township, where he resides, but throughout Wood county, was born April 7, 1821, in Champaign county, Ohio. His parents, Richard and Jemima (Hyatt) Lansdale, were married in Maryland in 1804, and in 1808 came to Ohio, settling in what is now Champaign county, on the banks of Little Darby creek, near Mechanicsburg, where our subject was born and where Mr. and Mrs. Lansdale both died. Their family consisted of eight children, of whom our subject was the youngest, and all of whom are deceased except himself and his brother Richard, the latter a resident of Olympia, Washington.

Mr. Lansdale was an infant when his parents died, and he was reared by strangers. His schooling, which was somewhat meager, was obtained in a log schoolhouse of the rudest description.

There was then no common-school system as today, and educational affairs were managed in a manner which seems very strange to us. Each pupil was required to furnish a load of wood to keep the schoolhouse warm, the teachers "boarded round," and very few of them were able to instruct their pupils beyond the "three Rs." Our subject was early put to work on the farm, and earned a shilling a day, riding horses for the men who were raking hay. When a boy of sixteen years he learned the trade of a mason, plastering and brick-laying included. The family had been scattered on the death of the parents, and one of the sons, Alpheus, who was a molder by trade, had located at Lower Sandusky, now Fremont. Here our subject went to visit him, traveling on the Mad River railroad—the first road built in Ohio—to Tiffin, and walking the remaining distance. He easily found work there, and was soon after married, in June, 1850, to Miss Martha, daughter of Elisha Moore, a farmer living near Fremont. At the time of his marriage, Mr. Lansdale was the proud owner of twenty dollars in gold, which represented his entire capital. In October of the same year the young couple took up their residence in Prairie Depot, where the wife died in the spring of 1851, and was buried in Bradner cemetery. She left one child, Martha, now Mrs. David Bovie, of Sandusky county. On November 18, 1852, Mr. Lansdale was married in Sandusky county to Miss Sarah King, who was born in Franklin county, April 13, 1831. Her father, Samuel King, was a pioneer of Sandusky county, having come there in 1832. Mrs. Sarah Lansdale died January 9, 1896. Two children were born to this union, Mary E., who became the wife of Franklin Palmer, and died January 15, 1879; and Florence, who married Samuel Pennell, and died, leaving one child, Mabel M., who makes her home with our subject.

In the fall of 1850 Mr. Lansdale traded a horse and buggy for his present lot, on which there was then only a log shanty. He subsequently bought other lots, for one of which he gave a shot-gun, and, for another, \$35. About this time he went into the grocery and clothing business, having a stock worth \$200. His business increased steadily, and he carried it on for twenty-five years, when he sold out. In the meantime he had purchased a couple of farms in Montgomery township, where he carried on general farming. In 1861 he was elected county commissioner on the Union ticket, although he was a Democrat. Originally a Whig, he joined the Democratic forces on the dissolution of that party,

but voted for Abraham Lincoln for his second term. Since 1880 Mr. Lansdale has retired from active work, and only attends to the supervision of his business interests. He owns two business rooms in Prairie Depot, and two dwelling houses. Beginning life a very poor boy, he has acquired his present comfortable competency by his own unaided exertions. He is the pioneer of Prairie Depot, and is known over a large portion of Wood county. He is a jovial man, one who thoroughly enjoys life, and is a most agreeable companion and entertaining conversationalist. In his religious views he is a Free Thinker. As a citizen he is public-spirited, and greatly interested in the cause of education.

CHRISTIAN BAY, a wealthy retired agriculturist of Perrysburg, is one of our typical German-American citizens, who, by their industry and frugality, make their way to success over every obstacle. He was born December 31, 1825, in Wittenberg, Germany, which for generations had been the home of his forefathers. His parents, George and Catherine Bay, died when he was still a youth, and in 1852 he came to Ohio. He spent one year in Wayne county, three in Lorain county (part of the time residing at Columbia Station), remaining until 1861, when he came to Wood county. Here he settled in the unbroken wilderness, in the heart of the "Black Swamp," where he experienced all the disheartening trials of pioneer life. For thirty-four years he lived there—the locality being now known as "Bay Station," on the C. H. & D. railroad—and had already acquired a competence when the discovery of oil upon his land enabled him to sell it for a large sum—a fortune, in fact. He then removed to Perrysburg, where he is spending the leisure which he can so well appreciate after his early years of toil. Politically, he is a Democrat, and for many years has been a member of the Lutheran Church.

Mr. Bay was married in Liverpool, Medina Co., Ohio, to Miss Jane McConnell, who was born in 1835, and died September 13, 1894, mourned by a large circle of relatives and friends. Of the seven children born of this union: (1) Jerusha B. married G. Mercer, and has three children—Mabel, Vernie and Edith; (2) Elizabeth married William Bower, of Milton Center, and has four children (three sons and one daughter)—Clarence, Bearl, Karl and Marie; (3) George W., born June 29, 1860, died October 2, 1866; (4) William S., born December 9, 1867, died October 11, 1871; (5) and (6) Mary J. and Miny A., born August 10, 1870, the for-

mer died August 26, 1870, and the latter, January 21, 1871; and (7) the youngest daughter in Christian Bay's family is Mary D., who is at present attending high school at Hart, Oceana Co., Michigan.

**GEORGE W. HENGSTELER.** As one of the prominent young self-made business men of Risingsun, and a partner in the firms of Hengsteler Bros. and Bigley & Hengsteler Bros., the subject of this sketch is well-known in financial circles, and he is also an agriculturist of note in his locality, owning a farm of 100 acres in Montgomery township.

He was born September 22, 1859, in Westmoreland county, Penn., the son of Lewis and Mary (Bauders) Hengsteler. He was a mere child when his parents came to Ohio, and his education and training was that of the average country boy of his time. His somewhat limited opportunities for schooling have made him an active friend of educational progress, as is shown by his constant and practical efforts for that cause on the school boards of District No. 7, Montgomery township, and later in Risingsun. As a mechanic he possesses fine natural ability, and has done some carpentering; but in early manhood his attention was mainly given to agricultural pursuits. In the winter of 1892 the Hengsteler Bros. engaged in the oil business, operating an eighty-acre lease in Scott township, Sandusky county, and placed thereon four wells. In the winter of 1894-95 they associated with them, in their oil business, C. P. Bigley; however, the Hengsteler Bros. still constitute an independent firm.

On April 15, 1880, our subject was married to Miss Mary A. Graber, who was born in Risingsun November 28, 1866, a daughter of George and Elizabeth (Strouse) Graber. His first home was upon a rented farm in Jackson township, Seneca county, and later he spent two years on the Carey farm in Montgomery township, on leaving which place he bought forty acres in Section 35, same township, incurring a debt of \$1,700. At that time there was not a building on the farm that was habitable, and the sparse improvements did not even include a well. Here he resided until the fall of 1892, when having acquired a competence he purchased his present elegant residence in Risingsun, at the corner of Day and Walnut streets. He still keeps his farm, however, and oversees it, and he owns another fine building lot in Risingsun. On November 28, 1892, his first wife was called from earth, and her mortal remains were laid to rest in the cemetery at Prairie Depot. Two children survive her—Lulu M. and

Jay R., both at home. For his second wife Mr. Hengsteler married Miss Christina Stoudinger, who was born March 14, 1867, a daughter of Christian and Elizabeth (Myers) Stoudinger, well-known residents of Montgomery township.

Full of public spirit, Mr. Hengsteler is always ready to encourage any enterprise for the benefit of his town. Although he is a Democrat in principle, he is not bound by any party ties in local elections, and he has served the community in various positions, including that of supervisor. At present he is street commissioner of Risingsun. He and his wife are leading members of the Church of God, in which he was superintendent of the Sunday-school for three years, and he now holds the office of deacon. Socially, he affiliates with the I. O. O. F.

**BYRON H. CALLIN** is one of the most able and successful school teachers of Wood county, and is a young man of genuine worth, giving a liberal aid and support to all enterprises and interests which are calculated to benefit the community. He was born in Bowling Green, November 5, 1874, and is a son of John H. Callin, a well known resident of the county. He spent his earlier years in his native town, and in 1887 removed with his father to Middleton township, where he aided in the development and improvement of an eighty-acre farm. In the winter months he attended the district schools of the neighborhood, and displayed special aptitude at his studies. In the winter of 1885-6 he was a student in the public schools of Leipsic, Ohio, and in 1893 continued his education in the high school of Perrysburg. In that year he was graduated from the common schools of the county, and in the winter of 1895-6 he attended Findlay College, at Findlay, Ohio.

When only sixteen years of age, Mr. Callin was granted a teacher's certificate by the county board of examiners. All his life he has been interested in educational work, and has given general satisfaction as a teacher in Wood county. In 1895 he also taught and attended Berea College, of Berea, Ky., and is a young man of broad general information, much of which he has acquired through extensive reading. For six years he was a correspondent to the local newspapers, and is a poet and writer of fiction of no little ability, having contributed many articles of merit and interest to the county and Eastern magazines. When fifteen years of age he joined the Presbyterian Church at Dunbridge, and has since taken a very active part in Church work. He belongs to the Presbyterian Church of Berea, is a mem-

ber of the Home Missionary Society, and is president of the Young Peoples Society of Christian Endeavor, also secretary of the A. Z. L. Society of Berea. He is a member of Randolph Palmer Camp No. 273, Sons of Veterans; of Prairie Depot, Ohio. His political support is given the Republican party. Held in the highest regard by all who know him, he has made many warm friends wherever he has gone, and his well-spent life commands the respect of all. Mr. Callin was elected Professor of History and Natural Science in Jackson Collegiate Institute, at Jackson, Ky., which position he declined. On July 18, 1896, he was united in marriage with Fannie E., daughter of John and Eliza Muir, of Scotch Ridge, Ohio. Mrs. Callin is a woman of genuine worth, is accomplished, and has a large circle of friends.

J. W. POWELL, senior member of the well-known firm of Stratton, Powell & Co., leading hardware merchants of Bowling Green, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, May 21, 1844. He is of Welsh descent, but his family have been in this country for several generations.

His grandfather, Peter Powell, a native of Pennsylvania, and one of the pioneer settlers of Fairfield county, died in Hancock county, in 1858, at the age of eighty-five. Our subject's father, George Powell, was born in Fairfield county, March 10, 1819, lived there until 1873, and then bought a farm in Liberty township, Wood county, whereon he spent his last years. He married Miss Sarah Beatty, also a native of Fairfield county, born in 1818, and they reared a family of six children: J. W., our subject; Martha J., now the wife of L. Smaltz, of Hancock county; S. H., living at the old homestead; A. V., a resident of Bowling Green; C. L., who died in Weston, at the age of thirty-five; and Laura B., the wife of James Stafford, of Liberty township. The father of these, in politics, was a Democrat, up to the Civil war, when he became a Republican, and so remained until his death. In religious faith he and his wife were active and consistent members of the U. B. Church. The father died January 26, 1893, the mother on April 26, 1892.

J. W. Powell, the subject of this sketch, attended the common schools in his native county during his boyhood, and remained at home up to his enlistment, when he was barely eighteen years old, in the 90th O. V. I., attached to the army of the Cumberland. He took part in a number of engagements, Perryville, etc.; at Stone River he was severely wounded, and sent

to hospital, where he spent ten months, being able during the last five to perform light duties. In 1864 he was transferred to the 5th Regiment, V. R. C., and detailed to guard the Rebel prisoners at Indianapolis. He was mustered out July 5, 1865, and then returned home to resume his duties on the farm, so continuing until his marriage. In February, 1867, he moved to Hancock county, to his farm of eighty acres, whereon he remained six years, at the end of which time, selling his interests there, he came to Wood county and bought a 240-acre farm in Liberty township, which he improved, placing good buildings on it, and underdraining it with sixteen miles of tiling, in which latter line of improvements he may be said to have been the pioneer in both Wood and Hancock counties. In all respects his farm is one of the finest in the State, and no other is equipped with a better class of buildings; he also owns another farm of ninety-six acres in the same township.

In 1888 Mr. Powell opened out a hardware business in Bowling Green, and in January, 1889, he moved his family into the city, in the following year building his present elegant and commodious residence. He owns seventeen oil-wells, the first of which was drilled in October, 1889, being the first well started in that section of the county, Mr. Powell being the second individual to lease land for that purpose in Wood county. He is also interested in oil productions outside of his own wells, in all his undertakings proving himself to be a typical American "hustler," one who by innate grit, pluck and enterprise, has from but a small capital built up a comparative fortune.

On October 11, 1866, Mr. Powell married Miss Isabel R. Courtright, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, May 14, 1844, and three children have blessed this union: Alba F. and George V.; and a son, Herman C., who died in infancy. Of these children, Alba F. was married in November, 1893, to W. H. Wyrach, of Bowling Green, a partner in the store with Mr. Powell, his wife acting in the capacity of bookkeeper; while George V. is at present attending college at Westerville, Ohio, this being his third year thereat. With true practical philanthropy, our subject and his amiable wife have opened their hospitable doors to the children of others. A girl, Effa Kirk, they reared from the age of eleven years, and she is now the wife of E. A. Saxby, a druggist of Pemberville, by whom she has one child, Florence. A boy, Tobias Miller by name, Mr. and Mrs. Powell reared from the age of four till he was seventeen, and they are at



*J. M. Powell*



*Isabelle A. Powell*



present bringing up another little girl, named Myrtle, who is nine years of age at this writing.

Mrs. J. W. Powell is a daughter of O. P. and Sarah (Harmon) Courtright, the former of whom, a farmer by vocation, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1814; he was captain of Company A, 78th Ill. V. I., serving two years in the Civil war, and enjoys an enviable record as a soldier. The mother was born in Ross county, Ohio, in 1817. They were the parents of children, as follows: America P., Harmon V., Isabel R. (Mrs. Powell), Elizabeth J., and Martin L. The mother of these died in 1850, and Mr. Courtright subsequently married Mary McElroy, of Lancaster, Ohio, by which union there were nine children: James, Frank, John, Joliette, Fannie, Oliver, Robert, Walter and Stephen. The father died in 1868.

In his political preferences Mr. Powell is a Republican; socially he is affiliated with Wiley Post No. 46, G. A. R.; in religious faith, he and his wife are leading members of the U. B. Church, toward which they are liberal in their donations, as well as to educational works and all deserving charities. They enjoy alike the esteem and regard of a wide circle of friends, not only in the city of their adoption, but in the entire county.

GEORGE W. BELL, one of the boys in blue of the Civil war, and now a valued citizen of Middleton township, was born in Monroe county, Ohio, November 22, 1837. His father, Elisha Bell, was a native of Belmont county, Md., and for some years was engaged in farming there. He afterward removed to Monroe county, this State, where he spent ten years, and then took up his residence in Washington county, where he carried on farming until his death in 1871. He married Louisa Tucker, a native of Maryland, and they became parents of these children—Ellen, wife of George W. Miller, of Washington county; George W.; Elizabeth, wife of Joseph Aplin; Willston, a farmer of Washington county; William, an agriculturist of Washington county; Jane, wife of Isaac Wickley; James; John and Martha, who died in childhood. The mother of this family passed away in 1894.

To the common schools our subject is indebted for his education. He was reared on the old homestead until twenty-four years of age, when he left the farm to enter his country's service, enlisting in 1863, as a member of Company K, 36th O. V. I. He joined the service at Washington, Ohio, and participated in the battles of Gettysburg and Mission Ridge, and in the siege

of Atlanta. He suffered much from exposure, but continued at the front until the war was over, as a faithful defender of the Union cause. He then returned to Washington county, where he remained until 1881, when he purchased his present farm, near Dunbridge, in Middleton township.

Mr. Bell was married, in 1862, in Washington county, to Minerva Aplin, a native of Ludlow county, Md. They became parents of nine children—Joseph; Fannie, wife of John Dusing; Don; Irene; Chester; Russell; Eva, deceased wife of Dr. Baker; and William and Daisy, who died in infancy. Mr. Bell is a member of Robert Stewart Post No. 690, G. A. R., of Dunbridge. He is an energetic, industrious man who owes his success in life to his own exertions. As a citizen he is public-spirited and progressive, interested in the general welfare, and in this volume well deserves representation.

JACOB H. HOWER, a prosperous farmer of Bowling Green, was born in Stark county, Ohio, October 24, 1829, and comes of good old Pennsylvania-Dutch stock. Jacob Henry Hower, the paternal grandfather, was born in Pennsylvania, and died in New Berlin, Stark county, at the advanced age of ninety-nine years. The day before his death he walked three miles and killed seven squirrels with his rifle, an old-time flint-lock, which is still retained in the family. He dressed the squirrels himself, and had his daughter prepare him a squirrel supper. He was found the next morning dead in his bed, with his arms folded upon his breast, indicating that he had passed quietly into his last sleep. He was the father of seven children, two of whom died in infancy. The others were Jesse, John, George (the father of our subject), Isaac, and Barbara, the latter of whom married a Mr. Lawson.

George Hower was born in Pennsylvania in 1801, and was united in marriage with Barbara Haines, who was also born in Pennsylvania, in 1808. They emigrated to Ohio, living first in Stark county, and then in Medina until a short time before their death, when they moved to New Berlin, where they both died in 1884. They followed farming all their lives, and were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. To them were born twelve children, three of whom died while young. The others are: Mary, who married Hiram Burr, and died in Kansas; Jacob Henry, subject of this sketch; Nancy, who married Adolph Derthick (he died, and she married a second time, and is living in Clinton, Ill.); Jesse, who died in 1867; Sophia, married, and living in Illinois; Solomon, who served all through



the war of the Rebellion, and died soon after; G. W., living in Clinton, Ill.; Sadie, married and living at home; Irene, who is the wife of Jacob Bowman, and resides in Pennsylvania.

Our subject grew up with his parents until nine years old, when he commenced working on a threshing machine, and has done more or less threshing ever since, making, in all, fifty-four seasons. At thirteen years of age he went to Indiana, and worked on a farm. He picked up the cooper's trade, and also that of a machinist, and, determining to see something of the great world about him, became a royer. As soon as he earned money enough in one place to carry him away, he would leave for parts unknown, his various trades standing him in good need as he always found employment adapted to some one of them, and he went on in this way until he had traveled over twenty-three different States of the Union. He finally settled down in Wood county in 1858, and with considerable effort curbed his roving propensities. He married January 7, 1861, Miss Martha J. Mitchell, who was born in Plain township June 8, 1835, and one child was born to them: Irvin M., November 18, 1867; he is married, and has one child, Ufford Rollin. Our subject had one adopted child, Lulu, who is now the wife of John Holly; He was born in Auglaize county, Ohio, in 1867.

Mr. Hower joined Co. K, 185th O. V. I., in January, 1865, and served during the remainder of the war, under Capt. Black. He is now settled in Plain township and has fifty acres of good land under excellent cultivation, and does general farming.

ALBIRTUS RUSSELL is a wide-awake and progressive business man of Plain township, whose life record well deserves a place in the history of his adopted county. He was born in Erie county, Penn., January 11, 1848, and is a son of Charles H. and Maria (Williams) Russell, the former born in New York, June 11, 1821, and the latter in Pennsylvania, in June of the same year. The father was educated in the Empire State, where for a time he followed farming; but he was married in Pennsylvania. In 1857 he brought his family to Wood county, locating on forty acres of wild land in Washington township, where he built a log cabin, and then began the work of improving his farm. His death there occurred in February, 1882, and his wife was called to the home beyond August 25, 1890. Their children were Mary J., born March 22, 1846, wife of P. P. Condit; Albirtus, our subject; Elijah D., born March 25, 1850, now of Fulton county, Ohio;

Viola M., who was born February 14, 1854, and died July 20, 1855; Aurora B., who was born April 20, 1859, and died April 16, 1864; Ida A., who was born December 11, 1862, and died April 30, 1864. The father was a Presbyterian in religious faith; a Republican in political belief, and for some time served as school director.

Albirtus Russell is indebted to the district schools of both his native county and Wood county for his education. The first ten years of his life were passed in the Keystone State, and he then came with his parents to Ohio, locating on the home farm. In December, 1863, at the age of sixteen, he laid aside school books for the rifle, and the school-boy became a soldier of Company G, 10th Ohio Cavalry. His regiment was assigned to the Western army, and he participated in the siege of Atlanta, and went with Sherman on the celebrated "march to the sea." On the day when the country celebrated its national independence in 1865, our hero of the Civil war received an honorable discharge, and started for his home with a military record of which he may be justly proud.

Mr. Russell continued to aid in the operation of the homestead until 1873, when he located on a sixty-acre farm, which he yet owns. He is, however, operating 200 acres of land which he has under a very high state of cultivation. He is also a salesman for the Plano Mfg. Co., of Chicago. His political support is given to the Republican party. For three years he has served as constable in Washington township, and school director for twelve years, and also clerk of the school board; he was elected trustee of Plain township in the spring of 1895 by a majority of three hundred; he served ten years as road supervisor, and was the first assessor of his precinct in Plain township. He belongs to the United Brethren Church, and to the Blue Lodge of Masons, of Tontogany, and Crystal Chapter, R. A. M., of Bowling Green.

Mr. Russell was married to Miss Julia Condit, the adopted daughter of Philip Condit, formerly of Plain township. They have ten children: Clayton R. J., born January 14, 1869, now foreman of the wood works in the Empire Plow Company, of Cleveland, Ohio; he married Katie Kadle. Charles H., born June 10, 1871, is a farmer, and was married January 15, 1895, to Mary Digby. Louisa M., born February 13, 1873. William, born June 8, 1875. Rutherford Hayes, born November 12, 1876; Frank F., born October 7, 1878; Howard A., born December 12, 1880; Nellie M., born May 11, 1883; Leonard

F., born February 27, 1887, and Enos A., born December 6, 1890, are all at home. Mr. Russell justly ranks among the leading business men and representative citizens of Wood county. He is a gentleman of sterling worth, and the soul of honor in all business transactions, and a highly esteemed man in private life.

F. B. ADAMS, one of the most progressive and prosperous of the younger citizens of Portage township, is a native of the county, born May 15, 1869, on a farm in Section 2, Bloom township, a son of Henry and Margaretta (Dresser) Adams.

Our subject received all his education at the district schools of the neighborhood of his boyhood home, excepting an eight-weeks' attendance at the North American Normal School, at Fostoria. He acquired a good fund of general knowledge; but he was always more fond of machinery than books. Up to the time of his marriage he lived at home, assisting his father, under whose tuition he gained a thorough insight into the mysteries of agriculture, and after that event bought his fifty-acre farm in Section 35, Portage township, where he now lives. He has never devoted himself to the cultivation of this tract, however, the farm work being done by hired help, while he gives his attention to the oil business, acting as overseer for Fowler Bros., of Bradner. He is interested in the Lone Star Oil Co., which carries on operations in Portage township. Mr. Adams was formerly interested in a picket mill operated in Portage township, and though young he has been very successful in all his ventures. He is steady-going and ambitious, and bids fair to become one of the well-to-do citizens of his community.

On March 19, 1892, Mr. Adams was married, in Perry township, to Miss Mary Longacre, of Portage township, daughter of H. R. Longacre, and one child has blessed this union, Olen J., born April 23, 1894. Our subject is a Democrat in political faith, but usually supports the best man without regard to party lines. Socially he is affiliated with Petroleum Lodge No. 499, K. of P., of which he is a charter member.

WILLIAM BROOKS. As an example of what may be accomplished by industry and "grit," the life of the man whose name opens this sketch is worthy to be recorded in a work of this kind. With no advantages in early youth, landing in a strange country with a meager sum of money, and no friends but his strong hands, and no assistance

but a steady purpose to make his way in spite of all obstacles, Mr. Brooks' career teaches a lesson by which other young men would do well to profit.

Our subject was born April 10, 1829, in Lincolnshire, England, the fifth son and sixth child in a family of nine children born to Benjamin and Jane (Hall) Brooks. The father supported his family by day labor, and both parents spent their entire lives in their native land, the father dying at the age of sixty-two, and the mother when eighty-seven years old. When a mere child, only eight years old, William was put to work driving a team, and such other work as his tender youth was capable of, his wages being the munificent sum of four cents a day and his dinner. He afterward worked on a farm until he was twenty two years old, his highest wages in all this time being \$59 a year.

This slow way of getting on in the world was not at all to the liking of the ambitious young Englishman, and he determined to seek in the New World the opportunities denied him in the old country. Accordingly, having out of his scanty pittance saved enough to pay for his passage, he shipped, on April 14, 1852, at Hull, on the sailing vessel "Fingal," bound for Quebec, which he reached after a tedious voyage of six weeks, and with six sovereigns in his pocket. He remained in that city for a day and a half, then came to Grafton, Lorain Co., Ohio, and worked there and in the vicinity as a farm hand for four years. In the fall of 1853 Mr. Brooks came to Wood county and bought eighty acres of timber land in Section 19, Perry township, all but six acres of which had been slashed. He then returned to Lorain county, and for some three years worked hard to raise the money, \$450, to pay for his land. In 1856 he again came to Wood county, and settled upon his land, keeping "bachelor's hall" in an old log cabin on the place, and began at once to clear up and improve the property. His industry and thrift have met with their reward, and he now owns 250 acres of land, which, from its primitive condition of wild forests, has been made to bloom and "blossom as the rose," and which as a farm has few equals in the county. All the improvements on it are the work of his own hands, and he can now enjoy in ease and comfort the results of his hard labor and privation in his early days.

On November 1, 1855, Mr. Brooks was married in Bloom township, Wood county, to Miss Catherine Walker, who was born in Ashland county, Ohio, and was twelve years old when her parents, Adam Walker and wife, removed to Wood county. She died in May, 1875, and was

buried in the Weaver cemetery, in Bloom township. On January 6, 1876, Mr. Brooks was again married, his second wife, who is still living, being Miss Matilda Walker, who was born February 9, 1848, in Bloom township, daughter of Andrew and Nancy (Fellows) Walker. They have four children—George, Fannie, Clarence and Herbert, all living at home.

Mr. Brooks is in sympathy with the Democratic party, although he is no partisan, and looks more to the character of the men who run for office than to any party affiliations. His wife is a member of the United Brethren Church, and, although not a Church member himself, he contributes liberally to religious enterprises and charitable objects. In many respects he is a remarkable man. Without any schooling, he has accomplished what many a man of education has failed to do, and his reputation for honesty and upright dealing is known throughout the county. He is one of the most industrious men living, and is considered one of the best citizens of the community.

JAMES W. WILLIAMS, M. D., Weston, was born February 3, 1849, in Delaware county, Ohio, whence about a year later his father moved to Hancock county.

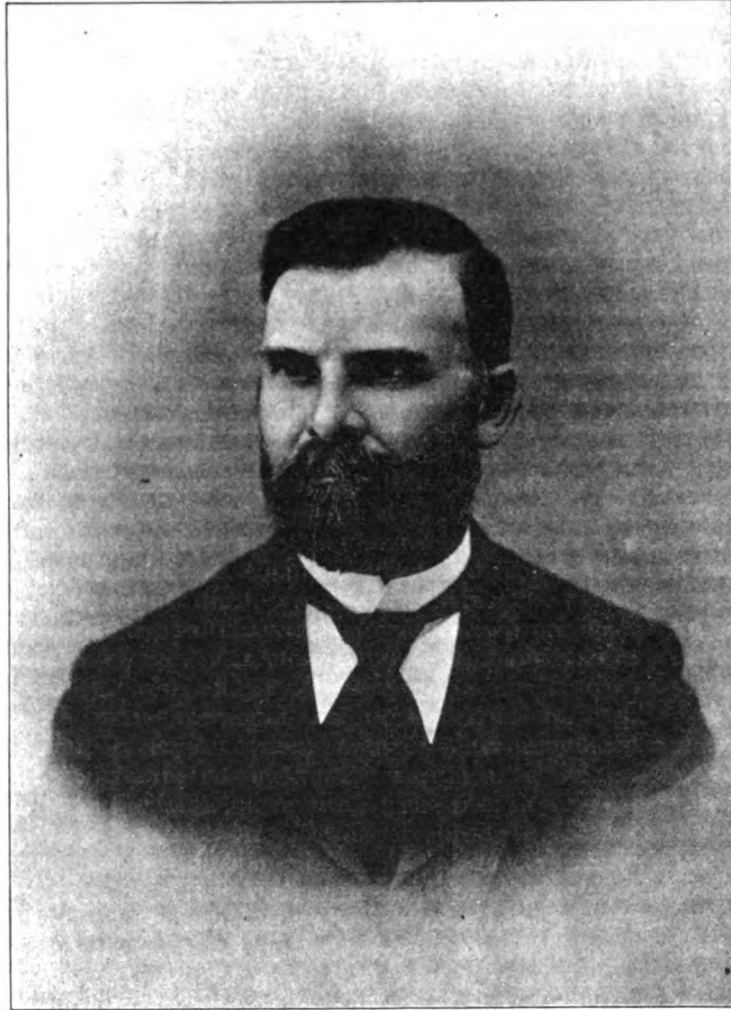
When our subject was eight years old his mother died, and he returned to Delaware county to live with his uncle, Joseph C. Cole. About the year 1864 his father married again, and young James returned to Hancock county, where he taught school for one term, later attending Findlay Union Schools, graduating, after four years, from the Normal department thereof. For one year he taught in the grammar department of the Findlay Union Schools, then attended the Normal School at Worthington, Ohio. Later he taught in Prospect, Marion county, and in the district schools of Delaware county, in the meantime occupying his leisure moments in reading medicine. In Delaware, Ohio, he was associated with his uncle, Ephraim Llewellyn, M. D., in the drug business, and studied with him. After his preliminary preparation he sold his interest in the store to his uncle, and went to Cincinnati, where, in 1874, he again attended school, graduating in May, 1875. After looking around, he finally located at Weston, and in June, 1875, opened an office. In 1884 our subject went to Chicago, and took the practitioner's course in Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital, deriving considerable benefit from visiting various hospitals, including Cook County and Mercy Hospitals. He then returned to Weston, where

he has since continued the practice of his profession.

Politically the Doctor is a Republican, and has held the office of mayor for one term, was a member of the council, a justice of the peace, and a member of the school board, at present holding the office of township trustee. In religious faith he is identified with the Presbyterian Church. Socially he is affiliated with the following societies: Weston Lodge No. 560, F. & A. M., of Weston; I. O. O. F., Weston Lodge No. 681; Subordinate Lodge and Columbian Encampment No. 274 (representing this district in the Grand Lodge of Ohio); Kokosing Lodge No. 303, Daughters of Rebekah; the Ohio Homeopathic Medical Society, and the North Western Ohio Homeopathic Medical Society.

On January 17, 1878, Dr. Williams was married to Miss Mary M. Murphy, and their children are: Sarah Edna, born April 2, 1879, and May M., born September 2, 1882. Mrs. Williams died March 26, 1885, and on September 18, 1888, our subject was married at Mt. Vernon, Ohio, to Miss Devella E. Starr, by which union there are three children: Elda, born September 2, 1889; Ruth, born August 1, 1892, and Nehemiah Starr, born November 4, 1895.

The Williams family trace their ancestry back to Nehemiah Williams, great-grandfather of our subject, who was born May 5, 1737, in New York State. From information received by Dr. Williams from the War Department at Washington, it appears that Nehemiah Williams, during the Revolutionary war, was enlisted August 6, 17—, as a sergeant in Capt. Christian Getman's company of Rangers, known as the Second Company of Tyrone, N. Y. This company was reviewed August 29, 1776, by Isaac Paris, muster-master, and on that muster roll the name of Nehemiah Williams appears as sergeant. It also appears that he was appointed a sergeant March 8, 1777, in Capt. Giles Wolcott's company, in the battalion of Continental forces commanded by Col. Seth Warner, and his name is borne on the rolls to include June, 1779. Some time after the latter date Nehemiah Williams removed to Washington county, Va., and about the year 1817 came with his wife and three children to Ohio, settling in Troy township, Delaware county, where he died October 20, 1821. By occupation he was a farmer. His wife, Mary, was born in Ireland, March 14, 1759, and died in Troy township, Delaware Co., Ohio, May 21, 1822. Their eldest son, James (grandfather of our subject), was born March 2, 1800, and died in 1824. He married Sarah Cole, and two sons were born to



*James Wright Williams*



them: Nehemiah and James, the latter of whom died when a young man. Both were farmers by occupation.

Nehemiah Williams, father of our subject, was born September 27, 1822, and lived in Delaware county until twenty-six years of age, when he moved to Orange township, Hancock county, there passing the remainder of his life. He died March 17, 1895, on the same farm which was held by a patent presented to him from the President of the United States, and which never changed its title until just before his death, when it was divided among his children. He was twice married, first time on December 30, 1847, to Janet Trindle, who was born March 9, 1830, and died August 23, 1857. Their children were: James W., our subject; Joseph, born July 20, 1851, died March 7, 1865; Sarah Ann, born July 12, 1853, died April 4, 1876; and Emma, born October 21, 1855, died July 7, 1884. For his second wife, Nehemiah Williams, in the fall of 1864, married Catherine Longworth, and they have seven children: Hugh, who lives in the old home in Hancock county; Mary (Mrs. Henry Foltz), of North Baltimore; Jesse, a farmer, living on part of the old farm; George, also a farmer, residing on part of the old farm; Mattie, wife of Jesse Agin, who is a farmer in Hancock county; Ada, wife of L. Heite, a farmer in Wyandot county, Ohio; and Floyd, who is still unmarried, and lives on a part of the old homestead. The father of this family, when a seventeen-year-old boy, united with the Marlboro Regular Baptist Church, and continued a member of the Regular Baptist Church to the day of his death. In his political predilections he was a Republican.

R. B. ROGERS. Prominent in the history of Wood county are the representative business men and enterprising farmers, and among them is the subject of this personal history. He was for several years engaged in the sawmill business, but now devotes his energies to agricultural pursuits, in which he is meeting with well-deserved success. A native of England, he was born in Cornwall, April 24, 1854, and is the third child of William and Margaret (Baker) Rogers, the others being William, a farmer of Lake township; Anna, who was the wife of Morris Marsh, and died in Lucas county, Ohio; and Ellen, now Mrs. Robert Tip-laday, of Lake township.

The mother died in England, and with the hope of giving his children a better start in life, the father resolved to emigrate to the New World in the spring of 1863. In May the family embarked on the steamer "Kangaroo," at Plymouth,

and fifteen days after leaving Queenstown, Ireland, they landed at New York. Their destination was Lorain county, Ohio, where for four years the father rented a farm in Pittsfield township; in 1867 he purchased eighty acres of new land in Lake township, Wood county, which was entirely unimproved, not even a road being laid out to his place, the most of which was under water. Two of his children, William and Anna, accompanied him to Wood county, but our subject and his sister Ellen remained with relatives in Lorain county until 1871. Here the father was again married, his second union being with Mary White, and they now have a pleasant home in Lake township, the land having been converted into a highly cultivated and desirable farm. He has been quite successful in his business transactions, securing a comfortable competence, and still superintends the management of his affairs, although he has reached the age of seventy-seven years.

Mr. Rogers, of this sketch, began his education in the subscription schools of England, and then attended the government schools, where a tuition was paid. He was about nine years of age when brought to the United States, and, with the exception of two years spent at the home of his uncle, Edward Rogers, in Pittsfield, Lorain county, he remained with his father until the age of sixteen. For one year he was then employed on government work in Toledo, after which he entered the sawmill business, being thus engaged for several years, with the exception of six months spent in Missouri at farm labor and threshing, where he had gone in the spring of 1878. It was in the early part of 1888, that Mr. Rogers removed the sawmill, in which he owned a third interest, to the north half of the northwest quarter of Section 13, Blpom township, in the midst of timber, where he began to fell the trees and manufacture lumber. Two years previous to the time, J. B., T. A., and R. B. Rogers had purchased the eighty acres of land where the sawmill was afterward located. In the fall of 1890, J. B. Rogers sold his interest to the other members of the firm, and in August, 1895, our subject disposed of his share in the mill to his partner, and bought the eighty acres of land, which he is now successfully operating.

On the 28th of November, 1883, in Monroe, Mich., Mr. Rogers married Miss Merilla Marsh, a native of Lake township, and a daughter of Luke Marsh, a farmer. They have no children of their own, but have an adopted daughter, Flossie, who has made her home with them since

the age of two years. In his political views Mr. Rogers is a Republican, and has served as a member of the school board of District No. 11, Bloom township. He is classed by his fellow-citizens as one of the public-spirited and representative men of the township, and the competence he has secured is the just reward of his own labors, as he has had to make his own way in life since the early age of fourteen years.

ISRAEL BOROUGHF was born in Sandusky county, Ohio, May 13, 1842, and is a son of Peter and Sophia (Felger) Boroughf. His parents were natives of Pennsylvania, but were married in Wayne county, Ohio, whence they afterward removed to Sandusky county. The mother died January 19, 1889, at the home of our subject. The children of the family were Eliza, who died in infancy; Eli, a machinist and engineer of Toledo, Ohio; Sarah, wife of James Daringer, of Richland county, Ohio; Israel; Mary Catherine, who died in girlhood; Caroline, deceased wife of Horatio Van-Tassel; and Samantha, who died at the age of eleven years. Frederick Boroughf, a member of the family, was a soldier in the war of 1812.

Our subject was a child of eleven years when the mother removed with her family to Bellevue, Huron county. In July, 1863, he enlisted in the 1st Ohio Heavy Artillery, then went from Cincinnati to Covington, Ky., and on to the South. After the close of the war, he was honorably discharged in July, 1865, and arrived home on the 10th of August. He has since followed agricultural pursuits. His educational privileges were limited, but, through extensive reading and experience, he has become a well-informed man. In February, 1866, he arrived in Wood county, where he worked as a farm hand for a time, and later operated land on shares. He was also employed in a brickyard near Weston for two seasons.

In Milton township, May 3, 1870, Mr. Boroughf married Miss Emma Jane Morehouse, who was born September 20, 1852, in Wood county. Their children are: Elmer, who is married, and lives in Milton township; Charles, Henry and Fred, at home; Carrie, who died at the age of seventeen months; and Lucy and John.

In 1874 Mr. Boroughf purchased sixteen acres of land, which he afterward sold, and rented a farm in Grand Rapids, for three years. His present home comprises forty acres in Section 11, Milton township, improved with good buildings, while the well-tilled fields yield to him a comfortable income. He started out in life a poor boy, but diligence and unflinching determi-

nation have secured to him a comfortable home. In politics he was formerly a Republican, but for ten years he has been a stalwart Prohibitionist.

WILSON HAMILTON, a prominent stockman and agriculturist of Montgomery township, was born in Richland county, Ohio, August 15, 1841, a son of Edward and Louisa (Miller) Wilson, who moved to Huron county when our subject was five years old. As they were poor, young Wilson's schooling was necessarily limited, for at an early age he was put to work on the farm, and remained at home until he was twenty years of age, working for as low wages as \$4 per month.

On August 4, 1862, Mr. Hamilton enlisted at Havana, Huron county, in Company D, 101st O. V. I. under Capt. H. C. Sheldon. The regiment camped at Monroeville until September 4, of that year, then went to Cincinnati, and later to Kentucky, where its first battle was fought at Perryville. Our subject participated in all the engagements of his regiment until September 20, 1863, when he was wounded and taken prisoner at Chickamauga; for thirteen days he was confined at Crawfish Springs, Ga., and was then paroled and sent to the field hospital at Chattanooga, and later to Bridgeport, Ala., and Hospital 19, at Nashville; he was then sent to the parole camp at Columbus, Ohio, thence home on a furlough. At Camp Chase he was discharged in August, 1864, and returned home in a much-used-up condition; he, for one year, was engaged as a stage driver between Havana, Steuben, North Fairfield, Peru, and Norwalk, Ohio, making tri-weekly trips of forty-five miles a day. Previous to locating at Prairie Depot, he had been in the grocery business on a small scale at Havana. In July, 1865, he was employed by Halladay & Owen in Huron county, and later became a partner in the firm, after which he became identified with the Toledo Wheel Co., of Toledo, Ohio, and later had charge of their mill at Portage, Wood county. Returning to Huron county, he entered into partnership with E. P. Halladay in the lumber business, until 1890, which business is now conducted under the firm name of Halladay & Hamilton. This firm continued in the lumber business at Prairie Depot from 1871 to 1890, since which time they have been exclusively carrying on agricultural pursuits, and are among the most extensive farmers in Wood county.

On October 8, 1879, Mr. Hamilton was married to Miss Frances E. Spalding, a native of Michigan, and a daughter of Carlos Spalding, a farmer of Eaton county, Mich. The following children were born to them: Irma A., still at

home; Louisa L., who died at the age of four years; Fanny A., and Wilson E. also at home. Mr. Hamilton is a Republican, and has held the offices of township treasurer, township clerk, mayor of Prairie Depot, member of the city council, and was appointed county commissioner to fill a vacancy, but declined to accept. He is a man who deserves great credit for the manner in which he has managed his business, and his success may be attributed to his thorough knowledge of all its details, no matter how trifling. He is quiet and unassuming, and is regarded as one of the representative business men of Wood county. He has one of the most luxuriously furnished homes in Prairie Depot, in which it is his pleasure to entertain his many friends and warm admirers.

BARNARD PHILLIPS, a farmer in good standing in Washington township, successful as a tiller of the soil, and one who has been prominently identified with local affairs, is the proprietor of a fine farm of 120 acres, well improved and supplied with a good set of farm buildings. He is one of the pioneers of his township, and there the greater part of his life has been passed, aiding in all those interests calculated to promote the welfare of his local community, and the county at large. The Empire State has furnished many worthy citizens to Ohio, and not the least among these is our subject, who was born in Kinderhook township, Columbia county, December 27, 1827. His father, John Phillips, was of German parentage, born in the town of Ghent, Columbia Co., N. Y., in 1805, and there he grew to manhood. In New York he met and married the mother of Barnard, who bore the maiden name of Elsie Van Valkenburg, and was of Holland origin. Their union was blessed with eleven children, who were named as follows: Almira, wife of Lemuel Johnson, of Massachusetts; Barnard; Eliza, who died in infancy; Jane E., a resident of Evanston, Ill., and the widow of George Shaw; Sarah A., who is the widow of Lyman Chapman, and lives in Tontogany; William and Francis, both deceased; Caroline, wife of Daniel Huffman, of Wood county; John, a farmer of Washington township; Byron, of this county; and Elsa, wife of Jeremiah Hoffman, of Grand Rapids, Ohio. While a resident of Massachusetts, the father was, for some time, superintendent of a cotton mill; but on coming to Ohio, in 1855, he purchased 100 acres of partially improved land in Washington township, to which he devoted his entire time and attention, and there passed his remaining days.

The school training which Barnard Phillips received was quite meagre, being limited to only a six-months' attendance at a public school when ten years of age, so that he is almost entirely self-educated. Learning the machinist's trade, he followed that occupation for six years; but, owing to ill health, he was compelled to seek some other employment, and bought 100 acres of land in Washington township, which he afterward sold to his father, then becoming the owner of the fine farm which he still has in his possession.

Mr. Phillips was united in marriage with Eliza Kuder, a daughter of Solomon Kuder, the ceremony taking place on the 17th of October, 1858. The lady was born on Christmas Day, 1831. By her marriage she has become the mother of four children, as follows: Elsie, born October 25, 1859, died while young. John S., born November 6, 1861, was married January 16, 1890, to Harriet N. Ross, by whom he has one child, Aldace, born November 19, 1894 (his vocation is that of farming, and he still resides on the old homestead, aiding in its development); Katie E., born August 7, 1866, is a music teacher. Lucy M., born August 12, 1872, completes the family.

Mr. Phillips was one of the brave boys in blue during the Civil war, having enlisted at Tontogany, May 2, 1864, in Company B, 144th O. V. I., under Capt. Black and Col. Miller, and from there the troops went to Columbus, on to Fort McHenry and then to Camp Parole, where our subject was taken prisoner in July, 1864, near Frederick, Md. He was first confined in Lynchburg, then sent to Danville, and later to Richmond, and on being released weighed only ninety pounds, having, during the seven months of his incarceration, lost fifty pounds. He was honorably discharged at Columbus, April 6, 1865, and has never yet fully recovered from the effects of his army service. He now belongs to Walter A. Wood Post No. 48, G. A. R., of Tontogany, and in politics is identified with the Republican party. His son and two daughters are consistent and faithful members of the Presbyterian Church, and his wife holds membership with the Woman's Relief Corps. In their pleasant home they are surrounded by all that makes life worth the living, and in the enjoyment of the respect and confidence which they have won from their neighbors by their beneficent and upright lives.

FRANCIS M. WIRICK, a popular and leading citizen of Jerry City, is a native of Wood county, born December 30, 1860, at the home of his parents, David H. and Mary Ann (Smith) Wirick. During his early years he attended District



School No. 3, of Bloom township, where he acquired a fair common-school education, while at home he received the training which has been so valuable to him in carrying on agricultural pursuits. He remained upon the family homestead, assisting his father in his daily labors all through his boyhood, and for one year after his marriage.

That happy event was celebrated on June 22, 1885, Miss Mettie Swope becoming his wife. She was born in Jerry City, December 22, 1868, and is a daughter of Daniel H. and Sarah (Boyd) Swope. By her marriage she has become the mother of three children—Ida E., born May 1, 1886, and died in infancy; David C., who was born July 30, 1887, and died November 17, 1894; and Orpha M., who was born September 15, 1889. Mr. Wirick became the owner of eighty acres of land in Section 5, Bloom township, residing there until the spring of 1891, when he removed to Jerry City, there making his home for one year, but on the expiration of that time returned to his farm. Since November, 1894, however, he has resided in Jerry City, where he owns a pleasant home, though he still superintends the cultivation and improvement of the excellent eighty-acre farm. He is a practical, far-sighted business man, energetic and progressive, and takes a commendable interest in the welfare and advancement of his town and county. He uses his right of franchise in support of the Democratic party, and has been elected to the office of councilman.

**ROBERT PARGELLIS.** Among the residents of foreign birth who have sought homes in America and become valued citizens of their adopted land is this gentleman, a well-known farmer of Middleton township. He was born in Glasgow, Scotland, July 29, 1838, and is a son of Andrew and Elizabeth (Wright) Pargellis, also natives of Scotland, the former born in 1800, the latter in 1808. They were married in Glasgow, where the father carried on business as a wholesale stationery merchant for some years. In 1843 he brought his family to the New World, and became a resident of Wood county, purchasing 160 acres of land on Hull Prairie. To the city-bred man, who had enjoyed all the advantages and conveniences of metropolitan life, the difficulties of frontier life and the labor of developing a farm might well seem appalling, but after a time the land began to put on a semblance of a good home and a well-cultivated farm. Mr. Pargellis died in 1855, his wife in 1888. They were consistent Presbyterians in religious faith, and the first members of

Hood Church, on Hull Prairie. In politics he was an Old-line Whig.

The family numbered seven members—Alexander, a farmer of this county; Robert; Andrew, a farmer of Middleton township; Duncan, who in early childhood was burned to death while his father was clearing the land; Margaret, who is keeping house for her brothers; Oswald, who died in Kansas; and one who died in infancy.

Our subject was a child of five summers when the family crossed the Atlantic, and on the home farm was reared to manhood. After attending the district schools he spent one term at Perrysburg. He was married November 1, 1863, to Emily Crook, a native of Perrysburg, born August 8, 1842. The following children graced their union: Frederick R., of Toledo; Etta, wife of Frank Horton, by whom she has three children, Ilo, Leo, and Laura; Mortimer B., who is employed in Toledo; Ella, who is keeping house for her brothers in that city; Gertrude and Margaret, at home; and Wright and Henry, twins. The first child died in infancy.

Upon his marriage Mr. Pargellis located on his present farm, where he now owns eighty acres of rich land that is under a high state of cultivation and well-improved. He manifested his loyalty during the Civil war by enlisting, in 1861, in Company C, 21st O. V. I., in which he served for three months, in West Virginia. He now belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic, and his religious connection is with the Presbyterian Church. The Republican party claims his political support, and he is a progressive citizen, who co-operates with all measures calculated to benefit the community. He is a well-informed man, of high moral principle and genuine worth, and has the respect of all.

**DANIEL SCHEREIN** was born December 23, 1817, in Mecklenburg, Germany. His parents, Johan Kaspar and Katrina (Bircher) Scherein, were also natives of that locality, where the father carried on business as a florist. His entire life was spent in his native land. His children were Benjamin, deceased; Caroline, Dena and Theodore, who have passed away; Ferdinand, who is living in Cleveland, Ohio, and Daniel.

Our subject acquired a good education in the land of his birth, and learned the trade of gardening with his father. At the age of twenty-two he entered the German army, and during his three-years' service participated in a number of important engagements. In 1836 he sailed from Antwerp for the New World, and on landing

made his way direct to Rockport, near Cleveland, Ohio. When he reached that place he was almost penniless; but he possessed a resolute purpose and energy, and soon secured work in a sawmill, being employed in that capacity for about fifteen years. He then came to Wood county with his wife, whom he had married in Rockport. She bore the maiden name of Catherine Koch, and was a native of Ohio. In connection with his brother Ferdinand, our subject purchased all of Section 20, Milton township, and erected a sawmill on the present site of Custar, the first in this section of the county. Near by he built a log cabin, and thus began life in Wood county. There were many hardships and difficulties to be experienced, but his energies overcame these. In 1874 his first wife died. Their children were Lena Myer, now deceased; Anna and Richard, who have also passed away; Eva, wife of Fritz Wismer, of Milton township; Daniel, now of Michigan; Mary, who is keeping house for her brother-in-law; and Albert, in Detroit, Michigan.

For his second wife, Mr. Scherein married Mrs. Louise Kaiser, who was born in Westphalia, Germany, April 22, 1838. She first married Kaspar Kaiser in 1861. He was a slate-roofer by trade, and two children were born to them in Germany—Mrs. Ida Sawada, now deceased; and Annie, at home. In 1861, Mr. Kaiser sailed with his family for America, on a vessel which weighed anchor at Hamburg, Germany—the "Germania." They were three weeks upon the way when the vessel sprang a leak, and had to return to Southampton, England, for repairs. It was five weeks later before it reached New York. Going to Cleveland, Mr. Kaiser was there employed at his trade, receiving \$5 per day for his services. In the fall of 1869, he came to Wood county, and purchased twenty acres of land of our subject. His death occurred March 24, 1874. His children were: Ida, born April 16, 1863; Annie, born September 21, 1865; Robert, born August 18, 1868, and died at the age of nine months; Lena, born August 12, 1870; and Julia, born February 26, 1873, and died at the age of six years. In 1875 Mr. Scherein and Mrs. Kaiser were married and they became the parents of one son—Theodore—who was born March 26, 1876. He is now operating the home farm, which comprises forty-five acres of land. Mrs. Scherein is a member of the Lutheran Church.

WILLIAM N. TRACY, a wide-wake business man and a prominent fruit grower of Ross township, is descended from good old Revolutionary

stock, his grandfather and the latter's oldest son having taken up arms against the Mother country, and aided the Colonies in their struggle for independence. His father, Doria Tracy, was born in Richmond, Mass., in 1808, of Yankee parentage, and by occupation was a lumberman. He married Almira Nichols, and they became the parents of three children—Francis, born in 1842, is married, and is a brick manufacturer of Toledo, Ohio, residing on Twenty-second street, between Madison and Jefferson; William N. is the second in the family; Catherine is the wife of J. G. Lamson, living at No. 1216 Jefferson street, Toledo. The mother, who was a Congregationalist in religious belief, died in Toledo, July 3, 1879, and was there interred. In 1840 the father removed to New York, later came to Ohio, and now makes his home with his daughter in Toledo.

The birth of our subject occurred May 11, 1846, and he grew to manhood at Cuba, Allegany Co., N. Y. On December 26, 1866, he was united in marriage with Sarah Foster, daughter of Elijah Chester Foster. Her mother, who bore the maiden name of Almeda Bailey, was a member of the Methodist Church, and died when her daughter was but seven years old. Mrs. Tracy is the eldest in a family of four children, the others being Amos H., who was a member of the 85th N. Y. V. I. during the Rebellion, and died in the service; Miner A.; and John D. Three sons grace the union of our subject and his wife—Clarence A., born in October, 1867, married Anna Messer, by whom he has two children, Margaret and Helen Virginia, and now resides in Oregon township, Lucas Co., Ohio; William E., born November 11, 1868, married Jennie Messer, by whom he has two sons—Marion D. and William Curtis, and one daughter, Hazel; and Doria, born May 29, 1871, also lives at home.

The year 1867 witnessed the emigration of Mr. Tracy to Ohio, and his locating at his present residence; he made the trip from the Empire State with a team, which was presented him by his father, and was valued at \$600.00. Two weeks were consumed in making the journey. On account of ill health he went to the pineries in 1872, where he remained for eight years, returning in 1881. Upon forty-five acres of the 150-acre tract belonging to his father, he began fruit culture, and so successful has he been in his undertaking, that his receipts now amount to \$4,000.00 annually. He formerly sold his fruit through commission men, but now through his son, marketing as high as a thousand baskets per week at Bowling Green, and handles all kinds of fruits that grow in this section of the

country, having upon his places four acres planted in strawberries, ten in raspberries; three in blackberries; 3,000 bushes, or two and one-half acres, in currants; four acres in grapes; 500 gooseberry bushes; 200 bearing cherry trees; 1,000 plum trees; 500 peach trees; 500 two-year-old peach trees; 150 apple trees; 100 pear trees; 100 trees of miscellaneous fruits, including apricots, quinces and plums of different varieties, as experiments; and also some Kansas wild plums. He has erected two good houses upon his place, and remodeled another at a cost of \$1,000.00, while, in 1890, he laid four miles of tiling.

In 1890 and in 1891, Mr. Tracy was elected, and acceptably served as, president of the Lucas County Horticultural Society, and for two terms his wife was also president of the Ladies' Floral Society. In 1894 he was elected trustee of Ross township, in which capacity he is now serving, and before going to the pineries he was school director for the same length of time. At local elections he votes independently; but on national affairs he supports the Republican party. Though not members of any Church, Mr. and Mrs. Tracy favor the Congregational belief, and give their earnest support to all interests that will advance the moral welfare of the community, while she has served as president of the ladies' society in the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is a member of the Ford Circle (now of the G. A. R.) Aid Society.

HENRY R. SCOTT, well known throughout Ross township and vicinity, came to Ohio in 1848, stopping first in Oregon township, Lucas county, where he made his home until 1870. In that year he purchased forty acres of land pleasantly located in Section 32, Ross township, Wood county, in the cultivation and improvement of which he has since been industriously engaged, with most satisfactory results.

Mr. Scott is a native of Canada, where his birth took place in October, 1847, at the home of his parents, John A. and Barbara (Horton) Scott, who were born, reared and married in that country. In 1848 they removed to Oregon township, Lucas Co., Ohio, where, in the midst of the wilderness, the father opened up a farm, and there served as assessor. Later he became a resident of Ross township, this county, where his death occurred in 1890. The widowed mother now makes her home with John E. In the family were seven children, six of whom are still living—Michael J., of Ironville, Ohio, during the Civil war enlisted in Lucas

county, in the one-hundred-days' service; Henry R. is next in order of birth; Mrs. Sarah Stalker makes her home at East Toledo, Ohio; Adda is the wife of Archibald Stalker, of Walbridge, Ohio; Mrs. Eva Miller lives in Lake township, Wood county; and John E. is married and resides in Lake township.

The boyhood and youth of our subject were passed upon his father's farm in Oregon township, Lucas county, where he attended the district schools, and received his first training in farm work. There he was married on February 8, 1870, the lady of his choice being Miss Elizabeth H. Ford, who was born in England, and was a daughter of William H. Ford, also a native of that country, who at an early day located in Perrysburg, now Ross, township, this county. In 1863 he went to California, where his death occurred in 1892, but his wife died in this State. On December 25, 1889, Mrs. Scott departed this life. She was a most estimable lady, and left many friends as well as her immediate family to mourn her death. Three children had been born to our subject and his wife, but two died in infancy. The one now living is Roland R. Mr. Scott, believing in the guide of the Sacred Book, "It is not good for man to be alone," was married on December 18, 1895, to Miss Alice Loraine Matthews, of Lake township, this county. She was one of Wood county's most popular teachers, being successfully engaged in the public schools for more than sixteen years, and her acquaintance throughout the county is extensive. Her character and work are most excellent; she was educated at the Ada (Ohio) Normal University, and has gained the esteem of all who know her. Politically, Mr. Scott is a staunch Republican, strongly upholding the principles of that party, and for four years has served as assessor of his township. He is a true citizen in every respect, and has an excellent reputation as a straightforward and upright man.

JOHN LEWIS MCCOLLEY, deceased, was for many years a prominent and influential farmer of Washington township, and was one of the brave soldiers who aided in the preservation of the Union. His birth occurred in Derby, Conn., December 16, 1821, and he was a son of John and Betsy (Hart) McColley, the former of whom was a native of Kinderhook, N. Y., and while a resident of the East was the owner of an ocean vessel. On coming to Ohio, in 1839, he bought an interest in a vessel sailing on the lakes.

The literary education of our subject was obtained in the schools of Connecticut, and on

coming to Ohio, he followed the lake as a mariner until 1861. August 3, 1862, at Toledo, Ohio, he enlisted in the 100th O. V. I., and earned an honorable military record. At Limestone Station, Tenn., September 8, 1863, he was taken prisoner, and was confined in Lynchburg, Belle Isle and Libby prisons; on December 24, following, he was paroled at Belle Isle, and at Cincinnati, May 19, 1864, he was transferred to the navy department, serving on the U. S. Steamer "Vindicator." On January 11, 1865, he was sent to Pinckney Hospital, at Memphis, Tenn., from which he was discharged the following April on account of disability. He saw much hard service, and was ever found at his post of duty. On returning home Mr. McColley purchased forty acres of rich land in Washington township, adjoining forty acres owned by his wife, which he greatly improved, making it one of the best farms of the locality. There he died February 26, 1886, leaving a devoted family and many friends to mourn their loss. His political support was given to the Republican party, and for one year he served his fellow-citizens as trustee. Before the war he held membership with the I. O. O. F. Lodge at Perrysburg, Ohio. He was affiliated with Walter A. Wood Post, G. A. R., at Tontogany.

In Plain township, January 23, 1848, Mr. McColley married Miss Margaret Ann Kuder, who was born in Tiffin, Ohio, July 17, 1826, and they became the parents of three children: (1) Francis A., born in Washington township, October 30, 1848, died January 22, 1869, at the age of twenty years. (2) Carrie S., born in Perrysburg, January 21, 1854, now the wife of Patrick O. Carrol, of Toledo, Ohio, by whom she has a daughter, Maggie, born May 22, 1880. (3) Cornelia M., twin sister of Carrie S., died March 15, 1872, at the age of eighteen years. The family attend the Presbyterian Church, are widely and favorably known throughout Wood county, and Mrs. McColley, during her residence here, has made many warm friends.

GEORGE W. WAGONER, one of the leading merchants of Stony Ridge, is a man who combines the virtues of energy and pluck, with excellent judgment, which has brought great success to his efforts and labors. He is a native of Lake township, born in 1861, and is a son of Joseph and Eliza (Conrad) Wagoner, natives of Pennsylvania. The maternal grandfather, John Conrad, was born in the Keystone State, and became one of the first settlers of Lake township, Wood county. On their arrival in this county the parents of our subject were single, and their mar-

riage was celebrated in Lake township. By trade the father was a cooper, but also followed farming. In 1864 he entered the Union army, and was a member of Company G, 189th, O. V. I., and died of typhoid fever at Huntsville, Ala., September 9, 1865. His body now rests in the National Cemetery at Chattanooga, Tenn. The mother died on the old homestead in Lake township in 1881. In their family were six children: Mary Emma, wife of James McCutchen, of Stony Ridge, Ohio; Samuel E., of Lake township; Henry H.; William W.; George W., of this sketch; and Loretta Jane, who died October 13, 1877.

George W. Wagoner spent his boyhood on the home farm, receiving the usual educational advantages in the common schools of Perrysburg township, and from his mother a good training in the duties of life, so that he was well prepared to make his way in the world. At the age of sixteen he began to learn the carpenter's trade, and after a four-months' apprenticeship took a contract to build a large barn. In 1881 he came to Stony Ridge, and, with his brother Henry, purchased a sawmill and engaged in contracting and building. In 1885 they opened a general store, which they conducted for about five years, when the partnership was dissolved. Later our subject built a store, which he sold in 1890, and in 1893 erected his present building, where he carries a full line of hardware, and has succeeded in building up a liberal patronage. He also deals extensively in grain, owning a grain elevator, and doing a large business at Stony Ridge, and still owns his sawmill and a good farm in Perrysburg township.

In 1884 Mr. Wagoner was united in marriage at Stony Ridge with Miss Hattie E. Morse, a native of Perrysburg township, and a daughter of Lewis and Jane (Hoffard) Morse, who were also born in that township. Five children grace this union: Esther J., Iva E., Festus G., Rhea E., and Vir-da E. Mr. Wagoner is a Republican in political faith, attends the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is a gentleman of sterling integrity and honorable principles, enjoying the esteem and confidence of the entire community.

WOLFGANG KELLERMEIER (deceased) became one of the representative citizens of the county. Seeking a home in America, he made the most of his opportunities, and won here a comfortable property, and the high regard of those with whom he came in contact. He was born in Baiern (Bavaria), Germany, September 19, 1816, and there, in accordance with the laws of his native

land, he was educated, and served in the German army. His occupation was farming, which he followed in the Fatherland until 1854, when he came to America, making his first location in Toledo, Ohio, where he spent two years working as a laborer. His desire, however, being to secure a home, he believed he could do this better outside of the city. Accordingly, in 1856 he came to Middleton township, and worked as a farm hand until he had saved enough to purchase thirty acres of land, which he improved. To this he added, in 1875, a forty-acre tract, which he cleared and cultivated, and erected buildings thereon, until the once wild region was replaced by waving fields of grain. Industrious and energetically he continued his labors until he won a place among the substantial citizens of the community.

On August 16, 1860, in Middleton township, Mr. Kellermeyer wedded Mrs. Mary Auth Celler, who was born in Germany, October 10, 1836, and was the widow of Joseph Celler. The following children were born of this marriage: Frances, born May 17, 1861, is the wife of Marcus Wideman, of Toledo, and has four children; Barbara, born March 9, 1863, is the wife of Frank Kessler, of Toledo; Wolfgang, born January 4, 1864, now operates a part of the old homestead; John, born December 5, 1867, aids his brother in this work; Katie, born September 10, 1869, is the wife of George Schwind, a farmer of Middleton township; and Joseph, born September 16, 1873.

Our subject was a Democrat in politics, and served for three years as school director. He was a liberal supporter and faithful member of the Catholic Church, and led an industrious, exemplary and honorable life, which was ended on August 14, 1895. His death was widely and sincerely mourned, for he had many friends who held him in high regard for his excellencies of character. Mrs. Kellermeyer, an estimable lady, still survives her husband, and is keeping house for her sons. The management of the farm now devolves upon John, who is a wide-awake, progressive business man, and is successfully conducting the old homestead. He is an advocate of the Democratic party, and his Church affiliations are Roman Catholic.

JOHN G. HOFFMANN, leading grocer of Perrysburg, and one of the most successful of the self-made men of his vicinity, was born in Bavaria, Germany, September 18, 1840.

In 1852, he came to America with his parents, George Frederick and Margaret (Shutz) Hoff-

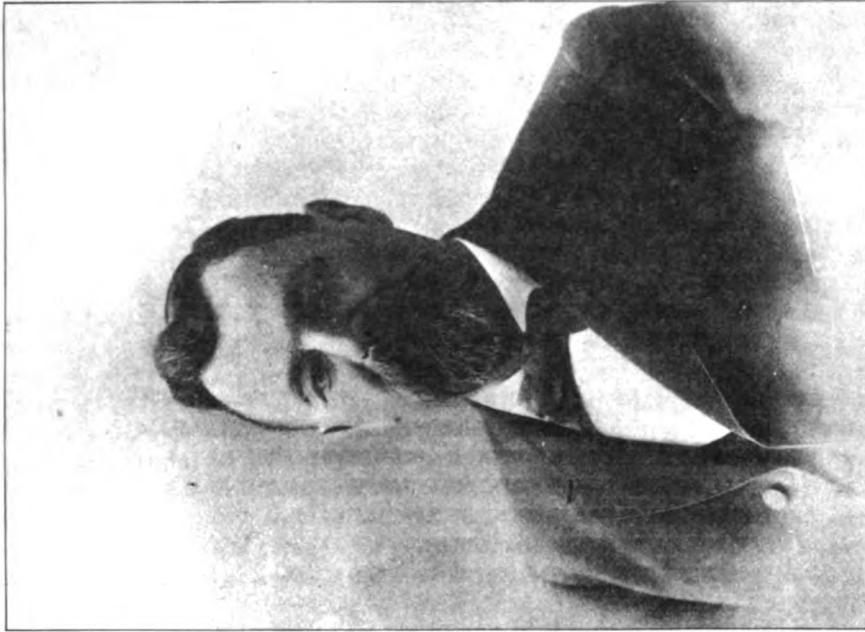
mann, who died two years later of cholera, the mother on July 21, and the father on the 24th of the following month. Six children were left to fight the battle of life alone, and the subject of this sketch at once began to learn the butcher's trade. Five years later he started in business for himself, and continued the same until the outbreak of the Rebellion, when he responded to his country's call to arms. At the expiration of his term of enlistment, he was honorably discharged, and then returned to the butcher business, in which he continued till 1882. He then sold out and opened a grocery and saloon, which he still conducts; he also owns a farm and vineyard, and is one of the most extensive wine dealers in Wood county.

Mr. Hoffmann was married November 25, 1863, to Miss Catherine Cornelius, a native of Perrysburg, born April 3, 1848. Twelve children were born of this union, of whom nine are living: George Frederick, born April 18, 1867, who married Lulu Witzler, and has two children—Ernest and Edgar; Katie, married to Lawrence Harbauer, of Pemberville; Mamie, at home; Charles H., born December 4, 1874, who is his father's assistant in business (he married Miss Mamie Schlecht, of Perrysburg, and has one child—Leonidas Charles); and Regina, Alexander, William, Eva and Lillian, all five at home.

Mr. Hoffmann's success in all his undertakings is the more remarkable because he had but a limited English education. He received a good German education in his native land, and in this country attended a private English school for a short time. He possesses fine native abilities, as well as great energy, and has made good use of such facilities as have come in his way during his busy life. He is a Democrat in politics, and in religious faith is a Roman Catholic.

D. LUCAS, deceased, in his lifetime a leading business man of Perrysburg, was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, February 17, 1820. At the age of twenty-seven, after several years experience as a clerk in a grocery in his native place, he came to America, first locating in California. As he possessed, in abundant measure, those admirable business qualifications which distinguish the better class of the German-born citizens in this country, he was not long in securing a foundation for the wealth which he left to his family at his death. After three years spent in the Golden State, he came, in 1854, to Perrysburg, and engaged in the retail grocery business.

On June 28, 1850, he married Miss Margaret



*John L. Hoffmann*



*Bathorne Hoffmann*



C. Warns, who was also a native of Hanover, born June 8, 1834. Her parents, Poppe and Margaret Warns, came from the Fatherland in 1852, and settled in Perrysburg township, on the Maumee and Western Reserve pike, where they passed the remainder of their lives. Her father had been a miller and grain merchant in Germany, but his later years were spent in agricultural pursuits. For many years Mr. Lucas was the leading merchant in Perrysburg, retiring into private life in 1890. His career was characterized throughout by frugality and rare judgment in financial matters. On June 14, 1894, he died suddenly from sunstroke. He was a consistent member of the Lutheran Church, and the weight of his influence was always thrown on the side of progress.

He was a Republican in politics, and for several years served as township treasurer, besides on the school board a number of terms. In all respects he was a representative self-made man. He was not one to mix up much with the world. He loved justice, and observed the laws of business closely, giving to others their just dues with the same punctuality and conscientiousness as he demanded for himself. Thoroughly domestic in his nature, he devoted much time to his family, and to the study of literature. In German, English and French he was well versed, was also a student of Latin, and he continued his studies until the close of his life. As a financier and economist, he had few peers in northern Ohio; but, although he amassed wealth and took a reasonable pride in his acquisitions of land and other property, it was in the bosom of his family, he found that happiness which filled his cup of joy nearly full.

Mrs. Lucas survives her husband, and is a hale and young-looking lady to be a grandmother. Her eldest son, Henry, lives in the suburbs of Perrysburg; Celia married Ferdinand Wenz, a prominent civil engineer, of Perrysburg; Edward is living at home; Julia M., the youngest child, is one of the most popular ladies in the best circles in Perrysburg.

GEORGE H. FEASEL, a highly respected farmer of Montgomery township, was born November 21, 1830, in Fairfield county, Ohio. His parents, Henry and Jane (Kendall) Feasel, removed to Seneca county when our subject was three years old, and located on a farm in the woods, near the center of Liberty township. Here the father owned 100 acres of land, and on this place reared his family of nine children, five of whom were boys, and all of whom reached adult age.

He was a quiet, peaceful man, who never quarrelled with his neighbors, was never sued, and was known for miles around as "old uncle Henry Feasel." He lived to the age of eighty-four years, and his wife to that of seventy-two years, both dying in Liberty township.

Our subject was the youngest son and seventh child of his parents. His first schooling was in a building made of logs, whose windows consisted of one pane of glass, eight by ten inches. The seats were made of basswood logs, split in two, with sticks inserted for legs, while the writing desk, which extended all around the building, was made of boards laid on pins stuck in the wall. A chimney was built on the outside of sticks and mortar, and big logs in the fire place heated the room. Such was the kind of school houses in which the early pioneers of the West obtained what little schooling they had. Our subject was brought up as a farmer boy, and, it being in the days before threshing machines were invented, he was often kept at home from school to ride one of the horses while the wheat was being tramped out on the barn floor. When nineteen years old he left school, and the day after reaching his majority he started out to work for himself, his first occupation being that of chopping cord wood at twenty-two cents a day.

On January 22, 1854, when our subject was twenty-three years old, he was married to Elizabeth, daughter of Charles and Keziah Dicken, was born in Crawford county, Ohio, November 29, 1833. The children born of this union were as follows: Angeline married Philip Stump, and died in Montgomery township; Charles D. died in childhood; Mary J. married Jacob Dieter, and died in the same township; Sevilla B. died in childhood; Keziah D. married Frank Warner, and is deceased; Ann E. married James Hutton, and is also deceased; Henry G. is a farmer in the township; John W. lives in West Millgrove; Livona R. died in childhood; George W. resides with his father. The mother of these children died May 29, 1888, and is buried in Freeport cemetery. Mr. Feasel was married to his present wife October 10, 1889. She was the widow of A. J. Rainey, her maiden name being Regina Baker, and she is a daughter of Frederick Baker.

After our subject's first marriage he rented land in Jackson township, subsequently working the home farm of his father in Seneca county. Later he bought one-half of his father-in-law's farm, in Liberty township, of the same county, on which he lived until September, 1865, when he bought his present place in Sections 32 and



33, Montgomery township, which then comprised 190 acres, and of which he has since sold about seventy acres. He has about 110 acres of this land cleared and under good cultivation, and has a comfortable residence. This is the second house he has built on the place, the first one having been destroyed by fire. Mr. Feasel has always been a Republican, has been township trustee, and has held other local offices. He is a member of the Methodist Protestant Church, in which he has held office for over twenty-five years. He is a self-made man, and has been a hard worker all his life, but at present does not take an active part in farm work. He is highly respected for his upright, honest life, and is one of the best citizens of the township.

P. F. RICHARD, one of the pioneer settlers of Wood county, now living a retired life at Bowling Green, was born near the village of Noma, province of Alsace (then in France), August 21, 1815. His parents, David and Margaret (Britie) Richard, spent their lives upon their farm there, the father dying at the age of eighty-four, the mother at eighty-nine.

Our subject left home when he was nineteen years old, and came to America. He lived for a year and a half in Akron, Ohio, then came to Wood county, with one dollar remaining in his pocket at the end of the trip. He found work upon a farm at \$6.00 a month, and, with the thrift and foresight of the typical French farmer, began to look forward to owning a home of his own. August 18, 1842, he was married to Miss Samantha Shively, who was born in Clumbia county, Penn., October 15, 1825, the daughter of Henry Shively and his wife, Margaret McCarty, both of whom were natives of the same place. Her father was born May 28, 1802, and her mother March 10, 1804. They were married in 1824, and three years later moved to Wayne county, Ohio. In 1830 they went to Middlebury, Summit county, where they lived for four years, and then, with a small band of acquaintances, they came to Wood county; they traveled by ox-team, arriving, about the middle of April, at Bowling Green, then a settlement containing only two or three frame houses.

The Shively family, and David L. Hixon, with his family, occupied for some time a log cabin 12 x 14 feet, in what is now the southern part of the city. Mr. and Mrs. Shively bore the hardships of life in this new country most courageously, and lived to a good old age. Mr. Shively united with the Masonic order when he was twenty-one, and in later years was regarded

as the father of the local society, his venerable but well-preserved form and flowing white whiskers making a striking figure in the place of honor in all processions and gatherings. He died March 5, 1886, his wife having gone to her long rest May 5, 1879. They had ten children, of whom Mrs. Richard is the eldest. Of the others, the names with dates of birth are as follows: (2) Ambrose, May 26, 1829, married Jane Dubbs, and moved to Mahomet, Ill., where he was a wealthy and influential resident; he was killed by lightning July 28, 1884. (3) Albert, February 9, 1831, enlisted in the army from Grand Rapids, Ohio, and died in Texas, December 16, 1878, from the effects of wounds received in battle. (4) Lucinda, May 9, 1833, married Charles Groves, of Portage, Wood county, now living at Rolla. (5) Alfred, September 9, 1835, enlisted from Decatur, Ill., and was killed September 20, 1863, at Chickamauga. (6) Clay, January 15, 1837, also enlisted at Decatur, but returned in safety, and died February 26, 1890, at Papinsville, Mo. (7) Cynthia, September 15, 1839, is the wife of Benton Emery, of Henry county, Ohio. (8) Minerva, September 25, 1842, married Cicero Venette, of Bowling Green. (9) Alva, July 23, 1845, enlisted during the war, was captured and sent to Libby prison. He is now sheriff of Piatt county, Ill. (10) Charles Morrison, August 18, 1848, is a farmer in Center township.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard settled upon a farm in Center township, after their marriage, and still own 150 acres of land there. After forty-two years of labor, cheered by affection and rewarded by increasing prosperity, they retired from active business, and October 26, 1884, took up their residence in Bowling Green. Of their nine children, six are living. (1) Margaret, born July 8, 1843, married W. W. Alcorn, of Toledo; they have had three children, Minnietta died at the age of seven; Herbert R. lives in Toledo (he married Miss Grace Smead, of Boston, Mass., and has one child, Elizabeth Grace); Leon J., at home. (2) David H, born April 29, 1845, married Miss Florence Donaldson, and lives in Leipsic. (3) Frances, born June 12, 1847, died at the age of eight years. (4) Infant, born August 18, 1849, died when two days old. (5) Mary, January 6, 1851, is the wife of Charles Reed, of Toledo, who is deputy collector of customs, and editor of the Toledo *Sunday Courier*. (6) George, April 1, 1856, lives at the old homestead; he married Miss Alice Reed, and has four daughters—Leota, Glenna, Florence, and Marguerite. (7) Willis, June 12, 1859, married Emily Mills, of Perrys-

burg, and lives at Bowling Green. (8) Adella, March 24, 1864, died at the age of three. (9) Cora, born October 26, 1866, is the widow of Harry Remick; their only child, Grace M., is now at school in Toledo.

A young sister of our subject, Louise Richard, visited him some years ago, and while at Buffalo, on her way back to France, she was lost, and never heard from afterward. A half-sister, Catherine, the wife of Fredrick Peachim, died at Watseka, Ill., a few years since. His sister Catherine, whose husband, Fred Bossard, died in Cincinnati, Ohio, of cholera, lives in Bowling Green. Mr. Richard returned to France, in 1865, accompanied by his sister Catherine, and visited the old home. His first voyage had lasted forty-eight days, his second was made in eleven. Mr. Richard has many interesting stories to tell of old times. He was a Whig previous to the war, and was present at the great mass meeting at Fort Meigs, in 1840, also helped to haul the logs and build the miniature forts on that occasion. [Since the above was in type, we have learned of the death of Mr. Richard from congestion of the brain. For the past year his health has been failing, and on Wednesday evening, January 6, 1897, he was taken sick, death releasing him from his sufferings at 2:55 P. M. Thursday, January 7.—EDITOR.

LEE M. KLOPFENSTEIN, a prominent agriculturist, and dealer in stone and lime, residing near Bowling Green, was born in Center township, September 30, 1838, on the same estate which he now owns. His father, Peter Klopfenstein, was one of the leaders among the pioneers of this county, to which he came prior to 1839.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood at his father's home, and, even in his recollection, bands of roving Indians were a frequent sight. Once, while on his way to school, he saw an Indian on the Napoleon road, and ran from him in great fright. The Indian overtook him and soothed his fears, taking him by the hand and saying "Good Indian." They went hand-in-hand to the school house, where the dusky visitor remained all morning, showing great interest and curiosity over the proceedings. At noon the children gave him sweet cakes, and he ate heartily, departing afterward in the friendliest spirit. Mr. Klopfenstein completed his education in the schools of Bowling Green, and afterward worked upon the farm. He was married in 1860 to Miss Julia A. Elliott, who was born in Stark county, March 3, 1841. They have had five children: Charles, a silverware

plater and spectacle manufacturer at South Bend, Ind.; Arthur, a dealer in spectacles in the same town; Warren, who resides with his parents; Milton; and a daughter who died when four months old.

On May 2, 1864, Mr. Klopfenstein enlisted in Company C, 144th O. V. I., and served four months, losing a finger by an accident during the time. The war closing, he returned and worked on the old homestead, and re-opened a stone quarry, which his father, who was a pioneer in the lime-burning business, had worked twenty-six years before, his old rock house, still as good as new, having been built in 1857. Our subject burned and shipped lime for fifteen years, and is now taking out building stone for basements, filling large orders for Bowling Green and vicinity, and shipping also to other localities. He migrated to Summit county, Kans., in 1883, and remained three years, buying and selling real estate, and making large profits, but returned to his native county. His energy, rare business judgment and enterprising spirit give him high standing in business circles. Socially, he is a member of the G. A. R.

FRANK TAYLOR. Among the leading lawyers of North Baltimore is Frank Taylor, the subject of this sketch, who was born June 23, 1847, in Washington county, Md., at the foot of South Mountain. He has for more than twelve years practiced law in North Baltimore, making a specialty of equity cases. Mr. Taylor is the son of Emanuel and Sarah (Meyers) Taylor, the former of whom was born in 1829 in Washington county, Md., and died in the same county in 1875. He was a mechanic by trade, and when our subject was eight years old he removed to Gilboa, Putnam Co., Ohio, where he lived and worked at his trade for eleven years, thence going to Hancock county, Ohio, and finally returning to Maryland, where he died. Mrs. Taylor was also born in Washington county, Md., about 1829. After the death of her husband she returned to Ohio, and died in North Baltimore in 1887. Florence, the only daughter, married G. M. Wicks; she was a bright, intelligent woman, and died while attending the Fostoria (Ohio) Academy. On the paternal side the family is of English origin. Grandfather Taylor located in Pennsylvania, where he was married to a Miss Miller, of the same State, who was of Pennsylvania-Dutch stock, and they subsequently moved to Washington county, Maryland.

When our subject was about eight years old he came to Ohio with his father, and attended

the district school until twenty-one, afterward going to high school at Findlay. He next went to Heidelberg College, Tiffin, Ohio, and then for a short time to Oberlin, working his way through these colleges by teaching during his spare time. Returning to Maryland he taught school for three years, after which he removed to Hancock county, and on September 10, 1878, he took charge of the North Baltimore public schools as superintendent. He then took up the study of law, and was admitted to the bar May 4, 1886. Mr. Taylor has a fine library, well stocked with standard works and reference books. In politics he is a Democrat, and he is one of the leaders of his party, which he has represented as a national delegate to conventions. He has also been a candidate for leading offices on the Democratic ticket in Wood county, and although the Republican majority has always been large in the county, he has several times succeeded in reducing it materially.

Mr. Taylor was united in marriage, July 29, 1874, with Miss Mary Brown, who was born April 25, 1852, in Hancock county. His reputation as an excellent attorney extends throughout northern Ohio. With his wife he occupies one of the finest residences in the city of North Baltimore, and the generous hospitality of this couple leads them frequently to open wide their doors to their many friends and acquaintances.

MICHAEL HENNING, lumber merchant and dealer in sawmill supplies, was born in Stark county, Ohio, November 17, 1838. He is of German descent, both his parents having been born in Germany, his father, J. F. Henning, in Wittenberg, on October 21, 1805, and his mother, Elizabeth Henning, in January, 1810. They came to America, and were married in Philadelphia, Penn., afterward moving to Canton, Ohio, and from there to Akron. In the fall of 1839, they settled in Henry township, where Mr. Henning entered land for a farm. The neighborhood was at that time full of Indians, who came there during the winter to hunt. Mr. and Mrs. Henning remained on their farm until their death, he dying July 18, 1883, and she, July 16, 1875. In politics he was a Democrat. To them were born the following children: Henry, born January 17, 1836, died April 10, 1853; Frederick, born February 6, 1837, died March 6, 1849; Michael, our subject; Mary, married to William Hamman, of Hammansburg, Wood county; David, who lives on the old homestead; Elizabeth, who married Chris E. Galoway, and is now deceased; Margaret, born December 10, 1845, died May 15,

1868; Eliza, died July 15, 1884, at the age of twenty-seven; John, who was born April 8, 1849, died September 10, 1862; William, living at Hammansburg; Andrew, residing in North Baltimore.

Our subject was one year old when his parents came to Wood county. He attended the district schools, and worked on the farm until he was twenty-two years old. In 1867 he engaged in sawmilling at Hammansburg, and supplied all kinds of sawed and planed timber. After the oil fields developed, his business increased, and he was kept busy furnishing lumber for the wells. In 1893 he entered the business as an oil producer, and now has four wells in operation, producing ten barrels per day. There are seven wells on his farm which produce over 100 barrels per day, and he receives one-sixth royalty.

Mr. Henning was married, in Bowling Green, June 16, 1870, to Miss Olive O. Wilson, who was born in the State of New York, April 26, 1853. The following children have come to them: William, born June 29, 1871, who married Miss Cora Merch, and lives on the old homestead; A. G. W., born March 17, 1873; twins born September 29, 1875, both deceased; Charles, born September 9, 1876; Mary E., born February 14, 1879; and Earl R., born February 18, 1884. Mr. Henning is a member of the I. O. O. F. of North Baltimore. In political sentiment he is a Democrat. In 1870 he was elected land appraiser of Henry township, and in 1880 was again elected to that position. He was treasurer of the township for eight years.

The grandparents of Mr. Henning came from Germany to America at an early day, and lived east of Perrysburg. Mr. Henning is an enterprising citizen, and has the respect and esteem of all who know him.

WILLIAM M. WOLLAM, a prominent and highly respected citizen of Risingsun, traces his ancestry back to the French Huguenots, who, on account of their religious views, were driven from their native land, and sought homes on the banks of the Rhine, in Germany. Here they were also persecuted, and in order to enjoy greater religious liberty, they embarked for America, landing at Philadelphia, about 1700. The founder of the family was born in Carlsruhe, Baden, Germany, in 1684, and in Berkeley county, Va., in 1704, secured the lease to a tract of land, where his son Jacob, was born in 1715. The son of the latter, was also born there, in 1745. He bore the name of Baltzer, and his son Henry was born in 1777, on the same place, the lease of which expired in 1802.



*Michael Henning*



Baltzer Wollam wedded Mary M. Weaver, and to them were born eleven children, who, with their families became residents of Columbiana county, Ohio. In 1804, one of these, Henry Wollam, the grandfather of our subject, was united in marriage with Mary Bough, a native of Frederick county, Va., and in their family were seven sons and six daughters, all of whom reared families, and lived to an advanced age. Their mother died in her eighty-ninth year, and rests beside her husband in the old home-stead cemetery.

Benjamin Wollam, the father of our subject, was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, March 11, 1807, and died in Wood county, on April 6, 1887. On Christmas Day of 1832, he was united in marriage with Miss Susannah Smith, who was also born in Columbiana county, August 1, 1811, and died May 14, 1883. They came to Wood county in 1834, where he built a cabin and cleared some land; but in the fall they returned to Columbiana county. There they continued to make their home until 1838, when they again came to this county, this time erecting a good house and barn. They were prosperous in their undertakings, becoming quite well-to-do, and lived to see the county develop from the wilderness to one of the best counties of this commonwealth. Four children blessed their union: Mary, who died at the age of eight years; Leah, who was born January 5, 1835, married Gust. Crowel, and is still living at Risingsun; William M., subject of our sketch; and Henry S., who was born November 14, 1844, married Leah Stover, and died August 19, 1874.

Four brothers and two sisters of Benjamin Wollam also became residents of Wood county. The family has been well represented in the wars of this country, nearly every branch furnishing some soldiers to the Civil war, more than twenty in number. Henry B. Wollam, an uncle of our subject, was captain of a company, while Henry, his brother, enlisted in the 21st O. V. I., later in Wheeler's battery, and was subsequently transferred to the 57th O. V. I., with which he served until honorably discharged, owing to the effects of wounds received at the battle of Resaca. His grandfather was in the war of 1812, while his great-grandfather aided the Colonies in the Revolutionary war.

The maternal ancestors of Mr. Wollam were from Bavaria, Germany, and had a romantic history. The founder of the family in this country, who was born in 1714, served as coachman to Count Rothenbaugh, with whose daughter Catherine he fell deeply in love. As the affection

was reciprocated, and knowing that her parents would be opposed to the match, they planned an elopement. When she became of age, she received an old bread basket full of gold, and disguised as peasants they took passage on a vessel bound for Philadelphia, where they landed in 1736. They invested their capital in land, built mills and factories, and made other necessary improvements on their property, living in peace and plenty until gathered to their reward. Then came trouble to their heirs. The McDonnell heirs claimed priority to the estate by virtue of the "tomahawk right," and the courts ejected the Smiths. After this most of the family came to Ohio, where, by industry and economy, they soon had comfortable homes of their own.

John Smith, the maternal great-grandfather, was born in 1744, in Elizabethtown, Lancaster Co., Penn., and there died and was buried. In that county, Lewis Smith, the grandfather, was born in 1774; he died in Columbiana county, Ohio, in 1848. By one wife, Julia Fisher, he had a family of sixteen children, who were furnished with only limited educational privileges, but started out in life for themselves, with willing hands and a determination to succeed, soon securing comfortable homes here in the wilderness, where they lived to a good old age. One son, Lewis Smith, Jr., who served in the war of 1812, was at the siege of Fort Meigs, and during the war of the Rebellion, in which he also took part, died in West Virginia in 1862. Another son, Henry Smith, educated himself for the Methodist Protestant ministry, but afterward took up the study of medicine, a profession which he followed up to the time of his death, which occurred in Brantford, Washington Co., Kans., when in his eightieth year.

William M. Wollam, whose name introduces this sketch, was born near Cannons Mill, in Madison township, Columbiana Co., Ohio, April 18, 1838, and when he was only a few days old his parents loaded their effects into a wagon, drawn by oxen, and started for what was then called the West. The trip occupied about two weeks. They settled twenty-eight miles south of Toledo, in Wood county, on a piece of land which they had purchased from the government in 1833. Here our subject grew to manhood, with but limited facilities, however, for acquiring an education. In the summer he assisted in the work of the home farm, while in the winter he attended school, securing the best education that the schools of the locality afforded. The school houses were primitive structures of round logs, heated with a great gaping fireplace, while split

basswood logs served as seats and desks. Later he supplemented the knowledge there acquired, in a select school taught by Alfred Kelley, at West Millgrove, which he attended eight months. By close application to study and general reading, he now possesses a rare fund of knowledge, being familiar with books on nearly every subject, including medicine, theology, law, biography, travels and science.

On March 22, 1863, William M. Wollam was married to Miss Julia A. Bierly, who was born in Sandusky county, Ohio, January 28, 1845, only a mile and a half from her present home at Risingsun, Wood county. She is a daughter of David Bierly, whose birth occurred in Center county, Penn., December 6, 1805, and who is still living and quite active for one of his years, retaining all his faculties with the exception of hearing. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Magdalene Schellenberger, was born on Mt. Chemong, Switzerland, said to be in the Canton of Berne, and came to America with her parents when twelve years old. The Bierly family also contributed both privates and officers to the Union army during the Civil war, in goodly numbers. The original ancestor came to this country from Prussia. Quite a number of the family developed fine musical talent, and furnished an entire brass band for the army. Two cousins of Mrs. Wollam, Robert and Alfred Bierly, are well-known publishers of music in Chicago, and another cousin, John Buchtel, built and endowed the Buchtel College at Akron, Ohio.

Three daughters have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Wollam, in whom they may take just pride. (1) Dora H., born June 30, 1864, has taught in both the common and graded schools from an early age, giving general satisfaction, and is now taking a course at the Northwestern Ohio Normal University. (2) Lorain M., born May 27, 1865, married Albert Yambert, a well-to-do farmer, and they are now pleasantly situated on a farm of their own, consisting of eighty acres of good land, near Sycamore, Ohio; they have two children—Dale and Fern. (3) Laurel S., born July 22, 1867, married Frank Fry, by whom she had one son, Park, and they, too, have a pleasant home near Risingsun.

Mr. Wollam has been a lifelong Republican, and strongly supported McKinley for the Presidency, and his religious views are liberal, the Christian Church being his preference. He has never aspired to office; yet has served his fellow citizens in minor positions, with credit to himself, and satisfaction to all concerned. He now

owns a comfortable home of eighty acres within the corporation limits of the village of Risingsun, where the "latch-string is always out" to his hosts of warm friends. He is a quiet, genial gentleman, one who wins and retains the confidence and esteem of all with whom he comes in contact.

DAVID EDMONDS, one of Bradner's most influential and progressive citizens, is a worthy representative of a well-known pioneer family. He was born at the present site of the village, October 1, 1846, and no man stands higher than he in the esteem of the community where his life has been spent.

David Edmonds, his grandfather, was a soldier in the Revolutionary forces. His father, the late Daniel Edmonds, was born between 1795 and 1800, in what is now a part of New York State, but was then a disputed strip of land on the borders of that State and Pennsylvania. His parents came to Ohio during his boyhood, and settled near Gnadenhutten, Tuscarawas county, where he grew to manhood as a pioneer farmer's boy. In the war of 1812 he enlisted as a soldier, but was not allowed to serve on account of his youth. Of robust health and large build, he became a powerful man, and his blunt, out-spoken manner was typical of his forceful honest character, for which he was held in high esteem. He was married in Wayne county, Ohio, to Miss Mary Stahl, a native of that county, and daughter of Jacob Stahl, Sr., and in the latter part of the "thirties" they settled upon a tract of land in Montgomery township, where Bradner now stands. The deed was signed by President Andrew Jackson, and the log cabin built at that time was the first house in Bradner. While he was not a politician, he supported the Republican party in later years, and he was always active in local affairs of a non-political nature, being the founder of the M. P. Church at Bradner, and one of its leading supporters. He passed away in his eighty-sixth year, his wife following him when nearly ninety-one years of age, and both were interred at Bradner. This honored Christian couple had twelve children, namely: (1) Rebecca, the widow of George St. Clair, of Clinton county, Mich.; (2) Zephaniah, who made his home in Putnam county, Mo., and enlisted in April, 1861, in the 18th Mo.; (3) Catherine, Mrs. James Swaney, of Jackson county, Iowa; (4) Andrew, who died in early manhood; (5) Elizabeth, who married John Casebeer, and was killed by lightning at Blue Springs, Neb.; (6) Simon, who enlisted in Company K, 144th O. V. I.,

was captured August 13, 1864, near Berryville, Va., and died at Annapolis, Md., October 23, 1864; (7) Servetus L., who enlisted in same company and regiment as Simon, also captured near Berryville same time, and died at Wheeling, W. Va., March 25, 1865; (8) Naomi, who died in childhood; (9) Mary, also deceased; (10) David, our subject; (11) John, a real-estate dealer in Toledo; and (12) Rosanna.

Our subject attended the old "Prospect School," which had a fireplace of the primitive sort, and one of the tasks set the larger boys was the cutting and bringing in of huge logs for it in winter. The instruction of that day was also of a primitive order, and Mr. Edmonds has always been a warm supporter of advanced movements in educational matters, giving his influence, as president of the Bradner school board a few years ago, to the project of securing the new school house. As a boy, he experienced the life of a pioneer, and until the age of twenty-five, he remained at home assisting his father. In November, 1871, he was married in Montgomery township, to Miss Adaline Plantz, daughter of Joseph and Margaret Plantz. She died a year and four months after their union, leaving no children. For his second wife he married Miss Josephine Smith, a native of Sandusky county, and daughter of David Smith, and of this union two children were born: Wilbur P., August 4, 1884; and Roy McK., June 24, 1891. Mr. Edmonds' home was again darkened by death, this time on July 12, 1895, when his second wife passed over the borders of the unseen world. During the life of his parents, Mr. Edmonds made his home with them, caring for them as their health declined. In 1890 he built his present comfortable residence, on the corner of East and Crocker streets, Bradner.

As a business man Mr. Edmonds holds high rank. He owns a one-half interest in 123 acres in Section 12, Montgomery township, and some of the best oil territory in that locality, there being seventeen producing oil wells on his farm, of the products of which he has a one-sixth interest. Patriotic in spirit, he is wide-awake to the value of improvements, and in politics he is a staunch Republican. Aside from his valuable service on the school board, he has held a number of offices, including those of constable and assessor, and he was once elected mayor, but resigned a few days later. In religious affairs he is very active, holding various offices in the Methodist Protestant Church, and he belongs to the I. O. O. F., the Red Cross, the Royal Home, the Daughters of Rebekah, the Masonic Order (32nd

degree and a Scottish Rite Mason), and was a charter member of the K. of P. Lodge No. 429, at Bradner.

W. S. DEWITT, who is a successful farmer and a very popular citizen of Perry township, was born in Carey, Wyandot Co., Ohio, August 15, 1846, son of Charles and Alvira (Robinson) DeWitt. His father was born in Delaware, Ohio, December 20, 1816, and his mother March 29, 1815, in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

The grandparents of our subject settled in Wyandot county at a very early day. They were a hard-working couple, and passed away at a good old age, the grandfather being buried in Delaware county, the grandmother at Millgrove, Wood county. He was a mason by trade, and built the first brick house erected in Wyandot county, the completion of which he celebrated in a unique manner, by standing on his head on top of the chimney. Charles DeWitt was reared in Wyandot county, the family living in true pioneer style during his boyhood. The paternal home was a double log building, of which a portion was used as a school house in the early days. He learned the mason's trade of his father, and built many chimneys for the partially-civilized Wyandot Indians, whose language he learned to speak. On September 17, 1840, he was married in Wyandot county, and on January 2, 1855, removed with his family from Findlay, where he had been living for a year, to Perry township, where he had bought 160 acres lying in Section 4, paying cash for it. The journey was made in wagons, and Mr. DeWitt began at once improving his land and making of it a fine farm. He employed his time principally at this, although he did occasional work at his trade, and was very successful financially. He was a public-spirited man, and did much for the growth and development of the section in general. At the time of his death he was the owner of 204 acres, which he had acquired by his own exertions. Mr. DeWitt had a good common-school education, and taught school eighteen terms. He was a great reader, especially of the newspapers, and was better posted on current events than the average farmer, and a very entertaining companion. In his political affiliations he was first a Whig and later a Republican, and a staunch supporter of his party, although never an office-seeker. He was a stout, robust man, and his death was sudden, taking place January 25, 1865. His wife survived him until August 26, 1893, and they lie side by side in the cemetery at West Millgrove. Both were members of and liberal contributors to the Pres-



byterian Church at West Millgrove, with which they united in 1855. The children of this worthy couple were as follows: Oliver P., born January 19, 1842, died October 3, 1844; Henry C., born February 25, 1844, lives in Ottawa, Kans.; W. S. is our subject; Alvin C., born November 10, 1848, died September 4, 1850; Emma J., born January 6, 1852, died August 18, 1853.

W. S. DeWitt, whose name opens this sketch, obtained his first schooling at Carey and Findlay, and, after his parents' removal from the latter place, at West Millgrove, where his first teacher was Miss Cornelia Holcomb. He was a student for one term at Oberlin College; but his father's sudden death put an end to his school days, as he was needed at home to look after the estate. He went to work on the home farm, and in 1871 bought out the interests of the other heirs, and became its sole owner, his mother living there with him during the remainder of her life. He now has 220 acres of land under fine cultivation, and one of the best farms in the vicinity.

On February 1, 1872, Mr. DeWitt was married, at West Millgrove, to Miss Alma, the daughter of Seneca and Sarah (Foote) Leonard, who was born in Osceola, Ohio, October 25, 1851. To this union the following children have come: Charles Howard, who is teaching in Perry township; Frank, born June 11, 1875, who is also teaching school in Perry township; Althea, born October 8, 1877; Herbert, born November 11, 1880; Fred, born November 14, 1883; and Doretha, born November 15, 1892.

Mr. DeWitt has always been a staunch supporter of the Republican party, but has never cared to hold office. He has been a member of the school board in his district, and takes a deep interest in the cause of education. His wife is a member of the Congregational Church, and is a liberal contributor to religious and benevolent enterprises. Mr. DeWitt is an intelligent man, whose opinions are highly valued by his neighbors, and he is looked upon as a representative citizen of Perry township. He is a successful farmer, and has hosts of friends, who appreciate his many good qualities.

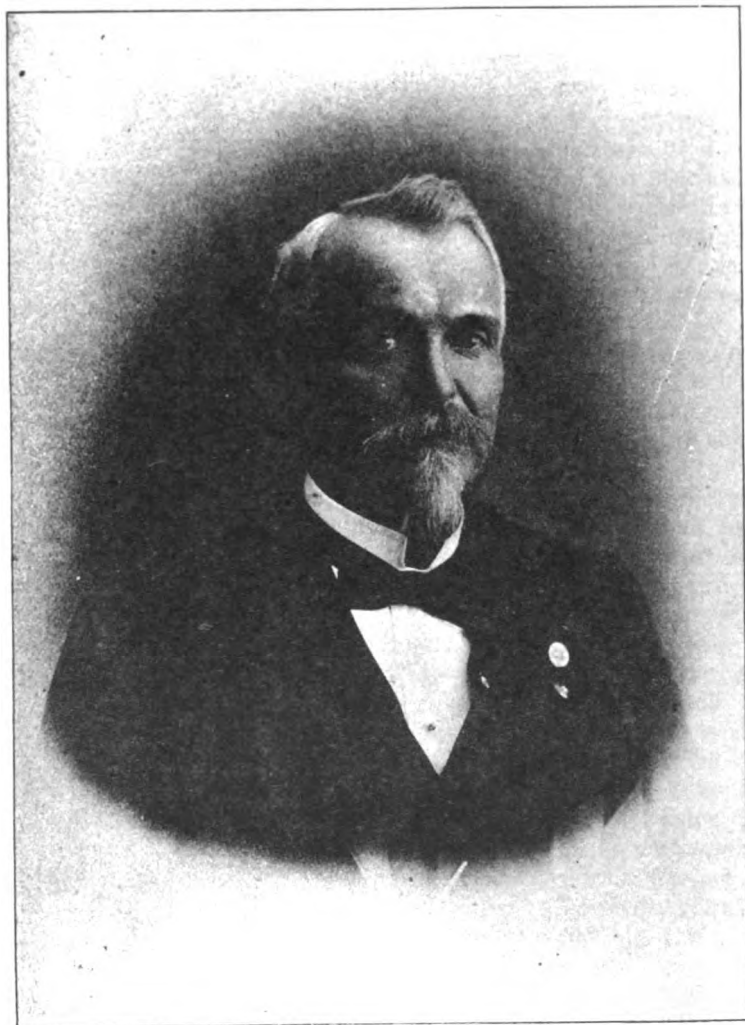
REUBEN SHOEMAKER, a well-known business man and agriculturist, of Bloom township, and a veteran of the Civil war, was born July 27, 1840, in Mahoning (then Trumbull) county, Ohio.

Joshua Shoemaker, his father, was born in eastern Pennsylvania, of wealthy parents, and was married there to Miss Polly Sitler, with whom he came, in 1838, to Ohio, one of his

brothers accompanying them. For some years the young couple made their home on a farm of sixty acres in Mahoning county, where our subject's mother died in 1842. His father afterward married Susan Renala, and moved to Homer township, Medina Co., Ohio, where he bought a tract of 101 acres of comparatively new land; but he died in 1848 before it was fully improved. He was a strong and energetic man, six feet in height and of good proportions. As he was prosperous in all his undertakings, he would doubtless have accumulated a fortune had he lived to carry out his plans. Three children were born of his first marriage: William, who died of scarlet fever at the age of seven; Leanda, now Mrs. John McGowan, of Youngstown, and our subject. The second wife was the mother of three sons: Charles, now of Perry county, Mich., who was a soldier in the 17th Mich. V. I.; James F., of Grand Rapids, who served in the O. V. I., and Joshua, who enlisted in the O. V. I., and died in the army.

Mr. Shoemaker's mother died when he was only two years old, and for some time he lived among strangers. After his father's second marriage he was brought home, and he accompanied the family on their removal to Medina county. He was eight years old at the time of his father's death, after which event he was sent back to Mahoning county, there making his home with Jonathan Mantz until he was twelve years old, when Mr. Mantz and his wife died of typhoid fever. He then went to live with John Handwork, remaining with him until he was seventeen, when his guardian hired him out to one Gabriel Cline at \$45. per year. He gladly returned to Mr. Handwork at the end of his term, and received \$6 per month for the summer season, and worked for his board and clothes during the winter, attending the district school. This was the last schooling he ever received, and previously his opportunities had been very limited. His native abilities are of a high order, and had he enjoyed better advantages he might have filled any station he chose. At nineteen he began to learn the cabinet maker's trade with John Gilbert, in Austintown, serving without a break for two years for \$25 and \$25 worth of tools. Coffins were made by hand in those days, and it was often necessary to work all night to complete an order, as none were kept on hand. He spent four years in all with Mr. Gilbert, and then entered the army, enlisting August 27, 1862, in Company F, 41st O. V. I., with Capt. Holloway. After three weeks drill at Warren he was sent to Cleveland to do guard





*Reuben Shoemaker*



Mary A. & Shoemaker



duty at the jail, a riot being threatened at the time of the first draft. Later he went to the front by way of Columbus and Louisville, being detailed on the 17th day of December, 1862, to do engineer duty, and at Stone River, his first battle, the stern realities of war were realized. His company was detailed to build bridges under fire from the enemy, and he was employed in that important and dangerous work many times before the close of the war. The 41st Regiment was one of the first to go to the front, and on the expiration of their term many re-enlisted, while a volunteer engineering regiment was formed to which Mr. Shoemaker was transferred, and when his term expired, two years later, he also re-enlisted, remaining with it. They often worked night and day, sometimes in water up to their necks, and no service done throughout the struggle required more courage and devotion to the cause than that of these unnoticed heroes. Mr. Shoemaker was promoted, in 1864, to the rank of corporal, and, in the spring of 1865, became sergeant of Company A, First U. S. V. V. Engineers, his command being given the charge of the stores used in his department—the Cumberland. He was discharged September 28, 1865, at Nashville, and, although he was offered a lucrative position at his trade in the South, he returned to his former employer, with whom he remained until the spring of 1866, when he went to Youngstown and engaged in painting. In July, 1866, he came to Wood county and invested his savings in a one-third interest in a sawmill at Bloom Center; but the investment was an unfortunate one for him, and he found it best to sell his share two years later for what he could realize. For some time he worked as a farm hand and at painting, as opportunity offered. He managed to save about \$800, and began to look forward to owning a home of his own.

On July 1, 1869, he was married in Henry township to Miss Mary A. E. Hamman, a native of Austintown township, Mahoning county, born December 30, 1852, the daughter of Samuel and Amanda Hamman, who came to Bloom township in the spring of 1853. Two children brightened this home, but were taken away in the first flush of youth: Liberta A., who died September 3, 1887, at the age of sixteen, and Charles S., who died August 24, 1887, at the age of twelve. Both are buried at North Baltimore.

For two years Mr. Shoemaker conducted his father-in-law's farm, and in August, 1871, he bought eighty acres in Section 18, upon which no clearing had been done, and the road east and west was hardly passable. He at once began

the work of transforming this place into a habitable and productive farm, a task in which he succeeded most creditably. The railroad cut off a portion of the estate, and he now has seventy-seven acres under cultivation. Always an admirer of horses, he has given attention to the breeding of good ones, and owns some excellent animals. Since 1888 he has been unable to do manual work, being sadly crippled by rheumatism, in which affliction he has the heartfelt sympathy of all who recall the exposures of his army life, from which, in all probability, it arose. He owns nine lots in North Baltimore, and is a stockholder in the furniture factory there, being at the present time its vice-president. Seven oil wells are in operation on his farm, out of fifteen that have been drilled, and he receives one-sixth of the oil, having an average income of \$125 per month from this source.

In politics Mr. Shoemaker is a staunch Republican, but he takes no interest in party work beyond the selection of competent officials. He is deeply interested in educational progress, desiring better opportunities for the children of to-day than he himself had, and he has been a school director for six years. Socially he was a charter member of Sill Post No. 57, G. A. R., at North Baltimore, and is also a charter member of Gen. Day Command, Union Veteran Union, of North Baltimore.

G. MAYO COOPER. There is probably not a finer farm in all its appointments in Perry township than the one being built up by the subject of this sketch, who is a young man still, and of whom, on account of his enterprise and industry, great things are expected in the future. He operates 208 acres of fertile land, the greater part of which is under cultivation, and admirably adapted to general farming.

The boyhood home of our subject was always in Perry township, and, in Section 20, his birth occurred September 19, 1859. At the age of seven years, he was taken by his parents, George and Emma (Jacques) Cooper to his present home, where he has acquired a good knowledge of agriculture in all its branches under the able instruction of his father, and his literary training was received in the common school of District No. 8, Perry township.

On May 4, 1892, Mr. Cooper was united in marriage with Miss Nora Adelsperger, the wedding ceremony being performed in Seneca township, Seneca Co., Ohio. The lady is a daughter of John and Mary A. (Albert) Adelsperger, the former a native of Maryland, and the latter of

Pennsylvania. They were married at Tiffin, and became the parents of thirteen children, twelve of whom are still living. One child graces the union of our subject and his wife—Camilla, born March 31, 1893.

Since the age of twenty-two, Mr. Cooper has had charge of the old homestead, 116 acres of which he bought April 1, 1896, has been very successful in his life work, and is one of the most prosperous citizens of the community. In politics he is a steadfast adherent to the principles formulated by the Republican party, although not a seeker after official position. With the Union Methodist Church he and his wife hold membership, and he is a teacher in the Sunday-school.

MARCENE HOBART, one of the leading business men of Pemberville, was born in Nelson township, Portage Co., Ohio, August 10, 1845. His father, John S., a native of New Hampshire, born in 1806, came to Ohio in company with his parents in 1814, settling in Fairfield county. The family has been represented in American history since the days of the "Mayflower"—the original members in this country having come over in that historic ship. The paternal grandfather, Benjamin F., was born in New Hampshire, and served as captain of the militia during the war of 1812. His father, William Hobart, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war; he participated in the battle of Lexington, and was with Washington at Valley Forge.

The father of our subject, whose life occupation was that of an agriculturist, settled in Portage county, in 1830, and died on the old homestead in 1885, aged seventy-nine years. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Margaret Moore, was born in Parkman, Geauga Co., Ohio, and died at the age of thirty-six years. Her father, Thomas Moore, was a native of England, and her mother was born in Ireland. Our subject was one of twelve children, there being ten sons and two daughters. All but three of the family are still living: Thomas is an attorney at Decatur, Ill.; Elmer, who was a soldier in the 3d Ill. Cav., resides in Mattoon, Ill.; Mary E. is the wife of Monroe W. Seibert, of Oberlin, Ohio; Freedom is principal of the schools at Hillsboro, Ill.; Jefferson is a prominent physician at Ashmore, Ill.; M. W. is in the insurance business at Fremont, Ohio; A. D. is a successful physician and surgeon of Toledo; and John S. lives at Grand Rapids; William, Allison and Hannah all grew to maturity and married, but are now deceased.

Marcene Hobart was the sixth in order of

birth among the children comprising the family, and spent his early days on the home farm. In the fall of 1863, when only eighteen years of age, he enlisted in defense of his country, becoming a member of Company F, 105th O. V. I., which was assigned to the Second Brigade, Third Division, Fourteenth Army Corps. He was with Gen. Sherman in the Atlanta campaign, and in front of that city he received injuries that disabled him to such an extent as to render further active service impossible. He was detailed as hospital steward, which position he held until the close of the war, and was discharged August 10, 1865, upon the twentieth anniversary of his birth.

On returning to Ohio, Mr. Hobart took a course at Eastman's Commercial College, after which he settled on a farm near Fremont. About the same time he established domestic ties, choosing as his wife Miss Catherine M., daughter of Henry Bowlus, a farmer of Sandusky county. After a short period spent as bookkeeper in the office of H. Bowlus & Co., at Fremont, Ohio, he engaged in the sawmill business, and for four years was in that and the planing-mill business. In 1871 he came to Pemberville, where he at once embarked in the grocery business, and a year later opened a hardware store. In 1876 he erected his present large brick block, and ten years later he bought a dry-goods stock. Associated with him in business is Henry F. Bowlus, a brother of his wife. Such has been the industry and energy with which they have prosecuted their trade, that they are now proprietors of one of the largest dry-goods, grocery and hardware stores in Wood county. Their customers include not only the people of Pemberville, but the residents of the neighboring towns, and the farmers of the surrounding country, among all of whom they have established a reputation for fair, honorable and reliable dealings. In addition to the establishment with which his name is inseparably associated, he and Mr. Bowlus are the owners of the grain elevator at that place; they were among the first to engage in the development of the Wood county oil fields around Pemberville, having, with a number of other gentlemen, drilled about sixty wells near that city. At present they own some four hundred acres of leases, and have thirty-five wells in operation.

In the Masonic order Mr. Hobart is active and prominent. He is a charter member, and for a time was master of Pemberville Lodge No. 516, and is also a member of Crystal Chapter Lodge, of Bowling Green. Officially he has rendered efficient service in a number of responsible posi-

tions. He has been a member of the Board of Education, and has served two terms as treasurer of the corporation of Pemberville. Since assisting in the organization of the Presbyterian Church at that place, he has been active in its various enterprises and generous in its support. For nine or more years he was superintendent of the Sunday-school. Politically he is a Republican, and, in common with other veterans of the Civil war, takes an active part in Grand Army affairs.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Hobart consists of six children: Clayton S., the eldest, is a partner in his father's store, and is superintendent of the Presbyterian Sunday-school; he is a young man of decided business talent, a graduate of the Pemberville schools, and has a bright future before him; he married Miss Marguerite Hisler, of Pennsylvania. Anna, also a graduate of the Pemberville schools, was married to Nelson L. Jones, August 26, 1896, and now lives in South Bend, Ind., where he is engaged in the undertaking business. Harrison W., a graduate of the Pemberville school, also of the Western Reserve Academy at Hudson, Ohio, and of the Oberlin Business College, after two years at Amherst College entered business with his father. Raymond, a graduate of the Pemberville schools, is now attending school at Hudson, Ohio; Earl and Lee are still in school at home.

EMANUEL CONSTABLE is of English descent, his parents having been born in Herefordshire, where his birth also took place in March, 1827. William Constable, the grandfather, was likewise a native of Herefordshire, England, where he died at the age of seventy-four years: He was the father of four children: William was the father of our subject; James, a weaver by trade, became a farmer, and amassed considerable wealth (he was born in 1787, and died in 1864, leaving \$4,000 to each of nineteen heirs, our subject being one of the number); Frances died unmarried; while Walter, a contractor by trade, lived in Monmouthshire, England, and died there. The maternal grandfather, William Burnett, was also born in Herefordshire, England, and departed this life when seventy-four years old. His children were: Alice, our subject's mother; Richard, who was a carpenter and saloon-keeper; Daniel, a farmer of Herefordshire; Ellen, who died unmarried; and Francis (deceased), who was a farmer of Herefordshire.

William Constable, the father of Emanuel, was born in Herefordshire in 1781, and his death occurred February 2, 1855. A weaver by trade, he followed that and job work all his life.

He was married to Miss Alice Burnett, who was born in 1787, and died May 26, 1856, and they became the parents of fourteen children—seven sons and seven daughters—as follows: William died in England in 1855; Alice married John Barry, of Herefordshire, and they both died there; Harriet became the wife of Thomas Morgan, and both are deceased; Frances was married to William Powell, and they both died in England; James married Ann Burnett, his first cousin, and they both died in Herefordshire; Louisa married J. T. Hooper, and died in Monmouthshire; Richard lives in Birmingham, Warwickshire; Daniel died in Gloucestershire (he was a warden in a public asylum all his life); Eleanor became the wife of George W. Palmer, a retired gentleman of Liverpool, and both are deceased; Emanuel is our subject; Priscilla married Richard Pritchett, and they live in Herefordshire; three children died in infancy.

Emanuel Constable passed his boyhood days at his home in England, and at the age of eighteen years entered the British Regular service, enlisting for a term of twenty-one years in the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers, but at the close of eleven years his uncle, James Constable, purchased his discharge. While in the service our subject was stationed in Canada for a time, and in Montreal, during the riots of 1849, was one of the governor-general's body-guard. The mob tried to assassinate the governor-general, but, fortunately, they did not succeed, though they burned down the government house. On May 6, 1850, while he was voyaging between Port Stanley and Port Maitland, on Lake Erie, the vessel he was on, the "Commerce," was run into by the American ship "Dispatch," and sunk in twenty minutes after she was struck. The "Dispatch" hove to, and endeavored to rescue the passengers from the sinking vessel, yet with all their efforts as many as forty-nine men, seven women and three children were drowned. Mr. Constable's next service was in the Crimea, during the famous "Russian war" of 1854-56. His experience on that occasion was the experience of nearly every soldier who landed in the Crimea—a truly arduous and dispiriting one. The supplies and clothing sent from England for the Royal Welsh Fusiliers was lost by shipwreck, and the men were in sore need of both. Mr. Constable participated, among other battles, in that of Balaklava, made famous by the "Charge of the Light Brigade." At the close of that war he retired from the army, as related above. Accompanying the medal he received for service in the Crimea, and of which he is justly proud, are clasps for "Balaklava" and "Sebas-



topol"; he was entitled to the Turkish medal, but never received it. On his return home he lived two years in England.

On April 3, 1859, he there married Miss Mary Lawrence, who was born in Somersetshire, June 10, 1829, a daughter of John and Asceneth (Trask) Lawrence, who both died in Somersetshire, leaving five children; Susan, who married W. Mitchell, of that county; Robert Lawrence, who was a baker, miller and farmer in Somersetshire; Mary; Ann (Mary's twin sister), who married a Mr. Stenbridge; and Emma who became the wife of E. Wood. Immediately after his marriage Mr. Constable and his wife came to America, and settled on a piece of land in Liberty township until August, 1862, when Mr. Constable joined the Union army, enlisting in the 111th O. V. I., Company K. After thirteen-months' service he was discharged for disability, and returned to his wife and family who were living in the house they now occupy, which Mrs. Constable had built while he was in the army. They have ever since resided in Plain township, where they own seventy acres of land in the oil belt. Several wells have been running there, but at the present time only one is in operation on his farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Constable are frugal, industrious and honest, and are members of the Episcopal Church, as were all of their ancestors; he also belongs to the G. A. R. He is a man of unusual mental activity, and has a clear memory of dates and circumstances, which he recalls with great precision. To him and his wife have come the following children: Alice Maude, born December 9, 1859, married James M. Boardman, and they have two children—Bertha Stella and Claude; Victor E., born June 20, 1861, married Miss Malinda A. Bowerman, and one child has been born to them—Mabel; Rose Ellen, born April 19, 1863, married J. D. Logan, and they have one child—Velters Veers; Selina F., born June 10, 1865, died May 21, 1884; Frederick W. L., born September 4, 1866, married Miss Matilda Gouger, and they have one child—George V.

C. F. RIDER, a prosperous young farmer and grain buyer of Lime City, was born at Hamilton, Butler Co., Ohio, October 26, 1861. His parents are A. C. and Adelia (McGarrah) Rider, the former born at Highland Mills, Orange Co., N. Y., of Scottish descent, and the latter at Monroe, in the same county, her ancestors being of French and English lineage. After their marriage our subject's parents came to Hamilton, Ohio, where they made their home for a number of years, but they are now residing in Tontogany.

The father became a locomotive engineer when only nineteen years old, and followed that occupation for forty-five years. He was a Democrat until the time when Tilden became a member of the State Legislature, and voted to exclude the Bible from the public schools. This was a step which did not meet with his approval, and he transferred his allegiance to the Republican party. His family consisted of four children, of whom our subject is the eldest; Archie DeWitt was killed on the railroad, near Tontogany, when twenty-seven years old; James T. and Grace A. live with their parents.

Our subject attended school at Fort Wayne and Hamilton, Ohio, and was early made acquainted with the engineer's business, first acting as fireman, and when nineteen years of age taking charge of an engine, as his father before him. He was employed in this manner on the T. & O. C. railroad until 1889, when, his health requiring a change, he came to Wood county and began farming. Some eighteen months ago he commenced buying grain for H. V. Burns, of Buffalo, and recently has engaged in the grain business in connection with farming, his property being situated near Lime City. He is a bright, intelligent, active man, of much business ability, and will undoubtedly made a success in his enterprise.

Mr. Rider was married, November 19, 1884, to Miss Emma Lawrence, who was born in Perrysburg, October 2, 1862. In politics Mr. Rider is a Republican, but has never taken a very active part in public matters. He is a Thirty-second Degree Mason, and belongs to the Blue Lodge at Perrysburg. He is also a K. of P., and a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

FRANKLIN GRIFFIN, of Bowling Green, is a native of Ohio, having been born October 2, 1845, in Baughman township, Wayne county. His father, also named Franklin, was born August 25, 1808, in Germany, where he received an excellent education, and for some years taught school. Coming to America in early manhood, he made his first New World home in Berks county, Penn., where in the city of Bedford he taught in both English and German schools. Here he met Miss Sarah Price, one of his scholars, who was born June 18, 1819, in Berks county, Penn., daughter of Jacob and Mary Price, both natives of Pennsylvania. On September 3, 1837, Mr. Griffin and Miss Price were married in Wayne county, and children as follows were the result of their union: Jacob, born August 9, 1838, accidentally drowned in Clinton county, Iowa, July 4, 1856;

Sarah Christina, born May 8, 1840, now the widow of Michael Yost, late of the 102nd O. V. I.; and Franklin, the subject proper of this review.

Franklin Griffin, Sr., learned the trade of wagon maker, which he followed all his life; he was also a well-known, popular auctioneer, and, being able to harangue an audience in both English and German, he was in great request in that line of business. He opened the first coal mine in Wayne county, and in all respects proved himself to be well worthy of being enrolled among the progressive men of his time. He was a man of fine physique, standing six feet in his stocking-feet, and was possessed of great energy and perseverance. He died in Baughman township, Wayne county, in the year 1850, and the two eldest children, Jacob and Sarah C., then went to live among strangers, our subject remaining with his widowed mother. After some two years mourning she married Jacob J. Sidle, a farmer, who was born in 1808, and died in Fostoria, Ohio, August 23, 1890. By a previous marriage he had two sons, one of whom—Henry—was a soldier in the Union army, taken prisoner by the Confederates, and for eighteen months was confined in Andersonville and Libby prisons, and after his release was lost in the destruction of the steamship "Sultana"; John, the other son, died in Clinton county, Iowa, where he had been living some time. To Mr. and Mrs. Jacob J. Sidle were born children as follows: Susan, who died at the age of nine years; Mary Ann, now the wife of William Snyder, of Fostoria; Jacob J., living in Tyndall, S. D.; Abraham, deceased at the age of three years; and Amy, who passed away in childhood. Mr. Sidle died in 1890, and his widow, who survived him until December 19, 1895, made her home with her daughter, Mrs. Snyder.

The subject proper of these lines received a good common-school education, and at the age of seven years commenced to work on a farm, receiving at first from five to ten dollars per month, and his board. He worked out among farmers until his enlistment, September 10, 1862, in Wayne county, Ohio, in Company E, 102nd O. V. I., and later on was assigned to Company E, 169th, and served during the war, for which he received an honorable discharge, and returned to Ohio, making his home for a time in Fostoria, his stepfather having removed thither in 1864.

On October 26, 1865, Mr. Griffin was united in marriage with Miss Mary Magdalena Foster, who was born in Jackson township, Seneca county, February 2, 1841, daughter of Christian and Mary Foster, the former of whom was born in Georgia in 1798, and died in 1873, the latter in

Shenandoah, Va., in 1801. Mrs. Foster's parents, after their marriage, made their home in Perry county, Ohio, and after her own marriage, she and her husband, in 1829, settled in Seneca county, Ohio, where they passed the rest of their days, Mrs. Foster dying March 4, 1875, at the age of seventy-three years, seven months, and twenty days. They were the parents of thirteen children, eleven of whom grew to maturity, as follows: Rebecca, who married William Stahl; Jonas, of Fostoria, who served in the 49th O. V. I., in the Civil war; Abraham, who died in early manhood; Mary Ann, who was instantly killed by lightning when twenty years old; Rachel (Mrs. Isaac Good), deceased in 1893; Nancy, Mrs. G. Hampshire, of Jerry City, Wood county; Lucinda, deceased wife of L. Wirt; Sampson, in Seneca county; Andrew Jackson, who was a soldier four years in the Civil war, was captured by the enemy, and was incarcerated in Castle Thunder, Libby and Andersonville prisons; Mary M., wife of our subject; Mahala, who married Noah Good, and died in August, 1874; and Susan and Solomon (probably among the elder born), both deceased in childhood. Christian Foster was the third settler in Jackson township, Seneca county, at a time when Indians visited his farm, as they did in fact for many years thereafter.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Griffin took up their residence near Fostoria, where he worked at carpentry in connection with his farm operations, until the fall of 1871, when, with his wife and children, he came to Wood county, the journey being made by wagon. Here he bought eighty acres of land in Liberty township, and the family took up their quarters in an humble shanty, all of which property Mr. Griffin from time improved, in 1888 building his present commodious and pleasant country residence. In 1887 he drilled his first oil well on the place, and he has since added thereto till he has now ten wells, all proving remunerative. He bought two building lots in Bowling Green, and a residence on the corner of Pearl and Grove streets, in the fall of 1890 building dwelling houses, and two years later buying lots adjoining his home, in addition to all of which, he is the owner of seventy-eight acres of land in Center township.

The names and dates of birth, etc., of the children born to Mr. and Mrs. Griffin are as follows: Martha Arvilla, December 29, 1866, married to Albert Blackman, by whom she has one son, Frank, born April 12, 1895; Mahala S., January 2, 1869, living at home; Mary Elizabeth, June 20, 1871, now the wife of Jacob Wallace, of Fostoria; and Sarah Ellen, August 28, 1873,

Louisa Arletta, September 9, 1875, and Arthur Le Roy, May 12, 1882, all three at home. Mr. and Mrs. Griffin are members of the M. E. Church; in politics he is a Republican, but has never sought office. For some five years he owned and operated a street sprinkler in Bowling Green, but sold it May 1, 1895. He is a representative self-made man, and typical American "hustler," one, who by his own unaided efforts, indomitable perseverance and sound judgment, has ascended the ladder of success, until he now ranks among the wealthy citizens of Wood county.

**ELDEN WELLS.** Among the self-made men in Perry township, who are deserving of the success to which they have attained, may be classed the man whose name introduces this sketch, and who holds a high place in the regard of his acquaintances as an honest, upright citizen, and an industrious, progressive agriculturist.

Mr. Wells is a native of Pennsylvania, his birth taking place in Washington township, Franklin county, December 2, 1836. Of his ancestry it might be said that he "came of poor but honest parents." His father, James Wells, was in rather poor circumstances, and was employed the greater part of his life in teaming and similar occupations. He was of Yankee extraction, and was born in the State of New York; but when a young man went to Maryland, where he met and was married to Miss Mary M. Lowry. Soon afterward they removed to Franklin county, Penn., where they spent the remainder of their lives, the father passing away when eighty years of age, and the mother when seventy-nine; her death was the result of a wound in her hand made by the spur of a rooster. Their children were as follows: Elizabeth, wife of George Walich, lives in Washington county, Md.; Lucinda, married to Reuben Sheets, lives in Greene county, Ohio; George is also a resident of Greene county; Elden is the subject of these lines; Catharine, now deceased, first married Jacob Hoover, and later became the wife of William Jackson, of Middleburg, Penn.; Ann is now the widow of George Gearhart, and lives in Franklin county, Penn.; Mary married David Frederick, and after his death became the wife of Joseph Rowers, who is now deceased (she resides in Franklin county, Penn.); John, who lives in Maryland, near the famous battlefield of Antietam, worked for one family twenty-one years, first for the father and afterward for the two sons; James and Sarah A. live in Franklin county, Pennsylvania.

Our subject had but few advantages for an

education, his schooling, which did not begin until he was twelve years of age, being limited to a few days in the week during a few of the winter months. His father had a large family, and, although he was a hard-working man, he found it impossible to earn enough to support all of them, so that when this lad was only ten years old he was bound out to a farmer by the name of Gilbert, for three years, receiving from him his board and clothes. He had plenty of hard work and but little time for boyish pastimes or amusements, such as are natural to children of that age. When the three years were done he was hired out to other farmers, and in this way was employed until he became of age, when he decided to try his fortune in the West. Accordingly, on March 16, 1857, he left his native State and went to Whiteside county, Ill., where he remained eighteen months. He then returned to Pennsylvania, and went to work for a previous employer, and later did teaming for another farmer.

On December 25, 1860, Mr. Wells was married in Antrim township, Franklin Co., Penn., to Miss Susan B. Gossert, who was born in that township September 9, 1840, and whose father, Samuel Gossert, was a carpenter by trade. Until he was twenty-three years of age Mr. Wells had given all the money he earned to his parents, but for a year previous to his marriage he had saved all he made, and these few dollars were the sum total he had to begin housekeeping with.

On August 16, 1862, Mr. Wells enlisted in Company E, 158th P. V. I., under Capt. Barnetts, to aid in defense of the Union. They went into camp at Chambersburg, Penn., and from there were sent to Norfolk, Va., whence they marched 125 miles to Holly's Landing, going from that place to Newberne, N. C., by boat. They started to Little Washington, N. C., but were intercepted by the enemy and obliged to return to Newberne. After this they chased the Rebels from Swift Creek village, and then took up their quarters at Little Washington. When Lee started North through Pennsylvania, our subject's regiment was brought up into Virginia, and was at South Mountain on the last day of the fight at Gettysburg. Then they were in camp for seventeen days two and a half miles from Frederick City, Md., afterward being sent to Baltimore and later to Harrisburg.

In August, 1863, after his discharge from the army, Mr. Wells returned home, where he remained until in December, 1864, when he went, in company with a friend, to Iowa to look for a suitable location. Not being satisfied with that section of the country, however, he returned to

Ohio, and in March, 1865, with his wife and three children, removed to a place near Tiffin, Ohio, working at first for other farmers, and later, in 1867, renting a farm which is now a part of the city of Fostoria. In the following few years, Mr. Wells rented land at various points, in 1872 renting 160 acres in Washington township, Hancock county, for which he paid \$500 cash, yearly. In the fall of 1873, he made his first purchase of land, it being 120 acres in Section 20, Perry township, the price being \$7,000, of which he paid \$500 down. At that time only about seventy-five acres of the place were under cultivation, an old frame house and a very poor barn were all the improvements on it, and not a foot of tiling had been laid. As late as 1876, portions of the land were covered with water to the depth of several inches. This has all been removed, and since making his home on the farm, to which he removed March 20, 1874, Mr. Wells has built an excellent bank barn, drained the land, and made many other improvements.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Wells are as follows: Winfield S., a graduate of Rush Medical College, Chicago, is now a practicing physician at Marion, Ohio; Ida and George B., twins, are both married, Ida being now Mrs. L. H. Coe, of Perry township; George was married November 1, 1894, to Miss Carrie M. Alexander, of Bloomdale, and resides in Hancock county, Ohio; Victoria N. is the wife of Orrin Wiseman, and resides with our subject. Mr. Wells has brought up his family with the utmost care, and they have well repaid their parents for their excellent training. Three of them have been teachers, and all have been given every advantage of good schooling. Mr. Wells is a warm advocate of higher education, and has exerted his influence in behalf of better schools and progress in all educational matters. He is a self-made man, one who has had many obstacles to contend with, but who has surmounted them all, and is to-day a successful and highly esteemed citizen. He is a great reader, and has a wonderfully retentive memory, while his practical education has fitted him to succeed in business. He has traveled extensively throughout the States, and has gained considerable knowledge by observance and inquiry. A kind-hearted, generous man, Mr. Wells has many warm friends in all classes of society. He and his wife were originally members of the United Brethren Church, but for the past sixteen years have been connected with the Methodist denomination.

Mr. Wells is an ardent Democrat in political sentiment. He has always been a leader in his

party, and a most enthusiastic worker for its interests. On three different occasions he was the only one present at a "caucus," and made out the ticket for the township, having it printed at his own expense, and attending to all the details personally. He has been a member of the election board of the township for several years, and is considered one of the best citizens in Perry township.

LEVI WIRT, a retired farmer of Perry township, was born in Chippewa township, Wayne county, March 26, 1835. His father, David Wirt, was born in Pennsylvania, where he married Miss Eliza Wire, a native of the same State. Mr. Wirt died in Wayne county, Ohio, when our subject was but three years old. By occupation he was a millwright. After his death, Mrs. Wirt married Nathan Bisey, then moved to Seneca county, and died at Fostoria.

Our subject was one of two children born to Mr. and Mrs. Wirt. The other, a girl, died when seven years old. Levi was bound out to Jacob Wimer, a farmer, who, when Levi was ten years old, moved to Allen county, Ind., ten miles north of Fort Wayne, where our subject was sent to the district school. Mr. Wimer was a kind man, and treated him well. When sixteen years old, he left Mr. Wimer, the latter's wife having died, and was employed by a man by the name of Rhodes, in Allen county, at nine dollars a month. He saved a little of this, and attended school that winter, which was the last opportunity he had for doing so. Mr. Wirt remained in Indiana until nineteen years old, and then returned to Seneca county and worked in a sawmill, and later ran a threshing machine, in which he had an interest.

In February, 1856, Mr. Wirt was united in marriage to Lucinda Foster, a native of Jackson township, and a daughter of Christian Foster, from Perry county. At that time our subject had a team and a couple of hundred dollars, which he had saved from his wages. He was half owner of a steam sawmill, bought on time (and later paid for), and, renting his step-father's farm, in Loudon township, Seneca county, he there began his successful career as a farmer. In the spring of 1861, he moved to Montgomery township, where he bought forty acres of unimproved land, for which he paid \$600 in cash, and which was the first place he could call his own home, since leaving that of his childhood. For seven years he lived in Montgomery township, and in 1868 he went to Section 3, Perry township. He sold his forty acres in Montgomery

township for \$1,200. He secured a farm in Perry township, on which he lived until the fall of 1890, when he went to West Millgrove, where he has continued to reside ever since, retired from active farm work. To Mr. and Mrs. Wirt were born these children: Andrew J., September 27, 1857, is a farmer in Bloom township; Oscar, October 27, 1860, is a farmer in Perry township; Eliza A., January 15, 1864, married Edward Dindore, of Henry county; William F., April 15, 1870, is now living in Van-Buren, Ohio; Clara E., August 18, 1875, is the wife of Byron Whitman. Mrs. Wirt died August 11, 1887, aged fifty years, and was buried in West Millgrove. Mr. Wirt was married again, his second wife being Mrs. Abraham Foster, whose maiden name was Lydia A. Swope. She was born in Morgan county, Ohio, June 15, 1831, and by her first marriage was the mother of ten children, seven of whom are still alive.

Mr. Wirt has always been a staunch Republican, his first vote being cast for Salmon P. Chase for governor of Ohio. He has served his party in every township in which he has lived, and for two terms was township trustee of Perry. He is now serving as mayor of West Millgrove, to which office he was elected to fill an unexpired term of Joseph Ashe, in the spring of 1894, and in 1895 was elected to serve the regular term. He is a member of Prairie Depot Lodge No. 646, I. O. O. F., and, with his wife, is a member of the Congregational Church. Mr. Wirt is a successful farmer, a pleasant gentleman, popular with his many friends, and an excellent citizen.

SAMUEL HEMMINGER, a prosperous, well-to-do farmer of Wood county, is a native of Loudon township, Seneca county, where he was born January 12, 1839, the son of Henry and Catherine (Kiser) Hemminger.

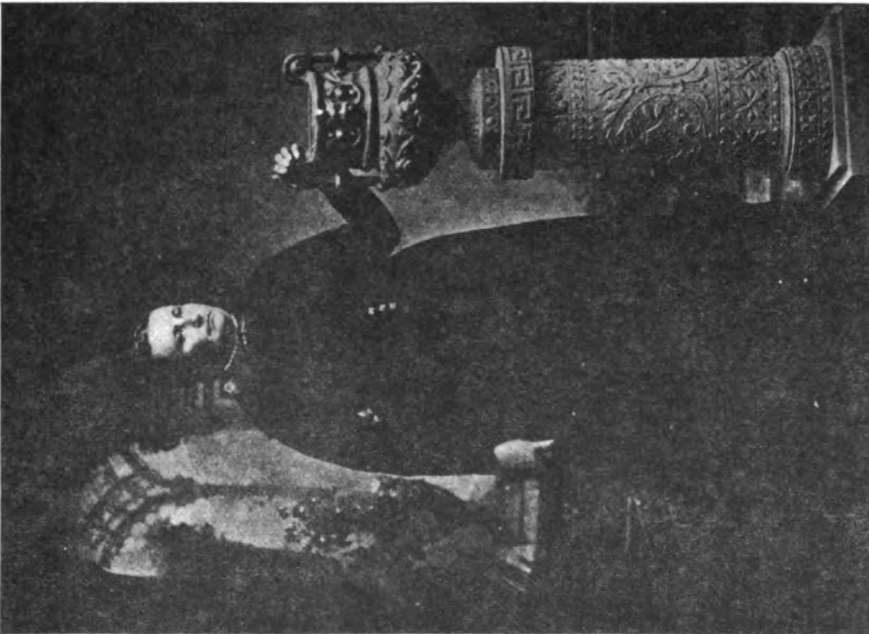
The father of our subject was born in Pennsylvania of German parents. When a boy they moved to Stark county, and Henry subsequently went to Seneca county, where he married Miss Kiser, who came of Pennsylvania-German stock. Mr. Hemminger was a farmer, and lived in Loudon township until about 1850, when he came east to Freedom township, Wood county, and secured eighty acres of land, then in a primitive condition, on which he built a log cabin. Later he moved to Montgomery township, and lived in Section 21 until his death, which occurred September 20, 1878, when he was aged seventy. His wife died later, and both are buried in the Prairie Depot cemetery. Their children were as

follows: Elizabeth, now Mrs. Z. Edmunds, of northeast Missouri; Mary married Samuel Rickard, and died in Iowa; Samuel is our subject; Alonzo L., who was a member of the 55th O. V. I., and is now a farmer of Montgomery township; Daniel died at the age of five years; David was in the war, and died in Montgomery township; Francis M. died young. Mr. Hemminger was a Republican, and held some minor township offices.

Samuel attended school, and was reared as a farmer's boy. He lived at home until April, 1861, when he was married to Miss Amey Spink, who was born November 8, 1836, in Erie county, N. Y., a daughter of Buckley and Amey (Moshier) Spink. Our subject located on a farm which he rented until after his return from the war. In February, 1864, he enlisted in Company E, 25th Regiment, at Prairie Depot, it being home on veteran furlough. His first engagement was at Honey Hills, S. C., and a few days later he was wounded in the arm and side, and was in the hospital for a short time. He was subsequently in the hospital at Hilton Head and at Charleston, and was discharged from the former August, 1865, when he returned home. In the fall of 1865 Mr. Hemminger bought forty acres in Section 10, Montgomery township, where he built a cabin of round logs, 16 x 24 feet, which was rudely furnished.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Hemminger were as follows: Albert A., born July 25, 1863, is a farmer of Bartlow township, Henry county (he has three children); Tentla Celestia died in infancy; Charles H., born March 17, 1867, is also a farmer in Bartlow township (he has three children); Julia died in infancy; Mary E. was drowned when two years old; Wilbur died in infancy; Samuel died June 25, 1877, from the effects of burns received when our subject's house was destroyed by fire. In the fall of 1877 Mr. Hemminger built his present comfortable home, to replace the one burned. He has made all the improvements on the place. In politics he is a Republican, has been supervisor, and was school director for six years. He and his wife have eighty acres of land, and have helped their two sons to a farm of eighty acres each, and they are prosperous young farmers. Our subject is a member of the G. A. R., and is a well-to-do, straightforward citizen.

PHILIP BARNHISEL. Among the influential and representative agriculturists of Bloom township, this gentleman occupies an honorable position. Almost his entire life has been passed upon his present farm, where he was born June 11, 1851. His father, Martin Barnhisel, came to



*Army & Hemminger Samuel Hemminger*



this county from Mahoning county, Ohio, buying eighty acres of land in Section 21, Bloom township—sixty acres of which are still in the possession of our subject. He was a small, delicate man, and on his death was buried in Bloom Chapel cemetery. In the family were three children: Sarah, who became the wife of Henry Jacobs, and died on the home farm; Lottie, who is now Mrs. Louis Mominee, of Lucas county, Ohio; and Philip. The mother later became the wife of John Slatterbeck, who is now deceased, and she makes her home near Toledo, Ohio.

Philip Barnhisel acquired his early education in the Bloom Center schools, taught by a Mr. Trumbull; but when about nine years of age he was compelled to start out to make his own livelihood, and with his first money purchased a pair of red top-boots, which he thought was all that was lacking to make him a man. For some years he worked for others, and, when about eighteen, went to Whiteside county, Ill., remaining there some eighteen months. He began farming for himself upon the old homestead, and, before his marriage, his sister Lottie was his housekeeper.

In Bloom township, on January 7, 1875, Mr. Barnhisel married Miss Diana Baker, who was born in Marion township, Hancock Co., Ohio, February 16, 1852, and is a daughter of Jacob and Susanna (Bright) Baker, the former a native of Westmoreland county, Penn. They have become the parents of seven children: Claren, who was born July 25, 1876, and is a teacher by profession; Ella M., who was born July 28, 1879, and died July 23, 1881; William S., who was born August 27, 1881; Olive B., who was born September 29, 1883; Nettie, who was born October 1, 1885; Florence, who was born May 30, 1889, died August 7, following; and Bessie, who was born May 30, 1891, and died April 30, 1893.

At one time Mr. Barnhisel sold his interest in the homestead, but later purchased the farm from other heirs. The farm buildings are neat and substantial, and everything about the premises is creditable to the taste and industry of the proprietor. His labors have been crowned with success, and he is deserving of the highest praise, for all has been attained through his own industrious and well-directed efforts. He is upright and honorable in all things, never stooping to anything low or mean to gain a point or secure money. He takes an active interest in political affairs, generally voting the Republican ticket, though not strictly partisan, preferring to cast his ballot for the man whom he thinks best qualified to fill the position, and has served as a director in

School District No. 5, Bloom township. Since the age of eighteen, Mr. Barnhisel has been a devoted member of the Church of God.

J. Y. HOUSEL, a respected citizen of Bowling Green, who has an honorable record as a soldier in the war of the Rebellion, and who for many years was active in his occupation, but is now living retired, was born in New Jersey, November 13, 1842.

Tyler Housel, the father of J. Y., was a native of Hunterdon county, N. J., but spent most of his life in Franklin township, Warren Co., N. J., where he carried on farming, and was also a railroad contractor. He was a Presbyterian in religious faith. In politics he was a Democrat. His father was born on the Hudson river, and was a farmer by occupation. He married a Miss Cook, and died in Hunterdon county. The Housels are of Dutch descent, the great-grandfather of our subject being a native of that country. The mother of our subject, whose maiden name was Catherine Rupel, was born in Hunterdon county, N. J., to which State her great-grandfather came from Ireland, where the family were wealthy farmers. Her father's name was Thomas Rupel.

The children of Tyler Housel and wife were as follows: Asher was a railroad man, and died in New Jersey; Margaret married James Hagerty, and lives in Bucks county, Penn.; Lucy married Joseph Davis, then, after his death, wedded a Mr. Fox, and lives at Easton, Penn.; Mary Ellen was the wife of George W. Cowel, deceased, and lives in Phillipsburg, N. J.; William B. lives in Hunterdon county, N. J.; J. Y. is our subject; John resides in Warren county, New Jersey.

The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood and youth in his native State, where he was working at plastering when the outbreak of the Rebellion aroused the whole nation, and young men and old offered their services to maintain the supremacy of the national government. Mr. Housel enlisted in Company C, 31st Regiment of State Guards, in which he was made color-bearer. They were stationed near Washington, D. C., and were in the first battle of Bull Run. When the three months had expired he re-enlisted August 20, 1861, in Company C, 7th N. J. V. I., in which he served until after the battle of Gettysburg, when he was honorably discharged July 17, 1863. In the winter of 1864 he again entered the army, this time enlisting in Company B, 184th O. V. I., of which he was made sergeant, and while at Nashville served as drill master and transfer officer. He saw active serv-



ice throughout the remainder of the war, and was finally discharged in September, 1865. Among the important engagements, in which Mr. Housel took part, were those of Bull Run, Yorktown, Antietam, and South Mountain; was with McClellan in the seven-days' fight at Richmond; in the first battle at Fredericksburg, in December, 1862; the second battle of Fredericksburg, the battles at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, besides many less important engagements. He was wounded at the battle of Antietam, on account of which he receives a pension.

After the close of the war Mr. Housel located at Napoleon, Henry Co., Ohio, where he followed the trade of a plasterer for a time, afterward removing to Liberty Center, in the same county, where he resided for a number of years. In 1888 he removed to Bowling Green, where he has since made his home, and where for some three years he followed contracting, since that time, however, having given up active business. He owns a house and two lots in the city, and is one of its substantial citizens. In politics he is a Democrat, and fraternally belongs to the I. O. O. F., in which he has passed most of the chairs, and now holds the office of standard-bearer in Canton Alpine. He is also a member of the Daughters of Rebekah, and of the G. A. R., Wiley Post.

Mr. Housel was married August 10, 1867, to Abbie M. McCauley, who was born in Adrian, Mich., January 14, 1838, and is the daughter of William R. and Marie Antoinette (French) McCauley. Her great-grandfather, Hugh McCauley, was a captain in the Revolutionary army, and at the close of the war took up his residence in the South, where he died. He left three children: Samuel; Alexander, who was married and had one daughter; and Nathaniel, who was a soldier in the war of 1812, and died unmarried.

Samuel, the grandfather of Mrs. Housel, had three children: Hannah, who married Joshua Kelley, and lived in Vermont; Abigail, who died when fifteen years of age, and William R. The father of these children was a farmer, and, after his marriage to Abigail Wilson, lived in Vermont until 1836, when he removed to Michigan and settled near Adrian, where they both died, the father in 1841, and the mother in 1844.

William R. McCauley was born in 1804 and died in June, 1876. He came to Ohio in 1849, and settled on a farm at Damascus, Henry county. He was made a justice of the peace in 1868, which office he held for three years. His wife, who was born in 1808, died in 1869, and was the mother of five children, namely: Fred-

erick W., who died in his twenty-fourth year; Henry Augustus, who died in his twenty-second year; Nathaniel, residing at Napoleon, Henry Co., Ohio; Phœbe Ann, the wife of Edwin Freeman, of Toledo; and Abigail.

Mrs. Housel spent the first ten years of her life in Michigan, coming at that time with her parents to Henry county, Ohio, where she attended the public schools until she was seventeen years old, from which time until her marriage with our subject, August 10, 1867, she was employed in teaching. She is a woman of culture and refinement, of much strength of character, and holds a prominent place in various organizations, being a member of the Daughters of Rebekah, the Woman's Relief Corps, the W. C. T. U., and the School Suffrage Club. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and takes an active part in all religious and philanthropic work.

W. B. BEACH, the well-known proprietor of a large blacksmith shop at Bowling Green, was born December 22, 1849, in Licking county, where, in Kirkersville, his father died in March, 1896, at the age of seventy-eight.

His grandfather, Horace Beach, was born in Connecticut, of old New England stock, and died in Granville, Ohio, aged eighty-eight. He was a farmer and blacksmith by occupation, and was for some time engaged in the manufacture of edge tools. He had six children: Eli, deceased, a resident of Providence, R. I.; William B., an attorney at Providence, also interested in insurance business; Horace, a wealthy resident of Providence, R. I., who mysteriously disappeared some years ago, and probably met with foul play; Charles, our subject's father; Deborah, the wife of H. H. Austin, of Licking county; and Philura, who married George Davis, of the same county.

Charles Beach, the father of our subject, was born near Keysville, N. Y., in April, 1818, and came to Ohio with his parents when a boy. He received his early education in the schools near his father's farm in Licking county, and learned the blacksmith's trade in early manhood. He married Miss Margaret Gardner, who was born in County Antrim, Ireland, in 1817, and came to America with her parents when six years old—the two families settling upon adjoining farms at about the same time. Four children of this union have lived to an adult age: Emma, the wife of Eleazer Evans, of Licking county; our subject; Clara, the wife of J. B. Buckland, of Chillicothe, Ohio; and Alice, who married H. H.

Gunder, of Licking county. Charles Beach has followed the blacksmith's trade all his life in Kirkersville, Licking county. He was the patentee of the first double-shovel iron-beam plow with convex shovel and guard, for cultivating corn. He was a Democrat, and took a prominent part in local affairs, although never an office-seeker. He was a leading member of the New School Baptist Church, in which his wife still holds membership.

Our subject's early life was spent with his parents at Kirkersville, where he attended school until the age of sixteen, when he began to learn his trade. After six years of work at home he went to Utica, Licking county, where he remained five years and a half, and then moved to Cardington, Morrow county, and carried on his trade for some time. In 1886 he came to Bowling Green, and opened the shop where he has since conducted a general blacksmithing business. He was married in 1871 to Miss Ann C. Simmons, who was born February 28, 1854, at Baltimore, Ohio. They have two children: Clara Belle, who lives at home, and Russell Simmons. The family are prominent members of the M. E. Church. Mr. Beach is a Republican in politics, and takes great interest in all worthy public movements. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., the K. of P., of the Royal Arcanum, and the National Union.

**N. J. WIREBAUGH.** This substantial citizen, and farmer of Montgomery township, was born December 15, 1834, in Fox township, Carroll Co., Ohio, the son of John and Elizabeth (Potts) Wirebaugh.

The father of our subject was born in Trumbull county, Penn., in 1806, and came to Ohio when a boy with his parents, who settled in Columbiana county. He was twice married, his first wife, the mother of our subject, dying in 1841. Her children were as follows: William H. lives in Portage township; Harriet died in infancy; Mary A. died when eight years old; N. J. is our subject; Elizabeth married George Braden, and died in Morrow county; Sarah C. is now Mrs. Isaac Kiefer, of Crawford county; Nathan lives in Risingsun; John F. is a resident of Miami county, Kans. The second wife of John Wirebaugh was Miss Elizabeth Horner, to whom he was married in Carroll county. She bore him the following children: Cyrus lives in Indiana; Martha died when four years of age; Stewart resides in Crawford county; Ledora lives in Freeport, Ohio; I. V. is a physician in Prairie Depot. The mother of these children is still living in

Prairie Depot. The family came in 1847 to Crawford county, Ohio, and settled near Osceola, where the father died when over eighty years old. He was a Jackson Democrat.

Our subject obtained his education in the common schools of Carroll county, which were very different from those of the present day. He has seen great changes for the better in educational matters, and takes an active interest in schools of all kinds, being a firm believer in higher education for both men and women. He was only a lad when his parents removed to western Ohio, and until sixteen years of age worked upon the farm. He then was employed as an engineer in a sawmill, and for many years held the same position in a gristmill. On April 18, 1861, Mr. Wirebaugh was married in Richland county, Ohio, to Miss Martha Ralston, and in June of the same year bought eighty acres of land in Section 5, Montgomery township. The money for this purchase he had saved from his small earnings, and with this he made his first start in life. The land was all woods with no improvements, and he at once went to work, his first clearing being six acres, which he put in wheat. He also built his first home which, as may be imagined, was no palatial residence. It was a happy home, however, until the death of his wife, which took place November 18, 1863, leaving with him one child, Mary, who died when two years old. The family being broken up, Mr. Wirebaugh returned to Crawford county, and again took up his occupation of an engineer, being thus employed for the eight years following.

In September, 1871, our subject was married in Custar, Ohio, to Miss Sarah Roberts, and returned to his farm in Montgomery township, where he resided until 1879. In that year he went to Fostoria, Ohio, where he was for a short time in the grocery business, and then took up his residence in Freeport, where he purchased a pleasant home. He resumed his business as an engineer, at which he was employed until 1890, since which time he has been engaged in agricultural pursuits. He has an excellent farm of 200 acres in Sections 5 and 6, Montgomery township, which is under fine cultivation, and he has made a success of the business. For over forty years Mr. Wirebaugh was a machinist, and became thoroughly familiar, in his capacity as engineer, with all kinds of machinery. He stood high as a good workman, and during all these years was in the employ of but four individuals.

He is a man who reads extensively, and is a patron of literature and the arts. In politics he inclines to the Democratic party, but is not a par-

tisan, and votes for a man according to his fitness for office rather than his political affiliations. He has served eight years as a member of Prairie Depot city council, but is no office seeker. No man is more highly respected or more deserving of esteem, than the gentleman whose sketch is here given.

GOTLIEB OTTERBACH, whose success in life is attributable entirely to his own efforts, was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, January 7, 1837. His father, Christian Otterbach, was a native of the same locality, and was a farmer by occupation. He married Miss Helen Greiner, and died in Wurtemberg in 1863. In 1868, his widow came to the United States, accompanied by a son and daughter, and spent her last days in Michigan, where her death occurred in 1888, she having reached the advanced age of ninety years. She was quite ill at the time she came to the United States, and many feared that she would never live to complete the voyage. Her children were John, who was a soldier in Germany, and also in the Civil war, and died in Michigan in 1888; Jacob, a farmer of Michigan; Regy, now a widow; Gotlieb, our subject; Christian and Gotlobe, both farmers in Michigan.

Our subject acquired a good education in his native land, and with his father learned the weaver's trade. At the age of fourteen he began work in a factory in Hall, and continued to follow weaving until crossing the Atlantic to America in 1857. He took passage at Bremen on the "President Smith," a sailing vessel, which, after a rough voyage of sixty-four days, reached New York. Mr. Otterbach at once made his way to Toledo, and thence to the home of an uncle who lived in Liverpool, Medina Co., Ohio. He soon secured employment in a blacksmith shop, where he worked for eight months for \$5. Afterward he followed any pursuit that would yield him an honest living, and in the winter of 1858, he received \$6 per month.

In 1862, Mr. Otterbach enlisted in Medina county, Ohio, in Company K, 103rd O. V. I., and was mustered into the service in Kentucky, while at the close of the war, in June, 1865, he was mustered out at Raleigh, N. C. At the battle of Resaca, he was wounded in the right leg, and only twenty-five men in all the regiment were left uninjured after that engagement.

The war over, Mr. Otterbach returned to Medina county, and in the fall of 1865 purchased his present farm of eighty acres in Wood county, locating thereon in the spring of 1866. In 1868, in Liberty township, he married Miss Hannah

McCrary, who died in October, 1872, leaving one son, Samuel, now at home; a twin sister, Mary Elizabeth, died at the age of eight months. In 1875, Mr. Otterbach wedded Mrs. Mary E. Leffler, widow of Mathias Leffler, and her death occurred May 12, 1891. The children of the second marriage are Annie, a student in a music academy at Findlay, Ohio; and Lena. The present wife of Mr. Otterbach, who bore the name of Hulda Harris, was born in Germany in 1848. She was only four months old when brought to this country by her parents, John C. and Anna Dorothy (Henning) King. Our subject and his wife were married in Defiance, Ohio, January 30, 1894. She had five children by her former marriage, namely: William, and Charles, both of Holgate, Henry Co., Ohio; Frank, at home; Mrs. Della C. Ernhart, of Bays, Ohio; and Matilda, at home. The father, William Harris, was born in Wood county, in 1832, and in 1861, in Company K, 3rd O. V. C., he was wounded in the neck, but continued at the front until the close of the war. Mrs. Otterbach's brother, Albert W. King, was one of the survivors of the "Sultana."

Our subject is a stalwart Republican, and has served as school director for one year. He is a member of the Disciples Church, and takes a deep interest in religious work, as well as all that pertains to the welfare of the community. He has developed upon his farm eight oil wells, and now occupies a position among the substantial citizens of Wood county. He has, however, worked his way steadily upward from humble surroundings, pressing forward step by step to the goal of success.

JOHN H. JONES. The family from which this gentleman descended is of Welsh and German extraction. The ancestors came from Europe at an early date, locating in Virginia, where they became land owners and business men, and were prominent in the different walks of life. John H. Jones was born near Martinsburg, Berkeley Co., W. Va., August 2, 1836, where he was reared and educated. He is a son of Hiram and Isabella (Crowell) Jones, of Welsh and German extraction, respectively. Hiram Jones and wife were both natives of the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, he, a patriot and soldier of the war of 1812, was a substantial man, and an honored citizen, who throughout life took a deep interest in military matters. He was present, and a prominent figure, at every muster of the State Militia in his section, oftentimes acting as a drummer. He was a Democrat of the old school. He was identified with the Baptist Church. Their children were:



G Otterbach

Hulda Amelia Otterbach



John Harrison, our subject; Hiram S., of Martinsburg, W. Va.; Lydia Ann, who married a Mr. Lewis, and lives in California; Charles Ross, who died while a soldier in the Confederate army; William R. and Joseph T., residents of Martinsburg, W. Va.; Margaret (married) and Helen, also residents of Martinsburg.

John H. Jones, the eldest child was reared on the homestead farm, and educated in the schools of that vicinity, and when old enough learned the business of a miller in the mill of John Graham, near Martinsburg, W. Va. At the latter place he was married January 31, 1866, to Miss Martha Ann Graham, and after this event he carried on the milling business at Martinsburg until 1874, when with his family he moved to near Tiffin, Seneca Co., Ohio. Here he located on a farm which he operated until 1882, when he removed to Wood county, and purchased a farm three miles north of North Baltimore, on which he lived with his family for a period; then sold the property and purchased a farm of eighty acres near North Baltimore, which, later, proved to be one of the best oil-producing tracts in that section. It has at this writing (December, 1896) seven producing oil wells on it. In 1892, Mr. Jones removed with his family to Tiffin, Ohio, but in 1895 came to North Baltimore, Ohio, where he has since resided, and where he and family are held in high esteem. He is a staunch temperance advocate, believing in total prohibition, and uses his influence to assist that cause on all occasions from the rostrum, and otherwise. He and his wife are members of the Presbyterian Church, with which denomination he has been connected for thirty-five years, and of which he has been a trustee at different times for many years, and a teacher of the Bible class aggregating fifteen years or more. Mr. and Mrs. Jones are the parents of the following children: Jacob Carleton (engaged in the oil business), born November 28, 1871, was married in July, 1889, to Miss Mary E. Bruner, and they have two children—Robert H. and Jeannette; and W. Robert, born August 28, 1874, a prominent young citizen of North Baltimore, mentioned elsewhere. In addition to their own children, our subject and wife reared a little girl from the age of two-and-a-half years, now a young miss of twelve summers, and one of the family—her name formerly was Vernie Maud Warden, but she is now known as Pearl Jones.

Mrs. Martha Ann (Graham) Jones was born in 1844, in Fairfax county, Va., a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Gruber) Graham, of Scotch and German progenitors, respectively. John Graham was the owner and operator of a mill at

Bunker Hill, in the Shenandoah Valley, Va., for many years, and was one of the most substantial and highly honored citizens of Berkeley county, W. Va. He was a man of high and pure character, thoroughly well-read and well-informed, and a general advisor of the vicinity, in which he lived, on law and other matters. He is said to have been the most popular man in his county, for many years, and could have been elected to any office in the gift of the people of the county. He was not a politician, or seeker after office, having large affairs of his own to look after. During the war his property was located at Bunker Hill, in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, where Union and Rebel troops were continually contesting; his home would one day be in the Union lines and the next in the Rebel lines, and *vice versa*. He was an ardent Republican and Union man, which was well-known by both sides; but such was his high character as a citizen and non-combatant, that he was the only Union man who dared to stay in the vicinity when the Rebels had control. He entertained, at his home, many noted Rebel and Union officers—of course on different occasions, as they did not mix very well in those days. With other young men, he organized a home independent military company, for protection against the Rebel guerrillas and other depredators. In this way he served through many exciting skirmishes, where men were killed; he personally conveyed news to the Union officers on many occasions, often going at night through cold, rain and sleet to aid the Union cause—regular passes as a scout gaining him admission, at all times, to the Union lines. His death occurred in 1870. His widow, who is now seventy-seven years of age, makes her home with her daughter, the wife of our subject.

SOLOMON S. FREDERICK devotes his time and energies to farming and carpentering, and is an enterprising, wide-awake citizen, who faithfully does his duty to his fellow men, himself and his country. As he is widely and favorably known in Wood county, we feel assured that the record of his life will prove of interest to many of our readers.

Mr. Frederick was born August 12, 1839, in Big Spring township, Seneca Co., Ohio, son of Anthony and Rhoda (Neffis) Frederick. The former was born in September, 1816, in Ross county, Ohio, the latter in 1818, and their marriage was celebrated in Wyandot county. Subsequently removing to Seneca county, he purchased a farm of forty acres on which he lived for ten years, and then removed to Adrian,

Seneca county, where he operated a sawmill for a number of years. His next place of residence was Crawford county, Ohio, where he engaged in the same line of business until, returning to Adrian, Seneca county, thence to Berwick, where he accepted the position of bookkeeper in a grist-mill. In 1860 he brought his family by wagon to Wood county, purchased a small tract of land in Bloom township, and erected a sawmill. He afterward purchased 120 acres additional, and he and his wife are now living retired at Bloom Center. Their children were as follows: Solomon S.; William, of Jerry City, Ohio; Nathaniel, who died at the age of forty-two; Charles, who died in Bloom township; Byron, a farmer of Bloom township; Susan, deceased wife of John Bailey, of Bloom township; and Rosie, wife of William H. Dennis, of Bloom Center, Ohio.

In his boyhood days, Mr. Frederick attended the district schools, and he remained under the parental roof until twenty-two years of age. He then learned the trade of carpentering, which he has since followed in connection with farming.

On April 9, 1862, Mr. Frederick chose, as a companion and helpmeet on life's journey, Miss Rachel Hampshire, a native of Wood county, Ohio. To their marriage were born ten children, namely: George B., a miller of Bloom Center; Mary B., wife of George Apel, of Henry township; Charles, a farmer of Jackson township; Rosie, wife of Carey Baringer, of Bloom township; Ella, who died when seventeen years of age; Nora, wife of John Chase, of Henry township; Rhoda, wife of Frank Mercer; Alice, wife of Oliver Baringer; and Myrtie and Lettie, at home. The mother of these died in 1883, and in 1886 Mr. Frederick married Mrs. Rebecca J. Briton, who was born November 1, 1853, daughter of Morgan and Mary M. (Thompson) Blue, of Henry county. To the second marriage have been born two children—William R., at home; and Jennie N., who died in infancy. By her first marriage Mrs. Frederick had three children: Hattie B. (who died in infancy), Ova N. and Amos A.

In 1872 Mr. Frederick located on his present farm, which he had purchased six years previously, and he is now devoting his energies to the cultivation of his eighty acres of rich farming land. He is an energetic, industrious man, and ranks among the leading agriculturists of the community. During the Civil war he manifested his loyalty to the government by enlisting, in 1864, in Company H, 49th O. V. I., joining the regiment at Tiffin, Ohio. He soon went to the front, and participated in the battles of Buzzard's

Roost, Resaca, Pickett's Mills and Kenesaw Mountain, and was discharged November 30, 1865, at Victoria, Texas. In politics he is a Republican, and he has served for eight years both as supervisor and school director, discharging his duties in a prompt and capable manner.

JOHN CHALLEN is numbered among the stalwart and substantial farmers of Plain township, and is a native of Wood county, born in Center township, December 30, 1857. William Challen, his father, was born in England in 1809, and came to America in 1857. He at once settled in Wood county, and always lived here. After the death of his wife in 1882, he made his home with his youngest child, John, and there died September 20, 1896, leaving nine children, namely: James, Charlotte, Mary, Ann, William, Charles, Harriet, George (a prominent farmer of Plain township) and John; two other children—Jane and Henry—are deceased. In politics he was a staunch Republican, and was much loved and respected by all who knew him.

John Challen grew to manhood upon his father's farm, and as soon as old enough assisted in its cultivation, remaining at home until he was twenty-one, and gaining a good practical knowledge of the labors of an agriculturist under the wise guidance of his father. He then rented the homestead for a few years, and later purchased a farm of his father, which he has greatly improved by draining, the erection of substantial buildings, and the planting of an orchard. On April 19, 1877, at Perrysburg, Ohio, he was married to Miss Nettie Newton, who was born November 12, 1858, and is one of the four daughters of George Newton. To this worthy couple was born a daughter, named Eva May, September 4, 1878.

Mr. Challen occupies a high place in the estimation of his fellow citizens. His genial manners and his sturdy integrity have won him a host of friends, and he is highly regarded by all with whom he comes in contact. He is strong in his faith in the principles of the Republican party, and never falters in his allegiance to that organization; but, although interested in a great degree in all local campaigns, has no desire for the troubles, responsibilities, and disquieting influences of political office, though induced to accept the position of school director for one year. In religious faith he is an adherent of the Congregational Church.

GEORGE B. HEDGE. Among the venerable citizens of Montgomery township, none is better known or more highly respected than he whose

name opens this sketch, and whose family of children are also worthy members of the community. He was born September 28, 1819, in Concord, N. H., and is the son of George T. Hedge.

The grandfather of our subject was a native of England, and his calling was that of a whaler. He was the first of this family to come to the United States, and settled in Portland, Me., from which port he sailed on his whaling expeditions. He was lost at sea while on one of these voyages. He left two children, George T., and a daughter, Mary. His widow never re-married, and died in Boston, where she lived with relatives. Mary married a man by the name of Nobles, and resided in Boston until her death. George T. married Miss Nancy Bradley, a native of New Hampshire, and of Irish extraction. Their two children were George B., our subject, and Mary Noble. The father was a shoemaker by trade, and at one time was overseer of the shoe shop of the State prison of New Hampshire. After the death of his first wife he married Dorcas Pettegill, who bore him two children. He was commonly known as "Captain" Hedge, having at one time commanded the Portland artillery. He was a man of fine character, and was very popular among his acquaintances. He died January 10, 1865, at the age of seventy years.

Our subject was only seven years old when he was put out to work with a farmer named Asa Bradley, who soon after moved to northern New Hampshire, afterward going to Medina county, Ohio. When seventeen years old Mr. Hedge left this family, and began working for himself as a farm hand. The death of his mother, which occurred when he was a mere child, having broken up the family, he had lost all trace of his father. About the time last mentioned, in reading a newspaper, he noticed that a man named Hedge had been appointed keeper of the State arsenal, at Portland, Me., and writing to him, the man proved to be his father. The son took what money he had saved, and went to New England, visiting his father and other relatives. During this visit Mr. Hedge was for one summer employed in the State arsenal at Portland, Me., where his father was overseer. He soon after returned to Medina county, and again went to work on the farm. His only possessions at this time were the clothes he had on, and a very little money. When he left the Bradley family he had only the commonest of apparel, a palm leaf hat and cotton pantaloons. His most cherished piece of property was a very small knife, which was made for him by a prisoner in the New Hampshire penitentiary, and which he still has in his

possession. After working on the farm for a time Mr. Hedge was employed in a sawmill where he gained a good knowledge of the business. He rented a sawmill in Medina county, and afterward bought a half interest in one which was located at Center, York township, Medina county. His first purchase of land was fifty acres in Guilford township, that county, which he sold on becoming owner of the sawmill.

Subsequently Mr. Hedge went into the hotel business in Medina county, where he remained three years, coming from there to Montgomery township, Wood county, in September, 1855. He had purchased land in this township from parties in Pennsylvania, which comprised 240 acres, in Section 5, for which he went in debt. The family drove from their former home to their new location, and lived in a rough-log house without windows until a better one could be built. Mr. Hedge was married in Medina county, September 10, 1845, to Catherine M. Crawfoot, who was born in the town of Scipio, Cayuga Co., N. Y., April 8, 1829. Her parents were Ambrose and Annie (Snyder) Crawfoot, who came to Medina county when their daughter was seven years old, and settled in the woods in Mountville township. Her father's family comprised fourteen children, Mrs. Hedge being the eldest of the five children born to the second wife. Her parents came to Wood county in 1855, and settled in Montgomery township, where they died.

The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Hedge are as follows: George W., February 22, 1848, lives in Montgomery township; Ophelia A., August 7, 1849, is now Mrs. J. H. Lusk; Frank T., May 5, 1853; Albert, April 13, 1859, died May 2, of the same year; Harland W., February 23, 1862; Calvin B., October 11, 1866. These children all live in Montgomery township, and have given evidence of their excellent home training by becoming most estimable and influential citizens.

Soon after coming to Wood county Mr. Hedge sold off forty acres of his land. Later he bought, in Section 17, a sawmill with four acres of land, and on the latter built a house, where he has resided ever since. He was engaged in the sawmill business until 1889, when he sold out to his son, George W., who is carrying on an extensive trade. At various times Mr. Hedge has bought small amounts of land, and is now the owner of 139 acres. He was appointed postmaster, under President Buchanan, at Montgomery Cross Roads, which was the first post office in the township, and served until the office was removed to Prairie Depot. He has always been a Democrat, and cast his first vote in 1840 in Defiance, Ohio,



where he was at that time at work on the Wash canal. He has served in various township offices, and as justice of the peace. He was in his early days a member of the Odd Fellows, but on his removal to Wood county was so far distant from any lodge that he dropped his membership. Mr. Hedge is a self-made man, and had but very little schooling, but has acquired a practical education by observation and reading. He has traveled over the United States from Portland, Me., to San Francisco, Cal., and has made good use of his experiences and opportunities. He began life with nothing he could call his own, and by industry and economy has acquired a comfortable fortune. He has reared a large family of children, all of whom live in his immediate neighborhood, are prosperous and highly esteemed; and he is now passing the evening of his life, surrounded by his loved ones, and with the consciousness of having done his whole duty, as far as he can see it, in every relation of life. He has to-day the good will and kindly regard of everyone who knows him.

**SELDON B. WELTON** (deceased). As one of the enterprising and progressive men who have transformed the malarious marshes of Liberty township into well-drained and productive farming lands, the subject of this sketch should hold a prominent place in our records. He was born in Medina county, April 27, 1844, the son of John and Mary Welton, who had come from New England in early life to become pioneer farmers in that locality. His father died in Michigan, and his mother in Wood county, in 1861.

Seldon B. Welton was reared to manhood upon a farm, and, when a young man, deciding to seek a place where he could obtain the advantages which a new region offers to the agriculturist, he came to this county. Here he met and married Miss Emeline Mercer, a daughter of Daniel Mercer, a pioneer, who died September 22, 1896. She is a native of Wood county, born August 14, 1848, and possessed in abundant measure those qualities which fitted her to be his helpful partner in every enterprise. After their marriage they located in the wilderness near what is now known as Bays Station, on the C. H. & D. R. R. Their first home was a primitive one in a typical section of the "Black Swamp," surrounded by water and dense-tangled forests filled with wild game, and reached by almost impassable roads, if one may call the irregular wagon tracks by that name. Malaria lurked in the unwholesome pools, and much labor and privation were to be borne; but

obstacles yield gradually to courage and industry, and a comfortable home rewarded them in time.

Twelve children were born to them: (1) Emmet W., February 17, 1868, married Augusta Daring, a native of Ottawa county, born August 7, 1878, and has one living child, George E., another, Ethel May, having died in infancy. (2) Norton R., December 12, 1869, is not married. (3) Lillian E., August 2, 187—, married and has one child—Claude C. (4) Emma D., January 15, 1873, married, and now resides at Bay Station, Ohio. (5) Delnora J., September 12, 1874, married L. F. Hewer. (6) Myrtle M., born April 2, 1876, married George Brubaker, and has one child—Flora May. (7) John E., February 3, 1878. (8) Edna S., July 31, 1880. (9) Clayton R., June 15, 1882. (10) Ralph C., April 12, 1884. (11) Lucy A., August 3, 1886; and (12) Joseph C. M., September 5, 1888. Mr. Welton was a man of fine business judgment, and was highly esteemed in the community for many excellent traits of character. His life was one of quiet usefulness, and his death, which occurred January 15, 1889, was mourned by all who had ever learned to know him.

Mrs. Welton remained upon the farm until March, 1895, when, realizing the advantages of city schools and social privileges for her younger children, she removed to Bowling Green. She still owns the old homestead of 120 acres, however, and has a portion of it under development for oil, ten wells having been already opened. Her children are doing credit to the family name as they establish themselves in life. They are members of the Disciples Church, and the sons all adhere to the principles of the Republican party, to which their father belonged.

**THOMAS J. ADAMS**, who ranks among the most successful agriculturists of Montgomery township, was born in that locality October 16, 1854, the son of Thomas and Mary (McGill) Adams.

Thomas Adams was a native of Wigtonshire, Scotland, born April 25, 1812, and his wife was born in the same place, December 23, 1819. His family was in moderate circumstances, and when Thomas attained his majority he determined to seek a home in the New World. Sailing for the United States, he landed at New York City, after a voyage of six weeks and five days, and first found employment in that city as hostler for a wealthy family, which situation he lost from failure to salute his master with becoming deference, his Scotch pride not allowing him to do so. Some time later he went to Slatington,



*Sheldon B. Welton*



*Emeline Welton*



Penn., where he worked in the slate quarries, afterward going to Tiffin, Ohio, where, on December 9, 1836, he was married to Mary McGill. She was the daughter of John McGill, who with his family, came to the United States in 1833, locating at Tiffin, Ohio, where both parents died of cholera not long after their arrival.

Thomas Adams came to Wood county in 1835, and entered eighty acres of land in Section 9, Montgomery township. At that time the land office was at Bucyrus, and he walked to and from his land. It was in a primitive condition, with no improvements, and his first house was a small log cabin, built on a knoll a short distance southwest of where the old homestead now stands. The household goods of the young couple, who thus began life together with brave hearts and willing hands, were of the rudest type, and few in number. Until the land was cultivated they could not live off its products, and for the first year or so, Mr. Adams was obliged to work for other people, and he worked in a brickyard at Perrysburg for eight dollars a month. He was a stout, strapping young fellow, and carried the apple trees for his orchard on his back from Tiffin to this home. He was a very robust man, and until his final sickness never had any illness in his life except the measles. The courage and industry of this worthy couple were rewarded by prosperity, and they lived to see the wilderness changed into fertile fields and blooming orchards, and, in place of the solitary log cabin, three handsome houses built upon the farm. They also had the happiness to celebrate their golden wedding on December 9, 1886, at which their large family were all present. Their children were as follows: James W., born September 16, 1837, is a manufacturer in Grand Rapids, Mich.; John, born April 20, 1839, was a member of the 21st Regiment O. V. I., and died June 1, 1863, being buried at Murfreesboro; Robert W., born September 18, 1842, is a conductor on the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé railroad, and lives in Chicago; Jennie, born September 18, 1842, married Rev. James Rhodes, a minister of the United Brethren Church, at Fostoria; Lizzie, born September 20, 1845, is the wife of W. W. Dunipace, of Webster township; Ella, born November 20, 1847, is now Mrs. G. K. Daily, of Montgomery township; Cornelia, born July 9, 1850, married Otis Hoiles, and died August 2, 1871, in Omaha, Neb.; Thomas J. is our subject; George A., born November 9, 1857, is a farmer in Montgomery township; Francis M., born April 3, 1861, is also a farmer in the same township; Minnie B., born November 23, 1863,

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is the wife of Dr. E. W. Heltman, of Toledo, Ohio. Mr. Adams always followed farming, and, being steady, industrious and economical, his property increased from the original eighty acres to 320. He was a Democrat until the formation of the Republican party, when he became one of its staunch adherents. He was no office seeker, but served in minor township offices, and was a man of considerable influence in the community. He died April 26, 1888, his wife surviving him until December 20, 1891. Both are buried in the cemetery at Prairie Depot. This worthy couple were faithful members of the Presbyterian Church, and reared their numerous children to habits of industry and honesty. They were greatly respected and beloved by all who knew them, and their children have all become well-to-do and influential citizens.

Thomas J. Adams, the subject of this sketch, was reared upon his father's farm, his educational advantages being only such as could be obtained in the district schools of his locality. He remained with his parents until his marriage, which took place December 25, 1879, in Jefferson township, Williams Co., Ohio, where he was united to Miss Ida M. Finch. Mrs. Adams was born May 3, 1858, in Wyandot county, the daughter of Randolph and Theresa (Caughey) Finch, the former a native of New York and the latter of Ohio. Her father died in Williams county April 15, 1889, and her mother on October 22, 1892. When our subject was married he had property of small value, and rented a portion of the home farm until 1884, when he purchased forty acres of land in Section 9, Montgomery township, for which he went in debt. This he has since paid for, and has added forty acres to it, and he has been so successful in his operations that in 1892 he built an elegant home upon his place, where he entertains his large circle of friends with true hospitality. He is to-day one of the most prosperous farmers in the township, and is a man who is shrewd in his business enterprises, systematic and careful in the management of his affairs, and holds a high place in the community.

While not an office seeker, Mr. Adams is an active worker in the Republican party, and his friends and enemies alike have felt the effects of his influence. He is a member and trustee of the Methodist Church, as is also Mrs. Adams, and she is prominent in the work of the Foreign Missionary Society. Their children are as follows: Charles R., born September 7, 1881; Albert L., born December 16, 1884, died May 23, 1885; Thomas Cleon, born December 1, 1887; and Terese M., born July 30, 1894.

The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Finch, parents of Mrs. Adams, were as follows; Ida M., wife of our subject; Fred K., living in Montgomery township; Flora, now Mrs. Alonzo Webb, of Pemberville; Sherman, living in Williams county; Frank E., residing in California; Vashti M., now Mrs. William Foss, of West Unity, Ohio, and O. D., a resident of this township.

RAYMOND SCOTT JUNKINS was born July 28, 1861, the second son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Long) Junkins, and received his early education at the district school of Pottertown, Wood county.

On March 28, 1892, Mr. Junkins located on the farm he now occupies, which consists of 114 acres of land, most of which is improved. Since he was twenty years of age our subject has been engaged in stock and poultry raising to a considerable extent, and on his farm are to be found many fine specimens of stock and a large variety of poultry. His orchards are also quite extensive.

Our subject was married, December 25, 1888, to Miss Mina Smith, who was born in Weston, Wood county, February 25, 1865, and was one of the eight children of Asa and Mary (Ellsworth) Smith. Three children have come to Mr. and Mrs. Junkins: Mary Elizabeth, born March 19, 1890; Clay Samuel, born December 25, 1893, died July 6, 1895, aged eighteen months; and Hazel Alma, born September 9, 1896.

In politics Mr. Junkins is a Republican. He is a member of the United Presbyterian Church, and is affiliated with the I. O. O. F. at Weston. He is a self-made man, all he possesses being the result of his own industry and perseverance.

EDMUND L. STOVE, a successful agriculturist of Bloom township, is a member of a family which sent six sons to the defense of the Union during the Civil war, and the eldest daughter was the wife of another soldier. Such a record of courage and patriotism needs no words of comment.

The family is of English origin, our subject's grandfather, John Stove, having been a resident of Leicestershire, England, where John Stove (2), the father, was born March 3, 1803, the youngest of three sons. He was the only one of the family to come to America. He was a merchant and tailor by occupation. He married Miss Catherine Laywood, also a native of Leicestershire, and in 1838 brought his family to America, passing five weeks on the water, and spending \$500 in gold before he was settled in Richland county, near

Mansfield, on what is called Robinson's Big Hill, where the subject of this sketch was born, June 3, 1838. Seven older children were born in England: (1) Elizabeth married Solomon Whistler, who enlisted in Company H, 49th O. V. I., and was killed at Chickamauga. (2) William, now a resident of Van Wert county, was a member of Company E, 46th O. V. I., and was wounded at Vicksburg. (3) Joseph, now residing in Erie county, Penn., was a soldier in the Mexican war, ranking as first sergeant, and later served three years on the U. S. warship "Merrimac," which was captured by the Confederates during the war, and became the iron-clad "Virginia"; he spent one year on the lakes in the steamer "Old Michigan," and three years as an officer on the U. S. frigate "Raritan." After the war broke out he served on the "Unadilla," as an officer, eighteen months, taking part in the battles at Port Royal and Beaufort, N. C.; he was a member of the home militia until after the close of the war. (4) John, a printer by trade, died in Cincinnati in 1871. Previous to the war he was captain of a militia company in Missouri, and Gov. Price undertook to compel him to join the Confederate army, but when the detail of officers came for him they found him seriously ill (from a timely dose of ipecac), and they returned without him. He managed to join the Federal forces under Gen. Lyons, took part in the engagement at Wilson's Creek, and later took the place of his brother George in the 149th O. V. I., the latter remaining at home to care for the aged parents. During the last year of the war John Stove was a member of the surgeon's staff of the 189th O. V. I. (5) George, referred to above, was a member of the "Home Guards." He was the first one to die, being killed by a kick from a horse in 1865. (6) Thomas was a member of Company E, 46th O. V. I., and served until discharged for disability. He died in Cadillac, Mich., in December, 1892. (7) Mary never married, and is now living in Fostoria. Three children besides Edmund L., our subject, were born in this country: Hannah, Priscilla and Sarah, all residents of Fostoria.

A few years after their arrival the family moved to a farm near Ashland, and in 1852 they came to Bloom township, traveling by wagon, and settled upon a tract of 160 acres of land covered with heavy timber. Their first house was a log cabin, which was afterward enlarged, and soon supplanted by a more modern residence. Here the parents died in 1870, the mother in February, and the father two weeks later, and their remains were buried near Fostoria. They

had been members of the Church of England in their youth, but after coming to this country they united with the M. E. Church. They were thoroughly in sympathy with American institutions, and instilled their patriotic principles into their children. The father was a Democrat before the war, but later became a Republican.

Edmund L. Stove was educated in the district schools of Ashland and Wood counties, and afterward at Fostoria. On August 28, 1862, he enlisted in Company H, 49th O. V. I., under Capt. Hays, and was sent to Kentucky. His first battle was at Christmas Creek. In July, 1863, he was taken ill with typhoid fever, and spent four months in hospital, but returned to duty as soon as he recovered. Early in 1864 he came home on a furlough, and returned with the regiment from Tiffin, many of his comrades re-enlisting as veterans. They joined Sherman's command in time for the battles of Rocky Face, or Buzzard's Roost, and then followed Resaca, Dallas, Kingston, Kenesaw Mountain, Marietta, Peach Tree Creek, the siege of Atlanta, Jonesboro, and Lovejoy Station. The force was divided then, and Mr. Stove's division returned to Nashville, later going to Huntsville, Ala., and Greenville, Tenn., and being discharged at Nashville June 13, 1865. Mr. Stove never absented himself from duty except from sickness, and for the one furlough.

On his return home he began farming, and on September 20, 1866, he was married to Miss Mary M. Fast, a native of Bloom township, born November 12, 1842, the daughter of John and Sarah (Hess) Fast, prominent residents of Bloom township. They went to housekeeping on the home farm of 240 acres, of which Mr. Stove took charge, together with forty acres of his own, adjoining. In 1872 he bought 120 acres of unimproved land near Bairdstown, where he built a log cabin for their first dwelling. Three years later he put up a large brick house, then one of the best in the township, and each year has seen the farm improved. With the exception of one year's residence in Fostoria, where he built a nice house, he has lived on his farm ever since. He also owns 122½ acres in Cass township, Hancock county, and is one of the substantial farmers of that region. He and his wife are members of the Church of Christ, in which he has held office. Mrs. Stove is a lady of fine intelligence and culture, and was a teacher before her marriage. He is one of the best informed men in his locality, an excellent mathematician and a great reader of the best literature. They have traveled extensively over the United

States. Their two children have been given good educational advantages: John H. graduated from Hiram College, and is now a minister of the Church of Christ, at Winger, Ontario; Frank A. also studied at Hiram, and graduated from the Ohio Normal University at Ada. In politics Mr. Stove is a Republican, but he has declined all offers of official position. He is a member of Urie Post No. 110, G. A. R., of Bloomdale.

Mrs. Stove's paternal grandfather, Christian Fast, was of German parentage. He became a soldier in the French and Indian war, in which he was wounded and taken prisoner, being held for two years, during which time he was adopted as a brother of the Indian chief. He heard the groans of Capt. Crawford as he was being burned at the stake in Crawford county, Ohio. He was a noted man, and a history of his adventures and prison life is given in book form.

ISAAC N. VAN TASSELL, a well-known educator, and highly respected citizen of Bowling Green, was born in Wood county, September 21, 1851, and is a son of Isaac and Martha L. (Martindale) Van Tassell. He was reared in Milton township, and began teaching school when he was eighteen years old, subsequently entering Oberlin College, where he remained three years. He then resumed teaching, and has now been engaged in educational work for nearly twenty-five years.

The first school which our subject taught was in Milton township, in 1869-70. In 1880 he took charge of the school at Haskins, which he conducted for eight years, also serving as clerk of the school board and member of the board of county school examiners for three terms. He resigned his position to take the principalship of a ward school in Toledo, going there in 1888, and remaining until 1890, in the latter year taking up his residence in Bowling Green. For some years thereafter Mr. Van Tassell was engaged in newspaper work, having an interest in the *Tribune* of that city; but in 1894 sold out, and again resumed the profession of a teacher, being connected with the schools at Portage and Tontogany. He has always been popular with his pupils, and is regarded as one of the best teachers in the county, being an earnest student, and possessing the happy faculty of imparting his knowledge in a clear and forcible manner to those under his tutorship. In politics he is affiliated with the Republican party, and in religious faith he is a believer in the doctrines of the Presbyterian Church. Socially, he is a member of the I. O. O. F.,

is a good citizen, and has many warm personal friends. He has never married.

The father of our subject was born June 28, 1810, in Greene county, N. Y., where he was reared to manhood and acquired a common-school education, after which he taught for one year in his native State. When about twenty years of age he came to Wood county at the request of his uncle, who was a Presbyterian minister, and who was then in charge of the Indian Mission, at the old mission station on the Maumee river. The young man was appointed teacher of the mission school, having under his care the little Indian and white boys and girls, which position he held for a year and a half. He then entered Western Reserve College with the intention of studying for the ministry, and during vacations taught school in the towns of Wadsworth and Windham. On completing his course at the college, he returned to the Maumee Valley, where he was engaged in teaching for several years, finally purchasing government land in Milton township, Wood county, where he reared his family and made his home from 1845 to 1876, in which latter year he returned to Bowling Green, where his death occurred in June, 1877. While living in Milton township he served for fifteen consecutive years as justice of the peace, and helped to organize a Presbyterian Church at various places in the vicinity. He held the office of elder in that religious body for many years, and was a staunch supporter of its doctrines. His father's family was rather a remarkable one in some respects, there being fifteen children, all of whom grew to maturity, and all married with the exception of one daughter. When visiting his old home in Greene county, N. Y., in 1866, Mr. Van Tassel and his nine brothers attended Church together, and occupied one seat. He was six feet two and a half inches in height, strong and active, and could tell many interesting tales of the early days in Ohio, when he was clearing off his farm, his nearest neighbors being wolves and other wild beasts of the forest, who occasionally paid him a visit. His wife, the mother of our subject, who shared with her husband the privations and toils, is still living. She was born near Perrysburg, Wood county, October 2, 1821.

The family, of which our subject is a member, consisted of eight children, a brief record of the others being as follows: Flavia L. married Julius Greely, who was a member of Company D, 111th O. V. I., and was killed at Franklin, Tenn.; after his death she became the wife of John P. Barton, of Leipsic, Putnam Co., Ohio. Emerson H. is a farmer in Monroe, Mich. Clara and

Harry C. died in infancy. Helen M. is the wife of Robert Dunn, of Bowling Green. Charles S. resides in Bowling Green. Alice E. died in infancy. The family of our subject's mother were prominent in Massachusetts and Vermont, her father, Elisha Martindale, being a well-known citizen of Lenox, Mass., while on her mother's side they resided at Middlebury, Vt. Her cousin, Gen. James Henry Martindale, was a major-general in the Civil war under Gen. George B. McClellan. Her uncle, Dr. Conant, was the first resident physician in the Maumee Valley, settling there in 1816.

A. E. STAHL, one of the best citizens and most substantial business men of Risingsun, was born in Jackson township, Seneca Co., Ohio, September 30, 1852, and belongs to an honored pioneer family of that county. Michael Stahl, his grandfather, located there at a very early day, when Indians still roamed through the forest, and endured all the hardships and privations of frontier life. He married Sallie Hampshire, and both spent their remaining days in Jackson township, Seneca county.

Jonas Stahl, the father of our subject, was born September 14, 1828, and was the eldest son and third child in a family of twelve children. He was reared in the midst of pioneer scenes, and as his services were needed in clearing and developing the home farm, his educational privileges were quite limited. He remained under the parental roof until his marriage, November 1, 1849, with Miss Harriet Fiantt, the wedding ceremony being performed at Fort Seneca, by Rev. John Bilchartz, a Lutheran minister. She was born in Berks county, Penn., September 15, 1831, the daughter of Martin and Mary (Kingsley) Fiantt, both of whom had been twice married. Mrs. Fiantt's first husband was Gabriel Price. In 1834, Mr. Fiantt took his family to Wayne county, Ohio, in 1843 removing to Big Spring township, Seneca county, and later to Jackson township, same county. However, he died in Wood county at the age of ninety-four, and his wife spent her last days in La Grange county, Ind., dying at the age of ninety-six. In their family were five children, of whom the mother of our subject was the second daughter and third child. By his former marriage, Mr. Fiantt had eight children.

Jonas Stahl began his domestic life upon a farm in Jackson township, Seneca county, where his death occurred November 12, 1870, and his remains were there interred in the Lutheran cemetery. He was a staunch Democrat in politics.

and was one of the active workers and faithful members of the Evangelical Church, in which he held office. He left two children — Melissa, who was born November 12, 1850, and is now the wife of John Soules, of Seneca county; and A. E., the subject of this review. The mother, who is still living, was married December 31, 1874, to Noah Swope, of Risingsun. She also holds membership in the Evangelical Church.

The education of our subject was such as the district schools near his boyhood home afforded, and he early became familiar with the work on a farm. He was but eighteen years of age when his father died, and at once assumed the management of the home place. On reaching his majority he led to the marriage altar Miss Margaret Long, of Jackson township, Seneca county, the daughter of Benjamin Long, and to them were born two sons—Elroy, of Risingsun, and Benjamin, who died in infancy. After his marriage Mr. Stahl located on the old home farm, where he lived for six years, and then came to Perry township, Wood county, where he purchased 120 acres, in Section 2, which place continued to be his home until his removal to Risingsun, in 1891. During his residence in Perry township, he erected all the buildings on his excellent farm, with the exception of his dwelling, and improved the farm in many ways. For two years after coming to Risingsun, he continued to follow agricultural pursuits; but has since engaged in the oil business, being one of the most extensive individual operators of Risingsun, and owning 200 acres of valuable oil land. He also owns two houses in Risingsun, his own residence being one of the finest in the village. He is an excellent business man, industrious and energetic, and has secured a comfortable competence. He is a shrewd and careful dealer, well deserving the success that has crowned his efforts, for he has secured his property principally through his own efforts and excellent management. He regularly supports the Democratic party, but is no politician or office seeker, his own interests requiring his entire time and attention.

ISRAEL SIMON, a worthy representative of one of the leading and prominent families of Wood county, carries on agricultural pursuits in Bloom township. His great-grandfather, John Adam Simon, was born in Switzerland, and became the founder of the family in the New World, where he arrived about 1735, when still a young man. He determined to make a home in this country, and to stand in defense of his God-given rights—life, liberty and the pursuits of happiness. Later

he married and located in the eastern part of the Colony of Maryland. During the Narragansett-Indian war his house with all its contents was consumed by the flames, but, with one exception, the family escaped by flight, though with scant attire. Andrew, a boy of seven years, being some distance from the house, in a sugar camp, was captured, and at the hands of the savages suffered many cruelties, and it was seven years before he was able to return to the family. The father passed his last days in Washington county, Penn., where he died at nearly the age of one hundred years, and he was buried in an old German cemetery near his home. He was a brave, fearless man, of invincible integrity, charitable and friendly to all. In the family were ten children, five sons and five daughters, the sons being named respectively: Michael, Nicholas, Andrew, Adam and Jacob.

The eldest of these, Michael Simon, was born in Maryland in 1741, and was the founder of the family in the Buckeye State, buying 640 acres of land in Mahoning county, in the year 1800, from Henry Boardman, who then owned the entire township of Boardman, at that time in Trumbull county. Two years later Mr. Simon removed to his purchase; one of his four sons, Adam, had previously located there. He departed this life in 1839, when nearly ninety-nine years of age, leaving 464 descendants, sixteen being of the fourth generation. He was married three times. By his first wife he became the father of twelve children—Michael, Peter, Andrew, Adam, George, Jacob, Mrs. Barbara Gedaker, Mrs. Elizabeth Kistner, Mrs. Margaret Kistner, Mrs. Ann Mary Macherman, Mrs. Esther Hewitt and Mrs. Mary C. Phister. By his second wife he had one child, who died at the age of one year. His third union was with Gertrude Smith, and to them were born two sons—Abraham and Henry.

The last named was the father of our subject. He was born in Washington county, Penn., June 7, 1796, and in Allegany county, Md., on September 11, 1821, wedded Catherine Stemple, whose birth occurred in Preston county, Va., July 10, 1798. In their family were the following children: Israel, subject of this sketch, was born October 5, 1822; Jonas, born January 16, 1824, died in Hancock county, Ohio, April 5, 1854; Mary, born November 20, 1825, first became the wife of Isaac Bunnell, but is now Mrs. Joseph Beck, of Bairdstown, Ohio; Elias is next in order of birth; Abigail, born July 17, 1830, married Henry Carrell, of Wood county; Joshua, born February 17, 1833, died in McComb, Ohio, May 16, 1890; Carolus, born July 18, 1835,



died January 20, 1863, from a wound received while a member of Company H, 49th O. V. I., during the Civil war. The mother of these children died April 2, 1836, after a long illness, and was laid to rest in Boardman township, Mahoning county. She was a faithful member of the Lutheran Church. She had come to Ohio with her husband on horseback, bringing with her a set of dishes which had been given her. The father was again married in Mahoning county, March 11, 1842, the lady of his choice being Elizabeth Miner, and they became the parents of seven children, namely: Catherine, who died in Wood county of membranous croup while young; George, who was killed during the Civil war; David, who died in Eaton county Mich.; Gideon and Armenta, who died while young; Henry, who makes his home in Eaton county, Mich.; and Maria, now Mrs. Gidner, of the same county. The first land owned by Henry Simon was a tract of 100 acres in Mahoning county, for which he paid \$400, and to its cultivation he devoted his time until November, 1844, when he came to Bloom township, Wood county, here making his home until 1870, when he removed to Eaton county, Mich. There he died May 15, 1872, and at the same place his widow passed away in 1894. His first vote was cast for the Whig party, and he later became a staunch Republican.

Being the eldest son, Israel Simon was early called upon to assist in the labors of the home farm, so that his early education was limited; but after starting out in life for himself he attended both English and German schools. For two years previous to attaining his majority he had worked for others; but his father received his wages, and, at the age of twenty-one, he learned the shoemaker's trade under John Baird, with whom he remained for two years, then coming to Wood county, where his parents had moved in the meantime. In the fall of 1846 his father built him a shop on the home farm.

In Bloom township, on July 4, 1850, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Simon and Miss Susan Nusbaum, who was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, June 9, 1826, a daughter of John Nusbaum, who came to Bloom township at an early day, after first locating in Seneca county. Ten children graced this union: Theodore, who died at the age of eighteen months; Catherine, now Mrs. John B. Wilson, of Bowling Green, Ohio; Laura, now Mrs. John Rotz, of McComb, Hancock Co., Ohio; Lewis, who, in the fall of 1890, married Lizzie Lantz, of Preston county, W. Va., who died September 20, 1892; Lydia, at

home; Martha, who is the widow of J. D. Munn, and is now engaged in school teaching; Mary, wife of Virgil James, of McComb; Winfield S., who died May 7, 1866; Della, now Mrs. J. H. Reese, of Crestline, Ohio; and Ida, who follows school teaching.

On coming to Wood county, Mr. Simon's property consisted only of \$30, an axe and a scythe, and, in connection with work at his trade, he also engaged in clearing land and chopping wood. In this way he and his brother Jonas secured the capital with which to purchase 160 acres in Section 32, Bloom township, to which they later added eighty acres, and on this tract our subject first began housekeeping in a rude log cabin 18 x 26 feet, standing a short distance north of where his present home is located. The land was all heavily timbered, not a tree having been cut with the exception of coon and bee trees. After working hard all day in the open air, Mr. Simon would make shoes in the evenings, in order to get a start in life, and the first rocking chair which the family owned, was earned by Mrs. Simon raking wheat at twenty-five cents per day. In 1890 they removed to McComb, but after two years returned to the farm, where they still continue to reside. It comprises ninety-seven acres of good land, and the improvements found thereon stand as monuments to the thrift and industry of the owner.

Owing to his arduous toil in former days, Mr. Simon has not enjoyed very good health for some years, although he was once a robust, active man. Politically, he usually supports the Republican party, though he is not bound by party ties in township and county matters, preferring to vote for the man who he thinks will best fill the position. He was trustee of his township for seven years, assessor one term, and has held various school offices, discharging his duties with promptness and fidelity. Religiously both he and his wife are faithful members of the Disciples Church.

J. D. HALSEY, a prominent agriculturist of Plain township, and a veteran of the Civil war, was born May 21, 1838, near Monmouth Court House, N. J. His grandfather, John Halsey, a native of England, and a sailor by occupation, was one of the heroes of the Revolutionary war. While attempting to bring supplies to the Colonial forces, his vessel was fired upon by the British and sunk off the "Highlands of Neversink." He swam for the shore, and the American coast-guard seeing his courage, were inspired to fight the blockaders with such vigor that they captured

the entire force of marines. He lived to be ninety-eight years old, having spent sixty-two years of his life upon the sea. Mr. Halsey saw him at the age of eighty-eight, and heard from his own lips interesting reminiscences of his early life. Isaiah Halsey, our subject's father, was born near Monmouth Court House, N. J., in 1808, and during early manhood was a sailor. He married Abigail Brand, a native of the same locality, who died in 1841, leaving five children: (1) Jane (deceased), formerly the wife of D. J. Carbaugh, of Strasburg, Mo.; (2) Mercy, who married John Wickard, of Partello, Mich.; (3) Catherine, wife of A. L. French, died in 1872; (4) Jonas died at the age of ten; and John D., our subject, who was an infant at the time of his mother's death. The father married again, his second wife being Miss Rebecca Wells. Becoming dissatisfied with a sailor's life, he determined to become a farmer, and in 1840 he came to Ohio, locating first in Hancock county and later in Fulton county. He was a man of great physical strength. In politics he was an Old-line Whig; and, although the family were originally Quakers, he adhered to the Baptist Church.

John D. Halsey was educated mainly in the schools of Wood and Lucas counties, where he grew to manhood. He learned the trade of mechanical engineer, and for three years sailed on the great lakes as an engineer. In 1861 he enlisted in Company I, 14th O. V. I., and served in the army of West Virginia and the army of the Potomac; taking part in many engagements, among them the battles of Philippi, Laurel Hill, Carrick's Ford, the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Bethesda Church, Gaines' Mills, North Anna, Cold Harbor, and the siege of Petersburg. Notwithstanding this hard fighting, Mr. Halsey was not wounded once. He served for some time as lieutenant of the 10th Ohio Sharpshooters, and afterward was acting captain, with three companies under his charge during part of the time. On his return from the army he gave his attention to farming. He was married in 1861 to Miss Anna Nobbs a native of Fulton county, born May 13, 1840, and settled for a time upon a farm in that county. One child was born of this union: Jessie, now the wife of W. A. Ickes, both of whom reside at the homestead.

In 1866 Mr. Halsey moved to Arcadia, Hancock county, and in 1875 he came to Wood county, and in 1892 located in Jerry City upon his present fine farm of ninety-six acres, near Bowling Green. He is regarded as one of the substantial citizens of that vicinity, and his sound judgment and upright character command the re-

spect of all who know him well. In politics he is a Republican, and a strong "sound-money" man, and is a member of the G. A. R.

GEORGE H. HARMAN, a farmer and oil dealer, was born in Section 30, Montgomery township, March 11, 1850, and is the eldest son of William and Mary (Kiser) Harman.

Mr. Harman was reared as a farmer's boy, attended school, and lived on the home farm until his marriage, in 1870, to Miss Mary E. Cupp, a daughter of Jackson Cupp, who was at that time a farmer of Bloom township. At the age of sixteen, our subject had learned the carpenter's trade with Eli Swope, and after his marriage he located near Prairie Depot, rented a farm, and worked at his trade, later doing contract work, at which he continued for about twelve years. The first house and lot that Mr. Harman could call his own was in Tysontown, Wood county. The first land which he purchased was twenty-seven acres in Section 31, Montgomery township, where, for a short time, he carried on farming. He then traded this land for the eighty acres which he now owns in Section 30, and which is the old home farm of the family, he being one of the third generation to own it. He now has in all 123 acres in Montgomery and Portage townships, where he is carrying on general farming, and has become one of the most prosperous and successful citizens of the township. He was at one time interested in a sawmill in Montgomery township with Bowers & Co. At present, besides his farm operations, he owns an extensive interest in the oil fields, and receives a handsome income from eighteen oil wells, of which he has the control. He is a shrewd dealer, a good business man, and stands well with all who know him.

To Mr. and Mrs. Harman the following children have been born: Hattie, now Mrs. Henry Whitman, living in Portage township, and has two sons. Fred is a pumper, and lives in Montgomery township; he married Cora Albert, and has one child. D. Frank is also a pumper in the same township; he married Miss Hattie Wise, and has one child. Nelson and Tillie are at home.

LIEUT. W. ROBERT JONES. Among the best known of the younger citizens of North Baltimore, is the gentleman whose name introduces this review. He was born August 28, 1874, near Martinsburg, W. Va., and the same year, his father, John H. Jones, and family moved to Ohio. From his childhood Mr. Jones has taken an enthusiastic interest in military affairs. He is

a graduate of the Military School at Columbus, Ohio, and from the age of seventeen has been a member of the National Guard, being the instigator and organizer of Company K, of the 2nd O. N. G., raised at North Baltimore, which is made up of the leading young men of that city, and of which he was commissioned first lieutenant. Although still a young man, his activity in military affairs has made him widely and favorably known throughout the State of Ohio. Lieut. Jones has served in arduous duty with his company on various occasions when it was called out by the governor of the State to preserve the peace in cases of strikes. He is one of the most capable and popular officers of the regiment. The lieutenant has been a student all his life, first in the schools of Seneca and Wood counties, and later at the Fostoria Academy, where he paid some attention to the study of chemistry, in which, together with philosophy, he took a special course at Heidelberg University, Tiffin, Ohio. This was followed by a three-years' course in pharmacy at the Ohio State University at Columbus. Mr. Jones now contemplates a five-years' course to thoroughly qualify himself as a physician and surgeon. He is a young man of talent, and superior natural ability, which, combined with excellent mental training, class him as the peer of any of his associates. Of undoubted integrity, and the best of personal habits, his friends have cause to predict for him a bright and successful future. In politics he is a staunch Republican, and, like his father, is a member of the Presbyterian Church. Among his associates and acquaintances he is genial and popular, is enthusiastic and loyal to every enterprise that will benefit his city, State or country; of high character and honorable purpose, he is a worthy representative of worthy ancestors, mentioned elsewhere in this volume.

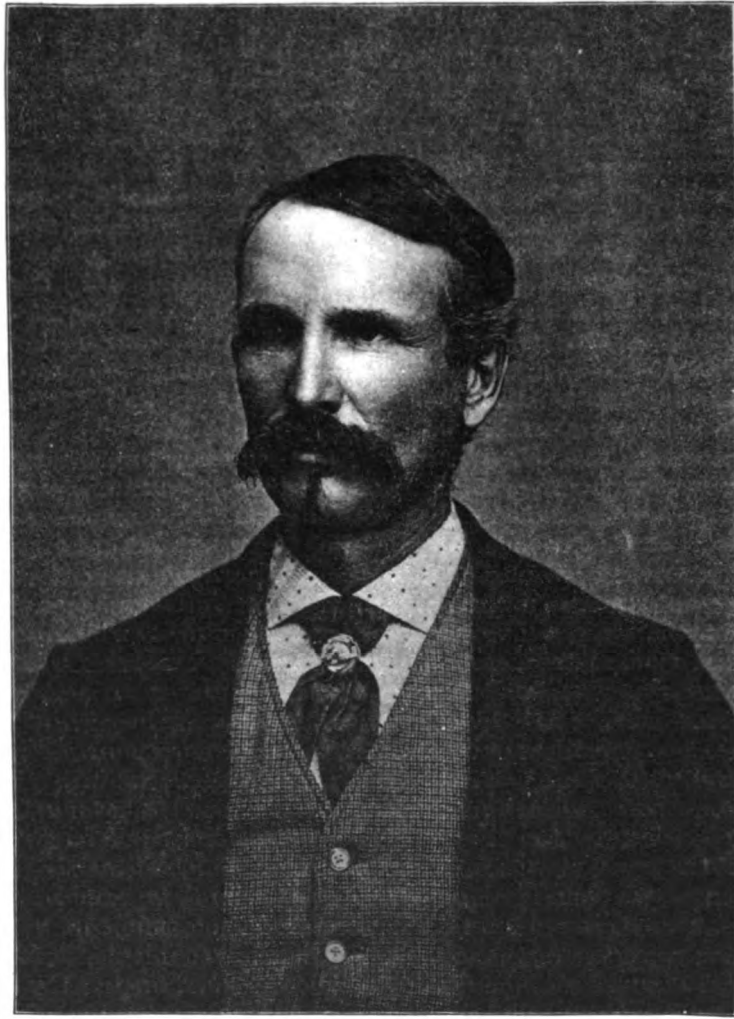
ROBERT H. WOLLAM, an intelligent and well-to-do agriculturist of Montgomery township, is a member of one of the most highly respected pioneer families of that locality.

In still earlier times his ancestors came from near Winchester, Va., and were settlers on the then frontier line of eastern Ohio, his grandfather, Henry Wollam, who was born September 15, 1777, having been among the first to make his home in Columbiana county. On December 17, 1800, he married Mary Bough, who was born October 11, 1783, and they reared a family of thirteen children, of whom our subject's father, the late Joseph Wollam, born February 8, 1824, was the next to the youngest. He was excep-

tionally gifted mentally, but the common schools of his day were poor, and he had no good opportunity to develop his powers in early life. He learned the carpenter's trade, and for some time worked at boat building in Wellsville, Ohio. On June 27, 1844, he was married, in Columbiana county, by Rev. O. S. Patterson, to Miss Mary A. Sloan, a native of that county, born February 7, 1827. Her father, Robert Sloan, came from County Antrim, Ireland, at the age of eleven, with his parents, Allen Sloan and his wife, who located in eastern Pennsylvania, where he grew to manhood. He married Elizabeth Stapleton, and eight children were born to this union: William, a farmer in Davis county, Iowa; Margaret, who married William Chambers, and died in Iowa; Joshua, formerly editor of the Keosauqua (Iowa) *Republican*; Elizabeth, now Mrs. Butler Sloan, of Missouri; Mary A., our subject's mother; Martha, who married Mr. McClure, and died in Iowa; John, deceased, formerly a resident of Bloomfield, Iowa, and a prominent politician, holding various county offices; and Robert, a well-known member of the Iowa bar, and at present a judge, residing at Keosauqua.

For some time after his marriage our subject's father lived upon a farm in Columbiana county, but later moved to New Lisbon. In 1834, when he was ten years old, he came to Wood county with his brother Benjamin, remained through the summer, and then returned home to Columbiana county with his father. In 1851 he again came to Wood county, this time with his family, locating first at Hatton. Soon after he removed to Montgomery township, Section 25, N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , where he settled in the primeval forest in true pioneer style, building the first house ever on the place, a log cabin. As prosperity came he erected a larger home, and in 1876 he built a third, a substantial brick residence, which is still in use. He worked at the carpenter's trade while his farm was being redeemed from the wood and water, finding plenty to do, and at one time he conducted a plant for making molasses from sugar cane. At the time of his death he owned 200 acres of land, and was regarded as one of the representative farmers of the township. A prominent member of the Disciples Church, he was in sympathy with all movements tending to benefit the people, and was an early patron of newspapers in his section, being an interested reader of all questions of his time. Until the assassination of Lincoln he was a Democrat; but after that event he gave his influence to the Republican party, and was several times elected to township offices on that ticket.

Since his death his widow has continued to



*R. H. Wollam*



occupy the old home, where she has long been held in high esteem, not only on her husband's account but for her own good qualities. Robert Henry, our subject, is the eldest of their family of six children; the names of the others, with dates of birth, are as follows: William, September 2, 1847; C. F., May 15, 1851; Mary E., September 8, 1853, died February 6, 1878; Martha A., May 25, 1859, married David Myers, and died at Risingsun, April 13, 1882; and Joseph H., March 7, 1863. The four sons are all residents of Montgomery township, and are engaged in agricultural pursuits.

R. H. Wollam, the subject proper of this review, was born in New Lisbon, Columbiana county, June 25, 1845, and was about five years old when he first looked upon the swamps of Wood county, where he was educated in the schools of District No. 7. His first teacher was Mary A. Stahl, a sister of Jacob Stahl, ex-commissioner of Wood county, and the building was a hewed-log structure. He was apt in learning, but lacked application, and his course of study only formed a slight foundation for his present knowledge, which has been gained by reading and observation. There was always plenty of work to do at home, and there he stayed until March 6, 1865, when he enlisted in Company C, 193rd O. V. I. His regiment was stationed near Winchester, Va., where he served as a patrol guard for some time, receiving his discharge in August, 1865. Soon after he returned home he bought forty acres of partially cleared land in Section 25, Montgomery township, which he cleared and improved. In March, 1874, he purchased a one-half interest in forty acres in Section 24, where he now resides. He has ninety-three acres of excellent land, and a comfortable income, and is highly respected in the neighborhood.

Steady and quiet in his habits, fond of reading, and well-informed upon general topics, he is one of the best of citizens. He has never worn the Hymeneal yoke. In politics he has been a Republican since the close of the war, but previous to that his sympathies were with the Democrats. Although he is not a seeker for office, he is a regular voter and influential worker, and has been a delegate to several county conventions.

C. F. CHAPMAN, a prominent manufacturer of Perrysburg, was born August 16, 1843, in Berea, Ohio. His family is of old New England stock, and his grandparents, Nathan and Mary (Whitney) Chapman, were among the first to come from Connecticut and settle on the Western Reserve. Typical pioneers, hardy and self-reliant, they

lived to the patriarchal ages of ninety-six and ninety-nine, respectively. They located in Portage county, where their son, Nathan M., our subject's father, was born, in 1816. He married Miss Orra Collins, a native of New England, and in 1840 moved to Berea, where he engaged in the stone business and in the manufacture of wooden bowls. In 1862 he came to Millbury, Wood county, and is now living there, retired from active business. His wife died in 1880, at the age of fifty-nine. They had three children: George W., who resides at Millbury, Ohio; C. F., our subject; and Stella Angus, of Toledo.

The subject of this sketch was educated in Berea, and in 1862, when only eighteen years of age, he enlisted in Company B, 103rd O. V. I., assigned to the army of the Ohio. He served as a private, and later as a non-commissioned officer, and took part in every battle in which his command was engaged, not absenting himself from duty a single day from the time he went to the front until the close of the war. Returning home, in 1865, he engaged in the wooden-ware and lumber business, at Millbury. Under his management the manufacture of specialties in wooden ware was largely increased, the trade of the firm now extending to all parts of this country, and to Europe as well. On January 1, 1887, he formed a partnership with the late A. G. Williams, continuing until 1892, when the latter sold out to H. H. Sargent, of Monroeville, Ohio, the firm opening an office in Perrysburg, from which Mr. Chapman still manages his wide and varied business interests. Their factories have been located at various points in Canada, Michigan, Ohio, and Tennessee, and they still have one at Aylmer, Canada, although their work is principally carried on in Michigan, in the factories at Boone and Copemish.

Mr. Chapman was married December 4, 1867, to Miss Philinda P. Tracy, who was born in Bowling Green, Ohio, July 13, 1844. They have four children: Edith, Charles F., Jr., Gertrude, and Linda Belle. Mr. and Mrs. Chapman are both leading members in the M. E. Church. In political connection he is a Republican; socially he is a member of the G. A. R., and of the Knights of Honor.

SAMUEL SLAUGHTERBECK was born in Westmoreland county, Penn., January 1, 1831, and may be counted among the early settlers of Wood county, as his father, John Slaughterbeck, came with his family to what is now known as Perry township, in 1836. He bought land in the timber, and building a rude cabin, such as sheltered

the early comers, proceeded to make a home. It was hard work clearing away the large trees and thick underbrush, and, far from neighbors or society of any kind, the young farmer grew lonesome, and longed to return to his old home in Pennsylvania. He accordingly took the long journey on foot; but, after spending a short time among his early friends, again came west and took up his old occupations.

John Slaughterbeck lived to the good old age of eighty-two years, and died in Lucas county, near Toledo, where he spent the later years of his life. He was originally a Methodist in his religious connections, but subsequently united with the Presbyterian Church. Rachel (Anderson) Slaughterbeck the mother of our subject, was about sixty-eight years old at the time of her death, which took place at Eagleville, Bloom township, Wood county; by her marriage with Mr. Slaughterbeck she became the mother of twelve children, of whom the following record is given: Sarah married Edwin Turnham, an Englishman by birth, and died a number of years ago; Edwin died after reaching manhood; Henry is deceased; Leah is the wife of William Cook, and lives in Bloom township; Mary married Peter Mominee, of Lucas county, and there died; John was a soldier for three years in the war of Rebellion, and died, aged twenty-two, in Bloom township; Jacob lives in Hancock county; George lives in Wood county; Catherine married Wesley Cobus, and is deceased; Samuel is our subject; the others died in childhood.

Samuel Slaughterbeck, the fourth child of the above family, grew to manhood in Perry township, and on July 20, 1862, enlisted in Company B, 111th O. V. I., for three years, to serve his country in the war of the Rebellion. His command was assigned to the Western army. He was wounded through the left wrist while on picket duty near Louisville, Ky., and was sent home on furlough, afterward receiving his discharge September 18, 1863, at Columbus, Ohio. While Mr. Slaughterbeck was in the army his family remained with his father, and after his discharge he settled on a farm belonging to the latter in Bloom township. This place he afterward sold, taking up his residence in Henry township, where he carried on farming until 1892, at which time he removed to North Baltimore. Mr. Slaughterbeck has a good farm, upon which oil was discovered in 1889, and he now has an interest in eight wells, deriving a handsome income therefrom. He is an enterprising, active man, a good citizen, and is held in high esteem by his neighbors. He is a Republican in his political

views, and is a member of the Union Veteran Union.

Mr. Slaughterbeck was married, in 1855, to Miss Mahala Ann Copus, of Bloom township, by whom he had eight children, as follows: Mary, who died when five years old; Peter, living in Hancock county, who married Marinda Laney, and has five children; George, living in Henry township, Wood county, who married Laura Chance; Samuel, who married Jennie Jennings, and has four children (he lives in Henry township); John, who married Jennie Graham, and has four children (they reside in Henry township); Selina Jane, married to James Fife, of North Baltimore, and they have eight children; Alfred, married to Fannie Durham, and living in Hammanburg, Wood county (have one child); Grant, a farmer in Wood county, married to Miss Minnie Cupp, and has four children. The mother of this family died in 1873, and, for his second wife, Mr. Slaughterbeck married Mrs. Mary Bunnell. Of this union one child was born, Jason, who married Ella Downs, and has two children, and lives in North Baltimore. In 1883 Mr. Slaughterbeck married Miss Malinda Feller, by whom he has four children—Louisa, Burley, Benjamin and Harrison.

Our subject used to grind corn by hand, three grains at a time, for the family. The mill was located centrally for three families, Jacob Rhines, John Swinehart, and John Slaughterbeck. While the children were grinding the corn the father stood guard against the wolves, firing his rifle to frighten them away. John, the father, had to go many miles to buy corn, and they called the journey "going to Egypt for corn." The Indians camped around the house for seven years, furnishing them with wild meat in exchange for corn. They never molested the white settlers.

JOHN MARSH, an influential and progressive farmer residing in Section 33, Lake township, came to Wood county in 1857, locating first in Plain township, but the following year removed to Lake township. He made a settlement at Clay Junction, now Millbury, and purchased forty acres of land where the village of Latchie now stands.

He was born in Sussex county, England, in 1839. That country was also the birthplace of his parents, Joseph and Frances (Mathews) Marsh, who never left their native land. Four of their children became citizens of Ohio: Luke, who became a farmer of Lake township, where he arrived in 1854, and died at Latchie in 1886; Mark, who located in Lucas county, in 1855,

and there died in 1888; John, of this review; and Morris became a resident of Sylvania, Lucas county, in 1867, and still makes his home there.

When in his eighteenth year, Mr. Marsh, our subject, bade good-bye to home and friends, and started for the New World, boarding a sailing vessel at Liverpool, and at the end of seven weeks reached the shores of this country, since which time he has made his home in Wood county. He was married in Lake township, in 1863, to Miss Margaret Akerman, and to them were born three children: Jacob, who is married and lives in Lake township; Oscar M.; and Frances M., now the wife of James Wagoner, of Stony Ridge. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Marsh was again married, his second union being with Miss Sarah Moore, a native of Lake township, where their wedding was celebrated October 8, 1871. Her parents were born in Pennsylvania, where they were married, and emigrated by team to Lake township, Wood county, where they entered the land now owned by our subject, and immediately settled thereon, being numbered among the earliest pioneers of the locality. There the father's death occurred October 25, 1880, and the mother died August 6, 1883. In their family were nine children, namely: George, who was born in 1822, died on the home farm in 1849; Mary is the wife of John Akenberger, of Millbury; John died in Lake township, in 1856; James is married, and lives in Nebraska; Mrs. Elizabeth Thornton died in Perrysburg township, Wood county, in 1872; Susanna died in Troy township, in 1833; Mrs. Margaret Shure resides in East Toledo, Ohio; Joseph, who now makes his home at Curtis, Ottawa Co., Ohio, enlisted in Lake township, in 1864, in Company K, 25th O. V. I., for three years, and served until the close of the war; Jacob enlisted in the same township, in 1862, becoming a member of Company K, 111th O. V. I., and died at Bowling Green, Ky., in 1863; and Sarah completes the family. It was in 1831 that this family located in Wood county, making a home in Troy township, on the ridge, near the village of Stony Ridge; but three years later they located upon the farm now owned by Mr. Marsh, which was then a vast wilderness, entirely unimproved. The parents were both faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Five children came to bless the union of our subject and his wife, as follows: Rachel, now the widow of Jesse Wagoner, of Lake township; Eliza, who died in 1887; and Adelia, Sarah and Perry Earl.

Prompted by patriotism for his adopted coun-

try, Mr. Marsh joined the Union army during the Civil war, enlisting at Latchie, in 1861, as a member of Company E, 72nd O. V. I., and was mustered into the United States service at Columbus, Ohio, being assigned to the Western army. After the battle of Shiloh he was taken ill, and at Columbus was honorably discharged, in 1862, after which he returned to Latchie. He is a true representative of the Republican party, and has always been a firm supporter of its principles.

CHARLES WELLS THOMAS was born April 8, 1845, at Chili, Monroe Co., N. Y., and when he was six months old his parents moved to Ohio, settling upon a farm known as "The Islands," in Perry township, Wood county. At that time the farm was owned by the late Charles W. Foster, who was a brother of Mrs. Catherine Thomas (our subject's mother), and after whom Charles W. Thomas was named. C. W. Foster was the founder of Fostoria, Ohio, and father of ex-Gov. Foster.

Young Thomas received his early education at the common school in District No. 1, Perry township—two of his teachers being Maj. Thomas C. Norris and Capt. F. R. Stewart, while some of his schoolmates were Omar P. Norris (afterward captain); James Norris (afterward sergeant); and Charles F. Munger, Thaddeus Fletcher, George Kamphor, John Johnston and Volentine Ash (afterward privates in the O. V. I.). In Perry township Mr. Thomas enlisted as a private in Company G, Capt. Charles D. Dennis, 189th O. V. I., and was discharged at Huntsville, Ala., when he returned home. He then went to school again, during the winter of 1865-66, after which he worked three years in the L. E. & W. Railway Company's office in Fostoria, Ohio. Later he was bookkeeper for The Roberts Co. Foundry and Machine Shops, closing out their business as receiver for the same. He was elected and served two terms as city councilman of Fostoria, Ohio; for five years served as second lieutenant of Company D, Foster Light Guards, Sixteenth Regiment, O. N. G. He helped to construct the Toledo & Ohio Central railroad, and had charge of the inspection of all ties during the construction of the N. Y. C. & St. L. R. R.; was also transfer clerk, for two years, for The Western Transit Company, of Chicago, Ill., and for ten years was connected with the wholesale grocery house of Davis & Foster, Fostoria, Ohio. The northern street of Fostoria was named Thomas, in honor of C. W. Thomas. For two years he was connected with the municipal contractors of Jamestown, N. Y. He is a thirty-



second degree Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Mason. He has one son, Ralph F., who is in The Mechanics Savings Banking Co., at Fostoria, Ohio.—Monday, September 7, 1896.

JACOB W. URSCHEL, the well-known lime manufacturer, of Sugar Ridge, was born March 6, 1845, in Stark county, Ohio.

Daniel Urschel, his father, was a native of Germany, where he followed agricultural pursuits. He was married there to Fraulein Barbara Zintsmaster, and in 1834 came with his family to Ohio, settling upon a farm of 160 acres in Stark county. His wife died in 1885, and two years later he too passed from earth. They had ten children, three of whom were born in Germany: Catherine, deceased wife of Peter Rosche, of Stark county; Daniel, a farmer in Stark county; Barbara, wife of Peter Strauss, a farmer in Stark county; John, a farmer in Stark county; Andrew, a farmer in Indiana; Phœbe, wife of Fred Lifer, a farmer in Indiana; Jacob W., our subject; Elizabeth, deceased wife of John Muskopf, and two who died in infancy.

Our subject attended the schools of his native township during his boyhood, assisting also in the farm work, and at the age of nineteen he began to learn the tanner's trade. After working at this for three years in Stark county, he moved to Lucas county, and engaged in the same business in the village of Monclova. In 1876, he went to Kansas and bought 140 acres of land, which he cultivated some six years, when he sold it and moved to Topeka, in order to engage in the butcher's trade, which same he followed three years. He then returned to Lucas county, and remained six years upon a farm of sixty acres, which he sold in 1890, in that year coming to Wood county. Here he bought eighty-three acres in Middleton township, which he has improved until it is now one of the finest farms of its size in the county, with commodious barns and a handsome dwelling house, costing \$2,000. Shortly after his arrival he became interested in the lime business, of which he has made a success. On his coming to Wood county, in 1890, he and his wife's brother, F. W. Van Fleet, and W. N. Spencer, entered into the manufacture of lime, beginning in a small way. Soon, however, they put in patent kilns and doubled the capacity of their works, in 1895 turning out 80,000 barrels of lime, which they shipped to several States, both near and distant. In January, 1895, Van Fleet and Spencer sold out to A. F. Christman, and the business has since been known as the "Sugar Ridge Stone & Lime Co." As a self-

made man, noted for his integrity as well as his ability, our subject takes high rank in business circles.

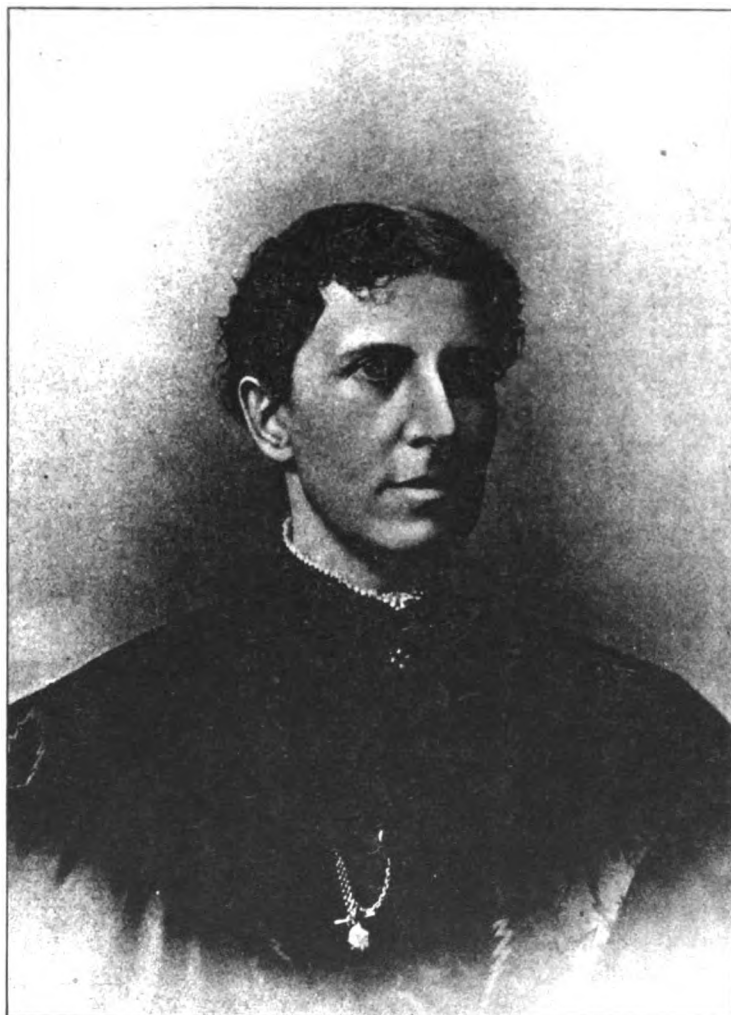
On April 4, 1872, Mr. Urschel was married to Miss Helen I. Van Fleet, who was born in Waterville, Ohio, November 10, 1847, a daughter of Charles and Sarah (Webb) Van Fleet. Four children were born of this union: Cora M., February 4, 1876, a successful teacher in Bowling Green; Burtis H., June 30, 1878; Charles, July 10, 1874, who died in infancy; and Clyde V., October 20, 1880. Mrs. Urschel's father was born March 19, 1822, in Dayton, Ohio, of Holland descent, and was a son of Matthias Van Fleet, a native of Pennsylvania. By occupation he was a farmer, and was among the pioneers of Ohio, first locating near Dayton, and ultimately moving to Lucas county, where he died. Of his children, Charles, born March 19, 1822, was a farmer, and died November 10, 1884, the father of six children, two of whom died in infancy; Mrs. Urschel comes next; Henry F., born December 13, 1849, is a farmer at Waterville, Ohio; Cora, born June 21, 1852, is now the wife of W. U. Spencer, of Delaware; Fred W., born March 2, 1857, lives in Bowling Green. The mother of these in her maidenhood was Miss Sarah Webb, born at Syracuse, N. Y., March 13, 1828, daughter of John (a carpenter) and Hannah Webb, who came to Lucas county in 1834. Mrs. Urschel's mother, who was of English descent, died at Bowling Green, August 30, 1889.

Mr. Urschel is a Prohibitionist in politics, and has at times taken a prominent part in local affairs, holding office during his residence in Lucas county. He is a leading member of the M. E. Church at Sugar Ridge, of which he is a trustee, and he is also superintendent of the Sunday-school, and teacher of a class.

EMER WINELAND, of Bloomdale, is one of the prosperous self-made men whose careers furnish a valuable object lesson to the ambitious youths of the rising generation. Among the praiseworthy traits that may be noted are those which distinguished him from becoming a mere money maker, and have kept him in close sympathy with every phase of human progress and development.

Mr. Wineland was born August 16, 1855, in Cass township, Hancock Co., Ohio. His father, David Wineland, was born in Fayette county, Penn., March 7, 1826, and was married in Connellsville, that State, to Miss Catherine Barnhart, who, like himself, was a native of Fayette county, Penn., born July 25, 1829. In the fall of 1854 they came to Hancock county, Ohio, and bought forty acres of





*Helen J. Welch.*



*J. W. Wochel*



land (seven miles east of Van Buren), all heavily timbered. The spot upon which they built their first home, a log cabin 18 x 22, had to be cleared first. The father was a stone and brick mason by trade, and found plenty of work to do in the vicinity. On November 12, 1861, he enlisted in Company D, 72nd O. V. I., and served three years and a half. On his return he resumed his trade, and after a few years exchanged his first farm for 120 acres in another part of the township, where he spent the remainder of his life. In politics he was a Prohibitionist in his later years, but previously had been a Republican. His years of toil were rewarded by a fair share of worldly goods, and his later years were passed in comfort. He died March 29, 1883; his wife survived him until May 5, 1894, when she passed away quietly one night without warning, at the home of our subject; she was buried beside her husband in Van-Buren cemetery. Both had united in early life with the U. B. Church, but after her husband's death Mrs. Wineland became a Methodist. They had thirteen children: John, who died in Hancock county; Benjamin F., a resident of Bloomdale; Mary, the wife of David Cotant, of Bloom township; Susan, who married Alonzo Dailey, and died in Perry township; Emer, our subject; Ida, Mrs. Joseph Cramer, of Bloomdale; Lucinda, who died at the age of twenty-two years; Joseph, who lives north of Findlay; Charles, a resident of Portage township; William, of Bloom township; Jacob, of Bloomdale; Cora, who died at the age of fifteen; and Turley, a clerk in Bloomdale, who lives at the old home.

Emer Wineland attended school only three years, his present wide range of information having been obtained by private reading and study. He was kept busy upon the home farm until he was twenty-two, when he came to Wood county and engaged in business for himself. In company with Alonzo Dailey, he built a tile factory at Bloomdale, since enlarged, selling it as soon as it was ready for work. For some time after this he worked as a day laborer in Bryant & Linhart's sawmill, first as fireman and then on the planer, becoming an expert in the latter department. In 1884 he entered a tile factory, and worked three seasons as a laborer, and in 1886 he began working in a feed-mill, following this occupation for three winters. In the spring of 1890 he bought a one-third interest in the brick and tile works of Smith & Stacey, and later acquired a one-half interest, the firm being now Smith & Wineland.

On July 3, 1879, Mr. Wineland was married in Perry township, by Rev. Mr. Hays, of

the M. E. Church, to Miss Hettie Wineland, who was born in Cass township, Hancock county, February 9, 1862, a daughter of Jacob Wineland. Four children were born of this marriage: Blanche, September 1, 1880; Park, October 27, 1885; Jennie L., June 16, 1888; and Ross, March 15, 1891, all of whom are at home. Mr. Wineland was converted February 5, 1887, and joined the Methodist Church; but he and his wife are now leading members of the Radical U. B. Church, and he has been licensed as a local preacher by the U. B. Conference. He is a constant student of the Bible, and has a great liking for religious literature. A cheerful giver, he is always among the foremost in any progressive movement, and when the Lakeside Co. were threatened with financial failure, and their beautiful grounds so well-known to all religious and philanthropic workers, were about to be sold, he was one of those who came to the rescue, he and his partner taking \$500 in stock. He is a conscientious and earnest worker in the cause of Prohibition, voting with the Third party since 1888, but had been a Republican previous to that date, and he held the office of constable of Bloom from 1888 to 1891. Mr. Wineland adds that W. S. Richard was his justice of the peace, and always gave good advice in all the business that came to his hand.

DANIEL L. WHITACRE is numbered among the early settlers of Wood county, having for forty-five years made his home within its borders. He was born in Bloom township, May 17, 1851, and is a son of Reason and Mary (McCrary) Whitacre. The father was a native of Virginia, and learned and followed the trade of milling. In 1833 he came to Wood county, where he was married, and located in Bloom township. Here he took up 130 acres of land, to which he has since added an adjoining eighty-acre tract, and also owns eighty acres in Liberty township. His wife died in 1862. In their family were eight children—Mahlon, who died at the age of twenty-eight; Rebecca, wife of M. Milbourn, of Bloom township; Phœbe, wife of Horace Mercer, of Liberty; James, who died at the age of twenty-eight; Samuel M., who died at the age of twenty-eight; Lewis, who is living on the old homestead; and Thomas, a farmer in Liberty. For his second wife, the father wedded Mary Bulles, and they have three children—Herman, Arthur and Warren, all living.

In early youth our subject became familiar with farm work on the old homestead, and in the winter months, when the work on the farm was

practically ended, he entered the district schools of the neighborhood, and there pursued his studies until spring. On the 23d of August, 1874, in Bloom township, was celebrated his marriage with Miss Amanda Loe, who was born September 3, 1854, a daughter of Robert and Susan (McVey) Loe, both natives of Pennsylvania, the former born in the city of Philadelphia. Mr. and Mrs. Whitacre have a family of nine children—Robert Mahlon, Reason Hayes, Rhoda Matilda, Ardie Ethel, Wildie A., Naomi C., Carrie A., Howard Dwight and Carrol Errett, and the family circle yet remains unbroken.

Upon their marriage, Mr. Whitacre and his wife took up their residence on the Smith farm, but after a year removed to their present home. Just prior to their marriage he had purchased forty acres, but has since extended the boundaries of his farm from time to time until it now comprises 160 acres, half of which is under a high state of cultivation. All the improvements upon the place are the work of his hands, and he is a diligent, capable farmer, whose well-directed efforts have brought him a competence. In politics, Mr. Whitacre is a Republican, but has never been an office seeker. He has, however, served for seven years as trustee. He was first elected against his wishes, but so capably did he discharge his duties that his fellow townsmen retained him in that position for many terms. An active worker in and member of the Disciples Church, he is now serving as Sunday-school superintendent and as teacher.

HENRY HUGHES, a leading grocer of Bowling Green, and one of the most progressive men of that thriving city was born in Plain township, Wood county, February 17, 1858, a son of James and Anna (Evans) Hughes. He grew up on his father's farm, which was situated about two miles from Bowling Green, and, until about six years ago, followed farming. At that time he took up his residence in Bowling Green, where he first engaged in dealing in horses. Later he opened a grocery store styled the "Red Front," which he is still carrying on with success. He deals only in the best of goods, and by his excellent management, honest methods and genial manners, he has become popular throughout the county, and secured an extensive trade. In addition to his property in the city he owns one of the finest farms in the vicinity. On February 6, 1879, Mr. Hughes was married to Miss Carrie Martindale, who was born April 6, 1861, in Plain township. The young couple attended the same school, grew up together, and were "sweethearts" dur-

ing their childhood days. They are a most congenial pair, and their home is a model of domestic happiness. Mr. Hughes is a Republican, and takes an active part in public affairs, being frequently called into council by the older and more experienced men of the place. Socially, he is a member of the I. O. O. F.

Our subject is a genial and affable fellow with a good word for everybody, ever ready to do an act of kindness and a favor to his fellow man. He has traveled extensively, viewing the country from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the Lakes to the Gulf, and come in touch with many people, and, having been a close observer, has picked up much in his travels that make him an interesting and entertaining companion. He is quite a favorite with the traveling men, and is by them regarded as one of the best posted men in his line of business in this section of the State. In 1895 himself and wife took quite an extensive Western tour, traveling through the Middle West and to the Far West, visiting the various points and places of interest in the Rocky Mountain country, in California, and throughout the West. They not only traveled by rail, but by stage through overland routes, and over the Rockies on the backs of the little burros. They visited old Mexico, and returned by the Gulf route through the South, visiting points of interest, and many of the old battle grounds. They were absent some six months.

James Hughes, the father of our subject, was born September 28, 1818, in Lincolnshire, England, of which county his mother was also a native, her birth taking place in 1828. They were married in their native land, and came to America in 1854, settling at Milan, Erie Co., Ohio. There the father followed farming two years, when he removed to Wood county, residing in Plain township on a farm, until a few years ago, when they moved into the city of Bowling Green. The grandparents of our subject, on his father's side, came to America about the same time as their son James, and located in Washington township, Wood county, where the grandfather died in 1872 and the grandmother in 1892, the latter being ninety-four years old. They were the parents of three children: Harriet married James Ellis, and lives in Jackson township, Wood county; Ann is the wife of James Challen, and lives in Washington township; and James is the father of our subject.

To James Hughes and his wife were born thirteen children, as follows: Sarah, who married H. Newton, and died when thirty-eight years old; James, living in Bowling Green; Harriet, married to Todd Brown, of Bowling Green; Rose, wife of

Albert Avery, of Bowling Green; Hugh, living in Center township, Wood county; Henry, the subject of this sketch; John, a resident of Center township; Orlando, living in Wessington, Beadle county, S. Dak.; Frank, a farmer in Plain township; Adona, the wife of Joseph Huffman; Emma, married to Henry Ostrander, of Toledo; Burton, of Bowling Green; and one that died in infancy.

**F. A. HASTINGS.** Among the young and enterprising farmers of Montgomery township, there is probably none more energetic or thorough-going than the gentleman whose name begins this sketch. He was born August 19, 1865, on the farm in Section 6, where he still resides, a son of R. C. and Emeline (Crowfoot) Hastings.

The father's birth occurred at Liverpool, Medina Co., Ohio, December 8, 1830. He was there reared in much the same manner as most farmer boys, obtaining his education in the district schools, and in the spring of 1856 came to Wood county. Here he purchased eighty acres in Section 6, Montgomery township, which was still in its primitive condition, he having to cut down the trees in order to obtain a site on which to erect his hewed-log house. Here he married Emeline Crowfoot, who was born in Cayuga county, N. Y., March 30, 1834, daughter of Ambrose Crowfoot, one of the early settlers of Montgomery township. The young couple began their domestic life upon the farm in Section 6, which has ever since been the family home. Six children came to gladden the household—Edna, who became the wife of C. W. Smith, and died in Montgomery township; Finando, a farmer of that township; F. A., subject of this sketch; Anna, who wedded Fred Swartz, and died in Montgomery township; Carl, also an agriculturist of that township; and Ottie, who died when a young lady. The mother was called from this life March 8, 1896, and was laid to rest in the cemetery of New Rochester, Wood county. Besides being engaged in general farming the father has bought and sold considerable stock. He has converted his wooded tract into one of the most highly improved tracts of the township, and has added to his possessions until he now owns 130 acres, all in Montgomery township; in 1888 he erected his present elegant home. A Democrat in politics, he has always taken a deep interest in the success of his party, but has never cared for official position.

The boyhood and youth of our subject were alternately passed in the school room and in work upon the home farm, his training in the

latter line being especially thorough. Early in life he was initiated into the stock business, as his father's assistant, and he has always remained upon the home farm. On March 31, 1896, he was married at Bowling Green, Ohio, to Miss Barbara Ballinger, daughter of William Ballinger, of Portage, Wood county. Politically, Mr. Hastings has followed in the footsteps of his father, always supporting the Democratic party, and socially he is a charter member of Petroleum Lodge No. 499, K. of P., of Prairie Depot. In his business as a stock dealer he has become widely acquainted, and it is hardly necessary to state that his circle of friends is almost equally large.

**JOHN R. WINTERS** has spent his entire life in the Buckeye State, and is one of its worthy sons. As a citizen of Wood county, he is now devoted to its best interests, and gives a hearty support to all enterprises calculated to prove of public benefit. Widely and favorably known, we feel assured that the record of his life will prove of interest to many of our readers, and gladly give it a place in this volume.

Mr. Winters was born in Crawford county, Ohio, May 11, 1851, and comes of an old family of this State. His grandfather, Eli Winters, spent his entire life here, and always carried on farming—his property comprising 160 acres of rich land in Crawford county. The father of our subject, Abraham Winters, was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, December 27, 1822, and accompanied his parents to Crawford county during his boyhood. He succeeded to the ownership of the old home farm, and there remained until the fall of 1851, when he removed to Hancock county, Ohio, and purchased 180 acres of land in Pleasant township, on which he resided until his death, which occurred in 1874. In Crawford county, he married Miss Sarah Elarton, a native of Pennsylvania, who still survives him, and is living on the old homestead. Their children are Eli, a farmer of Hancock county, Ohio; William W., who is traveling salesman for a nursery firm, and resides in Findlay, Ohio; James D., a farmer of Hancock county; Thomas Everett, of Washington; Albert S., of Findlay; and John R., of this review.

Our subject was only six months old when his parents removed to Hancock county, and there, on the old home farm, he grew to manhood, acquiring his education in the district schools. On attaining his majority he left home and followed various employments until his marriage. That important event in his life occurred in



Pleasant township, Hancock county, October 10, 1880, Miss Josephine Williams, becoming his wife. She was born in Arcadia, Hancock county, November 6, 1859, and is a daughter of Elisha and Sarah (Peters) Williams. Upon his marriage Mr. Winters rented a farm in Putnam county, Ohio, and continued its cultivation for five years. He then came to Wood county, and, with the capital he had saved, purchased eighty acres of wild land in Jackson township. This he cleared, and with characteristic energy began its development. He has transformed the land into rich fields, has planted a good orchard, and, erected substantial barns and outbuildings. The frame of his house he constructed in Shawtown, Hancock county, and then hauled it on a wagon to the place where it now stands. He is a careful and conscientious business man, honorable in all things, and his persistent effort has gained him a handsome competence.

In 1895 Mr. Winters was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died January 20, and was laid to rest in McComb cemetery. She was a consistent member of the Methodist Church, and had many friends. In the family were the following children—Arthur J., Roy and Bertha Dell, at home; Erl, who died at the age of four years; Annie Ruth, at home; Jessie; and one who died in infancy.

In his political adherency Mr. Winters is a stalwart Republican, and has served for a year and a half as a member of the school board, but has never sought or desired political preferment, giving his entire time and attention to his business interests, in which he has met with signal success.

LEWIS L. YATES, a successful and well-known farmer of Perry township, was born in Sycamore township, Wyandot Co., Ohio, November 8, 1844, and is the fifth son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Craun) Yates.

Our subject was educated in the district schools of his locality, which, he thinks, were in some respects superior to those of the present day. His boyhood was spent on a farm, where he did all kinds of work without the appliances which in these days do so much to lessen the hard labor necessary in clearing and cultivating the soil. There were then no corn droppers or corn shellers, no harvesters or binders, and everything was done by hand. He was only a lad when his parents settled in Perry township, and he remained at home until his enlistment in the 100-days' service, which was on May 2, 1864, he becoming a member of Company E, 144th

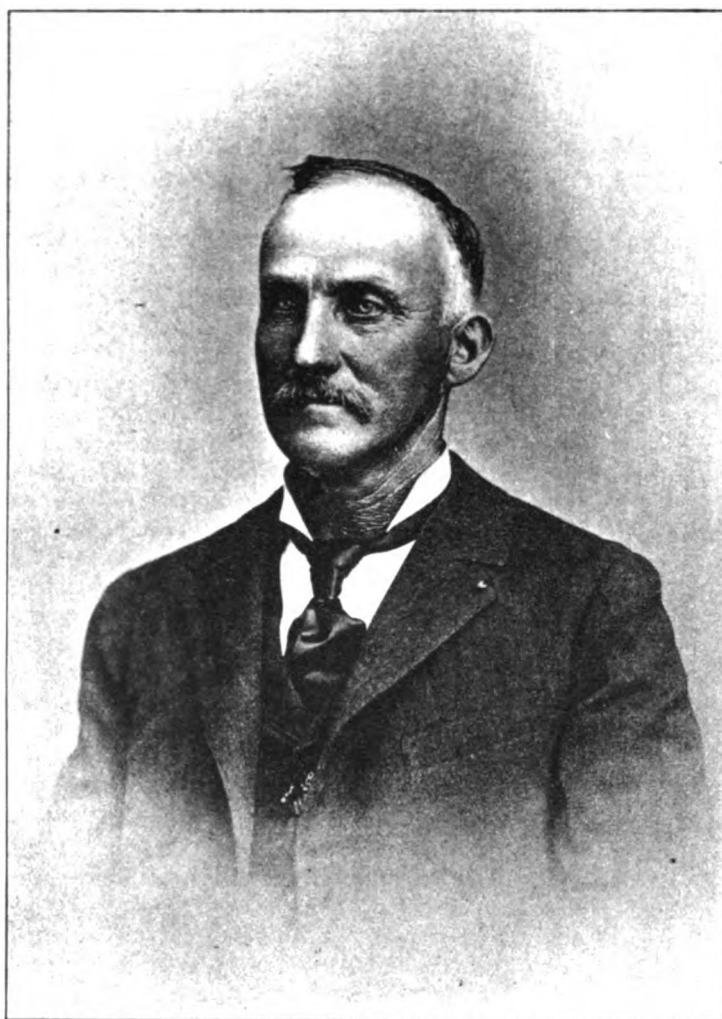
O. V. I., under Capt. Smith. During all the time of his service he was stationed at Wilmington, Del., doing guard duty, not a very active, though a very important, branch of the service. On August 24, 1864, he was honorably discharged, and returned home, again taking up work on his father's farm.

Mr. Yates was married in Perry township, November 26, 1870, to Miss Martha A. Hall, who was born January 25, 1845, in Likens township, Crawford county, a daughter of Daniel and Mary (Kirk) Hall, who removed to Perry township in 1855, and settled on a tract of land in the woods, to which Mr. Hall had to chop a road through the forest. His first residence was a small log house, which stood in the midst of the forest, on 160 acres, of which but a few acres had been cleared. It was on this farm that the young couple settled after their marriage, Mr. Yates at first renting and afterward purchasing it of his father-in-law, and he has ever since resided here. He owns 250 acres altogether in the township. Three children were born to them: Mary B. (now Mrs. Henry Kordee), residing in Montgomery township; James E., who was married in March, 1896, to Silva, daughter of Charles Stearnes; and Charles R., at home.

In politics Mr. Yates is a staunch Republican, and takes an active interest in the success of his party, although he has never been an office-seeker. He is a prominent member of the Methodist Protestant Church in Bloom township, of which he has been steward, trustee and class-leader, and is well-known as a man of Christian living and sterling integrity. He is noted for his generosity and charity, and has never been known to turn a hungry man from his door or to refuse help to one in need. He is a devoted husband and father, and in all the relations of life has won the confidence and esteem of all with whom he has come in contact. He is a capable man, a good manager, and is deserving of the prosperity to which he has attained.

DAVID SHANKS, a leading agriculturist and stock dealer of this county, residing in Webster township, near Scotch Ridge, was born in that township, October 3, 1845.

His father, Peter Shanks, who was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1808, came to America in 1834, and settled in Wood county, entering 160 acres of land in Webster township, which he cleared and transformed into a fine farm. He married Miss Jeannette Weddell, who had also come from Scotland, in 1834, and had twelve sons: John, a farmer in Center township; George,



*Sewers L. Yates*



who was killed in the army; James, who died from an accidental injury; William, who was killed in the army; Thomas, a farmer in Webster township; David, our subject; Henry, an attorney and real-estate broker in Toledo; Robert and Louis, both farmers of Webster township; Jackson, deceased, and two who died in infancy: Our subject's mother died October 26, 1890, and the father survived but a few months, dying June 10, 1891.

Mr. Shanks enjoyed the district school opportunities and the practical home training in industry, which falls to the lot of the average country youth. At the age of seventeen he enlisted in Company I, 144th O. V. I. (Capt. McKee and Col. Miller commanding), and participated in the battles of Monocacy Junction and Berryville, Va. He was wounded in the left shoulder during the latter engagement, August 13, 1864, and on account of it was discharged in September, 1864, after spending some time in hospital in Baltimore. This patriotic family furnished five soldiers for the service of the Union. George and William were members of Company K, 21st O. V. I., and were killed within ten minutes of each other in the engagement at Chickamauga. On his return home Mr. Shanks bought forty acres of land near Scotch Ridge, to which he has added, until he now owns 120 acres, not to be excelled in location or fertility. His improvements are of a model character, and his barn and shed are the largest in Wood county, as he cannot content himself with anything short of the best. His specialty is stock raising and feeding, an annual trip being made to Chicago to procure Western cattle to fatten for Eastern markets.

On October 9, 1872, Mr. Shanks married Miss Philinda Loomis, a daughter of George Loomis. She died December 14, 1875, leaving no children. His second wife was formerly Miss Ida Fox, a daughter of John A. Fox, a prominent resident of Webster township. Three children were born of this marriage: Philinda, Margaret and Darwell. In politics Mr. Shanks is a Republican, and he has held the offices of school director and township trustee a number of years. He is a prominent member of the Presbyterian Church at Scotch Ridge, and belongs to Wiley Post, G. A. R., of Bowling Green.

**JOHN ISCH.** Among those agriculturists of Wood county, whose places manifest to the most casual observer the energy and ability of their owner in his chosen calling, is the subject of this personal history. His residence is situated in Section 17, Lake township, where he has a

valuable farm of 192 acres, well tiled and drained, and the buildings are such as are found on a model farm in the nineteenth century. Mr. Isch is a native of Wood county, his birth having occurred at Perrysburg, September 7, 1850, while his parents, John and Mary (Zimmerman) Isch, were both born in Switzerland. There the father first opened his eyes to the light of day in 1823, and at the age of twenty years he accompanied his father to the United States, coming direct to Wood county, where the latter died at the age of seventy years. In Perrysburg, the father of our subject carried on the baker's trade for a couple of years, and there married Miss Zimmerman, after which he located on a farm of 113 acres in Lake township. He made of his land a highly cultivated and productive place, and thereon spent his remaining days, dying in 1888. His wife also passed away on the old homestead in 1879. He was a sincere and earnest Christian, a member of the Evangelical Church, of which he often served as a local minister.

In a family of three children our subject is the only one now living, and he was reared upon the home farm, early becoming familiar with the labors that fall to the lot of an agriculturist. After pursuing his studies for some time in the district schools of Lake township, he entered a Reformed Church school at Toledo, Ohio, where he continued for two terms, thus completing his literary training. On April 13, 1875, Mr. Isch married Miss Rosa Schaller, who was born in Switzerland, May 23, 1851, and they have become the parents of three children—Fred, Frank and Edwin.

In politics, Mr. Isch is a Republican, a leader of his party in Lake township, and was elected county infirmary director in 1888, which position he continued to fill very satisfactorily for six years. His social relations are with the Knights of Pythias fraternity, and he is one of the representative citizens of the community, noted for his honesty and integrity of purpose. Being public-spirited, he takes great interest in all the moral, religious and educational matters of the township, and always lends encouragement and support to whatever appears to be for the best interests of the locality in which he makes his home.

**JOHN S. POPE,** deceased, was born in Newport, Vt., December 30, 1822, and was a son of E. S. and Sarah (Stocker) Pope, also natives of the Green Mountain State. With his parents he removed to Ohio early in life, the family locating at Huron, Erie county, whence they afterward removed to Sandusky county, locating near Roll-

ersville. There the father engaged in farming for a number of years. His death occurred in Fremont, Ohio, in 1886, and his wife died in 1891.

Our subject attended school in Erie county, and was reared to manhood on his father's farm, where he remained until 1857, when he went to Kansas, spending four years in that State. The year 1861 witnessed his arrival in Wood county. He located on Hull Prairie, in Middleton township, where he purchased sixty acres of land, and at once began transforming it into rich fields. He made of it a highly improved farm, and, after the discovery of oil in this section of the State, there were several wells sunk upon the place.

Mr. Pope was married at Clyde, Sandusky Co., Ohio, in 1854, the lady of his choice being Harriet Allen, who was born in Vermont, April 3, 1837, a daughter of Wells Allen, one of Sandusky county's prominent citizens, who died there, in Madison township, December 27, 1852. To Mr. and Mrs. Pope were born ten children—Jesie B., born September 12, 1855, now the wife of L. P. Tribble, of Haskins; Joseph E., born October 9, 1859, a practicing physician of Dunbridge, Ohio; Fred A., born in Middleton township, in 1862, now living in Bowling Green; Hattie, born September 11, 1864, wife of O. Perry, of Nebraska; John M., born December 30, 1867, engaged in school teaching; Arch A., born December 6, 1870; H. Whittier, born July 14, 1874, an oil operator; Kent M., born March 3, 1882, attending school; Ruby, who died in infancy; and one who died in childhood.

Mr. Pope was an advocate of the Republican party and its principles, a gentleman of sterling worth and thorough reliability. He was well liked and highly esteemed, and in his death the community lost one of its best citizens. He passed away March 23, 1888. His widow, a most estimable lady, still resides on the old homestead, which she is carrying on with the assistance of her children.

JOHN RYDER (deceased), in his day one of the oldest of the pioneer agriculturists of Middleton township, was born June 24, 1817, in Yorkshire, England.

His father, Edwin Ryder, who was a native of the same locality, was a stone mason by trade. He married Miss Margaret Yeomans, and reared a family of five children: Jacob, deceased; John, our subject; Henry, who lives in England; Joseph, who died in Huron county, Ohio; and Edward, a resident of Liverpool, England.

Our subject had but nine months' schooling in

his youth, and, at twelve years of age, was sent to work for his grandmother for his board and clothes. At seventeen he found other employment at eight pounds a year, and later secured a position as coachman for a lady, with whom he remained until 1842, when he came to America. He spent five weeks on the voyage between Liverpool and New York, and came west by canal, locating first near Oberlin, Ohio. He had learned his father's trade, and, finding stone masons in demand, he worked for a short time at that business, and then moved to Huron county, and bought fifty acres of land, which he farmed for ten years. In 1852 he came to Wood county, and settled near Hull's Prairie on 120 acres of wild land, to which he afterward added forty acres more. The entire tract is now in a fine state of cultivation, with an extensive orchard, and substantial, comfortable buildings.

He was married in 1850, in Huron county, to Miss Betsey Willington, a native of England, born April 7, 1830. She came to Ohio in 1841 with an aunt, who settled in Huron county, where her father's death occurred. At the time of her marriage she and her mother were residing in Richland county, where the latter still resides. Mr. and Mrs. Ryder reared to adult age a family of thirteen children, of whom twelve are still living. Frank is farming the old homestead; Charlotte married Thomas Barr, of Michigan; Mary, deceased, was formerly the wife of Frank Carter; Joseph and Thomas are both farmers in Middleton township; Addie married B. Carter; Vinnie married Peter Bowers, a farmer of Middleton township; George and Fred are both farmers near the old homestead; Sarah married Lambert Carter; Belle resides at home, and is now teaching school; James is working at the tailor trade; and Libbie married Fred Conklin, a farmer of Perrysburg township. Mrs. Ryder died March 19, 1895, after forty-five years of happy wedded life, leaving the sweet memory of a life devoted to the welfare of others.

Mr. Ryder, whose death occurred March 14, 1896, was a man of broad views and high Christian character, and liberal in politics. After his death his sons Fred and Frank moved in the old home, and are working the farm. Mr. Ryder's death has cast a gloom over the community. The once happy home is broken, the children have lost a kind father, and the community a kind and generous neighbor.

J. C. SNYDER, M. D. In no profession does a man fill such a responsible position as does the physician. He not only carries life and death in

his hands, but becomes the confidant and advisor of his patients, holding a nearer relation to them, oftentimes, than the members of their own families. A man, to succeed in this line of work, must possess, not only knowledge of his profession, and skill in applying that knowledge, but must also possess a character above reproach, and a nature capable of sympathizing with the afflictions of his fellowmen.

The subject of this sketch possesses all these qualifications, and besides being a scholarly man, thoroughly versed in medical lore, he is popular with all who have the pleasure of his acquaintance. Dr. Snyder was born in Northumberland county, Penn., April 3, 1853, where he was brought up on a farm, and attended school until twenty-two years of age. At that time he went to California for his health, remaining there two years, and on his return entered the University at Lock Haven, Penn., taking the literary course for four years, and graduating with the degree of B. A. He then entered the medical department of the Michigan University at Ann Arbor, from which he was graduated in 1881. Subsequently he took a special course in the Medical College of Buffalo, N. Y., on surgery and diseases of women. He then went to Michigan, where he remained four years, going from there to Osborne, Kans., where he spent the succeeding four years. At the end of that time he entered Rush Medical College, Chicago, from which he took his degree in 1891. Since the latter date Dr. Snyder has been a resident of Bowling Green, where he has a large general practice, and also makes a specialty of surgery and gynecology. He has been very successful, and has become one of the prominent physicians of the county, his well-known skill and thorough knowledge of his profession gaining for him the confidence of the public, while his genial manners and sympathetic nature make him many warm friends. He was married in Michigan to Miss Abbie Smith, a native of Canada, who died in 1888. His second wife was Miss Annetta Bainton, who is still living. They have two children: John B. and Blanche Ethel.

The parents of our subject were John S. and Margaret (Weiser) Snyder, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania, where he followed farming, and is now living in Florence, Mich., at the good old age of seventy-five years. The mother was born in Pennsylvania, and was of German descent. She died when our subject was three years old. Both parents were members of the Presbyterian Church, and the father was a Republican. Their children were four in

number, namely: A. W., residing in Kansas; W. L., deceased; M. L., residing in Pennsylvania; and J. C., the subject of this sketch.

HENRY A. OLDS, a soldier in the Civil war, and a farmer in Center township, was born in Litchfield, Medina Co., Ohio, February 28, 1842. His father, Miles Olds, was born in New York, in 1813, and the grandfather, who died when his son Miles was only nine years of age, was one of the heroes of the Revolution. Miles Olds removed to Medina county with a family named Strate, with whom he continued until twenty-three years of age. His employer then gave him fifty acres of land in compensation for his services, and this he placed under a high state of cultivation. On one occasion his log cabin and all its contents were destroyed by fire. In 1854 he sold that farm and came to Wood county, purchasing 100 acres of unimproved land in Center township, of which he cleared sixty acres. He built thereon a frame dwelling and good barn, and planted a two-acre orchard. For several years he served as school director and as supervisor. He was married in Medina county, in 1841, to Olive E. Kibbe, who was born May 19, 1826, in New York. They had three children, the eldest being Henry A. Andrew was killed by an artillery ball, May 14, 1864, while serving in the Union army. Emily is the wife of Milton Ford, a farmer of Oklahoma. The father died July 15, 1894, and the mother is still living on the old homestead at the age of sixty-nine.

Henry A. Olds acquired his education in the district schools of Medina and Wood counties, and worked on the old homestead until twenty years of age, when he began life for himself, being employed at farm labor and as a mill hand. In 1863, with money he had earned, he purchased forty acres of timber land, that he cleared and improved. He also added to it forty acres, and now has a valuable property of eighty acres, on which stands substantial buildings and all the accessories of a model farm. He enlisted in the one-hundred-days' service at Bowling Green, May 2, 1864, as a member of Company C, 144th O. V. I., and was mustered out with his company, August 31, 1864. He suffered much from exposure during his service.

Mr. Olds was married in Center township, January 29, 1871, to Mary Crom, who was born November 30, 1845, a daughter of Daniel Crom, a farmer of Center township. They had three children: Willard, born March 4, 1873; Leroy, born February 15, 1879; and Elma, who was born December 25, 1871, and died July 28, 1872.

In politics, Mr. Olds is a Republican. He served for several years as school director, and for six years was supervisor.

WILLIAM J. ERRETT was born in Galion, Crawford Co., Ohio, February 26, 1863, and is a son of Daniel and Melinda (Schoemacher) Errett, who were of German descent. The father was born in Crawford county, in 1836, and the mother was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1841; and in the latter county they were married. The grandfather, John Errett, was a farmer of Galion, Ohio, and there died in 1888. He was very prosperous, and, besides his home farm of 200 acres, owned 1,300 acres in Henry county. His wife died in May, 1895, at the age of eighty-three years. Their children were Daniel; Jonathan, a railroad man, of Galion; Susan, wife of John Bessinger, of Galion; William, overseer in the railroad machine shops of Galion; Jerry, a farmer, of Crawford county, Ohio; Nancy, wife of Daniel Smith, of Crawford county; and IZIAH, a brakeman, who was killed on the railroad December 16, 1885.

After about ten years' residence in Galion, the father of our subject came to Wood county, in 1866, settling on a one-hundred-acre farm in Liberty township; he now resides on a farm of fifteen acres in Plain township. William, therefore, was reared in this county, and pursued his education in a school built on land donated by his father for the purpose. He afterward worked in a sawmill owned by his father for about fifteen years, and also aided in the farm work.

Mr. Errett was married in Liberty township, February 26, 1885, to Viola Belle Levers, who was born August 30, 1863. They began their domestic life on a rented farm of forty acres in Weston township, and afterward rented an eighty-acre farm in Liberty township, for eight years. In the fall of 1891, he purchased his present farm of forty acres, which is a well-improved place. The children of the family are Pearl May, born June 28, 1886; Daniel W., born January 19, 1892; and one child, who was born December 18, 1894, died January 11, 1895. Mr. Errett is a stalwart Republican where matters of national policy are involved, but at local elections votes independently of party ties.

JEROME B. McCUTCHEN, justice of the peace of Troy township, was born in Franklin county, Penn., May 24, 1840, and is the son of James and Catherine (Shook) McCutchen, both natives of the same county. By trade the father was a stone mason and a brick layer, and, in 1856, he

emigrated with his family to Troy township, Wood Co., Ohio. He continued to make his home until his death, January 14, 1896, at Stony Ridge, where his wife departed this life September 12, 1888. They were parents of three sons, who grew to maturity, Jerome B., of this sketch, being the eldest. Samuel enlisted in Company K, 111th O. V. I., under Capt. Day, and was mustered into the United States service at Columbus, Ohio; like so many brave boys, he laid down his life on the altar of his country, being killed at Franklin, Tenn. James, who became a member of the same company in 1862, and served throughout the war, is now an engineer for Mr. Wagoner, at Stony Ridge.

In the common schools of Franklin county, Penn., Jerome B. McCutchen acquired his education, and at the age of sixteen came with his parents to Troy township, Wood county, where he has since continuously engaged in farming and school teaching. In 1861, in that township, was celebrated his marriage with Miss Catherine Furry, a native of Lake township, this county, and a daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Butler) Furry, who, at a very early day, came from the Keystone State to Lake township, where they passed away. Six children have been born to our subject and his wife—Margaret A., wife of Eugene C. Calkins, of Stony Ridge; Elizabeth, who died in 1892; Emma J.; Samuel A.; Carrie M., wife of E. H. Williams, of Pemberville; and Charles H.

With the exception of three years, Mr. McCutchen has been justice of the peace since 1866, discharging the duties of the office in a creditable and acceptable manner. Politically he is an ardent Democrat, twice being candidate of that party for probate judge, and for a number of years held the position of town clerk. Socially he is a member of Phoenix Lodge No. 123, F. & A. M. For forty years he has witnessed the development and progress of the county, has aided materially in its advancement, and is numbered among its most popular and enterprising men.

WILLIAM LONG, who is a well-known farmer of Weston township, and an honored veteran of the Civil war, was born in Seneca county, Ohio, September 19, 1844.

J. B. Long, the father of our subject, was a native of Pennsylvania, born in October, 1808. He was an ordained minister in the United Brethren Church, and spent his life in that calling, and, as was customary in many cases in those days, also carried on farming. After his marriage

he removed to Stark county, Ohio, from thence to Seneca county, and subsequently to Madison township, Sandusky county, in which latter place he made his home for thirty years. He later removed to Center township, Wood county, and died at Gibsonburg February 10, 1895. He married, in 1832, Miss Lyda Fry, who bore him ten children, as follows: Louisa, wife of J. F. Sampel, residing in Sandusky county; Samuel, residing at St. Louis, Mich.; Jacob F., residing in Bowling Green; Daniel, living at Bowling Green; Rebecca, wife of A. B. Garus, residing at Gibsonburg; William, the subject of this sketch; John Wesley, a farmer of Center township, Wood county; Arcanus, a farmer of Madison township, Sandusky county; Michael E., a farmer, also residing in Madison township; and Samantha E. (Mattie), wife of Charles Pike, of Bowling Green. The mother died April 21, 1878.

The subject of this sketch had very few advantages of schooling, and, when only twelve years old, was put to work in a sawmill, where he remained some four or five years. In the spring of 1864, when a young man of eighteen, he enlisted, on February 26, 1864, at Fremont, Ohio, in the 3rd O. V. C., under Col. Siddal, his captain being Paul Diel. The regiment was assigned to the army of the Cumberland, and during the remainder of the war Mr. Long participated in over fifty battles, some of the more prominent ones being those of Selma, Jonesboro, Lovejoy's Station, siege of Atlanta, Kenesaw Mountain, Decatur, Ala., and Rome, Ga. He was honorably discharged on August 4, 1865, at Edgefield, Tenn., and returned home. His health was so feeble, owing to jaundice contracted in the army, that for a year he was unable to engage in any business. At the end of that time, however, he became associated with one of his brothers and G. W. Smith, in a sawmill, which they carried on for seven years.

In the fall of 1865 Mr. Long removed to Center township, Wood county, and purchased thirty acres of land, which he improved, and on which he lived until 1876, when he sold out and bought fifty-five acres on the middle branch of the Portage river, where he made his home for the following seven years. He then disposed of that property, and purchased the forty acres in Weston township, where he has since resided.

Mr. Long was married November 7, 1869, at New Rochester, to Naomi Decker, and eight children have been born to them: Alwilda, after six years spent in teaching school, became the wife of J. F. Werner, a sergeant in the Regular army, Third Cavalry Regiment, stationed at Jef-

erson Barracks, Missouri, but is now honorably discharged, and living in Portage, Ohio; Clarence W. taught school two years previous to his marriage with Miss Maud Gooch, but now has a general store at Lacota, Mich., and is assistant postmaster, Mrs. Long being the postmistress at that place; Ernest E. attends school in the winter, and assists his father on the farm; Lula and Walter, aged eleven and nine years, respectively, are at home and attending school; Viola, Mabel, and Mamie, all died when children. Mr. Long follows in the footsteps of his father in Church work, having been elder in the Church of the Saints for the past seven years, and, whenever called upon to go out to preach, does so, his motto being, "Bear the cross, and wear the crown." He is a trustee of Grovehall Church, and its elder, and is superintendent of the Sunday-school. In politics he belongs to the Prohibition party, and carries out its principles in his daily life, never having used tobacco or intoxicating liquors. He is an honest, industrious man, and a most worthy citizen.

SAMUEL MUIR, one of the oldest and most respected pioneers of Wood county, was born in Whiteburn Parish, Scotland, August 15, 1822.

His father, John Muir, a native of the same parish, married Mary Prentice, and in 1832 brought his family to America. The youngest child, Mary, died in Scotland; of the seven others, four are still living. William and James are both now deceased; Frances, deceased, married James Shaiks; Jane is the widow of Robert Dunipace; Samuel is the subject of this sketch; Margaret married John Fenton; and John is a retired farmer living in Bowling Green. The little party were five months making the journey to Wood county. On arriving, John Muir entered 105 acres of land in Perrysburg township, which he sold three years later to buy 960 acres in Wood county, where he spent the remainder of his life. He became one of the most prominent men of his community, and for twelve years held the office of township treasurer. He was a member of the United Presbyterian Church, to which our subject also belongs.

Samuel Muir, the subject of this sketch was only ten years old when he came to Wood county. He had attended school in Scotland for a few years, but the circumstances of pioneer life were not favorable to study, and his time was mainly spent in helping to clear and improve the farm. At first the squirrels, wolves, deer, coons, and wild turkeys were so thick that a constant watch was necessary to protect their grain.



About 1850 he sold his possessions with the intention of going to Oregon, but he changed his mind, and bought another farm in Webster township, near Scotch Ridge, and made for himself a permanent home. Mr. Muir was married August 24, 1843, at Scotch Ridge, to Miss Malinda Loomis, a native of Medina county, Ohio, born May 25, 1826. Eleven children were born to them, whose names with date of birth are as follows: John, September 24, 1844, enlisted in Company A, 100th O. V. I., and died a prisoner, February 18, 1863; Maria B., April 2, 1846, is deceased; William B., January 22, 1848; George, June 5, 1850; Samuel, December 8, 1852; Mary, August 31, 1855; James L., September 8, 1857; Jane, September 3, 1861, is deceased; Fanny, August 14, 1865, is deceased; Anna, September 14, 1866; and Ella F., June 6, 1871, who was married September 4, 1888, to Charles South, and has two children, Floyd H., born January 28, 1890; and Samuel Irvin, born August 24, 1891.

Mrs. Muir died in 1893, deeply mourned by all who knew her as a loving wife and mother, and kind friend. In politics Mr. Muir is a Republican, one of the leading workers of the party in his vicinity, and he has been assessor for nine years.

IRA C. TABER, a well-known lawyer of Bowling Green, senior member of the firm of Taber & Painter, is one of the leaders of the young, progressive element in that thriving community. He was born in New Rochester, Freedom township, October 6, 1860, the son of Nelson D. and Samantha M. (Skeels) Taber.

His father was born in New York State, October 24, 1824, and came to Ohio in early manhood, locating first in Fulton county, where he took up land, and then in Fostoria, where he worked in the freight office, and later at his trade of harness maker. Here he married Miss Samantha M. Skeels, who was born in New York State, May 6, 1824, and in 1854 they removed to a farm in Freedom township, where three children were born to them: Our subject; Mary E., born November 22, 1862, died October 18, 1886; and Nellie, who died in infancy. Nelson Taber sold his farm in 1882, and has since resided in Bowling Green. Politically he is a Republican, and, while never a politician, he takes an intelligent interest in all public movements.

Our subject attended the district schools of Freedom township until the age of seventeen, when he entered the public schools of Bowling Green, graduating in 1882. He immediately began the study of law, in the office of Frank A.

Baldwin, of Bowling Green, and afterward finished his course in the Cincinnati Law School, from which he was graduated in 1885. He then returned to Bowling Green, where he "hung out his shingle," and now has a fine civil practice, with a record of success in his cases, which is the best guarantee for future business. In December, 1895, he associated with C. R. Painter in the practice of law, the style of the firm being Taber & Painter.

On August 30, 1862, he married Miss Adelia Thomas, who was born in Wood county, and they have three children: Merle, Marie, and Melva. He and his accomplished wife are prominent members of the M. E. Church. He takes an active part in many local business enterprises, and was for a time interested in oil producing. He is now counsel for the National Supply Co., whose head offices are at Toledo, Ohio, and Pittsburgh, Penn. It is engaged in supplying the oil fields of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana and Kansas. In politics our subject is a Republican, and fraternally he is a member of the I. O. O. F., in which he has been through the chairs, and also the Encampment.

LESTER A. PETTEYS. Among the well-known and greatly respected pioneers of Weston township, who have won success and independence through their individual efforts, none is more deserving of praise than the subject of this sketch. He was born December 6, 1850, on the family homestead in Weston, the son of David and Huldah (Bassett) Petteys.

David A. Petteys, the father of our subject, was born in New York, and when a boy came to Huron county, where he followed the occupation of a farmer. He was married to Miss Huldah A. Bassett, and five children were born to them: Lester A., our subject; Alice, the wife of David Gundy; Albert N., who is a farmer in Washington township; David, Jr., a farmer in Weston township; and one child that died in infancy. Mr. Petteys moved to Weston township, Wood county, in 1848, where he bought 136 acres of land, which he improved and lived on until 1876, when he gave up active business and removed to Tontogany, where his death occurred March 10, 1886. His wife still survives him, and lives in Tontogany.

Lester A. Petteys was reared on the family homestead and attended the district schools, securing such education as the boys of those days could obtain. When his father left the farm, our subject rented it, continuing so to do until two years after his father's death, when the farm

became his by right of purchase. He continues to reside thereon, and has improved and fitted up the place, until he has one of the most beautiful homes in the township, with all the latest improvements in the way of barns, outhouses, etc. His reputation as a breeder of fine Jersey cattle has spread throughout the county.

On September 30, 1873, Mr. Petteys was married in Weston to Miss Sarah E. Walters, a daughter of the late Jacob Walters, of Weston township. Of this union two children have been born: Lula E., December 11, 1876, and Howard L., May 5, 1882. Our subject is a Prohibitionist in politics, and has been clerk of the board of education four years. He is a firm adherent of the United Brethren Church, to which he is a liberal contributor. He is unassuming in demeanor, genial and affable by nature; progressive in thought and action, and is well-read, keeping abreast of the times by a judicious reading of all that is the best in current literature of the day.

HENRY RIDEOUT is pleasantly located on a fine farm of fifty-three acres in Ross township. The improvements which we see to-day, have been effected by his industry and good management, and he has brought the soil to a fine state of cultivation. The farm buildings are neat and substantial, and, with their surroundings, present the picture of the complete country home, where peace and plenty abound. Upon this place he has made his home since 1880.

The birth of Mr. Rideout occurred in Oregon township, Lucas Co., Ohio, in 1852, and he is a son of James and Julia E. (Brown) Rideout. His father was born in England, but, when only nine years of age, came with his father, Isaac Rideout, to Ohio, first locating at Massillon, but afterward coming to Perrysburg township, this county, where the father's death occurred. In 1849, in Oregon township, Lucas county, was celebrated the marriage of the parents of our subject, and there the father secured a farm for \$1.25 per acre, to the improvement and development of which he devoted his time and attention. In 1864 he joined the Union army, becoming one of the "one-hundred-days' men." He held the office of assessor of Oregon township, where his death occurred in 1867. His widow now makes her home in East Toledo, Ohio. A record of their children is as follows: Carolina died in Oregon township. Henry, the subject proper of this sketch, is next in order of birth. James died in Oregon township. Mrs. Jessie Brown is living in East Toledo. Mary is the wife of Edward Hicks, of Ross township, this county.

On leaving the home farm, our subject was employed for nearly six years by H. Eggleston, after which he came to his present farm. In Ross township, in 1876, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Rideout and Miss Alice Coy, daughter of George and Rebecca (Packer) Coy, the former a native of England, and the latter of New York. Her parents were among the early pioneers of Ross township, and both are now deceased. Nine children have been born to our subject and his wife—James, Bertha, Alice (deceased in 1881), Harvey, George, Emma, Clarence (deceased in 1889), and Ray and Roy, twins.

Industry and shrewd common sense have been important factors in the success of Mr. Rideout, and he has been identified with much of the development and upbuilding of Ross township. He is an earnest supporter of Democratic principles, and has served as constable.

JEROME H. HILL is a native of Allegany county, N. Y., born in 1856. His father, born in the same State in 1835, was reared on a farm, and received good educational privileges. He was married in Cattaraugus county, N. Y., to Aceseh Gail, and for a short time resided in Machias, N. Y., but soon removed to Delavan, in the same county, then known as Yorkshire Center, where he engaged in the lumber business. He was a prominent citizen, taking an active part in public affairs, and, for sixteen years prior to his death, he served as highway commissioner. He died in 1891; his widow is still living in Delavan. They had six children—Jerome H.; Jessie, widow of Phillip Hooper; Frank E., a fireman at Buffalo, N. Y.; Lillian, wife of George E. Pierce, of Delavan, N. Y.; Myron, a lumberman of Wisconsin; and Charles, an oil man, of Montpelier, Indiana.

Our subject spent his boyhood days in Delavan, N. Y., and there acquired his education. At the age of eighteen he left the school room and began working in his father's lumber yard, being thus engaged until he had attained his majority, when he went into the oil fields of McKean county, Penn. While thus employed he returned to Delavan, and was married to Miss Adella M. Bull, who was born in New York, January 20, 1869. He then took his bride to the home which he had previously established. Her death occurred there in 1886, and a year later Mr. Hill came to Ohio, living in Findlay for about eighteen months. In June, 1889, he came to Wood county, and assumed charge of the Ohio Oil Company's interests, in Sections 28, 29 and 33, Liberty township.

On the 12th of April, 1890, in Findlay, Ohio, Mr. Hill was again married, his second union being with Rosa M. Phillips, who was born in Peterborough county, Canada, October 27, 1864, a daughter of James M. and Zilpha (Hoard) Phillips, the former a native of Pennsylvania, the latter of Canada. They were married in Rochester, N. Y. Mrs. Hill was six months old when her parents located in Titusville, Crawford Co., Penn., and was a maiden of fourteen when they went to Andover, New York. In 1888, they came to Hancock county, Ohio, and the mother now resides with her daughter, Mrs. Hill. Her father is in Elkhart county, Ind., and is engaged in the jewelry business. In the Phillips family were the following members—Ida, wife of Jefferson Brewster, of Andover, N. Y.; Nettie, wife of George Delcomp, of Liberty township; Emma, wife of Abraham Sealy, of Pemberville, Ohio; Charles, an oil man, of Findlay, Ohio; Mrs. Hill; Earl, who died at the age of fifteen years; and Lola, wife of Bradly Keen, of Findlay, Ohio.

By his first wife, Mr. Hill had three children, but Earl and the second child died in infancy, and May L. died at the age of twelve years. There is one son by the second marriage, Cassius Myron, born December 30, 1890. Upon his second marriage, Mr. Hill located on his farm of sixty acres, which he has since greatly improved, making it one of the valuable and desirable country homes in Liberty township. He started out in life for himself at an early age, and diligence, enterprise and a laudable ambition have been the important factors in his success. In politics, he is a stalwart Republican.

**WILLIAM WERNER.** The subject of this sketch was born in Brunswick, Germany, February 19, 1842, and is a son of Henry Werner, who died in Germany of Asiatic cholera, was a shoemaker by trade, and left his widow in fairly good circumstances. Six children were born to them: William, Fred, Theo, Henry, Charles, and Caroline. Mrs. Werner came to the United States in 1854 with her children; the daughter had married in Germany, but came with her mother, and located at Albany, N. Y., where she now lives. The trip to America was made in a sailing vessel, and occupied forty days. Their destination was Missouri, where Mrs. Werner had an uncle; but on reaching Norwalk, Huron county, their money gave out, and they were obliged to stop there. Mrs. Werner rented property in that city, and Henry went to Missouri, where he entered land in Franklin county, and was joined later by his

mother, Theo, the youngest child, leaving our subject and Frederick in Norwich.

Upon being left to his own resources, William secured employment with a Mr. Redfield, a railroad contractor, with whom he remained for two years, receiving his board and clothes, and his first English schooling. During this time he had saved some money earned by driving cows to pasture; and with that took his brother Fred with him to Missouri, where they joined the other members of the family in Franklin county. Our subject took up the tinner's trade, and served a two-years' apprenticeship thereat. His work consisted in putting up spouting along the Missouri & Pacific railroad, and he was often obliged to sleep out on the prairie. He became very ill, and his employer, thinking he was dead, hired another man in his place, thus throwing him out of his position. He secured work as a dry-goods clerk for a time, and in the winter of 1859-60 his mother, and two brothers, Theo and Fred, returned to Ohio, and located in Fostoria. They secured work, and remained there until the spring of 1861, when they enlisted in the Civil war, the mother going to Albany, N. Y., to live with her daughter until the close of the conflict, returning then to Fostoria, where she died in 1880.

On October 16, 1861, our subject enlisted in Company B, 55th O. V. I.; Fred., Theo. and Charles enlisted in the 49th O. V. I., and Henry in a Missouri Battery, M, and all served full terms of enlistment, all coming home alive. William's regiment was organized at Norwalk, Ohio, its captain being A. S. Bement, and was sent to New Creek, W. Va.; their first fight was at Morefield, W. Va. Our subject remained with the regiment until his discharge, suffering numerous minor mishaps, but was never absent from duty. After the expiration of his first term of service he veteranized, and he was honorably discharged at Cleveland, Ohio, in 1865. Returning to Fostoria, he was employed as a dry-goods clerk with the firm of Foster, Olmstead & Co., with whom he stayed seven years.

On June 10, 1869, Mr. Werner was married in Fostoria to Miss Jane Brandeberry, who was born August 25, 1848, in Perry township, daughter of Isaac and Nancy (Fish) Brandeberry. Mr. Werner had saved some money from his army pay, and this, with his salary, enabled him to secure the home, the first one of his own since he left Germany, in which he and his wife went to housekeeping in Fostoria. Failing health caused by his confinement to business compelled him to give up his position in the store, and in March, 1872, he returned to Perry township, where he



*William Werner*



lived for a time on a farm of his father-in-law. On April 7, 1875, he moved to his present farm, in Section 15, which was the first farm he had ever owned. It consisted of seventy-five acres of land along the Perrysburg road, on which was a log house, and they lived in that during the erection of their elegant brick house, which they occupied in the fall of 1875. Mr. Werner now owns over 140 acres of land, and has erected all the buildings on the farm. He and his wife are the parents of the following children: Minnie M., born May 20, 1874; Isaac W., born April 11, 1886; Ruby L., born March 24, 1891; five children died in infancy. Our subject has always been a Republican, and has served three terms as township clerk, resigning during his third term; has also served two terms as school director. He is a member of Norris Post, G. A. R., at Fostoria, and with his wife belongs to the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he has held the office of steward, class leader, and recording steward. Mr. Werner is included in the State roster of soldiers from Wood county, but really belongs to Seneca county. He was in Missouri during the Kansas trouble (when it was not safe to proclaim oneself an Abolitionist), and saw scores of armed men going west "to kill Jim Lane" (so they said). He also distinctly remembers one particular night, when the Democrats had a torchlight procession, and how he and his brothers, Fred. and Theo. accidentally interfered with their transparencies while the procession turned in "to join" (take a drink), and how the brothers went into hiding for a few days.

A. C. ERSKINE, a prominent resident of Bowling Green, is descended from a family long famous in the history of Scotland. In the year 1720, two younger brothers of Lord Erskine, of Edinburgh, came to America and settled in Boston. One of these brothers, James, died young; the other, John, had a son John (2), who was our subject's great-grandfather. His son, John (3), the grandfather of our subject, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war under General Stark; and took part in the engagements at Bennjngton, Lexington and Yorktown.

Our subject's father, Salmon Erskine, was born at Warwick, N. H., in 1785. He married Betsey Hastings, who was born in Barre, Mass., in 1789, and settled in Plattsburg, N. Y., where he engaged in business as a mechanic. He was a man of great physical strength and active mentality, and always took a leading place among his associates. He was a soldier in the war of 1812, and, at the battle of Plattsburg, his shop

happened to be situated between the opposing armies and was shot to pieces. When he was relieved from service he moved his family to Middlebury, Vt., and then to Otsego county, N. Y., traveling over the mountains in a one-horse wagon which contained all his earthly possessions. Later he removed to Otsego county, N. Y., where he spent his last days. His wife died, and four years afterward he also departed this life. Both were consistent members of the Methodist Church. Of their seventeen children, all but one lived to maturity, and ten are still living. Their names in order of birth are as follows: Edward, deceased; Amasa, deceased, formerly a resident of New York; Salmon, living in Oswego county, N. Y.; Eliza (Mrs. Seth Dunbar); Phœbe, Mrs. Henry Chantney; A. C., our subject; John; Matilda, Mrs. Wm. Hathaway; Betsey, Mrs. C. Norris; Sarah, Mrs. Edward Norris Hastings, a resident of Oswego county, N. Y.; Charles, who mysteriously disappeared; Cyrus, living in Oswego county; Alonzo, who lost his life in defense of the Union, at Baton Rouge, La.; Azubia, deceased; Caroline, deceased in youth; Sarah and Susan.

A. C. Erskine was born near Richfield Springs, N. Y., February 3, 1819. At the age of fourteen he came to Ohio, and took charge of a live-stock farm, holding no communication with his family for seven years. He then returned home and went to school for three years in the Rensselaer (now Mexico) Academy, at Mexico, N. Y. In 1846 he located in Wisconsin, where he lived for seven years, after which he spent fourteen years in New York State before coming to Wood county, Ohio, in 1867. Here he lived upon a farm in Plain township for fourteen years, and then moved to his present residence in Bowling Green. He was married, in 1847, to Miss Louise Emerick, a native of New York State, who died in 1881 at the age of sixty-one. They had four children: (1) Charles, married Louisa Evers, and has one son—Clarence; (2) Emmett, who enlisted in Battery G, 1st N. Y. Artillery, and died in the army; (3) Emma, deceased, formerly the wife of Charles Place, of Bowling Green; and (4) Fred, deceased.

Mr. Erskine, despite his advanced age, has excellent health, and is active both physically and mentally. At the age of seventy-two he made a number of articles of furniture for his new home, which are models of fine workmanship. He is an inventor, and has handled many patent rights for himself and others. His latest invention, which he considers his best, is a gas generator, in which oil is utilized. This is pronounced by ex-

perts to be the only perfect design of the sort in the market. Politically Mr. Erskine is a Republican.

SAM LANE, a representative farmer and resident of Wood county, Ohio, was born in Greenfield township, Huron Co., Ohio, February 6, 1859, and is the son of Moses and Ruth (Lunbrick-Goodenough) Lane. Mr. Lane, Sr., was born in Somersetshire, England, where he learned the blacksmith's trade, which he continued to follow after coming to America and settling in Huron county. He married, in that county, the widow of Robert Goodenough, and they had seven children, four of whom died while young, the others being: Sam, our subject; Moses, a farmer in Plain township; Ella, wife of William Leverton. Mr. Lane was a clever workman at his trade, which he gave up after coming to Wood county, and followed farming as an occupation. He was a member of the Baptist Church, in Huron county, and of the Methodist Episcopal, in Wood county. Grandfather John Lane lived and died in England, where he also followed the trade of a blacksmith.

Our subject was about five years old when he came with his parents to Wood county. He grew up on the farm, and attended first the district school, then went to the high school at Weston, Ohio, and finally took a course of commercial studies at a business college in Toledo, Ohio; thus it will be seen that his educational advantages were much above that of the average farmer's boy. He, however, determined to follow farming as an occupation, and he did so in a systematic manner. He now has 182 acres of land, on which are situated three oil wells. Mr. Lane was married December 5, 1888, to Netta I. Hendricks, who was born in Plain township, May 5, 1866. They have two children—Fred and Ruth. Mr. Lane is a Republican, a public-spirited man, and is much respected in Wood county as a straightforward, intelligent citizen.

EDWARD DAVIS, a highly respected agriculturist residing near Grand Rapids, was born in England, August 24, 1824, a son of David and Sarah (Newell) Davis. It is seldom that one finds, even in this country, which boasts of its self-made men, one who has made his way to wealth through such depressing circumstances as those which surrounded our subject in early life.

Edward Davis never attended school, and at the age of eleven years was sent to work upon a farm, receiving for his first six months' labor the sum of twenty shillings, and he continued in the

same employment until he was twenty-six years old, with a small increase in wages each year. In 1850 he came to the United States, landing with forty dollars in his pocket, and came to Erie county, where he worked on a farm for thirteen years, remaining the entire time with one employer, and saving \$1,300. With this amount he bought eighty acres of land in Weston township, the greater part of which was unimproved; to this he later added fifteen acres more, and cleared and improved almost the entire tract; in 1875 he sold this farm, and bought eighty acres of land in Grand Rapids township, where he still resides. He has made many valuable improvements, and by his steady industry he has brought the whole to a high state of cultivation.

Mr. Davis was twice married. In 1863 he was united to his first wife, Jane Martin, daughter of James Martin, a well-known citizen of Weston township. To them were born two children: James Waldo, a farmer in Grand Rapids township, born August 7, 1866, married, May 21, 1896, Ivy Reaker, who was born May 21, 1874; and Seth, who died in infancy. Mrs. Davis died in 1866, and on December 27, 1868, Mr. Davis married Mrs. Julia A. Bassett, who was born March 26, 1838, in Jackson county, Ohio. To them have been born five children: Edward, a farmer in Grand Rapids township, November 15, 1870, was married December 25, 1895, to Ada L. Barton, who was born September 16, 1877, and they have one child; Mary Estella, December 13, 1872; Howard M., May 21, 1875; Bert C., March 8, 1879, died March 3, 1881; and Arthur C., born March 17, 1883. Mr. Davis is a Republican, and although he never seeks political office he gives hearty support to every beneficial public movement. He takes special interest in educational affairs. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church, and belongs to the Grange, and in his native country was one of the fraternity of Odd Fellows.

ALONZO C. JUDSON, deceased, who was a pioneer coal operator of the Buckeye State, resided upon a farm near Grand Rapids. He was born August 7, 1824, in Woodstock, New York.

The family is of English origin, and the first of the American line was among the earliest settlers of New England, later generations moving to the vicinity of Woodstock, where they followed agricultural pursuits. Our subject's father, A. C. Judson, was born there, and married Miss Sallie Wilcox, by whom he had three children: Nathan, Otis, and Alonzo C., all now deceased. The father died a few years after his marriage,

and his widow was married, in New York, to Clement Fay. They moved to Athens county, Ohio, of which he was a prominent citizen. By occupation he was a millwright.

A. C. Judson enjoyed the usual district school advantages of the American youth in pioneer times, his active mind enabling him to supplement this by reading and observation, and to acquire a wide range of information. He learned the millwright's trade during boyhood, but on reaching the mature age of seventeen, he engaged in coal mining, being the first to open the well-known Nelsonville mines. With the exception of a short time in Henry county, where he at one time owned a farm of forty acres, he continued in the coal business until 1853, when he came to Wood county, and bought a tract of ninety acres of land in Grand Rapids township. This he sold later, and bought 160 acres from Henry Kimberlin, November 14, 1854, upon which he made extensive and valuable improvements, including fine barns and a handsome residence, so that they were well prepared to enjoy the fruits of their hard labor in their declining days. About 1882, feeling the approach of old age, he concluded to give up active business, and turned the management of this beautiful home over to his son Horace G., with whom he made his home until death. This son also tenderly cared for his mother and an invalid brother, until the reaper of death called them home. In 1864, Mr. Judson joined the one-hundred-days' service and went to the front, but was relieved from duty because of an injured limb, and returning home, he sent a substitute at the suggestion of George Laskey.

Mr. Judson was married February 11, 1847, at Nelsonville, Ohio, to Miss Harriet C. Older, who was born October 12, 1829. Thirteen children were born of this union: Samuel O., born December 11, 1847, died March 16, 1869; Alonzo C., born February 26, 1849, married Elizabeth Looman, and has seven children; William Henry, born August 6, 1850, married Miss Sarah E. Fields, and they have one child (he died January 10, 1876); John Wesley, born February 24, 1852, died June 25, 1895; Lorenzo Dow, born November 29, 1854, married Harriet E. Carson, January 13, 1887, and has one child, Florence S., born October 25, 1887; Christopher C., born September 30, 1856, married Loucina Walters, February 9, 1882, and has one son (Merl, born August 5, 1890); George W., born October 4, 1857, married Miss Louella Basset, June, 1880 (he died January 6, 1892); Horace G., born June 28, 1859, was married March 16, 1882, to Miss

Lizzie Weihl, who was born December 6, 1862, and they have two children (Gertrude, born May 18, 1883, and Mabel, born February 10, 1886); Joseph R., born January 29, 1861, married Miss Annie Weihl, November 3, 1888, and has two children (one who died in infancy, and Elsie Maree, born June 26, 1893); Mary M., born March 4, 1862, married Jay Carson October 2, 1884, and they have three children (Alta H., born August 17, 1885; Carrie J., born May 28, 1889; and Alice L., born June 3, 1895); Thomas G., born February 6, 1864, died April 2, 1864; Simon C., born July 26, 1865, married Miss Ella Walters, and has three children; Cora B., born June 25, 1867, married Dan Ducat, and has three children (Lula, Bernard and Ray).

Mrs. Judson died January 14, 1891, deeply lamented by her family to whom, as a wife and mother, she had given years of loving devotion, and by a large circle of friends whom her rare womanly qualities had won. Her husband followed her to the unknown land June 30, 1896. She and her husband had long been consistent members of the Methodist Church, in which Mr. Judson was for many years a teacher in the Sunday-school. In politics he was a Republican, and while he did not seek official place, he wielded great influence in all local affairs, and was a generous supporter of every progressive measure. He was honest and industrious, always dealing fairly with his fellow men. Upon his death, his children found that deeds of his lands had been made out, signed and acknowledged, deeding each of the children twenty acres of land justly divided. His children can look back with pride upon his exemplary life, and should they follow the example mapped out by their father's life, they will make no mistake.

SAMUEL W. BRUNTHAVER is possessed of the true Western spirit of progress, and his chief characteristics are industry and enterprise, qualities which are always essential to success. He now follows farming in Middleton township, and his entire life has been spent in the Buckeye State. He was born in Ballville township, Sandusky county, August 18, 1853, and is a son of Peter Brunthaver, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, February 9, 1823, and spent the days of his childhood and youth upon his parents' farm. All his life he carried on agricultural pursuits as a means of support. From his native county he removed to Sandusky county, where he farmed 110 acres of land and reared his family. July 4, 1847, he was united in marriage, in Toledo, Ohio, with Miss Mary Jane Cook, a native of Richland



county, born March 2, 1827, and to them were born eight children, five of whom are now living, namely: Charles, Samuel W., Orin, Frank, and Minnie. The father was called to his final rest while living in Fremont, in April, 1891, and his wife died in 1893.

The gentleman whose name begins this sketch was reared in the usual manner of farmer lads, working in the fields through the summer months, and attending the district schools of the neighborhood in the winter. When twenty-seven years of age he came to Wood county, and located in Middleton township, where he purchased forty acres of land, only twenty of which had been cleared and broken, and on which was a small house. He has extended the boundaries of his farm by the additional purchase of forty acres, so that he now owns a valuable tract of eighty acres, of which the entire amount is under cultivation, excepting four acres in timber. He has erected thereon a good dwelling and barns, and has added all the other improvements found upon a model farm of the nineteenth century. To some extent he has engaged in stock-raising, and has climbed the ladder of success until reaching a position of affluence.

In 1883, at Bowling Green, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Bruntnaver and Miss Annie Norton, daughter of the late Michael Norton, of Middleton township, and a member of the Catholic Church. In politics our subject is a Democrat, and his social affiliations connect him with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

JOHN C. PETERS is numbered among the native sons of Ohio, his birth having occurred in Morrow county, September 17, 1842. When a child of four years he was brought by his parents, Abraham and Edith (Runyon) Peters, to Wood county, and he attended the district schools of Henry and Bloom townships, his first teacher being Phoebe Bell, a strict disciplinarian. He obtained a good education, and remained at home with his father until after he had attained his majority, when, in May, 1864, he enlisted in Company I, 161st O. V. I. From Columbus he went to the front, and took part in the battles of Cumberland Gap and Winchester, reaching Harper's Ferry July 4. He then participated in the engagement at that place, and was honorably discharged at Columbus, Ohio, in October, 1864.

During the following year he worked at the carpenter's trade in Charlotte, Eaton Co., Mich., and then returned to Wood county, working on the home farm until his marriage; he also followed ditch digging. On November 8, 1867,

in Henry township, he wedded Miss Frances A. Wilson, the ceremony being performed by Peter Freyman, justice of the peace. She was born in Yates county, N. Y., July 14, 1848, and is a daughter of William and Mary S. (Kingsbury) Wilson, the former of whom was a weaver by trade. Their family numbered five children, namely: Mrs. Peters; Edward, of Henry township, Wood county; Olive, wife of Michael Henning, of North Baltimore, Ohio; Chester, who died in Tennessee, in 1892; Cassius, who died at the age of sixteen; and Charles, a farmer, of Tennessee. Mrs. Peters was only five years of age when she accompanied her parents to Ohio. They located in Hancock county, and in 1864 came to Wood county, settling in Henry township, where they resided until 1874; then removed to Tennessee, where the father still makes his home. The mother's death occurred there in August, 1888.

Mr. Peters first purchased twenty acres of wild land, and lived in an old plank house, 18 x 24 feet, which was built by his brother William. After a number of years he located in Hoytville, and erected the first business house in that town. He then embarked in merchandising, which he carried on for two years, when he returned to the farm, there spending three years. His next business venture was in the line of stove manufacturing, purchasing an interest in the factory at North Baltimore, with which he was connected for two years. He then again returned to the farm, but later removed to Michigan, making his home in Coleman and in Mt. Pleasant, that State. In 1885 he again became a resident of Henry township, Wood county, and in the spring of 1894 he purchased property in North Baltimore, where he made his home for a year. He now owns 573 acres of valuable land, and his dwelling stands upon a forty-five acre tract, while upon his land are twelve good oil wells.

To Mr. and Mrs. Peters were born the following named children: L. Lunda, born April 22, 1871, and died January 24, 1886; J. Loren, born September 9, 1872, and married Amanda Bartz, of Henry township; Mary Edith, born December 23, 1873, and is the wife of John A. Rogers, of North Baltimore; Anna Belle, born July 20, 1876, and died June 13, 1884; Willie, born July 22, 1880, and died eight days later; Bassett Le Roy, born September 2, 1881; and Claudie Mearl, born October 28, 1884, and died April 26, 1887.

Mr. Peters is a staunch "Free-Silver" advocate, and is well-informed on the political issues of the day. He formerly took great delight in



J. C. PETERS AND FAMILY.



hunting, but on one occasion was accidentally shot by a fellow hunter, fifteen pellets entering his body. His life has been well spent, and has gained for him the high regard of all with whom he has been thrown in contact. He now lives in Hancock county, one mile south and one-half mile west of Mt. Cory.

**ANDREW J. KNAUSS.** The Knauss family has long been prominently connected with the agricultural interests of the county, and is worthily represented by our subject, who was born in Plain township, January 27, 1864. He is a son of John Knauss, a well-known resident of the county. To the district schools near his home he is indebted for his educational privileges, having pursued his studies in both Center and Middleton townships. The summer months were spent in work upon the home farm, and from the time that he was old enough to handle the plow he worked in the fields. On attaining his majority he left the parental roof, and started out in life on his own account. He purchased forty acres of land, all of which was wild and unimproved. With characteristic energy he began its development, has divided it into fields of convenient size, which are now under a high state of cultivation, and in the midst of the waving fields of grain stand a good residence, substantial barns and other improvements.

Mr. Knauss was married on March 16, 1887, in Bowling Green, Ohio, the lady of his choice being Miss Mary B. Pickering, daughter of Robert Pickering, a farmer of Middleton township. Her birth occurred September 5, 1865. They now have two interesting children—Robert J., born December 19, 1889; and Essie M., born May 19, 1892. His parents hold membership with the United Brethren Church, and Mr. Knauss gives his political support to the men and measures of the Republican party. His life has been an industrious and busy one, and his energies have secured to him a comfortable home. In the county where he has always lived he is quite popular and has many friends.

**LINDWORTH P. THOMAS** is now serving as trustee of Middleton township, and is a public spirited citizen, interested in the welfare of the community and its advancement. He was born in Monroe county, Mich., July 27, 1843, and is a son of Silas and Eliza A. (Beach) Thomas, both natives of New York. They were married, however, in Michigan, and became the parents of nine children, namely: Lindworth P.; Perry, a carpenter; Zachariah, Malvina and Albert, all de-

ceased; India, the wife of G. H. Everett; Gideon, a farmer of Plain township; Clara, deceased; and Clarence, an agriculturist of Plain township. The father removed with his family from Michigan to Plain township, where he owned and operated a tract of land, continuing its cultivation until his death. In politics he was a Democrat, and served as trustee, supervisor and school director in Plain township. Religiously he was connected with the Baptist Church. His wife has also passed away.

Our subject obtained his education in a log school house near his home, and worked on his father's farm until twenty-four years of age, when he started out in life for himself. He purchased forty acres of land in Middleton township, near what was called Devil's Hole. This was all covered with timber and water, but he succeeded in clearing away the trees, in ditching and tiling the place, and in course of time transformed the raw land into richly cultivated fields. He built a good house, erected a good barn in 1872, and also by purchase added sixty acres. In 1889 he exchanged that property for eighty-five acres of land near the Maumee river, in Middleton township, which he now operates, having made excellent improvements thereon.

Mr. Thomas was married September 14, 1869, in Center township, to Lovina M. Noble, who was born in the State of New York. They have two children—Fannie, wife of Royal Daniels, a farmer of Middleton township; and Noble, who is attending school.

Our subject has done effective service in the interests of the schools, while serving as school director in Middleton township, and for two years has been a member of the township board of education. He served as road supervisor for two years in Plain township, and one year in Middleton township, and has been trustee for five years. His fellow citizens appreciating his worth and ability, have thus frequently called him to office, and he has ever discharged his duties in a capable manner. In politics he is a Democrat.

**HENRY MICHAEL**, one of the prosperous and go-ahead farmers of Portage township, is a native of the "Buckeye State," born August 11, 1850, near Fremont, Sandusky county, a son of George Michael, who is a native of Germany, near Alsace.

When nineteen years old George Michael came to the United States with his parents, who located near Fremont, Ohio. Here he was married to Miss Catherine Matthias, who was also born in Germany, and came to the United States with her parents when nine years old, the family

locating in Sandusky county, where they were pioneers. Catherine had to walk four miles to school. She died November 20, 1894, when she was seventy-three years old, her husband preceding her to the grave, November 1, 1890, when he was seventy-four years old, and they sleep side by side in Oakwood cemetery, near Fremont, Ohio. Mr. Michael was a self-made man, working for every acre which he owned, and he improved his farm of fifty acres, until it was worth \$150 per acre, and was one of the best places in the vicinity. He and his wife had eight children, as follows: Caroline (Mrs. Levi Parker), of Sandusky county, Ohio; Phillip, a lumber merchant, of Deshler, Ohio; George, of Fremont, Ohio; Henry, the subject of this sketch; John, a farmer of Portage township; Mary (Mrs. Reuben Swartz), of Fremont, Ohio; Elizabeth (Mrs. Henry Thompson), of Sandusky county; and Charles, who is farming on the old homestead in Sandusky county. Mr. and Mrs. Michael were both members of the Evangelical Church for many years. He was originally a Republican in politics, but during his later years he supported the Democratic party. He held the office of trustee for several years in Sandusky township, but was not a man who gave much time to public affairs.

Our subject received such educational advantages as the district schools near his home afforded. He remained at home until twenty-two years old, receiving a thorough training in farm work, and also working at the carpenter's trade during the season, having commenced to learn the same, under Asa Foster, when he was seventeen years old. After his marriage, in 1873, he went to Owosso, Mich., where he remained eight months, embarking in the furniture business; but as he did not succeed at that he followed the carpenter's trade, and returned from Owosso a poorer, though wiser man. He now rented a farm in Sandusky township, Sandusky county, and here went to work, with no team, no implements, no capital of any kind, his only possessions being the furniture for his house. In Ottawa county he soon bought twenty acres of land, on which he paid \$100, and after working this farm for two years he sold out, and, in 1878, came to Wood county, buying fifty acres in Section 24, Portage township. This land was, at that time, almost in its primitive condition, the buildings were very poor, and he was obliged to go in debt to the amount of \$635; but, allowing none of these things to discourage him, he set to work at once, and has succeeded in acquiring one of the neatest farm properties in this section. He has bought more

land, and now owns ninety acres, equipped with good buildings, all of which he has erected. In 1887 he built a comfortable home, in keeping with the surroundings. He has accumulated all this by his own exertions, and his life is an example of what industry and energy can accomplish, even without capital.

At the age of twenty-two years Mr. Michael was married to Miss Alice Cookson, of Fremont, who died in Sandusky county, January 15, 1891, at the age of twenty-eight years, leaving one child, Mabel G., who now lives in Detroit, Mich. For his second wife, our subject wedded, in 1882, Miss Sarah C. Kratser, a native of Sandusky county, whose father, David Kratser, came from Pennsylvania. Five children have blessed this union: Mary, Lottie C., Laura, Chester H. and Lucy, all of whom are living. Mr. and Mrs. Michael are, in religious connection, members of the German Baptist Church, in which he is serving as trustee. He is not partisan in political affairs, voting for the man best fitted for office, without regard to political connection.

C. J. UPDEGRAFF, the well-known carpenter and contractor of Portage township, was born February 26, 1850, in Canton, Ohio. His parents, Samuel and Caroline (Becker) Updegraff, were born in Pennsylvania and Maryland, respectively, and were married in Ohio.

When our subject was twelve years old his father died, leaving a family of seven children with but little to support them, hence they were early obliged to take care of themselves. C. J. and Henry went to live with their uncle, Peter Kentz, near Tiffin, Ohio, and the former was to remain there until eighteen years of age. But, being dissatisfied for many reasons, he left at the age of sixteen years, and commenced work on his own account. He was to have been given fair school advantages, as he had attended school at Canton only a short time; but his schooling was altogether neglected, and he attended only one term after he was sixteen. With no capital, and a scant wardrobe, he set out for himself, commencing to work for a farmer at five dollars per month, and he continued to do farm work, at various places in Seneca county, Ohio, until early in 1871, when he came to Wood county. Here he commenced to learn the trade of carpenter under W. H. Ferguson, of Perry township, during his apprenticeship receiving \$60 per year; and he continued with Mr. Ferguson for three years gaining a thorough knowledge of the trade, which he has ever since followed. For twenty years he has been successfully engaged in carpen-

tering and contracting on his own account, giving employment to several men, and many of the best houses and barns in the county stand as monuments of his skill. He is a systematic, reliable workman, and has acquired a reputation for fairness and honesty, which could only be gained by satisfactory work, and straightforwardness in all his dealings.

On May 23, 1874, our subject was married, in Perry township, to Miss Hattie M. Pelton, who was born October 6, 1856, in LaGrange township, Lorain Co., Ohio, daughter of Albert and Mary J. Pelton, the former of whom is now deceased, the latter living in Eagleville, Ohio. Albert Pelton was born in New York; Mary J. Elward, his wife, was born March 15, 1822, in County Tipperary, Ireland, and in early womanhood was married in Waterford to David Smith, with whom she set out for the United States several years later. He was buried at sea, and his widow continued alone on her journey to New York City, where a son, Martin D., was born. Mrs. Smith subsequently came to Ionia, Mich., where she had two brothers living, and supported herself by sewing until her marriage, at that place, to Albert Pelton. Not long after they removed to Perry township, Wood Co., Ohio, thence to LaGrange township, Lorain county, and thence, in 1857, to Wood county again, where Mr. Pelton died in 1865. Their children were as follows: William (deceased), Hattie M., Charles (deceased), Franklin J. and Lizzie E. Mr. and Mrs. Updegraff have had two children—Orrin W., born December 20, 1875, and Jesse R., born June 10, 1884, both of whom have been given all the advantages of good schools.

After his marriage Mr. Updegraff located on rented property in Perry township, where he afterward purchased twenty acres of land, and in the spring of 1880 he removed to Burgoon, Sandusky county, where, with a partner, he was interested in the building of a saw and grist mill. He held his interest in this concern ten months, but the investment was not a profitable one, and he lost almost all he had during that short time. In the spring of 1882 the family removed to Eagleville, here purchasing a house and lot, and this was partly paid for with money which Mrs. Updegraff had saved. In 1884 Mr. Updegraff rented a farm in Bloom township, and commenced to follow agriculture in connection with his contracting business, in which he has ever since engaged to some extent. In the fall of 1887 he bought the eighty-acre farm in Section 25, Portage township, on which he and his family now reside, this being part of the "Bis-

bee Farm." During his busy life Mr. Updegraff has become widely and favorably known throughout Wood and Seneca counties, and he is respected by all who know him. He and his wife are, in religious connection, members of the U. B. Church; in politics, he is a Republican, staunch in his support of the principles of his party, but not an active politician.

PETER C. HUBER, a young man of rare business skill and excellent judgment, was born in Section 12, Portage township, Wood county, September 15, 1862, and is the son of John U. and Clarissa (Foster) Huber. During his boyhood he attended the district schools near his home, where he learned rapidly; but when still in his 'teens he had a severe attack of typhoid fever, which necessitated his learning many things over again. Later, he was a student in a business college at Toledo, Ohio, conducted by R. H. Davis, on Summit street, where he remained for nearly three terms.

On leaving the school-room, Mr. Huber began life for himself as a peddler and clock and watch repairer, traveling through Wyandot, Hancock, Crawford and other counties in northwestern Ohio. He sold jewelry, spectacles and photographic work, continuing canvassing at different times, and carrying on that business for awhile in Canada. In that way he earned enough capital with which to buy three acres of land and a sawmill in Portage township. He has since conducted the mill with good success, and also engages in the manufacture of cider, jelly and apple butter. He thoroughly understands his business, having been familiar with mill work since boyhood. A wide-awake, energetic business man, his success is well-deserved, and he is widely and favorably known throughout the community. He lives with his mother upon the old home farm in Portage township.

WARREN W. HAMPTON is a leading business man of Dunbridge, engaged in contracting and building, and is also the efficient and highly esteemed postmaster. He was born in Plain township, this county, May 29, 1850, and is a son of Joseph Hampton. He pursued his education in the Hampton district school, of Plain township, and to his father gave the benefit of his services on the home farm until he reached man's estate. He then began learning the carpenter's and joiner's trade, which he followed in Michigan, Toledo, Bowling Green, Tontogany, Haskins and Dunbridge, Ohio. In 1884 he took up his residence in the latter place. Here on all sides may

be seen evidences of his handiwork. He thoroughly understands his business, and his excellent workmanship and strict adherence to straight-forward business principles have secured him a liberal patronage.

In Middleton township, July 26, 1879, was consummated the marriage of Mr. Hampton and Miss Melinda Jackson, who was born in Lake township, June 12, 1861. Their children are Maude, born July 14, 1880; Bernice, born August 8, 1882; James, born March 17, 1884; Pearl, born January 20, 1888; and Cora, who was born July 23, 1890, and is now deceased.

Mr. Hampton has frequently been called to public office by his fellow townsmen, who recognize his worth and ability. He served as constable of the town for three years, was school director for one term, and during President Cleveland's first administration served as postmaster, from 1887 until 1889, when he resigned. In April, 1893, he was again appointed, and he administers the affairs of that office in a manner creditable to himself and satisfactory to his constituents. Socially, he is a valued member of Middleton Lodge, No. 786, I. O. O. F., of Dunbridge, and both he and his wife belong to Rebekah Lodge, No. 381. They are also consistent members of the Presbyterian Church, and Mrs. Hampton is an active worker in the Ladies Aid Society. Their home is noted for its hospitality, and throughout the community they have a large circle of friends.

DAVID D. HANLINE. It is eminently proper that one whose entire life has been passed in Wood county, and who, for more than half a century, has been identified with its interests, should be represented in a volume of this character.

Mr. Hanline was born in Montgomery township, March 23, 1838, on the old family homestead of his parents, David and Eve (Rumler) Hanline. In his early childhood he suffered an accident that for sixteen years prevented the free use of his left leg, and in consequence made his attendance at school difficult. He attended a subscription school, to which he was forced to walk two miles, through a wet, swampy country. In his youth he accompanied his parents to Madison township, Sandusky county, where he was reared to manhood, and became familiar with the labors of a farm. In April, 1862, he purchased of his father forty acres of land in Section 25, Freedom township, of which only five acres had been cleared, while not a building stood on the place. He at once began to clear the property,

and has carried forward the work of development until the once wild tract has been transformed into rich fields, whose productiveness brings to him a good income. He now owns eighty acres of valuable land, and the buildings upon the place stand as a monument to his thrift and enterprise. On this farm are three oil wells (the first bored in 1895), that produce about fifteen barrels per day.

In politics, Mr. Hanline is a Democrat, and ardently advocates the principles of his party. He was drafted during the Civil war, but on account of disability, was not mustered into service. He holds membership in the Lutheran Church, and is a warm friend to the cause of education, taking a deep interest in the improvement of the schools, while for one term he served as school director in his district. He is a law-abiding citizen, one who has never engaged in litigation of any kind; but true to all the duties of public and private life, he has so lived as to win the respect and confidence of many friends.

HENRY LUSHER has spent his entire life in Wood county, his birth having occurred in Perrysburg township, on March 20, 1854. His parents were Henry and Harriet (Reamer) Lusher. The father was a native of Switzerland, and when a child of seven years came with the grandfather to America, locating in Seneca county, Ohio. He was married in Bettsville, Ohio, in 1843, to Miss Reamer, a native of Berks county, Penn., and immediately afterward came to Perrysburg, Wood county. Here he purchased forty acres of land on Road-track 21-22, Perrysburg township, and there carried on agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred December 26, 1875. He was killed by a falling limb blown from a tree, while he was returning from a neighbor's, and was found the next day, his skull completely crushed. His widow still survives him, and is now living near Lime City. They had twelve children: Sarah, of Michigan; Mary, Wesley and Malinda, who reside in Perrysburg township; Betsy, who died in childhood; Annie, and Susan, who are living in Perrysburg township; Amelia, who died in childhood; Matilda, who makes her home in Michigan; David, who died in infancy; Harriet, who is living in Perrysburg township; and Henry.

The subject of this review was educated in that township—his first teacher being William Morris. At the age of sixteen he left school to work for his father, with whom he remained until he had attained his majority, being engaged in general farming and threshing. On December 23, 1874, he was joined in wedlock with Miss



*David D Hamline*





Dora Baumgartner, a native of Wood county. They have an adopted child, Caroline, who was born July 22, 1878, and is a niece of Mrs. Lusher.

After his marriage, Mr. Lusher engaged in teaming for a year, and then operated the old homestead until his father's death. In the spring of 1876 he purchased twenty acres of land in Section 36, Perrysburg township, and removed to that farm in the fall. Its boundaries he has since extended, until he now owns 120 acres of land, highly cultivated, and well improved with a comfortable residence, good outbuildings, and all the conveniences of a model farm. He received from his father's estate \$578.00, but the remainder of his property has all been acquired entirely through his own efforts. Mr. Lusher is an advocate of the Republican party, and although living in a Democratic township, he has held the office of supervisor for five successive terms, a fact which indicates the confidence reposed in him by his fellow townsmen. It is a trust that has never been betrayed, and in all the other relations of life he is true and faithful, while to him is given the warm regard of many friends.

WILLIAM SMITH is one of the honored and esteemed citizens of Middleton township, and his well-spent life is in many respects worthy of emulation. Educational, social and moral interests have found in him a friend, and he has been an important factor in agricultural circles, thus adding to the material welfare of the community.

A native of Pennsylvania, Mr. Smith was born in York county, July 23, 1823, and is descended from honored Revolutionary ancestry. His grandfather, Samuel Smith, was one of the heroes of the war for Independence, and the father, William Smith, Sr., a native of York county, Penn., served in the war of 1812. His wife bore the maiden name of Christiana Snyder, and was born in Germany. They had a family of ten children, but Samuel, Liza, Sarah, Liddie and William are the only ones now living. The parents both died in Crawford county, Ohio.

Our subject acquired his education in the public schools near his home, and worked on the old home farm until twenty-four years of age, when he started out in life for himself. He purchased a farm of forty acres which he continued to cultivate until 1858, when he came to Ohio. He made his first location in Sandusky county, where he rented a farm of eighty acres for three years, and then removed to Seneca county, taking up his residence near Kansas, where he operated 160 acres of land. During the war, however, he laid aside all business cares in order to

aid in the protection of the Union, enlisting, in 1863, as a member of Company F, 126th O. V. I. He participated in all the engagements of his company, and valiantly did his duty until the war was over, when he was honorably discharged at Columbus, Ohio, in 1865.

Mr. Smith then returned to his farm in Seneca county, subsequently coming to Wood county, and located in Portage township, where for two years he engaged in the operation of fifty-six acres of land. He then came to Middleton township, and purchased forty-two acres of land, which constitutes his present farm. This is now a very valuable tract, and the well-tilled fields yield to him a golden tribute, while the buildings upon the place stand as monuments to his thrift and enterprise.

In 1847 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Smith and Miss Catherine Snyder, a native of York Co., Penn., and a daughter of Adam Snyder, a blacksmith of that county. Ten children were born to them—Albert, a farmer of Sandusky county; William, a farmer of Wood county; Edward, an agriculturist of Nebraska; Levi, who operates a tract of land in Michigan; Barbara A., wife of Peter Bobey; John, a farmer of this county; Angelina, wife of J. H. Carnes, of Plain township; Jane, wife of Henry Schuyler, of Convoy; Mary; and one who died in infancy.

In politics, Mr. Smith is a stalwart advocate of Republican principles, and is a faithful member of the United Brethren Church. He was one of the first to suggest the erection of Union Hall, gave \$200 to the enterprise, and by his labors aided in its construction. He is now serving as one of its trustees, and does all in his power to promote its interests, and to advance the moral and educational welfare of the community. Over his life there falls no shadow of wrong, and his exemplary character and manly qualities have made him a popular and highly esteemed citizen.

ALMON BAKER. The eighty-acre farm in Section 23, Montgomery township, belonging to this gentleman, is conspicuous for the manner in which it has been improved and cultivated, and is evidently the homestead of one of the most enterprising men of Wood county. He is an Ohio man in the best sense of the word, born at Adrian, on May 27, 1855, and is the son of John and Louisa (Strauss) Baker, who brought him to Montgomery township, Wood county, when he was a child of six years.

The first school which our subject attended is what is now District School No. 5, his teacher being Jane Adams, and he later became a student

in the Freeport school. He remained upon the home farm until 1881, at which time the Nickel Plate road was being built, and for nine months he served as foreman on the grading for sub-contractors. He was then made night watchman on the same road, and in March, 1882, became fireman on a freight engine, running between Bellevue, Ohio, and Fort Wayne, Ind. For two years following he was fireman on a passenger engine running between the latter city and Chicago. He was promoted to engineer on a switch engine running between Stony Island and Chicago, and then ran a transfer engine between Fort Wayne and New Haven. He was later a freight engineer, running east and west from Fort Wayne, and was connected with railroad work until 1891.

In January, 1874, in Seneca county, Ohio, Mr. Baker was united in marriage with Miss Mary Dern, who was born in that county in August, 1854, daughter of Hezekiah and Susanna (Hyter) Dern. Their union has been blessed by the birth of four children—Gettie, who died at the age of three years, three months and nineteen days; and Bert, Willard and Myrtle, all at home. After his marriage Mr. Baker made his home upon the farm of his father, in Section 14, Montgomery township, but later removed to Risingsun, Ohio, and during his railroad career lived at Fostoria, Ohio, and Fort Wayne, Ind. He then returned to Montgomery township, where he now has a fine farm of eighty acres in Section 23. In addition to general farming he is also engaged in oil pumping and teaming. He has made considerable money, always having lived well, and has spent what would be a good lifetime accumulation for many; but, notwithstanding all this, he has secured a good competence, and is now quite prosperous. He has a thorough knowledge of steam and its workings, as well as the business to which he now turns his attention. In politics he is a Democrat, and, socially, holds membership with Onward Lodge, K. of P., of Risingsun, and with several railway organizations. He is recognized as an honest, upright citizen, one who would be an honor to any community. His estimable wife is a consistent member of the Disciples Church at Prairie Depot.

W. A. FINKBEINER, a well-known, prosperous merchant of Perrysburg, is one of the most clear-headed and enterprising young business men in the county.

Born in Perrysburg, Ohio, September 13, 1869, he is a son of Chris. Finkbeiner, formerly recorder of Wood county, and now a leading furniture dealer of Bowling Green. Our subject has

spent the greater part of his twenty-seven years in the county, attending the public schools during boyhood, and serving as an apprentice to the mercantile business in his father's store. For four years he was employed in the wholesale house of E. C. Saw & Co., of Toledo, and then, returning to his native place, he bought his present store, where, as sole proprietor, his energy and good judgment have met with gratifying success.

On June 30, 1891, Mr. Finkbeiner was married to Miss Winnifred See, who was born October 4, 1871, in Cleveland, Ohio. They have one son—Donald Arthur. In politics Mr. Finkbeiner is a Republican, and socially he is a member of the I. O. O. F., and the Royal Arcanum.

JOHN McMASTER, a popular, intelligent and esteemed citizen of Milton township, traces his ancestry back to one of the earliest families of New York. His parents were Levi and Charity (Newberry) McMaster, the former born in Cayuga county, N. Y., in 1800. They were married in Chautauqua county, that State, and in 1825 removed with their family to Huron county, Ohio, carrying on farming for a number of years in Greenfield township. He afterward removed to Richmond township, of the same county, where he purchased 100 acres of land that he afterward traded for a farm in Greenfield township. When he had lived on the last place for seven years, he sold it and rented another farm. His death occurred in March, 1851, and his wife passed away in 1872, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John Jones, of Weston township. In the family there were the following children: John; Caroline, born June 12, 1829, now the wife of Joseph Horn, of Paulding county, Ohio; Adeline, born January 26, 1831, now the wife of John Jones, of Weston township; Emeline, born June 28, 1838, died at the age of three years; Myron, born July 10, 1833, a resident of Louisville, Ky.; Levi, of Tuscola county, Mich., born January 28, 1835; Sidney, born August 10, 1839; Charles, of Huron county, born September 14, 1841; Dexter, of Lucas county, born December 20, 1842; Emeline, born August 21, 1843, wife of Horton Taylor, of California; Mark, born December 8, 1855, now of Jefferson county, Kans.; Deal, born July 31, 1847, wife of Peter Bliss, of Jefferson county, Kansas.

Our subject was born in Chautauqua county, N. Y., September 20, 1827. His educational privileges were limited, for there were none but subscription schools in the neighborhood. His school days were over at the age of fifteen, and

he then turned his attention to farm work, was also employed for one year in a sawmill owned by his uncle, Hiram McMaster, and drove a team in connection with a gristmill for a year. Subsequently he worked as a farm hand for \$12 per month, and the next season received \$13. Saving his wages, he then purchased a small farm of thirty-three acres in Greenfield township, making a home for his mother and the younger children of the family. For ten years he lived on that place.

Mr. McMaster was married in Greenfield township, January 20, 1858, to Elizabeth Jane Grieves, who was born in Bergen county, N. J., October 2, 1829, and came to Huron county with her parents at the age of six years. Her father and mother, Thomas and Elizabeth (Stewart) Grieves, spent their remaining days in Huron county. They had seven children who died in one summer, and the others are Thomas, also now deceased; and David, of Greenfield township, Huron county. To Mr. and Mrs. McMaster have been born the following named—John D., who was born March 12, 1859, and has always aided in the work of the home farm; Della, who was born March 29, 1863, and died at the age of three years; Myrtie, born May 16, 1870; and Laura, born February 27, 1875.

In November, 1860, Mr. McMaster removed to Wood county, and purchased forty acres of land on which stood a log house. The following January he brought his family to the new home, and for twenty years they lived in a log cabin, which was then replaced by the present capacious and substantial dwelling. He had only \$300 and a team of horses when he came to the county, but has become the possessor of a comfortable competence, and in connection with his son owns 147 acres of land, all under a high state of cultivation.

In his political views, Mr. McMaster and his son are both Republicans, and he has served as township trustee for two years, assessor for one term, and school director for many years. He is deeply interested in whatever tends to advance the welfare of his adopted county, and well deserves representation in its history.

LORON CLARK POTTER is a worthy representative of the agricultural interests of Washington township, and is one of the prominent and highly respected citizens of the community. He was born in Sherman township, Huron Co., Ohio, August 8, 1849, and at the age of twenty-one came to Wood county with his parents, David G. and Mary Ann (Bates) Potter, the former of

Welsh, and the latter of English, descent. Our subject had five sisters, but two have now passed away—Celia Josephine and Roselia. Those living are Emma Jane, wife of Israel Huffman, of Grand Rapids, Ohio; Elnora, who resides in Toledo; and Alice, wife of William Bemis, of Waterville, Ohio.

The early life of Mr. Potter was spent after the manner of most farmers' sons, in a comparatively uneventful manner, and during which he attended the common schools of Huron county, and made himself useful around the homestead as his years increased. In 1872, he was married to Miss Minerva Ann Wade, a daughter of John Q. Wade, a prominent farmer of Weston township, the wedding being celebrated in Tontogany, and four children have come to bless their union. (1) Dudley A., born May 28, 1873, graduated at the schools of Tontogany, and is now teaching in District No. 1, Washington township. (2) Mary Ann, born January 3, 1875, is the wife of Frank Thomas, foreman of the *Democrat* office at Bowling Green, Ohio. They have one daughter, Helen, and lost a son in infancy, Harry Arthur. (3) Viola, born January 2, 1877. Birdie, born October 27, 1885, completed the family.

Mr. Potter has ever resided upon the home farm, to the cultivation of which he gives his entire time and attention, making it one of the highly productive tracts of the neighborhood. Politically, he votes the straight Democratic ticket. Notwithstanding his busy and active career as connected with the general welfare of his township, he has never sought office, content alone to see the people around him steadily advancing socially, morally and financially. He has, however, served for two terms as assessor, holding that office in 1890 and 1891, and four times was a member of the central committee of his party, and at present is a member of the executive committee. He takes quite an active interest in the Odd Fellows fraternity, belonging to Tontogany Lodge No. 755, I. O. O. F., in which he has filled all the chairs, and is now past grand, while both he and his wife belong to Oriana Rebekah Lodge No. 400, of Tontogany.

HARMON HOLLMAN, the well-known merchant tailor of Pemberville, was born August 3, 1851, in Kappeln, Prussia, the youngest of the three children of Frederick Hollman, a stone mason there, and his wife, Elizabeth Hollman.

When a young man, our subject learned his trade at his native place, and wishing for wider opportunities, at the age of twenty-two, he came to this country. For some time he followed his

trade in Tiffin, Ohio, then came to Bowling Green where he worked one year before finally locating in Pemberville. During the first year of his stay there he was employed, but soon established an independent business which he has since conducted successfully. He now owns the only merchant tailor shop in the town, and his well earned reputation for honesty and efficiency bring him a constantly extending trade.

In 1879 he married Miss Sophia Bimedick, a native of Seneca county, Ohio, born September 27, 1855, the fourth in a family of ten children. Her parents, Henry and Margaret (Telemyer) Bimedick, were both born in Germany in 1826, and came to Ohio in early life, locating first in Seneca county, and later settling in Wood county. Mr. Bimedick was one of the first settlers of Freedom township, and well and favorably known. He was a poor man when he came here, and died March 26, 1893, the owner of a fine farm; his wife died December 26, 1890. Their family consisted of nine daughters and one son, Lewis, who died June 12, 1896; seven of the daughters are yet living. The parents were prominent members of the Lutheran Church at Pemberville for many years. Mrs. Hollman received an excellent education in the public schools and those of the Lutheran Church, is one of the most accomplished ladies of Pemberville, and with her husband takes an active part in Church work, and in every worthy cause. They have had two children: Edwin, born March 7, 1882, at present attending the public schools of Pemberville, and Clarence Lewis, who was born September 19, 1894, and was an exceedingly bright child; he died April 6, 1896, of scarlet fever, after ten days' illness. In politics Mr. Hollman is a supporter of the principles of the Democratic party.

**JAMES PINNIGER.** Among the reliable, progressive and energetic farmers of Lake township, there is none better known or more highly respected than the gentleman whose name introduces this record. His farm is pleasantly located in Section 16, where he located in 1868, and was at that time covered with a dense growth of timber; but he has transformed the land, making it one of the most highly improved places of the locality.

Mr. Pinniger was born in Berkshire, England, in 1844, and is the son of James and Sarah A. (Martin) Pinniger, also natives of the same country, where the mother died in 1850. Two years later the father brought his family to the United States, locating first at Cleveland, where he worked at the barber's, trade and later engaged

in the grind-stone business at Berea, Ohio. From there he came to Lake township, Wood county, in 1858, and in the midst of the woods hewed out a farm, which ever afterward continued to be his home. By his first marriage he had three children: James, of this review; Sarah Ann, now Mrs. J. Parker, of Toledo; and Mary, also a resident of that city. In 1853, in Cleveland, Mr. Pinniger wedded Miss Ann M. Deacon. She died upon the farm in that township, leaving five children: Charles, William H., and Albert, all of Toledo; Caroline, wife of William Sanders, of Lake township; and Rosa, wife of John Selfe, of the same township. The father cast his ballot with the Republican party, and served as the first postmaster of Millbury, Wood county; for thirteen years was clerk of Lake township, which office he was holding at the time of his death in 1870; was a member of the school board, and assisted in organizing the school district.

The education of our subject was such as the public schools of Cleveland and Berea, Ohio, afforded, and at the age of thirteen years he became a resident of Lake township, where he assisted his father in clearing and developing the home farm. From 1868 to 1870 he engaged in the manufacture of wooden bowls, at Perrysburg, Wood county, and the following two years were spent in general merchandising in Millbury. It was in 1874 that he located upon his present farm, then comprising sixty acres of timber land, but is now one of the most highly cultivated tracts in the township, supplied with an excellent set of farm buildings, modern machinery, and everything to be found on a first-class farm.

In September, 1869, in Lake township, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Pinniger and Miss Phillippa A. Bailey, a native of England, where her parents, John and Catherine (Beckle) Bailey, were also born. They were among the pioneers of Lake township, where they arrived in 1852, and there both died, the father's death occurring in 1890, and the mother's some years previous. In 1885, Mr. Pinniger was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife. To them had been born seven children: Arthur J., who died in 1895, leaving a wife and one child; Mrs. Anna Wight, a resident of Millbury; John H.; Edith P.; Harry G.; Walter E.; and Frank D. In 1890, Mr. Pinniger was again married, this time to Miss Sabina Youngs, of Millbury, a daughter of Nicholas and Sarah J. Youngs, born in 1857 in Sylva, Ohio, and educated in Millbury and Toledo.

Mr. Pinniger endorses the principles of the Republican party, with which he always votes.

and has served as township clerk and trustee, and as a member of the school board. Religiously he is connected with the Evangelical Church, of Millbury, and socially with the Knights of Honor, of that place, and with the "Tribe of Ben Hur," of Crawfordsville, Ind. His genuine worth gives him a high place in the regard of his fellow citizens.

G. G. MYERS, a substantial self-made business man and leading citizen of Risingsun, is also the leading contractor and builder of that growing city. He was born February 28, 1854, in New York State, the son of Garman and Judith (Everhart) Myers, who left Germany in the fall of 1853, shortly after their marriage. They had a long and difficult voyage, and after many weeks upon the water landed in January, 1854. Their means were limited; but they were industrious, and secured a livelihood from the first. After spending a short time in New York State they moved to Akron, Ohio, where the father worked two years in a brick yard. In 1857 he came with his family to Wood county, making his home for a time with a brother-in-law, Chris Kern, of Montgomery township, and afterward renting a farm in Section 36. Later he and Mr. Kern bought eighty acres in Scott township, Sandusky county, Mr. Myers incurring a heavy debt for his half. Building a log cabin 12 x 14, and 7 feet high, he began the task of paying for his home and supporting his family, and as his small farm could not do this he would work at various employments, such as ditching. He also made quite a little money by skinning cattle that died while at pasture on the Torway Prairie, adjoining his farm, from becoming fastened in the mud and mire. Their carcasses were rendered into soap and tallow, and he received half the proceeds. Although he was a hard worker and lived most economically, he found it impossible to pay for his place, and finally threw up the bargain, losing the \$50 paid at the first. He rented a farm in Perry township for one year, and then moved to the "Charles Stahl farm" in Scott township, Sandusky county, where his death and burial occurred in 1870, when he was aged forty years and eleven months. In early life he had been a Catholic, but his wife was a Lutheran, and in later years both united with the Evangelical Church, known as the Mt. Tabor Church.

The story of their early privations is graphically and briefly told in the following words of our subject: "In 1863 and '64 wheat was a failure in the country, so we had to resort to buckwheat and corn for bread—buckwheat and 'john-

nycake.' When our parents went to town, instead of bringing home candy, oranges, etc., they would bring a loaf of wheat bread, which cost ten cents, and that was quite a treat to us. Our clothes were home-made; in winter they would be made of half cotton and half wool, and in summer they would be made of flax." Our subject was the eldest of their six children, the others being: Amelia, who married Noah Rheinbolt, and died in Montgomery township; Joseph, a resident of Risingsun; William, a farmer in Scott township, Sandusky county; Charles, who lives in Fostoria; and Louisa, now Mrs. Levi Harley, of Jackson township, Sandusky county. The mother still survives and lives with her daughter, Louisa.

G. G. Myers was but sixteen years old when his father died, and his educational advantages had been limited; but he bravely took up the battle of life as the head of the bereaved family. The farm, which contained 180 acres, had been rented on shares, but a new arrangement was made on a cash basis, and, as time passed, the family prospered. On October 11, 1877, Mr. Myers was married, in Risingsun, to Miss Cora Ragon, a native of Prophetstown, Whiteside Co., Ill., born January 13, 1859. Her father, Daniel Ragon, a well-known tailor, died in Risingsun in April, 1896.

Mr. Myers continued to cultivate the Charles Stahl farm for several years after his marriage, twenty-six years in all; but after a time he removed to Risingsun, and established himself in the livery and hotel business, which he followed two years, and then formed a partnership with William Lyons in the sawmill business. They owned eighty acres of timber land in Scott township, Sandusky county, and their mill was located on the same, one mile north of Risingsun. Two years later Mr. Myers became the sole owner, and, with the exception of one year with Charles Kline as a partner, he has conducted the business alone ever since. During that year they moved the mill to Risingsun, and added a planing machine. Mr. Myers has been an extensive dealer in all kinds of lumber and building materials, and in 1892 he began contracting for general building, in which he has been very successful, having built some of the best residences in Risingsun, Bradner, Kansas Station, and elsewhere. He owns valuable oil interests, and is looked upon as one of the most enterprising business men of that section. Mr. and Mrs. Myers have had three children: Irvin, who died at the age of three years; a daughter, who died in infancy; and Mabel, who is at home.

Although Mr. Myers is a Democrat in princi-

ple, he is not a strong partisan. He served four years as constable of Scott township, Sandusky county; two terms as a member of the city council of Risingsun, and has been a member of the school board.

GEORGE BYRON PHILLIPS, familiarly known as "By" by his many friends, is one of the honored pioneers of Washington township, where he has lived since the age of ten years, having at that time arrived in Wood county with his parents, who here located on a farm. He was born in Franklin county, Mass., August 3, 1847, and is a son of John Phillips, an active, energetic man, who is said to have never lost a day's work in forty years. The father's death occurred in 1878, from inflammation of the glands, and the mother died of consumption in 1864. They were well known people of the community, and had the respect and confidence of all who knew them.

From early boyhood our subject aided in the operation of the home farm, and for twenty-five years he and his brother John engaged in the cultivation of 160 acres, which they made one of most productive farms of the neighborhood, and thereon Mr. Phillips erected a good dwelling at a cost of \$1,800. He also has good out-buildings, and the neat and thrifty appearance of the place indicates his careful supervision. At the time of his arrival in the county, deer were still seen in great droves, while so much of the land was covered with water, fish could be caught almost anywhere. For almost forty years he has lived on his present farm, and has been very successful in its cultivation, rich harvests repaying him for his care and cultivation.

In October, 1868, Mr. Phillips was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Huffman, a sister of Jacob, Daniel and Henry, prominent farmers of Wood county. Five children have come to bless this union: Pearly, who was born November 1, 1869, and is now the wife of Clarence Moore, by whom she has one daughter, Cora; Cora, who died at the age of nine years; Ralph, born July 18, 1878; Jay S., born September 25, 1883; and Ray, born April 17, 1886. The eldest son, Ralph, has displayed great talent as a musician, having at present taken the fifth position on the violin. He is now attending school at Tontogany, intending to teach in the near future. The family holds a prominent position in social circles, having many friends in the community.

In all the relations of life Mr. Phillips has proven himself an earnest, honest, upright man, and a citizen of whom any county might be just-

ly proud. He has held several public positions of honor and trust, being school director five years, supervisor for two terms, and also a member of the township board, of which he is now serving as clerk. He has ever been a stalwart advocate of Republican principles, giving his undivided support to that party, and socially is connected with the Patrons of Industry, and the Grange, being at present treasurer of the former and overseer of the latter. At present he is serving as justice of the peace.

DAVID M. ANDERSON, whose sterling worth and well-spent life have gained him the high esteem of many friends, is numbered among Ohio's native sons, having been born near Massillon, Wayne county, September 9, 1844. His father, Robert Anderson, was there born, and wedded Mary Deborah McDowell, also a native of that county. By occupation he was a farmer, but learned the trade of blacksmithing, carpentering and tanning, and at different times successfully followed these pursuits. His first wife died during the early infancy of our subject, and after his second marriage he removed to Tuscola, Mich., where he made his home until his death, which occurred about the year 1883. His wife survived him several years. Our subject was the youngest of three children, the others being: John, who died in Huron county, leaving a family; and Deborah, who died in childhood. There were two children of the second marriage: Hiram, a clerk in Bay City, Mich., and Mary, wife of Allan Hickoks, of Clifford, Michigan.

Our subject resided with his father until he was eight years of age, and then went to live with an uncle who followed farming near Bristol, Wayne Co., Ohio. He there resided for six years, after which he went to the home of an uncle in Savannah, Ashland Co., Ohio, for whom he worked as a farm hand until 1861. In that year he enlisted in the 42nd O. V. I., under James A. Garfield, and going to the front took part in many noted engagements. In 1864 he re-enlisted as a veteran in Company D, 1st Ohio Light Art., with which he served until the close of the war, when he was honorably discharged at Louisville, Ky., May 25, 1865. After his return to Savannah, he attended commercial college at Hayesville, Ohio, and later engaged in teaching for a year. He afterward was employed as a teacher in the academy in Savannah, having charge of the commercial department for two years, then removed to Warsaw, Ind. He next went to Auburn, Ind., where he had an uncle living, for whom he worked some months as a farm hand. He then opened

a singing school in Auburn, which proved quite successful, and later engaged in teaching school in De Kalb county, Indiana, at \$20 per month. After a short visit in Castalia, Erie Co., Ohio, he went to Minnesota, and was engaged by the Northern Pacific Company to make a map showing the topography of that region.

On March 20, 1875, in Erie county, Ohio, Mr. Anderson married Miss Sarah M. Hunt, who was born there June 29, 1849, a daughter of James M. and Malitta (Burpee) Hunt. Her father was born in New Hampshire July 29, 1819, and when a child of five removed with his parents to Franklin county, N. Y., whence he came to Erie county, Ohio, at the age of eleven. In 1843 he was married, and in 1869 removed with his wife and family to Harbor Springs, Mich., where they are still living. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson began their domestic life in Collins, Ohio, where they lived for seven years, during which time our subject engaged in school teaching, bookkeeping and fruit farming. He then came to Wood county, and purchased 100 acres of wild land in Jackson township, where, within fifteen years, he has developed a highly improved farm. During two years of this time he taught penmanship, ornamental drawing, bookkeeping and stenography in Bowling Green. He has a strongly developed taste for music, and is a fine performer on the mandolin and guitar. Politically, he is a staunch Republican; socially, he is connected with the Grand Army Post, of Hoytville, and in religious faith he is connected with the United Brethren Church.

In October, 1895, Mr. Anderson rented his farm, and bought twenty acres of land in Lucas county, Ohio, on the banks of the beautiful Maumee, where he now grows premium peaches, having 1,200 trees of the finest stock. This twenty acres he deeded to his wife in full; then purchased a ten-acre island in the Maumee river, near his or her home. This island is all out to fruit, and is the finest one in all the system of islands in the Maumee river. Here Mr. Anderson now rests from hard labor—boating, fishing, sailing and blessing God for landing him in such a home after the hardships of fifty-two years.

DAVID HENNING, one of the progressive and practical farmers of Henry township, was born June 6, 1842, on the farm which is still his home. He is a son of John F. and Elizabeth (Longacre) Henning, the former of whom, a native of Germany, came to the United States at the age of twenty-six years, locating first in Pennsylvania. He afterward removed with his wife to Stark

county, Ohio, and subsequently to Wood county. He was a blacksmith by occupation, and had previously followed that business; but he now purchased eighty acres of land in Henry township, and devoted his energies to agricultural pursuits. There he spent his remaining days, his death occurring at the age of eighty-three, while his wife died at the age of eighty-four years.

Our subject acquired his education in the district school of the neighborhood, and was reared in the usual manner of farmer lads. He entered upon his business career as a farm hand, and later was employed to some extent in a sawmill. During the greater part of his life, however, he has been connected with agricultural pursuits, and is now the owner of fifty acres of good land, highly cultivated and well improved. His life has been a busy and useful one; but though his farm claims much of his attention, he has found time to faithfully perform his duties of citizenship, and for many years has capably served as supervisor. His political support is given to the Democratic party.

On August 27, 1885, in Henry township, Mr. Henning was married to Miss Minnie Baird, who was born July 6, 1861, and their union has been blessed with children as follows: Ray S., born December 20, 1886; Ora Louisa, born December 7, 1889; Earl, born October 11, 1892, and Ethel Fay, born April 18, 1894. The family is widely and favorably known in their locality, and the parents have many warm friends. Mrs. Henning is a daughter of Shelman and Keziah (Locy) Baird, of Perry township, the former of whom was born December 18, 1829, son of Asa Baird, who was born about 1788. The family consisted of eight children, three sons and five daughters (seven of whom are living), as follows: Sarah Jane, Mrs. George Timmerman; William S., of Perry township; Louisa, Mrs. West Sharp, of Henry township, deceased; Mary, Mrs. John Houtz, of Sandusky county; Minnie, now Mrs. Henning; Clara and David (twins), the former married to Charles Milbourn, of Liberty, Wood county, the latter a resident of Henry township; and Lorenzo, who married Rena Brown, of North Baltimore.

ALF. B. FARMER, deputy sheriff of Wood county was born in Berkshire, England, May 29, 1871, and is a son of Edwin and Charlotte (Tyrrell) Farmer.

Our subject came with his parents to Wood county, in 1872, locating near Millbury, in Lake township. After attending the common schools, he entered the high school of Bowling Green,



where he attained a good elementary education in English branches, and graduated in 1889. Soon afterward he found employment with the engineering corps engaged on the construction of the Toledo, Springfield & Findlay railroad, remaining with them until the line was completed. In the fall of 1890 he was employed in the county treasurer's office, in Bowling Green, and was made deputy county clerk in 1892, serving until January 7, 1895, when he became deputy county sheriff, which office he holds at this writing, and is doing good, efficient service. From his earliest recollections Mr. Farmer has been familiar with public life and public men in Wood county, and has in that way gained a practical knowledge of county affairs. No one is more qualified, or in a better position to hold office of public trust than he, and, judging from his capability, his large acquaintance through the county, it is generally conceded that he is in a fair way to become the recipient of future honors at the hands of his admirers in Wood county. Politically, he is a staunch Republican.

On July 25, 1892, Mr. Farmer was united in marriage with Miss Amy E. Carter, who was born in Michigan, in April, 1872, and two children, Gertrude and Edwin R., have come to brighten their home.

HIRAM BEATTY, one of the leading and influential citizens of Henry township, whose honorable life record well entitles him to the regard in which he is held, and makes him worthy of representation in his county's history, was born in Millport, Stark Co., Ohio, August 23, 1836. His father, John Beatty, was a native of Pennsylvania, and was a carpenter by occupation. When a child of ten years he went with his parents to Massillon, which was then an unbroken wilderness. The grandfather, James Beatty, afterward entered more than 200 acres of land from the government four miles north from Massillon, and while living on that farm was killed by a runaway horse in the summer of 1849. He had a brother, John, who served in the war of 1812, and was the father of Gen. Samuel Beatty, of the army of the Cumberland in the Civil war.

The father of our subject was reared to manhood in Ohio, and wedded Mary A. Ottinger, a native of Stark county, where they lived until 1854, the father working at his trade. He then removed with his family to Seneca county, Ohio, where he purchased 120 acres of land and carried on farming until his death, March 7, 1877. His wife died on the 9th of June of the same year. In the family were ten children: Hiram; Sylves-

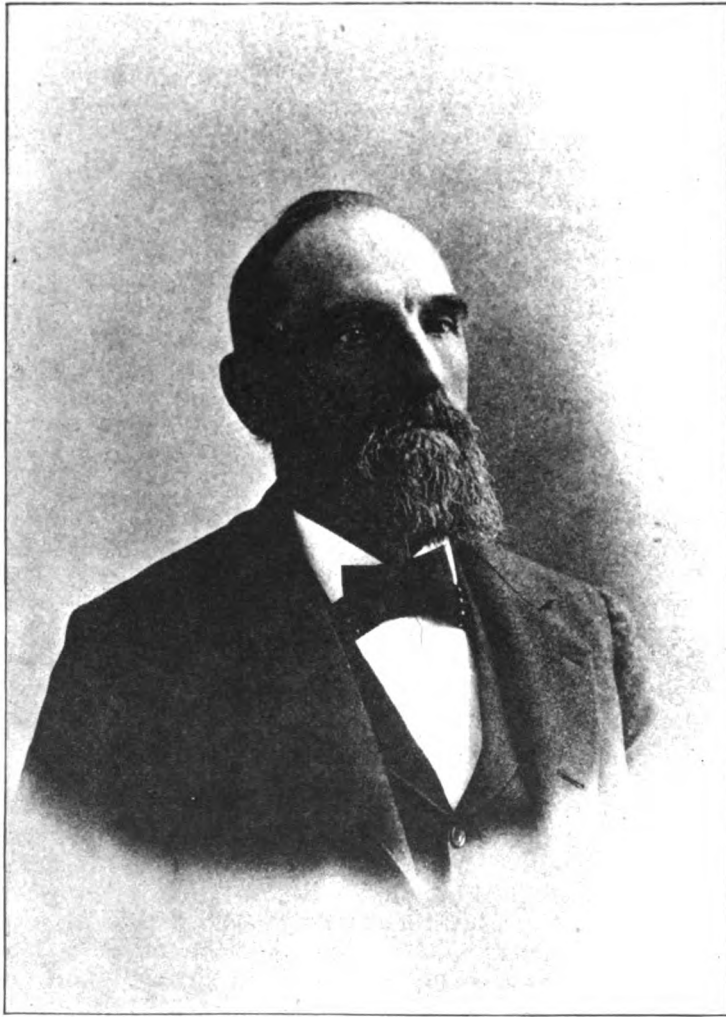
ter, who was killed at the battle of Stone River, September 30, 1862; Henry, who was in the three-months' service as a member of the 21st O. V. I., and is now a farmer of Sandusky county, Ohio; Hannah, wife of Cyrus Solomon, of Henry township; Sarah Rebecca, who died at the age of three years; Mary Melissa, who died at the age of one year; James, of Henry township; Emily, widow of Frank Frazier, of Cygnet, Ohio; John, a farmer of Henry county, Ohio; and Laura, wife of Lorin Myers, of Hammansburg, Ohio.

The educational privileges of our subject were limited to the opportunities afforded by the common schools. He early began life as a farm hand, receiving about \$10 per month for his services. In the spring of 1857 he went to Illinois, working on a farm near Mendota through the summer. He was there married, on February 11, 1858, to Delilah Jane Willford, a native of Wayne county, Ohio, born April 15, 1834, and in September, 1858, returned with his wife to this State, locating in Jackson township, Seneca county, where he purchased forty acres of land of ex-Governor Foster, residing upon that place until the fall of 1866.

In 1862 Mr. Beatty enlisted in Company K, 101st O. V. I., under Capt. Noble, and went to the front, where he remained until the close of the war. On March 10, 1864, he received a twenty-five-days' furlough to return home for private business; the furlough stated that for efficient service rendered at the battle of Stone River he was promoted to the rank of second sergeant, acquiring same after eighteen months of service. He was slightly wounded in the right knee at Stone River, and was mustered out at Nashville, June 21, 1865. Immediately after he returned home, and in the fall of 1866 removed to Wood county, locating on seventy-six acres of partially improved land in Center township, where he lived for five years. He then sold and purchased fifty acres in Freedom township, whereon he also remained five years. Again he disposed of his property, removing to Henry township, and there purchasing eighty acres of land for \$3,800. When five and a half years had passed, he bought his present farm of eighty acres, a valuable property, on which he has developed five oil wells, and his wife also has three oil wells on a ten-acre tract which she owns. He has purchased seventy-two acres in Section 30, Henry township, and his wife seventy-six and a half acres in Section 36, Jackson township.

To Mr. and Mrs. Beatty have been born the following children: Elnora, born December 2, 1860, is the wife of Joshua Jimison, of Hammans-





*Hiram Beatty*



*Delilah Lane Beatty*



burg, and has six children—Perry, born September 11, 1879; Elma, December 29, 1880; Ora, July 29, 1884; Carl, September 7, 1886; Lloyd, April 9, 1890; and Ollie, June 19, 1892. Ardella, born February 22, 1862, is the wife of Charles Auverter, of Henry township. Clara, born December 31, 1864, is the wife of Andrew Jimison, and has two children—Verna Viola, born in April, 1885, and Hiram Emery, born in 1891. Tibbie, born March 18, 1867, married Melvin Dirk, and died in North Baltimore, November 19, 1890, leaving one child—Glena Lenore, born October 25, 1889, who lives with our subject. Estella, born October 24, 1870, is the wife of Charles M. Tirk, of Henry township, and has one child—Jessie Mabel, born December 7, 1891. Mary A., born September 1, 1873, is the wife of Fowler House, of Hammansburg. Emma J., born February 19, 1877, died in 1880 at the age of two years and ten months.

In politics Mr. Beatty is a staunch Republican, and an active worker in his party. He was elected township trustee in 1880 for one year, again in 1889 for a three-years' term, in 1892 for a three-years' term, and in 1894 for a similiar period. The prompt and efficient manner in which he discharges his duties has won him high commendation, and the community accounts him one of its valued citizens.

S. G. COOLEY, a successful grocer of Bowling Green, was born in Chenango county, N. Y., December 26, 1846, and is a son of Charles and Phoebe (Thompson) Cooley. His father is a native of Ireland, and settled in New York State, going from there to Ohio, where he now resides.

The career of our subject begins as a child of nine years, when he left home and went to work for his board and clothes. This was all the life he knew until sixteen years of age, when, on August 23, 1861, he enlisted as a private in Company C, 21st O. V. I., at Bowling Green. He re-enlisted as a veteran at Chattanooga, Tenn., in December, 1863, and served until the close of the war. During this time he took part in twenty-two pitched battles, among the most prominent of which were: Stone River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Lookout Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, Chattahoochee, the siege of Atlanta, the second battle of Chattanooga, and Allatoona Pass; besides many smaller engagements and skirmishes. Mr. Cooley's regiment entered the battle of Chickamauga 560 strong, of whom only 168 reported for duty the following day. He lost nine bunk-mates, the last of whom was Hiram Ordway, of Bowling Green. The

many hairbreadth escapes encountered by our subject during his long and faithful service would fill a volume. He was never taken prisoner, but at one time his regiment was surrounded by the enemy, and surrendered. The Rebels left a gap open in their ranks and he, with a number of others, made a dash for liberty, many falling under the fire which was at once opened upon them, our subject, however, making good his escape. Throughout the entire time in which he was in the army, Mr. Cooley was not sick an hour, did not take a dose of medicine, never missed a day's duty, nor did he sleep a single night on a bed, or in a house during the four years.

Mr. Cooley was promoted to first duty sergeant, but refused to accept the office. For this he was put under arrest; but a message from Gen. Thomas required him to go on special duty to which he promptly responded, and the fact that the army was about to march caused the matter to be suspended, at least he never heard any more about it. At the battles of Murfreesboro and Chatahoochee River he received slight wounds which, however, did not prevent him from continuing in active service. He was honorably discharged at Columbus, Ohio, July 30, 1865, after making a record of which any man might well be proud.

When the war came to an end, Mr. Cooley sheathed his sword, and returned to domestic pursuits. He clerked in a store in Bowling Green for a few years, and then opened a jobbing business in novelties, traveling on the road and doing his own selling for seventeen years. His territory was confined to eleven counties in northern Ohio, every town in which he visited regularly. For the past fifteen years he has been engaged in the grocery business in Bowling Green, and is one of its enterprising and substantial citizens. In politics Mr. Cooley is non-partisan. He is a man who attends strictly to business, is quiet and reserved in his manner, and one would little suspect, from his unostentatious bearing, that he bore such an active part in the leading events of the greatest Civil war on record.

PHILIP BRESLER, a leading and influential member of the agricultural community of Perry township, is one of the most successful and enterprising farmers of Wood county, owning 300 acres of valuable land in Perry and Bloom townships. All the improvements are the work of his own hands, and reflect great credit upon him. His buildings are of a substantial character, and he is extensively engaged in general farming.

Hocking township, Fairfield Co., Ohio, is the place of his nativity, and he was born on May 5, 1840, to John and Esther (Nestlerode) Bresler.

His father was born in Pennsylvania, in 1780, and there married his first wife, by whom he had eight children, all but two of whom grew to maturity. At an early day he located in the woods of Hocking township, Fairfield Co., Ohio, where he planted a large orchard, but it has since been allowed to go to decay. There he wedded the mother of our subject, who was a native of Pennsylvania, and at that time the widow of a Mr. Doner, by whom she had three sons—Christopher, John and David. Our subject is the eighth in a family of eleven children, all of whom grew to man and womanhood. The father was a very strong and active man, weighing about two hundred pounds, and some of his feats of activity were remarkable. He never rode in a buggy, preferring always to go on horseback, and up to within five days of his death, which was caused by running a nail in his foot, he would perform a hard day's work. He passed away in April, 1864, and the mother of our subject survived him many years, dying at a ripe old age. He always used his right of franchise in support of the Democratic party. In his chosen calling he was very successful, becoming owner of 320 acres of land.

Although the school privileges of Philip Bresler were limited, his training at farm work was not meager, and a great deal of the labor on the old homestead was done by the sons. The money with which they bought their clothes, however, was secured by working for neighboring farmers, as it was the father's plan to have his sons buy their own clothes, and the only suit our subject can remember as being given to him was for taking care of his father's favorite horse—"Logan."

On February 2, 1865, in Fairfield county, Ohio, Mr. Bresler was united in marriage with Miss Sarah A. Kiger, who was born in Hocking township, of that county, July 23, 1844, and is a daughter of Jeremiah and Eva (Ward) Kiger, who located in the woods in Section 6, Perry township, Wood county, in September, 1844, where only a clearing had been made for their cabin. There her father died in November, 1845, being buried at West Millgrove, and the widowed mother with her child returned to Fairfield county, where she departed this life in July, 1846. Thus, at the age of two years, Mrs. Bresler was left an orphan, and she was reared by her grandfather, William Kiger, during which time she received a common-school education.

When Mr. Bresler had reached his seventeenth year, his father gave him his time, and he began life for himself as a farm hand, saving his earnings, so that at the time of his marriage he had a capital of \$955. He had been thoroughly instructed in agricultural pursuits, his father being a most competent teacher, and that vocation he determined to make his life work. On April 1, 1865, he removed to the land in Section 6, Perry township, where her father had located twenty years previous, making his home in a log house that stood on the river bank; but this was replaced by a more commodious and substantial residence in 1871, where the family still live.

Six children came to brighten the household, namely: Christy A. H., born January 6, 1866, is the wife of Hugh Reynolds, of Portage township, this county; John W., born January 29, 1867, died September 27, 1888, and was buried in Millgrove cemetery; Emma D., born October 15, 1870, is now Mrs. Alex Caskey, of Portage township; Ella V., born May 17, 1871, is the wife of Clayton Musser, of Freeport, Ohio; and Charles R., born March 13, 1876, and Jesse F., born June 1, 1879, are at home. The parents are earnest members of the Protestant Methodist Church, in which Mr. Bresler is serving as a trustee, and in politics he is a Democrat.

A. J. HALL, deceased, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, June 27, 1825, and was a son of Joseph and Mary (Mills) Hall. The father, who was a native of the Emerald Isle, became one of the early pioneers of Likens township, Crawford Co., Ohio, locating there in 1829, and at the time of his death owned over 300 acres of land. He passed away at the age of seventy-two years, surviving his wife about eight years. Their family consisted of eleven children, five sons and six daughters. The father was a tireless worker and strictly a self-made man.

Our subject was reared in the usual manner of farmer boys on the frontier, aiding in the work of clearing and breaking the land, and receiving his education in the primitive district schools that were then found in Crawford county. As a single man he came to Perry township, Wood county, about 1852, buying 140 acres of wild land in Section 17, the only improvement upon the place being an old log house.

Mr. Hall was twice married, his first union being with Miss Susan L. Dresser, a daughter of Aaron Dresser, and the wedding ceremony was performed on April 6, 1854. Mrs. Hall being in ill health, they did not go to house-keeping. Her death occurred August 10, 1855, and in Perry

township, April 24, 1856, Mr. Hall led to the marriage altar Miss Mary M. Patterson, a native of Chautauqua county, N. Y., born September 19, 1834, in the town of Pomfort, near Lake Chautauqua. Her parents, Nathan D. and Polly (Judd) Patterson, were Eastern people by birth, and in 1842 removed to Lorain county, Ohio, locating in Grafton township. In April, 1855, however, they came to Perry township, Wood county, where their deaths occurred, the father at the age of sixty-six and the mother sixty-eight. They were the parents of seven children, four sons and three daughters; one child died in infancy, and of the others only two are now living.

After his second marriage, Mr. Hall took his bride to his farm, which he continued to clear and cultivate until his death, October 15, 1870. The widow was then left with three children, the oldest son being about thirteen years of age, but he only survived his father about a year, so that the entire management of the farm and business matters fell to Mrs. Hall. She was equal to the emergency, however, and has displayed excellent executive ability in the care of her land, which comprises 140 acres, all but forty of which have been cleared and placed under a high state of cultivation.

The three children born to Mr. and Mrs. Hall were: Cyrus, who died in November, 1871; Sarah J., now Mrs. M. D. Smith, of Perry township; and Wilbur, who assists his mother in the operation of the home farm. The father was a stalwart supporter of the Democratic party, and an honorable, upright citizen.

GEORGE W. CUMMINGS, well known among the leading agriculturists of Washington township, being identified with many of its interests, is a forcible illustration of the self-made man. Thrown upon his own resources, he has successfully paddled his own canoe, and is now numbered among the prosperous farmers of Wood county. Here his entire life has been passed, being a son of Walter and Olive (Barlow) Cummings, and born at Tontogany, February 1, 1852.

His paternal grandfather, Josiah Cummings, was a native of New England, born June 1, 1795, and on November 24, 1821, wedded Lucy Churchill, whose birth occurred in Massachusetts, April 6, 1797. They became the parents of four children—Walter, the father of our subject, born July 12, 1824; Mary Ann, born December 15, 1826; Abner, born April 23, 1829; and Clark, born October 8, 1834.

Walter Cummings first opened his eyes to the

light of day in Wilkesbarre, Penn., and, on coming to Ohio, first located in Summit county; but in 1832, at the age of eight years, he was brought by his parents to Wood county, where he received most of his education, and grew to manhood on the farm. On May 1, 1851, he was united in marriage with Miss Olive Barlow, who was born in Ohio, on the banks of the Maumee, January 8, 1826, and they became the parents of seven children, of whom George W. is the eldest. M. Augusta, born October 15, 1853, is the wife of O. N. Gregg, a carriage manufacturer of Barnesville, Ga., by whom she has a daughter, Eva, now the wife of Claude Peyton, a barber of Atlanta, Ga. Hattie S., born March 1, 1856, died December 28, 1876, at the age of twenty years, nine months and twenty-seven days. Edwin, born March 16, 1858, is a farmer of Furnas county, Neb. Josiah, born April 23, 1861, is a produce dealer of Clafin, Kans. Melvin B., born June 15, 1864, is married, and has two children, Walter and Daniel, and is an operator on the Missouri Pacific railroad at Clafin, Kans. Lucy, born September 6, 1868, made her home in Toledo, at her stepmother's, was married to William Creswell, January 23, 1896, and resides at Columbus, Ind. The mother of these children died August 21, 1877, at the age of fifty-one years, seven months and twenty-one days, and the father wedded, for his second wife, her sister, Mary Barlow, who was born March 6, 1831. He died June 26, 1888, aged sixty-four years.

Mr. Cummings, whose name introduces this review, spent his boyhood days upon his father's farm, in Washington township, during which time he obtained a practical education in the public schools, and later taught during the winter months, while in the summer season he was employed at farm labor. On the 26th of March, 1874, he was joined in wedlock with Sarah M. Hannah, daughter of W. P. and Elizabeth Hannah, representative farming people of Grand Rapids township, Wood county. Five children graced this union, but three died in infancy, the others being: Charles O., who was born August 5, 1875, and is now attending college at Olivet, Mich.; and Edith, who was born December 16, 1883, and is also in school. The mother, who was born July 7, 1846, died in 1891, since which time Mr. Cummings married Jane Ketchum, who was born November 1, 1846, and is a daughter of James A. and Sarah (Wilson) Brown. Her birth occurred in Stark county, this State.

Mr. Cummings is an earnest supporter of Republican principles, and has contributed of his



means to the establishment of educational and religious institutions.

WILLIAM BISHOP, a stalwart and sturdy representative of the noble yeomanry who make up the agricultural population of Wood county, is a resident of Bloom township. His birth occurred in Eagle township, Hancock Co., Ohio, November 25, 1845, and he is the son of Henry and Eve (Smith) Bishop. The father was born in Madison township, Franklin Co., Ohio, in 1819; the mother was also a native of the same locality, born May 21, 1821; there they were married. Henry Bishop was a highly educated man, and had followed teaching to some extent; but his principal occupation was that of farming. He removed to Hancock county in pioneer days, and was drowned there June 18, 1855. During the June freshet a pile of drift-wood had accumulated along the creek through his farm, and wishing to remove this he started to swim across the swollen stream; but cramps seized him, and he sank to rise no more alive. His body was recovered later, and interred in Bishop cemetery, Eagle township, Hancock county. Politically he was a staunch Democrat, and represented his county in the State Legislature, while in 1840 he was editor of the *Hancock County Courier*, a copy of which paper, dated October 15, 1840, is now in William Bishop's possession. He left to his family a good farm of 240 acres, where his six sons grew to manhood. They are: George, a farmer of Reed township, Seneca county; William, the subject of this review; John, of Eagle township, Hancock county; Isaac, a farmer of the same township; Smith, an agriculturist of Clinton township, Seneca county; and Henry, also of Eagle township. Some time after the death of the father of this family, his widow wedded Conrad Line, again becoming a widow; she died October 24, 1896, aged 75 years, 5 months, 3 days.

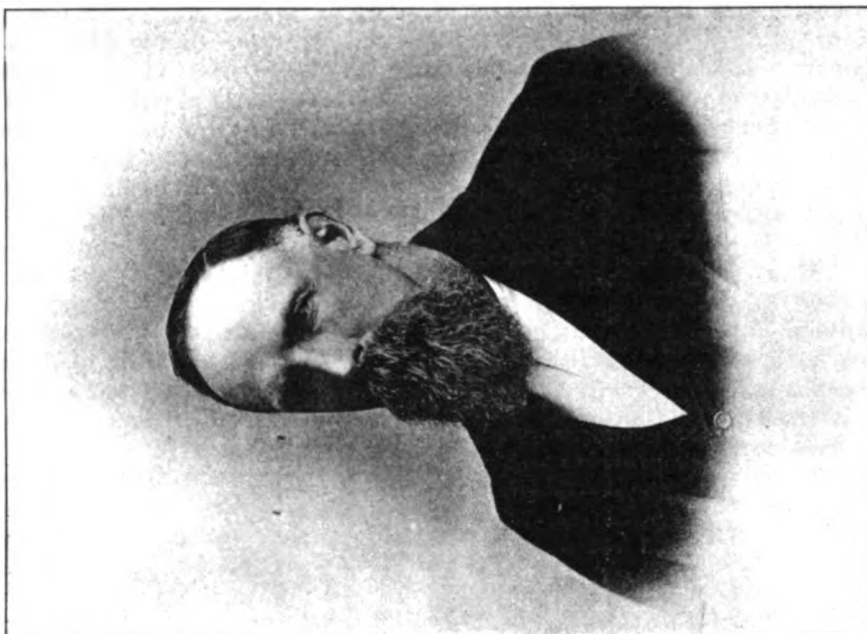
In much the usual manner of most farmer boys the early days of William Bishop were passed, he aiding in the work of the fields and attending the district schools. At the age of twenty-one he began operations for himself, as partner of his brother George, in the cultivation of a farm belonging to their mother. Later he sold his interest in the home farm, and bought 160 acres in Portage township, Hancock county, but never lived upon that tract, which he subsequently sold at a considerable profit. He next owned seventy-six acres in Jackson township, same county, and on selling that he bought eighty acres in the same locality. During this time, however, he was living on his uncle's

(Jacob Bishop) farm, which he rented some nine years. In November, 1884, he purchased the southwest quarter of Section 21, Bloom township, Wood county, and on the 19th of the following January he brought his family to this place. He has now one of the best farms in the locality, 140 acres of which have been cleared, and from ninety-four acres of that amount he cut away the timber, making it a cultivable tract.

On March 4, 1869, in Scipio township, Seneca county, Mr. Bishop was united in marriage with Miss Juliette Orner, who was born in Fremont, Ohio, January 27, 1850, and is the second in the family of three children of Jacob and Susanna (Cashner) Orner, the others being Emeline (now Mrs. George Kern), of Nevada, Ohio, and Joseph, of Lucas county. Being left an orphan at the early age of three years, Mrs. Bishop was reared by strangers. To our subject and his wife have been born the following children: Bertha M., wife of George Walden, of Bloom township; Nancy J., wife of Frank Monasmith, of the same township; Mark P., at home; Emma E., wife of John Frankenfield, of Seneca county; and Estella, Mary, Herbert, Edson, Jacob, Henry D., Frank, Ray and Ethel, all under the parental roof.

Although Mr. Bishop has met with reverses, he has never become discouraged, and is now the possessor of a good property. On May 11, 1895, he lost his barn by fire; but with characteristic energy he at once rebuilt, the new structure being on a more extensive and modern plan. In August, 1895, the Northwestern Gas Co. began drilling for oil on Mr. Bishop's farm, completing four wells in March, 1896. He now has seven wells on his farm, yielding eleven tanks of 180 barrels of oil each, every week, and he has now the largest oil income from the same number of wells of any man in Wood county. Politically our subject was a Democrat up to the time Peter Cooper ran for the Presidency, and he was the only man in Jackson township, Hancock county, who voted for that candidate. He has served as delegate to the county conventions of that county; was elected assessor of Bloom township in 1895, and re-elected in the spring of 1896 without opposition. His uprightness, integrity and public-spiritedness have won him the confidence and esteem of his neighbors, and he is classed among the most respected representative citizens of Wood county.

JAMES PEBBLES, who is prominent among the best citizens and most successful agriculturists of Perry township, was born in Chillicothe, Ohio,



*Mr Bishop*



*Mrs. Juliette Bishop.*



October 21, 1841, and is the eldest son of Andrew and Ellen (McDowell) Peebles, of whom a history is given in another place.

Until he was sixteen years old our subject attended the schools in his native city, and, as he was a bright boy, and close student, he learned rapidly, and laid the foundation of an excellent education. His parents removing about this time to a place where the advantages for study were very poor, his schooling practically came to an end, and he went to work, assisting his father in painting, working on a farm, in a hotel, and, indeed, at anything to which he could turn his hand. While yet in his teens he was employed by a large landowner, eventually becoming overseer of his extensive farm at a salary of \$35 per month.

Mr. Peebles' parents in the meantime removed from southern Ohio to Wood county, whither he followed them on the 12th of August, 1864. For several years thereafter he worked on his father's farm, continuing with the latter for sometime after he became of age. His first purchase of land was twenty acres in Montgomery township, and he borrowed \$100 with which to make the first payment of \$150. The land was only partially improved, and had on it a small log house and other log outbuildings. He later added twenty more acres to this farm, and so cultivated and improved it that a few years later he sold it for \$2,000.

Mr. Peebles next purchased eighty acres near Bradner, for which he paid \$2,400, the advent of the Hocking Valley railway afterward adding to its value, so that he realized \$3,600 from its sale. He then left Montgomery township, and removed to his present location in Section 31, Perry township, where he owns 146 acres, of which 106 acres were cleared when he took possession of it. The whole place shows evidence of superior care and cultivation, and it is a valuable piece of property. It is due to his good management, fine improvements, with ditching and tiling, a good barn built in 1883, and a handsome residence erected in 1887. In addition to this he owns a farm of 176 acres of excellent land, highly improved, in Paulding county, Ohio.

In February, 1867, in Van Buren, Hancock Co., Ohio, our subject was married to Sarah Shue, a daughter of Frederick Shue, a farmer of Montgomery township. Three children were born to them, namely: Edward J., who has charge of his father's farm in Jackson township, Paulding county; Minnie, married John Malley, and they live on one of our subject's farms in Paulding county; Jesse is at home with his father. The mother of these children died in June, 1874, and in December, 1876, Mr. Peebles was united in

marriage with his present wife, who was Miss Mary E. Andre, daughter of Philip Andre, who removed from Columbiana county, Ohio, to Wood county. The children of this marriage are—Jennie, Ella, Arthur, and Bessie.

Mr. Peebles is a self-made man, full of push and enterprise, and is one of the substantial farmers of his township, who is regarded as an excellent citizen, and a man of high principle and honor. His genial, pleasant manners, make him many warm friends. He has always been a staunch Democrat, and an active worker in the interests of his party, but has never been an office seeker. He has served several years as a director of School District No. 9.

HENRY D. STOFFER, one of the substantial and well-known business men of North Baltimore, was born in Fayette county, Penn., July 26, 1843. His parents, Joseph and Nancy (Dobler) Stouffer, were both natives of Pennsylvania, the father born in 1812, the mother in 1815. This worthy couple were married in their native State, and in 1855 removed to Ohio, settling on a farm west of Fostoria, where the father died September 9, 1891, the mother following him to the better land, January 18, 1895. The farm is still in the possession of the family, and a part of it lies in the oil region, twenty-five wells being sunk within one mile of the property. Joseph Stouffer was originally an Old-time Whig, later attaching himself to the Republican party. He and his wife were consistent members of the United Brethren Church. They were the parents of seven children, viz.: Henry D., subject of this sketch; Samuel, residing in Hancock county, Ohio; Josiah, a merchant in Bloomdale, Wood county; Jacob, living on the old homestead; Sarah, the wife of James Slosser, of Fostoria; Susan, the wife of John A. Stoner, residing at Mt. Pleasant, Penn.; and Catherine, living at the old home.

Our subject spent his boyhood days in Hancock county, where he attended the district schools. He assisted his father upon the farm until eighteen years old, when he began learning the trade of a carpenter. The Civil war breaking out at the time, he was convinced that it was his duty to take part, and dropping his tools he enlisted, though only a boy, in Company I, 123d O. V. I. After four weeks with the regiment at Monroeville, Ohio, he was rejected on the regimental examination; but, in the spring of 1865, he re-enlisted in Company G, 189th O. V. I., from which he was honorably discharged October 1, 1865.

On his return to private life Mr. Stouffer took up the occupation of a carpenter, working in and around Fostoria for three years. Subsequently he located three miles north of Arcadia, Hancock Co., Ohio, where he worked at his trade as contractor and builder. In 1874 he came to North Baltimore, where he has since carried on a hardware store, adding various other lines at different times, until now he deals not only in hardware, but also in agricultural implements, roofing, spouting, buggies, wagons and bicycles, etc., and he has the most extensive line of stoves in the place. When he first came here there was but one business house in the town, and he has been an important factor in the growth and development of the city. He started in a small way in a building 20 x 36 feet. In 1874 he put up a business block, to which he has since made extensive additions to accommodate his increased trade; and now, in a store containing over 8,000 square feet, with three sons acting as clerks and machinists, is doing a prosperous business. He is known to be a man of high principle and strict integrity, and has the confidence of the community as well as the esteem and respect of his personal acquaintances.

On January 12, 1867, Mr. Stouffer was married in Fostoria to Miss Mary J. Linhart, who was born near Pittsburg, Penn., August 20, 1839. Four children have come to this union, as follows: Nettie is the wife of R. E. Teets, of Hilton Center; they live at Montpelier, Ind., and have two children, Glenna and Lena. Harry D. is unmarried, and lives at North Baltimore. V. L. married Miss Lillie Welsh, of Beaver Dam, Ohio, and resides at North Baltimore. Villie is at home. In politics Mr. Stouffer affiliates with the National party. He served as member of central committee, and has been a member of the city council for five or six years, and has been on the board of health for about fifteen years. In religious connection he is a member of the United Brethren Church.

DANIEL KNISELY is one of the active, prominent and enterprising citizens of Montgomery township, and is engaged in general farming in section 14. He was born in Stark county, Ohio, March 27, 1846, and when an infant was taken to Ridge township, Wyandot Co., Ohio, by his parents, David and Mary (Faylor) Knisely, who were of Pennsylvania-Dutch descent. By trade the father was a blacksmith, and carried on that occupation in connection with farming. When seven years of age, our subject accompanied his parents to Section 33, Montgomery township,

where the father purchased eighty acres of land, still in its primitive condition, and upon the place built a log house and a blacksmith shop, where he continued to follow his trade. The family had come in wagons from Wyandot county in the spring of the year, when the roads were almost impassable, as much of the land in this county was at that time under water. The father made his home in Section 33 until 1864, when he sold that farm, and purchased eighty acres in Section 14, forty acres of which our subject now owns. For a time he also carried on blacksmithing, but later he devoted his entire attention to agricultural pursuits. He now makes his home at Fremont, Ohio, at the age of seventy-six years, and there his wife died in October, 1894. They were earnest Christian people, respected by all who knew them, and he has been a lifelong member of the Republican party. The family circle included the following children: Mahlon C., who died at the age of six years; Mary J., now Mrs. William Meeker, of Henry county, Ohio; Rachel A., wife of Levi H. Kohr, of Fremont, Ohio; Daniel, the subject proper of this review; Malissa, who died at the age of three years; Sylvester, who died in infancy; Jay, of North Baltimore, Ohio; Samantha, wife of Charles Frankfather, of Portage township, Wood county; and A. F., of Montgomery township.

As Daniel Knisely was the eldest son of parents in limited circumstances, his services were needed upon the home farm, and his educational privileges were therefore quite limited; but when he was able to attend school he learned rapidly, and would have advanced very quickly in his studies if he had had the opportunity. He remained upon the home farm until his enlistment in the Union army during the Civil war, with the exception of two years when he was put out to work for his board and clothes.

While he was quietly carrying on agricultural pursuits the storm of war broke over our beloved country, and, in response to the call of the general government, Mr. Knisely enlisted, in February, 1864, though not yet eighteen years of age, in Company E, 25th O. V. I. He was with his regiment continuously until November 30, 1864, when, at the battle of Honey Hill, S. C., he was wounded and sent to the hospital at Hilton Head, at which place he was granted a furlough to come home, January 25, 1865. On the 1st of April following he rejoined the command, doing duty in the Carolinas until honorably discharged, on June 18, 1866, when he returned to his home in Montgomery township. Besides helping in the operation of the home farm, he was employed by

others for some time. He also served a two-years' apprenticeship to the carpenter's trade, under Sylvester Turner, of Freeport, Ohio, and later engaged in business with that gentleman for the same length of time.

On November 28, 1872, at Freeport, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Knisely and Miss Josephine Billman, daughter of Daniel and Mary A. (Bucher) Billman, and to them have been born four children, namely: Roscoe B., Charles H., Arthur F. and Hazel A. At the time of his marriage Mr. Knisely owned forty acres of land in Section 14, Montgomery township, which was nearly all paid for by his own earnings. To this place he removed in the spring of 1873, and has since made his home there; but he has added to his original purchase until he is now the possessor of 120 acres of rich and arable land, while his wife owns forty acres additional. In connection with the cultivation and improvement of his property, he followed threshing for several seasons, and thus added materially to his income. As a Republican in politics, Mr. Knisely takes great interest in public questions, and has filled several minor offices in his district, including that of trustee, which he held for four terms. He is a member and past post commander of Randall Post, G. A. R., at Prairie Depot, and is a highly respected and esteemed citizen of Montgomery township, where his gentlemanly deportment and genial manners have gained him many friends.

HUGH STEWART, one of the most extensive real-estate owners of Wood county, and an able and energetic public official, was born August 20, 1839, in what is now known as Webster township, then unorganized. He is a descendant of the ancient Scottish clan of that name.

His grandfather, Hugh Stewart, and his father, Hugh Stewart (2), were both born near Whitburn, Scotland, and the latter for some years followed the trade of carpenter and joiner there. In 1834 he came to the United States, and located within the present boundaries of Webster township, on eighty acres of land, which he cleared and improved. He was a Whig in politics, and one of the first and strongest supporters of the United Presbyterian Church in his vicinity. In 1836 he was married to Miss Jennett Davidson, who was also born near Whitburn, Scotland. Ten children were born to them, whose names with dates of birth are as follows: Margaret, March 19, 1838, died at the age of ten; Hugh, August 20, 1839; Jennett, October 2, 1840, married Thomas Roper, a farmer of Freedom township; Robert, March 19, 1842, died

February 25, 1864, from the effects of hardships and exposure in the army; James, April 3, 1843, died January 7, 1862; William, July 27, 1844, died February 6, 1848; Ann, April 7, 1846, manages our subject's home; Jane, March 6, 1848, married William Davis; Walter D., April 28, 1850, died March 19, 1872; and Mary, January 12, 1852, married Thomas Fitzgerald, and died January 24, 1886. The father of this family died May 15, 1852, the mother survived until April 27, 1883, when she passed away, at the residence of her son, Hugh.

The early education of our subject was obtained in the log school houses of the neighborhood; but his shrewd Scotch intellect has enabled him to acquire much wider information than the books, which he studied there, afforded him. He worked at the old homestead until 1864, when he enlisted in Company I, 144th O. V. I. (Capt. John McKee commanding). After receiving instructions at Camp Chase, his regiment joined the army of the Potomac. Mr. Stewart took part in the engagements at Monocacy and Berryville, and was taken prisoner at the latter place, but made his escape two days later. Four months after he entered the service, he was slightly wounded in the right leg, and honorably discharged. Returning home, he again engaged in agriculture, and after clearing the homestead of a debt of \$750, he added to his possessions from time to time, until he became the owner of one of the largest farms in the county, comprising in all 480 acres of choice land. He has never married.

A few years ago he built a handsome residence costing \$3,500, and two barns of the most approved plan, which cost \$4,000. His chief interest is stock raising, and he takes a trip to the West every year to make purchases; but he has invested in various business enterprises, holding shares in the Dunbridge Elevator Co., and the Dunbridge Oil Co. His first vote was cast for Abraham Lincoln, and he has been a staunch supporter of Republican principles ever since. His well-known ability, honesty and public-spirit have made him a popular candidate of his party, and he has been school director for ten years, member of the board of education three years, township trustee and supervisor for nine years, and constable for six years. In 1880, he was elected county commissioner and gave largely of his time and energy to the work of his office. During his term, the County Infirmary was built, and new bridges and ditches provided in different parts of the county. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church, and belongs to the F. & A.

M., No. 112, of Bowling Green, the I. O. O. F., Freedom Lodge, of Pemberville, and the G. A. R., Robert Stewart Post No. 690, of Dunbridge.

JOHN APEL, an extensive land owner of Middleton township, was born in Hessen, Germany, November 30, 1824, and was one of the seven children of George and Catherine Apel, also natives of that country.

When our subject was a youth of sixteen years his father died, after which the lad worked on the old homestead to support his mother, until his emigration to America, March 22, 1847. He made the ocean voyage in a sailing vessel, landing at New York, May 24, without any money; in that city he pawned his watch to enable him to reach Buffalo, thence working his passage on a steamboat to Huron, Erie Co., Ohio, where he hired out on a farm, in which employment he passed eight years. On March 2, 1855, he came to Wood county, and with the capital he had acquired through his own industry, frugality and perseverance, amounting in all to \$1,000.00, he purchased eighty acres of land, the nucleus of his present extensive possessions. Thereon he erected a good residence and other buildings, and as his financial resources increased kept adding to his realty until he is now one of the most extensive land owners in Middleton township, being the possessor of 280 acres of improved land. His income is also materially increased by the sale of the product of twenty-four oil wells, which are now in operation on his farm, bringing him a nice income per month. He also owns stock in the First National Bank at Bowling Green.

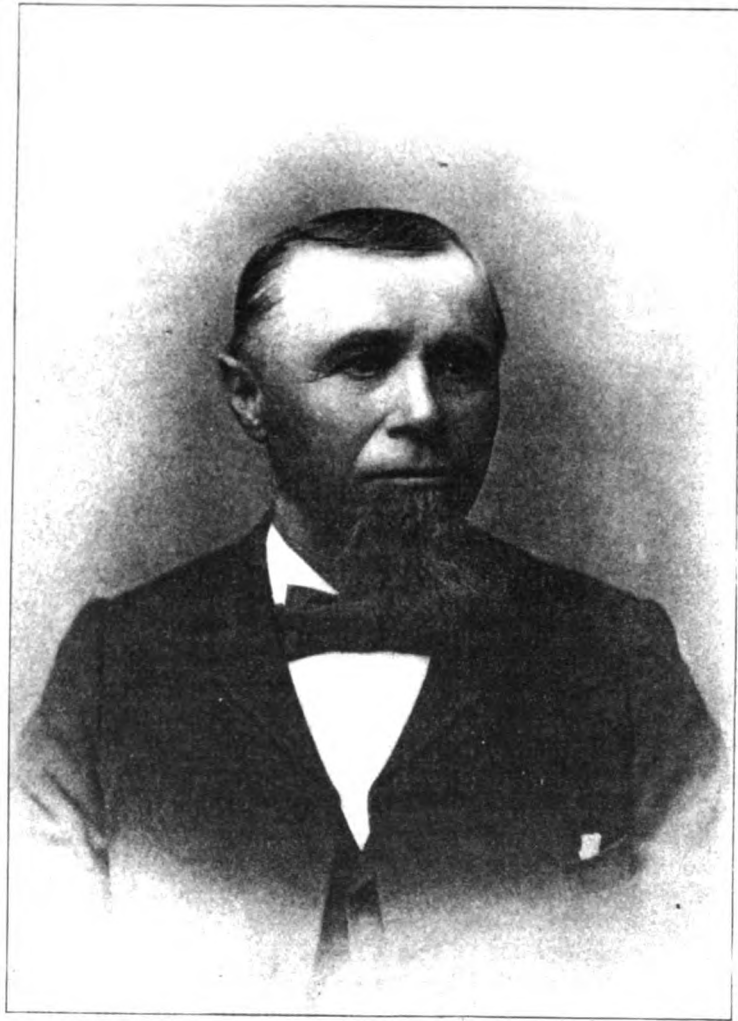
Mr. Apel has been twice married. In 1847, in Erie county, he wedded Margaret Busser, who was born in Germany, February 13, 1821, and by this union he has had five children: Catherine, wife of Anson Weaver; Barbara, wife of George Hartman; Henry, a farmer of Middleton township; Maggie, wife of Dr. F. Klusson, of Toledo, Ohio; and Sophia, who died in infancy. The mother of these passed away September 12, 1889, in Middleton township, and March 12, 1891, Mr. Apel married Nannie Johnston, who was born in Perrysburg, township, October 14, 1864, a daughter of Freeman Johnston, a veteran of the Civil war. To each of his children, when they commenced life for themselves, Mr. Apel gave \$2,000.00.

In politics, our subject is a Democrat, and for three years served as school director. His religious connection is with the German Reformed Church, and he is a benevolent, charitable gen-

tleman of genial, hospitable disposition, well liked by all who know him. Though he did not serve in the Civil war, he showed his patriotism to his adopted country by substantially aiding all movements advanced in support of the Union. He began life a poor boy, had to endure many hardships and trials, and the success which he has now gained, is therefore doubly creditable to him. In 1855, he lost all of his crops through floods, and he and his family were obliged to live on corn bread and acorn coffee for two years. In 1881, he visited the Old Country for the purpose of seeing his mother and some old friends. He took the steamer at New York City, December 1, and landed in Bremen December 17. During this voyage he had the misfortune to break his leg, from which time until February 20, 1882, he was under a doctor's care. He left Germany March 12, and arrived home March 29, 1882.

JOSHUA V. SMITH, the oldest gentleman in Troy township, now makes his home in Section 5. He was born in Bellefontaine, Logan Co., Ohio, on October 5, 1819, and with his parents, Joshua and Huldah (Alger) Smith, came to Perrysburg, Wood county, as early as 1826. The settlements at that time were widely scattered, the county was almost an unbroken forest, a great deal of the land was covered with water, and the work of civilization had scarcely begun. During the seventy years of his residence here, he has watched the wonderful changes that have taken place, and contributed his share in the development and upbuilding.

His father was born and reared in Rhode Island, and at the age of twenty years went to New York, where he met and married Huldah Alger, whose birth occurred near Albany, that State. In 1816, they emigrated westward, locating in Ohio, and the following year made a home at Bellefontaine; but the year 1826 found him a resident of Perrysburg, where he engaged in the manufacture of brick, and also worked at the mason's trade. He removed to Troy township in 1832, locating near Stony Ridge, on a farm for which he had traded property that he owned in Perrysburg. He continued its cultivation until his death, which occurred many years ago. His wife survived him many years, dying on January 31, 1879. In their family were seven children, as follows: Lucy, wife of Julius Blinn, of Toledo, Ohio; Maria, who died in infancy; John Lee, who died of cholera, July 27, 1854; Joshua V., of this sketch; Jacob, who enlisted at Stony Ridge, in 1861, for three years, in the 72nd O. V. I., and was accidentally killed



*John Apel*





January 7, 1865, by a limb falling from a tree; Mrs. Elizabeth Van Camp, who died in Lemoyne, Wood county, in 1866; and Clarissa, wife of Samuel Shook, of Stony Ridge, Ohio.

The subject of this sketch was about seven years of age when brought to Wood county, and secured his education in the schools of Perrysburg. After leaving the school room he spent his summers in farming, while during the winter months for twenty years he bought furs for the firm of Hollister & Blinn. He also engaged to some extent in brick making. On the outbreak of the Civil war he resolved to strike a blow in defense of the Union, and was the first man to enlist in Troy township, becoming a member of Company C, 21st O. V. I. August 29, 1861. He was mustered in at Findlay, Ohio, and was made a wagoner in the army of the Tennessee; but on account of illness was honorably discharged October 6, 1862. However, on July 22, 1863, he re-enlisted, this time becoming a member of Company L, 3d Ohio Cav., and was again assigned to the army of the Tennessee. He participated in many engagements in Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia, and after the close of hostilities was discharged at Edgeville, Tenn., in August, 1865, with an army record of which he may justly be proud. On returning to Troy township, he again resumed brick making and farming.

In that township on February 22, 1842, Mr. Smith was united in marriage with Miss Mary Van Camp, a native of Buffalo, Erie Co., N. Y., and a daughter of Benjamin P. and Lorena (Walker) Van Camp, who were also born in the Empire State. Her father was a shoemaker by trade, and in 1836 removed to Lucas county, Ohio; but the following year located on a farm in Troy township, near Lemoyne. His death, however, occurred near Bowling Green, Ohio, in 1875, and his wife was called from this earth May 8, 1885. Their family consisted of nine children: DeWitt, who died at Lemoyne, in 1886; Mrs. Hannah R. Utley, who died November 19, 1884; Mary, wife of our subject; Cornelius, of Bowling Green; Harriet, who was the wife of George Reddick, and died in Peru, Ind., in 1857; Henry, of Decatur, Mich.; Mrs. Sarah Jolly, of Bowling Green; Benjamin Franklin, of the same city; and Esther, who died April 19, 1879.

To Mr. and Mrs. Smith have been born seven children, six of whom are still living. (1) Corwin H. died of cholera in 1854, at the age of twelve years. (2) Abram V., who now resides in East Toledo, Ohio, enlisted in 1862, in the 21st O. V. I., was taken prisoner at Chick-

amauga and confined in Andersonville, Libby, Belle Isle and Florence, being incarcerated for seventeen months and five days. During that time he endured all privations of Southern prison life. After returning home he lost an arm, the effect of scurvy. (3) Charles C. is married, and resides at Hartford, Mich. (4) Joshua B. is married, and resides in Lucas county, Ohio. (5) Huldah L. is the wife of Joseph Philes, of East Toledo. (6) Millard Fillmore is married, and makes his home in Marion, Osceola Co., Mich. (7) Walter H. is also married, and lives in Mungen, Wood county.

In his political faith, Mr. Smith is a Republican, a staunch follower of the doctrines as formulated by that party, and before its organization was a Whig, casting his first vote for William Henry Harrison, in 1840. He has served his fellow citizens as trustee and constable, and is a member of Woodford Post, G. A. R., at Perrysburg. In all matters of public spirit and enterprise, he takes a prominent part, and gives his aid to everything that will advance the welfare of the county where he has so long found a pleasant home, and is surrounded by many warm friends. He and his wife are earnest Christian people, belonging to the United Brethren Church at Lemoyne, Ohio.

C. C. HUM, one of the prosperous farmers of Perrysburg township, was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, April 3, 1834, a son of David and Mary Ann (Heacock) Hum. The father of our subject was born in Westmoreland county, Penn., and the mother in New York. They were married October 20, 1829, in Salem, Ohio, where they settled and spent the remainder of their lives. The father was a Democrat before the war, afterward becoming a Republican, and both he and his wife were members of the Methodist Church. They reared a family of six children, namely: Angeline, who married Dickson Hatcher, and is now deceased; James W., who died in Beaver county, Penn.; Richard W., living in Mahoning county, Ohio; C. C., our subject; and Elizabeth, who is deceased. The mother of this family died when our subject was six years old.

C. C. Hum came to Wood county, was educated at the district schools up to the age of fourteen years, before coming to this county. He was a sailor on the lakes, which occupation he was following when the Civil war broke out. On July 21, 1862, he enlisted in Company A, 100th O. V. I., in which he served as sergeant until February 22, 1864. He was at the siege of Knoxville, and in other important engagements. Later

he was made second lieutenant in the 1st U. S. Colored Artillery, and promoted to first lieutenant of the same company (company B), same regiment. Most of his time, while an officer, he served on staff duty under Brig. Gen. Tilson, Maj.-Gen. Stoneman and Gen. Q. A. Gillem. In the fall of 1865 and spring of 1866, he was provost marshal at Chattanooga, and April 1, 1866, he was mustered out of the army, after having faithfully served his country during the entire war.

On his return to Ohio, Mr. Hum settled on his farm in Perrysburg township, and for ten or twelve years thereafter sold goods for his own account. He was married September 16, 1857, to Miss Caroline E. Davenport, who was born in Tompkins county, N. Y., May 18, 1831, a daughter of Alanson and Eliza (Middaugh) Davenport, the father a native of New Jersey, born in 1807, the mother born in New York the same year. They had a family of nine children, as follows: George M., a farmer of Barry county, Mich.; Caroline E. (Mrs. C. C. Hum); Hannah, now Mrs. C. Priest, in Michigan; Sarah M., Margaret, William H. and James, all four deceased; Harriet L. (Mrs. John Wade), of Wood county; and Newman R., a farmer of Wood county. The family came to Ohio in 1847, locating first in Huron county, in 1853 moving to Wood county, where the mother died in 1876, the father in 1893. He moved to New York when a boy, and became a cooper by trade, later following farming. In politics he was originally a Whig, afterward a Republican, and in religious faith he was a Presbyterian. To Mr. and Mrs. Hum were born three children, as follows: (1) Walter C., married Miss Elma Strickland, and they have three children—Chester, Loran and Martha. (2) Alva A. married Emily Bruce, and they have three children—Earl, Bessie and Nell; and (3) James died when nine years of age.

Mr. Hum is a Republican, and was infirmiry director one term, declining a second nomination. He is a member of Wolford Post, G. A. R., and is the only ex-commissioned officer in the township. He is also a member of the F. & A. M., is master of the lodge at Perrysburg, and has filled all the chairs. He is a man of more than ordinary intelligence, and a great reader, keeping abreast of the times on all the topics of current interest. Mrs. Hum is a member of the M. E. Church.

DUDLEY H. AVERY, junior member of the firm of Ross & Avery, prominent hardware dealers at Bowling Green, is one of the most enterprising

young business men of that wide-awake community. The house of which he is now a partner is one of the oldest business concerns in the vicinity, having been founded in 1857 by the late Enoch Wiley.

Mr. Avery was born in Huron county, Ohio, April 11, 1857, the son of J. O. and Harriet (Manley) Avery. His father was born in Connecticut in 1828, and came to Wood county in 1852, where he has since followed farming as an occupation. He is a progressive and patriotic citizen, and went to the front as a soldier during the Civil war. He now resides near Weston, Wood county. Our subject received an excellent education in his youth in the public schools of Oberlin, and the Normal School at Fostoria. His first business venture was at farming in Plain township, Wood county; but after six or seven years he abandoned that for a grocery store at Bowling Green. Subsequently he engaged in the hotel business on Mackinac Island, on the Straits of Mackinac; but February 15, 1895, he bought an interest in his present enterprise, where his ability and energy have a congenial field.

Mr. Avery was married in 1879 to Miss Ettie Wiley, who was born in Perrysburg September 23, 1857. Her father, Capt. Enoch Wiley, who was the original owner of the store, with which Mr. Avery is now connected, was born in Lewistown, Penn., October 9, 1833. In 1857, he, with his family, moved to Bowling Green, Ohio, where he lived until he entered the army. On the first day of the battle of Stone River he fell mortally wounded. The G. A. R. Post, of Bowling Green, was named "Wiley Post" in honor of him. One son, Ray Dudley, has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Avery. Our subject is a Republican, and influential among the younger element of the party.

JOHN H. ANDREAS. This popular young business man was born at Fremont, Ohio, in 1865, and when eight years of age moved with his parents to Bowling Green. His earlier years were spent in school, and, when old enough, he was in the employ of Charles Miller, who kept a bakery and restaurant, and later with Parmenter Bros. & Smith, clothing merchants.

In 1884 Mr. Andreas took a trip through Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin, spending the latter part of the year and the first few months of the following year in college at Valparaiso, Ind. During July of 1885, he went to Montana, where he was employed as foreman by the Anaconda Copper Co. He was sent by the An-

conda Copper Co. to Georgetown, Mont., to make a 30-day-test-mill run on gold ore, from the Pyrenese gold mine, resulting in general satisfaction to the company, and, when in mining countries, his occupation was that of gold amalgamator, and he has proven by his work, as well as written recommendations from prominent mining companies, that he is one of the best in the State of Idaho. He has treated gold, silver and copper, during his sojourn in the West. He was engaged in that and other mining pursuits for two years. In 1887 he went to Idaho, and discovered the Vixie and Franklin mines in Pine Grove, which latter place was founded by himself and brother. The two young men operated these two mines until 1890, when our subject accepted a position as traveling man for the Western Resource Paper House, of Lincoln, Neb., and meanwhile organized a mining company in Chicago. He leased and bonded his interest in the mines; but in the money crash of 1893, said company could not draw their money from banks, so the mines and mills stand as before, although he and his brother Frank still retain a controlling interest in the property. During the opal excitement, Mr. Andreas was sent to the fields on Snake river, Idaho, by a Chicago and Boise City syndicate, making several valuable purchases for the company. It was at his suggestion that the exhibit of "American Opals" was made at the World's Fair at Chicago in 1893.

Mr. Andreas returned to Bowling Green in 1893, and the following year entered into the restaurant business on South Main street, where his place, "The Idaho," became so popular that he had to move to more roomy quarters, and is now located in the Union Hotel block, where he is carrying on a flourishing business. In politics he has always been an ardent Republican, and during his life in the West became acquainted with many of the leading politicians and financiers of that section. Socially he belongs to the Knights of the Maccabees, the P. O. S. of A., the Sons of Veterans and the Woodmen of the World. Mr. Andreas is popular both in business and private circles, and is a highly respected citizen.

The father of our subject, John R. Andreas, was born in Luzerne county, Penn., where he learned the trade of a tailor. When about twenty-one years of age he removed to Ohio, locating first in Wayne county, and afterward at West Salem, in both of which places he followed the occupation of a merchant tailor. He next removed to Sandusky county, near Fremont, where he was engaged in farming when the Civil war

broke out. With other of his patriotic countrymen, he enlisted in the 72nd O. V. I., under the command of Gen. R. P. Buckland; but before the regiment left he met with an accident by which one of his legs was broken. This delayed his active service; but after regaining the use of his limb he again joined the regiment, serving in the construction corps. At the close of the war he removed his family to Bowling Green, where he died in 1891. His wife, whose maiden name was Mary Collar, was born in Berks county, Penn., in 1844. She is still living in the enjoyment of good health, and makes her home in Bowling Green. To this estimable couple were born eight children, namely: Henry, who died when two years old; Almeda, wife of William Alexander, living at Pemberville, Ohio; Frank, who is engaged with our subject in the mining business in the West, and who now has charge of their property there (mines and mineral springs (medical) at Pine Grove, Idaho); Lorinda, the wife of David Klotz, residing in Helena, Sandusky county; John H., subject of this sketch; Emma and Amelia (twins), the latter of whom is the wife of Robert Householder, of Wood county; and Charles, who has charge of a ranch in Idaho.

JOSEPH H. MITCHELL, who has been a prominent agriculturist of Wood county, and at this writing is a director of the county infirmary, is spending the later years of his life, retired from active business, in his pleasant home at Bowling Green. He was born in Liberty township, Wood county, April 22, 1838, and is the son of Joseph and Ann (Trass) Mitchell.

The father of our subject was a native of Somersetshire, England, where he was born in 1802, and where he was married, his wife being a native of the same place, her birth occurring in 1807. They came to America in 1830, locating first in Ashtabula county, Ohio, and three years later took up their residence in Wood county. They settled on government land in Liberty township, and made their home there for ten years, then removing to Plain township adjoining, where they built a house and resided the remainder of their lives. Joseph Mitchell owned 250 acres of land, and was one of the earliest settlers of that vicinity. When he first made his home here, there was but one log house where the city of Toledo now stands, and the land on which it is built was then worth only three dollars per acre. He lived long enough to witness the wonderful growth and prosperity of this section of the State, his death taking place October 27, 1878, his wife surviving him until September 17,

1885. The parental family comprised six children, namely: Martha J. is now Mrs. J. H. Howes, of Plain township; Mary Ann married Joseph Logan, of Deerfield, Mich., and died March 4, 1863; Joseph H.; Samuel L. lives in Bowling Green; Elizabeth A. married James R. Judson, of Bowling Green; Oliver C., born August 1, 1848, lives in Bowling Green.

The subject of this sketch was reared in Plain township, and obtained his education in the common schools at Bowling Green. On the breaking out of the Civil war, his patriotic impulses led him to offer his services in defence of his country; and he enlisted August 14, 1862, in Company D, 111th O. V. I. His regiment was assigned to the army of the Cumberland, and participated in the following memorable engagements: Campbell Station, siege of Knoxville, Fort Sanders, Strawberry Plains, Blain's Cross Roads, Resaca, Rocky Face, Kenesaw Mountain, Decatur, Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta, Jonesboro, Stone Mill, Franklin and Nashville. Mr. Mitchell served his company as corporal, and was unharmed during the campaign; but was taken ill shortly before the close of the war, and was obliged to return home, being discharged July 4, 1865, at Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Our subject was married December 26, 1865, to Miss Martha Taburn, who was born in England April 18, 1841. Their only child, Minnie, who was born June 10, 1868, is the wife of W. F. Ries, and they have one son, Freddie M. After his marriage Mr. Mitchell settled on a farm of eighty acres in Liberty township, Wood county, where he has since made his home. He has always been progressive in his ideas, and was the first man in his township to use tiling on his land. The first year he put in 600 rods, greatly to the amusement of his neighbors, who thought it a very foolish undertaking. But at the close of the season he had the laugh on his side, as he had an excellent crop of corn, which he sold at seventy-five cents a bushel, while they had nothing. The following year other farmers followed his example, with satisfactory results. He now has 1,500 rods laid upon his farm, which is one of the most productive in that locality.

Mr. Mitchell is an ardent Republican, and as an old soldier is greatly interested in everything connected with the events of those stirring times. He never fails to attend the reunions of the veterans of the war, at which many interesting stories are told, and the battles fought over again. He held the office of township trustee for many years, and in November, 1893, was elected a director of the County Infirmary, and re-elected in

November, 1896. Both himself and wife are members of the United Brethren Church, and are among the most esteemed and respected citizens of their community.

The grandfather of our subject, Joseph Mitchell, came to America some two years later than his son, and located in Liberty township, where he entered land from the government, and where he died when about eighty years old, his wife having passed away soon after reaching her new home. The children were as follows: John, who died in England; Joseph, the father of our subject; Mary, who married Thomas Pullman, of New York City; Elizabeth, who married Henry Wilkinson, and died in Ashtabula county, Ohio; Jane, who became the wife of Thomas Holden, of Chicago, Ill., and died in that city; Martha, who married Alexander P. Logan, of Deerfield, Mich.; Sarah, who became the wife of Charles Morrison, of Cleveland, Ohio; Samuel, who died in DeWitt county, Mo.; and Thomas, who died in Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

The mother of our subject was a daughter of John and Mary Trass, whose family of children were: Senath, Margaret, Ann, Henry, Joseph, and Catherine.

JOHN H. NEEDLES, a highly respected farmer of Jackson township, was born in Hancock county, Ohio, August 19, 1857, his parents being William and Mary (Harris) Needles. He attended schools near his home, and spent the hours of vacation in aiding his father in the farm work. He remained under the parental roof until his marriage, which occurred in Rawson, Hancock county, February 21, 1878, the lady of his choice being Miss Olive, daughter of Abram and Anna (Hanna) Flick. They were natives of Ohio, married in Fairfield county, and soon after took up their residence near Rawson, Hancock county. They had four children: Alice, Olive, Rufus and Lydia. Mr. Flick was twice married, and by his first union had six children. He was a highly respected citizen and farmer, and both he and his wife died in Hancock county.

After their marriage our subject removed with his bride to Rawson, where for a year he engaged in operating a sawmill. He then sold that property, and bought a farm of twenty acres, on which he lived for two years, when he came to Wood county, and purchased his present property, a tract of eighty acres, that was then in its primitive condition. He placed a considerable portion of it under cultivation; but after two years he sold it to his father, and returned to Hancock county, where he spent the succeeding two years.

on a farm of fifty acres, that he had purchased there. He then again bought his old home, in Jackson township, Wood county, and soon after erected his present residence; he has since added forty acres more, making now a fine farm of 120 acres. His farm is neat and thrifty in appearance, and is now a desirable property.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Needles has been blessed with three children: Arthur Cloyd, Ada Violet and Mary Maud. The parents are well-known in this locality, and are highly esteemed by their many friends. In his political views, Mr. Needles is a stalwart Republican; he served as school director for a number of years, and while living in Rawson was appointed constable, but would not accept the office, caring nothing for political preferment. He is an active worker in the United Brethren Church of Hoytville.

HENRY J. RUDOLPH is one of the progressive and enterprising merchants of Wood county, and, as he is both widely and favorably known, we feel assured that the record of his life will prove of interest to many of our readers. He was born November 22, 1861, in Republic, Seneca Co., Ohio, and is a son of Charles Rudolph, a native of Germany, who in that country learned and followed the trade of shoemaking. In 1852, at the age of eighteen, he crossed the Atlantic to America, and for a few years thereafter worked as a laborer in Seneca county; he then opened a custom shoe shop in Republic, and continued in that business until 1865, when he came to Wood county, locating on a forty-acre tract of wild land in Lake township. His first home was a log cabin, but it has since been replaced by a commodious frame residence, and the other improvements of a model farm have been added.

Charles Rudolph was married in Republic to Sarah Heirwagner, a native of Crawford county, Ohio, and to them have been born the following children: Henry J.; Edson C., a farmer of Lake township; Louisa, wife of John Bringman, of Wood county; Amelia, wife of John Gilbert, of Moline, Ohio; Maria, wife of William Hackman, of Lake township; Margaret, wife of Thomas Crago, of Lake township; Lawrence, who died at the age of six years; and Ellen.

Our subject acquired a good common-school education in Lake township, and laid aside his text books at the age of sixteen in order that he might give his entire attention to the work of the home farm, at which he continued until nineteen years of age. He then learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed for four years, after which he embarked in general merchandising in

Moline, carrying on a successful business there for two years and nine months. He then became station agent and assistant postmaster, and sold his store to F. J. Schreiber & Co. Later he removed to Mermill, where he purchased a store and stock of G. C. Dauterman, and greatly enlarged the stock. There he did a good business until May, 1891, when he sold out, as he had begun business a year previous at his present location. In 1892 he made a large addition to his store, and in 1894 built another extension thereto. His trade has constantly increased, and he receives from the public a very liberal patronage. Owing to his well-directed efforts, his enterprise and honorable dealing, he has secured a handsome competence, and to-day ranks among the substantial citizens of Wood county.

On January 22, 1891, Mr. Rudolph was united in marriage with Miss Nettie E. Mercer, who was born in Liberty township, May 6, 1870, a daughter of Charles and Jane (Mominnee) Mercer. In politics he is a Republican, and for three years he served as postmaster; but he has never been an office seeker, preferring to give his entire attention to his business interests, in which he has met with signal success. Religiously he is connected with the Disciples Church.

LOREN D. LANGMADE. The romantic history of Scotland, the pure, unselfish patriotism of her Wallace and her Bruce, and the inherent love of liberty in the hearts of her sons, have been themes of which the world never wearies. The blood that was so freely shed around Stirling Castle, or on the moor of Culloden, still flows through Scottish veins, and never a deadly shaft is aimed in Freedom's name, but finds some assistance wafted on the breeze from the waving heather. The family of the subject of this sketch is of Scottish origin, and that the descendants have proved themselves true sons of worthy sires will be easily seen.

Samuel and John Langmade came from Scotland and settled in New Hampshire in the year 1750. They were in the Revolutionary war, and were what were called "Cow-boys." After the war, John Langmade settled in Canada. He had but one son. Samuel (great-great-grandfather of our subject), had five sons—Stephen, Samuel, Solomon, Winthrop and Gideon—and three daughters—Suke, Fanny and Sally. Stephen and Samuel both became soldiers in the Revolutionary war, serving in the infantry throughout the whole war.

After the close of the war, Stephen (great-grandfather of our subject), married and moved

to Rutland, and later to Danville, Vermont, where he died about the year 1800, leaving a family of five boys, whose names were William, Samuel, Solomon, Jonathan and Stephen. Solomon served with the dragoons during the war of 1812, and for some heroic deed was promoted to the rank of captain; but on account of youth and bashfulness he refused the position, although he was mustered out as captain. William, who was the grandfather of our subject, was born at Danville, Vt., February 22, 1790. He also did his part in the war of 1812, being a hospital steward, afterward promoted to surgeon. He lived at Barton, St. Johnsbury, and Danville, Vt., and he was a great horse farrier and trainer, once owning the famous Justus Morgan horse. About 1827, he moved to New York State, and settled in the town of Arcade, thence moving to Sardinia, where he kept a hotel; but this he gave up and returned to his profession as his services were needed and appreciated. In 1838 he moved to the town of Yorkshire. About the year 1818, he had married Effie Sweat, by whom he had five sons. After her death, which occurred about 1832, he married Laura Davis, and by this union he had three sons and five daughters. The children were: Stephen S., William F., Nathan N., George P., Lorenzo D., Andrew J., Mason C., Daniel P., Asenath M., Amelia A., Melissa A., Janett A., and Mary A. Stephen S., the eldest son, was born in Vermont; William F. (the father of our subject), was born in Canada, while his parents were there on a visit, and to collect some money; Nathan N. was born in Vermont; and the remaining children were born in New York. Andrew J. served three years and five months in the late war, and was in twenty-one battles. He was six months a prisoner of war in Libby, Belle Isle and Salisbury Rebel prisons. He has been elected fifteen times in succession as commander of the G. A. R. Post, and holds an appointment on the commander-in-chief's staff with rank as colonel. He received a Medal of Honor from the State of New York for bravery at the battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Loren D. Langmade, the subject proper of this sketch, was born February 22, 1853, in Yorkshire Center, N. Y., and is the son of William F. and Ervilla H. (Record) Langmade. William F. Langmade, a carpenter and joiner by occupation, gave his son a fair education at the schools in the vicinity of his home. From the age of twelve to sixteen years young Loren was also a student at Tenbroeck Academy, at Franklinville, N. Y., and from the age of sixteen he began to make his own way in the world, first as

a clerk in a store at Springvale, N. Y. In 1870, having been seized with the "Western fever," he set out for Mound City, Kans., where he found employment at various occupations, and also taught school one winter, near Garnett, Anderson county. In the fall of 1871, he returned to his native State, and entered the employ of J. G. Ayers, of Syracuse, N. Y., as traveling salesman for sewing machines, etc., a business he followed two years, after which he conducted a meat business at his native place for the same length of time, in which venture he sunk his entire capital. Nothing daunted, he kept energetically at whatever for a time offered adequate remuneration. In 1876, he made his advent at Bradford, Penn., where he built a barn and established a livery and feed stable, which proved a successful venture. Here, in 1879, he also first became identified with the oil-producing industry, drilling his first wells near Warren, Penn., and, by 1885, had put down and owned some eight or ten producing wells. He lived at Tarport (sometimes called East Bradford), a place then of some 4,000 inhabitants; and so high was his standing in the estimation of his fellow-citizens, that, at the city election for mayor in 1884, he was, without his knowledge or consent, nominated by his party (Republican) for that office, was duly elected, and served. In 1885, after ten years' residence at Bradford, he disposed of his interests there, and removed to Ohio, locating at Findlay, since when he has devoted his whole time and energy to the oil business. As a producer throughout the oil-fields of Hancock and Wood counties, and where hundreds engaged in the same enterprise have made failures of it, and abandoned the business, he has, by good judgment, keen foresight and persistent application—many times against most discouraging circumstances—built up a large and successful business, comparing well with that of any of the foremost men engaged in the same kind of enterprise in his section. The qualities of mind and character, that have contributed to make his success, may be briefly enumerated as untiring perseverance, indomitable pluck under adversity, business integrity and fair dealing, and a mind acute, prompt and decisive enough to at once grasp golden opportunities. In the oil fields of Wood and Hancock counties, Ohio, his name is a synonym for success. He exclusively owns upward of 160 producing oil wells, and a three-quarter interest in one hundred or more other producing wells—all in the fields above named. In these vast interests he employs an average of sixty-five hands. If a man can properly be called self-made, who,

without any financial inheritance or assistance from others in early business life, has, by his own labor and energy, in middle age accumulated a large fortune, and won a grand success, then Mr. Langmade can with propriety be so described, as he is the architect of his own fortune, having had no assistance save what Dame Nature provided him. From his youth his career has been one of constant and energetic activity, in which, it is true, all his enterprises have not been successful, many of them having been beset with difficulties and adversities which were bravely met.

On June 5, 1890, Mr. Langmade was happily united in marriage with an amiable and accomplished lady—Miss Carrie Hillman—by which union there are two bright and attractive children: Roy Loren, born May 23, 1891, and Ferne, born August 14, 1893. Mrs. Langmade is a native of Sharpsville, Penn., having been born there August 13, 1867, and is a daughter of William Cole and Eugenia (McCullough) Hillman, the first of German and the latter of Scottish ancestry. The father, William Cole Hillman, was a Union officer in the war of the Rebellion, serving as first lieutenant of a company in the 141st Penn. V. I., subsequently as regimental quartermaster, and, after three years of arduous service, he was honorably discharged and mustered out at the close of the war. He is now an honored resident of Toledo, Ohio.

Mr. Langmade resides with his family at the southeast corner of Tarr street and Broadway, North Baltimore, in a large and handsome residence, fitted with all modern conveniences, which, graciously presided over by Mrs. Langmade, is the scene of many pleasant gatherings and hospitable greetings to their many friends.

PETER BOOZER, a leading agriculturist of Bloom township, was born in Springfield township, Columbiana Co., Ohio, November 26, 1835, only eighty rods from the Pennsylvania line.

His father, Henry Boozer, was born in Switzerland, in 1801, and came to the New World, when quite young, with his step-father, mother and sister, as his own father had died in his native land, when Henry was only seven years old. In Lancaster county, Penn., he was bound out to a farmer, distiller and teamster, by the name of Becker, with whom he remained for four years, and he always said that they were the four most pleasant years of his life, as he could fish and engage in other boyish sports to his heart's content. By trade he became a weaver, making silk, and also coarser fabrics, which business he followed in Pennsylvania. In Columbi-

ana county, Ohio, he wedded Miss Catherine Painter, who was born March 25, 1804, daughter of Adam Painter, a millwright and miller by trade. Mr. Boozer first owned twenty-four acres of land in that county, which he traded for eighty acres in Section 10, Bloom township, Wood county, five acres of that amount being cleared. Late in the summer of 1845 he and his son Henry came by team to this county, where they bought seed of neighbors, and put in their first crop, returning to Columbiana county the last of October. He then brought the family to their Western home; but, as no house had been erected, they lived for a time with Peter Painter, a brother of Mrs. Boozer, until late in the fall of 1845, when the house was completed. That dwelling was burned in 1851, with all its contents; but, with the help of neighbors, the father soon erected another, where he died in December, 1881. His widow made her home with her children until her death, April 26, 1896, when she was aged ninety-two years, one month, one day. Ten children were born to this worthy couple, all in Columbiana county, Ohio, as follows: Adam, who died while young; Henry, who died in McComb, Ohio; Mary, who makes her home in Jerry City, Ohio; Catherine, who died in girlhood; Peter, subject of this review; Elizabeth and Margaret, twins, the former the wife of Levi Shaffer, of Six Points, Portage township, Wood county, and the latter a resident of Jerry City; John, who served as a member of Company D, 111th O. V. I., during the Civil war, and now makes his home in Jefferson county, Ill.; Eli, who was a member of the same company, and was killed near Franklin, Tenn.; and William, who died in infancy.

Peter Boozer was only ten years old when brought by his parents to Wood county, and here he attended an English school for a short time in Bloom township, his instruction before that time being in German. He disliked study, and would do almost any kind of work rather than attend school. As the ground was mostly covered with water, the children would walk almost the entire distance to the school house on logs to keep from getting wet. He early became familiar with the work of the farm, and remained at home until his marriage, April 17, 1859, in Henry township, Wood county, with Miss Mary J. Milbourn. She was born February 22, 1837, in Augusta township, Carroll county, and was only ten months old when brought by her parents, David and Emma (Taylor) Milbourn, to Wood county, where she received her education and was married. By this union she has become the mother of seven children, namely: Emma C.,



wife of J. W. Lee, of Bloom township; Harriet A., wife of Allen Saylor, of Jerry City; Minerva A., wife of John F. Lee, of Bloom township; Mary D., wife of O. H. Snyder, of Cygnet, Ohio; Clara O., wife of Jacob Whistler, of Bloom township; Minnie M., wife of William Myers, of the same township; and Bertie C., at home.

For a time after his marriage, Mr. Boozer rented 120 acres of land, and his first home was a rude affair of logs, 14 x 14 feet, with a roof weighted down. The first property he owned was twenty acres; but he never lived upon that tract, and, in 1866, bought forty acres in Section 9, Bloom township, of J. D. Moore, going into debt \$150. He erected the first buildings upon the place, and has made all the improvements thereon. In 1892 he built his present residence, which stands on the site of his former home. Industry, diligence and energy have characterized his entire life, so that he is now in comfortable circumstances, and well deserves the success which has come to him.

PETER BLASIUS, who has won success by determined and energetic effort, was born January 6, 1840, in the village of Nittel, near Saarburg, in the Government of Trier, Rhine Province, Prussia.

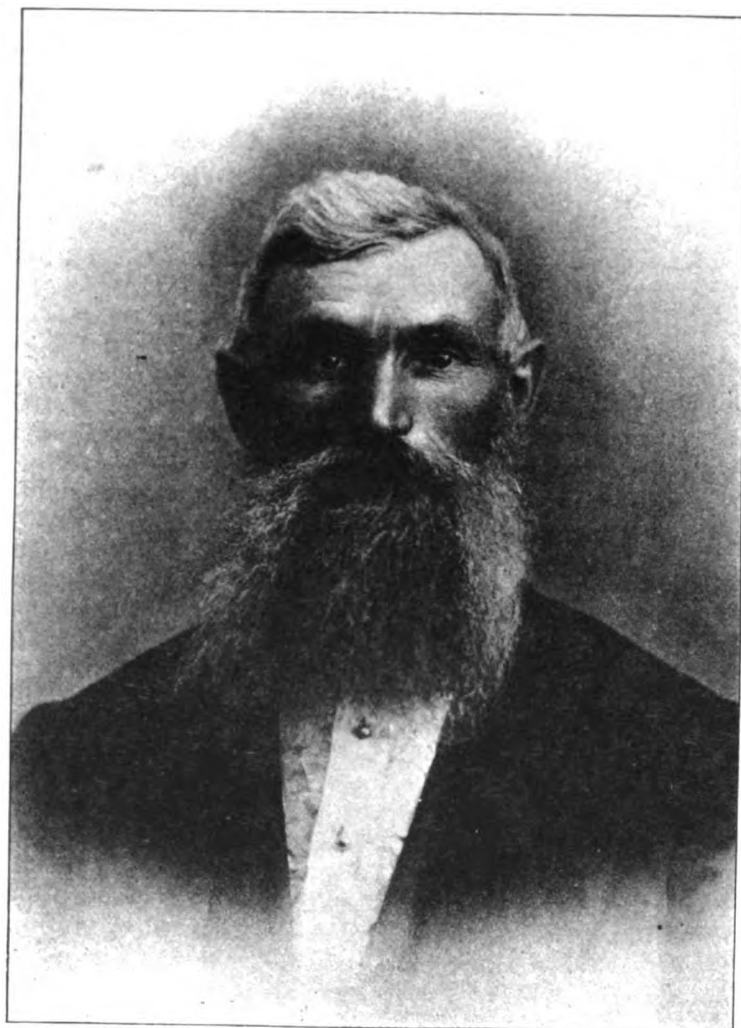
Mathias Blasius, father of our subject, and who was a farmer by occupation, served in the German army, and had the sight of one eye destroyed in battle. In 1833 he was married, in the village of Nittel, to Gertrude Rheinhardt, and thirty years later, in 1863, he brought his family to America, taking passage on a sailing vessel at Antwerp. After a voyage of thirty-one days they landed at New York, thence proceeding at once to Toledo, Ohio, where the father worked for about a year in a tobacco factory. In the fall of 1864, in connection with our subject, he purchased forty acres of land, to which the family removed in the spring of 1865. There the father died August 25, following, at the age of sixty-nine years; and his wife, who was born in 1811, died in February, 1892. They had five children, of whom, Mathias was born in Nittel, in 1834; Nicholas, born in 1836, is now a farmer of Texas; Mary, born in 1850, is the wife of Charles Seaman, of Milton Center; and Elizabeth, who became the wife of John Nagel, died in 1887, at the age of thirty-six years.

Peter Blasius, the subject proper of this record, received a good education in his native land, and on leaving school, at the age of thirteen, began work as a farm hand at \$5.00 per year.

After two years thus spent he, in 1855, began to learn the shoemaker's trade, serving a three-years' apprenticeship, and during the first two years had to furnish his own clothing and tools, and pay by way of premium sixteen dollars in cash, which sum was returned to him at the end of his apprenticeship. For five years after coming to America he continued to follow that business. When the family came to Wood county they were in very destitute circumstances, and Peter was obliged to go to Toledo to work in order to assist in the support of the rest. While there he was engaged in loading vessels, and for three consecutive days and nights he went without food or sleep in order to support his parents. He has experienced many hardships and trials, but perseverance and energy have overcome many difficulties. In August, 1865, he purchased a small stock of leather and some shoemaking tools. At the time he purchased his farm of 160 acres, in 1868, he was told that all taxes had been paid on the land; but on going to Perrysburg some time afterward he found there was \$144.00 back taxes. Not long afterward this land was claimed by Boston parties, and Mr. Blasius had to secure a lawyer's service to protect his interests. With unfaltering courage, however, he continued his labors until now he is the possessor of a comfortable home.

On May 5, 1873, Mr. Blasius returned to his native land. He landed at Bremen after eleven days spent upon the ocean, and remained on the continent until August, 1873, when, with his promised bride, he sailed from Antwerp for Philadelphia. They at once continued their journey to his father's home, where, on the 19th of September, Peter Blasius and Magdalene Gorgen were married. She was born in Luxemburg, Germany, December 1, 1844, a daughter of John and Magdalene (Kohl) Gorgen. They located on the old family homestead, and in 1887 our subject erected the large brick residence which is now their home. To them have been born eight children, their names and dates of birth being as follows: Mathias, September 16, 1874; John, October 19, 1875; Peter, October 20, 1876; Gertrude, November 20, 1877, died January 26, 1885; Charles (1), August 30, 1880, died August 26, 1881; Charles (2), December 2, 1881, died on the 30th of that month; Joe, September 7, 1884; and Henry, July 24, 1889.

Mr. Blasius is a Democrat in politics, and takes a prominent part in educational work, having served as school director for many years. He belongs to the Freemason Lodge at Deshler, and to the I. O. O. F. at Milton, both the Subordi-



*Peter Blasius*



nate Lodge and the Encampment. His fine farm of 270 acres, now highly cultivated and improved, is evidence of his enterprise and well-spent life.

LEVI SIMON (2nd), an enterprising and prosperous agriculturist of Bloom township and a veteran of the Civil war, was born April 16, 1836, in Auburn township, Crawford county, Ohio.

His parents, Andrew and Leah (Crist) Simon, were married in 1830 in Mahoning county, and settled upon a farm in Crawford county, then a new region. They had thirteen children, of whom eleven grew to maturity, and ten are still living. In 1851 the family came to Bloom township, where the father bought forty acres near Bloom Center, covered with heavy timber, and they experienced all the trials of frontier life; a small log house afforded them their only shelter for some time. Both parents lived beyond the "three score years and ten," the mother dying when seventy-two, and the father when seventy-six years of age, and they were both laid to their final rest in Weaver cemetery.

Levi Simon was the fourth child and second son of this worthy pioneer couple. He attended the district schools of his day; but his time was mainly spent in farm work, either at home or for others, his wages being given to his parents until he was twenty-one. He then began to work for himself, and for some time he was employed in a sawmill near Grand Rapids, Ohio. In August, 1861, he enlisted, at Fostoria, in Company H, 49th O. V. I., under Capt. Hays. After going into camp at Tiffin and Camp Dennison, this famous regiment of fighters was sent to the front. Mr. Simon's first engagement was at Shiloh, and then followed Corinth, Lawrenceburg, Stone River, Liberty Gap, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Rocky Face, Resaca, Cassville and Pickett's Mills. In this last engagement he was wounded in the right hip and left leg, and he also received a scalp wound. He was with his regiment continuously (except for one-half day, when, on the surgeon's advice, he rode on the train instead of marching) until February, 1864, when he came home on a veteran furlough. Shortly after returning to his regiment he was wounded, as just related, at the battle of Pickett's Mills, at 4 P. M. on May 27, 1864, and was taken prisoner. He lay in the hospital at Andersonville prison until November 20, 1864, when he was paroled, and sent to Savannah and then to Annapolis. In December he came home; but in March, 1865, he rejoined his company at Huntsville, Ala. After the surrender of Lee part of the regiment was sent into Texas, and Mr. Simon remained in

the service until August 27, 1865, when he was discharged at Nashville, Tenn. He enlisted as a hardy, robust young man, and the change in his appearance and health was marked on his return. During his furlough, in 1864, he had purchased fifty acres of land in Section 30, Bloom township, paying \$50 down, that being all the money he had. He settled upon this little farm after the war, his sisters Elizabeth, Amelia and Araminta keeping house for him for several years in an old-fashioned log cabin, with the chimney on the outside, the house in which Mr. and Mrs. Simon began their married life.

On April 18, 1872, our subject was married at Napoleon to Miss Mary A. Nyswander, a native of Pleasant township, Fairfield Co., Ohio, born January 26, 1839. Her parents, Christian and Elizabeth (Daring) Nyswander, were both natives of Switzerland, and had come to America with their respective families, her father when thirteen, her mother when four years of age. They were married in January, 1834, and in 1846 came to Wood county, locating in the wilderness in Milton township, where they cleared and improved a farm. Mrs. Simon is a woman of great mental ability and high ideas, and, in spite of the unfavorable circumstances of her early life, she succeeded in obtaining a good education. The district schools furnished her elementary instruction, and, when she had learned all that they could teach her, she attended the select school at Millgrove taught by Alfred Kelley, that grand old pioneer teacher to whom many of the leading educators of this region owed their best opportunities. He has helped many a struggling scholar, furnishing books, if needed, and waiting for his tuition fees until they could be earned by teaching. Mrs. Simon taught for twenty-six terms in Wood and Henry counties, her wages for the first term being \$26. for the three months, and she has taught for \$2. per week.

After their marriage, Mr. Simon and his wife began housekeeping in the old log cabin, but eighteen months later they moved into a new house, which has since been enlarged and beautified. They have had four children: Herma E. (who is proud of being born in the old log cabin above mentioned), Reuben E. and Jennie E., all at home, and Charles E., who died in infancy.

Mr. Simon has prospered, adding to his possessions until he now owns 250 acres of land, of which 200 acres are under cultivation. He is industrious, frugal, honest and far-sighted, and his success is principally due to these admirable traits in his constitution. In politics he is a Re-

publican, but in local matters he is not bound by partisan ties. Mrs. Simon has been a member of the Lutheran Church since fourteen years of age.

WILLIAM O. COY, an agriculturist of energy and ability, is a native of Ross township, where he still makes his home, his birth having occurred August 26, 1857, and is a son of Charles and Mercy (Gardner) Coy, who were married August 28, 1842. His father was born in Borton, Oxfordshire, England, April 1, 1817, and was a farmer by occupation, while the mother was born in Wolcott, N. Y., January 26, 1823; her father was English, and her mother an American of English descent. Charles Coy was a Democrat in politics. He died September 15, 1883, at the age of sixty-six years, five months and eighteen days, and his wife passed away December 17, 1893, at the age of sixty-nine years, eleven months and eleven days. She was a faithful member of the Baptist Church, and both were highly respected citizens.

Our subject is the youngest of seven children, the other being Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Eggleston, born February 6, 1844; Alice, who was born February 18, 1846, and died at the age of seven years; Caroline, who was born September 13, 1847, and is now the wife of Thornton Dixon, of West Toledo; Louisa Theresa, who was born February 28, 1850, and is the wife of Isaac Rideout; Alice Adelaide, who was born April 11, 1852, and is the deceased wife of Fred Wachter; and Charles Henry, who was born September 16, 1854.

The early education of William O. Coy was such as the district schools of Ross township afforded, but he later attended Olivet College for one winter. Returning home, he engaged in agricultural pursuits, renting the old homestead for a few years, and then began fruit growing and truck gardening. Upon his place he has 150 plum trees, 250 pear, 500 peach, 65 quince, 200 gooseberry bushes, 1,000 currant bushes, one-fourth of an acre of grapes, two acres of raspberries, two acres of strawberries, and one-fourth of an acre of asparagus, and also carries on general gardening for his own use.

In 1885, Mr. Coy was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Adkins, who was born September 27, 1860, a daughter of Joseph Adkins, and they have become the parents of five children: Arthur C., born October 4, 1886; Harvey Richard, born August 5, 1888; William Dudley, born December 22, 1889; Clarence, who was born November 27, 1891, and died June 29,

1893; and Hazel Mercy, born April 4, 1894. Politically, Mr. Coy follows in the footsteps of his father, supporting the Democratic party. As a business man he is wide-awake and energetic, and as a citizen he has the confidence and esteem of all who know him.

CYRUS S. LAMB, who owns 120 acres of the most valuable land in Center township, has distinguished himself as one of the most active and enterprising citizens, and gives his close attention to the improvement of his land, upon which he has erected good buildings, and the soil of which he has brought to a high state of cultivation. He is a native of New York, born in Orleans county, on October 14, 1826.

His father, Samuel Lamb, was also a native of the Empire State, where the paternal grandfather was born, and the latter served in the Revolutionary war in 1775 and 1776. The boyhood and youth of the father were passed upon a farm in that State, where his education was also received. He wedded Elizabeth McDonald, a lady of Scotch descent, and they became the parents of seven children, only two of whom are now living—Cyrus S., of this sketch; and Elizabeth, wife of Joseph Holington, of Center township. Those deceased are James M., Dr. William G., Alfred, Samuel and Mary.

On leaving New York, the father removed with his family to Lorain county, Ohio, where he bought 370 acres of land in Brighton township, which he operated for ten years, when he sold out, coming to Wood county in 1835. Locating in Plain township, he there purchased 320 acres of unimproved land, which he succeeded in developing with the help of his sons; and his first home, which was a small frame house, was one year later replaced by a substantial stone structure. He made many useful and valuable improvements upon his land, and continued to make his home in Wood county until 1866, when he removed to Ingham county, Michigan, where his wife died two years later. He then sold his interest there, and returned to Ohio, making his home with his children in Center township until his death in 1878. His name was honored and respected throughout the county, and he had the fullest confidence of all with whom he came in contact. He held the position of postmaster of Bowling Green for a number of years, which office he filled with credit to himself and satisfaction to the general public.

Cyrus S. Lamb spent his boyhood and youth under the parental roof, and attended the district schools near his home. He came with his par-

ents to Bowling Green, when that city was yet in its infancy, containing but one house, and located in Center township, assisting in the cultivation of the home farm until twenty-three years of age, when he learned the stone and brick mason's trade, and also that of a plasterer, at which he found employment. He aided in the construction of many buildings in Bowling Green, including the court house, which was the first building in the town done by free labor.

In 1864, Mr. Lamb enlisted in the 185th O. V. I., becoming a member of Company K, under Capt. Black of that city, and remained with that command until his discharge. Upon being transformed from a soldier to a civilian, he resumed farming in Center township, to which occupation he has since devoted his time. On his farm are seen good fences, a fine orchard, substantial barns, and a handsome brick house erected at a cost of \$2,500, and the whole presents a pleasing picture to the passerby.

In New York State, on August 8, 1849, Mr. Lamb was united in marriage with Cynthia A. Whitman, who was born June 22, 1827, and is a daughter of Oliver Whitman. They have two children: (1) Paola Amanda, born July 28, 1850, is the wife of Charles C. Merry, a merchant of Wichita, Kans., by whom she has two children, Helen and Kent. (2) Frank E., born June 30, 1855, received his primary education in the district schools of Center township, which he supplemented with a course at the high school at Mason, Mich., where he was graduated. He follows farming on the old homestead, and married Mary E. Minear, a daughter of Isaac Minear, of Plain township, Wood county. They have two children: Mertie, born March 24, 1882; and Earl, born September 10, 1888.

Although a prominent man in his township, Mr. Lamb has had but very little to do with politics, but votes with the Democratic party. Socially he is connected with the Masonic order of Bowling Green, Lodge No. 112, F. & A. M., and religiously is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church of that city. He is one of the highly respected and useful citizens of the county, and we take pleasure in presenting this brief sketch of his life work to the readers of this volume.

MILTON FULLER, the prominent dairyman and agriculturist of Center township, was born August 11, 1836, in Henrietta township, Lorain Co., Ohio. Moses Fuller, his father, was a native of Connecticut, born March 4, 1799. For some years in early manhood he was employed on the Erie canal, and he was married in New

York State, in 1830, to Mrs. Laura Woodruff Roe, the widow of Joseph Roe. In 1834 he came to Ohio and purchased 103 acres of land in Lorain county, which he farmed until 1868, when he sold it to his son and retired from business. He died nine years later, his wife surviving him five years. They had seven children: Jeannette, the widow of Osgood Wellman, of Lorain county; Maria, the widow of Bliss B. Remington, of Licking county; Angelina, the wife of Chauncey Wellman, of Michigan; Milton, our subject; Byron, a traveling salesman, who resides in Nebraska; Julia, the wife of William Sherman, a keeper in the insane asylum at Toledo; and Amelia, who died in infancy.

Milton Fuller attended the schools of his native place in childhood, and later studied in the high school at Milan, Erie county. He taught for several terms, and at the same time managed the homestead, carrying on a flourishing dairy business. April 9, 1864, he came to Wood county, where he settled on a partly-improved tract of eighty acres, near Bowling Green, which he has since brought to a high state of cultivation, making many improvements, building new barns, planting an orchard, and remodeling his dwelling-house. He made a great success of the dairy business, and is the most extensive worker in that line in the township, if not in the county.

He has been twice married—first, on May 2, 1862, in his native township, to Miss Mary Elizabeth Haynes, who was born February 3, 1839, in Henrietta. They had four children, whose names, with dates of birth, are as follows: Liddie, 1863, died at the age of four years; Fred, November 20, 1866; Frank, February 27, 1868, is a blacksmith at New Bavaria; and Myra, 1875, is at home. Mr. Fuller's first wife died in 1892, and he has since married Mrs. Carrie (Higgins) Poe, a daughter of Dr. Higgins, of Center township, and the widow of Arthur Poe.

Mr. Fuller is a Republican, politically, but he does not care to enter the lists as a candidate for office. He is a generous supporter of any worthy cause, and is a leading member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

JOHN RICHARD (deceased). The subject of this sketch, a veteran of the Civil war, and for many years a prominent resident of Bloom township, was born in Mt. Pleasant township, Westmoreland Co., Penn., July 14, 1825, the eldest son of Jacob and Rebecca (Richard) Richard.

When a boy John Richard came to Ashland county, Ohio, with his parents, availed himself of the educational advantages common to farm-

crs' boys of his day, and grew to manhood there, engaging in carpentering and coopering. On September 25, 1849, in Jefferson township, Williams county, he married Miss Catherine Richard, who was born August 24, 1831, at his own native place. Her father, John Richard, a successful agriculturist, was married in Pennsylvania to Miss Rachel Bair, and in 1842 moved with his family to Ohio, locating for a time in Richland county, and later in Williams county, where he bought a partially-improved farm. His last years were spent in Wood county, where he died in 1874, at the age of seventy-three, his wife surviving him until 1890, when she died, aged eighty-one years, and was buried beside him in Bloom Chapel cemetery.

After his marriage, John Richard and his young wife began housekeeping on a rented farm in Williams county. Their log house was scantily furnished, but they were happy in their mutual affection. After a short time they moved to West Unity, where Mr. Richard, who was a natural mechanic, and could adapt himself to any kind of work, was for some time engaged in wagon making. In 1852 they came to Wood county, lived for some time on a rented farm, and then went to Eagleville, Mr. Richard securing employment in the sawmill conducted by Alvin French, and also carrying on the trade of wagon making. In 1860 he bought forty acres of woodland in Perry township, in its primitive condition, which he cleared and improved, building a log house at first for their residence. On August 8, 1862, Mr. Richard enlisted at West Millgrove in Company B, 111th O. V. I., and served throughout the war, receiving his discharge June 27, 1865, at Salisbury, N. C. Previous to his military service he was a healthy and robust man, but he never entirely recovered from the effects of his exposures and hardships. After his return he followed the carpenter's trade in connection with his farm work, continuing both until a few days before his death, which occurred October 8, 1878. In his home circle he was ever kind and indulgent, and the unexpected loss was a sad blow to the wife and children. He was a good neighbor and an honest citizen, and a leading member of the Disciples Church, holding the office of elder therein at the time of his death. A stanch Republican, he felt a deep interest in public affairs, and was a friend of every measure which he believed to be for the welfare of the people.

Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Richard, of whom three survive. Rebecca E., born in Ashland county, October 22, 1850, died March 24, 1856. Horace Benton, born in Bloom

township, December 2, 1853, died June 15, 1866. Warren M., born in Eagleville, July 13, 1857, married Mrs. Alice Black, of Eagleville, Ohio, and is a farmer in Perry township. Teney O., born September 3, 1860, died June 22, 1871. Flora R., born in Perry township, August 12, 1868, married Josiah A. Cramer, of Blooindale, and has two children, Bernice and Zona. Mary A., born June 12, 1871, in Perry township, married John C. Easley, and has two children, Cecile M. and Ethel M. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Richard remained at the old home until 1889, when she moved to Bloomdale and built a house, later selling it and building another where she now resides, spending her time in retirement, highly respected by all who know her, and holding an honored place in the Disciples Church, of which she has been a member for more than thirty-four years.

MRS. SARAH A. DIGBY. Upon the ever lengthening roll of honor of the progressive women of to-day there is place, not only for those advocates of the higher education of their sex, who have sought to influence public opinion by pleading or argument from the platform, but also for those who, without leaving the quiet and seclusion of domestic life, have demonstrated to all observers the value of mental gifts and culture within the home. In the married life of the late J. E. Digby, of Bowling Green, and his talented wife, there was revealed an intellectual harmony which would silence the most critical objector to advanced study for women. Fellow students to the last, they traveled, read and wrote in helpful companionship, and they even attended school together for two terms after their marriage.

Mr. Digby was born in Bardolph Fen, County of Norfolk, England, June 6, 1833, and came to America in November, 1851. In May of that year Miss Sarah A. Carr, who was born May 6, 1837, in Tilney Fen, same county, had landed in this country, and the two were married in Monroeville, Huron Co., Ohio, August 26, 1855. For one year they lived upon a farm in Huron county, and then moved to Muscatine, Iowa, where they remained during the war. Here Mr. Digby, who was an ardent Republican, took out his naturalization papers, and cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln. Both Mr. and Mrs. Digby took a keen interest in all the issues of that stirring time, and were uncompromising Abolitionists, as, in fact, Mrs. Digby had been from her earliest remembrance.

In 1866 they returned to Ohio, and lived for



*John E. Digby*



*Sarah A. Digby*





one year in Lucas county, afterward moving to Wood county. They first located near Tontogany, but three years later bought a farm of eighty acres, on Liberty Prairie, from Charles W. Evers, upon which they remained from 1871 to 1887, when they gave up farming and made their home in Bowling Green, where Mr. Digby died October 27, 1891. They joined the United Brethren Church in 1857, after Mr. Digby's conversion, Mrs. Digby having previously been a member of the Methodist Church, with which she united in 1833. In 1889 they re-visited England, and remained several months. An interesting account of their trip was published in a series of letters in the *Scout* of 1889. Mrs. Digby is the daughter of Samuel Carr, who was born in Denver, County of Norfolk, England, March 2, 1802, and his wife, Hannah Grice, who was born in Tilney Fen, same county, in December, 1801. They were married in 1824. He was a day laborer, and a local preacher in the Primitive Methodist Church in England, and of the M. E. Church after his removal to America. The family arrived in Monroeville, June 6, 1851, having come by canal from Albany to Buffalo, thence by steamer to Sandusky City, and making the remaining distance by rail, through the woods, where they were overtaken by a terrific thunder storm. Mrs. Digby was one of children as follows: Mary (Mrs. Hilton) is deceased; Hannah (now Mrs. Wright Goodale) lives in England; Jane (Mrs. John Leverton) resides in Wood county; James is deceased; Sarah A. is our subject; Mary A. (deceased) was formerly Mrs. A. Hunt, of Henry county; Rebecca (Mrs. Charles Senn) lives in Monroeville; James died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Digby had no children of their own, but they reared a boy, Willis J. Digby, whom they treated as a son, although they never formally adopted him. He lives upon the old farm in Liberty township, where there are now five good oil wells in operation. He married Miss Elsie Mercer, and has one child, Leora.

ANDREW J. OVITT, who devotes his time and energies to agricultural pursuits in Middleton township, was born in the locality where he still makes his home, June 21, 1850, and is of English lineage. His grandparents were Samuel and Harriet (Collier) Ovitt, natives of England. They had three children, one of whom, John W., father of our subject, was born on the voyage from their native land to New York. The family located in the Empire State, and when he was but five years of age he was kidnapped by a man by the name of Blue, and brought to Wood

county. The man located in Washington township, near Tontogany, and the boy was forced to work hard, being permitted to attend school only forty-eight days. After he had reached his majority he left the home of his captor, and worked as a farm hand in the neighborhood. Afterward, for a number of years, he was keeper of a ferry, and then worked on canal boats. In 1872, in connection with his son, Andrew, he purchased ninety-seven acres of land near Hull Prairie, where he located, built himself a home, and carried on agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred in 1889. He married Louisa Downs, and to them were born three children, but two died in early life. The mother is still living, and is now the wife of Henry Hopewood.

The subject of this review was born in Middleton township, June 21, 1850, and conned his lessons in the district schools of the neighborhood. He worked with his father from early boyhood, until he had attained the age of twenty-three, by being employed on the ferry and on the canals. When the farm was purchased he aided in its cultivation, performing the arduous task of transforming the wild land into richly cultivated fields, of ditching and tiling the place, and other work of improvement. He has for twenty-three years resided upon this farm, and now has one of the best improved properties in the township.

In 1876 was consummated the marriage of Mr. Ovitt and Sophia Frederick, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, and a daughter of A. Frederick, of that city. Three children grace their union—Daisy, John and Mabel, and their pleasant home is noted for its hospitality, which makes it a favorite resort with their many friends. Both Mr. and Mrs. Ovitt are popular people and highly esteemed. Socially, for twenty-three years, he has been connected with the Odd Fellows Lodge of Haskins, and is a member of the Encampment, while both he and his wife are connected with the Rebekah Lodge of that order. For twelve years he has been one of the efficient and faithful school directors, also a member of the township board, and for five years was supervisor of roads. In politics he is a stalwart Republican, and his name is synonymous with honorable dealing, while his well-spent life is worthy of emulation.

A. K. DILLINGER. Among the young and enterprising business men of North Baltimore there is probably none more energetic or thorough-going than the gentleman whose name begins this sketch. A native of Ohio, he was born in Han-

cock county, June 26, 1872, and is descended from an old Pennsylvania family.

His parental grandparents were Jacob and Eliza (McColom) Dillinger, the former born in Westmoreland county, Penn., in 1818, and the latter in 1819. In 1848 they emigrated to Ohio, locating in Portage township, Hancock county, where the grandfather died in 1869. They were faithful members of the Disciples Church. In politics, Jacob Dillinger supported the Republican party. In their family were the following children—Mary E., who became the wife of James Withrow, of Hancock county; Cyrus, also of that county, who served three years in the 99th O. V. I., Archibald, a dry-goods merchant of Findlay, Ohio; Daniel, the father of our subject; Jan-nect, of Wood county; Samuel, who died in 1872; Jacob, of Hancock county; Malvin, of Findlay; Eliza, wife of Jacob Ralston, of Hancock county. In McComb, that county, the mother of these children still makes her home. She is the daughter of Archibald McColom, who died in Pennsylvania, in 1878, at the age of eighty-five years.

Daniel Dillinger, the father of our subject, was born in Westmoreland county, Penn., on April 7, 1848, and in early life accompanied his parents to Hancock county, Ohio, where he grew to manhood. He was married November 18, 1869, the lady of his choice being Miss Lucinda Bachtel, who was born in Seneca county, Ohio, May 28, 1846. By trade the father is a carpenter; but, on his removal to North Baltimore, in 1874, he entered the meat and grocery business, which he conducted for about nine years. He then began the real-estate and insurance business, which he carried on for four years, when he gave up the former line. He is one of the foremost men of North Baltimore, where he is numbered among the public-spirited citizens, and no man is more interested in the advancement and progress of the community than he. Five children were born to himself and wife, but our subject is the only one now living. A daughter, Anna Blanche, died January 18, 1894, at the age of seventeen years. Mrs. Dillinger passed to her final rest February 7, 1896.

A. K. Dillinger, of this review, was educated in the schools of North Baltimore, and was a member of the first graduating class completing the high-school course; he is also a graduate of Findlay Business College. He began business in his present line, crockery and house-furnishing goods, in 1893, in a brick block erected by his father, and has added to his original stock until he is now at the head of a large and rapidly increasing business. He is one of the prominent and representative young business men of North

Baltimore, of most excellent habits, and is well worthy the high esteem in which he is held.

WILLIAM S. ARMSTRONG was born in Franklin county, Ohio, January 1, 1859, and is a son of Henry A. Armstrong, a native of Franklin, Conn., who, in that place, acquired an excellent education. When a young man of twenty-two, he went with a brother to Franklin county, where he purchased a one-hundred-acre farm in Perry township. For several years he successfully followed school teaching. In this State he married Sarah Ann Tone, a native of Lebanon, Vt., and a daughter of Christopher Tone, a captain of the war of 1812. They had five children—James H., a farmer near Columbus, Ohio; Josephine, wife of Henry Neds, of Delaware, Ohio; Emma, wife of Walker Hall, of Franklin county; William S.; and Alice, who died at the age of sixteen.

Our subject was reared in the usual manner of farmer lads, and the district schools afforded him his educational privileges. At the age of thirteen he assumed the management of the home farm (his father having been paralyzed), and successfully operated it until his father's death. He was married in Perry township, Franklin county, November 25, 1881, to Sarah Hannah Donaldson, who was born in Marysville, Ohio. He took his bride to the old homestead, and there lived until the estate was divided, in 1888. Selling his share of the farm, he then came to Wood county, and purchased forty acres of land in Jackson township. In 1881 he had also purchased forty acres, and now owns and operates this tract of eighty acres. In April, 1895, he purchased a half interest in the sawmill and tile works of Hoytville, and has since given his attention to that business.

Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong had four children, but the eldest died in infancy, and Maud died at the age of nine years. May and Ollie are at home. In politics, Mr. Armstrong is a stalwart Republican, and has served for one term as assessor of his township. He belongs to the United Brethren Church, and his many excellencies of character have gained for him the warm regard of many friends.

WILLIAM COMSTOCK, a well-known citizen of Perrysburg, was born in Plain township, December 15, 1853, a son of Robert C. Comstock, and his wife, Sarah (McDowell) Comstock.

Abel Comstock, grandfather of our subject, was a native of New York State, a millwright by trade, and died at the advanced age of ninety years. He married Isabel Cummings, and they reared a family of eight children, named respect-

ively: Robert C., Abel, David, William, Phœbe, Helen, Isabel, and Clara. Of these Abel and David were millwrights, William was a soldier in the Civil war, and Robert C., the father of the subject of this sketch, was born in New York State in 1818, and in 1835 came to Ohio, settling on a farm in Plain township, Wood county, where he yet resides. In 1842, in Pennsylvania, he married Sarah McDowell, by whom he had eight children, five of whom are yet living, viz.: Abel, an attorney at Bowling Green; Robert, a farmer in Michigan; Jennie (Mrs. E. Chapman), residing in Connecticut; William; and Edward, living on the old farm in Plain township. The mother of this family was born in Mercer county, Penn., in 1819, and passed from earth in 1888.

William Comstock, whose name introduces this memoir, was reared on a farm, and educated in the public schools, together with a few terms at a select school. When twenty-one years of age, he married Miss May A. Chapman, of Mystic River, Conn., and for some nine years afterward was engaged in teaching during the winter season, and farming through the summer months. He then began selling furniture for a Toledo firm, later handling rubber clamps, for another house, for a year. In 1886, he engaged with the Owosso Casket Co., of Owosso, Mich., as a traveling salesman, and in this found his vocation, he having decided ability for this kind of work, and meeting with eminent success. His territory comprises Michigan, Virginia and West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, and the cities of St. Louis, Mo., and Atlanta, Georgia.

Mr. Comstock has amassed a comfortable competence, and a few years ago brought his family to Perrysburg, where he erected a beautiful residence on the banks of the Maumee river, at a cost of \$5000.00. The situation is one of the most picturesque in the county, while the house is artistic in its architecture, and furnished in the best taste. Here, with his charming family, he spends his time when not on the road, and dispenses open-handed hospitality to his large circle of friends. He belongs to the Toledo Traveling Men's Association, and to the Casket Salesman's Protective Association. Socially he is a member of the F. & A. M., Phoenix Lodge No. 123, and of the I. O. O. F., Fort Meigs Lodge, both of Perrysburg. Politically he is a Democrat. He is a man of much natural ability, and commands the respect and esteem of all who know him.

Mrs. Comstock was born at Mystic River, Conn., September 12, 1854, a daughter of Roswell B. and Mary A. (Wilcox) Chapman, both

also natives of Connecticut, the father born in 1814, the mother in 1826. They had four children: Amos R. (a Democratic member of the Connecticut Legislature); Everett B.; Mary A., and Martin W. The father of these, who was a ship-builder by trade, died in 1876; the mother lives in Mystic River, Conn. To Mr. and Mrs. Comstock have been born six children: Roswell W., Clement R., Lelia M., Harry R., Howard M., and Jennie A.

HENRY C. BACON, one of the most prominent agriculturists of Montgomery township, was born in Brownhelm township, Lorain Co., Ohio, August 20, 1836, the son of Samuel and Ruth (Davis) Bacon.

The father of our subject was a native of Berkshire county, Mass., and was the son of George Bacon, who was one of the twenty-seven young men which composed the famous "Boston Tea Party." George Bacon came to Ohio in 1817, and settled in Lorain county. He had three sons, George, Jr., and Benjamin and Samuel, twins. These all reared large families, and died in Lorain county at advanced ages. Samuel Bacon was brought up in Stockbridge, Mass., which in that day was quite a literary center, and where he obtained a good common-school education. He was married in his native State, and early in life was engaged in farming. He afterward became identified with a woolen manufactory, but business reverses compelled him to seek some other employment. In 1832 he came to Lorain county, Ohio, and settled in Brownhelm township where he again took up farming and successfully followed that occupation during the remainder of his life. He died in October, 1865, when seventy-six years of age. His wife survived him until 1875, when she passed away, aged seventy-two years. Of their children, those who lived to maturity were as follows: Jane married Edmund West, and died in Oberlin in 1895; Samuel, Jr., died in Brownhelm township, in 1868; Eliza resides in Oberlin; Benjamin, now living in Anderson county, Kans., was, during the Civil war, lieutenant of Company K, 144th O. V. I.; Henry C. is the next in order of birth; Lucy is the wife of Cyrus Whittlesey, of Brownhelm township; Charles was a farmer, and died in Brownhelm township; Ruth resides in Oberlin. Samuel Bacon was not a wealthy man, but he was comfortably situated in life, and his children were carefully reared. He was a Democrat until the formation of the Republican party, with which he was thereafter connected. He was well versed in political matters, and served in various township

offices. Both he and his wife were members of the Congregational Church.

Henry C. Bacon had only the advantages of the district schools of his day, but he possessed much natural intelligence, and is to-day well informed on all topics of general interest. He was reared upon a farm, where he was working when the Civil war broke out, and in July, 1862, he enlisted in Company F, 103rd O. V. I., and was mustered in as sergeant. This regiment saw active service from the time of its going to the front, which was soon after its formation. Mr. Bacon served throughout the war, being promoted to the rank of second, and later to first, lieutenant. During all this time he was never sick or wounded, and was never absent from his regiment. He was honorably discharged June 22, 1865, and at once returned to his home in Lorain county.

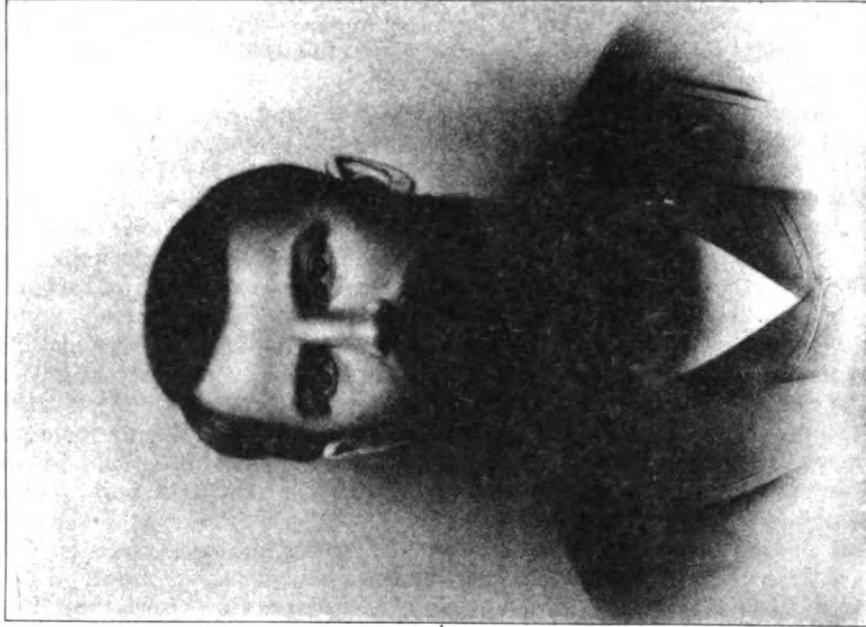
On April 17, 1866, Mr. Bacon was married in Sheffield township, Lorain county, to Miss Eliza F. Day, who was born in that township March 10, 1839, daughter of Norman and Julia (Root) Day, who were both natives of Berkshire county, Mass., her father being a farmer. Mrs. Bacon attended school in Elyria, Ohio, and was a junior in the literary course at Oberlin College. She is a woman of more than ordinary intellect, highly cultured and refined, and one of pronounced literary tastes. Her sisters are also literary women, and are contributors to well-known newspapers. At the time of his marriage Mr. Bacon had only a small sum of money which he had saved from his earnings; but he had some time before bought 109 acres of school land in Section 16, Montgomery township. This land was in a primitive state, and he had made some small improvements upon it. In the spring of 1866 he removed to the property, renting a house near by, in which he lived until 1876, when he built his present residence. Here he has resided ever since, with the exception of temporary absences while his children were being educated. Julia D., his eldest daughter, was a graduate of Ada College, and became the wife of Hervey Williams; she died in Geauga county, Ohio, leaving one child, Norman K., who lives with our subject. Louis H. was a student at Oberlin College, and is now a merchant at Prairie Depot. Laura A. graduated at Oberlin College in the class of 1893, and is at home with her parents. Politically Mr. Bacon is a Republican, and he has held various township offices with credit to himself, and to the satisfaction of the public. With his wife, he is a member of the Congregational Church, and is a liberal contributor to all

worthy causes. He has never aspired to become a wealthy man, and has spent much of his money in educating his children and assisting other people. He has a pleasant home, and his family are popular leaders in social circles.

MRS. ANN CARR. To the pioneer women of Wood county, equally with the men, a debt of gratitude is due for what they have done in the county's behalf. Their labors, perhaps, have been in a more quiet and less noticeable way, but none the less effective. Mrs. Carr belongs to one of the old families of this locality, and her many friends we feel assured will gladly welcome this record of her life.

She was born in Pemberville, January 3, 1852, and is a daughter of Horatio Nelson Alexander and Mary Huff. Her father and mother were natives of England, and there the father married Ann Keats, with whom he came to America, locating in Wood county, in 1833, where he engaged in farming. He also took quite an active part in politics, and was a prominent figure in the Republican party, speaking in its interests throughout the State. His first wife died in Pemberville, and in Wood county he married the mother of our subject, then located on a tract of land whereon now stands the town of Pemberville. Mrs. Alexander died while visiting at the home of her stepdaughter in Perrysburg, and the father, for his third wife, married Mrs. Jolly. His fourth wife, with whom he was living at the time of his death, was Mrs. Sarah Cable, widow of Ephraim Cable. The father died on the homestead in Pemberville, January 2, 1866, at the age of sixty-one years. The children of his first marriage were Eliza, deceased wife of Oliver Thompson, of Perrysburg; Agnes, deceased wife of George Newton, of Perrysburg; Ambrose, who was engaged in the livery business in Toledo, Ohio, where he died in 1892; Mary Jane, wife of Oliver Thompson, of Perrysburg; and Theodore, of Bowling Green, who served the county as recorder for two terms—from 1883 to 1889. The children of Mrs. Carr's parents are George, who died in childhood; Henry, an oil producer, of Woodside, Ohio; William, a carpenter of Pemberville; Oliver, a farmer of Washington township; and Mrs. Carr. The children of the fourth marriage are Nelson H., and Stella, the latter being a school teacher of Toledo.

Mrs. Carr was only four years old at the time of her mother's death, after which she was reared by her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. William Huff, three miles west of Bowling Green. When her



*John M. Bass*



*Mrs. Ann Barr*



grandmother died she became her grandfather's housekeeper, and cared for his home for three years, when he was again married, and she went to live in the family of Moses Lane, of Plain township, with whom she continued until her own marriage, which was celebrated at their home, January 30, 1875, she becoming the wife of John M. Carr, a native of Ashland, Ohio, and a farmer by occupation. In 1863, when eighteen years old, having been born May 21, 1845, he enlisted, in Plain township, this county, as a private of Company H, 67th O. V. I, with which he continued until the close of the war, and on one occasion he was wounded in the side. For two years after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Carr resided on his father's farm, when the former purchased forty acres of land in Liberty township, on which his widow is still living. His death occurred January 2, 1883, and he was greatly mourned throughout the community. He was quite prominent in public affairs, and an active worker in the ranks of the Republican party. All who knew him respected him, and he had a wide acquaintance.

William H. Carr, the eldest child of the family, was born March 21, 1876, and is now a pupil in the Valparaiso (Ind.) Normal School, and expects to study medicine later. The other members of the family are Moses Lane, born July 3, 1877; Ida Gertrude, born September 24, 1878; Mary L., born March 19, 1880; Luke B., born September 27, 1881; and John Mitchell, born June 9, 1883. Mrs. Carr is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and has been a teacher in the Sunday-school for many years. She is a pleasant, affable and most gracious lady, kindly and charitable, and her home is noted for its hospitality. She is also a lady of excellent business and executive ability, which she has demonstrated in the management of her property since her husband's death.

NATHAN WHISLER, the well-known tile manufacturer of Jerry City, was born June 22, 1846, in Franklin township, Richland Co., Ohio.

Jacob Whisler, his father, was a native of Berks county, Penn., born March 3, 1801, and by occupation was in early life a wagon-maker and later a farmer. He was married in his native State to Miss Anna Funk, who was born August 27, 1802, and they had fifteen children, ten of whom lived to adult age. A self-made man, he realized the advantages of a good start in life for his family, and, when he had accumulated a few thousand dollars, he came to Ohio, and bought large tracts of government land in

Hancock, Wood, and Crawford counties, giving to five of his sons 320 acres each, and to four daughters 160 acres each. He himself settled upon a farm of 400 acres in Richland county, which he improved in a handsome style, then quite unusual. His wife dying October 23, 1880, he sold his stock and implements and all but ninety acres of land, and lived in retirement until his own death, which occurred August 13, 1883. He was a believer in the doctrines of the Dunkard denomination, and for many years expounded the Gospel to the congregation. He was a man of great mental force and strong character, and was held in high esteem wherever he was known.

The subject of this sketch, the youngest of the family, received a district-school education, and remained at home until his marriage, never working elsewhere for wages but one day, except when exchanging labor with neighbors. On February 9, 1867, he was married to Miss Margaret E. Hamman, a near neighbor, who was born May 2, 1846. Her father, Samuel Hamman, was a native of Dauphin county, Penn., and married Hannah Kimmel, the daughter of William Kimmel, an early settler of Wayne county. The young couple went to housekeeping on a farm of 360 acres in Pleasant township, Hancock county, which Mr. Whisler set to work to redeem from its primitive state. He had to cut trees to make a way to the spot where he intended to build his log cabin, having selected the highest point on the property. This was a wise choice, for in June of the same year there came a rain which flooded the entire farm up to the door sills of his house, floating away all the chips from under it. After living on this farm for three years he traded it for a hotel property in McComb, "Travelers' Rest," which he conducted during the summer of 1870. Selling this, he rented a farm about three miles east of Columbus Grove, remaining there nearly two years. At his parents' request he returned home, and labored for his father for two years, when he bought twenty acres near Snenandoah, Richland county, on which he lived for six years. During this time he engaged in tile making, in partnership with Wilson Starr. In 1880 he sold his interest and moved to Bloom township, buying ten acres of land, where, in the following spring, he began the manufacture of brick, filling orders for several public buildings. In July, 1881, he began making tile on his farm, and after a few years he took a partner, Mr. Henry Hise, for a short time. On his withdrawal Mr. Whisler sold, to his son Jacob and J. L. Shane, each a one-third interest; but he has



since bought out the latter, leaving the business in the present firm name of Whisler & Son.

Mr. Whisler is regarded as one of the reliable business men of Bloom township, a man whose word is as good as his note. His farm of fifty-six acres is kept in a fine state of improvement, and his buildings, which are all of his own construction, are tasteful and substantial. He and his wife are leading members of the Church of God, in which Mr. Whisler has been a ruling elder for ten years, and was deacon for three and a half years at Shenandoah. He also takes an active part in the Sunday-school, having been superintendent for several years. Five children were born to them, all of whom are living: Jacob, born in Pleasant township, Hancock county, is now his father's partner; Cora A., born in the same place, is now Mrs. J. L. Shane, of North Baltimore; Allen, born in Allen county, is at home; Elva I., born in Richland county, married Riley Milbourn, of Cygnet; and Willard, born at Shenandoah, is at home. Politically Mr. Whisler is a Democrat; but he is not slavishly bound by party ties, voting for the best candidate wherever he may be found. He is among the leaders in local affairs, taking especial interest in educational matters, and has been school director six years, during three years of the time clerk of District No. 5.

W. H. DOWNING. As one of the enterprising and wide-awake business men of Trombley, Ohio, and one who, through his own efforts, has established himself among the prominent and successful men of the county, we take pleasure in giving the sketch of this gentleman. He comes from across the sea, his birth having occurred in Devonshire, England, August 25, 1851, and in the fall of 1869 he was brought by his parents, J. B. and Jane (Bickel) Downing, to the New World, sailing from Liverpool on the steamer "Siberian," which landed them eleven days later in Boston, Mass. Their destination was Millbury, Wood Co., Ohio, where the mother had a sister living—Mrs. John Bailey. The father was a well-to-do man in England, and on his arrival in this country had considerable money, which he invested in two farms, and he seemed to prosper up to the time of the death of his wife in 1873. That was the beginning of a series of misfortunes, and, through unprincipled and designing parties, he lost almost everything. He now makes his home in Gibsonburg, Sandusky Co., Ohio, with his daughter.

Our subject is the second child in the family of seven, four sons and three daughters, and,

strange as it may seem, this prosperous and successful merchant never attended school more than a year during his entire life, and that at such great intervals that it was scarcely any benefit to him. He has, however, become a well-informed man by reading and observation in subsequent years. He was early inured to hard labor and when only a boy would often do a man's work. For a time after coming to the United States, he remained with his father, and, on starting out in life for himself, could only seek employment at manual labor on account of the lack of a good education. He ran a stationary engine for a while, and, after serving long enough for his efficiency and ability to become apparent, his employers—Skidmore & Thatcher, lumbermen and stave manufacturers—made him foreman of their factory at Latchie, Wood county. His eleven years' service with that company speaks for his faithfulness, and in the fall of 1886 he came to Trombley, the following May opening a general store in a room 12 x 20 feet, on the site of his present block. It was an entirely new business to him; but here one of his strongest characteristics was manifested, that of adaption. By careful attention he soon gained a thorough knowledge of it, and his future success was assured. From this beginning, with a small room and limited stock, he has built up a trade such as is enjoyed by few country stores in Wood county, and his goods are such as to merit a large patronage.

In Monroe, Mich., October 4, 1876, Mr. Downing led to the marriage altar Miss Casstin Sprout, a native of Scott township, Sandusky Co., Ohio, and daughter of Samuel Sprout, who was born in Pennsylvania. They have no children of their own, but have given homes to several at different times. Mr. Downing takes an active interest in local political affairs, and is a faithful supporter of the Republican party, while socially he is a member of White Swan Lodge No. 384, K. of P., of Cygnet, Ohio. While in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1874, he was the victim of a strange and unfortunate affair. Being mistaken for another from similarity in apparel, he was attacked with a club, and the wound inflicted effected the sight of the right eye, so that in 1889 he was obliged to lose that organ, as from sympathy the other eye became affected.

CAPTAIN ARCHIE M. FASIG, one of Bloomdale's leading and popular business men, was born in Ashland, Ohio, March 19, 1850, and is a son of Samuel and Lucinda (Greenland) Fasig. The father was a bricklayer, and in that line became an extensive contractor; but later he

became a preacher of the Baptist Church, and continued the work of the ministry for nearly thirty years. He is now living retired at Forest, Ohio. At Ashland, Ohio, he is engaged quite extensively in the marble business. In his family were the following children: Armenious, who died in Ashland; William B., a well-known horseman of Cleveland, Ohio, having a national reputation as a breeder, judge and promoter, who was for years secretary of the Cleveland Driving Park Association, and instrumental in making that association foremost among those in the United States; D. D., who died in Ashland; Ella, who became the wife of Isaac Reed, and died in Forest, Ohio; Lewis, who also passed away in Ashland; Charles, a horseman of Cridersville, Ohio; Emma, who became the wife of Oscar Smith, and died in Waynesfield, Auglaize Co., Ohio; Newton, who died in Ashland; and our subject. On account of his strong Abolition views, the father joined the Republican party, and often raised his voice against slavery. Though no politician in the sense of office-seeking, few men were better versed on the political history of the United States than Mr. Fasig, he being perfectly familiar with all the old and important issues, their causes and advocates. At one time he was a great debater, and he has met many celebrities on political and religious questions. He is a man of broad, general information, and is still a great student.

The schools of Ashland, Ohio, furnished Archie M. Fasig his educational privileges, and on leaving home, at the age of nineteen years, he learned the bricklayer's trade. For twenty-five years he followed contracting in this work, being for some time in partnership with his father, and erected many public and school buildings in Hardin, Wyandot, Allen; Auglaize and Putnam counties, Ohio. In the fall of 1870 he was married near Wharton, Ohio, to Miss Marietta Clark, who was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, and is a daughter of George and Martha (Randolph) Clark, the latter a relative of the celebrated John Randolph. To them have been born two children—Walter S. and Cora B., both of whom are at home.

Shortly after his marriage Capt. Fasig removed to Forest, Ohio, then to Ada, where, in 1876, he began the drug business, which he conducted in addition to his contracting. He later went to West Cairo, Allen county, and also established branch drug stores at Cridersville and Beaver Dam. In December, 1887, he came to Bloomdale, and, giving up his contracting, he has since turned his attention exclusively to the drug

trade, in which he has been very successful. Politically Capt. Fasig is a Republican, was judge of the first election held in Bloomdale as a corporation, has been a member of the city council and school board, and for three years was clerk of the latter. Socially, he is connected with Bloomdale Lodge No. 406, I. O. O. F.; and is a charter member of Bloomdale Lodge No. 278, K. of P. On coming to the city he joined the Bloomdale Rifles, Co. H, 2d Infantry, O. N. G., and on the 2d of May, 1893, was commissioned captain, his election being almost unanimous. His fondness for good horses is hereditary, as his father is an ardent admirer of those animals, and now owns two fine horses—Mentone, by Mansfield, a son of Green Mountain Maid; and Magog King, by Abadallah Wilkes. There is no better judge of horses in the county than our subject. As a citizen he is wide-awake and progressive, and the circle of his friends is limited only by the circle of his acquaintances, which is very large.

HOMER RUSSELL, an intelligent, energetic farmer, and a substantial and reliable citizen of Bloom township, was born September 24, 1849, in Section 27, of the same township, and is the son of John and Lois Russell. His boyhood and youth were passed in the usual manner of farmer lads, and his early education was obtained in the Baird or Bloom Chapel School, taught by Miss Maggie Robbins. At the age of twenty-one he entered the Perrysburg High School, where he completed his literary studies. For a year he was then employed by James Foreman, in Perry township, after which he returned to the old homestead, which he operated for about the same length of time. The following two years were spent upon a farm in Perry township, and he then had charge of a farm of eighty acres north of Bairdstown, which belonged to his father. At the end of two years he removed to the George Vickers farm, in Hancock county, Ohio, which he cultivated for the same length of time, when he purchased eighty acres in Section 20, Bloom township. This he traded, with D. N. Easley, for his present farm of eighty acres. He has labored for many years to bring about the many changes necessary to transform his place in the wilderness to a comfortable home, with highly productive fields. He has also added to his property, now owning a forty-acre tract in Section 2, Cass township, Hancock county.

In 1875 Mr. Russell led to the marriage altar Miss Marietta E., daughter of James A. and Agnes (Purkey) Vickers, and four children have

come to bless their union—Fannie L., born September 27, 1876; Howard B., born February 23, 1878; Jennie M., born September 12, 1880; and Cora A., born August 3, 1883. They are all still at home, and have been provided with good educational privileges. Strange to say, our subject lived two years at each of his removals, and one child was born at each place. The family now occupy a beautiful and commodious home, surrounded by the necessary comforts of life. Mr. Russell is making every effort to place himself among that class that can conscientiously retire from active labor after a well-spent and useful life. He cast his first ballot in support of the men and measures of the Republican party, but since 1888 has been a stalwart Prohibitionist, as that party embodies his views on the temperance question. For twenty-seven years he has been a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is a truly noble Christian gentleman, one who has the best interests of the community at heart.

JAMES P. MARSHALL is one of the enterprising merchants of Bowling Green, and is a member of the firm of J. P. Marshall & Co., grocers. He was born in Sandusky county, Ohio, December 12, 1856, and is the son of James H. and Elizabeth (Sampson) Marshall.

Mr. Marshall, Sr., was born in Perry county, Penn., in 1827, and died in Sandusky county, Ohio, in 1857. His wife was born in New York State in 1831, and now lives in Bowling Green. They became the parents of the following four children: M. M. is living at Bonner's Ferry, Idaho, and is a minister, receiving his education at the Northwestern College, Naperville, Ill.; Esther A. is unmarried, and lives at Bowling Green; Mary died when four months old; J. P. is our subject. The paternal grandfather, James Marshall, was born in New York, and came to Sandusky county, from Huron county, Ohio.

Mr. Marshall was reared in Sandusky county, Ohio, and took a commercial course in a business college at Naperville, Ill. He then went to work for John S. Eck, in Toledo, Ohio, remaining in that gentleman's employ for two years; leaving there, he came to Bowling Green in 1881, and was employed in the grocery of G. A. Smith, afterward working for Royce & Coon, in the grain-shipping business. He was next employed as express agent for the Wells-Fargo Express Company, where he stayed until December, 1893, when he became a partner in the present metropolitan grocery store in Bowling Green. He and Mr. South are among the younger element of

hustling business men in the county, and from all indications they are on the road to success. They deal in staple and fancy groceries, which they sell at moderate prices. Our subject was married in 1878 to Miss Anna N. Youngs, who was born in Toledo, Ohio, March 9, 1861, and six children have been the result of this union, as follows: Charles H., Alta R., Olin R., Helen E., Merlin M., and one as yet unnamed. Mr. Marshall is a Republican, and, socially, he is a member of the United Brethren Church, the National Union, and the I. O. O. F.

The maternal grandfather of our subject, Peter Sampson, was born in Massachusetts, and departed this life in Williams county, Ohio, at the good old age of seventy-three years.

J. W. CARTER, a well-known farmer of Montgomery township, was born in Section 20, that township, June 15, 1838.

His parents, Jonas and Mary (Carpenter) Carter, were born in Pennsylvania and Vermont, respectively, the former about the year 1812. They were married in Delaware county, Ohio, where Mr. Carter had gone as a young man, and worked at his trade of rope-maker. In the spring of 1833, he came to Montgomery township, and located in Section 20. The wagon which brought them here was the second wagon in the township that had passed north of where John A. Kelly had settled in Section 31, and Mr. Carter's was the fourth family to settle in that township. They had, at this time, one child, Laura, who married Erastus Farrington, and died in August, 1894, at Ithaca, Mich. Their cabin was made of round logs, and was the first habitation on the farm, which then consisted of 240 acres of primitive land, covered with dense forest and undergrowth. The cabin had neither doors nor windows at first, quilts serving as such until Mr. Carter went to Tiffin to purchase the material for making them; that city, then but a village, and Fremont were the nearest milling points, and it took three or four days to make the journey. Mr. Carter brought apple seeds, and grew the first apple trees in Montgomery township, and also built the first cider-mill. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Carter were as follows: Mary, who was the second child born in the township (married Asa Adams, and died in Montgomery township); James W., our subject; Helen, who married (1) Charles Bryant, (2) David Stackhouse, by whom she had one child, Bertha, and (3) Hardy Smith, who is deceased. When a young man Mr. Carter was a rope-maker, and found a good market for his product.

He made miles of the bed-cord so common in pioneer days, and was very likely the only rope-maker in Wood county. His wife would spin and weave, and used the hemp also in making household articles. Mr. Carter lived some fourteen years in his log cabin in Section 20, which was always open to those who needed shelter, and no traveler ever turned from its door hungry. Mr. Carter was a Whig, then an Abolitionist, and last a Republican, on the formation of that party, taking an interest in its success, but not seeking office. He died December 25, 1871, and was buried in the Prairie Depot cemetery. His wife died March 18, the following year, and sleeps by the side of her husband. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church.

Our subject attended school at Prairie Depot, and was reared as a farmer's boy, remaining at home until his enlistment, at Freeport, August 7, 1862, in Company I, 111th O. V. I. He went through Kentucky with his regiment, but was mustered out at Bowling Green for disability. In May, 1864, he re-enlisted, this time in Company K, 144th regiment, and was sent to Fort Dix, Md.; on July 9, following, being seized with typhoid fever, he was sent to the hospital, and after leaving there he went to Columbus, Ohio, where he was mustered out.

On June 5, 1860, Mr. Carter was married, in Montgomery township, to Miss Harriet Ostrander, a daughter of John Ostrander. She died in August, 1861, and March 12, 1865, our subject wedded Miss Emily F. Pearmain, who was born in Grafton township, Lorain county, Ohio, May 4, 1842. She is the daughter of Edward and Esther (McConnell) Pearmain, the former of whom died when she was ten months old. Her mother then married Randolph Palmer, who came to Wood county in 1860, locating in Montgomery township. He was a member of Company K, 144th regiment, O. V. I., and died in the hospital at Fort Dix, Md., July 14, 1864. Mrs. Emily P. Carter had one sister, Julia E., who died in 1853. Their mother died January 26, 1891, in Oneida, Kans. The children by her second husband were: William H., a physician of Los Angeles, Cal.; Cannie, now Mrs. George Dale, also of Los Angeles; George McConnell, a farmer of Montgomery township; Laura I., now Mrs. David Gilmore, of Oneida, Kans. Mrs. Carter received her education under the tuition of her maternal grandfather, William McConnell, who was well educated, and with whom she lived after her father's death until she was eleven years old. At eighteen years of age she taught school in Wood county for \$1.50 a

week and her board, and continued teaching for five years; her wages were raised each term until she finally received \$1.25 per day.

During Mr. Carter's married life he has lived on his present farm, which is a portion of the 240 acres that were pre-empted by his father. He has about sixty-eight acres, on which, in 1874, he completed his present comfortable home. He and his wife have no children of their own, but they have an adopted daughter, Emma C., now the wife of Frank Fox. She has a good musical education, and, accomplished in that art, has been a successful instructor. Mr. Carter is a staunch Republican, and has served the party as township trustee two terms. Of the old pioneer family of Carter, he is the only living male representative, and with his death the family name will become extinct. Mrs. Carter is a woman of fine literary attainments, and her contributions of poetry have appeared in the leading magazines. She has prepared an able work on the pioneers of Montgomery township, which contains much valuable information. She is a member of the Methodist Church, and an active worker in its cause. She is also a member of the W. R. C., auxiliary to Randall Post No. 53, G. A. R., at Prairie Depot, while Mr. Carter is a charter member of the G. A. R. at the same place.

ISAAC McCONE, deceased, in his lifetime an industrious and enterprising agriculturist of Portage township, was a native of New York State, born in Wyoming county, November 15, 1842. His parents, Thomas and Eliza (Waldon) McCone, were born in Ireland, where they were married, and whence, in 1833, they sailed for America, locating first in New London county, Conn., where their eldest child, Edward, died. By trade the father was a moulder, and worked in a foundry in Norwich, Conn., until 1837, when he removed to Wyoming county, N. Y. There, in Wethersfield township, he sold his land for a mill-site at \$1,100 profit. He then bought 100 acres of partly-improved land in Sheldon township, to which he later added fifty acres; but unfortunately lost \$4,000 by endorsing a note for a brother-in-law. At the age of sixty-five years he began life anew, coming to Wood county March 7, 1844, where he determined to retrieve his fortune. He purchased eighty acres of new land for \$400 in Freedom township, on which he built a cabin, 18 x 24 feet, of round logs. Besides his wife, the family circle then included two children, Isaac and Eliza, but the latter died at the age of nine years. The father departed this life August 16, 1863, and was buried

in Fish cemetery at Rochester, Ohio. Religiously he was a Roman Catholic, while politically he was a Democrat. He served his township as trustee, school director and supervisor. His wife, whose death occurred December 23, 1860, was a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Isaac McCone was the only child of the family who grew to maturity. He pursued his studies in the district schools of that early day, learning fast, and, having a retentive memory, he became a well informed man. While living upon the home farm the Civil war broke out, and August 13, 1862, at Pemberville, Ohio, he enlisted in Company K, 21st O. V. I., Capt. Silas Campfield, and was mustered in at Camp Vance, Findlay, Ohio, whence the troops were sent to Covington, Ky. Although he had taken part in several skirmishes, the first battle in which he participated was at Perryville, Ky., October 8, 1862, and he continued with the regiment until after the engagement at Stone River, where he contracted lung fever. For about nine weeks he was in the hospital at Nashville, after which he rejoined his command at Murfreesboro, March 20, 1863, but, being given a furlough, he returned home. At Chattanooga he again, in the spring of 1864, joined his regiment, with which he remained until the close of the war. After the Grand Review at Washington, D. C., he was discharged at Louisville, Ky., June 28, 1865, and returned to his home in Pemberville, Ohio.

During his absence his father had died, and the property had been disposed of, so that Mr. McCone bought a new piece of land in Freedom township, which he at once began to clear and cultivate. On this forty-acre tract was a hewed log house, and to that tract he later added eighty acres adjoining, but April 10, 1883, he came to Portage township, where he purchased the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 10, known as the old Johnston homestead, one of the oldest farms in the township.

On November 29, 1865, in Freedom township, Mr. McCone was married to Miss Olive De Wolfe, a native of that township, born April 5, 1845, a daughter of Henry De Wolfe, a farmer of German descent, and born in Pennsylvania. Five children bless this union: Thomas, at home; Eliza, now Mrs. Conrad Deal, of Portage township; Lucy, wife of Isaac Van Vorhis, of the same township; and Gusta and Burley, both at home. Until his enlistment Mr. McCone had supported the Democratic party, but on November 4, 1864, he voted for Lincoln while on a forced march to intercept Hood, who was head-

ing for Chattanooga. This vote was cast in Alabama, the ballot boxes being put along the road, and their tickets dropped in by the soldiers while marching. After that time he was a stalwart Republican. He was eminently successful in business affairs, quite influential in his township, and had a host of warm friends throughout the community. He departed this life December 10, 1896, aged fifty-four years and twenty-five days.

E. KRUKEMYER, an honest, industrious and hard-working young German farmer of Montgomery township, is also one of the prosperous agriculturists of his township. He was born in the Fatherland, July 4, 1867, and is a son of Henry Krukemyer, who lived upon a small farm in that country, and also worked at the carpenter's trade, supporting his family by day labor.

Like many of his class in Germany, he found it a hard struggle to get along; but by the strictest economy and industry he was enabled to save enough money to bring himself and family to the United States, where he hoped to secure a home, as well as better advantages for his children. In May, 1880, they sailed from Bremen, bound for New York, where they arrived nine days later. Proceeding to Cleveland, Ohio, they for three years made that city their home, and while there our subject, for some time, worked in a coffin factory. They then removed to a rented farm, in Freedom township, Wood county, where the father died, February 9, 1888. This left the widowed mother with four children—our subject, Fred, Henry and Annie. The last named was born in this country. Mrs. Krukemyer continued to keep her family together for some time, and rented a farm in Freedom township, which she operated with the aid of her sons.

The education of our subject was all obtained before leaving his native land, and his knowledge of the English language has, therefore, been acquired outside of the school room. Like a dutiful son, he was of great help to his parents, and, later, to his widowed mother. In 1892 he purchased eighty acres of land, in Section 6, Montgomery township, on which he paid the few hundred dollars which he had succeeded in saving, going largely in debt for the amount. On March 7, 1893, in Freedom township, Mr. Krukemyer was married to Miss Anna Beimdieck, born near New Rochester, Wood county, November 17, 1868, a daughter of Henry and Margaret (Telg mire) Beimdieck, who were born, reared and married in Germany. On coming to America her parents lived for ten years in Seneca county,

Ohio, whence they removed to Freedom township, Wood county, where the father died, March 26, 1893, the mother on December 24, 1890. In their family of ten children, eight grew to adult age, one son and seven daughters, of whom Mrs. Krukemyer is the youngest. The son died June 12, 1896, leaving a widow and four children. He lived on the old homestead, which was willed to him by his father, who was a successful farmer, at the time of his death leaving an excellent farm of 120 acres, which he had transformed from an almost unbroken wilderness, and improved in many ways.

Since his marriage, Mr. Krukemyer has made his home upon his farm, and one child has come to gladden the household—Arnold, born November 11, 1894. The parents are both members of the Lutheran Church, and their social manners have gained them a wide circle of friends. Mr. Krukemyer cast his first vote in support of Grover Cleveland, in 1888, and has since been an earnest Democrat. He belongs to that type of German-Americans who become wealthy, and make our best citizens. Reliable and straightforward, he would not intentionally take advantage of any person, always abreast with the times, and destined to become one of the most substantial farmers of Montgomery township.

LEVI KILLE owns and resides upon the farm where his birth occurred, June 13, 1836. This place is located in Section 36, Freedom township, and was the homestead of his parents, John C. and Caroline (Smith) Kille. His father was born and reared in New Jersey, and when a young man became one of the pioneers of northwestern Ohio. After their marriage they settled in Sandusky county, and in the early '30s came to Freedom township, Wood county, where he purchased thirty acres of land from Abraham Schell, who had entered the same in 1835, but had never improved it. On this farm Mr. Kille spent his entire life, dying in 1886, at the age of seventy-six. In the early days he lived in true pioneer style, and was forced to cut his way through the forest and had to go to Fremont, sixteen miles, to mill. His wife passed away in 1884, at the age of seventy-four, and was buried in Bradner cemetery. In politics he was loyal to the interests of Democracy, but never sought office, preferring to devote his attention to his business interests, and the enjoyment of his home, for he was a man of domestic tastes. In 1837 he entered forty acres of land adjoining his first premises, and there developed a good farm of seventy acres. Both he and his wife were consistent members of

the Disciples Church. Their children are: Charles, of Michigan; Harriet, now the widow of G. D. Hathaway, of Bradner; Mary, who became the wife of Franklin Stiles, and died in Michigan; Levi, of this sketch; George, of Ottawa county, Ohio; Peter, of Michigan; Priscilla, wife of William Hubbs; Jane, wife of Orville Hine, of Lucas county, Ohio; David, who died in Montgomery township; Huldah, wife of Wilson Shroyer, of Bradner, Ohio; John; and Emery Bradford, who resides in Sandusky.

Amid the wild scenes of frontier life Levi Kille was reared, and his education was received in the primitive schools of the day, with their crude furnishings and simple methods of instruction; but experience and observation have made him a well-informed man. On May 3, 1857, he married Miss Rachel Vanguilder, who was born in Montgomery township, May 8, 1838, and was reared from childhood by Freeborn Hathaway, of Scott township, Sandusky county.

The first land which Mr. Kille owned was a forty-acre tract in Gratiot county, Mich., which he purchased for \$75.00 when about twenty years of age. This he traded to his father for twenty acres in Section 36, Freedom township, and thereon he began his domestic life in a log cabin. Subsequently he sold this and went to Sandusky county, living for three years in Madison township, when he again disposed of his property, and returned to Freedom township in 1870. Here he purchased fifty acres of the old homestead, and has since resided thereon. He has a good farm, well improved, and is recognized as one of the leading agriculturists of the community. There are two oil wells on the farm, which have been leased to the Johnson Oil Co.

To Mr. and Mrs. Kille were born the following named children: Huldah C., who died October 3, 1871; Frank, of Bradner, Ohio; Lyman C., of Bradner; Dean, of Ceresco, Neb.; Delmer, a twin brother of Dean, and a contractor of Freedom township (the Rig building being a specimen of his work); Edwin and John, twins, the former dying September 18, 1871, the latter on September 21, 1865; Winter, of Freedom township; Freeborn, of Bradner, Ohio; and Ivy May, who died October 25, 1881. The mother of these children died December 21, 1887, and was buried in Bradner cemetery. Mr. Kille has since married Mrs. Lemon, widow of Leroy Lemon. Her maiden name was Ellen Allen, and she was born in Ere county, Ohio, August 13, 1849, a daughter of Wells and Patty (Paine) Allen. Her parents were natives of Vermont, the father born in 1798, the mother in 1803. They had ten children, of whom

Mrs. Kille was the youngest. By her first marriage Mrs. Kille has three children, Nellie, wife of Delmer Kille, of Freedom township; Lee, also of Freedom township; and Benjamin C. at home.

Our subject was formerly an advocate of the the Democracy, but now votes independent of party ties, supporting the men whom he thinks best qualified for office. His wife is a member of the Disciples Church, and both are highly esteemed people who have many warm friends.

T. V. PELTON, of Bloom township, one of the wide-awake and prosperous citizens of that locality, has proved his ability in various lines of business, aside from his chosen calling of agriculture, meeting with success in every undertaking.

He is a native of LaGrange township, Lorain county, born November 15, 1849, a son of Daniel and Eleanor (Helm) Pelton, both of whom were born in New York State. When he was a mere child his parents came to Perry township, and located upon a farm, where he grew to manhood, learning by practical work all the details of farm management. His education was obtained in the "red school house" of his district, No. 4, and the improved educational methods of to-day find in him an earnest friend and supporter. At the age of twenty-two he was married to Miss Cassie A. Mohr, a native of Lehigh county, Penn., born March 15, 1851, a daughter of Henry Mohr, a prominent citizen of Bloom township. He then bought sixty acres of land east of the "home farm," going in debt for it, as he was quite without means. He had accidentally displayed ability as a house painter while a new building was being finished upon his father's farm, and this led to his employment by others; then finding the business profitable, he served a year's apprenticeship in Fostoria, and became a skilled workman. The proceeds from eight years of his labor went toward paying for his farm and its improvements, and Mr. Pelton found himself ready to enlarge his borders; but none of the land adjoining being for sale, he sold out in 1882, and bought eighty acres in Bloom township, going in debt to the extent of \$1,500. This he paid off, and in 1892 he bought seventy-seven acres at \$82 per acre, in Perry township, but adjoining his original purchase. The entire farm is now under cultivation, with fine improvements. Since 1887 Mr. Pelton has been dealing extensively in live stock—buying and shipping for Eastern markets, a business which he engaged in as a boy, displaying even then unusual judgment. When he was

a mere lad his father used to send him to purchase young stock for the farm, and in this way he came to be one of the best judges of cattle in the county.

Mr. and Mrs. Pelton are identified with all movements for the social and religious advancement of the community. They have ten children, all healthy, intelligent and industrious: Emma married Oliver Swartz, of Bloom township, and has two children, Ada and Golda; Scott S. is a resident of Bloomdale; William H., Blanche, Olive, Earl, Edna, Mary, Ina, and Clyde M., are all at home. Mrs. Pelton is a prominent member of the M. E. Church at Bloomdale. In politics Mr. Pelton is a Republican, and he discharges faithfully the duties of a citizen, attending caucuses and conventions in order to help in the selection of competent candidates, although he never seeks office for himself, his private business demanding all his time and attention.

WILLIAM HARDGROVE was born in Washington county, Penn., May 2, 1823, and is a son of John and Margaret (Jackson) Hardgrove. His grandfather, William Hardgrove, was born in Maryland, in 1776, and wedded Mary Crawford. Soon after he removed to Washington county, Penn., where he lived on a farm of 200 acres until his death, which occurred April 26, 1821. His wife died April 25, 1823. Their children were Ruth, wife of John Sloan, a member of Congress; Amassa; Wilson; Margaret; William; Reason; Sallie and John.

The father of our subject was born on the old family homestead in Pennsylvania, March 22, 1793, and there resided for some years after his marriage. He afterward lived for a number of years in Wayne county, Ohio; but, on the death of the grandfather, he returned and took charge of the homestead for a time. His last days, however, were spent in Stark county, Ohio, where he died October 9, 1852. He was a soldier in the war of 1812. His wife died January 15, 1865. Their children were Mary, who was born August 31, 1819, wife of George Archer; Orick J., born January 26, 1821; William; Theodore, born May 16, 1833; Edward, born January 16, 1834; Leila E.; Ann J.; Harriet E., born June 12, 1836; John H., born May 18, 1837, a member of the 76th O. V. I., in which he served for three years during the Civil war; Helen, born June 19, 1838, wife of Eugene Davenport, of Massillon, Ohio.

At the age of nineteen our subject began teaching school, and at the age of twenty-three he left home and formed a partnership with his



T. W. Pelton





brother, Orick J., in the livery stable, blacksmith and repair-shop business, which continued for three years; shortly after this (October 11, 1849) he was married to Miss Judith A. Downs, of Mt. Hope, Holmes Co., Ohio, who was born July 28, 1825, daughter of Curtis and Ann (Hall) Downs, the latter a native of England, and the former of Delaware. They were married in Jefferson county, Ohio, afterward removed to Stark county, Ohio, and later went to Holmes county, where the father died May 2, 1845, and the mother January 26, 1856. Their children were Henry, John, Curtis, George, Samuel, Benjamin, William, Robert, Mrs. Hardgrove and Owens. All are deceased with the exception of the last two—Owens being a resident of Buchanan county, Iowa.

Mr. Hardgrove purchased fifty acres of land in Holmes county, Ohio, on which he located at the time of his marriage. This he sold in 1856, and in the spring of 1857 removed to Knox county, Ohio, whence in 1890 he came to Wood county, and purchased his present farm which he has greatly improved, and has six oil wells upon it. He is a strong advocate of temperance, gives his political support to the Republican party; and is an active member of the Disciples Church, and a teacher in the Sunday-school. Mr. and Mrs. Hardgrove have five children—Margaret, born July 1, 1850, wife of Rev. S. M. Cook, of Liberty township; Curtis, born November 4, 1851, married to Mary Ackerman, of Waterford, Ohio; Clarin, who was born December 9, 1854, and died December 16, 1861; Constance L., born January 8, 1860, wife of Isaac D. Garber, of Liberty township; and William, born March 22, 1864; he married Olive Frederick, and has three children, Esther, Frederick and Curtis.

IRA B. AUSTIN, a leading agriculturist of Webster township, is a native of the Buckeye State, born in Medina county, December 25, 1846. His grandparents, Daniel and Polly (Baker) Austin, were residents of Rochester, Vt., and reared a family of twelve children, among whom was Rufus Austin, our subject's father. He was born March 26, 1816, and had lost both his parents when he was only fourteen years old. At twenty-one he came to Ohio and located in Medina county, where, on December 20, 1842, he was married to Miss Deborah Hurlbutt, a native of Chittenden county, Vt., born September 13, 1816. She was a daughter of John Hurlbutt, a farmer and shoemaker, and his wife, Sarah (Ambler) Hurlbutt. Four children were born to Rufus Austin and his wife: Alvin C.,

born in 1843, a farmer in Freedom township, Wood county; Ira B., our subject; Augusta L., deceased, formerly the wife of Charles V. Black, of Michigan; and Lucien H. who died in infancy. In May, 1850, Mr. Rufus Austin moved with his family to Wood county, and settled upon a farm of 160 acres in Webster township, where he engaged in stock raising. For the last thirteen years he was an invalid; but previous to that time he was an active and prominent worker in all lines of effort. He was a soldier in the Civil war, serving in the 144th O. V. I. In politics he was a Republican, and was school director of his district for twenty-five years, and also had been supervisor and constable. His death occurred August 9, 1896. The subject of this sketch was educated in the district schools of Webster township, and at the Central Ohio Conference Seminary at Maumee. He taught school for seven years in Wood county, and for four years was employed in erecting windmills in this and adjoining counties for a Bowling Green firm; but he now devotes his time to stockraising, and the improvement of a farm of 160 acres near Luckey. He married Miss Lavina E. Fox, who was born August 23, 1846, the daughter of John A. Fox, of Scotch Ridge. She died July 29, 1887, leaving four children: Rufus E., born July 9, 1874; Bertel A., December 14, 1875; Alvin W., January 6, 1880, and Cecil Ray, September 10, 1884.

Mr. Austin has been school director, and member of the board of education in his township, and is a leading worker in the M. E. Church at Luckey, having been a trustee for twenty years, a steward and recording secretary for twenty-eight years, and superintendent of the Sunday-school for several years. He was one of the chief organizers of the Prohibition Society in his county. Since the split in the party at Pittsburg, he has identified himself with the Broad Gauge, or National, party, believing its platform better represents the principles for which he has been contending.

R. C. MINEAR, of Bowling Green, was formerly a successful farmer and stock raiser in Plain township, and is at present the fortunate owner of seven oil wells which have been developed upon his farm. A desire for wider culture for his two children than country life affords, induced him to remove a few years ago to the county seat. He was born in Hancock county, Ohio, March 27, 1853.

On his father's side, Mr. Minear is descended from an old Virginia family. His grandfather,

Isaac Minear, Sr., a native of that State, removed in early life to Indiana, where he died at the age of seventy. His father, Isaac Minear, was born April 20, 1814, in West Virginia, and in 1851 was married in Ohio to Mrs. Mary Harned, whose maiden name was McHarry. She was born in Ireland, November 2, 1817, and in 1823 came to New York with her parents. After their marriage they located first in Hancock county, later in Wood county, where he still resides; the mother died May 3, 1884. Our subject is the eldest of three children: Mary married Frank Lamb, of Center township; Maggie is the wife of J. G. Starn, of Bowling Green. Mr. Minear spent the first eighteen years of his life in Hancock county, where he attended the district school, but after that he was engaged in farming. In 1880 he married Miss Emma Teatsorth, who was born in Hancock county, August 21, 1860. For some years they lived upon the farm in Plain township, where Mr. Minear raised stock and cultivated his land, until the development of the oil industry suggested more profitable employment. The leisure, which his present ample income gives, is well spent, his natural inclination for reading and hearty interest in all the issues of the day, affording him constant enjoyment. The education of his children—Mearl, born May 5, 1884, and Maud, born April 28, 1886—is now his chief care. In politics Mr. Minear is a Republican, and he takes an active part in the work of the organization in this county, although he has never sought office for himself. Since 1887 he has been a member of the I. O. O. F., affiliating with Centennial Lodge No. 626, and Bowling Green Encampment No. 210. He and his wife are prominent among the supporters of the M. E. Church.

Mrs. Minear's grandfather, James Teatsorth, was born in Pennsylvania, and was one of the first settlers in the vicinity of Findlay, Ohio. By occupation he was a miller, and he built the first gristmill at Findlay. He was among the "Forty-niners" who went to California. Two of his sons, James and Abraham, served in the Civil war. Isaac, Mrs. Minear's father, was born May 1, 1830, in Hancock county, Ohio, and, like his father, is a miller, owning his own mill at Findlay. On May 31, 1856, he married Mary Folk, who was born April 3, 1835, in Perry county, Ohio, and they became the parents of seven children—four sons and three daughters—viz.: Elida, wife of Charles Phillips, who is engaged in the oil business in Hancock county; Charles, born August 30, 1858, deceased in infancy; Emma (Mrs. Minear); Sopha, born November 9, 1862,

wife of Luther Worden, a farmer of Hancock county; Henry, born July 4, 1865, deceased August 2, 1880; George W., born August 27, 1873; and Clyde R., born February 14, 1875, deceased January 21, 1891.

**WILLIAM ELDER.** As a representative of the agricultural class, and one who has met with good success in his independent calling, we take pleasure in giving a brief sketch of the gentleman whose name appears at the beginning of this notice. He is pleasantly located on a farm in Section 4, Troy township, where his birth occurred February 6, 1839, and has, therefore, witnessed almost the entire development of the county.

His father, Henry J. Elder, was born in Frederick county, Md., on February 6, 1795, and was a son of Arnold Elder, a native of Baltimore, who spent his entire life in Maryland. He served with distinction in the war of 1812. The father remained in his native State until about nineteen years of age, when he came to this State on foot, making the journey from Frederick county to Bucyrus, Ohio, a distance of over five hundred miles, in eleven days. He joined a surveying party, which was employed in Ottawa, Seneca and Sandusky counties, and became well posted on much of the land in this State. He made his headquarters in Tiffin, and remained with that surveying corps for some years. However, in 1835, he left them and began blacksmithing at Sandusky. In the same year, June 13, Mr. Elder was united in marriage with Miss Harriet Harpster, who was born in Pennsylvania, on April 24, 1813, and their wedding was celebrated at Sandusky, now Fremont, Ohio. Her parents, Christian and Delilah (Markle) Harpster, were also natives of the Keystone State, and became early residents in Franklin county, Ohio. Later they removed to Sandusky county, and at Fremont their deaths occurred.

From Sandusky, Mr. Elder removed to Toledo, Ohio, in 1836; but the same year arrived in this county, where he bought a timbered tract of 139 acres, of John Bates, and there erected a tavern, which he conducted many years. He at once began to clear and improve his place, making his home thereon until his death, which occurred September 18, 1883. He took a prominent part in promoting the interests of Troy township, aided largely in its development, and assisted in advancing its educational facilities, being school director for some time. His first vote was cast for the Whig party, but he later became a stalwart Democrat.

Mrs. Elder still survives her husband, and, of their fourteen children, six are now living. They were as follows: Ephraim, who died in childhood; Mrs. Henrietta White, who died in 1865; Mrs. Mary Buxton, who makes her home in Iowa; Mrs. Sarah Gould, who died in Toledo, Ohio, in April, 1895; William, of this review; Richard, who enlisted in Troy township, in the fall of 1861, becoming a member of Company E, 72nd O. V. I., and was killed at Pittsburg Landing the following year; John, a resident of Perrysburg township, Wood county; Jesse, who died in Troy township, in 1866; Isabel and Arabel, who also died in the same year; George, who makes his home in Perrysburg township; Lucy, who died several years ago; Martha, wife of Fred Gould, of Toledo; and Harriet, who lives in the same city. The mother now finds a pleasant home with our subject.

William Elder has ever devoted himself to agricultural pursuits since large enough to reach the plow-handles and aid in the cultivation of the old homestead. His education was obtained in the district schools of Troy township, and, on laying aside his text books, gave his whole time to clearing and improving the home farm of 129 acres; he owns also a tract of land in Perrysburg township. Politically, he is independent in his views, voting for those measures which he considers will be the most beneficial to the community, without regard to the party favoring them, and he has served his fellow citizens as trustee of Troy township.

LEWIS BOWERS owns a snug farm of forty acres, pleasantly located in Perry township, where he has been operating successfully since 1866. He has brought his land to a high state of cultivation, largely by the labor of his own hands, and is in possession of a comfortable set of farm buildings, to which, each year, he adds something to enhance the beauty and value of his property. A native of Ohio, he was born in Chester township, Knox county, April 10, 1824.

His father, Jesse Bowers, who came from Frederick county, Va., to Knox county, in 1802, was educated for the ministry, and for over twenty years preached for the Methodist Church, traveling on horseback over a large circuit during the pioneer days. In Wheeling, W. Va., he wedded Lydia Grindstaff, a native of Washington county, Penn., and they became the parents of eleven children, five sons and six daughters, namely: Rosanna, who first married Daniel Stone, and is now the widow of Joseph Drake, of Tiffin, Ohio; Abigail, wife of William Rigley, of Kansas; Aman-

da, who married Moses Grindstaff, and died in Licking county, Ohio; Elias, who died in Knox county, Ohio; Martha, who makes her home in Illinois; Jeremiah, of Licking county; Lewis, of this sketch; Mary, who resides in Kansas; Wesley, of Illinois; John N., of Texas; and Philena, wife of Jackson Davis, of Iowa. The parents both died, and were buried in Hartford township, Licking county, the father at the age of seventy-seven, and the mother when sixty-five years. During the latter part of his life, the former had mostly engaged in agricultural pursuits, and, while he was engaged in preaching, his children operated the farm. Previously to the organization of the Republican party, he was a Whig, but afterward affiliated with the former.

The schools which Lewis Bowers attended were mostly taught by teachers hired at fifty cents per week, the parents each agreeing to send so many scholars. He is a warm friend of the public-school system, and does all in his power for the advancement of the cause of education. At the age of seventeen he began learning the shoemaker's trade; but, not liking that occupation, he took up carpentering, which he followed for fifteen years, when he was injured by a saw-log falling upon him. After his marriage he located in Hartford township, Licking Co., Ohio, working on a farm during the summer months, while in the winter he engaged in shoemaking at his own home. Two years later he went to Harlem township, Delaware Co., Ohio, where he leased twenty-five acres. For clearing the land he was to have the use of it for five years. Subsequently he purchased a house and an acre of land in Hartford township, Licking county, where he resided until November 10, 1863, when he arrived in Perry township, Wood county, locating on ten acres of timber land in Section 21, which he cultivated until 1866. In that year he came to his present farm of forty acres, on which he erected his comfortable home, in 1886.

In Delaware county, Ohio, December 22, 1852, Mr. Bowers was united in marriage with Miss Rebecca Bailey, who was born in Licking county, February 26, 1831, and is a daughter of George and Elizabeth (McCartney) Bailey, the former a native of New York, and the latter of Pennsylvania. The father followed farming, and was also a local preacher of the Methodist Church. To our subject and his wife have been born the following children: Victorine, now Mrs. Calvin Brenaman, of Perry township; Lydia, wife of Rev. David Brandeberry, a Methodist minister of Hoytville, Ohio; Anna M., who died at the age of four years; George H., of Plain township,

Wood county; Elizabeth (twin sister of George), who died in infancy; Amanda, now Mrs. Wilson Stearns, of Plain township; and Emma, at home.

The family are all members of the Methodist Church, in which Mr. Bowers has served as superintendent of Sunday-school, and they are prominent in the social circles of the locality. For fifteen years he ably served as supervisor of Perry township, and is deeply interested in the success of the Republican party, of whose past history he is justly proud. He is a man well and favorably known, having the respect of all with whom he comes in contact.

FRANCIS BRENOT, proprietor of twenty-one acres of improved land in Section 34, Ross township, is numbered among the most enterprising citizens of Wood county, and is one of its most substantial farmers. He located here in 1864, and from the uncultivated soil built up a valuable homestead, which will remain as a monument to his industry and enterprise for generations to come. He has been particularly wise in his investments, and possesses excellent business capacity, making the most of his opportunities, and all through the changes of a busy life, and while laboring for his own interests, has in nowise set aside the interests and well-being of the community around him.

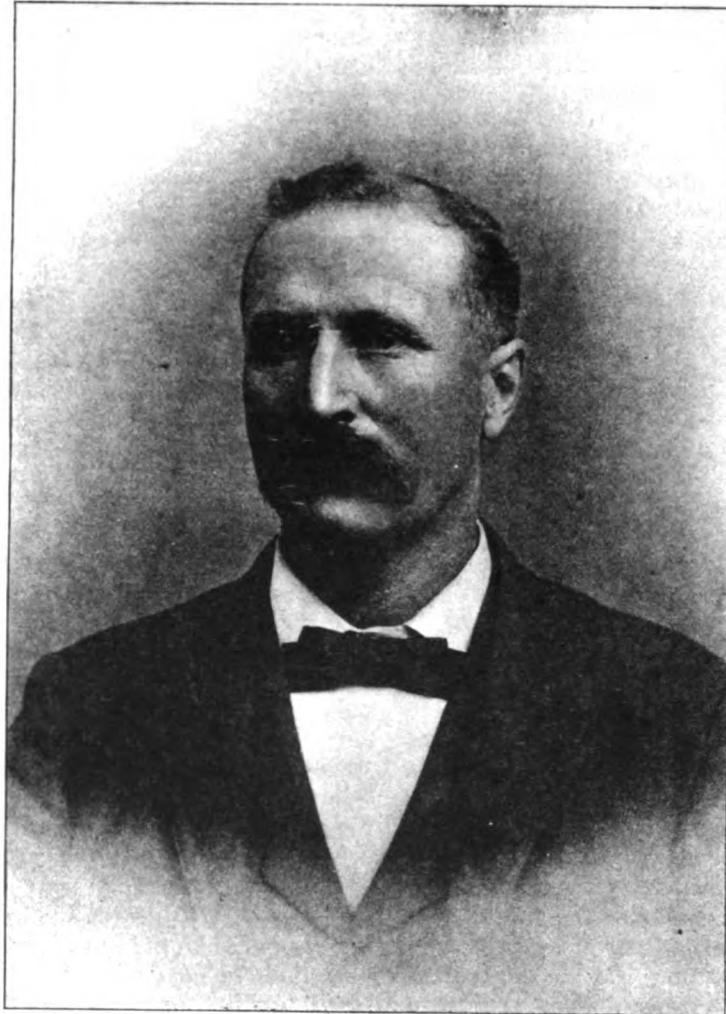
France, who has given so many of her sons to the building up of this country, was the early tramping ground of our subject, and where he was born February 3, 1834. His parents, Frank and Jeanne Claude (Roussy) Brenot, were also natives of France, where the father spent his entire life engaged in farming, but the mother came to America and died in East Toledo, Ohio, in July, 1871. Four of their children also became residents of the United States: Mrs. Mary Martin, who died in Lake township, Wood county; Francis, of this sketch; John, of Blissfield, Mich.; and Philomaine, who died in Wood county. In his native land Francis Brenot was reared and educated, and crossed the Atlantic at the age of nineteen years. He first located in Pennsylvania, where he worked in a sawmill, and in the woods, and later was similarly employed in Wisconsin. In 1861, at East Saginaw, Mich., he enlisted in Company H, 2nd Mich. V. I., for three months, and, on the expiration of that term, re-enlisted in the same company and regiment, for three years. He was mustered into service at Detroit, Mich., as a member of the army of the Potomac, and participated in the following engagements: Blackburn's Ford; siege of Yorktown; Williamsburg;

Fair Oaks; Richmond; Glendale; Malvern Hill; second battle of Bull Run; Chantilly; Frederickburg; Vicksburg; Knoxville, where he received a gunshot wound; Jackson; Blue Springs; Campbell's station; siege of Knoxville, the battle of the Wilderness, and others. At the close of his enlistment he was honorably discharged in July, 1864, at Detroit, Mich., and was mustered out with an army record of which he may be justly proud. From Detroit, soon after his discharge, Mr. Brenot came to Wood county, and has since made his home here. In addition to the farm on which he is now located, he owns another in the same township, comprising 120 acres, 100 of which he has placed under the plow. For about twelve years also, he engaged in the grocery and saloon business in Ross township.

There Mr. Brenot was married, in 1872, to Miss Pauline Ruget, a native of France, born March 20, 1850, and a daughter of Charley and Rosella (Doubet) Ruget, who were also born in France, but at an early day became residents of Michigan. Her father is now deceased, but her mother resides in Blissfield, Mich. Five children have been born to our subject and his wife, namely: Mary, Frank, Charles, Amelia, and Rosy. Mr. Brenot is a solid Democrat, politically, and has served as a member of the school board, while socially he is prominently identified with George Douglas Post, G. A. R. No., 183, of Millbury, Wood county. He is a wide-awake, energetic man, who has the confidence and esteem of all with whom he comes in contact.

DELASCUS MERCER, who for forty-five years has witnessed the development and upbuilding of Wood county, was born October 11, 1849, in Portage township, and is one of the family of ten children born to Daniel and Susan (Roberts) Mercer. He was reared on a farm and educated in the district schools of Portage and Liberty townships. During his boyhood days he assisted in the cultivation of the old home place, and continued under the parental roof until after he had attained his majority.

On March 21, 1870, in Liberty township, Mr. Mercer married Miss Louisa Dongey, the Rev. Wilcot, pastor of the Disciples Church, officiating. She was born in Wood county, October 18, 1849, and is a daughter of Peter F. and Catherine (Doran) Dongey, natives of France, who were married on board the vessel which brought them to America. They located in Liberty township, Wood county, where the father died in September, 1889. The mother is now a resident of Bowling Green. They had a



*Delasus Mercer*



family of eight children: Fred, who died at the age of twenty-two; Julia, wife of H. W. Sterling, of Bowling Green; Mrs. Mercer; Henry, of Bowling Green; Susan, wife of William M. Mercer, of Liberty township; Charles, who died in infancy; George, of Bowling Green, and Charles, of Weston.

Our subject and his wife began housekeeping on a twenty-acre farm in Liberty township which constitutes a part of their present homestead. Mr. Mercer now owns 329 acres of valuable land, all under a high state of cultivation, and in 1890 he replaced the old log cabin home with a large substantial frame residence. There are numerous oil wells on his land, on some of which he receives a one-sixth royalty. Eight children have blessed the union of our subject and his wife, namely: Lewis Henry, who died in infancy; Lucy C., wife of T. J. White, of Mercer county, Penn., who is now preparing for the ministry in Bethany College, West Virginia; Edward H., a pupil in the Angola (Ind.) Academy; Clarence Elmer, Matilda J. and Abraham Garfield, at home; Alda Edith, who died at the age of eight months; and Daniel Floyd, at home. In politics Mr. Mercer is a stalwart Prohibitionist. He has never been an office-seeker, but has, however, served as school director for a number of years. Socially he is a member of the Knights of the Maccabees at Rudolph. He and his wife are earnest supporters of the Disciples Church, and faithfully devoted to the cause of the Master.

GEORGE W. BROWN located in Troy township in 1882, and the following year he removed to his present farm, where he is successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits. He is a native of Wood county, born in Plain township in 1855, and is a son of James and Ann (Brim) Brown, both natives of England. On coming to the New World the father first located in Sandusky county, Ohio, whence he removed to Plain township, where he was numbered among the honored pioneers. He there opened up a farm, but later went to Center township, this county. His death occurred in Henry county, Ohio, and at Liberty Center, that county, his wife still makes her home. Their family consisted of three children—George W., of this review; M. L., of Liberty Center; and Hattie A., now Mrs. W. H. Burke, of Cleveland, Ohio.

The education of our subject was acquired in Plain township, at District No. 1, and at Bowling Green, Ohio. In the spring of 1878 he began teaching in Center township, and later was employed in the same vocation in his home school,

having taught two entire school years and every winter since he began, to the present time. He has been successful in following that profession, and is ranked among the leading teachers of the county.

In 1882, in Troy township, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Brown and Miss Mary L. Hahn, a native of that township, where her father, Valentine Hahn, was one of the early pioneers. To them have been born five children—Arthur A., Allen V., Mabel, Ruby and W. Waldo.

Mr. Brown is a Republican, and socially he holds membership with Centennial Lodge No. 626, I. O. O. F., of Bowling Green, with which he became identified in February, 1879.

L. A. TREPANIER, wholesale grain dealer, of Dunbridge, was born in Lorain county, this State, April 27, 1860. His father, Peter Trepanier, was a native of France, and a teacher of French and English. When he crossed the Atlantic to America, he took up his residence in Lorain county, where he resumed his profession of teaching. In 1858, in New Hampshire, he was united in marriage with Caroline Sawyer, and to them was born one son, Leon A. When the war broke out, the father offered his services to his adopted country as a defender of the Union, and valiantly defended the old flag and the cause it represented.

Mrs. Trepanier afterward removed with her son to Pemberville, Wood county, and Leon first attended school at Scotch Ridge. He began earning his living as a farm hand, and was thus employed for eleven years, when, with the capital he had acquired through his own exertions, he bought a forty-acre farm in Middleton township, which he operated for twelve years. He next engaged in the hardware business, which he carried on for six years, and also conducted a meat market and engaged in shipping stock. In 1892 he organized the Dunbridge Elevator Company, of which he owns a half interest, and is now engaged in making extensive shipments of grain to the East. He is a very energetic and progressive business man, thoroughly reliable, and his reputation in business circles is a spotless one. He has prospered in his undertakings, owing to his good management and energy, and may truly be called a self-made man.

The lady who now bears the name of Mrs. Trepanier was in her maidenhood Libbie Wallace, daughter of John Wallace, a farmer of Middleton township, where she was born in 1862. Five children grace this union—Pearl, Mary,



Edith, Ada and Rosamond. The parents hold membership with the Presbyterian Church, and Mr. Trepanier belongs to Middleton Lodge No. 786, I. O. O. F. In politics he is a Democrat, and is now efficiently serving a second term as justice of the peace.

GEORGE W. SMITH, having spent his entire life in this county, faithfully performing his duties of citizenship, well deserves representation in this history. He was born in Weston township, December 5, 1856. The grandfather was a native of Germany, and the name was originally spelled Schmitt. When a young man he crossed the Atlantic, and was married in this country. Asa Smith, father of our subject, was born in West Virginia, in 1814, and in his early manhood left that State for Wood county, Ohio, becoming one of the pioneer settlers of Weston township. Here he married Nancy McKee, who was of Irish lineage. They located on a farm of eighty acres which he had secured, and there the mother died in 1857. Some years later the father wedded Mariette Ellsworth, a native of Wood county, by whom he had seven children. The children of the first marriage were John, who died at the age of forty-five; Melissa, wife of Solon Davis; Ann, wife of John Bortel, of Milton township; Warren, a member of Company F, 86th O. V. I., who died at Cumberland Gap, Ky., during the war, and was buried by his father, who went South in order to perform that last office; Celia, wife of Benjamin Bortel, of Weston township; and Emma, wife of William Haight, of Ironton, Ohio. The children of the second marriage are Deborah, wife of Silas Barton, of Weston township; Lucinda, wife of Henry Webb, of Toledo; Minnie, wife of R. S. Jenkins, of Weston township; Ida, wife of Daniel Doyle, of Toledo; Hattie, wife of Ralph Poland, of Weston; Asa, of Weston; and Nettie, at home.

Mr. Smith, of this sketch, received meager educational privileges, attending school only through the winter season, for during the summer months his services were needed on the home farm. At the age of sixteen he began working by the day as a farm hand, and since that time has been dependent upon his own resources for a livelihood. By his marriage, which occurred in Weston township, October 20, 1881, he secured, as a companion and helpmeet on life's journey, Miss Wilda Dewese, who was born in Weston township, November 27, 1861, a daughter of Jesse and Ellen Dewese. They have two sons—Clarence, born in October, 1882, and Roy, born November 7, 1888.

At the time of his marriage, Mr. Smith located upon his present farm of 100 acres, which was given him by his maternal grandmother when he was fifteen years of age. In 1884 he replaced the log cabin by a more modern residence. He carries on general farming, and now has a well-improved place. He is industrious and energetic, and his finely-developed farm is evidence of his careful supervision. His political support is given to the Republican party, but his entire attention is devoted to agricultural interests.

B. M. CRANDALL, a leading and enterprising farmer of Lake township, residing in Section 8, was born in Jay, Orleans Co., Vt., October 12, 1843, and is a son of Adna and Anna (Sanborn) Crandall. His father, who was a native of New Hampshire, in early life went to Jay, Vt., where he was married, and there his death occurred. The mother also died in the Green Mountain State. Our subject was the fifth in order of birth in their family of five children, four sons and one daughter, the others being George, Mary and Ebenezer, deceased; and S. O., who resides in Ross township, Wood county.

Mr. Crandall, whose name introduces this sketch, in his youth received a fair education in the schools of Vermont, and remained under the parental roof until 1862, when he left home, going to Oregon township, Lucas Co., Ohio. The following year he laid aside personal plans and interests to aid in the defense of his country, becoming a member of Company C, 3rd O. V. V. C., and joined his regiment at Nashville, Tenn. He participated in the battle of Selma, Ala., and remained with that command until the close of the war, when he was honorably discharged and returned to Lucas county, where he engaged in farming.

In Lake township, Wood Co., in 1874 Mr. Crandall was united in marriage with Miss Minnie Craine, and to them have been born four children, namely: Thomas B., Ethel J., Ernest R., and Bernice M. Our subject took his bride to his present fine farm of forty acres, which he now has under a high state of cultivation, and well improved with good buildings. His first vote was cast while in the army, since which time he has always been a stalwart Republican, and holds membership with the G. A. R., Post No. 14, of Toledo, Ohio. He has never tasted liquor, or smoked or chewed tobacco, but has never taken a pledge, and his exemplary life wins him the friendship and high regard of all with whom he comes in contact, either in a social or business way.

**WILLIAM S. DUESLER** is numbered among the worthy citizens that the Empire State has furnished to Ohio. He was born in Yates county, N. Y., June 5, 1843, and is a son of George and Ellen M. (Schenck) Duesler. The father learned the trades of wood turning and blacksmithing in early life, and for many years followed those pursuits. About fifteen years after his marriage he removed with his family to Michigan, locating on a farm which his sons operated, while he carried on his trade. After two years he came to Ohio, and purchased eighty acres of land in Seneca county, where he remained for several years. There the mother died. The father has since married Rachel McEwen, and is now living retired in Republic, Ohio. The children of the first marriage are as follows: John J., now of Kansas, was a soldier in Company A, 55th O. V. I., and lost his right arm at the battle of Chancellorsville; Miles belonged to the same company, was wounded in the same battle, and was then taken to a Rebel hospital, was paroled, and returned to Annapolis, Md., where he died of his wounds; Jane A. is the wife of F. C. Everett, of Crawford county, Ohio; William S. is the next younger; Sarah is the wife of J. A. Colwell, of Republic, Ohio. The children of the second marriage are Maria, wife of Jonathan Witter, of Republic; and George H., of Lafayette, Indiana.

William S. Duesler spent the greater part of his boyhood days in Seneca county, and attended the common schools until the age of twenty. At that time he enlisted, September 20, 1861, as a member of Company I, 9th O. V. C., and in the spring went with his regiment to the front, participating in the battle of Waynesboro, the Atlanta campaign, and all the engagements of Sherman's command until the close of the war, receiving an honorable discharge at Lexington, N. C., July 20, 1865.

Mr. Duesler at once returned home, and was married November 28, 1865, to Mary E. Hoover, a native of Seneca county. Four years later they removed to Kansas where Mr. Duesler took up a soldier's homestead of 160 acres, on which he lived for two years. He then returned to Seneca county, and operated his father's farm until 1870, when he traded his property in Kansas for sixty acres of land in Henry township, Wood county, where he lived until 1880. He has since resided at his present home, where he owns forty acres of land that is now a well-improved tract.

Here Mrs. Duesler died November 14, 1894. In the family were eight children—Alice I., born June 3, 1867, is the wife of John R. Bateson, of

Six Points, Wood county; Miles U., born January 15, 1869, is the husband of Nina Walls, and lives in Liberty; Harry C., born March 27, 1871, is at home; Julia E., born June 16, 1874, is the wife of J. Bennard, of Liberty; Effie Pearl, born November 29, 1876, died March 12, 1878; Oliver W., born March 14, 1880, died October 18, 1882; Loyd, and Floyd, twins, born September 1, 1883, are at home. Mr. Duesler was again married, May 9, 1895, this second union being with Miss Elizabeth (Caris) Drummond, who was born in Crawford county, Ohio, in 1855, a daughter of William and Catherine (Heckard) Caris. The father was born in Ohio, the mother in Pennsylvania, and in 1867 they came to Wood county, locating in Portage township, where they now reside on a farm of sixty-seven acres. Their children were Eliza; Daniel, deceased; Anna, who died in infancy; Mrs. Duesler; Oliver, who died at the age of four years; Philip; Susan and Jennie.

In politics, Mr. Duesler is a stalwart Prohibitionist, but takes no active part in politics aside from casting his ballot. He and his wife are members of the United Brethren Church. He started out in life a poor boy, but has steadily and persistently worked his way upward, and through his own efforts has acquired a comfortable competence.

**THOMAS J. HENRY** is a native of Perry township, where he was born December 27, 1845. His father, Hosea Henry, was born in New Hampshire in 1809, and was the son of Benjamin, who moved to New York when a child. Hosea was reared a farmer's boy, and attended the district schools of his time. When a young man he came to Wood county, and located in Section 8, Perry township, which was then heavily wooded. Mr. Henry helped to cut the roads around West Millgrove, which was at that time covered with trees. He was married in Montgomery township May 16, 1840, by Guy Morgan, J. P., to Miss Nancy Smith, who was born in East Union township, Wayne county, August 13, 1821. She was the daughter of Charles and Elizabeth (Witherspoon) Smith.

Mr. Smith came from Pennsylvania in an early day to Wayne county, and in about 1836 settled in Montgomery township, where he had entered 160 acres of land the fall before, built a log house, with puncheon floor and clapboard roof.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry went to housekeeping on his eighty acres of land in Section 8, Perry township, in a small log house, which was rudely

furnished with primitive furniture. Their children were: Orrin, living at Bowling Green; Sarah J., died young; Charles A., a physician of Fostoria; Thomas J., our subject; Lorinda, the wife of James Lusk, and who died in Perry; Perry, a resident of West Millgrove; Silas, died in infancy; Winfield, died while young; and Alice, married to Dr. D. O. Fruth, of Chicago, Ill. Mr. Henry was a Whig and a Republican, and, although no office-seeker, was a staunch supporter of his party. He had always followed the occupation of a farmer, and his last farm, on which his widow now lives, was started in the woods, which was cleared away by him and his sons. He was a self-made man in the fullest sense of the word, spent an active, busy life, and died March 17, 1883, in the house now occupied by his family.

Our subject spent his time in school and upon the farm until August 27, 1862, when he enlisted in Company I, 111th Regiment, O. V. I., under Capt. Yeager. The regiment's first fight took place at Perryville, Ky. Mr. Henry stayed with the regiment, participating in all the fights until December, 1862, when he was taken ill with measles, and confined three months in the Louisville (Ky.) and New Albany (Ind.) hospitals. He joined his regiment in the spring of 1863, at Bowling Green, and remained with it until January, 1865; was laid up with fever at Nashville, Jeffersonville, Ind., and Camp Dennison, Ohio, and was sent home on a furlough. He returned to Camp Dennison, but never got nearer to the field of action, as the war closed. He was discharged June 26, 1865, and returned home. He was employed by his father on the home farm, and for nearly two years worked in a sawmill in the western part of Wood county. Two years more were spent in a grocery store in Fostoria, and then he again went to the home place, and has been living there continuously ever since. Being the eldest boy at home, and his father's health failing, he was given charge of the farm, and has managed it in a most competent manner.

Mr. Henry is a Republican in politics, and cast his first vote for Brough, for Governor of Ohio. He is one of the staunchest members of the party, and was for nine years trustee of Perry township; and in the spring of 1895 was elected its justice of the peace. He is a charter member of Odd Fellows Lodge No. 646, at Prairie Depot, and also of Conley Post, G. A. R., at West Millgrove, and Lodge No. 446, K. of P., at the same place. On January 10, 1870, Mr. Henry was united in marriage with Miss Hattie Bosler, daughter of Tobias Bosler, and a native of Penn-

sylvania. She departed this life May 6, 1892, and is buried at West Millgrove. One son was born to this couple, John M., August 14, 1874; he attends school at Fostoria.

Mr. Henry was married March 19, 1896, to Miss Alice Albert, daughter of John Albert, of Fostoria. Our subject is a popular, well-to-do citizen of Perry, and has a host of friends. He is well posted on the current events of the day, being fond of reading, and is a pleasant and interesting companion.

JAMES E. HUMMEL, proprietor of a general mercantile establishment at Wingston, has a well-equipped store, containing a large and carefully selected stock, and the public accords him a liberal patronage. His earnest endeavor to please his patrons, and his honorable dealing, have enabled him to build up a good business, and he occupies an enviable position in social circles.

Mr. Hummel was born in Sandusky county, Ohio, August 30, 1846, and is a son of John and Mary A. (Ellsworth) Hummel, the latter of whom was born in Painesville, N. Y., in 1823. The father was born in Germany, in 1820, and came to the United States with his parents when seven years of age. They located first in Columbiana county, Ohio, subsequently removing to Jackson township, Sandusky county, where the grandfather died. John Hummel was there reared and educated, and after his marriage located in Scott township, where his death occurred in 1886. His widow is still living. Their children were James E.; George W., a farmer of Arkansas; Lorenzo D., of Sandusky county; Matilda, wife of Wesley Smith, of Seneca county; Margaret M., widow of John Michaels; Albert F., of Seneca county; Mary E., of Fostoria, Ohio; and Alonzo, of Seneca county.

Mr. Hummel, the subject proper of this review, was early inured to the arduous labor of developing a new farm, and at the age of seventeen he started out in life for himself, working as a farm hand until he had attained his majority, after which he operated the old homestead for three years. Subsequently he rented a farm for a year, and then removed to Michigan, where he aided in laying out the town of Freeport. A year later he returned to Sandusky, county, Ohio, where he bought twenty acres of land, making his home thereon four years, and on April 12, 1876, he came to Liberty township, trading his farm for thirty acres here. In April, 1877, he went to Milton township, and two years later to Portage township, where he lived three years. In the



*J. E. Hummel*



*Christina Hummel*



spring of 1882, he embarked in merchandising in Wingston, and in the spring of 1891, he erected his present store. He build his home in the spring of 1882, and in addition to this property he owns a forty-acre farm in Henry township, and 112 acres of land in Sandusky county. He has an eighty-acre oil farm in Section 33, Liberty township, containing seven oil wells, and twenty-two acres of land in Section 29, Liberty township, whereon stands his fine home.

Mr. Hummel was married, September 12, 1869, in Sandusky county, to Christena Riegler, who was born December 25, 1851, a daughter of John G. and Mary (Stohl) Riegler, natives of Germany, who were married in Holmes county, Ohio, and died in Sandusky county. Mr. and Mrs. Hummel have three children: Laura, wife of George Brink, of Liberty township; Mary E., wife of John Gilger, of Liberty township; and Dolly M., at home. In politics Mr. Hummel is a Republican, and he served as justice of the peace for one term. He is a man of excellent business and executive ability, and has been the architect of his own fortunes. In manner he is genial and courteous, traits which make him very popular. Socially, he is a member of Subordinate Lodge No. 598, I. O. O. F., at Milton Center, with which he united in 1892, and also of the Encampment; and he is a most valuable and active member of Wingston Lodge No. 553, K. of P., which was instituted March 25, 1892, mainly through his instrumentality. He secured the first sixteen names to the charter list, which comprises thirty-five names, was first chancellor commander, and has filled nearly all the offices in the lodge, which now has more than seventy members in good standing.

JOHN A. TODD, one of the industrious and enterprising farmers of Portage township, was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, August 29, 1855, and is the ninth in order of birth in the family of thirteen children of Andrew and Mary (McCullough) Todd, both natives of Pennsylvania, but who departed this life in Columbiana county. As his parents were in limited circumstances, the educational advantages afforded our subject were quite limited, but his training at farm labor was not so meager. As soon as he was old enough he was put to work, and, until he reached the age of twenty-two, his earnings went toward the support of the family. In September, 1876, he left his native county, coming to Weston, Wood county, where his uncle, Michael B. Todd, was living. It was his intention to make only a visit; but he began work as a farm hand for his uncle,

and later was employed by others in the same capacity. Returning to Columbiana county, he there remained for a few months, but since that time he has made his home in Wood county.

In Portage township, in March, 1880, Mr. Todd married Miss Anna Miller, of Seneca county, Ohio, and a daughter of A. B. Miller, now of Jerry City, Ohio. He rented land in Portage township, and later in Center and Montgomery townships, where he also engaged in teaming, then returning to Portage township. After renting a farm for five years in Liberty township, he removed to the Coffinberry farm, where he yet lives, owning forty acres of as good land as can be found in Portage township. When he came to this county he had but six dollars, and for the first three years was ill a great deal of the time with ague. Notwithstanding these difficulties he has succeeded in securing a good property, all the result of his own toil and energy.

On February 4, 1893, Mr. Todd was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who was laid to rest in Portage cemetery. To them had been born five children—Berdell, Charles and Elva, at home; Pearlie, who died August 18, 1889, and Elmer, who died in infancy. The lady who now bears the name of Mrs. Todd was, in her maidenhood, Miss Lizzie Sells, daughter of Jerry Sells. She has many friends in this community, and is a consistent member of the Disciples Church. Besides general farming, Mr. Todd is also extensively engaged in teaming, which business adds materially to his income. His straightforward, honorable life has gained him the confidence of all. Socially, he belongs to Whitney Lodge, No. 589, I. O. O. F., of Portage, and his political interests are with the Democratic party.

DENNIS O'LEARY, a worthy representative of one of the honored pioneer families of the county, resides in Section 29, Lake township, where his birth took place in 1846 at the home of his parents, John and Ellen (McCarty) O'Leary, both natives of Ireland. When about eighteen years of age, the father left the Emerald Isle on a sailing vessel, which dropped anchor in the harbor of New York after a voyage of seven weeks. After remaining in that city for a short time, he went to Georgia, where he was employed on public works until 1835, when he secured a position with a railroad. The next year, however, he came to Maumee, Ohio, where he worked on the Maumee canal; but the following winter was again spent in railroading in Georgia, and on his return to Maumee, he resumed work on the canal. He was also employed on

the National pike, until it was nearly completed, during which time he was married at Detroit, Mich. He became one of the first settlers of Lake township, Wood county, where he secured eighty acres of government land, to which he later added another eighty-acre tract, covered with a dense growth of trees, and not even a road had been laid out to the place. It was about 1842 when he located upon his land, his first home being a log cabin, but he went earnestly to work, and soon acre after acre was placed under the plow. He became quite well and favorably known throughout the county, and was serving as trustee of his township (which office he filled for three years) at the time of his death. His political support was given the Democratic party, and religiously he was a member of the Roman Catholic Church at Maumee. He was an excellent walker, often going to church and back on foot, and in his younger years would walk from near Perrysburg to Wilkinson; Ohio, where he would do a day's harvesting for fifty cents, and then return home at night. His death occurred in 1883, upon the old home farm, where his widow still resides. Six of their nine children are yet living, namely: Mary, at home; Dennis, subject of this sketch; John, Johanna and Ellen, all at home; and Dan, a resident of Mercer county, Ohio.

Dennis O'Leary was reared upon the old homestead, and obtained his education in the district schools of Lake township. On leaving the parental roof, in 1868, he went to Iowa, locating in the city of Tama, Tama county, where he was employed for two years at the carpenter's trade, after which he returned to Wood county, and has since been numbered among its most energetic and progressive farmers.

In 1873 Mr. O'Leary was united in marriage with Miss Eliza Ludington, a native of England, and a daughter of William F. and Susan (Cornwall) Ludington. Since the death of her father, her mother has become the wife of Dr. Buckland, of Stony Ridge, Ohio. Four children have been born to our subject and his wife: Mary, wife of Sydney Weaver, of Lake township; John; William; and Edward.

In politics, Mr. O'Leary is a stalwart Democrat, has served as a member of the school board, and since April, 1893, has been trustee of his township. He holds membership with the Roman Catholic Church of Perrysburg, Ohio, and is largely interested in any movement that is for the improvement of the township and county, or that will elevate and benefit the people among whom he lives.

THOMAS SHINEW, one of the successful, progressive farmers of Portage township, was born October 2, 1851, in Montgomery township, and is the eldest son of Dennis and Catherine (Gunder) Shinew.

Our subject was the son of poor parents, and he was obliged to spend his younger days hard at work on the farm. His schooling was greatly neglected, as he was able to attend only a few weeks each winter. He served an apprenticeship in farming under his father's instructions, and remained on the home farm until he was twenty-one years old, up to which time he had never had \$2 at one time that he could call his own. He started to work for his uncle, receiving seventy-five cents a day. He earned \$9, with which he bought a pair of boots and a pair of trousers.

On April 3, 1876, he married, in Center township, Miss Sarah Nelson, a native of Hancock county, and a daughter of William Nelson. At this time Mr. Shinew had saved \$800 from his earnings, and with this he rented land in Portage, and lived there until he bought fifty-six acres in Section 3, of that township, from Noah Helm, for which he went heavily in debt. Later he sold this land and bought elsewhere. He took a contract for ditching, and made considerable money. About 1888 he moved to Section 8, Portage township, where he now resides, buying land at different times, until at present he has 247 acres. In 1891 he built one of the finest barns in the township. To Mr. and Mrs. Shinew have been born these children: Mary, William, Dennis, George, Isaac, Lester, Verna, and Thomas. All are living but Dennis.

Our subject is a staunch supporter of the Democratic party, and has always been a hard worker for its success. Although not an office seeker, he has been elected constable of Portage township. He is well posted on all the political issues, and his influence in this field has been keenly felt by both friend and foe. He is an active and devout member of the Christian Union, and belongs to the Clover Dale class. As a farmer Mr. Shinew has probably few equals in Portage township for thrift and industry. An excellent manager and hard worker, his present position among the foremost of Portage township's farmers is secure.

Dennis Shinew, father of our subject, was born in Canton Fribourg, Switzerland, about 1828. When he was seven years old he was brought by his parents to the United States, who located in Columbus, Ohio; about 1840 they came to Wood county, and Mr. Shinew bought eighty acres of land in Section 12, in Portage township. Here he erected a log house, with its

stick chimney and puncheon floor. He died after four years' residence in Wood county. Mrs. Shinew lived to be eighty years old. When sixteen years old Dennis left home, and went to work for a farmer for fifty cents a day. January 8, 1850, he was married to Miss Catherine Gunder, who was born in Harrisburg, Penn., September 16, 1834, and was a daughter of Isaac Gunder. Mr. Dennis Shinew bought land in Montgomery township, for which he went in debt, and in March came to Section 9, Portage township, and bought seventy-seven acres, on which he lives at present. To him and his wife have been born these children: Thomas, our subject; Isaac, a farmer of Portage; George, also of Portage; Ellen, now Mrs. James Nelson, of Wood county; Eliza, who died in infancy; Susan, at home; Matilda, who married George Neirnberger, of Portage township; Frank D., living on a farm in Portage. Mr. Shinew is a Democrat, but is not an office seeker, and is not bound by party ties. He is a member of the German Baptist Church. He is a self-made man, and one whose success has been won by hard work. In 1877 he built one of the most substantial brick residences in the township, which has often been a rendezvous for travelers, who would make it a point to go there for meals and lodgings, with which they were always accommodated. Mr. Shinew has retired from active life, and is at present enjoying the fruits of his early labors.

ELISHA M. HOLDEN, the pioneer blacksmith of Webster township, was born March 22, 1840, in Onedia county, N. Y. His father, Joseph Holden, a native of England, came to America at the age of eighteen, and engaged in agriculture in Pennsylvania. He married Miss Catherine Dopp, of Pennsylvania, and had ten children: Elijah, a farmer in Michigan; Elisha M., our subject; Eliza, deceased; William, a farmer in Michigan; Thomas, a resident of Findlay; Hattie, the wife of George Chamberlain; Tressia, the wife of Edward Bonesteel; Mary, now Mrs. Leroy Allen; Joseph, who died in the army; and one who died in infancy. Our subject's parents moved to Lorain county, Ohio, some years after their marriage, and his father died there in 1854, his wife surviving him twenty-five years.

Mr. Holden attended the schools of Columbia township, Lorain county, during boyhood and assisted his father upon the farm. In 1862 he enlisted in Company A, 124th O. V. I. (Col. O. H. Paine commanding). He served nine months as a blacksmith in the army, and took part in the battles of Chickamauga, Tun-

nel Hill, Rocky Face, Buzzard's Roost, Resaca, (where he was shot through the face), and many skirmishes. He received his discharge at Louisville, Ky., in 1864, and on returning home settled in Webster township, Wood county, and was for some years the only blacksmith in the township. In addition to carrying on his trade for the last thirty years, he has improved and cultivated a farm of ninety-four acres near Luckey, on which he has a fine modern barn, and a house costing \$1,000. He was married, in 1866, in Cleveland, Ohio, to Miss Harriet Clague, who was born in Brooklyn, Cuyahoga county, March 27, 1836. She died in 1867, and in December, 1870, Mr. Holden married her sister, Miss Ellen Clague. Three children were born to this union: Irvin E., July 11, 1875; Mary E., May 11, 1877; and Frank, June 1, 1883.

An energetic and enterprising business man, Mr. Holden still finds some time to give to the interests of the community, where his integrity and good judgment are highly appreciated. He has been school director, township trustee, and justice of the peace, and as an active worker in the M. E. Church he has held every office in the Church. He belongs to the G. A. R., Benedict Post, of Pemberville, of the I. O. G. T., and the P. of I., of which he has been president and secretary.

WILLIAM H. ROGERS is one of the leading and enterprising farmers of Lake township, having a pleasant home in Section 22, where he located in 1868, purchasing at that time a wooded tract of thirty acres, which he has since cleared and placed under a high state of cultivation. He was born in Cornwall, England, in 1848, and is the son of William and Margaret (Baker) Rogers, also natives of that county, where the mother died in 1862. The father brought his family to America two years later, and after living for a time in Lorain county, Ohio, came to Lake township, Wood county, in 1866, where he purchased eighty acres of land, on which he and his present wife, who bore the maiden name of Mary Hancock, are still living. On coming to the New World he was accompanied by four children—William H., of this sketch; Maria, who died in Sylvania, Ohio, in 1893; Richard, a resident of Bloomdale, Ohio; and Mrs. Ellen Tiplady, of Lake township.

The education of our subject, which was begun in Cornwall, England, was completed in the schools of Pittsfield township, Lorain county, and he there followed agricultural pursuits until he became a permanent resident of Lake town-



ship, in 1868. He was united in marriage in Lorain county with Miss Alice Ophelia Fauver, who was there born to Alonzo and Emeline R. (Kibby) Fauver, natives of Vermont, who became early settlers of Eaton township, that county. Nine children were born to this union—Jesse, at home; Tillie, now Mrs. Adkins, of Toledo, Ohio; Edwin, Charles, Judson, Louisa, Ross and Roy (twins), and Flora. Politically, Mr. Rogers is a staunch Republican; socially, he belongs to the Knights of the Maccabees, Lodge No. 244, at Millbury; and, religiously, he holds membership with the Evangelical Association Church of that place. He has been prominently identified with the improvement and advancement of Lake township since his location here.

**CONRAD SIELING.** Among the most worthy and substantial citizens of our country are to be found those of German birth or extraction, whose thrifty habits and untiring industry find, in this land of freedom and equality, a sure and speedy reward.

The prosperous farmer, whose name opens this sketch, is the youngest of ten children born to his parents, Christopher and Elanora Sieling, and is a native of Prussia, where his birth took place August 16, 1838. His father was a farmer in the old country, and, on coming to America in 1849, found his way to Wood county, Ohio, where he settled on a farm on the pike, near Perrysburg. This was his home for the few remaining years of his life, he dying in 1855. The mother afterward resided with our subject until her death in August, 1869. They were members of the Lutheran Church, and most worthy people. They were the parents of the following children: Diederich, Frederick, Sophia, Henry, Lazata, Christie, Christopher, Caroline, Louise, and Conrad (our subject).

Conrad Sieling was a lad of ten years when his parents emigrated to the United States, and was reared upon the home farm, attending school at Perrysburg, and assisting his father when not engaged in his studies. In 1862 he was married to Miss Mary Winters, who was born in Westphalia, Germany, March 5, 1840. Eleven children have come to bless this union, namely: (1) Louisa, who is the wife of Henry Schramm, and has three children, John, Emma and Clara; they reside in Perry township. (2) Mary, married John Schramm, and has two children, William and Louis. (3) Caroline married Jacob Schramm, and has three children, Oscar, Albert and Marten. (4) Christopher is a farmer, and married Delia Limmer; they have one child named Merl. (5) Henry,

(6) Dora, (7) Sarah, (8) Marguerite, (9) Fred, are all unmarried and at home. (10) Ella, died when an infant of seven months. (11) Conrad was drowned by falling into a cistern.

Mr. Sieling has a good farm of 103 acres, where he carries on general farming. He is an industrious man, attends strictly to his business, and has been prospered accordingly. In politics he is a Republican, and is at present a township trustee, to which office he was elected two years ago. He held the same position for two terms some twelve years ago, and is considered an excellent man for the place. He and his wife are members of the Lutheran Church, in which they are active workers.

**THOMAS CLAGUE,** a leading agriculturist of Webster township, was born near Brooklyn, Ohio, June 15, 1838. His father, James Clague, was born on the Isle of Man, in 1802, and was married to Miss Mary Collister, also a native of the Isle of Man. Soon after their marriage, they settled on a farm in Cuyahoga county, Ohio, and he died at his homestead in 1873. His widow still survives him.

Mr. Clague was educated in the district schools near his early home, and later attended Berea College, in Berea, Ohio. He remained upon his father's farm until the age of twenty-two, when he enlisted in Company E, 65th O. V. I. (Capt. H. M. Whitbeck and Col. C. G. Harker, commanding). He spent four years and four months in the service, taking part in a number of battles, notably the engagements at Stone River; Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Rocky Fall, Resaca, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta, and Spring Hill, receiving at the latter place a bullet wound in the head. In 1865 he was discharged at Victoria, Texas, and after his return home he came to Webster township, and, in partnership with his brother Henry, erected a sawmill which they operated for eighteen years. In 1866 they bought 300 acres of wild land near Fenton, which they cleared and improved until it is now one of the best farms in the township. Mr. Clague was married in November, 1870, to Miss Eva Pugh, and has three children—Edith is now teaching in Wood county, Ohio; and Clara and Herbert, are at home.

Mrs. Clague was the daughter of the late David W. Pugh, who was born in Perry county, Ohio, in 1810, a son of David and Jennie (Brown) Pugh. He came to Wood county in 1855, and bought 150 acres of land in Plain township, where he spent the remainder of his life. May 1, 1834, he was married in Perry county, to Miss

Jane Higgins, a native of Pennsylvania, born May 25, 1812. She was the daughter of James and Mary (McClellan) Higgins. Mrs. Clague, born July 14, 1851, is one of eight children. Mr. Pugh was a prominent citizen, a Whig in politics, and an elder in the Presbyterian Church. He died October 21, 1857, and his widow married William Gorrill, of Plain township, who died in 1877. Mrs. Gorrill now resides in Bowling Green.

Mr. Clague is an enterprising and clear-headed business man, and his genial disposition wins and keeps for him the friendship of a wide circle of acquaintances. He votes the Republican ticket; belongs to the I. O. O. F., Centennial Lodge of Bowling Green, and to the G. A. R., Benedict Post, of Pemberville. He and his wife are prominent members of the M. E. Church of Luckey.

M. H. ELLIOTT is an honored and well-known resident of Bloom township. A native of Ohio, he was born at Fostoria, Seneca county, March 15, 1855, to David M. and Lydia Ann Elliott; but when an infant his mother died, thus leaving him destitute of the best friend on earth. So with no one to caress and cherish him, humor or pet him, he grew to be eleven years of age in Fostoria, where he enjoyed all the educational privileges accorded to any of the boys. Though he attended the old Stevens school, one mile southeast of Fostoria, he did not take the interest he would have taken, or that he was talented to take, had he had a mother to advise and aid him. He displayed remarkable tact in drawing, and has still some pen sketches of large animals.

At the age of eleven years Mr. Elliott accompanied his father to Bloom township, Wood county, where the latter purchased forty acres of unimproved land in Section 21. Our subject then became a student in the old Baird Chapel School, where he remained until nineteen years of age. He continued to work on the home farm, or was employed at various occupations in the neighborhood, until 1879, when the effect of his younger life appeared, and he was consumed with a desire to see the world. He went first to Ionia, Mich., where he was employed in a saw and planing mill, after which he traveled through the West, the last winter of his stay being passed at Salina, Kans. In 1889, he returned to his native State, and has since made his home in Wood county. On March 13, of the same year, Mr. Elliott was united in marriage with Miss Josephine Jennings, of Putnam county, Ohio, and they have one child, Ollie Frances, born December 18, 1894. For one year Mr. Elliott lived

upon the old homestead, and then purchased the J. A. Bailey farm at Bloom Center for an investment. After residing thereon for a short time, he sold the place at a profit of \$2,100 and purchased the G. R. Santemeyer farm, directly north of Bairdstown, with a view of finding oil. The first well drilled produced sixty barrels per day, and the second, five hundred. Notwithstanding this luck, he has not laid aside active labor, but is engaged in teaming, though the income derived therefrom is insignificant compared to what he received from his oil. He has a comfortable home, supplied with every necessity, and many of the luxuries of life. Though not taking an active part in political affairs, he loyally gives his allegiance to the Republican party, and socially he is a prominent member of the I. O. O. F. Lodge at Bloomdale.

ISAAC GIDDINGS, one of the numerous self-made men who are prominently identified with the farming interests of Wood county, resides in Troy township. He comes from across the sea, his birth having occurred in March, Cambridgeshire, England, on December 11, 1835, and is a son of Thomas and Ann (Setchfield) Giddings. The father engaged in farming and at general labor in England until his death, which occurred October 15, 1856, and there his wife also died about 1868. Of their family of nine children three are still living, namely: James, and Mrs. Sarah Ann Haile, both of London, England; and Isaac, of this sketch. The last named was reared to manhood in Cambridgeshire, obtaining his education in the schools of March, and at the age of twenty-two went to London, where he remained until coming to America. Hearing of the splendid opportunities offered young men in the New World, he resolved to cast his lot on this side of the Atlantic, and on April 30, 1869, he landed at New York, whence he came direct to Wood county, arriving here on May 3.

Mr. Giddings had, in the meantime, formed matrimonial ties, being married June 6, 1857, to Miss Frances Gainer, the wedding taking place in Ely, Cambridgeshire, where she was born. Her parents, James and Elizabeth (Muett) Gainer, were both natives of Ely, where their death occurred, the mother dying in 1867, and the father in 1875. They reared a family of five children, who still survive, all residents of Ely, England, with the exception of Mrs. Giddings, who is the third in order of birth. They are Amos, Charley, Mrs. Sarah Huckle and Mrs. Eliza Miller.

On his arrival in Troy township, Mr. Giddings located on the Ridge, near the "Empire House,"

and was engaged at day labor, the first money he received being \$5, that he earned on the farm which is now his home. For two years he resided at that place; in 1870 he began work for H. L. Wood, and in April, 1873, took charge of the tollgate, being thus employed for six years. In March, 1879, he purchased his farm, which comprises thirty-five acres of fertile and highly cultivated land.

For twenty-seven years, Mr. and Mrs. Giddings have made their home within the borders of Troy township, and they are numbered among its most highly respected citizens, taking an active interest in everything for the good of the community. They have no children of their own, but have an adopted son, John Thomas. They hold membership with the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which Mr. Giddings is now serving as one of the trustees. Politically, he is a supporter of the principles of the Republican party.

JOHN RUDOLPH, one of the pioneer settlers of Washington township, was born in Germany, on May 21, 1827, a son of Conrad and Barbara Rudolph. In 1867 he decided to leave his native land with the hope of bettering his financial condition. He took passage at Bremen, and after a tedious voyage on the steamer "Bremen," landed safely at New York. He came at once to Hull Prairie, Wood county, where for a year he worked by the day. On the expiration of that time he purchased ten acres of wild land, entirely unimproved, and to which no roads had been cut. After clearing that tract he disposed of the same, and bought twenty acres, to which he has since added a like amount. This he has tiled and ditched, and now has an arable and productive farm on which stands a good frame residence, erected at a cost of \$1,200, and a barn built at a cost of \$500. At the time of his arrival wild game was still found in abundance, including turkeys and deer, and most of the land was still in its primitive condition; but he has lived to witness a great transformation in this section, as the county now ranks among the most highly cultivated and improved in the State.

On December 20, 1858, in his native land, Mr. Rudolph had married Anna Elizabeth Bikel, who was born in the little village of Hausen, Germany, and they became the parents of nine children, but only one now survives—Gust, whose birth occurred August 10, 1864. He came with his parents to the New World in 1867, and in the district schools of Wood county pursued his literary studies. He was married April 13, 1893, Anna Schutzberg becoming his wife, but she has

now passed away, having died of consumption on June 2, 1895, aged twenty-seven years and twenty-seven days. Her remains rest in the Union Hill cemetery. The son, in connection with his father, operates their fine farm of sixty acres, and they are meeting with a well-deserved success. In politics they are stalwart Democrats, and in religious belief are Lutherans, attending the Church of that denomination in Haskins. They are worthy, respected members of society, and have many friends in the community who hold them in high regard.

MOSES B. WALTERS has demonstrated in his life the fact that success is not the result of fortunate circumstances or the aid of influential friends, but may be achieved through earnest and persistent purpose, enterprise, and honorable dealing. The record of such a man is well worthy of perpetuation, and we gladly give it a place in this volume. Mr. Walters was born in Montgomery township, August 25, 1848, and is a son of Joseph Walters, who was married in Fairfield county, Ohio, and afterward accompanied his parents to Wood county, locating in Montgomery township. The grandfather, Michael Walters, there entered from the government a tract of land which he improved and afterward sold. He then removed to Wyandot county, Ohio, where he spent his remaining days in the home of his daughter. The father of our subject removed from Wood to Sandusky county, Ohio; but after two years returned to the old homestead in Montgomery township, where he continued for a similar period. Subsequently he spent two years in Wyandot county, and then took up his residence in Freeport, Wood county, where he made his home until his death in July, 1865. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Harriet Arnold, is now living in Fostoria, Seneca Co., Ohio, and is the widow of Hiram Pember. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Walters numbered the following named children—Michael, a carpenter of Fostoria, Ohio; Moses B., also a carpenter; Mary, who became the wife of Anthony Brockley, and died in Illinois; William, of Hatton, Ohio; Josiah, an express agent of Chicago, Ill.; Melita, wife of Dennis McCarthy, of Fostoria, Ohio.

Mr. Walters, of this review, began his education under the instruction of Charles Young in a district school, near Perrysburg, Ohio. He was about fifteen years of age when his parents removed to Freeport, where he completed his education by a three-terms' attendance at the public schools. Upon his father's death he went to live

with Rev. Dowling, with whom he remained until he had attained his majority, when he started out in life for himself, working as a farm hand for \$20 per month and his board. Throughout his life he has carried on agricultural pursuits. After his marriage he lived on a farm near Jerry City for a year, then rented a forty-acre tract of land in Henry township. In 1884 he located on his present farm, having here purchased forty acres on March 17, 1873. The place has all been cleared of timber, and has many excellent improvements upon it, including a comfortable two-story frame residence, while the well-tilled fields yield to him a golden tribute.

At West Millgrove, Wood county, in 1875, Mr. Walters married Sophia Henry, who was born near Jerry City, November 23, 1853. Their union has been blessed with five children, namely: Hattie, Orin, Irving, Jennie and Mary, all under the parental roof. The parents are active members of the Disciples Church at Mungen, Ohio, and socially Mr. Walters is connected with the Odd Fellows society there. In politics he is a stalwart Republican, and has served as supervisor, school director, and for three years as truant officer of Henry township.

JASPER N. MOSIER, a well-known agriculturist of Grand Rapids township, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, November 29, 1838. Michael Mosier, his father, a tailor by occupation, married Miss Catherine Cooper, and reared a family of five children, of whom our subject was the eldest: Adeline married Philip Hineberger; Darius and Homer are residents of Fairfield county, and Sarah married John Lyons, of Fairfield county. Our subject's father died January 9, 1855, but his mother still survives, and resides at the old home.

Jasper N. Mosier received his early education in the schools of his native county, and worked upon a farm until the age of twenty-two, when, the Civil war breaking out, he enlisted in Company K, 17th O. V. I. (Col. J. M. Connell and Capt. Ray, commanding). He participated in a number of important engagements, among them the battles of Wild-cat, Somerset, Mill Springs, Nashville, Shiloh, Louisville, Stone River, Hoover's Gap, and Missionary Ridge, and also took part in the Atlanta campaign; October 10, 1864, he received an honorable discharge and returned home. The next two years and a half were spent in traveling through the West, and, after visiting every point of interest west of the Mississippi, he again returned to Fairfield county, where he remained three years. In 1872 he came to

Wood county, and bought thirty acres of fine land near Grand Rapids, upon which he has made first-class improvements. Energetic and progressive, he conducts his farm on modern plans, and well deserves the success to which he has attained.

He was married March 29, 1868, to Miss Clara Salts, a native of Fairfield county, born March 23, 1848. They have three children—Kittie, the wife of William Bates, of Bowling Green; and two younger daughters, Maude and Ethel, both of whom reside with their parents. Mr. Mosier is a Republican in politics, and one of the leaders in local affairs. He was once elected school director, and is now serving a term as township trustee. He belongs to the G. A. R., the I. O. O. F., Turkey Foot Lodge No. 529, of Grand Rapids, and the Rebekah Lodge. He and his wife are leading members of the U. B. Church.

CHARLES SIMMONS, a prominent farmer of Weston, was born in London, England, November 11, 1848. He is a son of Reuben and Mary (Philpot) Simmons, who were married January 20, 1845, and to whom two children were born: Henry, who died when five years old, and our subject.

Reuben Simmons followed the occupation of a tanner in England, and in 1850 emigrated to America, locating in Huroh county, where, however, he remained but a short time, after which he moved to Wood county and settled in Weston, bought forty acres of land, improved it and remained there until his death, which occurred October 19, 1865. His wife died June 1, 1891.

Our subject was educated in Weston township, and grew to manhood on his father's farm. His father dying when he was seventeen years old, he operated the homestead and supported his mother until her decease. He has added twenty acres to the land bought by his father, which he has greatly improved, bringing it to a fine state of cultivation. He annually raises a large crop of grain, fruit and vegetables. Mr. Simmons was married in Washington township, April 18, 1877, to Miss Mary I. Creps, who was born in that township June 26, 1851. She is the daughter of Joseph A. and Eliza (Coffinberry) Creps, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania, and a veteran of the Civil war. He is now deceased. His wife, a native of Mansfield, Ohio, survives him, and lives with our subject. To Mr. and Mrs. Simmons have been born three children, namely: Katie E., January 16, 1878; George A., August 4, 1882; Rosseta J., Au-

gust 26, 1886. Mr. Simmons is a Republican in politics, and served as supervisor for two terms. He is an industrious, progressive citizen, and enjoys the respect and esteem of all who come in contact with him.

GEORGE W. NEEDLES, one of the honored pioneers of Wood county, has witnessed much of its growth and development, having also borne his part in the work of progress and improvement. He is now numbered among the extensive land owners of the community, and has been the architect of his own fortune, having gained all that he possesses through his own energy, perseverance and business ability.

Mr. Needles is a native of Fairfield county, Ohio, born September 23, 1849. His father, William C. Needles, was born in Maryland, October 10, 1822, and throughout his entire life carried on farming. In Fairfield county he wedded Mary Harris, a daughter of Abraham and Rebecca (Needles) Harris, the former of whom was a prominent farmer and at one time the richest man in the county. Mr. and Mrs. Needles resided in Fairfield county until 1851, when they removed to Hancock county, Ohio, locating on an eighty-acre farm in Union township, to which further purchases were added until the farm was 200 acres in extent. There the mother died in November, 1886, and the father passed away October 12, 1894. Their children were: Rhoda Jane, wife of William I. Borough; Abram J., of Kentucky; Sarah Rebecca, who became the wife of Luther Kelly, and died in Hancock county; George W.; Mary Melissa, wife of James Monroe Radebaugh, of Indiana; Clinton W., of Wyandot county, Ohio; John, a farmer of Jackson township; Louisa E., wife of John Kelly, of Hancock county; Ella, wife of Joseph Hartman, also of Hancock county; Annie V., wife of Dr. Radebaugh, of New Bremen, Ohio. The first of the Needles family to locate in Ohio was James Needles, a native of New York, who served as a musician in the war of 1812. When a young man he located in Fairfield county, Ohio, where he reared a family of eight children, the father of our subject being the third. The Needles family originated in Ireland.

Our subject was a year and a half old when his parents moved to Hancock county, where the father carried on a hotel west of Benton Ridge for a few years. George attended the district schools of the neighborhood, and worked on the home farm until twenty-two years of age, when he went to Michigan and took a contract to grade three miles of the Canada Southern railroad.

After three years thus passed he went to Toledo for the same company, where he built a yard, working some four months for \$5 per day; he also graded a mile and a quarter of the Toledo & Ann Arbor railroad. He had previously purchased eighty acres of land in Monroe county, Michigan.

On October 20, 1875, Mr. Needles was joined in wedlock with Sarah V. Reed, who was born near Van Buren, Hancock Co., Ohio, March 13, 1854, a daughter of John and Rebecca (Wilson) Reed. They began their domestic life in Rawson, Hancock county, where our subject purchased and for two years operated a sawmill, which proved a profitable investment. He then came to Wood county in the fall of 1879, and purchased forty acres of improved land, on which he erected a good frame residence, which a few years later was burned. In 1889 he erected a large and beautiful home, which stands in the midst of well-kept grounds, and there with his family he is enjoying the fruits of his former toil. As his financial resources have increased, he has invested in realty, and now owns 672 acres in Jackson and Henry townships. By the failure of the People's Bank, of North Baltimore, he lost \$1,000; but his energy and perseverance have overcome many obstacles, and he is to-day the possessor of a handsome property.

To Mr. and Mrs. Needles have been born four children, as follows: Pearl R., December 27, 1878; Chloe Dell, December 7, 1883; John W., September 27, 1885; and Frank W., December 3, 1887, all of whom are at home. The parents are active workers in and consistent members of the United Brethren Church, and Mr. Needles is a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge of Hoytville, the Odd Fellows Lodge at Rawson, and the Encampment at Findlay. A Republican in politics, he has served three years as trustee, and in all the relations of life he has been found true to the duties devolving upon him—an upright man whom all respect.

Mrs. Needles' father was born in 1812, in Stark county, Ohio, and was a farmer by occupation. He was of Irish descent, his father having come from Ireland with eight brothers, none of whom he ever saw or heard of after separating in New York. In early manhood Mr. Reed removed to Hancock county, where he built the first brick house, and he also made the first brick manufactured in that county. He built the first hotel in Findlay, which has been consolidated into what is now known as the "Marvin." He died in 1884. On March 19, 1833, he married Rebecca Wilson, who was born in 1816, and





*G. W. Needles*



*Sarah V Keedler*





thirty couples attended the wedding on horseback. To this union came nine children: Jane (Mrs. Milton Morehead), Caroline (Mrs. Henry Metzler), Etna (Mrs. Henry Whitmore), Thomas Reed (deceased), Emeline (Mrs. Jacob Kempfer), Violet, Eli Reed, Mrs. Needles, and J. M. Two sons and four daughters are living.

GEORGE AMOS, a substantial farmer of Montgomery township, was born January 8, 1828, in Bavaria, Germany, and was a boy of eight years when his parents, Michael and Caroline (Suntmiers) Amos, came to this country.

Mr. Amos had attended school in his native country for a short time; but did not have much opportunity of extending his education, as his father died a few weeks after locating in Portage township. He was only eleven years old when he started out for himself, working on various farms at from twenty-five to thirty-one cents a day. He was a strong, industrious boy, and was known as a "good hand." He gave almost all his wages to his widowed mother until he was eighteen years old, and was her main support. For eight years he was employed as a fisherman on Lake Erie, for one year being a partner in the business with Daniel Shinew, and he received fair wages in this work, in this way securing his start in life. His first purchase of land was forty acres in Portage township, and his first payment on this was made from his wages for cradling wheat for twenty days near Tiffin, Ohio.

Mr. Amos was married December 25, 1856, in Freedom township, to Miss Sarah A. Jackson, who bore him the following children: Caroline, now Mrs. Jacob Heckert, of Montgomery township; Emma M., who died when three and a half years old; George, living in Toledo; Ella and Lecta (twins), the former of whom married Harvey Ketzler, of Portage township, and the latter died when eighteen years old; Amanda, the wife of Andrew Harmon, of this township; Ida J., Mrs. J. W. Buckingham, of Perry; and Hattie M., who died in infancy. The mother of these children died in 1874, and was buried in Rochester cemetery. On January 17, 1875, Mr. Amos was married in Perry township to Mrs. Margaret Gobble, the widow of Jacob Gobble. She was born in Wood county November 20, 1849, and is the daughter of John and Barbara (Tyson) Echelberger. By her first marriage she was the mother of three children, namely: Elsie M., the wife of Bert Hedge, of Montgomery township; Willie, who died in infancy; Jacob M., living in Montgomery township. Of her union with Mr. Amos the following children have been born: Charles

R., Barbara A., Emily M., Bertha A., Edna M., Severno P., Mary A., Ada D. and Michael G.

After our subject was first married he lived in Portage township until March, 1869, when he moved to Section 34, Montgomery township, and bought the 120 acres of land whereon he now resides, 100 acres of which are under fine cultivation. He has built a good house, and in many other ways has improved his property. He has always been a hard worker, honest and upright in his character, devoted to his family, and an excellent citizen. He has made his own way in the world, and is deserving of the greatest credit for his success. In politics he has always been a Democrat, although he voted for Abraham Lincoln in 1860. He has never sought office, and takes no active interest in political affairs. Mr. Amos and his wife are members of the German Baptist Church, of which he has been a trustee ever since its organization, and in which he is a deacon.

JOHN HUBER, who is one of the most straightforward and reliable farmers of Montgomery township, is a native of Wood county, born in Section 12, Portage township, April 14, 1858, and is the son of John U. Huber, whose birth occurred at Diessenhofen, on the River Rhine, in Switzerland, July 4, 1830.

When a young man the father came to the United States, leaving Europe after the death of his parents, who were people in ordinary circumstances. He first obtained employment as a farm hand in New York, and later in Ohio. In Hancock county, this State, he was married, September 27, 1854, to Miss Clarissa Foster, who was born in Milan township, Huron (now Sandusky) Co., Ohio, December 19, 1832, the daughter of William and Sybil (Butler) Foster. Her father was a farmer of Hancock county, where his death occurred August 2, 1854, and his wife passed away eight days later. In their family were five children, two sons and three daughters. Upon his marriage Mr. Huber located upon his father-in-law's farm, in Hancock county; later rented land near Findlay, and made his home in that county until October, 1856, when he located upon a forty-acre tract of partially-improved land, which he had purchased in Section 12, Portage township, Wood county. There he continued to live until called from this life, September 28, 1878; in the meantime, he had extended the boundaries of his farm until they included 240 acres. Although small of stature, he was a very ambitious man and a hard worker. In early life he was a Democrat, but later he supported

the Republican party. To Mr. and Mrs. Huber were born nine children—Angeline, who died in infancy; John, subject of this sketch; William, who died in childhood; Peter, of Portage township; Amanda, who died in infancy; Barbara, who became the wife of William Parmenton, and died in Portage township; Jane, who died at the age of eighteen years; Elijah, of Portage township; and Mary, who died when young. The mother, who is an earnest member of the German Baptist Church, still lives upon the home farm, a respected old lady. She was of great assistance to her husband, and is still very active and industrious for one who has done the hard work that she has.

Being the eldest son of the family, our subject was early called upon to aid in the work of the farm, and, therefore, his school privileges were limited. When he was twenty years of age his father died, and much of the responsibility of caring for the family and managing the farm fell upon his young shoulders. He was united in marriage, March 10, 1881, in Portage township, with Miss Amelia Bollinger, who was born April 28, 1863, daughter of William and Lydia (Stump) Bollinger. They now have three children, all living, namely: Rosa, Samuel, and Estella M. At the time of his marriage Mr. Huber owned forty acres of land, of which ten had been cleared, and a small house erected thereon; but, in May, 1884, he removed to his present farm, in Section 7, Montgomery township, then consisting of but thirty-five acres. When he purchased the land there were no buildings upon the place that were habitable; but he at once erected a frame house, 16x20 feet, and, in 1894, built his present elegant residence. His substantial barn, 40x60 feet, was built in 1890. He now has sixty-eight acres of land under a high state of cultivation, which yield a ready return for the care and labor expended upon it. Politically he is a solid Republican, but has never cared to hold public office.

OLIVER MEARS has long been identified with the interests of Wood county, and is an industrious farmer, having many friends throughout this locality. He was born in Plain township, August 19, 1856, and is a son of John and Ann Maria (Manville) Mears. The father was born in Erie county, January 23, 1825, where he worked upon a farm for a number of years. He then came to Wood county, where for a time he engaged in teaching school, and then purchased 160 acres of land in Plain township, upon which he erected buildings and made many sub-

stantial improvements. He was married in this county, February 23, 1855 to Miss Manville, who was born August 17, 1836. They became the parents of seven children—Oliver; Elizabeth, who was born November 7, 1858, and died October 31, 1862; Andrew, born July 1, 1861, an attorney at law of Bowling Green; Annie B., born April 2, 1866; John B., who was born March 8, 1864, and died July 13, 1865; William H., who was born November 25, 1868, and died October 16, 1886; and John M., born March 9, 1872. The father of this family died July 1, 1887, and the mother February 1, 1875. He was a Republican in politics, and a valued citizen of the community.

The gentleman whose name introduces this review was educated in the district schools of his native township, and aided in the work of the home farm until he had attained his majority, when he sought and secured employment as a farm hand, serving in that capacity until twenty-six years of age. He then rented the old homestead for a number of years, and in 1885 purchased it, but sold before buying the Wilson farm on which he now resides. The lady who now bears the name of Mrs. Mears was in her maidenhood Henrietta Halbert, and was born in Rome, N. Y., June 17, 1863. They were married March 22, 1883, and to them were born three children, but all died in infancy. Mr. Mears holds membership with the Presbyterian Church, and in his political views is a Republican. He is known all over the country for his generosity and benevolence, and no man is held in higher regard or is more worthy the esteem of his fellow townsmen than Oliver Mears.

FREEMAN VOSBURG, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits in Section 15, Portage township, is a native of Connecticut, born August 15, 1824, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Miner) Vosburg. He attended his first school in Trumbull county, Ohio, and his education was continued after the removal of the family to Wood county, this State, in June, 1836. The journey from Trumbull county required fourteen days, during which time it rained almost incessantly, and our subject walked the entire distance barefooted. He remained under the parental roof until he had attained the age of twenty-two years.

In Norwalk, Ohio, May 3, 1855, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Vosburg and Miss Orra O. Sparks, who was born in New Haven, township, Huron county, March 25, 1836, and is a daughter of Asaph and Betsy (Fuller) Sparks,

natives of the Nutmeg State, and early settlers of New Haven township. Mr. and Mrs. Vosburg are the parents of three children: Leander C., and John N., both farmers of Portage township; and Lucy A., wife of Gustavus Cox, of the same township.

For nearly a year after his marriage our subject lived in Richmond township, Huron county, employed in the woods, cutting stave timber, and in the spring of 1856, came to Wood county, locating on the home farm in Montgomery township, where his father had died. He operated that place for his widowed mother for three years, and then rented land elsewhere until December, 1864, when he came to Section 15, Portage township, where he had owned forty acres some years previously. He built a log house upon his farm, in the midst of the woods, the water was very high, game was plentiful, deer often coming clear up to his door; the roads were corduroy, which would float around much of the time. Only a small clearing had been made, and the remainder of the tract was covered with a dense forest; but our subject was robust and strong, and at once began its improvement. He felled the trees, and, as his resources increased, added to his land until he now has 120 acres, under a high state of cultivation, which has been brought about by industry and good management, with its attendant hard labor. In 1885 he removed to the portion of the farm where he still resides. He is a self-made man in the truest sense of that term, and his upright, honorable life has gained him many warm friends. He and his estimable wife are sincere members of the Congregational Church, of which he has been trustee, and in politics he was formerly a Whig, and since the organization of the Republican party, has been one of its staunch supporters.

EDWARD L. BLUE, the popular editor and proprietor of the Perrysburg *Journal*, of Perrysburg, Ohio, was born in that city, December 28, 1858. His education was acquired in the public schools, but, at the age of thirteen, circumstances arose which caused him to seek an occupation, where he could earn a livelihood for himself. He instinctively turned to the printing office of the Perrysburg *Journal*, where, after performing various menial duties for a short period, he was admitted to become an apprentice to the printer's trade, with sufficient salary to guarantee board and clothes. For eight long years he devoted himself closely to work in the *Journal* office.

At the end of that time Mr. Blue went to Toledo, where he found employment with the Blade

Printing & Paper Co., and subsequently with the *Bee*. He next worked in the job office of The B. F. Wade Co. It was there that his close application to the art of printing soon brought him into the notice of his employers, and the most artistic work required from the concern was given to him. This class of work required time and study, and he took care to improve his opportunity, and make himself as proficient in his trade as possible.

Mr. Blue had judiciously husbanded his earnings, and in 1889 he returned to Perrysburg, where he found the *Journal* badly managed, and in a very poor condition, financially. It was constantly running behind. He took advantage of the situation, purchased it, and found himself proprietor, where, as a boy, only a few years before, he had been an apprentice. The dilapidated condition of the paper's finance did not daunt his energies. He saw a field for effort where ability could win success. He proceeded to increase the capacity of the office, and the circulation of the paper, and soon had it on a paying basis. The *Journal* is now an eight-page weekly paper, well filled with local and general news. The local columns are always up to date, and the typographical work is neat, and shows the influence of a master hand. In politics the paper, like its editor, is thoroughly Republican.

On the 10th of July, 1883, Mr. Blue was united in marriage with Miss Mary Louise Wetmore, who was born at Perrysburg, September 19, 1860, and is the daughter of Capt. F. A. and Mary A. (Fraser) Wetmore. Her father is now living retired at Perrysburg, after forty-five years spent upon the lakes. Socially, Mr. Blue holds membership with Phoenix Lodge No. 123, F. & A. M., of Perrysburg, and Perrysburg Lodge No. 524, K. of P. In politics he is identified with the leaders of his party in the locality. He is genial and social by nature, making many acquaintances whom he readily retains as friends.

J. W. BUCKINGHAM, a prominent and influential farmer, is still a resident of Perry township, his birth occurring in Section 7, April 3, 1864, and is a son of James D. and Elizabeth (Wooley) Buckingham. The father was born in Washington county, Penn., January 17, 1814, and in the fall of 1822 was taken to Ashland county, Ohio, by his parents, James and Mary (Bonnell) Buckingham. In Ruggles township, of that county, he married the mother of our subject on the 13th of November, 1845. She was a native of Tompkins county, N. Y., born January 23, 1823, and a daughter of Joel Wooley, who was born on Long Island, and served his country

in the war of 1812. At the age of eleven years she was taken by her parents to Bronson, Huron Co., Ohio, where they became early settlers. By her first marriage she became the wife of Thomas Brown, and they had one son, Daniel, who was born November 9, 1842, and is now a carpenter of Almena, Norton Co., Kans. By her union with Mr. Buckingham she became the mother of three children: George W., born October 27, 1847, makes his home in Montgomery township; Sarah E., born September 25, 1853, married Lewis Whitman, and died May 11, 1891; and J. W., of this sketch, is the youngest.

In the spring of 1850 the parents located on eighty acres of land in Section 7, Perry township, which the father had bought of his uncle, John Bonnell. As it was still in its primitive condition, they were obliged to cut their way through the forest and clear the land before it could be cultivated. They have both passed to their reward in the other world, the mother dying November 17, 1887, and the father September 20, 1889, in the faith of the Congregational Church, of which they were consistent members. In July, 1889, Mr. Buckingham was kicked by a horse, which hastened his death. He was well posted on diseases of horses, and was often called upon to treat those animals. Although very social and genial in disposition, he was a man of few words, and was identified with the Republican party.

The first school which our subject attended was taught by De Soto Moffet, and his entire education was such as the district schools afforded. Previous to his marriage he was engaged for the most part in work upon the home farm. That important event in his life occurred on April 7, 1887, in Findlay, Ohio, when Miss Elizabeth Rainsberger became his wife. She was a native of Bloom township, born August 27, 1863, and was a daughter of William Rainsberger. She died March 1, 1888, her remains being interred at West Millgrove, Ohio, and she left one son, Curt, born February 16, 1888. On August 25, 1889, Mr. Buckingham was again married, his second union being with Miss Ida J. Amos, who was born in Montgomery township, September 17, 1870, and is a daughter of George and Sarah A. (Jackson) Amos, early pioneers of Portage township, this county. Mr. Amos is a German by birth. Two children bless this union—Ralph A., born December 12, 1891; and Bertha E., who was born February 10, 1895, and died on the 25th of July, following.

Mr. Buckingham purchased the interests of the other heirs in the old homestead, where he

now resides, and is accounted one of the most reliable and popular agriculturists of the community. In his political affiliations he is a steadfast Republican, believing that the principles of that party are the best guarantees for the preservation of our popular form of government. Mrs. Buckingham is a member of the Methodist Protestant Church.

BENTON J. LEATHERS has spent nearly his entire life in Wood county, and the high regard in which he is universally held indicates an honorable record. He was born September 14, 1848, in Bloom township, son of Jacob Leathers, a native of Pennsylvania, who removed to Richland county, Ohio, where he married Mary Ewing. Soon afterward he came to Wood county, and was one of the first settlers of Bloom township, there being but two families living in the community at that time, the one being that of his brother, John Leathers, and the other that of his uncle, Jonathan Hay.

Mr. Leathers attended the district school of Bloom township, and worked in the fields on the old home farm until his marriage, which occurred May 10, 1868, Miss Henrietta Hamman, of Henry township, becoming his wife. They located in Bloom township, Wood county, but in the fall of 1879 he moved to Kansas. Returning to Wood county, he purchased the Shaffer farm of eighty acres in Henry township, and in 1891 he purchased his present place of fifty-two acres, improved with a good residence and barns, and other accessories of a model farm. He now owns 182 acres of valuable land, which yield him a golden tribute in return for the care and labor he bestows upon it.

To Mr. and Mrs. Leathers have been born five children: Millard F., who wedded Mary Freyman, and resides in Henry township; Loring W., of Hammansburg, Ohio, who married Lillian Ackerman; Earl W., who married Cora Ayers, of Michigan; Emmet H., at home, who wedded Mary Madden; and Grover B. In politics Mr. Leathers is a stalwart Democrat, unswerving in his support of the principles of that party. For one term he served as justice of the peace, and for three years was assessor. He and his wife are consistent and faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and are honored and esteemed by all who know them.

G. C. DAUTERMAN (deceased) was one of the substantial business men of Bowling Green. His birth occurred in Portage township, this county, May 2, 1851, the son of Jacob and Cath-



*Annetta Leathers*



*Benton J. Leathers*



erine (Amos) Dauterman. His parents were natives of Germany, and were born on the banks of the river Rhine, famed in song and story. His father came to this country alone, and the mother, then a young girl, came with her parents, who settled on a farm in Portage township, which is now owned by her brother. Her mother lived until about three years ago, and at the time of her death was upward of eighty years old.

The father of our subject died about nineteen years ago at the age of fifty-seven years, and the mother is still living. They were the parents of seven children, namely: Caroline married Fred Numberger, and lives in Dakota; Adam was killed in battle during the Civil war, a member of Company C, 21st O. V. I.; Catherine married John Shinew, and lives in Center township; Lydia is the wife of Charles Lyendecker, of Montana; G. C. is our subject; John resides in Montana; Maggie married W. Waugh, and lives in Tontogany.

G. C. Dauterman remained upon his father's farm until after his marriage, when he settled upon a farm of his own, which he operated until April, 1893, when he removed to Bowling Green and opened a livery stable. He had an excellent outfit of horses, carriages and all the accessories of a well-kept stable, and made a success of the business, his well-known honesty and competency securing for him a large patronage. Besides hiring out his teams, Mr. Dauterman also had horses for sale, and dealt in fine stock. Among other good animals, he had one fast pacer, "Nomil." Up to the time of his death he still retained the ownership his farm of 140 acres, which is a valuable piece of property, as on it were fourteen oil wells, which is now under the management of his eldest son.

On October 26, 1871, our subject was married to Miss Louisa Ratzel, who was born in Baden, Germany, May 28, 1853, and came to this country when sixteen years of age. Four sons have blessed this union, namely: John, Frank, Willie, and Robie J., who died when sixteen months old. Mr. Dauterman was a Republican in politics. He was identified with the Church of Christ, to which the family belong. He was a man of excellent character and good business ability, and made many friends in Bowling Green after taking up his residence there.

On August 12, 1896, Mr. Dauterman lost his life in the Maumee river. He had gone to the river with the Baptist Sunday-school, and while on the river saw a little girl about to drown, so he sprang to her rescue, and in the attempt to save her life gave up his own. The child was the daughter of Charles S. Ely. In his death there

passed from this life an honest, Christian man. The village council, of which the deceased was a member, passed appropriate resolutions on his death, and attended the funeral in a body.

JOSIAH SMITH is a popular and highly esteemed citizen, whose genial manner and genuine worth have gained him the regard of all with whom social or business relations have brought him in contact. He was born in Allegheny county, Penn., November 3, 1842, and is a son of Martin and Catherine (Rhodes) Smith, also natives of the Keystone State. The father was born in 1810, the mother April 5, 1811, and their marriage was celebrated January 31, 1828, while the following children graced their union: Nancy B., who was born October 31, 1828, and is the widow of Frank Firman, of Crawford county, Ill.; Mary Elizabeth, who was born January 12, 1831, died in childhood; Sarah Jane, born February 4, 1834, died in childhood; Rebecca, born June 17, 1836, died in Pennsylvania; Roxanna, born December 17, 1837, is the wife of William Bell, of Washington county, Penn.; Mary M., born April 25, 1840, became the wife of Thomas Lockwood, and died in Pennsylvania; Josiah is the next younger; Maria C., born October 23, 1845, died in childhood; Ann Eliza, born June 4, 1848, is the wife of Aaron Bell, of Pennsylvania; and John Wesley, born May 4, 1853, completes the family. At the time of their marriage the parents located in Fayette county, Penn., where the father worked as a farm hand. He died in Allegheny county, December 17, 1848, and his wife, who after his death had married Samuel Culp, passed away March 24, 1872.

Our subject spent his school days in Allegheny and Washington counties, in his native State, and after his father's death went to live with an uncle, Solomon Swab, with whom he remained until the breaking out of the war in 1861, when he enlisted August 20, 1861, in Company D, 6th U. S. Cav., at Pittsburg. In the spring of 1862 the command went to the front, and, after a short time spent in Virginia, went to Hampton Roads, and served with the army of the Potomac, participating in a number of important engagements. Mr. Smith was honorably discharged August 20, 1864, but re-enlisted in Company K, 1st U. S. Vet. Vol. Regt., serving for a year, when he was finally discharged, on February 1, 1866.

On August 23, of the same year, in North Baltimore, our subject was united in marriage with Mary Jane Dirk, who was born in Hancock county, Ohio, January 18, 1842. They located



in Williams county, this State, Mr. Smith conducting a general store in Pulaski for about five years. In the fall of 1871 they located on a farm near that place, but sold that property in the fall of 1872, and in the following spring went to Minnesota, where Mr. Smith took up a homestead in Nobles county, there residing for three and a half years. In the fall of 1876 he came to Wood county, and rented a farm in Liberty township, but after eighteen months purchased ninety acres of his present farm. He has since extended the boundaries of his land, by the additional purchase of thirty acres, and now has a highly-improved and valuable farm, with well-tilled fields and excellent buildings, most of which he has erected. In politics he is a Republican, and for two terms has served as township trustee. Both he and his wife are members of the United Brethren Church, and take quite an active part in its work. They had a family of three children, but Jacob W., who was born October 23, 1873, died in Minnesota, at the age of nine months. Sarah Amanda was born in Nobles county, Minn., July 18, 1875, and Clark Vinton was born in Wood county, Ohio, March 3, 1878.

**S. F. LAMBRIGHT.** The subject of this sketch was born in Jackson township, Seneca county, October 16, 1857, and is the son of Henry and Margaret A. Lambright.

Mr. Lambright went to the common schools, and worked on the farm when a boy. He was quite young when his parents moved to Perry township, and his first ideas of farming were obtained on the farm which is his present home. He lived with his parents continuously, with the exception of eight months in Sully county, S. D., in 1883, where he took up government land, and lived one summer, and then returned home. He was married in Perry township, March 4, 1885, to Miss Carrie Steiner, who was born in Baltimore, Md. Her father, Jacob Steiner, was a farmer who came to Perry township when she was two years old.

After his marriage Mr. Lambright located in Perry township, where he has continued to reside ever since, moving, in the spring of 1891, to the home farm of his father. Two children have been born to him and his wife, Hazel M., and Harvey H. Mr. Lambright is a Republican, and has always manifested a great deal of interest in the success of his party, for which he has worked hard, and is to-day one of its leading members in his portion of the township. He has filled various offices in the township, and in School District No. 6, serving two terms as con-

stable, and at present holding the office of justice of the peace, to which he was elected in 1891. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Church, in which he has served two years as superintendent of the Sunday-school, and is at present one of the trustees. He is a first-class citizen, of undoubted integrity, and is considerably above the average man in intelligence.

**FRANK HASKINS,** who is engaged in market gardening and the raising of fine poultry, was born in Liberty township, February 19, 1855, and has always lived in that locality. His parents were Henry and Hannah (Fearnside) Haskins, the former born in Portage, September 23, 1828. There they located at the time of their marriage, and the father carried on a general store. The mother died in Kendallville, Ind., May 12, 1858, and after her death Mr. Haskins married Esther Hutchinson. In 1860 he removed to Waterloo, Ind., subsequently to Corunna, Ind., and afterward conducted a livery stable in Butler, Ind., where he is now living a retired life. The children of his first marriage are George C., born July 29, 1850; Wellington, who was born March 7, 1853, and died August 11, 1854; and Frank.

At the age of three years, on his mother's death, our subject went to live with his grandfather, Thomas Fearnside, who was born in England, and married in Scotland, and with his wife, who bore the maiden name of Ellen Roberson, emigrated to the United States. On the grandfather's death he still made his home with his uncle, Henry Fearnside, in Liberty township, and there acquired a good English education. He was married in Greenwich, Huron county, January 9, 1879, to Emily J. Sizer, who was born in Liberty township, January 9, 1859, a daughter of Daniel and Sarah (Strimple) Sizer, the former a native of New York, and the latter of New Jersey. They were married in Huron county, but soon after removed to Wood county, where the father followed carpentering. He died in Lucas Co., Ohio, September 3, 1876, and his wife is now living in Greenwich. Their children are Mrs. Haskins, Selina E., Abigail Eudora, Orrin W. and Albert F.

After their marriage our subject and his wife made their home with his uncle, until Mr. Haskins had erected a house on his own land. He had previously purchased thirteen and a half acres in Liberty township, and has since successfully given his attention to market gardening, and the breeding of fancy poultry. The first oil well on his place was completed September 2, 1896, and has proved a good one. To Mr. and Mrs. Has-

kins have been born three children—Gertrude May, born January 19, 1881; Walter H., born August 13, 1882; and Frank Raymond, born November 1, 1893. In political belief, Mr. Haskins is a Populist, and for three terms has served as school director. He holds membership with the United Brethren Church, and takes an active part in its growth and upbuilding.

ELI BROUGH, a general farmer living in Section 1, Troy township, is a leader among the agriculturists of Wood county. In 1870 he purchased his present farm of forty acres, then in its primitive condition, covered with woods, not a furrow turned; but by courageous industry, perseverance and wisdom in management, he has developed the land into a highly-improved farm, from which he obtains good harvests.

Mr. Brough was born in Sandusky county, Ohio, in 1838, and is a son of Simon and Sarah (Kerrick) Brough. The birth of the father occurred in Pennsylvania, whence at an early day he came to the Buckeye State with his father, Michael Brough, and was married in Sandusky county. There he continued to live, making his home first in Riley township, but he died in Ballville township, in January, 1892. His wife passed away in the same county in 1887. In the family were fourteen children, namely: Jacob, a resident of Riley township, Sandusky county; William, of Fremont, Ohio; George, who died in Pemberville, Wood county; Lewis, who makes his home in Troy township; Jonathan, also of Troy township; Levi, of Freedom township, this county; Eli and Frederick, twins, the latter a resident of Mercer county, Ohio; Charles, who lives in Ottawa county, this State; Dolly, who died in Fremont, in 1893; Lucinda, who died in Sandusky county; Betsy, who is married, and makes her home in Fremont; and Mrs. Jane Steffe, who lives in Ottawa county.

In the schools of his native county, Eli Brough acquired his education, and early became familiar with agricultural pursuits, assisting in the labor of the home farm until 1861, when he laid aside personal plans and interests, and joined the boys in blue in defense of the Union. He became a member of Company G, 111th O. V. I., being mustered in at Frankfort, Ky., and was six months in the service.

In 1866, in Sandusky county, Mr. Brough led to the marriage altar Miss Caroline Myers, who was born in that county, where her parents, Christian and Margaret (Elhart) Myers, natives of Germany, located at an early day. Her mother died in Wood county, but her father is

still living, and makes his home in Henry county, Ohio. Eight children have been born to our subject and his wife—Mrs. Clara Herman, of Troy township; Mrs. Ida Facer, of Lake township; Mrs. Hulda Behrend, of Troy township; and Etta, Myrtie, Irving, Harry and Robert, all at home. Politically, Mr. Brough affiliates with the Democratic party, and he is a man of sound sense, highly respected by his neighbors.

O. W. DIVER, one of the popular and wide-awake young agriculturists of Montgomery township, was there born, September 6, 1867, the son of Franklin and Matilda (Ostrander) Diver. The father's birth occurred in Deerfield, Portage Co., Ohio, March 29, 1836, and he was but an infant when brought to Wood county by his parents, Osman and Margaret (Kinnaman) Diver, who were numbered among the pioneer settlers of Montgomery township. During his boyhood and youth he experienced all the trials and privations incident to life on the frontier. He early became familiar with farm work, and was a natural mechanic, with a desire to work around machinery; but his father being adverse to this inclination, his plans in that direction were defeated.

In Montgomery township was celebrated the marriage of Franklin Diver and Matilda Ostrander, a daughter of John and Sarah (Burke) Ostrander, who were also pioneers of that township. Soon after his marriage Mr. Diver located at Grand Rapids, Ohio, where he engaged in the sawmill business with August Pryor, at whose home Mrs. Diver had lived from girlhood. After a short residence, however, he returned to Montgomery township, carrying on farming on his father's place in Section 30 until called from this life, on December 7, 1868, and his remains now rest in the cemetery at West Millgrove. In connection with farming he also engaged to some extent in threshing. His political support was ever given the Democratic party. In his family were three children—Harriet L., now the widow of C. A. McDonald, of North Platte, Neb.; Laura E., of Fostoria, Ohio; and O. W., whose name opens this sketch. The mother is now the wife of Philip Wammes, of Fostoria.

In the common schools our subject secured a fair education, pursuing his studies for a time in Fostoria. At the age of twenty-two years he entered the service of the Nickel Plate railroad, as brakeman, running between Bellevue, Ohio, and Chicago, Ill., and was later with the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, his run being from Chicago Junction, Ohio, to Garrett, Ind. He was next in the employ of his stepfather, who was

engaged in the horse business, taking horses to market in the East. At Findlay, Ohio, March 27, 1888, Mr. Diver was united in marriage with Miss Bertha Godfrey, who was born in Loudon township, Seneca Co., Ohio, January 7, 1869, daughter of John and Josephine (Clemens) Godfrey, the former of whom died January 16, 1889; the mother is still living, and makes her home in Fostoria. In the family were three daughters, the other two being Nora, who died at the age of five years; and Anna, of Fostoria. Two sons have come to our subject and wife—Harold G., born December 23, 1889; and Carl F., born October 29, 1893.

On March 3, 1895, Mr. Diver removed to his present farm in Section 19, Montgomery township, which is a most productive tract, yielding a good supply of oil as well as crops, and is one of the very few farms where the owner operates the oil wells, Mr. Diver looking after that production personally. Though not strictly partisan he generally affiliates with the Republican party, but takes no very active part in political affairs. He belongs to Fostoria Lodge No. 86, K. of P., and while a railroad man was identified with various societies in that connection. "Walt," as he is called, is one of the most progressive and industrious farmers of the community, and the neat and thrifty appearance of his place plainly indicates his thorough knowledge of the vocation which he is now following. In 1895 he completed a comfortable and pleasant dwelling, where he and his wife delight to entertain their many friends.

FERGUS HUGHES is one of the leading and influential citizens of Wood county, having been prominent in official, Church and agricultural circles. He was born June 2, 1842, in Eagle township, Hancock Co., Ohio, a son of William W. and Margaret (McClellan) Hughes, the latter of whom was a relative of Gen. McClellan.

The father was a native of Beaver county, Penn., and a cooper by trade. In his native county he married Miss Margaret McClellan, whose birth occurred there in 1815. They came to Ohio, locating in Hancock county, where the father entered eighty acres of land from the government. Upon this he made many excellent improvements, and then sold, retiring to Mt. Blanchard, Hancock county. He afterward sold his property there, and took up his residence in Dunkirk, Ohio, where he died in September, 1883. His wife passed away in 1854. In their family were eight children, namely: Sarah, wife of Henry Vaughn, of Eagle township, Hancock

county; Robert, a painter of Missouri; Rebecca, wife of Joseph Steinman, of Hancock county; John, who died in childhood; Fergus; Nancy, who married Joseph Steinman, and died in Hancock county in 1885; James, a twin brother of Nancy, of Missouri; and David, who died at the age of five years. After the death of his first wife the father married Mrs. Sarah (Fahl) Hinchy.

Under the parental roof Fergus Hughes was reared to manhood, and to the district school he is indebted for his educational privileges. On attaining his majority he started out in life for himself, working as a farm hand for a year in Hancock county. In February, 1866, he came to Wood county, and followed farming or any honest pursuit that would yield him a living until December, 1866, when with the capital he had acquired through his own labors he purchased eighty acres of wild land. On this he erected a log cabin, 18 x 26 feet, and at once began to clear and improve the property.

On March 5, 1868, Mr. Hughes was married, in Henry township, to Miss Catherine Ackerman, who was born in that township May 24, 1840, daughter of David and Catherine (Auverter) Ackerman. The father was born in Switzerland May 15, 1798, and died October 31, 1877, at the age of seventy-nine years. His father died at sea. Mr. Ackerman was an early settler in Henry township, having lived there forty years at the time of his death. His wife was born in Germany May 15, 1815, and died at 9 P. M., September 30, 1876, at Hammansburg, Henry township. Mr. and Mrs. Hughes have one child, Fannie, who is the wife of Wilton R. Hastings, of North Baltimore, Wood county, and has one child, Derward, born July 28, 1895. Mr. and Mrs. Hughes began their domestic life upon the eighty-acre farm which he had purchased, and have since made it their place of abode. In 1891 he sunk the first oil well there, and now has six wells in good operation, adding not a little to his income in that way. He has also property in North Baltimore, owning two village lots and a house. He is entirely a self-made man, and deserves great credit for his success in life. In politics he is a Democrat, and has served for four terms as township trustee, and for three terms as assessor. He has also been trustee of the Evangelical Church, with which he holds membership, and is superintendent of the Sunday-school.

JOHN F. SOASH is descended from German ancestry, and displays some of the best characteristics of that sturdy race. His grandfather came



*Fergus Hughes*



from Germany and settled in Pennsylvania, where John Soash, the father of our subject, was born. John Soash came to Ohio in 1834, and bought 120 acres of land in Washington township, this county, part of which he cleared and improved. He married Elizabeth Hineman, of Scotch descent, and they became parents of seven children—William, deceased; Isabel, wife of John G. McDonald, of Florida; Emily, deceased, who was first the wife of John Oswald, and after his death married Joel Foote; John F., of this sketch; Elizabeth, deceased, who married George Bell, of Grand Rapids, Ohio; Lucretia, wife of Charles Hollis; and James, a farmer of Missouri, who served for three years in the Civil war in the 21st Regiment, O. V. I. The mother died in 1861, and the father in 1875.

Our subject obtained his education in the district schools, to which he walked a distance of three miles, his path laying through the woods, for no roads were cut at the time. He was born in Washington township, December 19, 1836, and has, therefore, witnessed almost the entire development of the county. He has seen many deer and wolves near his home, and has watched the progress of civilization until the county ranks among the best in this commonwealth. In 1864 he joined the army under Capt. Black and Col. Miller, as a member of Company B, 144th O. V. I. He went from Columbus to Baltimore, thence to Annapolis, Md., thence to Frederick City, and for several months was held a prisoner at Danville, where he subsisted mostly on johnnycake. On the 12th of September, 1864, he returned home, and resumed work on the old farm.

Mr. Soash was married in 1866 to Anna M. Gates, daughter of Lyman Gates, and a native of Connecticut, born in 1842, and coming to Ohio in 1860. They had three children, the youngest of whom, Bernie, died in childhood; Marcella is the wife of Elmer Long, of Plain township; and Eber, who learned the carpenter's trade at Cleveland, where he followed it for five years, and is now farming in Washington township. He married Rosa Long, and they have two children—Dean and Merle. Our subject and wife have also one adopted son, Ross, who is at home.

JACOB KROMER, a farmer living in Plain township, was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, October 6, 1835. He is the son of Michael and Barbara (Klett) Kromer, both of whom were born in Germany, the former in 1804.

Our subject came to America in 1854, landing at New York City. He was a butcher by trade, but not being able to speak the English

language, he found it difficult to get employment in that business; so, going to Philadelphia, he procured a situation on a farm close to that city. He remained there two years, learning something of the language in the meanwhile, and then went to Cleveland, Ohio, where, being out of money, he went to work on a farm in Cuyahoga county, staying there three years, and then coming farther west to Lime township, Huron county. In 1861 he came to Wood county, and bought forty acres of land near Weston, which he subsequently sold, and, in the fourth year of his residence in the county, purchased his present eighty acres. This land, which is now in such a high state of cultivation, and so highly productive, was then covered with timber and underbrush, and was a veritable swamp. Through it bears wandered, the dismal howl of the wolf made the nights hideous, and bats infested the murky undergrowth and dark recesses, while the owls hooted at the apparently futile efforts of man to make it a habitable abode. But, with a strength of purpose that could not be shaken, Mr. Kromer cut his way through the primeval forest, and, clearing up a small patch of ground, erected a small log house. He commenced with almost no means, cleared land for others by day, and worked on his own by night. Midnight found him at work there, and at the first streak of dawn, he was away to put in a hard day's work for some more fortunate neighbor, who could pay him a few cents for his labor. Words cannot tell the hardships Mr. Kromer underwent during his first years in Wood county, nor can the present generation realize it, but, suffice it to say, that he triumphed over all adversity, and is to-day a well-to-do farmer, with an unincumbered estate, and is in great contrast to the time when he worked for four dollars a month on a farm.

Mr. Kromer was married in Wood county, in 1863, to Miss Eva Todd, who was born in Crawford county, Ohio. She was not spared to enjoy the fruits of their labor, but was called to her reward nineteen years ago. Mr. Kromer has preserved her memory sacred, and has not married since. Their children are: John, a pumper in the oil field; Mary, the wife of Moses Lane, a prosperous farmer of Plain township, and they have two children, Joseph and Cora; Sadie, the wife of Milo Porter, of Wood county, and they are the parents of three children, Archie, Claude and Ina; Rosa, unmarried and living at home; Fred, at home; and Bertha, who died when a baby.

Michael, the father of our subject, was a land

owner, farmer, and stock dealer. He died in 1848. Both he and his wife were members of the Lutheran Church. They were the parents of the following children: Casper is now living in Stark county, Ohio; Catherine is married, and lives in Germany; Jacob is our subject; Julia came to America, and married a Mr. Haufenback (she died near New Philadelphia, Ohio); Henry joined Company K, 21st O. V. I., in 1861, and was killed in battle at Stone River; Magdalena married P. Wetzel, and they live in Stark county, Ohio.

CHARLES W. MCCOLLEY, a leading hardware merchant at Tontogany, was born December 16, 1857, in Washington township, where his grandparents settled in the spring of 1839.

Capt. John McColley, his grandfather, a Scotchman by birth, followed the ocean in early life, and was captain of a packet plying between New York and Savannah. He was a man of heroic mold, over six feet in height, and possessed remarkable strength. He died near Tontogany, at the age of eighty-four years. His wife was a Miss Hart, a lady of English descent, and for some years they lived at Derby, Conn., where R. L. McColley, our subject's father, was born in 1834. He was only five years old when his parents came to Wood county, and he was educated here, married here to Miss Margaret Crom, a descendant of an old Pennsylvania-Dutch family, and for many years he was engaged in business here, farming and acting as local agent for agricultural machinery, and other articles. He enlisted during the war in the hundred-day service, serving in the 144th Regiment, O. V. I. He and his wife now reside in Florida, where he is an extensive fruit grower. In politics he is a Republican, and he belongs to the G. A. R. Our subject was the younger of two children. The other, Jennie, formerly Mrs. Louis Kuder, died in September, 1894.

Charles W. McColley is a genuine "Wood county boy," reared on one of her fertile farms, educated in her schools, and he was married, in 1884, to one of her charming daughters, Miss Susie Walters, who was born in Weston township, in 1859. They have six children now living: Eva, Fern, Hope, Hazel, Herbert, and Ruth. A younger son, John, died when one year old.

Mr. McColley lived at the old farm and sold agricultural implements until eight years ago, when he moved into the village. Three years later he established his present prosperous business, dealing in hardware and all sorts of farm-

ing tools and machinery. He is an earnest worker in religious and philanthropic lines; is a Good Templar; votes the Prohibition ticket; is an elder in the Presbyterian Church, and the assistant superintendent in the Sunday-school. He is also a member of the I. O. O. F. and K. of P.

M. L. SEIPLE. Among the self-made men of Wood county, men who have accumulated a sufficiency of this world's goods through their own energy and thrift—may be reckoned the gentleman whose name begins this sketch. He is a resident of Portage township, where he owns a fine farm of .127 acres in Section 6, and where he is engaged in general farming, meeting with great success in his chosen calling. He is a native of Pennsylvania, born in Northampton county, July 29, 1857, and in the spring of 1865 accompanied his parents, Edward and Elizabeth (Lambert) Seiple, to Scott township, Sandusky Co., Ohio.

His paternal grandfather, John Seiple, was a man of considerable wealth, and bought land extensively in Scott township, where he died at the age of eighty-two years. The father of our subject was one of the four children who accompanied him to Sandusky county, and always lived thereafter in Scott township. To Edward Seiple and his wife were born five children: Quintus, a farmer of Scott township, Sandusky county; M. L., of this review; Alice, wife of Frank Moses, of Washington township, Sandusky county; Susie, wife of Chauncey Schull, of Center township, Wood county; and Ida, now Mrs. Lee Henry, of Helena, Ohio. In early life the father operated a gristmill, but his last days were spent as a farmer. He has served as elder and deacon in the Reformed Church, to which he was a liberal contributor, and took considerable interest in politics, voting with the Republican party. He passed away at the age of fifty-seven years, and his remains were interred in Helena cemetery, Sandusky county. His widow now makes her home in Helena.

Our subject obtained a fair education in the district schools, learning rapidly, and the knowledge thus acquired has been greatly supplemented by reading and study in subsequent years. He remained at home almost continuously until his marriage, which was celebrated on Christmas Day of 1877, Miss Mary Oppermann becoming his wife. Her birth occurred in Washington township, Sandusky county, January 23, 1859, and she is a daughter of William and Ruth (Perrington) Oppermann (the former of whom, a native of Germany, has been a prominent farmer

of Sandusky county for forty years; his wife is a native of Ravenna, Portage Co., Ohio). By her marriage she has become the mother of two children—Geneva and Frank A.

Until the fall of 1884, Mr. Seiple operated the home farm in Scott township, Sandusky county, and then removed to a farm in Webster township, Wood county, which he leased for seven years. At the end of that time he purchased eighty acres in Section 15, Center township, where he lived until March 27, 1895, at which time he removed to the Jacob Eberly farm in Section 6, Portage township. There he owns 127 acres of rich and fertile land, well improved.

The first vote of Mr. Seiple was cast for the Republican party, but since 1891 he has been a stalwart Prohibitionist, on account of his views on the liquor question. He is an active and faithful member of the United Brethren Church, and is one of the trustees of Center Church, where he belongs. Ambitious, industrious and systematic, he has made a success of his life work, and is destined to become one of the substantial agriculturists of the locality. He and his estimable wife are refined, intelligent people, who occupy a remarkably high position in social circles.

CONRAD BOBEL, a representative agriculturist of Washington township, Wood county, is a native of Germany, born in Prussia, on March 10, 1817, and is a son of Adam and Catherine (Schmidt) Bobel. The father was a farmer of Germany, and by his marriage had five children. The eldest, John, served for fourteen years as a soldier in the German army, after which he came to America, where his death occurred. Augustus is also deceased; and Minnie, Conrad, and John complete the family.

The education of our subject was acquired in the Fatherland, where he followed farming until coming to the United States, in 1853, it requiring ten weeks to complete the voyage, which was made in a sailing vessel. Before leaving his native land, Mr. Bobel had wedded Ricka Pfluger, whose birth occurred there November 8, 1818, and in Germany seven of their ten children were born. John, who was a veteran of the Civil war, died in 1887; Christ, Augustus, and Martha have also passed away. CHRISTOPHER, born in October, 1846, is now, in connection with his father, engaged in the operation of their fine farm of eighty acres; in 1872 he married Catherine Wey, who was born in the same place in Germany where her husband's birth occurred, and they have three children—Minnie, Lizzie, and

Lena; Christopher Bobel is quite prominent in the community where he makes his home, and has served his fellow-citizens for five years as supervisor, and for three years as school director. The next child of the family, Lena, was born in Germany, May 4, 1850, and, on February 23, 1874, became the wife of John Hildebrand, by whom she has three children—Christina, Lewis, and Katie. Adam is next in order of birth. Christina, by her marriage with Christ Bower, has become the mother of three children. John is a carpenter and contractor of Chicago. Conrad completes the family.

On coming to this country Mr. Bobel first located in Lorain county, Ohio, where for nine months he worked on the railroad, after which he bought twelve acres of unimproved land in Wood county. In the winter of 1854 he made his home in Milan, Ohio, and then cleared his land, which he later sold. For one year he then rented forty acres, and later leased eighty acres south of his present place, which he has since purchased. All of the improvements found thereon are the work of his own hands, and he is accounted one of the enterprising and progressive farmers of the county. He and his son are firm adherents of the principles of the Republican party, and the family are consistent members of the German Reformed Church.

CHARLES W. BRANDEBERRY. Few people remain long in Wood county without becoming familiar with this name, which is borne by one of its most enterprising citizens, who has passed his entire life in Perry township. In Section 23 his birth occurred June 6, 1859, and he is a son of Isaac and Nancy (Fish) Brandeberry. His education was obtained in District No. 1, but the schools of that day were not as good as they are at the present time; his first lessons in farming were under the instruction of his father.

In Seneca county, Ohio, on the 27th of February, 1880, Mr. Brandeberry was united in marriage with Miss Nelia Cochard, who was born in Jackson township, that county, on the 22nd of October, 1860. Her parents, Daniel and Mary A. (Shafer) Cochard, were natives of Pennsylvania, were married in Crawford county, Ohio, and to them were born thirteen children, five sons and eight daughters. The mother passed away at the age of fifty-five years, but the father is still living in Jackson township, Seneca county, at the age of sixty-four. In their family Mrs. Brandeberry was the third in order of birth, and in her childhood attended the district schools in the neighborhood of her home. Two children



were born of her union with our subject—Charley, who died at the age of ten months; and Orlo, who was born July 25, 1881.

For a while after his marriage, Mr. Brandeberry operated the old homestead in Section 23, Perry township, and the first property he owned was his present farm in Section 22, where he removed in 1884. His place comprises 121 acres of valuable land, and by industry and good management he has brought it to a high state of cultivation. Besides general farming he also engages in threshing and teaming with success. In his political affiliations he is an inflexible adherent to the doctrines and principles of the Republican party, but has no aspirations for popular preferment, as his time is fully taken up by his business affairs. He and his wife are earnest members of the Methodist Church, and he belongs to the Maccabees of Fostoria, and the Fraternal Legion. He is a wide-awake, progressive farmer, and enjoys the esteem and confidence of his neighbors to an unlimited degree.

ANTON WILLIAMS, one of the popular and well-to-do farmers of Washington township, Wood county, was born in Nassau, Germany, on August 9, 1837, and is the only child of Lewis and Margaret (Danzer) Williams, both natives of the Fatherland, where the father followed the trade of weaving. There the mother died, and Lewis Williams wedded, for his second wife, Louisa Fisher, and to them was born a son, George, who now makes his home in Middleton township, this county. The father died in Germany in 1858, and two years later his widow, with her son, came to America, where her death has since occurred.

Anton Williams received his education in the public schools of his native land, where he later worked for three or four years in the mines. At about the age of seventeen, however, he decided to try his fortunes in the New World, where he hoped that better opportunities were afforded young men. On his arrival in this country he located in Huron county, Ohio, where for four years he worked at farm labor, receiving from seven dollars to eight dollars per month for his services. In 1859 he came to Wood county, where he purchased fifty acres of land, which he at once began to improve and cultivate.

On August 28, 1862, Mr. Williams enlisted at Tontogany for service in the Union army during the Civil war, becoming a member of Company K, 67th O. V. I., under Capt. Lewis and Col. A. C. Voris. He first proceeded to Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio, from there was sent to Suffolk, Va., and then stationed at Fort Wagner. He

participated in many skirmishes, and at the end of two years, on account of rheumatism, he was sent to the hospital at Cleveland, Ohio, there remaining from May to September, after which he was transferred to the V. R. C. at Washington. He received an honorable discharge May 31, 1865, after three years of faithful service, aiding in the defense of the old flag, and the cause it represented. On leaving the army he was still suffering much from rheumatism.

After his return home, Mr. Williams sold his fifty-acre tract of land, purchasing the forty acres of land he now owns, to which he afterward added fifty acres, and, in 1895, purchased eighty acres more, which has since been leased to the Air Line Oil Co., of Tontogany, and on which there is now one producing oil and gas well. He now has a farm of 183 acres, on which he is engaged in general farming. His labors have met with a well-deserved success, and his place indicates the supervision of a careful and painstaking manager.

At Haskins, in 1868, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Williams and Elizabeth Asthmus, who was born in 1848. They have become the parents of nine children—Carrie M., born July 24, 1869; George J., born September 27, 1870; Charles T., born November 19, 1872, and died at the age of two years; Lewis E., born October 15, 1874; Anna C., born March 30, 1877; Frank M., born December 28, 1879; Liza F., born October 27, 1882; Marie M., born March 6, 1886; and Helena M., born September 6, 1890. Mr. Williams is a Democrat in politics, and for several years has served as school director. Religiously he holds membership with the Lutheran Church, and all moral and educational interests have in him a friend and supporter.

JOHN D. FELLERS, deceased, who was numbered among the progressive and highly esteemed agriculturists of Wood county, was born April 13, 1847, in Eagle township, Hancock county, Ohio, a son of Daniel and Mary (Donaldson) Fellers. The father, who was a farmer, died in Henry township in August, 1886, aged seventy-five years; the mother passed away February 12, 1886, in Hancock county.

Mr. Fellers acquired his education in the district schools, and was reared on the old family homestead. His father had purchased 160 acres of land in Henry township, and deeded it to him, with the understanding that he was to pay a small sum for it. This he commenced to improve about two years before his marriage, and erected thereon a small frame residence. On November 9, 1873, in his native township, our subject was

joined in wedlock with Miss Mary Smith, who was born in that locality November 3, 1850, a daughter of Isaac and Mary (Bishop) Smith, natives of Fairfield county, Ohio, where their marriage was celebrated. They afterward removed to Seneca county, Ohio, and subsequently to Hancock county, where Mr. Smith purchased 240 acres of land in Eagle township, making his home there until his death, in August, 1865, when he was fifty-six years of age. His wife survived him about fifteen years, dying when about sixty-three years of age. They had ten children, namely: Eve, who died in childhood; Mrs. Catherine Himrod, of Indiana; George, who died at the age of seventeen; Mrs. Annie Lanning, of Hancock county; Jacob B., who was a farmer and minister in Hancock county, and died in June, 1896; John, who died, leaving a wife and three children; Henry, who has a family of seven children, and resides on the old homestead in Hancock county; Mrs. Fellers; Sidney Ann, who died in childhood; and Mrs. Emma Hartman, of Hancock county.

Mr. and Mrs. Fellers began their domestic life on a 160-acre tract of heavily-timbered land in Henry township; but with characteristic energy our subject began to clear and improve this. He tilled and fenced the place, transformed the raw land into richly cultivated fields, and in 1888 erected a large brick dwelling, the finest home in the township. He was a very energetic and progressive man, and carried forward to successful completion whatever he undertook. At the time of his death he owned 400 acres of land, having purchased 240 acres after his marriage.

To Mr. and Mrs. Fellers were born eight children—Charles S., who died at the age of twenty years; Daniel K., who died in childhood; Eliza Ann, who died in infancy; Oliver Albert, Henry Edmund, Emma Jane and Virgie Evaline, all at home; and one who died in infancy. Mr. Fellers was an unswerving supporter of the Democratic party, and a public-spirited and progressive citizen. He passed away December 10, 1894, and his family mourned the loss of a loving husband and father, while his many warm friends shared with them in their grief. Mrs. Fellers and her children still reside on the old home place, but the land is now rented.

JAMES JOHNSTON, a resident of Haskins, was born in Connecticut, November 5, 1843.

His father, John Johnston, was a native of Dumfriesshire, Scotland, born September 15, 1815. He came to America in 1834, and located first in New York State, where he met,

and March 5, 1841, married Margaret Anderson, who was born in Ireland February 9, 1816. Removing to Connecticut, they there remained until 1847, when they came to Wood county and settled in Middleton township upon some swamp land, out of which they developed, in the course of time, a fine farm. They were consistent members of the Presbyterian Church, and in politics, Mr. Johnston, who took an interest in all public questions of the day, was originally a Whig, later a Republican. He died November 3, 1891, his wife April 17, 1889. Of their four children, two are now living: John R., who resides in Bowling Green, and James. The others were Thomas, who was a farmer by occupation, born August 5, 1846, and died April 11, 1889, and Margaret, born January 30, 1856, and died January 28, 1862.

The subject proper of these lines was reared upon the old farm, attending neighboring schools during his boyhood. He was married September 4, 1869, to Miss Henrietta Crook, a native of Perrysburg, born March 28, 1844, and they have three children: Edith, at home; Grace, who married W. Garrett, and has four children—Hazel, Helen, Henry and Bliss. After his marriage, Mr. Johnston located in Haskins, and engaged in the general mercantile business, later opening a hardware store, and making a success of both enterprises. In May, 1895, he disposed of his interest, and retired from active business. He was a soldier during the war, as member of Company B, 111th O. V. I., serving in Tennessee and Kentucky for about nine months, when he was discharged on account of disability. He is an ardent supporter of the principles of the Republican party, and is one of the leading men of his community. Socially he is a member of the I. O. O. F., and of the G. A. R., Henry Carter Post No. 56, Haskins.

W. G. M. AVERY, one of the honored pioneers of this county, now residing at Bowling Green, was born in Ellisburg, N. Y., February 10, 1820. He is of Welsh descent, and his ancestors were early settlers in New York State, where his father, W. R. H. Avery, spent the greater part of his life. He married Miss Polly Towsler, also a native of New York, and came to Medina county, Ohio, in 1833, where he died in 1880, at the age of eighty-four. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and drew a pension during his later years. An active, intelligent thinker, even in old age, he took great interest in public affairs and was an ardent believer in the principles of the Democratic party. His wife died in Medina

county in 1853, at fifty-seven years of age. They had twelve children: Betsey, who married A. Selkirk, of Wood county—both are deceased; Gilbert, a resident of Plain township, Wood county; Sallie, deceased, formerly Mrs. Shubal Stevens, of Orleans county, N. Y.; W. G. M., our subject; Eleanor, the wife of Daniel Noyce, of Bowling Green, both deceased; Lucy, who married John Hardin, of Medina county, and died there; Melissa, the wife of John Shaw, of Medina county, both of whom died in Wood county; William and Thomas, now residents of Plain township, Wood county; Mary, deceased, formerly the wife of John Meeker, of this county; and John, who died at two years of age.

Our subject was thirteen years old when his parents moved to Medina county, where he grew to manhood. In 1841 he began to make hunting trips to Wood county during the autumn and winter, and on one of these excursions he met Miss Narcissa Meeker, who was born in Hamilton county, March 5, 1826. They were married November 16, 1844, and for two years following lived in Medina county. In 1846 they came to Center township, Wood county, and settled in the woods, far from any road, where Mr. Avery cleared over 200 acres of land. For a number of years he was engaged in stock raising upon a farm of 140 acres, but he retired from active business in 1892. He still owns two small farms. Mr. and Mrs. Avery's descendants number seven children and forty grandchildren, namely: (1) Alice A., born October 17, 1846, married John Dalley, and had seven children: Owen, Alena, Mina, Gertrude, Jennie, Cora and George. (2) Albert, born November 22, 1848, lives in Plain township, and is married to Miss Rosa Hughes, by whom he had three sons: Harley, Homer, and Allen. (3) Evaline, born November 5, 1851, married Daniel Barr, of Center township, and had ten children: Narcissus, Arnold, Libbie, May, Jennie, Nannie, Willis, Clarence, June, and Merit. (4) Martha Adelaide, born February 9, 1854, married M. Witherow, of Plain township, and had nine children: Earnest, Walter, Mary, Lura, Washington, Sadie, Owen, Orlie, and John. (5) Betsey Ann, born November 18, 1857, married James Franklin, and died March 18, 1886. Two children of this union are living—Lovenia and Charles—a third, Howard, died in infancy. (6) Ella, born July 29, 1859; married George Barr, of Center township, and had six children: Arthur, Allen, Alice, Ethel, Robert, and Rolly. (7) Washington G., born February 4, 1861, married Viola Snyder, of Bowling Green, and lives in Center township; they have three children: Claud,

Ethel, and Sylva. There are also six great-grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Avery have brought up more than twenty children in their home, at different times. They are interested in all religious and philanthropical movements, and have been for many years leading members of the United Brethren Church. Mr. Avery is a Democrat politically, and was at one time elected director of the county infirmary.

THOMAS FORRESTER, deceased. The subject of this sketch, who, until a few years ago, held an honored place among the fast-thinning ranks of Wood county's pioneers, was born in Scotland, September 22, 1822. He was one of the nine children of Thomas and Ellen (Stein) Forrester, and came to America with his parents at the age of twelve years. They located in Webster township, where, not long afterward, he entered eighty acres of land on his own account, to which he added as his fortunes improved. A man of great industry and courage, he overcame the many hardships incident to pioneer life, and early established himself successfully in his chosen home. He was married, in 1848, to Miss Annie Davidson, of Webster township, who was born in Scotland, October 21, 1824. Six children were born of this union: Robert, a farmer, and trustee of Webster township; James M., a farmer, and trustee of Center township; Walter, a farmer of Webster township; and three who are now deceased—Thomas, Andrew and William.

Mr. Forrester took an influential part in all local affairs, and was school director and supervisor for many years. His death occurred February 1, 1892. His wife survives him, and with her sister, Miss Margaret Davidson, resides at the old homestead. Mrs. Forrester can recount many interesting reminiscences of the early days, when wolves and Indians roamed near her home, and she recalls the time when Capt. Wilkison removed the remnant of the aborigines from Ohio to the Indian Territory.

WALTER FORRESTER, the sixth, or youngest, son of this worthy pioneer couple, was born October 29, 1861, in Webster township. He was the "home boy," and being enterprising and industrious, he gradually came into the management of the old homestead, which he still conducts. Shortly after his marriage, in 1886, his father gave him the deed of forty acres of the old homestead, on which he built a small residence, where he still resides. He is prominent in all public movements in his vicinity, has been school director, filling the office to the satisfaction of the

people. His wife is the eldest daughter of Mrs. William Fletcher, a prominent resident of Wood county. She is a member of the United Presbyterian Church, of Scotch Ridge. They have no children living.

**STEPHEN SCHALLER.** In the beautiful and historic country of Switzerland, this gentleman was born in February, 1846. His father, Benjamin Schaller, was also a native of "the land of the Alps," and there followed the occupation of farming until 1851, when he came to Wood county, Ohio, accompanied by his family. Here he carried on agricultural pursuits until his death, in 1862. His wife bore the maiden name of Rosanna Hanning, and their family numbered nine children—Benjamin, Frederick, Simon and Alexandra, all farmers of Perrysburg township; Lewis, an agriculturist of Middleton township; Barbara, wife of John Mosier; Stephen; Augustus, a farmer of Middleton township; and Rosie, the wife of John Isch, of Lake township.

Mr. Schaller, whose name introduces this review, accompanied his parents on their emigration to America, and attended school in Middleton township. He early became familiar with farm labor on the old family homestead, where he continued until twenty-six years of age, and was then employed on neighboring farms for two years. With the capital thus acquired he purchased eighty acres of land, covered with timber and water. He drained the place, cleared it of the trees, and to-day possesses one of the best equipped farms in Middleton township. A good barn furnishes ample shelter for his grain and stock, the latest improved machinery facilitates his labors, and a pleasant residence stands as a monument to his diligence and enterprise. He is a self-made man in the best sense of that term, and the success that crowns his efforts is certainly well-merited.

Mr. Schaller gives his political support to the Democratic party, and, though he has never been an office-seeker neglects no duty of citizenship, and gives a hearty support to those measures calculated to prove of public benefit. In 1879, at Whitehouse, Waterville township, Lucas county, he married Sarah Moser, daughter of Christ Moser, a native of Switzerland, living in Grand Rapids, Ohio. The children of this marriage are Louisa, Herman, Andrew, Ernest, Bertha, Cora, and Elmer.

**WILLIAM ROLLER** is the owner of one of the most highly improved farms of the county, and his name stands among the first on the roll

of Middleton township's leading agriculturists. A native of the Buckeye State, he was born in Biglick township, Hancock county, June 8, 1848, and is a son of Michael Roller, who was born in Ashland county, Ohio, March 4, 1822. The grandfather, William Roller, was associate judge of Hancock county, and one of its honored pioneer settlers, while his brother, L. Roller, was the first white man to locate in Scott township, Sandusky county. The father of our subject removed from Ashland to Hancock county, in 1835, and was one of the pioneers of that locality. His father entered 1,200 acres of land from the government, giving to each of his children a farm of 160 acres. He married Elizabeth Swindler, of Jefferson county, Ohio, and they became the parents of nine children: William; Mrs. Sarah Spar, widow of Allen Spar, a farmer of Hancock county; Mary A.; Philimena, wife of Jefferson Huffman, a farmer of Michigan; George W. and Henry, agriculturists of Hancock county; Ida, wife of Samuel Taylor, a Hancock county farmer; Lorana, wife of Edward Vicker; and one who died in infancy. The father of this family was a prominent and highly esteemed citizen, and died on the old homestead in 1885. In politics he was a Democrat, and for a number of years served as township trustee. His widow is still living on the old farm in Hancock county.

William Roller was educated in the common schools, and worked on the home farm until twenty-four years of age, when he came to Wood county, and began farming for himself. Of the ninety-six acres of land which he purchased, and which are now situated in the center of a petroleum field, twenty were cleared, but the remainder was in its primitive condition. With characteristic energy he began to improve this, has drained it by ditching and tiling and now the once wild land yields to him a handsome return for his care and labor, while various improvements stand as monuments to his thrift and enterprise. He has a very pleasant country home, erected at a cost of \$2,000, and a barn, the cost of which was \$1,000, affords ample shelter for the stock, of which he raises good grades. He possesses an unflinching perseverance that is not daunted by obstacles, and his resolute purpose and energy have been the essential factors in his success.

In politics, Mr. Roller is a Democrat, and has served as trustee of Middleton township for one term, and was the Democratic candidate for county commissioner on two occasions, which shows his high standing with his party. He is a prominent, faithful and active worker in the Methodist Church at Dowling, is serving as trus-

tee and steward, and has been both a teacher and the superintendent of the Sunday-school. His home life is pleasant and he has an interesting family. In 1871 he married Martha Ruckman, who was born in Hancock county, April 2, 1847, one of the eight children of James and Hannah (Huffman) Ruckman. Seven children grace their marriage: James T., a very intelligent young man, and a successful school teacher in Dowling; Elizabeth, widow of Charles Clark; Florence, Jay, Mary, Michael and William.

**HARRISON B. WOOD**, one of the wide-awake and enterprising citizens of Liberty township, was born on October 16, 1852, in this State, and is one of the fourteen children of John J. and Ruhana (Severence) Wood. During his early boyhood his parents removed to Illinois, and he attended school in Astoria, that State; but completed his education in the district school of North Manchester, Wabash Co., Ind. When a youth of sixteen he began to earn his own living by carrying the United States mail from North Manchester to Lagro, Ind., following that pursuit for two years. He afterward worked as a farm hand and in sawmills, and, in 1871, took up his residence in Fulton county, Ohio.

Two years later, Mr. Wood was there married to Elizabeth Crile, and to them has been born a daughter, Lillie, now the wife of Charles Bowen, of Jackson township. They began their domestic life on an eighty-acre farm, which Mr. Wood purchased and operated for some years. He then removed to Henry county, where he carried on the sawmill business, four miles northwest of Grand Rapids, Ohio. In 1886 he brought his family to Wood county, and purchased a farm of forty acres near Bowling Green, which he conducted for about four years. He sold this and bought a sawmill in Center township. Afterward he purchased eighty acres of land in Liberty township, twenty acres of which he later disposed of. He has added to the farm, however, until it now comprises 160 acres, upon which he has erected a large and substantial dwelling and good barns. He has greatly improved the property, and now has one of the most desirable farms in the community. He operates a sawmill upon his place, and also owns one in Jackson township.

Mr. Wood owes his prosperity entirely to his own efforts. A resolute purpose and enterprising perseverance have overcome the obstacles he has met, and his own industry has given him a place among the substantial citizens of his adopted county. In politics he is a stalwart Republican, and, while serving as constable of Fulton county

for five years, he proved his efficiency as a public officer.

**LUTHER S. PUGH**, a successful and enterprising farmer of Richfield township, Henry county, is a native of Weston township, Wood county, born February 3, 1848, son of John Pugh.

Mr. Pugh attended the district schools when a boy, and worked on his father's farm until he was twenty-seven years old. In 1871, however, he had commenced life for himself with a capital of \$200, purchasing eighty acres in Milton township, which he improved. In 1872 he bought the sixty-eight acres on which he now resides. In 1883 he secured eighty acres more, to which he added, in 1888, 109 acres, and in February, 1891, 104 acres, making a total of 441 acres, all of which are improved, and on which Mr. Pugh has erected barns, sheds, outhouses, etc. One hundred acres of this land is in timber.

On April 13, 1875, our subject was united in marriage, in Weston township, with Miss Harriet Martin, a daughter of James Martin, and a sister of William Martin, of Weston township. To Mr. and Mrs. Pugh have been born five children, as follows: Rufo M., April 8, 1878; John J., June 12, 1880; William Otis, December 12, 1885; David R., December 30, 1888; Effie S., October 11, 1892. In connection with his farming interests Mr. Pugh has one of the finest stone quarries in the county. Thousands of tons of stone have been used in many of the buildings in Weston, Custar and other towns, and the business brings him in from one to two thousand dollars a year. About forty loads of stone are taken from the quarry every day. He is also a breeder of cattle, and has an excellent stock of Aberdeens, some of which took first prize at the Wood County Fair. Mr. Pugh is one of the most practical farmers in the county, and is looked upon as the leading agriculturist in Richfield township. He is a hard worker, and cleared 125 acres of land, cutting the rails from the timber himself, making a record in one season of 6,000 rails. In this work he has often been seriously injured; his legs have been broken several times, and on two occasions he set the broken parts himself. At another time he had two of his ribs broken.

Mr. Pugh is well known for his philanthropy, and is a liberal contributor to all worthy purposes. On every occasion he has donated twenty-five cents on every dollar's worth of stone purchased from him for church-building purposes. He is progressive, industrious, and one of the substantial citizens of Henry county; he is a



*S. S. Lugh.*



*Harriet Lugh*



staunch member of the Republican party, but not an active politician, and takes a substantial interest in local educational affairs.

WILLIAM SMITH, one of the most highly respected citizens of Bloomdale, was born December 29, 1829, on the island of Bermuda, of Scotch-Irish parents.

His father, James Smith, a weaver by trade, served for twenty-six and one-half years in the British army, enlisting at the time of the battle of Waterloo, but he did not take part in any of the Napoleonic wars. While stationed in Canada, he married Martha Elder, a native of County Derry, Ireland, and sometime afterward was ordered to Bermuda, where our subject's birth occurred. In the family were five children: John and John W., both deceased in infancy; William; James, a carpenter, of St. Louis, Mo.; and Matilda, wife of James Caskey, of Montgomery township, Wood county. On leaving the British army, the father located in Scotland, where he followed weaving for the remainder of his active life. He died in April, 1879, at the age of eighty years, and his wife passed away two weeks before, at the age of eighty-two. They now lie buried at Newton Stewart, Wigtownshire, Scotland.

William Smith was about nine years of age when his father left the army, being at that time a resident of Ireland, and his childhood days were passed in several different places. For one year the family resided in Glasgow, and then went to Newton Stewart. Our subject's educational privileges were limited, and at the age of sixteen he left the school-room, and began learning the shoemaker's trade, which required five years' apprenticeship, before he was deemed a competent workman, so thorough are trades learned in the mother country. He then went to Glasgow, but after a year returned to Newton Stewart. Although economical and industrious, he was unable to save much money, and as he wished to launch on the sea of matrimony, and had not sufficient means, he determined to come to the New World, where better opportunities are offered for acquiring a competence.

On May 26, 1853, Mr. Smith sailed from Glasgow, on the "Java," which arrived in New York seven weeks later. His destination was Slatington, fourteen miles from Allentown, Lehigh Co., Penn., where he had an aunt living, and, on arriving at that place, had only ten cents remaining. Inspired by the hope of making a home in America for himself and his intended, whom he had left behind, he went earnestly to

work at shoemaking; but after three months his trade became slack, and for one month he was employed in a slate quarry. It was now, late in the fall of 1853, that he moved farther west with his uncle, Hugh Carr, to Logan county, Ohio, where he was employed the following winter driving a team. In April, 1854, he hired out as a farm hand with William McDowell, and during the following summer saved enough to send for his intended wife, Miss Margaret Clanachan, who was a daughter of William and Mary (Laurie) Clanachan, and was born in Wigtownshire, Scotland, March 17, 1833. She left Scotland, and June 15, 1854, sailed from Liverpool, arriving in Logan county, Ohio, August 21. On September 9, following, they were married in Jefferson township, that county. They have become the parents of eight children, namely: James, a carpenter of Bloom township; Walter, a farmer of Perry township; J. F.; Samuel, a carpenter of Bloomdale; Robert, a clerk of Bloomdale; Rosa, wife of Albert Stillwell, of Perry; Mattie, at home; and Mary J., who died in infancy.

For a time after his marriage Mr. Smith and his wife lived with Mr. McDowell, and during the following winter he worked at his trade. In the spring of 1855, however, he rented twenty acres of land in Jefferson township, Logan county, near Zanesfield, and followed the occupation of farming until leaving that county. On May 8, 1864, he enlisted in the one-hundred-days' service, becoming a member of Company I, 132nd O. V. I., under Capt. Porter, doing service mostly in Virginia, and on being discharged at Camp Chase, Ohio, in September, 1864, he returned to Logan county. It was in January, 1865, that Mr. Smith brought his family to Wood county, locating on forty acres of land which he had purchased in Montgomery township, and he there made his home until 1871, when he bought eighty-seven and one-half acres in Section 30, Perry township, which he operated until November, 1893. Since that time he has resided in Bloomdale, having erected a comfortable dwelling there, and is now living retired from active business cares. In politics he is a staunch Republican, though no politician, and filled the office of trustee of Perry township. He holds membership with the United Brethren Church, to which he is a liberal contributor, has served as trustee, class-leader and superintendent of Sunday-school, and is now a teacher in the same. He is a devout Christian, and has ever taken a foremost and active part in the work of the Church. In April, 1879, he was summoned to Scotland by the illness of his aged parents, but arrived too late to see them, as they had been



buried two weeks before he reached the old home. He has crossed the Atlantic eight times, and revisited many of the scenes of his youth. In 1882 his wife and daughters—Rosa and Mattie—visited Scotland, Mrs. Smith not having seen her mother for nearly thirty years. Although he has been a great worker, Mr. Smith is still well preserved, and he is a kind-hearted, conscientious gentleman, enjoying the confidence of all with whom he comes in contact.

**JACOB HARTMAN.** Among the citizens that Germany has furnished to Ohio, is this well-known farmer of Wood county, who was born in Nassau, November 5, 1850. His parents, Peter and Christina (Dower) Hartman, were also natives of Germany, and had a family of four children, namely: Jacob; Christ, a farmer of Middleton township; Emma, wife of George Williams; and Eliza, wife of John Snyder. In 1852 the father came with his family to America, and located in Huron county, Ohio, where he carried on agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred in 1857. His wife afterward married Joseph Hofner, and they had three children—Mary, wife of Henry Asmus; Katie, wife of Henry Stutzburg, a farmer; and Michael, an agriculturist of Middleton township. Mr. Hofner died in 1892; his widow now makes her home with George Williams.

Jacob Hartman, of this sketch, obtained his education in the public schools, and worked upon his father's farm until nineteen years of age. In 1863 he came to Wood county with his mother, who purchased the farm on which he now resides, comprising fifty-five acres. This Mr. Hartman cleared, transforming the wild tract into well-developed fields. In 1876 he purchased the old homestead, and has since conducted the farm, on which he has erected a fine residence at a cost of \$1,500. He has made it cultivable by tiling and ditching, and is to-day the owner of a very valuable farming property, which yields him a handsome return for his labor.

On December 9, 1888, in Middleton township, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Hartman and Miss Eliza Hattonroth, who was born in Germany, November 27, 1855, and is a daughter of Henry and Barbara (Elm) Hattonroth. They now have two interesting children—Albert, born June 15, 1890; and Frederick, born December 18, 1892. Their home is a pleasant and hospitable one, and Mr. and Mrs. Hartman have many friends in their locality. In his political adherency he is a Democrat, in religious faith he is a Lutheran, his membership being with the

Church in Haskins. He is a man of genuine worth and thorough reliability, and is popular with all who know him.

**ABRAHAM LOE,** who is now living retired in Jerry City, was for a number of years engaged in farming in Bloom township, owning a fine farm of seventy acres. Mr. Loe first saw the light December 14, 1823, in Philadelphia, Penn., where his father, Robert Loe, was born.

When eight years of age Robert Loe was bound out to a farmer living west of Philadelphia, remaining with him until he reached maturity, and he never saw his father, who was a seaman, after he was eight years old. Robert Loe enlisted in the war of 1812, and served some eighteen months, much to the displeasure of his "master." He was married, near Philadelphia, to Miss Catherine Seldenrick, and they commenced married life in that city, where two or three children were born to them. Mr. Loe drove teams, and did general work. They subsequently lived for a time in New Jersey, returning thence to Philadelphia, and there remaining until early in the winter of 1837, when they migrated to Ohio, making the long, tedious journey over the mountains in wagons. Locating in Belmont county, Mr. Loe was engaged in farming for about two years; at the end of that time, in connection with his son William, opening a brick yard. They engaged in the manufacture of brick for years, and built several brick houses in West Wheeling, Belmont county. Mr. Loe removed to Wood county six months after his son Abraham (our subject), and here his wife died about eighteen months later, on September 10, 1848, and was laid to rest in Sugar Grove cemetery. The entire family then returned to Belmont county, whence, after a residence of nearly three years, during which time, in 1849, Mr. Loe remarried (his choice this time being Miss Kizia McCulick), Mr. Loe again came to Wood county. His remains now rest in Sugar Grove cemetery, he having died in 1864, his wife surviving him until 1872. He was originally a Whig in politics, later becoming a Republican.

Abraham Loe received his primary education in the Philadelphia public schools of his time, and came with his parents to Belmont county, Ohio, in 1837. When his father opened the brick yard he worked in it, and learned the business, following it for some time. On September 5, 1844, he was married, in Belmont county, Ohio, to Miss Lucinda Baird, who was a native of Ohio county, W. Va., born about 1825, along Wheeling creek, daughter of James and Sylvena

(Wetzel) Baird; the latter was a relative of Louis Wetzel, the pioneer Indian fighter, so well known in this locality. The young couple began house-keeping in West Wheeling, Belmont county, and Mr. Loe was engaged in various kinds of labor, making several trips to New Orleans on coal barges. There was a doctor living in West Wheeling who owned forty acres of land lying in Section 6, Bloom township, Wood county, which he offered for \$50. Our subject, desiring to commence life independently, went out to investigate the land, borrowing a horse from his father, and also rode to Perrysburg, the county seat, to look up the title. After a ten-days' trip he returned to West Wheeling, and in the following spring, 1846, having closed the purchase, he came to his land and made a few improvements on it, building a log house, 18x20 feet in dimensions, and also having some clearing done. In August, same year, he removed his family hither, and they had two wagons for their household goods; but, by that time, "butter weeds" had sprung up within the cabin, which had no floor, and completely filled it. Here the family resided until November, 1848, when they returned to Belmont county, Mr. Loe's father and brothers having also returned thither, and he learned and followed the bricklayer's trade there for some time. He had not sold his Wood county tract, however, and in January, 1854, the family returned, making the trip by team, and, as the weather was cold, Mr. Loe had a stove in the wagon, which added greatly to their comfort.

While in Belmont county Mr. Loe had bought thirty acres adjoining his original purchase, and before his return he had his log house moved to the new land, to the same site occupied by the present residence on the farm. Here Mr. Loe resumed farming, and continued to follow that vocation until his retirement, in 1886, from active life. As a result of his persevering industry and thorough attention to his affairs he met with gratifying success, and, in addition, to the farm of over eighty acres in the township, owns three houses and lots in Cygnet, Wood county, and his comfortable home in Jerry City, which he built at the time of his retirement from the farm. When our subject was married, he borrowed \$40 from his brother John, with which to commence housekeeping, and, as he has worked hard to place himself in his present position, he well deserves the prosperity he now enjoys with his noble wife, who was never less ready to do her share in making a comfortable, happy home for the family. In September, 1894, this honored couple celebrated their golden wedding, surround-

ed by their family and numerous friends. A brief record of their children is as follows: Albert died in Bloom township, leaving a wife and one child; Mary J. is the wife of James H. Whitacre; James H. is a resident of North Baltimore; John W. died in infancy; Martin L. lives in Center township; Abraham resides in Bloom township; Isaac has his home in Liberty township; Hattie is the wife of Henry Parsons, of Cygnet; Neametta is the wife of Thomas Whitacre, of Liberty township. In religious connection Mr. and Mrs. Loe are members of the Church of God. Since 1891 Mr. Loe has been a Prohibitionist, and previous to that time he gave his political support to the Republican party.

**ROBERT P. WILLCOX.** The calling of a farmer, while not so prominent in the estimation of the public generally as that of a lawyer or physician, or perhaps a merchant, is really the most necessary to the growth and material advancement of any county or State. The farmers are the bone and sinew of the country, and it is a vocation of which any man may be proud, especially when he has made a success of it, as has been the case with the man whose name opens this sketch and who is recognized as one of the most progressive and prosperous agriculturists of Wood county. Mr. Willcox makes his home in Plain township, near Bowling Green, where he carries on general farming, raising and breeding stock, and, as a specialty, has devoted much time and attention to the culture of potatoes. Of these, during the past year he has grown sixteen varieties, and has been most successful in his experiments with them. He sends all over the country to procure the newest varieties, which he tests, and those which have special merit he offers for seed purposes. The soil is naturally adapted to growing potatoes of splendid quality, and the yield averages from 70 to 225 bushels per acre. He plants and harvests the crop by machinery, thereby saving much hard labor. Through his extensive advertising in the leading farm journals, he has become widely known in this branch of agriculture, and, although one of the youngest farmers in the county, has already made a competence by good management and close application to business.

Mr. Willcox was born in Stark county, Ill., August 29, 1865, but spent his youth on a farm near Milan, Erie Co., Ohio, to which his father had removed. He was educated in the district school and the Western Reserve Normal School, at Milan, which latter institution he attended for two years, graduating in the Business course.

He learned the trade of a printer, which he followed for about three years, until poor health forced him to relinquish that calling. In 1887 he came to Wood county, to take charge of his father's estate, and, as he is a man of advanced ideas, and one who employs the newest and most approved methods in everything, he has made, as has already been stated, a great success of his undertakings. Mr. Willcox is an extensive reader, and is thoroughly well-informed, not only on the general news of the day, but on all matters relating to agriculture. In politics he is a Democrat, but has, so far, been too busily engaged with his own affairs to care for office holding or take a prominent part in party motives. He was married September 26, 1888, to Miss Rose Hart, who was born July 26, 1870, and died June 12, 1894, leaving one child, Sumner Hart.

The parents of our subject are Robert N. and Elizabeth (Root) Willcox, the former born July 20, 1831, in Ledyard, Conn. When twenty years old he went to California where he remained nine years, and on his return located at Toulon, Ill., where he farmed two and one-half years. He then sold out and removed to Ohio, settling in Wood county where he purchased 320 acres of land. He subsequently went to Erie county, Ohio, where he and his wife are now living. He is a wealthy farmer, and a prominent man in his community. In politics he is a Democrat, and in religious belief is a Spiritualist. His father was Robert Willcox, who lived and died in Connecticut.

The maternal grandfather of our subject, Perry Root, was born in Hebron, Conn. He removed to Erie county, Ohio, and was killed by the kick of a horse when he was nearly fifty-five years old. He was a man widely and favorably known, and by careful management became one of the most substantial business men of Erie county.

PETER ZIEGLER, a venerable and highly-respected resident of Bloomdale, was born October 11, 1806, in Chestnut Hill township, Northampton Co., Pennsylvania.

He is of German descent, his grandfather, Peter Ziegler, having come from the Fatherland during the Revolutionary war to make his home in Bucks county, Penn. He reared a large family, among whom was Jacob Ziegler, our subject's father, who married Elizabeth Savers, a native of Northampton county, and settled upon a farm there. He was a soldier in the war of 1812, and his son Peter, then a boy of six, has a distinct recollection of his return home on fur-

lough from Philadelphia, where he was stationed. About the year 1817 the family removed to Columbia county, Penn., and in 1831 came to Ashland (then Richland) county, Ohio, settling in Orange township, on a tract of wild land, which they improved and resided upon during the rest of their lives, dying at a good old age. They were devout members of the Old-School Presbyterian Church, and the father, who took an interest in all public questions of the day, was a Democrat in politics. They had eight children: Ann, deceased wife of Jacob Shopbell, of Ashland county; Peter, our subject; David, who died in Illinois; Samuel, who died in Fostoria; Catherine (deceased), formerly the wife of Andrew Johns; Elizabeth, the widow of Adam Baum, of Ashland; Mary, the wife of Levi McCauley, of Ashland; and Sarah (deceased), who married Michael Ohl, of Ashland county.

Mr. Ziegler was reared upon a farm, and received such educational advantages as the neighboring schools afforded. Until he was twelve years old he attended a Dutch school, and, when the removal of the family to Columbia county placed him suddenly in a school where English was spoken exclusively, he was badly handicapped, as he could not then speak a word of that language.

On January 1, 1830, he was married in Columbia county, Penn., to Miss Sarah Fullmer, who was born February 1, 1811, daughter of John and Hannah (Gardner) Fullmer, early settlers in that locality, who in later years removed to Ashland county, Ohio, where they died well advanced in years. Mr. Ziegler had but little of this world's goods at the time of his marriage, a horse, colt and \$100 in money being the sum total of his gains so far. He rented a farm for a time and in April, 1834, he brought his wife and three children—Caroline, John, and Daniel—to Orange township, Richland (now Ashland) Co., Ohio, traveling for fourteen days in a covered wagon. Tavern keepers in those times kept houses for the convenience of movers, who carried their bedding and cooked their own food. He traded one of his best horses for forty acres of new land, a cabin 16x16, and a small garden spot. In June, 1852, he bought eighty acres in Bloom township, to which he removed in September of that year, adding eighty acres a few months later. He now owns 192 acres of land, much of it being valuable oil property. In December, 1887, he moved to Bloomdale to enjoy in quiet the fruits of his previous years of toil, and here his wife, who had been a faithful helpmeet in all his efforts, passed to her long rest November 6, 1892, at

the age of eighty-two years, after sixty-two years, ten months and five days of married life. Both had been members of the Presbyterian Church from childhood. Mrs. Ziegler was robust and active up to a few weeks before her death from heart disease, doing all her own housework. They had eleven children, whose names and dates of birth, etc., are as follows: Caroline, September 23, 1830, married John A. Simon, and died in Bloom township; John, December 4, 1831, is a farmer in Kansas; Daniel, July 19, 1833, lives in Putnam county; Catherine, February 23, 1835, is the widow of William Leathers, who was killed May 7, 1872, in a gristmill at Eagleville, and she now lives with her father; Hannah, February 3, 1837, is the widow of Isaac Fellers, of Findlay; Jacob, January 1, 1839, lives in Fulton county, Ill.; Elizabeth, March 21, 1845, is the widow of Samuel Heaten, and lives in Eagleville; Sarah, June 17, 1844, is now Mrs. George Brownheller, of Bloom township; Peter, January 4, 1847, lives in Lincoln Center, Kans.; Emanuel, October 6, 1850, is a prominent farmer of Bloom township; and Adaline, March 26, 1853, died at the age of twenty-two. These children have done credit to their parents, all having become good and prosperous citizens. "Uncle Peter" has worked hard for his success, and in early days, when other farmers were enjoying the fire-side in winter, he would be hauling merchandise to and from Fostoria, for the old pioneer merchant, James M. Bronson, of Eagleville, earning many dollars in this way. He is still in fine health, and retains his faculties wonderfully, his memory being remarkable, and, as he is a great reader, he is well-informed on the questions of the time. He has been a Democrat from the time of Andrew Jackson, casting a vote for his party at every election, township, county, State and National. He never aspired to office, preferring to give his attention to his own business, but he has held some minor township offices, and has taken especial interest in the improvement of the schools.

W. G. CONKEY, a prominent and representative farmer of Liberty township, residing in Section 34, located thereon in 1880, at which time he came to the county from Bluffton, Allen Co., Ohio. The place of his nativity is Van Buren county, Mich., where his birth took place on the 27th of March, 1853, and he is a son of George V. and Anna (Halstead) Conkey, the former a native of New York, and the latter of Michigan. They were married in Van Buren county, and there the father engaged in farming until his re-

moval to Eagle Center, Hancock Co., Ohio, in 1861, where he carried on a cooper shop for some years. The mother of our subject died in 1857, leaving the following named children: Mrs. Rosana King, of Berrien county, Mich.; Mrs. Betsy Ruggles, of Stark county, Ohio; Mrs. Chloe Hall, of Columbus, Ohio; Shepherd, of Tennessee; Leonard Conkey, of Grand Rapids, Mich.; W. G., of this review; and G. V., of Calhoun county, Mich. At Eagle Center, in 1858, the father was again married, his second union being with Elizabeth Bender, by whom he had two children—Mrs. Anna Green, of Hancock county, Ohio; and John, who was accidentally killed at the age of eight years. In 1869, Mr. Conkey took up his residence at Bluffton, Allen Co., Ohio, where he departed this life in 1891, but his wife still makes her home there.

The educational advantages which our subject received were such as were afforded by the common schools of Van Buren county, Mich., and at the age of sixteen he accompanied his father to Allen county, where he remained until becoming a resident of Wood county. In Liberty township, in 1877, he was united in marriage with Minerva Stockwell, who was born in Hancock county, and is a daughter of George and Nancy Stockwell, natives of New York. At a very early day they became residents of Hancock county, where their deaths occurred.

As before mentioned, Mr. Conkey came to Liberty township in 1880, and two years later purchased his present farm, which was then but partially improved, but now yields to the owner bountiful returns for the care and labor he bestows upon it. He devotes his time and attention to general farming, and for nine successive years he has been teaming for the Ohio Oil Co.; he has two good oil wells upon his place, which add materially to his income. Seven children have come to brighten the home of our subject and his excellent wife, who, in order of birth, are as follows: Frank, Rosana, John, Sadie, Belle, William and Ella.

Mr. Conkey takes a leading and active part in the welfare of his adopted county; has been for six years one of the trustees of Liberty township; for eleven years has been a member of the school board, and has also held the office of constable. In his political views he is an ardent Democrat, while religiously he holds to the faith of the Methodist Episcopal Church, attending services at South Liberty. He takes quite a prominent part in civic societies, belonging to Vitas Lodge No. 602, I. O. O. F., of Jerry City, Wood county; Enterprise Encampment No. 224,

of Milton Center; and the Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 553, at Wingston, Ohio.

DAVID GUNDER, who, for the past twenty years, has made his home in Portage township, is a native of Pennsylvania, born December 22, 1838, in Dauphin county, son of Isaac and Susan (Heller) Gunder, who were farming people of Dutch and Scotch ancestry.

The parents of our subject removed from Dauphin county to Franklin county, Penn., and in 1849 came to Ohio, locating first in Crawford county, where Mrs. Gunder's parents lived. In the spring of 1850 they settled in Perry township, Wood county, where Mr. Gunder had purchased eighty acres of land, in its primitive condition, and there they made a permanent home. He became prosperous, but during his later years was unfortunate in losing his property through going bail for friends, and our subject provided a comfortable home for his parents during their declining years. They now rest in the cemetery at West Millgrove. They reared a large family, of whom, Sarah married Joshua Slorp, and died in Crawford county, Ohio; Eliza, who is unmarried, is living in Perrysburg; Daniel is a resident of East Tennessee; Catherine is the wife of Dennis Shinew, of Portage; Isaac lives in Michigan; David is the subject of these lines; John lives in Wood county; Solomon became a member of the 49th O. V. I., and was killed at the battle of Missionary Ridge; Rebecca died at the age of seventeen years; Susan is the wife of Mel Warren, of Richland county, Ohio; Samuel is a resident of West Millgrove, Ohio; Benjamin lives in Perrysburg.

Our subject was about twelve years old when the family settled in Wood county, and he attended school only one winter here. In addition to the ordinary disadvantages which the youth of that day experienced in acquiring even an ordinary education, he was hampered by defective eyesight, and also suffered from the fever and ague, so common in this section when the region was little more than a swamp. When fifteen years old he commenced to work for other farmers, and he also engaged in different lines of work, being employed in a shingle mill for a time, working with the surveying corps on the Dayton & Michigan railway, between Perrysburg & Toledo, and was also employed at grading. In March, 1859, he was married, in Montgomery township, Wood county, to Miss Elizabeth Clemens, who was born in Loudon township, Seneca county, daughter of Daniel Clemens, a farmer. The young couple lived with his parents for a short

time, and after that lived on rented land in various places in Perry township, Wood county, and in Jackson township, Seneca county, in the latter place renting one farm of Dr. R. C. Caples, of Fostoria, Ohio, for twelve years. In February, 1875, Mr. Gunder removed his family to their present home in Portage township, Wood county, which comprises eighty acres of good land in Section 24, but which at that time was in its primitive condition, not even a building standing on the place. But since he has conducted the place it has changed materially, buildings and fences have been erected, and he has made a fine home for himself and family by incessant hard work. He is a self-made man in the strictest sense of the word, and is respected by all who know him for his industry and integrity. Mr. Gunder has witnessed the transformation of this entire section of Ohio, for when they came here the country was still a forest, and his father's family made the entire trip from Pennsylvania to Crawford county, Ohio, and from Crawford county to Wood county, in a large covered wagon drawn by four horses.

Mr. and Mrs. Gunder are the parents of two children—John, who is a carpenter, and Harry S., both living at home. Our subject and his wife are both members of the U. B. Church, and in politics he is a staunch Democrat. He is a regular voter, but aside from that takes no active part in public affairs.

SAMUEL MOREHOUSE belongs to one of the pioneer families of Wood county, and was born in Milton township, August 7, 1857. His father, Savenus Morehouse, was born in Paulding county, Ohio, but the grandfather was a native of Pennsylvania; the former married Cynthia Fuller, and they became parents of the following named children—Leonard, a leading farmer of Milton township; Mary, wife of George Brant, of Toledo, Ohio; Silas, of Milton township; S. Jane, wife of John Finney, of Jackson township; Samuel, a farmer of Milton township; Rosina, wife of Wert Williams, of Jackson township; Anna, who died at the age of four years; and Ira, who died while serving in the Union army as a member of Company I, 68th O. V. I. The father, who was born July 1, 1816, died April 11, 1895, and the mother, who was born April 6, 1820, died February 22, 1894.

Our subject was reared on the old home farm, and at the age of eighteen started out to make his own living, being employed as a farm hand at \$1 per day. In 1876 he began farming with his brother Leonard, and the business relations

between them still exist. He is a man of excellent business ability, enterprising and industrious, and the neat and thrifty appearance of his land indicates his careful supervision.

Mr. Morehouse was married in Milton township, August 4, 1887, to Miss Annie Penterburg, a native of this locality, born December 17, 1869. The children that grace this union are: Nellie May, born March 26, 1889; Pearl, born January 29, 1891; Earl Wayne, born January 7, 1893; and Hazel, born December 29, 1894. Mr. Morehouse is a Republican in politics, and is deeply interested in the growth and success of his party. Socially, he is connected with the Odd Fellows Lodge of Milton Center.

It will be interesting in this connection to note something more of the brother with which Mr. Morehouse is in business. Leonard Morehouse is also a native of Milton township, his birth having occurred December 18, 1846. He is indebted to the common schools for his educational privileges; at the age of fourteen years he began to earn his own living by working as a farm hand, a pursuit which he followed until twenty-eight years of age. During the war he manifested his loyalty to the government by enlisting in Company I, 144th O. V. I., and continuing in the service until honorably discharged in September, 1864. On his return he resumed work as a farm hand, being thus employed until 1875, when he purchased forty acres of his present farm. Now, in connection with his brother, he owns and operates 120 acres, and the two gentlemen are numbered among the leading agriculturists of the community. His political support is also given the Republican party. Socially he is a member of the I. O. O. F., and the G. A. R. Post at Weston.

ADAM BEIL, one of the leading citizens of Middleton township, was born March 6, 1845, in Germany. His father, Martin Beil, followed the occupation of a farmer, married Fraulein Lena Winter, and reared a family of four children: Lizzie, the wife of John Wehl; Adam, our subject; Rena, deceased, formerly the wife of Fred Brand; and Conrad, a farmer of Washington township.

Mr. Beil came to America in 1860, having, at the age of fifteen, already acquired a fair education in the schools of his native place, and learned the details of farm work under his father's guidance. For four years he worked in Huron county as a farm laborer, and then rented a farm there, which he kept for three years. In 1868 he came to Wood county and bought forty

acres of land near Haskins, to which he has added as time passed, until he now owns 120 acres, all under improvement, with ditching, tiling, comfortable barns and a fine dwelling house. He is a man of good business judgment and great enterprise, and he gives much attention to the breeding of blooded stock. His success is due to hard work and wise management, as he had to make his own way from the time he left the Fatherland. He was married in Middleton township in 1872 to his first wife, Miss Louisa Bishop, by whom he had six children: Lizzie, who married Fred Dower, a farmer in Middleton township; August, a farmer on the homestead; Julia, Frederick, and Edie, who are at home, and Louisa, who died in childhood. Mrs. Beil died in 1883, and our subject was married in 1884 to Miss Alice Heeter. One child was born of this union, Philipina. Mr. Beil's father died in Germany, and the widowed mother came to this country to reside with our subject, and died at his home in 1884.

In politics Mr. Beil is a Republican, and he possesses great influence in local affairs. For six years he has been a school director, and a member of the township board, and he is now serving his fourth term as township trustee. He gives to the discharge of every official duty the same faithful industry which has brought him success in other lines, and he enjoys the complete confidence of the community. He is a member of the German Reformed Church, of which he is trustee and elder, and he has been for many years teacher in the Sunday-school.

ROBERT PICKERING. Of the worthy citizens that England has furnished to Wood county none are more deserving of representation in this history than the gentleman whose name begins this sketch. A native of Yorkshire, England, he was born December 18, 1824, and is a son of Joseph and Jennie (Widdle) Pickering, natives of England, in which country they spent their entire lives. Their family numbered nine children.

From early life our subject has been dependent upon his own resources, and whatever success he has achieved is due entirely to his own efforts. When a boy of only eight summers he began earning his living by caring for sheep on a farm. In return he received his board and clothing. After two years thus passed he worked as a laborer for small wages, but, believing he could better his financial condition in America, he, in 1850, took passage on a sailing vessel, which weighed anchor at Liverpool, and six weeks later reached New York. There he worked for an uncle for

four years. He afterward came to Ohio, locating in Monroeville, Huron county, in 1854; but, in a short time, with two of his countrymen, he came to Wood county, locating in Middleton township, where together they purchased 160 acres of land. This they cleared and then divided, and upon his portion our subject erected a comfortable dwelling, good barns and other necessary buildings. He has also tilled the place, and now has a valuable and richly cultivated tract, to which he has also added forty acres, making this one of the most desirable farms of the neighborhood.

In 1864 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Pickering and Mrs. Polly A. Duncan, who was born in New York, in 1835. They have four children—Mary B., wife of Andrew Knauss, a farmer of Middleton township; Robert L., who farms a part of the homestead; Mertie, wife of Perry Pultz, an agriculturist; and Estella, who married J. Hires, a laborer, and to them was born a daughter, and then the mother died of consumption at the age of twenty-three years. The parents hold membership with the Methodist Episcopal Church. In politics, Mr. Pickering is a Republican, and has served as supervisor one term. He has led a busy and useful life, and his record is a most creditable one, for he has worked his way steadily upward from a humble position to one of affluence. Such a record is well worthy of emulation.

**JAMES GIBSON.** Prominent among the more intelligent, active and enterprising citizens of Troy township, is the gentleman whose name introduces this biography. His reputation for integrity and industry is second to none in the county, and he is held in high regard by all who know him. He now owns the old homestead of the family, which comprises 162 acres of land, and thereon has made his home some forty-six years. The premises are kept in good order, and invariably attract the attention of the traveler through this region as the home of plenty.

Our subject was born in Genesee county, Mich., in 1847, and is a son of David and Abigail (Dilly) Gibson. The father was born and reared near Dundee, Scotland, and when about thirty years of age left his native land for the New World. On arriving in New York he went to Michigan, and in Genesee county operated a farm until coming, in 1850, to Wood county, where he purchased a partially-improved farm of 122 acres, on which stood a log house. In Genesee county he had married, and on coming to this country he located upon this land, which he cleared and cultivated, erecting thereon a good

frame dwelling. On that farm he made his home until 1875, when he removed to East Toledo, Ohio, where he departed this life in 1887; his wife died very suddenly in Jamestown, Penn., in 1882. In their family were the following children: Mrs. Sarah Dennison, of Toledo, Ohio; Stephen, deceased; James, subject of this sketch; May, who makes her home in East Toledo, Ohio; and David, deceased.

During his childhood, James Gibson attended the schools of Troy township, and contributed his share to the cultivation of the farm. In 1875 he was married in Sandusky county, Ohio, the lady of his choice being Miss Elmira Herman, a native of that county, and a daughter of Henry and Clarinda (Webster) Herman, he of German nativity, and she of Ohio, but they early became residents of Sandusky county, where the father still lives. Five children have been born to our subject and his wife, namely: James E. (who is attending school at Ada, Ohio), Linda, Herman R., Florence and Margaret.

In his political affiliations Mr. Gibson is an inflexible adherent to the doctrines and principles of the Republican party, and has served as county commissioner. He is a public-spirited and enterprising man, taking an active part and interest in everything which seems to promise a benefit to the community, and enjoys the esteem and confidence of his neighbors. Socially he is connected with Maumee Valley Lodge No. 515, I. O. O. F.; Perrysburg Lodge No. 524, K. P., and belongs to the Knights of Honor No. 3490, of Stony Ridge.

**WILLIAM DIGBY.** Among the reliable, intelligent and substantial farmers of Washington township, there is probably none who stands higher in the public estimation than the gentleman whose name begins this sketch. He first opened his eyes to the light of day in Erie county, Ohio, on December 29, 1854, and he remained on the home farm until he attained his majority, during which time the public schools of Washington township afforded him his educational privileges. His wife owned forty acres of land in Section 14, to which he bought forty more, fifteen of which he cleared and improved; but he has since sold forty acres of the amount. In addition to the cultivation of his own land, he also operates eighty-seven acres belonging to his father. On his place he has a good dwelling, which he erected at a cost of \$600, and a general air of thrift pervades the entire tract.

It was in Washington township, September 5, 1875, that Mr. Digby was married, the lady



*Jan Gibson*





of his choice being Miss Martha Jane Burditt, and they have become the parents of four children, as follows: Myrtle Belle, who was born December 8, 1876, and is the wife of Charles H. Russell, of Plain township, a son of Albirtus Russell; Lottie Alice, born December 21, 1878; Lilly, born September 1, 1881; and Cora, born October 23, 1883. The three youngest are still at home.

Mr. Digby, politically, is a Republican, and takes a genuine interest in the enterprises set on foot for the progress and welfare of his adopted county. For four years he served as supervisor, and the same length of time held the office of school director. He holds membership with the Patrons of Husbandry, in which order he has filled the chairs of master, chaplain and steward, all for two years each. Religious work, however, receives a great share of his attention, has been class-leader of the United Brethren Church, superintendent of the Sunday-school four years, circuit steward three years, and at present has six churches under his charge, namely: The Washington Chapel; the Centennial, two miles north of Tontogany; the one in Grand Rapids; the Custar Circuit; Old Beaver Creek and Liberal Branch. He was sent as a delegate to the conference of the United Brethren Church at Chicago Junction, and everything tending to advance the moral welfare of the community receives his earnest support and co-operation; he is also a member of Tontogany Lodge No. 755, I. O. O. F.

GEORGE UNKART (deceased) was a prominent farmer in Washington township, Wood county, and was numbered among the "boys in blue," who, through the long years of the Civil war, followed the old flag until it waved victoriously over the conquered South. His military record, and that of his private career, were alike honorable. He was born in Germany, December 17, 1843, a son of Martin and Rosa (Fox) Unkart, natives of the same country, and whose family numbered nine children. In 1866 the father came to Sandusky county, Ohio, and died near Fremont.

In his native land our subject learned the blacksmith's trade, and in 1858 came to America. When the Civil war was begun he enlisted, October 17, 1861, in Company H, 72d O. V. I., Col. Buckland, participating in all the battles in which his regiment was engaged, and was also in Sherman's march to the sea. On March 31, 1865, he was severely wounded, a ball entering his shoulder, and coming out at his side, from which

injury he never fully recovered. He was honorably discharged September 11, 1865, and his war record was marked by the strictest fidelity to duty. When his services were no longer needed, he returned to Fremont, Ohio, afterward spent three years in Sandusky, one year in Lime township, Huron county, and nine years at Weaver's Corners, Ohio, after which he came to Wood county. In 1879 he took up his residence in Weston, and in January, 1880, removed to Haskins, where he remained until 1893, when he purchased forty acres of land in Washington township, erected a blacksmith shop, and was there engaged both in blacksmithing and farming.

On February 17, 1870, Mr. Unkart was married to Anna Bollenbacher, daughter of Henry and Elica Bollenbacher. They had six children, as follows: William Charles, born August 24, 1871, now a farmer; Joseph H., born November 23, 1873, also a farmer; Cora, born September 7, 1876, died in childhood; Rosa, born August 18, 1878, also died in childhood; Charles William, born September 11, 1880; and John Edward, born January 26, 1888. Mr. Unkart was, in political affiliations, a Democrat; when a boy he joined the German Lutheran Church, in Germania, and when he moved to Haskins he became a member of the Haskins Lutheran Church, and so remained until his death.

Mr. Unkart having been in poor health for seven years, he, in January, 1896, succumbed to his illness, suffering until death came, at 5 P. M., May 13, 1896, being able to say: "Come, welcome death, all end of fears, I am prepared to go." He was aged fifty-two years, four months and two days. The funeral services were held, May 16, in the Christian Church at Dewese Corners, the Rev. Klochner, of Waterville, officiating, and he was laid to his final rest in the Weston cemetery, deeply mourned by a host of friends. Mrs. Unkart and four children survive him, also two brothers and three sisters, Benjamin, George, Lizzie (of Bowling Green), Mrs. Limestahl, and Mrs. Rose, of Fremont.

ALBERT L. KURRLEY, a leading oil-producer of Bowling Green, owes his present prosperity to a lucky investment, in 1883, in a half interest in seventy-seven and one-half acres of wild land in the northeast corner of Section 17, in Portage township. It was not then thought to be of any great value, and it lay idle until 1891, when the development of the oil fields in this region led Mr. Kurrley to believe that it could be made profitable. With his father as partner, he put his theories to the test, and opened several good-

paying wells. Since that time he has been actively engaged in operating there, and on leased land in the vicinity, and, as he has the advantage of youth, with its energy and enterprise, the future may hold for him still greater success.

He was born in Delaware, Ohio, March 8, 1865, the son of Frederick and Catherine (Aurwarter) Kurrley, both of whom were born in Wurtemberg, Germany, the father July 5, 1831, the mother January 1, 1829. They came to America in 1853, and were married the same year, in Delaware, where Mr. Kurrley became engaged in a number of profitable enterprises, and accumulated a fortune. They were leading members of the German Lutheran Church. Our subject's mother died July 9, 1894; but his father still resides in Delaware, although no longer actively engaged in business. He takes an intelligent interest in all the issues of the day, and especially in political questions, being an adherent of the Democratic faith. Of the eleven children of this union, five grew to maturity: (1) Caroline, deceased February 28, 1896, was the widow of Philip Geoble, of Delaware county; (2) Mary is the wife of John Horn, an engineer on a passenger train of the Big Four railroad; (3) Katie is still at home; (4) A. L. is our subject; and (5) Victor is a resident of Elyria, Ohio. For many years our subject's paternal grandmother was a member of the household, but she departed this life in 1892, at the age of ninety-one.

A. L. Kurrley obtained his early education in the public schools of Delaware, and his subsequent reading has enabled him to keep thoroughly well-informed upon the topics of the times—scientific, literary, and political. At the age of twenty-six he began his notable career as an oil operator, and the success of his ventures may be indicated by one of the most peculiar freaks of fortune. He became interested in a well which had twice been abandoned as worthless, and the third attempt at pumping produced 3,200 barrels of oil in an incredibly short period. He was married, in Delaware, to Miss Sarah Renner, a native of that place, born December 15, 1865, and has one daughter, Mildred, born at Delaware, Ohio, September 24, 1891. In November, 1892, he removed, with his family, to Bowling Green, and has since made it his home.

J. G. ARMSTRONG was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, January 23, 1844, and is the son of Robert and Ann (Ekey) Armstrong, the former of whom was born in Jefferson county, in 1802, where he grew to manhood. Some time after his marriage he went to Seneca county, in 1866,

where he died ten years later. His wife was born in Ohio in 1811, and died in 1883. He was a Republican, and a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. To this couple were born seven children, as follows: J. G., our subject; Mary J., who is unmarried; Benjamin, who died when eighteen years old; Beaty, who lives in Kansas; Martha, who died while young; and two who died in infancy.

Mr. Armstrong spent his boyhood days in Jefferson county, where he attended the district schools. While living in Seneca county he was married, December 24, 1873, in Wood county, to Miss Celia M. Leonard, who was born in Seneca county May 22, 1848. Two children were the result of this union, Leonard E., born May 11, 1877, and Xenepheon E., born September 29, 1881. Mr. Armstrong farmed in Seneca county until 1880, when he moved to Wood county, and located on a farm of eighty-seven acres in Plain township, on which he does general farming. When the war broke out he joined Company H, 157th O. V. I., for the one-hundred-days' service, and was at Camp Relay, Md., and on Delaware Island. In politics he is a Populist, and he is one of the industrious citizens of the county.

The paternal grandfather, Charles Armstrong, was a shoemaker, and came to America from Ireland, settling in Jefferson county, Ohio, where he died at the age of ninety-three years. He was the father of seven children: Peggy, who died young; Margaret, George, William, John, Charley and Robert.

EUGENE T. SLY. The Sly family is English, and can be traced back as far as the grandfather of our subject, James Sly, who was a native of Wiltshire, England, and served in the British army for twenty-two years and eleven months. He was married at an advanced age, and lived on his pension. Three children were born to him and his wife—William, James and Thomas. Mr. and Mrs. Sly and Thomas all died in England, James and William came to America, and the former died in Wood county.

William, the father of our subject, was the eldest child, but, his parents dying while he was quite young, the exact record of his birth is not known. He died in Bowling Green, Ohio, June 17, 1894, and was supposed to have been about sixty-eight years old. He came to America when a young man, and located in Monroeville, Huron Co., Ohio, and on December 7, 1858, was united in marriage with Miss Harriet Callin, who was born in Ashland county, March 2, 1838. At the

age of thirteen she moved with her parents to Huron county, and there grew to womanhood. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Sly went to Erie county, and about 1860 came to Wood county, and located in Plain township, which, with the exception of a short interval, was their home until they retired to Bowling Green in 1890. In late years they became members of the United Brethren Church. Mrs. Sly survives her husband, and lives on her farm in Plain township, which contains nine good oil-producing wells. They became the parents of five children, namely: William James, born October 15, 1859, who resides in Tontogany (he married Ada Avery, and they have three children, Zaidais, Sanford and Fern); Elmer, born January 11, 1861, died June 11, 1890; Alice, born December 30, 1863, is the wife of Cyrus Young, of Bowling Green (they have six children, Ava; Albert and Myrtle, who are twins; Floyd; Clara, and an infant); Eugene, our subject; May, born August 12, 1877, unmarried, and lives with her mother in Bowling Green.

Eugene T., our subject, was born in Plain township, October 31, 1867, where he attended the common schools, meanwhile working on the farm. He was married December 25, 1890, to Anna Gayno, and two children were born of this union, Hattie Julia and Clarence Jefferson. After his marriage he bought a farm in Liberty township, with two oil wells on it; but he lived on and operated the old homestead in Plain township, until October 13, 1895, when he was called upon to mourn the death of his devoted wife. Since that sad event he has changed his business, and is now at work in the oil fields. He is an enterprising young man, and so far has made life a success, and will no doubt be one of the leading men of the future in Wood county, as he is frugal, industrious, and full of vigor and energy.

FINIS S. BURWELL, one of the progressive and successful agriculturists of Grand Rapids township, is a native of the Buckeye State, born in Columbiana county, November 2, 1840. Richard Burwell, his father, was a native of Tuscarawas county, and, when a young man, he moved to Columbiana county, where he engaged in farming. He married Miss Catherine Smith, and reared a family of nine children, their names being: Phebean, Nancy Jane, Lewis Webster, Richard Smedley, Finis Sylvester, Daniel Icart, Mary Catherine, Santford Alonzo, and Sintha Alvina. The father died at the old homestead in Columbiana county in 1887, and his mother in Wood county in 1883.

Finis S. Burwell spent the first seventeen

years of his life at his native place, attending the district school and assisting with the farm work, and in 1857 he went to Crawford county, and engaged in farming on his own account. In 1862 he enlisted in Company C, 101st O. V. I. (Col. Stem and Capt. B. B. McDonald commanding), and was appointed sergeant August 29, 1862. He took part in several important engagements, among them being the battles of Covington Heights, and those in which the regiment participated while in pursuit of Bragg in West Virginia. Mr. Burwell was disabled at Stone River by a charge of artillery, and remained in the hospital at Murfreesboro, until June, 1863, when he was relieved from further service. Returning to Crawford county, he carried on his farm there for two years, and then came to Wood county, and bought fifty acres of land in what is now Grand Rapids township. This he improved and operated until 1886, when he traded for eighty acres belonging to the late John Walters. He had added substantial improvements, and made the farm one of the best of its size in that vicinity.

On November 11, 1869, in Henry county, he was married to Miss Nancy J. McLain, who was born July 19, 1843. She is a daughter of Robert McLain, a well-known resident of Henry and Wood counties. The only child of this union—James H., born July 27, 1881—resides with his parents, attending the schools of the neighborhood, and taking part in the work of the homestead.

In politics Mr. Burwell is a Republican, and he has been an active worker in local affairs, serving two terms as supervisor, and filing the office of school director for a number of years. He and his wife are leading members of the M. E. Church, of which he is steward and trustee. His progressive spirit and genial nature make him a leader in every movement for the public welfare.

TIMOTHY OSBORN, the owner of a well-developed and highly-improved farm of 140 acres in Liberty township, was born in Bethlehem township, Stark Co., Ohio, November 29, 1829, and is a son of John and Julia Ann (Buchtel) Osborn. The father was born at Harper's Ferry, Va., and was a physician. At the age of ten he accompanied his parents to New Lisbon, Ohio, where he worked for a time for Dr. Duffel. Later he took up the study of medicine with Dr. Neiz. In Stark county, Ohio, he was married, and later removed to Wood county, settling in Montgomery township. Two years later he removed to Tuscarawas county, where he made his home until 1845, when he returned to Montgomery town-

ship. Up to this time he had engaged in the practice of medicine. In 1847 he located on the farm now owned by our subject, making his home there until 1864, when he removed to Noble county, Ohio, where he continued until the fall of 1885. He died on the home farm in Liberty township, Wood county, in the spring of 1886, at the age of seventy-five years; his widow still survives, and is now living with our subject. In the family were the following named members—Timothy, of this sketch; Precida, wife of Hector McMahan, of Portage, Ohio; Susan, wife of Dr. Whitehead, of Bowling Green, Ohio; Louisa, wife of T. M. Carr, of Portage; and Catherine, wife of Whitney McMahan, of Portage township.

Our subject acquired his literary education in the common schools, and under his father's direction he took up the study of medicine, and began the practice of the profession after passing his twenty-sixth birthday. In Liberty township, in 1872, he was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Yarnall, a native of Ashland county, Ohio, and upon the old homestead they began their domestic life. They have two children—Maggie U., wife of Frank Hodgeman, of Liberty township; and John Robert, at home.

In politics, Mr. Osborn is a Republican, but has neither time nor inclination for public office, preferring to devote his energies to his business interests, in which he has met with good success.

THOMAS F. CONLEY, a rising young lawyer of Bowling Green, who also holds the position of official stenographer of the Common Pleas and Circuit Courts, is a native of Maryland, his birth taking place in Baltimore, July 31, 1861. The Conley family is of Irish origin; the ancestors of our subject, however, emigrated to this country before the Revolutionary war. The great-grandfather was in the old Maryland Line Regiment, and fought on the side of the United States in the war of 1812 with Great Britain. He married an Englishwoman, and died in Maryland. His son Felix, the grandfather of our subject, was a planter in Maryland, and owned a great number of slaves. Thomas E., father of Thomas F., was born in January, 1835, and married Miss Rebecca Venable, who died when her son was only a few months old. Two daughters comprised the rest of the family: Mary, who is married and lives in Baltimore, and Adele, a young lady, still at home. The father is yardmaster for the B. & O. railroad at Baltimore.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in his native city, where he attended the public schools and business college, and obtained a good

education. His start in life was as a messenger boy in the freight office of the B. & O. railroad, from which position, by the faithful performance of his duties, he worked his way up until he became private secretary to the general manager of the road. When the latter took charge of the Louisville & Nashville road, Mr. Conley went with him, subsequently on the change of management returning to the B. & O. Another change taking place in this company, he left its employ, and in 1887 went to Bowling Green on a visit. While there he did some reporting for the court, which finally resulted in his appointment as official stenographer for the Common Pleas Court, in 1890. In the meantime he studied law for two years with Cook & Troup, afterward attending the Law School of the Cincinnati College, took a full course and graduated with the degree of LL. B. He has a good practice, is popular with all classes of people, and has a brilliant future before him.

Mr. Conley was married January 12, 1892, to Miss Minnie Belle Bentley, who was born in Newark, Ohio, October 13, 1868. Mrs. Conley is a woman of great personal attractions, and of refined culture, and is a great favorite in social circles. Their pleasant home is the resort of the best people of the city, and their hospitality is well-known. Socially, Mr. Conley is a Royal Arch Mason, and is secretary of the Chapter at Bowling Green; also a member of Toledo Commandery, Knights Templar.

JEREMIAH CARTER. The eighty acres of land owned by our subject have been transformed into one of the most comfortable homesteads of Center township, the land of which has been brought to a fine state of cultivation, and is embellished by a handsome and substantial set of farming buildings, including a fine residence. A flourishing orchard, and a choice assortment of the smaller fruit trees, serve to add to the comfortable appearance of the premises, and supply the household with the luxuries of the season.

Mr. Carter is a man of good education, well-informed and intelligent, and belongs to one of the pioneer families of Center township, where he first opened his eyes to the light of day, on October 26, 1845. He is a son of John and Charity (Severe) Carter; but his father died when he was about four years old, and his mother departed this life two years later. He then went to live with his eldest sister, where he remained until he had reached the age of eleven, during which time he received his elementary education in the district schools, and for the following six

years worked as a farm hand for his board and clothes. On the expiration of that time he started out to work for himself, being employed by the day, week, or month, but receiving very meager wages.

On the inauguration of the Civil war, Mr. Carter resolved to strike a blow in defense of the Union, and, when not yet eighteen years of age, enlisted on June 30, 1863, in Company D, 86th O. V. I., under Col. Lemert and Capt. J. H. Reid, of Bowling Green. With his company he marched to Cleveland, Ohio, thence to Camp Chase, and from that place went South, where he was mostly engaged in guard duty. He was with his company at the capture of John Morgan, and remained with that command until his discharge February 18, 1864.

Mr. Carter then returned to Wood county, and for one year attended the district schools, at the end of which time he entered Baldwin University, there continuing his studies for two years. For the same length of time he was then engaged in teaching school, and later became part owner in a lumber mill, the firm being Wright & Carter. He continued the manufacture of lumber for ten years, when he disposed of that business and purchased the eighty-acre farm on which he now resides. It was then all wild land, heavily timbered, but through his earnest, untiring labors, he has transformed the place until it is now one of the best farms in this section, and, among the many improvements there seen, is his pleasant and comfortable home, which was erected at a cost of \$1,800.

On October 25, 1877, Mr. Carter was united in marriage with Lillie Young, of Weston township, by whom he has three children—Everett, born November 9, 1878; Irving, born December 31, 1880, and Goldie May, born September 28, 1884. In political faith Mr. Carter is an uncompromising Republican, and has served his fellow-townsmen as school director for eight years, having always taken a deep interest in the promotion of education. In disposition he is social and genial, and his honest, industrious and upright life has gained him the respect and confidence of all with whom he has come in contact.

JOHN Y. HERRINGSHAW is the owner of one of the finely developed farms of Liberty township, and the success of his business career is the reward of earnest and persistent labor, supplemented by sound judgment and executive ability. A native of England, he was born in Lincolnshire, June 9, 1849, and is a son of John and Mary A. (Lyon) Herringshaw, natives of

the same country. After their marriage they resolved to seek a home in America, boarded a sailing vessel at Liverpool, and after twenty-eight days landed at New York, whence they went direct to Niagara Falls. For a year they lived within seven miles of that phenomenon of nature, and then removed to Sandusky county, Ohio, locating on a rented farm. Shortly afterward they settled in Huron county, and in the spring of 1860 came to Wood county, where the father purchased eighty acres of land in Section 31, Liberty township. He built a log cabin, and in course of time transformed the swampy tract into richly cultivated fields. His death occurred in 1861, and he was laid to rest in Mercer cemetery. His wife is still living on the old homestead, in her eightieth year. The members of the Herringshaw family are Ann, wife of Thomas Harrison, of Portage township; Joseph, a farmer of Hoytville; Rebecca, who makes her home with her mother; John, who died in infancy; John Y., of this review; Samuel, a merchant of Hoytville; Frederick, a farmer of Liberty township; and William, who is farming in Jackson township.

Our subject was a child of two years when his parents came to America. He received but limited educational privileges, for his services were needed in the farm work, and he remained at home until 1873, when, in Fremont, Ohio, he led to the marriage altar Miss Eliza Ann Roush, who was born in Sandusky county. With his bride he located on what is known as the Jackson Prairie, having purchased a farm prior to his marriage. The following named children were born of their union. Joseph, who was born December 21, 1873—the first white child born on Jackson Prairie—married Louisa Heers, who was born in Hancock county, Ohio, February 17, 1875 (a daughter of Henry and Minnie (Newman) Heers, natives of Germany, who came to America in early life), and to them have been born two children: Henry John, born July 5, 1893, and Dema Ellen, born July 22, 1896. Henry is now following farming in Henry township, Wood county. The other members of the family are Thomas, born October 29, 1875; Harriet Rebecca, March 28, 1878; Mary A., June 5, 1880; Rosie, April 24, 1883; Bertha Alice, October 17, 1885; Eliza Jane, March 24, 1888; John and George, twins, who were born July 17, 1890, and died in infancy; and Samuel, born September 15, 1892.

To his original purchase, Mr. Herringshaw has added forty acres of land in Section 31, Liberty township, and twenty acres in Section 30.

He built a plank house on his original purchase, and, in 1891, replaced it by a substantial and pleasant frame residence. He is now actively engaged in agricultural pursuits, and is meeting with good success in his undertakings. In politics he is a Republican, and for many years served as school director and supervisor, discharging his duties in a most capable and satisfactory manner.

MILES MONTGOMERY was born April 15, 1844, in Portage township, Hancock Co., Ohio. His father, George Montgomery, was a native of Wayne county, Ohio, and with his grandfather removed to Hancock county, where he was reared on a farm. He there wedded Mary Chase, a native of New York, and after her death married Dorothy Culp, by whom he had three children—Angeline, of Hancock county; Rachel, wife of Samuel Snively, of Nebraska; and Henry Wellington, a postal clerk on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad. The parents of our subject had the following named children—Miles; Jane, wife of Martin Ensley, of Hancock county; Ben S., an oil man of Findlay, Ohio; Mrs. Elsie M. Archer, of Hancock county; David, a farmer of Hancock county; Susan Irene, wife of William Hicks, of Indiana; Mary S., wife of Henry Ferrall; Martha S., twin sister of Mary, and the wife of Philip Baucher, of Indiana; and George C., a farmer of Hancock county. The father, who was born October 11, 1823, died October 5, 1895. His grandfather, Michael Helmica, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. The mother, who was born April 30, 1826, died November 30, 1861.

Mr. Montgomery, of this review, was reared on a farm, and educated in the district schools. At the age of fifteen he began work in a gristmill, where he was employed for two years. On March 16, 1862, at Lima, Ohio, he enlisted in Company H, 57th O. V. I., and going to the front, participated in all the engagements from Lookout Mountain to the coast. At Atlanta he was captured, but escaped almost immediately thereafter, and was twice captured on the march to the sea. He was twice slightly wounded, and was honorably discharged at Little Rock, Ark., July 8, 1865.

For a year after his return, Mr. Montgomery followed farming, and then began work in a sawmill, with which business he was connected until 1891, when he was forced to abandon that work on account of ill health. He operated a mill in Liberty township, Wood county, for twenty-four years, when it was destroyed by fire. He then removed to Stewartville, Hancock county, and in July, 1885, he took up his residence in Denver,

Ohio. Two years later he established a grocery store in Denver, which he has since conducted, and now has a good business and comfortable home.

In Hancock county, September 29, 1865, Mr. Montgomery married Arabel Jane Culp, who was born September 2, 1848, in McComb, Hancock county, one of the two children of Samuel and Susan Jane (Todd) Culp. Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery have four children—Amanda E., wife of Grant Smith, of North Baltimore; Mary J., wife of W. H. Cook; Nellie V., wife of W. H. Ingram; and Bertie Arthur. In politics, Mr. Montgomery is an unfaltering Republican, and has served as school director for six years. Socially he is connected with the Grand Army Post at North Baltimore.

JAMES CARR, an agriculturist and owner of several oil wells in Bowling Green, is a native of Ashland county, Ohio, where he was born March 25, 1847. The Rev. Joshua Carr, our subject's father, was born in Ashland county January 27, 1800, and was married to Miss Mary Ingmund, who was born in Virginia in 1803. They were married in Ashland county when twenty-eight and twenty-five years old respectively. He accepted religion at the age of seventeen, and bought a small Bible at that time, which is still in the possession of our subject. He joined the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Ashland county, and came to Wood county in April, 1848, settling on the Sand road in Plain township. What is now known as Carr's Church was named after him. He was one of the chief contributors to the Church, and his was the first funeral to take place in it. During his life he always attended conference, and helped to preach in the circuit that included Bowling Green and Grand Rapids. He ceased preaching during the latter part of his life, as his health would not permit him to do so. He was a man of extensive learning, and a great reader, and was well known among his friends as a man with an earnest, conscientious purpose in life. He died in Wood county December 10, 1875, and his wife followed him to their last resting place ten years later. To this couple nine children were born, namely: Edmund, who died in 1893; Luke, who served in the Union army during the war of the Rebellion, now resides in Bowling Green; Thomas, who also was in the Civil war on the Union side, and now lives at Portage, Ohio; John was in the army, and is now deceased; James is our subject; Marie, who is the wife of Henry Thomas, lives in Dakota with her husband; Charlotte is deceased—she was

the wife of George Parsons, who was auditor of Wood county, and died while holding that office; Margaret is the wife of Daniel Whitehead, of Lucas county; and Mary is the wife of Richard Conklin, of Lucas county.

Luke Ingmund, the maternal grandfather, came from Virginia and settled in Ashland county, where he died, at the age of ninety-two. At the age of eighty he was strong and hearty, and could do many athletic feats.

The subject of this sketch was an infant when his parents came to this country, and he was educated in the common schools. He was married August 10, 1868, to Miss Eliza Goodenough, who was born in England, January 17, 1848, and is the daughter of Robert and Ruth (Limerick) Goodenough, who is mentioned in the biography of Henry Goodenough in this volume. Mr. Carr and his wife are the parents of four children: Edmund, born October 10, 1871 (he married Miss Hattie Fox, who was born in Wood county February 20, 1879, and they have one child, Dwight Cook); Dwight Cook, born October 23, 1873, died December 10, 1877; Joshua, born January 8, 1876, lives at home; and Emma, born July 4, 1882, also lives at home. Mr. Carr settled in Plain township after his marriage, and proceeded in a methodical manner to follow agricultural pursuits. He bought his farm, seventy-five acres, in 1889, which is in the oil belt, and he leases the oil rights, and gets a bonus and interest in the wells. So far they have returned him over \$2,000.

Mr. Carr is a Prohibitionist, belongs to the Disciples Church, and is one of the most respected men of his township.

SAMUEL PRUDEN is one of the worthy citizens that England has furnished to Wood county. He was born in Cambridgeshire, May 11, 1825, and is a son of Thomas and Mary (Carter) Pruden, whose family numbered four children, Samuel being the youngest. He attended the public schools until nine years of age, and then worked on his father's farm until the age of sixteen, when he began work as a farm hand at three pounds per year. At the age of nineteen he was made overseer of the farm, in which capacity he served for two years, and during that time saved enough money to bring him to America. In 1852 Mr. Pruden crossed the Atlantic, and took up his residence in Monroeville, Huron Co., Ohio, where he remained for fourteen years, being employed in the capacity of farm hand. He then came to Wood county, and purchased 160 acres of land in Middleton township,

and twelve years later added forty acres to this. He has cleared and improved the entire amount, and good buildings now stand in the midst of well-tilled fields, which indicate to the passerby the thrift and enterprise of the owner. He has been the architect of his own fortunes, and has made all that he possesses through enterprise, diligence and resolute purpose.

In 1849, in England, Mr. Pruden married Margaret Whaley, widow of William Sopp. To them were born the following named children: William, a farmer of Van Wert county, Ohio; Thomas, an agriculturist of Middleton township; Mary A., wife of Daniel Thompson; John, a farmer of Van Wert county; Sarah, wife of William Diviet, a farmer of Perrysburg township; Jane, wife of Henry Lloyd, of Perrysburg; David, who operates the homestead; Jane, Robert and Alvia, all of whom died in childhood.

Mr. Pruden holds membership with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in his political faith is a Democrat. He is well-known throughout the county, and held in high regard by all who know him. His word is as good as his bond, and he is an upright man, who, in all life's relations, has merited the confidence universally given him.

J. H. LINDOWER, one of the substantial farmers of Portage township, is a native of Ohio, born March 28, 1859, in Hancock county, son of John and Annie (Bowers) Lindower. The father of our subject entered the army when the latter was a mere child, and he does not remember him. Mrs. Lindower married, for her second husband, Jacob Esterly, and they moved to Wood county when J. H. was only six years old, settling on the farm in Section 23, Portage township, which he now owns and occupies.

Mr. Lindower received his education in the district schools, but he was always fond of agriculture, and cared more for his farm than for his books. He has always made his home on his present farm (excepting for a year and a half, during which time he worked the place, but lived elsewhere), which consists of eighty acres of good land, in a fine state of cultivation, well improved with buildings, etc. On August 8, 1880, he was married, in Portage township, to Miss Ida E. Kelsey, a native of New York, and they are the parents of six children, viz.: Edna, born July 22, 1881; Ella, born December 21, 1883, died in 1893; Nettie, born July 19, 1895; Katie, born July 3, 1887, died July 12, 1896; Henry, born August 7, 1889; Winona Belle, born November 21, 1893. Mr. and Mrs. Lindower are members



of the German Baptist Church. In political affiliation he is a Republican, and he has served as supervisor of his township; but he is not an office seeker, attending strictly to his private affairs, which he has managed with great care. He is everywhere respected for his straightforwardness and honesty, and his "word is as good as his bond."

**BENJAMIN F. SIMONS**, one of West Millgrove's leading citizens and merchants, was born near Arcadia, Hancock Co., Ohio, March 15, 1846, and is a son of William and Mary (Bair) Simons.

Our subject was reared beneath the parental roof, on a farm, and attended the district schools of the neighborhood, in which he acquired his education. He was early initiated into the mysteries of hard work attendant upon a life devoted to agriculture, and remained upon the farm until his enlistment in the Union service during the Rebellion. On May 16, 1863, he became a member of Company C, 86th O. V. I., with which he served eight months, and on March 19, 1864, joined Company E, 49th O. V. I. On May 27, 1864, he was wounded at the battle of Pickett's Mills (where his brother, Lieut. Silas Simons, was killed), and for three months was confined to hospital. At Chattanooga he rejoined the regiment; but November 25, 1864, at the battle of Columbia, Tenn., he received a gunshot wound in the left thigh, so that on the 3d of June, following, he was discharged on a surgeon's certificate of disability.

On returning home Mr. Simons worked for his father for awhile, after which he went to Fostoria, Ohio, being employed by J. C. Johnson, a lumber dealer. Later he farmed one year, and then engaged work as a teamster on the construction of a railroad. He was also employed on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad when it was being built near Bloomdale, Ohio. The first property he owned was twenty-four acres of the home farm in Seneca county, on which he built a log house, and began the operation of the land. Later he traded this for property in Risingsun, Ohio, which he afterward disposed of, becoming owner of real estate in West Millgrove. There he opened a small store, his stock consisting of drugs and groceries; but from that beginning has grown his present business, and he now enjoys a liberal patronage. His goods are first-class in every particular, and, by his courteous treatment of customers, well merits a fine trade.

At Fostoria, Ohio, in 1865, Mr. Simons was united in marriage with Miss Mary Vosburg, a

native of Montgomery township, Wood county, and a daughter of Theodore Vosburg. In politics our subject is a steadfast Republican; while a resident of Seneca county he served as constable of his township, which office he also filled for over six years in Perry township, and has been corporation treasurer and marshal of West Millgrove. He is a charter member of Conley Post, G. A. R., of the latter place. In disposition he is genial and social, is a public-spirited and enterprising citizen, and a business man of more than ordinary ability. He is a lover of horses, and has owned some very fine, well-bred animals.

**JACOB MILLER**, a farmer of good standing in Lake township, successful as a tiller of the soil, and one who has been prominently identified with local affairs, is the proprietor of a good farm in Section 1. He was also one of the valiant defenders of the Union during the Civil war. His birth occurred in Baden, Germany, in February, 1825, where his parents, Michael and Louisa (Burkler) Miller, were also born, lived and died, the former passing away in 1836, and the latter in 1844. In their family of seven children, two became residents of Ohio—George, who located in Sandusky county, and died there in 1894; and Jacob, the subject of this sketch.

Jacob Miller was reared in Baden, where he received excellent school privileges, also for two years attending a seminary at Karlsruhe, and after completing his education he taught in his native land until 1849, when the revolution broke out, and he served in the army of the revolutionists for a time. In the fall of that year, however, he went to Switzerland, and the same year embarked on a sailing vessel at Havre, France, for the United States, which he reached after a voyage of eight weeks. On landing at New York, he went direct to Philadelphia, whence he proceeded to Pittsburg, Penn., where he was employed for a time in a brewery. It was in 1851 that Mr. Miller came to the Buckeye State, first locating in Fremont, Sandusky county, where he remained until 1856, when he went to Toledo, and was there for a year. He then resided in Lucas county until January 1, 1861, when he erected a house upon his farm in Lake township, this county, where two years previous he had purchased eighty acres of timber land, and has since made that place his home, devoting his time to its care and cultivation, with the exception of when he was in the Union army. At Toledo, he enlisted February 21, 1865, in Company B, 189th O. V. I., for one year, or



*B. F. Simons*



until the close of the war, and was mustered into service at Camp Chase, Ohio. He was stationed at Huntsville, Ala., and later at Bellefonte, where he did garrison duty until the close of hostilities, when he was honorably discharged at Nashville, Tenn., September 25, 1865, after which he returned home.

Mr. Miller was single on coming to Ohio, but in Sandusky county, in 1853, he was united in marriage with Miss Catherine Korbler, a native of Fredericktown, Md., daughter of George and Catherine Korbler, who was born in Darmstadt, Germany, but removed to Maryland as early as 1825. Coming to Ohio, they located first in Seneca county, and in the early '40s became residents of Sandusky county, where the father died in 1863, and the wife in 1891. Mr. Miller has been called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died on the home farm in October, 1892. They were the parents of four children: (1) Franklin married Laura Scott; by whom he has three children—Eva, Harry and Clarence. He makes his home in Findlay, Ohio, and is line-man on the T. O. & C. railroad. (2) Mrs. Mary Taylor, of Ottawa county, has three children—Stella, Charley and Milton. (3) Tena is the wife of George Ayres, of Toledo, and they have two children—Raymond and Edith. (4) Albert was married April, 1892, to Miss Maud Siglar, a native of Genoa, Ottawa county, and a daughter of Charles M. and Mary (Cheney) Siglar, the former born in Geneva, N. Y., and the latter in Macedonia, Ohio. At Genoa, this State, her father enlisted, in 1863, in the 14th O. V. I., under Gen. Sherman, and served until the close of the war, and he had previously been a member of a New York regiment before his removal to the Buckeye State. He still makes his home at Genoa.

In politics, Mr. Miller is identified with the Democratic party, and for two terms served as trustee of Lake township, while, socially, he is a member of George Douglas Post, G. A. R., at Millbury. He has identified himself with the welfare of the county since his arrival here, and has made many friends among the intelligent and hospitable people of Lake township.

REV. MICHAEL GEORGE VOLLMAYER is the esteemed pastor of St. Louis' Catholic Church at Custar. He was born March 19, 1857, in Toledo, Ohio, son of Michael Vollmayer, a native of Germany, who, on coming to America, in 1846, took up his residence in Cleveland, Ohio, whence, in the following year, he removed to Toledo. He died on his farm near that city in

1857. There his widow resided until 1889, and then removed into the city, where her death occurred in 1893. They had four children—John, a merchant of Toledo; Mary, now Mrs. Glueckstein, of Baltimore, Md.; George, notary public, and ticket agent for the foreign agency at Toledo; and Michael George, the subject of this review.

The last named attended the German Catholic parochial and high schools of St. Mary's at Toledo, until sixteen years of age. Soon after he was engaged as clerk in the German Savings Bank at Toledo, and, in 1874, entered the Jesuit College, at Buffalo, N. Y. He pursued a five-years' classical course as a preparation for the seminary course. His eyesight failing, he went to Baltimore for treatment. As soon as possible he re-entered college, and on the completion of his classical course, entered the seminary in Cleveland, where he remained four years. He was ordained to the priesthood in July, 1885, and coming to Custar, assumed charge of St. Louis' Catholic Church. The house of worship was then a small frame structure, but, through his instrumentality, a large brick church in Gothic style has been erected. He is a man of scholarly attainments, and enjoys the respect, not only of his parishioners, but also of the people of other denominations.

WILLIAM HUFF. Quite a number of the leading and prominent citizens of Wood county are of alien birth, and have transported to this land of fertility and plenty the thrifty habits of their native country. Among these there is no one better known or more widely respected than the gentleman whose name here appears. In England, beneath the roof of his parents, William and Ann (Hardy) Huff, who were natives of Lincolnshire, our subject was born, in 1833, one of a family of six children, namely: Mrs. Mary Alexander, who died at Perrysburg, Ohio, in 1853; Stephen, now a resident of Van Wert county, Ohio, who, during the Civil war, enlisted in Allen county, Ohio, in the First Ohio Squadron, and served three years in the Union army; Jane, a resident of Missouri; Mrs. Ann Mills, of Perrysburg; William, subject of this review; and Mrs. Hannah Liverton, of Bowling Green, Ohio. In 1837 the family came to America, first locating in Pennsylvania, where they remained until 1840, when they removed to Plain township, Wood county. There the mother died in 1866, after which the father married a Mrs. Clark. He was born in 1829, and died in 1877.

Our subject was about six years of age when he arrived in Wood county, and in Plain township he was reared and educated. In 1862 he first located upon a farm in Lake township, which he continued to cultivate and improve until in August, 1862, he enlisted at Millbury, Ohio, in Company K, 111th O. V. I. At Toledo he was mustered in and assigned to the Western army, with which he participated in the following engagements: Huff's Ferry, Campbell's Station, siege of Knoxville, Dalton, Smoke Creek Gap, Resaca, Burnt Hickory, Pumpkin Vine Creek, and Kenesaw Mountain. On becoming ill, he was sent to the hospital at Knoxville, Tenn., and, later, was placed on the Invalid Corps at Washington, D. C., where he received an honorable discharge, June 26, 1865, after three years of arduous and faithful service. Returning to Wood county, he engaged in farming in Perrysburg township until 1880, when he removed to the farm in Lake township, which he now carries on. In 1859, in Perrysburg township, he married Miss Isabel Simons, a native of that township, and a daughter of Pearl and Cassina (McCarty) Simons. Her father was born in Connecticut, but at a very early day became a resident of Perrysburg township, where he was married, in 1833, to Miss McCarty, a native of New York, and to them were born children as follows: Mrs. Delia Cook, of Perrysburg; Arabel and Oscar, who both died in childhood; Mrs. Huff; Byron, who died while young; Lewis, who died at the age of thirty-five years; Celia, who died in childhood; and Frank, a resident of Lake township. By trade the father was a cooper, which occupation he followed in Perrysburg, where his death occurred in 1884, and his wife died three months later. He had served as county recorder one term.

To Mr. and Mrs. William Huff were born eleven children, three of whom are now deceased, viz.: Delia, who became the wife of Charles Pinniger, and died December 17, 1889; Ella, who was the wife of William Taylor, and died December 29, 1892; and Jennie, who died January 3, 1864. Those living are: Maggie and Mary (twins), the former being now the wife of Oscar Nicodemus, and the latter Mrs. Richard Fralic, of Perrysburg; Ernest, a resident of Cummings, Ohio; and Carrie, Charles, Grace, Mabel and Robert, all at home. Mr. Huff is a prominent member of George Douglas Post No. 183, G. A. R., of Millbury, in which he has served as officer of the day, and his wife belongs to the Woman's Relief Corps. In politics he affiliates with the Republican party. He is one of the representative

men of the county, and a credit to the land that gave him birth.

JOSHUA H. DICKEN, deceased, was one of the brave volunteers who so gallantly fought for the Union cause during the war of the Rebellion. He was a native of Ohio, born in Liberty township, Seneca county, December 28, 1838, and was a son of David and Anna (Luman) Dicken. The father was born at Bean's Cove, Bedford Co., Penn., and was a son of Jonathan Dicken. When their eldest daughter, Sarah, was but an infant, the parents removed to Seneca county, when Tiffin was a small hamlet, containing only a few rude buildings. They were numbered among the earliest settlers of Liberty township, and experienced all the trials and hardships of pioneer life, but succeeded in making a home of their wild-timbered tract. There the father died at the age of sixty-two; the mother survived him about two years and a half. In their family were the following children: Sarah, widow of Amos Overmyer, residing in Toledo, Ohio; John, who makes his home near Tiffin; Nancy, now Mrs. Jacob Martin, of Jackson township, Seneca county; Joshua H.; Jesse, of Fostoria, Ohio; Isaac, who died in Louisville, Ky., November 8, 1861, having enlisted September 5, of that year, in Company K, 49th O. V. I., and was buried in the citizen's cemetery there; Henry, who, in September, 1863, became a member of the 9th Ohio Cav., and died in Nashville, Tenn.; Albert, who died in Liberty township, Seneca county, at the age of nineteen years; Egbert, of Kansas Station, Seneca county; Angeline, now Mrs. William Sprout, of Seneca county; and Geletta, now Mrs. George Sanders, of Fostoria.

The opportunities of Joshua H. Dicken for securing an education were limited, and hardly had the echoes of Fort Sumter's guns died away when, on the first call for 75,000 volunteers, he enlisted in Company I, 21st O. V. I., for three months' service. He re-enlisted, this time becoming a member of Company K, 49th O. V. I. After fourteen months of active service he was discharged, November 17, 1862, on account of disability. In September, 1864, however, he again joined the Union forces as a member of the 164th regiment, and served until the close of the war. Although never wounded, he contracted a disease from which he never recovered.

In Jackson township, Seneca county, July 5, 1863, Mr. Dicken wedded Miss Sarah Elder, who was born December 8, 1840, near Centerville, Bedford Co.; Penn., daughter of Achor and Eliza (Cessna) Elder, the former a native of Cumber-

land Valley, Bedford county. The mother was a daughter of William Cessna, who died in Bedford county in 1828. In 1854 the parents moved from Pennsylvania to Mahoning county, Ohio, where the father died April 29, 1855; the mother later became the wife of Emanuel Ash, of Seneca county, whither she had removed in 1859. Since Mr. Ash's death she has made her home with Mrs. Dicken, in Bloomdale. On his return from the war, Mr. Dicken bought a farm in Jackson township, Seneca county, and there made his home until 1870, when he brought his wife to Bloom township, Wood county, locating in Section 13. There he passed away November 5, 1874, and was laid to rest at the old homestead with his parents in Liberty township, Seneca county. At his death he left a good farm of eighty acres, on which his widow resided until the spring of 1893, when she came to Bloomdale, and she now has a pleasant home on Harrison street, where she delights to entertain her many friends. She still owns the farm, which is rented. She is an earnest Christian woman, holding membership with the Disciples Church. Mr. Dicken was known by all as one of the most social men in his neighborhood, his hearty laugh being often heard, and he was held in the highest regard by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. In politics he affiliated with the Republican party, and his loyalty to this country was manifested in times of peace as well as when he followed the old flag on Southern battlefields.

GEORGE TYRRELL, a well-known resident of Bowling Green, was born in Berkshire, England, June 16, 1847. His father, John Tyrrell, was born in the same place, and is still living, at the age of ninety. He married Ann Andrews, a native of Oxfordshire, England, who died May 20, 1891, aged eighty-three. They were members of the Church of England, in which the father was for many years clerk of his parish. He was a butcher by occupation. They had ten children: John, born in 1832, died at Steventon, Berkshire, January 29, 1880. Catherine went to Africa as a missionary, and married there (our subject has never seen her, as she left home before his birth). Elizabeth (deceased), married Charles Day, of London, England. Henry, Sarah, and Anna (now Mrs. Isaac Gedding), all live in England. Charlotte married Edwin Farmer, superintendent of the Wood County Infirmary. Joseph T. is a resident of Sterling, Rice Co., Kans. George, our subject, comes next. James resides in England.

Our subject worked at various occupations in

England during his youth. On April 17, 1869, he left his native land, arriving at New York thirteen days later, came on to Wood county, and has remained here since, working as a laborer in woods and elsewhere. He was married December 23, 1875, to Miss Mary Catherine Bailey, who was born in Devonshire, England, March 7, 1849, the daughter of John and Mary Catherine (Beckel) Bailey, both natives of the same county. Her father was born in 1819, and died August 3, 1889; her mother was born January 26, 1820, and died April 11, 1881. They were married in England, and came to America, landing at New York September 29, 1853, having spent two months on the voyage. They bought a farm in Lake township, Wood county, in the same year, and resided there the rest of their lives. In England they had been connected with the Established Church, but after coming here they joined the Evangelical Church. Their family comprised children as follows: William, born December 8, 1843, was postmaster at Millbury; John, March 28, 1846, lives in Michigan; Richard, August 28, 1847, died at the age of eighteen; Mary C. (Mrs. Tyrrell), comes next; Philippa Ann, November 5, 1850 (now deceased), was the wife of James Pinegar, of Millbury; Albert, April 25, 1853, lives in Bowling Green; Elizabeth Jane, January 4, 1861, married Albert Heymon; Edward Edwin, August 7, 1857, is a drayman at Bowling Green; Ellen, October 18, 1862, married William Durant, of Monroeville; and Sherman T., February 28, 1865, is a veterinary surgeon at Bowling Green. Mr. and Mrs. Tyrrell have five children, whose names with dates of birth, are as follows: John Clay, August 31, 1877; Catherine Ann, June 28, 1879; Grace Bernice, August 31, 1881; Ernest Albert, May 24, 1883; Elizabeth Frances, August 6, 1884, deceased in infancy; and Lloyd Edwin, born June 29, 1886.

ALBERT NEWTON PETTEYS. Among the prominent farmers of Washington township, few names are better known than that of the subject of this sketch, who was born on his father's farm, in Weston township, this county, on the 25th of September, 1857. Until the age of eighteen years he attended the district schools of the neighborhood, where he acquired a practical education, and then removed to Tontogany. He was crippled by an elder snag penetrating his foot, where it remained for over thirteen years. After attending school in Tontogany he could have secured a teacher's certificate, but he preferred to follow agricultural pursuits rather than teaching.

On the 22d of September, 1886, Mr. Petteys

was united in marriage with Miss Margaret Burditt, a daughter of Greenbury and a sister of Andrew Burditt. Four children have come to bless this union: Albert Lee, who was born August 20, 1888, and died June 9, 1889; David Newton, who was born July 8, 1890; Charles Edward, who was born November 28, 1892; and Margaret Belle, who was born May 9, 1895.

In 1887 Mr. Petteys purchased his present farm of forty acres of partially-improved land, which he has since further developed, adding greatly to its value by tiling and ditching, and now has a highly cultivated tract, which yields to him a golden tribute in return for the care and labor he expends upon it. His religious belief is in accordance with the United Brethren Church, and he now belongs to Washington Chapel.

**WILLIAM MARTIN**, one of the most prominent agriculturists in Wood county, whose fine farm is situated in Weston township, is a native of that township, his birth having taken place March 24, 1847.

The Martin family is of Irish and German ancestry, and the predominating traits of these nations are to be seen in the thrift, perseverance and enterprise of the descendants. The great-grandfather of our subject, William Martin, was born in Ireland, in 1754, and was married August 12, 1782, to Hannah Chapman, who was born June 30, 1765. Nine children were born of this union, namely: William, Nathan, Janette, David, Agnes, Samuel, John C., James T., and Matthew. The father of this family was a furniture manufacturer, and came at a very early day to the United States, settling first in Pennsylvania. His eldest son, William, the grandfather of our subject, was born in Pennsylvania, August 8, 1783. On September 26, 1805, he was married to Jane Taylor, and to them were born two children—James T., and Loucindia. In 1814 he came to Fairfield county, Ohio, and there followed his trade of cabinet maker until 1832, when he removed to Wood county, and took up 160 acres of land, the same comprising a portion of the farm on which our subject now resides. On the death of his wife, which occurred two years after his arrival in Wood county, he returned to Fairfield county, and remained there for six years; then again came to Wood county, where he lived with his son until his death in 1861, at the age of seventy-eight years. Mr. Martin was justice of the peace in Weston township for sixteen years, and married most of the pioneers in that section—in all, over one hundred and sixty couples.

James T. Martin, the father of our subject, was born in Pennsylvania, March 17, 1808. He came to Ohio in 1814, with his parents, settling in Fairfield county, where he learned the cabinet-maker's trade. After the removal of the family to Weston township he took up eighty acres of land and improved it, at the same time working on the 160 acres owned by his father. He was also the principal undertaker in his section of the country. He was married January 1, 1834, to Miss Matilda Smith, by whom he had the following children: Elinor, born August 2, 1836, died while young; Robert S., born February 8, 1838, died in infancy; Jane, born January 9, 1840, died September 22, 1868; Elizabeth, born October 14, 1841, married E. C. Whitney, a farmer, and lives in Nebraska; Harriet, born April 22, 1844, is the wife of L. S. Pugh, of Henry county, Ohio; William, born March 24, 1847, is the subject of this sketch; James T., born March 28, 1849, died in childhood; and John L., born September 19, 1854, also died in youth. The mother died September 21, 1868, the father and Jane on the next day, all of typhus fever, and on September 25, 1868, they were all buried in the Beaver Creek cemetery.

William Martin obtained a fair education in the district school of his locality, which he attended three months in the year; the remainder of the time being given to farm duties. When he arrived at manhood he took up farming on his father's farm, and has been very successful in his enterprises. He owns 225 acres of some of the finest land in Wood county, which he has brought to a high state of cultivation, and on which he has placed some twenty miles of tiling. In 1883 he erected a handsome brick dwelling, one of the best in the township, at a cost of \$3,000, and in 1895 he built a commodious barn which cost him \$2,000, and in which he has four silo bins. In addition to general farming he is quite an extensive stockraiser, breeding fine registered Aberdeen and Jersey cattle, and some good draft horses. He is also interested in the Weston creamery. As may be inferred from the above facts Mr. Martin is a progressive, wide-awake farmer, a man who undertakes his business, and gives it the time and attention necessary to success. He stands well in his community and is deserving of the esteem and respect which is accorded him. In politics he is a Republican, and is a school director and also clerk of the board. Mrs. Martin is a member of the Home and Foreign Missionary Society, the Aid Society and the Daughters of Rebekah, Lodge No. 303. Mr.

Martin belongs to the I. O. O. F., Lodge No. 681, and also to Columbian Encampment.

The marriage of our subject took place March 19, 1872, when he was united to Miss Lucretia J., daughter of John Pugh, a prominent farmer of Weston township, now deceased. Four children have blessed this union, namely Guy T., born March 17, 1878, is assisting his father upon the farm; Glen J., born December 13, 1885; Ruby C., born April 13, 1890; and Ruth E., born March 18, 1894. A curious coincidence in connection with these births is the fact that all occurred on the Sabbath day, and that the eldest occurred on his grandfather's birthday.

VINCENT FISHER, engaged in the clover-seed and wool businesses in Bloomdale, is one of the prominent and representative business men of Wood county. He was born in Cass township, Hancock Co., Ohio, July 19, 1845, and is a son of John and Catherine (Dunlap) Fisher. The father was a native of Allegheny county, Penn., and, as he was but three years old at the time of his father's death, he was reared by others. He was married in his native State, and, on coming to Ohio, located first in Ashland county, where he remained a couple of years, and then went to Washington township, Hancock county. There he remained a short time, when he went to Cass township. The land was all new, Indians still visited the neighborhood, and his first home was a rude log cabin. The children of the family were as follows: Samuel, born in Pennsylvania, died in Cass township, Hancock county; Mary Ann, also born in the Keystone State, married David Manning, and died in Washington township, Hancock county; Catherine, who became the wife of Joseph Smart, died in Fostoria, Ohio; Abraham broke his leg in a threshing machine, after which he took typhoid fever, and passed away in Cass township, Hancock county; Elizabeth, deceased, was the wife of Edson Foster, a florist, of Findlay, Ohio; James resides in Allen township, Hancock county; Vincent, our subject, is next in order of birth; Joseph lives in Putnam county, Ohio; Jackson makes his home in Findlay; and Alice died from injuries sustained by being thrown from a buggy. The father's death occurred in Cass township, in May, 1865, at the age of fifty-six years, while at the same place his wife died five years later, and both were laid to rest in Fostoria cemetery.

Being the oldest son at home at the time of his father's death, Vincent Fisher assumed charge of the farm, though but eighteen years of age, and operated the same for two years. In Bloom

township, Wood county, on Christmas Day of 1866, was celebrated the marriage of our subject and Miss Prudence Loman, a daughter of Thomas Loman. He then rented a house in Cass township, while he worked as a laboring man; but, in 1868, he leased his father-in-law's farm, which he conducted for two years, when he purchased eighty acres of timber land in Bloom township, there erecting a log house, 18 x 28 feet, and began the improvement of his place. In 1874, however, he returned to Hancock county, where he rented land for a year, and then, in partnership with his brother James, embarked in the clothing business in Columbus Grove; but, at the end of a year, removed the business to Arcadia, Ohio. Later he conducted that enterprise alone for two years, after which he sold out at a great loss.

On first coming to Bloomdale, in 1878, Mr. Fisher worked in the lumber yard of Bryant & Linhart—first as fireman, then head sawyer, and later as foreman; but, at the end of two years, he purchased eighty acres of land in Section 26, Bloom township, forty-five of which had been improved. His means were such, however, that he had to go in debt \$2,200 for his place. He continued the improvement and cultivation of his place until the spring of 1891, when he again came to Bloomdale, and now rents his land. For two years he engaged in the sale of farm implements, but is now extensively interested in buying and selling clover seed and wool, at the Bloomdale elevators, in which he has been very successful. For about fifteen years, in connection with his agricultural pursuits, he also operated a threshing machine, his first experience in that line dating back to the days of crude machinery, while his father was first to introduce a separator into the northern part of Hancock county, and the southern part of Wood county.

Two children grace the union of Mr. and Mrs. Fisher, namely: Cora, now Mrs. William W. Wineland, of Bloom township; and Addie, now Mrs. Ned Rosendale, of the same township. The father has ever taken a prominent part in the promotion of every enterprise for the welfare of his town and county, and was one of the party of citizens who helped to secure the station of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, by contribution of labor, in putting in the railroad switch. He is an earnest worker in the Democratic party, though no office-seeker, and was five years Democratic township committeeman. He served an unexpired term both as marshal and alderman of Bloomdale, being chairman of the gas committee when the Northwestern Gas Company undertook



to charge exorbitant prices for gas, and other companies were secured to start a competing line, which would save Bloomdale citizens many thousands of dollars. He is a stockholder in the Building & Loan Association of Bloomdale; director of the Northwestern Fair Association of Fostoria, Ohio, and director in the Bloomdale Citizens Gas Company; socially, he is a member of Bloomdale Lodge No. 406, I. O. O. F., while his wife has held membership with the Methodist Episcopal Church since the age of fourteen years. They have many friends throughout the community, and justly deserve the high regard in which they are held. Although starting out with meager advantages, Mr. Fisher has, by his own labor and good management, as well as by skillful, but fair, manipulation, gathered a comfortable competence.

**DANIEL STOCKER**, deceased. The subject of this sketch, formerly a prominent real-estate holder in Wood and Holmes counties, Ohio, was born February 1, 1819, in Oxford township, Tuscarawas Co., Ohio, the son of John and Elizabeth Stocker. He attended school in his native place until the death of his father, when he engaged in agriculture in Holmes county, renting a farm for a time. In 1883 he came to Wood county and bought a tract of land lying on the boundary between Weston and Grand Rapids townships, being the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 21, Weston township, upon which he made some improvements. He returned to Holmes county, however, and carried on his business there until his death, which occurred March 28, 1889. A man of sound judgment and fine abilities, he enjoyed the esteem and friendship of all who knew him well. He was a prominent member of the Disciples Church, and took an interest in all religious movements. Politically he was a Democrat, but held broad views on all leading questions of the day.

On December 31, 1854, he was married to Miss Elmira Willhouer, who was born October 9, 1835, at Port Washington, Tuscarawas Co., Ohio, the daughter of Johannes Willhouer. To this union were born nine children, as follows: (1) Christian F., born December 7, 1855, was married on December 10, 1887, to Miss Lettie Watson, and has two children—Bessie and Hazel. (2) James W., born May 30, 1857, was married on March 14, 1882, to Miss Laura E. Wheaton (who was born April 6, 1864), and has six children—Daniel, born October 8, 1882; Elmira, born September 15, 1884; Mitte, born January 11, 1887; George W., born March 15, 1890; Ollie,

born August 29, 1894; and Ellen, born June 18, 1896. (3) Hiram J., born April 1, 1859. (4) Elizabeth L., born January 15, 1861, was married October 5, 1882, to Nelson Sharp, of Holmes county, and has two children—Mabel, born August 1, 1888, and Walter, born July 11, 1890. (5) Daniel B., born February 4, 1863, is an oil operator in Indiana. (6) John S., born October 1, 1865, was married March 11, 1891, to Miss Bell Fenderick (who was born November 30, 1871), and has one son, Roy, born February 12, 1892. (7) Joseph, born February 18, 1867, died February 22, 1875. (8) Mary E., born May 28, 1870, was married June 11, 1895, to Frank Nafus, and has one child—Harvey. (9) Mitte, born March 15, 1873, died February 28, 1875.

Mrs. Stocker came with her family to Wood county shortly after the death of her husband, and settled upon the property here, improving and developing it into a fine farm. She now resides there with her second son, sustained by the love and affection of her children, and the esteem of a large circle of friends.

**SAMUEL J. HARPER** is a native of Holmes county, Ohio, where he was born September 22, 1829. His parents were Thomas and Mary (White) Harper, the former of whom was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, in 1816, and the latter in Washington county, Penn. They were married in Jefferson county, and moved to DeKalb county, Ind., in 1852, and Mrs. Harper died there in 1855. Mr. Harper returned to Ohio in 1858 and settled in Wood county, where he married Mrs. Nancy (Barton) Jamison. He died at the home of our subject in 1880. He was the father of the following children: William is a farmer in Weston; Jane married George McKeg, and died in Cincinnati; Samuel J. is our subject; George P. resides in DeKalb county, Ind., on a farm; Elizabeth died unmarried; James H. is a railroad man of Bellevue.

William Harper, grandfather of our subject, was born in Ireland, where he married a Miss Johnston, a native of the same country. He was a soldier in the war of 1812, and was accidentally drowned in the Ohio river.

Our subject remained in Holmes county, Ohio, until he was sixteen years of age, at which time he went to DeKalb county, Ind., where he stayed until 1856, when he came to Wood county. He was married in Perrysburg October 23, 1856, to Miss Mary J. Barton, who was born in Holmes county, April 11, 1835. They have one child, Thomas, a railroad conductor residing at Leipsic

Junction, Putnam Co., Ohio. He was born February 27, 1858, and married Miss Addie Boggs, who was born in Weston township. Three children have been born to them: Harry, Harvey, and Bessie. After his marriage our subject lived in DeKalb county for a year, then came to Wood county, and from here went to Tontogany, where he accepted an appointment on the C. H. & D. railroad as brakeman, and in two years was promoted to the position of conductor. From 1860 to 1865 he ran an accommodation train from Toledo to Lima, after which time he entered the mercantile business at Milton Center. In 1871 he sold out and entered the railway mail service, running between Toledo and Cincinnati for two years, when he was transferred to the fast mail on the L. S. & M. S. R. R., and ran from Cleveland to Syracuse for fifteen and a half years. He then quit the mail service to enter the egg and poultry business in Weston, where he remained for three and a half years. Becoming tired of that, he moved to the farm on which he now lives. He is a Republican, and he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian Church. He cast his first vote for Winfield Scott. Mrs. Harper was in the millinery and dress-making business in Weston for nine years, while he was engaged in the mail service.

Mrs. Harper is the daughter of James and Charlotte (Johnson) Barton, the former of whom was born in Mifflin county, Penn., February 27, 1807, and the latter in Jefferson county, Ohio, December 17, 1811. They were married December 18, 1826. She died April 23, 1896, but Mr. Harper is still in the enjoyment of good health. The following children blessed their union: Ann, the wife of George Bell, of Holmes county, Ohio, died in Wood county in 1855; John died at the age of two and a half years; Mary Jane is wife of our subject; Henry J. died December 7, 1894; Samuel J. lives in Weston township; Harriet E. married Ellis Williams; Stephen Taylor lives in Weston township; one other died in infancy. Mrs. Harper grew to womanhood in Holmes county, and came with her parents to Wood county in 1852, and they later settled in Grand Rapids township, from where they went to Weston township. Mr. and Mrs. Barton were both members of the Disciples Church, and he is a Democrat in politics.

SAMUEL BROWN, a prominent manufacturer and stock breeder, of Grand Rapids township, and a son of one of the earliest settlers of this county, was born at Beaver Creek, April 18, 1841.

Alexander Brown, his father, was born in

Perry county, Ohio, November 24, 1802, and settled in Wood county about 1828; he followed the occupation of farmer and veterinary surgeon, and was one of the first settlers to go back from the Maumee. In Perry county, he was married to Miss Anna North, who was born in Philadelphia, Penn., September 30, 1804. Twelve children were born to this worthy pioneer couple, namely: Caroline, born in Perry county, March 10, 1823, became the wife of John McKee, and died December 26, 1856; James, born in Fairfield county, October 26, 1824, died September 11, 1860; Mary, born January 11, 1827, died January 6, 1842; Morgan, born March 10, 1829, the first white child born on the Maumee, south of Perrysburg, died June 20, 1888; Sarah, born January 15, 1833, is the wife of S. Condit, a farmer of Oregon; William, born September 17, 1834, a prominent stock raiser and veterinary surgeon of Weston; Isaac Newton, born August 15, 1836, died May 31, 1896; Eliza Jane, born November 25, 1838, became the wife of John McLain, and died January 17, 1884; Samuel, our subject; Margaret E., born November 17, 1843, became the wife of Elliot Warner, November 29, 1871; Joseph, born May 31, 1846, died October 4, 1847; and Anna, born September 15, 1848, became the wife of W. L. Rowland, and died April 27, 1871. Mr. and Mrs. Brown were noted for their hospitality, and the weary stranger ever found "their latch-string out." He passed to his final rest September 15, 1870, and his estimable wife survived until June 30, 1881.

Samuel Brown, our subject, attended the district school near his birthplace, and assisted his father upon the farm, until the breaking out of war, when he enlisted in Company H, 68th O. V. I., with Col. Steedman and Capt. Voris. He took part in most of the important battles of the war, including those of Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Bolivar, Metamora, Iuka, the siege of Vicksburg, and the engagements of the famous Atlanta campaign, his regiment being among the host that went "marching through Georgia" with Sherman. At the battle of Metamora, the 12th Mich. V. I., the 68th O. V. I. and the 46th Ill. V. I., fought with unusual determination, the 68th taking the lead in the desperate charge on the Rebels, compelling the surrender of 555 men. Three companies of the 68th, of which Company H was one, acted as guard for these prisoners as far as Bolivar, Tenn., where they were turned over to the United States Government. During the march to Bolivar, the Union soldiers were often amused by the stories of the Confederates.

Once in a while one of the "wearers of the gray" would undertake to make a speech; one of them gave in substance, much to the chagrin of his comrades, the following: "We enlisted because we were told it was the best thing to do; that it would be only a little 'breakfast job' to fight the Northerners. A Yankee might go out and kill a squirrel in cold blood, but when it came to fighting men, they would be sure to run. Then we of the Sunny South can go up in Ohio, take 160 acres of land, and it will be the best pay we ever had for so little work. Now we are marching toward the North, but I don't believe we will get the land. Boys, the only thing that seems clear to me now, is that our cause is unjust, and that we have rebelled against the best government on earth. We are treated as we ought to be, whipped and chased from every nook and corner; even when we have fought against equal numbers, we have been whipped. It is the height of folly to hold out longer, and the sooner the whole army surrenders and stops the shedding of blood, the better." It is not to be supposed that a man could utter such sentiments in the presence of his Rebel comrades without being frequently interrupted; but the applause that greeted him from the loyal Union soldiers was sufficient compensation. Although our subject suffered all the hardships incident to the life of a soldier in active service, he heartily enjoyed the excitement, and served as long as there was any fighting to be done, receiving his discharge at Cleveland, Ohio, on July 15, 1865.

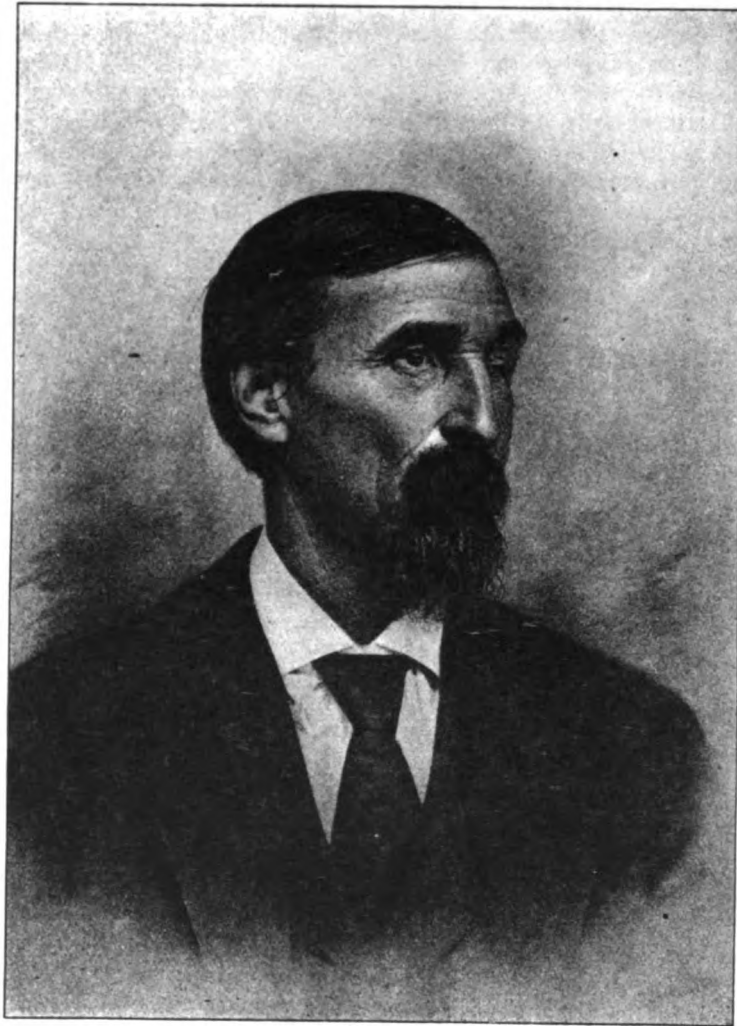
At the close of his term of service, he returned home, and on October 3, 1865, was married to Miss Maggie J. Ross, who was born November 12, 1843, a daughter of Joseph and Polly Ross, well-known and respected residents of Weston, now Grand Rapids, township. She had been a prominent school teacher for a number of years, having begun that work at the age of sixteen, and her entire life was spent in labor tending to the upbuilding of humanity, and in caring for the welfare of others. She was one of the very patriotic ladies of this county during the Rebellion, counting no sacrifice too great, no toil too severe for endurance, if aid could thereby be given to the Union cause, or comfort to the "Boys in Blue." On many occasions she denounced those who were disloyal to the Federal government. She was a devoted Christian, a member of the United Presbyterian Church, and tireless in her work for the Church; nothing but sickness prevented her attendance both at Sabbath-school and Church services. She died April 8, 1886, after nearly a quarter of a century of happy wed-

ded life. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Brown was born one son, Orlo, C., July 17, 1866, now a farmer of Grand Rapids township (on March 15, 1889, he was married to Miss Nellie Bortle, of Henry county, who was born December 1, 1870, and they have two children—Merl A., born June 18, 1891, and Kyle L., born May 19, 1893).

In the fall of 1889 our subject went to Oregon for rest and recreation, and remained three years. Since his return he has given his attention to the breeding of Jersey cattle, and fine horses. He has a handsome brick residence, one of the finest in the township. He is interested in the manufacture of brick and tile. He is a member of the United Presbyterian Church; in politics, a Republican, and has served the community in various official positions, having been supervisor and clerk of the board of education, and school director for a number of years. A man of kindly nature and progressive mind, he is at the front in any movement which tends to benefit the community.

GEORGE W. SMITH, a leading and prosperous farmer residing in Section 28, Troy township, has witnessed almost the entire development of this region, as he was born in that township in 1837, and has always made his home there. His father, Daniel Smith, was a native of the eastern part of Pennsylvania, where he was reared to manhood, and, on going to the western part of the State, there wedded Mary Mixter, by whom he had seven children, who in order of birth were as follows: Eliza died in Troy township, in 1891; John makes his home there, now at the age of seventy-four years; Aaron is married, and lives in Webster township, Wood county; and Mrs. Sarah Chamberlain, Mrs. Catherine Chamberlain, Mrs. Amanda Dennis and George W., are all of Troy township. In Pennsylvania the father owned a small farm of twenty acres, which he operated in connection with work at the blacksmith's trade; but in 1834 he came to Ohio and located in Troy township, Wood county, on a tract of government land. To clearing and improving his place he then devoted his time and attention, until his death, in 1848. His wife, who survived him several years, also died in Troy township, on the old homestead, in 1863.

George W. Smith obtained such an education as the district schools of Troy township afforded at that early date, and was reared on the home farm. Agriculture has been his life work, and he now owns a highly cultivated tract of 160 acres, which yield to him a ready return for the care



*George W. Smith*



and labor expended upon it. He is entirely independent of party lines in politics, his only criterion in such matters being whether any measure is for the benefit of the county in which he lives, or calculated to elevate society at large.

JOSIAH STOFFER, one of the representative, substantial, self-made men of Bloomdale, affords in his career an example of the success which may be attained by industry and good management, combined with fair dealing.

Joseph Stouffer, his father, was born June 9, 1812, in Northampton county, Penn. He followed the trade of carpenter and cabinet-maker for many years, and most of his tools are now in the possession of our subject. He was at one time engaged in making coffins, and he also built many houses, among these being a handsome residence on the Monongahela river, in Fayette county, for Abraham Overholt, the pioneer distiller. In those days great quantities of timber were rafted down the Monongahela, and he found employment at that for a time. On September 12, 1839, he was married to Miss Nancy Dobler, who was born in the same State April 9, 1817. J. C. Dobler, her father, was a native of Shondorf, Wurtemberg, Germany, born August 1, 1776, and was a teacher by occupation. On July 27, 1802, he married Ann Moria Erbse, who was born February 14, 1780, and by whom he had thirteen children. They came to America March 6, 1805.

In 1855 Mr. Stouffer decided to move to Ohio, where land was cheaper, and his growing family could have a better chance in life. He came by the old "strap railroad" to Findlay, and purchased eighty acres of land in Washington township, Hancock county, paying for it in part from the proceeds of his property in Pennsylvania. After this he devoted his attention to farming, giving but little time to his trade, even hiring help on his own buildings. He had attended school only six months in all, but had acquired a good practical education. His judgment was excellent, and by industry he gained a competence, his 120-acre farm being one of the best in that locality. On September 12, 1889, he and his good wife, to whom he always attributes a large share of his success, celebrated their "golden wedding," with many friends and relatives present. Just two years later, on September 11, 1891, he departed this life, his wife surviving until January 29, 1895. The remains of both now lie in the cemetery at Fostoria. They were members of the U. B. Church, to which they contributed liberally. They had ten chil-

dren, whose names and dates of birth are as follows: Mary A., February 21, 1841 (she married Cyrus Eckels, and died in Hancock county, September 11, 1866); Levi, April 14, 1842 (died October 4, 1842); Henry D., July 26, 1843 (he married Mary J. Linhart, and is a merchant of North Baltimore); Samuel, March 9, 1846 (he married Sarah J. Stoner, and is a farmer in Hancock county); Sarah, June 12, 1848 (married James H. Slosser, of Hancock county); Susanna, October 14, 1850 (married John Stoner, of Tarr Station, Penn.); Josiah, November 2, 1852 (our subject); Catherine E., January 2, 1854 (living on the old farm in Hancock county); Magdalena, July 19, 1855 (died August 22, of the same year); and Jacob W., February 28, 1858 (a farmer in Hancock county; he married Miss Carrie McConnell).

Josiah Stouffer was born November 2, 1852, near Mt. Pleasant, Fayette county, and was three years old at the time of the family's removal from Pennsylvania. His education was obtained in the district schools of Hancock county. He remained at home, helping upon the farm, until the age of nineteen, when he began to learn the tinner's trade with F. R. Stewart, of Fostoria. After a three-years' apprenticeship he and his brother Henry opened a store (the pioneer tin store of North Baltimore), dealing in tinware, stoves, hardware and implements, under the firm name of H. D. Stouffer & Bro., which was later changed to Stouffer Bros. In 1878 our subject withdrew as a partner, but remained in the store as an employe.

On August 4, 1878, Mr. Stouffer was married in Findlay to Miss Almeda Osborn, a native of Sandusky county, born August 17, 1856, daughter of Rev. L. J. and Susan (Short) Osborn. Her father was born July 9, 1826, in Cayuga county, N. Y., and died August 13, 1895, in Wood county; he had been a member of the U. B. Church forty-two years, and a minister in the Sandusky Conference. Her mother was born December 24, 1828, in Richland county, Ohio, and died August 17, 1894, in Wood county. Seven children lived to maturity out of the family of eleven born to them, viz.: Tryphena, Harriet, Sarah, John R., Lizetta, Mrs. Stouffer, Lurory, Anna, Ida, Oren and George. Mrs. Stouffer received a good common-school education, and taught for three terms before her marriage. She is now a member of the school board of Bloomdale, the first lady in Bloom township elected to that position. Their home shows the influence of her refinement and culture and their four children enjoy good educational advantages, and are lov-

ers of books and music. They are as follows: Jennie Grace, born March 22, 1888; Zoe Dott, born October 17, 1882; Karl J., born June 19, 1884, and Myrth M., born October 6, 1886.

In October, 1889, Mr. Stouffer bought a hardware and grocery store in Bloomdale from E. P. Emerson, added tinware and stoves, and also opened a tin shop, the first in the town. Later he laid in a stock of boots, shoes, clothing and agricultural implements, and his expanding business compelled him to build an additional store room in 1894. His trade in the various departments is now the largest in Bloomdale, his reputation for integrity is of the highest, and to judge the future by the past we may hope to see him win still further triumphs in his chosen line. He owns a residence in North Baltimore, in addition to his business property, and has an interest in the homestead in Hancock county. His reading has been extended, and he has improved upon his somewhat limited advantages in early life, taking an intelligent interest in all the questions of the time. In politics he is a Republican, as was his father in the later years of his life; but he does no active party work, his business requiring his attention. He and his wife are leading members of the Liberal U. B. Church, at Bloomdale, to which he is one of the most generous contributors.

GEORGE COOPER, a prominent resident of Bloomdale, well-known throughout that vicinity as a business man of great ability and absolute integrity, was born in Warwickshire, England, October 4, 1824.

William Cooper, his father, was a blacksmith and veterinary surgeon there. He married Sarah Shirley, who was one of the children of William Shirley, all of whom lived to an advanced age—William dying at eighty-eight, Parson at sixty-four, Thomas at eighty, John at eighty, Richard at eighty, Ann (Mrs. Walker) at ninety, Hannah at eighty, James at eighty, and Sarah (Mrs. Cooper) at eighty-four. To Mr. and Mrs. Cooper were born eleven children. He died in 1829, leaving the four youngest children unprovided for, the others being already settled in life. Mrs. Cooper for some time after her husband's death supported her little ones by nursing, giving them a good education for the time. Her children have all done well in life. One son is a general manufacturer of leather furnishings for military service, foreman of a large plant at Birmingham, England, with which he has been connected for at least fifty years.

Our subject at the age of eleven years went

to reside with his mother's brothers, who were farmers, and from them learned that business. In 1849 he came to America, spending four weeks on the voyage on the sailing vessel "Elizabeth," and landed in New York May 1, 1849. He had only \$15 left, but he soon secured employment at Palmyra, N. Y., at \$8. per month. After two months he became the driver of a team for a large flour-mill there, and the next year began to learn the miller's trade, but, not liking it, gave it up shortly. On November 21, 1851, he was married at Palmyra, to Miss Emma Jaques, who was born September 29, 1832, three miles from his own early home. Her father, William Jaques, was of French descent and followed farming as an occupation. He married Miss Dina French, and reared a family of nine children, some of whom came to America early in life. In 1836 the father, who was feeble in health, sold his farm, intending to bring his family to this country, and a son, William, was on his way home from America to accompany them on the voyage, when Mr. Jaques died. The widow with six children came in 1837, on the vessel "Splendid" (Capt. Leonard), landing in New York after one month at sea. She remained at Syracuse with two married daughters for some time, and then bought a farm near Palmyra, later moving into the village. When Mrs. Cooper was eight years old her mother returned to England, where she was married to John Greenhill, coming back to Palmyra in the spring of 1846. She was a lady of great intelligence, the author of poems and other writings of a high order. Her family inherited much of her ability, and one son, Rev. Jabez R. Jaques, was a distinguished instructor of languages in some of the best colleges in this country and Canada. She died in Bedford, Mich., December 27, 1865.

In 1835 Mr. Cooper brought his wife and baby to Hancock county, and with \$400 of his savings, and \$300 belonging to his wife, he bought a farm of forty-nine acres, upon which there was a log house of two rooms. Two years later he sold it, doubling his money, and coming to Wood county he bought 120 acres in Perry township, afterward selling forty acres for half the cost of the whole. He then bought eighty acres more and made of it a fine farm, and in 1866 he traded for 208 acres in Perry township, well improved, by paying \$4,800 bonus. Here he lived until 1881, when he retired to Fostoria for over three years, returning then to the farm. In May, 1892, he moved to Bloomdale, leaving the active work of his estate to other hands. He owns two dwelling houses in Bloomdale, and one

in Fostoria. In his younger days he possessed great strength, and his prosperity is based upon industry joined to judicious management, his estimable wife being a true helpmeet in his efforts. Seven children were born to them: Ruth A., November 12, 1852, died April 29, 1867; Florence, January 1, 1865 (married H. M. Marvin, and died May 10, 1880, in Augusta, Mich.); Alice, August 31, 1857 (married Wellington Welch, of Bloom township); George M., September 19, 1859, lives in Perry township; Fannie, October 9, 1861, married Dr. E. H. Chilcote, of Bloomdale; Louella, October 9, 1870, is at home, and Robert S. November 11, 1874, died August 18, 1875.

Mr. and Mrs. Cooper are leading members of the M. E. Church, with which Mrs. Cooper united in 1848, Mr. Cooper in 1851. He has been a class-leader for many years, and was superintendent of the Sunday-school for a long time. His contributions to all philanthropic movements are liberal, and he has helped to build churches for several denominations. In politics he was a Republican until 1881, when he became a Prohibitionist, but he has never allowed his name to be presented as a candidate for official position.

DAVID L. LESLIE is a citizen of worth; and one of the most progressive agriculturists of Bloom township, which is the place of his nativity. He was born January 22, 1851, a son of David and Mary (Brandeberry) Leslie.

The father of our subject was born August 30, 1813, in Columbiana county, Ohio, where the grandfather, Joseph Leslie, followed farming for many years. David was married in Carroll county, Ohio, August 29, 1833, to Miss Brandeberry, who was born in Carroll county, April 13, 1814, a daughter of Conrad Brandeberry. They lived in Carroll county until the fall of 1848, when they took up their residence upon the farm which is now the home of our subject. A cabin of logs and bark was built in the midst of the woods, and wild game could be secured only a short distance from their home, such was the primitive condition of the country. The father died in Carroll county, Ohio, in 1875, and the mother died in Gratiot county, Mich., about 1883. Their children were Joseph, who was born May 26, 1834, and died at the age of three years; Conrad, born October 31, 1836, who died March 19, 1864, while going from Libby to Andersonville prison, having been made a prisoner while serving in the 111th O. V. I.; Susan, born December 30, 1838, now Mrs. John Alexander, of Bloomdale; William, who was born

April 13, 1841, and died in Pekin, Ohio, in June, 1892; Elizabeth, born August 10, 1844, now Mrs. James Valanc, of Ithaca, Mich.; Mary, born November 10, 1846, wife of Levi Fowler, of Berrien county, Mich.; John, born March 10, 1848, of Gratiot county, Mich.; David L., subject of this sketch; Stephen, born September 30, 1853, of Jackson, Mich.; and Matilda, born March 9, 1857, wife of Frank Dell, of Ashland county, Ohio.

Mr. Leslie received but limited educational privileges, for from the age of thirteen years he has not only provided for his own maintenance, but also aided in the support of the family. At the age of twenty-one, he went with his father to Calhoun county, Mich., and there earned the first money which he was allowed to retain, his other earnings having been given to his parents. He was married January 21, 1875, in Eagleville, Ohio, to Alice Leathers, the ceremony being performed by W. S. Richard. Mrs. Leslie was born in Bloom township, June 9, 1855, a daughter of William and Catherine (Ziegler) Leathers. Her father was the first native white child of Bloom township, born March 6, 1834, and was killed in a gristmill in Eagleville. Our subject and his bride began housekeeping on the old home farm, living in a log cabin. He operated forty acres of land for his mother, and subsequently he bought the home farm at sheriff's sale, his father having in the meantime sold it to Patrick McManus, who could not pay for it. It became Mr. Leslie's property in August, 1880. He now has forty acres cleared and under cultivation, drained by five and a half miles of tiling, and it is one of the neatest and most thrifty looking farms in the county. In 1893 he built a large barn, and the community recognizes in him one of its most progressive agriculturists.

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie have had five children—Nettie L., who died at the age of one year and nine months; Dessie F.; Frank B.; Charles W., and Don H. The parents are members of the Liberal United Brethren Church, of Pleasant Grove, of which he has served as trustee. In politics he was formerly a Republican, but he is now identified with the Prohibition party. He is a self-made man in the best sense of the term.

CHARLES J. NIEMAN, a member of the well-known firm of Nieman Bros., of Pemberville, undertakers and dealers in furniture, is one of the most popular men of his age in that locality, his ability in business and public affairs winning for him the confidence and regard of the entire com-



munity. He was born September 29, 1869, in Sandusky county, where his grandfather, John Nieman, a native of Germany, located, and died near Woodville, Ohio. Louis Nieman, our subject's father, was born in Sandusky county, and lived there until about two years ago, when he moved to Woodville. He married Louisa Meyers, a daughter of the late Garrett Meyers, who spent his last years near Woodville. To their union two children were born: Henry, born 1867, is a partner in the business at Pemberville; and Charles J., our subject.

Charles J. Nieman received his early education principally in the district schools at Woodville, where he grew to manhood. His first employment was as agent for the Woodville Creamery Company, and, after spending four years "on the road" for them, he became a traveling salesman for Waldcutter, Stein & Co., chair manufacturers at Toledo, Ohio. In 1892 he resigned this position, and, in partnership with his brother Henry, bought the furniture and undertaking business at Pemberville, which they have since conducted with great success.

Mr. Nieman is a member of the Lutheran Church, of which his ancestors have been adherents for many generations. Politically he is a Democrat, and his influence and activity in local affairs promise to make him a prominent figure in wider circles in the near future. In the spring of 1894, he was elected clerk of Freedom township, leading the ticket, and his faithful and judicious discharge of his duties has gained him hearty commendation from all classes, as is shown by his re-election to the same office in the spring of 1896. Mr. Nieman is a stockholder in the Curtis Oil Co., operating at Curtis, Ohio; the company was recently organized, and has one well completed, which proves a good one.

**DANIEL STREETER.** The name of this gentleman is well and favorably known through Washington township, where he is prosperously engaged in general farming. He is a native of the Empire State, born in the town of Alabama, Genesee county, June 6, 1830, and is a son of Solomon and Sallie (Arnold) Streeter, both natives of Vermont, in which State they were married. They later removed to New York, and the year 1838 witnessed their arrival in Ohio, coming by steamboat to Sandusky City, then by the Huron river to Huron county, where the father carried on agricultural pursuits for two years. In 1840 he located in Ottawa county, where he bought a farm and there spent his remaining days, dying in 1856. The mother died in that county the year

of their arrival there. In their family were ten children—Maria, Fannie, Helen, Maranda, Filah, Caroline, Julia Ann, David, Benjamin and Daniel.

The last named attended the district schools of Ottawa county, pursuing his studies in an old log school house, with primitive furniture, and at the age of sixteen years laid aside his text books to take up the sterner duties of life, as he then started out to make his own livelihood, working by the month as a farm hand until his marriage. In 1865 we find him in Wood county, where he bought ninety-five acres of good land, but has since disposed of forty acres of that amount. The remainder he still cultivates, converting it into one of the best farms of the locality, whereon are seen all modern improvements which stand as monuments to his thrift and enterprise.

Mr. Streeter gives his cordial support to the Democratic party, served as trustee in Ottawa county for a couple of years, and has also been a school director. For a time he was a member of the Grange, and his religious connection is with the United Brethren Church. He is a man in whom his neighbors have entire confidence and, who will hold his name in kindly remembrance long after he has departed hence.

In 1854 was performed the marriage ceremony which united the destinies of Mr. Streeter and Miss Mary Jane Hollingshead, of Bay township, Ottawa Co., Ohio. Her birth occurred on the 20th of August, 1827. By her marriage she has become the mother of nine children, only four of whom now survive: Samuel George, a butcher of Tontogany; Mary Irene; Robert B.; and Eva Estella.

Samuel Hollingshead, the father of Mrs. Streeter, was born in Huntingdon county, Penn., January 19, 1789, and was a son of John Hollingshead, of Irish and German descent. For nine months he served as a soldier in the war of 1812, and later re-enlisted, aiding the States until the close of that struggle. It was in 1812 that he first came to Ohio, where he ever afterward made his home. On June 25, 1822, at Fremont, this State, he wedded Mary Whiting, who was born here, though of Pennsylvania parentage; her ancestors had lived where the battle of Lundy's Lane was fought. She died at Port Clinton, Ohio, June 23, 1862, and her husband, who survived her, passed away at the same place in March, 1875. In their family were ten children: John, who died in infancy; Elizabeth, widow of James H. McGruder, of Port Clinton; Mary Jane, wife of our subject; William C., who resides on the old homestead in Ottawa county; James, deceased, who wedded Elizabeth Atkin-

son, of Port Clinton; Margaret D., deceased wife of Absalom Shook, of Illinois; Robert M., who married Lucy Dickens, by whom he had seven children, and after her death wedded Louisa Goda; Statira, wife of Wesley Belknap, of Iowa; Josephine, deceased wife of Clouse Harmes, of Fremont, Ohio; and Samuel, who was a member of the home guards from Ottawa county, and died in the South during the Civil war. During his father's service in the war of 1812, he saw the great battle between Perry and the English troops, and assisted the soldiers in removing stores from Put-in Bay to Toledo. From the latter place he walked to Port Clinton, having nothing to eat upon the entire trip. He was also on the lakes for four days without food, so that he experienced all the privations and hardships of war in those early days. By trade he was a gunsmith, but in later life gave his entire attention to farming. He served as justice of the peace during the early days, and although without a knowledge of law, his own judgment and wisdom guided him to almost unerring decisions; he also served as commissioner of Sandusky county for eighteen years; was associate judge and treasurer of Ottawa county, and, lastly, was representative of that District. In politics he was an earnest Democrat, and both he and his estimable wife were members of the United Brethren Church.

GEORGE W. BLACK, a prominent and well-to-do agriculturist of Bloom township, was born August 8, 1854, in Wyandot county, Ohio.

John Black, his father, was a native of Maryland, but, when a boy, came to Ohio with his parents, who settled in Wyandot county. He married Miss Mary Jacoby, a native of Pennsylvania, whose parents had moved to Wyandot county during her girlhood. Mr. and Mrs. Black are still living on a farm two miles east of a place which he and two of his brothers bought and cleared a few years after his marriage. John Black is a leading citizen of his locality, a stanch Republican, and, while he is not an office seeker, he has always taken an influential part in any movements for the public welfare. He is a member of the Church of Christ, and his wife belongs to the U. B. Church. They had six children, of whom, our subject, George W., is the eldest; Lafayette died July 10, 1880, in Wyandot county; Leander lives in Tiffin, Ohio; John A. is a resident of Wyandot county; Noah is a farmer in the same county; Elnora is the wife of Edward Bear, of Wyandot county.

George W. Black received his first instruction in the district schools of Wyandot county. He

was very ambitious and possessed unusual mental ability, and later he attended the schools of Republic and Fostoria. At the age of twenty he began teaching in District No. 8, Bloom township, having been selected for the position by the principal of the Fostoria schools, who had been requested to recommend a teacher. He also taught one term at Bloom Center, giving entire satisfaction. On September 21, 1875, he was married, in Bloom township, to Miss Charlotte E. Fast, who was born there July 3, 1849, a daughter of John and Sarah (Hess) Fast. She is a lady of fine mental gifts and culture, had been a student at Hiram College, and later had taught successfully for thirteen terms in Wood and Henry counties. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Black settled upon a farm of thirty-four acres in Tymochtee township, Wyandot county, for which he paid \$2,550. Mr. Black's health began to fail, and, as he was threatened with consumption, he sold his farm, and on May 26, 1883, moved to Bloom township, where they rented rooms for the summer. In October of that year he bought fifty acres of what was known as the "John Baird farm," and for several years, on account of poor health, he did little more than look after the work of the farm. He now has a comfortable home, and although he is unable to do much active work, he has, by shrewd management, become a very successful farmer. He and his estimable wife are leading members of the Church of Christ at Eagleville, in which he is an elder. They have one son, Frank F., born December 30, 1877, in Tymochtee township, Wyandot county, who was graduated from the High School of Bloomdale May 22, 1896. In politics Mr. Black is a Republican, one of the most earnest supporters of the principles of his party, but he has never aspired to office. He was elected justice of the peace in 1890, and served one term, declining a renomination.

ABRAHAM STILWELL, one of Perry township's best citizens and well-to-do farmers, is a native of Knox township, Jefferson Co., Ohio, born October 8, 1845, and is a son of Samuel and Nancy (Elliott) Stilwell. When only six years of age his parents removed to Hancock county, Ohio, where he was reared to manhood in Washington township as a pioneer farmer boy, and attended the district schools of his time, rude as they were. He remained under the parental roof during the lifetime of his parents.

In Washington township, Hancock county, on November 25, 1869, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Stilwell and Miss Mary J. Stahl, whose birth occurred in Washington township, Carroll Co.,

Ohio, November 15, 1846. When about six years of age she was taken to Hancock county by her parents, George and Mary (Fishel) Stahl, who died when well advanced in life, and were buried at Arcadia, Ohio. By trade the father was a blacksmith, and also followed farming. To Mr. and Mrs. Stilwell were born five children, namely: Sarah A., now Mrs. Alvin Loucks, of Bloomdale, Ohio; Joseph M., who follows farming; James A., an oil pumper, of Bloomdale; William E., who died in infancy; and Minnie B., at home.

After leaving the old homestead, Mr. Stilwell rented land for a time in Washington township, Hancock county; but March 18, 1886, witnessed his arrival in Perry township, Wood county, where he purchased the forty-acre-farm which he yet owns in Section 30. He is an intelligent, keen-sighted man, of good business ability, and merits the confidence of his many friends. He and his wife hold membership with the Lutheran Church of Bloomdale, and politically he has always been a Democrat.

WILLIAM H. CHAPMAN, deceased, a pioneer of this county, was a native of Connecticut, born August 11, 1820, in Groton township, New London county, one of the ten children of William and Fannie (Bailey) Chapman.

Our subject received his early education at the public schools of his native place, and when eighteen years old shipped before the mast, and followed a seafaring life some ten years. He then came to Ohio, and located in Huron county, where, in October, 1848, he married Miss Sylvia Ann Avery, who was born August 31, 1830, a daughter of Dudley and Prudence Avery, and a sister of Joshua O. Avery, whose sketch appears elsewhere. Some eighteen months after marriage Mr. and Mrs. Chapman came to Wood county, settling in Weston township, where he bought eighty acres of land, all of which was heavily timbered. He cleared a portion of it, and sold it; then bought 120 acres on Keeler's Prairie, eighty of which he improved, erecting thereon a fine residence, commodious barns and out-houses. To him and his wife were born ten children, as follows: Oliver W., November 18, 1849, in Huron county, is a farmer in Milton township, Wood county; Zachary Taylor, August 11, 1851, in Wood county, is deceased; Lucy A., October 17, 1853, is the wife of Charles Lewis, and resides in Milton township; Avery O., June 25, 1855, is a farmer in Liberty township; Isranda, November 24, 1856, is the wife of Clarence Palmer, and resides in Weston township;

Frances P., April 13, 1860, married J. H. Lathrop, M. D., of Deshler; Charles F., August 20, 1862, resides in Weston; Eulalia C., January 3, 1868, married James Hutchison, a farmer of Liberty township; Fred T., June 25, 1870; Amasa E., December 27, 1873, is married, and lives in Liberty township; of these Fred is farming the old homestead for his mother, who lives with him. William H. Chapman passed from earth July 19, 1890. He was a well-known man of high principles and moral character, and was a much respected citizen of Weston. In politics he was a Republican, and held the office of trustee, supervisor, and director of schools. He was a member of the Grange. His family are identified with the Presbyterian Church, in the support of which they give substantial aid, as did Mr. Chapman, who, though not a member of any denomination, gave liberally of his means for Church work.

ALBERT BRANDEBERRY is one of the enterprising, energetic and industrious citizens of Bloom township, where he owns and operates the farm on which his birth occurred on August 2, 1852, and in that township he has spent his entire life, being educated in the old Brandeberry school, District No. 8. One of his early teachers was W. S. Richard, and he completed his studies at the age of eighteen years.

On December 15, 1877, Mr. Brandeberry was united in marriage with Amanda Blair, who was born in Maryland, but has made her home in Wood county since the early age of eight years. This worthy couple have become the parents of four children, three sons and one daughter—Irvin, born October 2, 1879; Ira, born May 27, 1888; Clinton, who died December 8, 1894, at the age of three and one half years; and Ger-tie Ethel, born April 21, 1894. Mr. Brandeberry has a comfortable and commodious residence upon his fine farm, and his labors have been repaid by the fine crops produced in his rich and fertile fields. Like his father, Thomas C. Brandeberry, he is an unswerving Republican, and he has been called upon by his fellow citizens to serve in several township offices. In religious belief he is a Methodist, and for fifteen years has held membership with the congregation of Bloom Chapel.

JOHN G. WEBB, an enterprising and prosperous agriculturist of Bloom township, residing near Bairdstown, was born December 17, 1848, in Sullivan township, Ashland county, Ohio.

He is of an old English family and his father,

George Webb, was born in the County of Kent, near North Lane, in 1811, and married Miss Jane Hastings, also a native of England, who was born in 1809. Soon after their marriage they came to America, arriving on March 28, 1837. They settled first in Ashland county, Ohio, where they remained until 1853, when they moved to Bloom township and bought eighty acres of land in Section 27, which our subject still owns. It cost \$800, although it was at that time a swamp, and in the spring was entirely covered with water. The roads over which the settlers came to their new abode were for considerable distances hidden by a foot or more of water. "Johnny-cake" formed their staple article of food in those days. Our subject's parents were earnest, hardworking people, highly respected among their neighbors. His father had but a few cents in his pocket when he landed at New York, and owed a debt of \$50, and the success to which they attained was due to unceasing industry and close economy. He was a Republican in politics, and a regular voter, but never sought office. He died March 20, 1880, and his wife on September 17, of the same year, and both were buried in Bloom Chapel cemetery. Their eighteen children were born in America, and all but two died before reaching the age of three years. Margaret, the only surviving daughter, is now the wife of Washington Laney, of Brice, Michigan.

As the only son and eldest living child of his parents, Mr. Webb was early trained to industrious habits. He attended the district schools near by, and made the most of their somewhat limited opportunities, and he is now one of the heartiest supporters of any measure for increasing the efficiency of our modern public schools. He was married, January 22, 1874, in Newton Falls, Ohio, to Miss Mary Kistler, a native of Newton township, Trumbull county, born September 16, 1848. She is a daughter of Samuel and Catherine (Fiester) Kistler, the former of whom was born October 22, 1825, the latter June 22, 1827; she died December 24, 1891, and is buried at Newton Falls. As the eldest of a family of five daughters and three sons, Mrs. Webb had taken an active share in all the labors of her father's farm during her youth, and she has been a true helpmate to her husband, cheerful and willing to bear her full share of their mutual burdens, and he delights in acknowledging her helpful influence. Mr. Webb brought his bride to the homestead, where they have ever since resided. After the death of his parents he became the owner of the farm; but previous to

that he and his wife had relieved the old people from all care and work, the father having been an invalid for many years. Five children were born of their union: Wilber M. and Edward, who are both at home; Ashie, who died when eight years of age of membranous croup; Eva, who died when three years old, and Frank, who died in infancy.

Politically Mr. Webb is a Republican; but, while taking a deep and intelligent interest in all the questions of the time, he is no office-seeker, although he has held the office of supervisor for a number of years. An honest and upright citizen, a good neighbor, and a generous helper according to his ability in every case of need, there are but few who will fill better the sphere of life in which they have been placed than does John G. Webb.

JOSEPH A. LOW. Among the well-to-do and successful farmers of Wood county, who have accumulated a competency through their own exertions and economy, and who are carrying on the business of farming and fruit growing in a manner which draws forth praise from every one, is the subject of this biographical sketch, who resides in Plain township. His birth occurred in Springfield, Erie Co., Penn., April 6, 1826, and he is a son of Joseph and Catherine (Battles) Low. The father was a native of England, and was drowned before our subject was born. The mother later became house-keeper for a gentleman who adopted Joseph, giving him fair educational advantages; but when he was fourteen years of age his foster-father died, leaving no will, and our subject had to start out in the world without friends or means of support. His first employment was as a farm laborer, for which he received \$7 per month, and he would work at almost anything by which he could earn an honest living. Later he rented a farm for a time, after which he purchased land in Pennsylvania, and on selling out came to Ohio, locating in Plain township, Wood county, where he purchased forty acres, the nucleus of his present farm. To this he has added from time to time, as his resources have permitted, until now he has a fine tract of 220 acres, cleared and developed with the help of his sons and hired hands. Besides general farming, he has given considerable attention to fruit raising, having one of the largest orchards in the township, in which he planted 5,000 peach trees, 3,000 apple trees, and 1,000 trees of other varieties of fruits.

In Pennsylvania, February 14, 1850, Mr. Low was united in marriage with Laura Phillips, of

Trumbull county, Ohio, and nine children blessed this union, namely: Nelson, an artist of Bowling Green, born in Pennsylvania, December 5, 1850; Joseph N., deceased, born January 3, 1852; Daniel Albert, deceased, born May 5, 1854; Charles H., deceased, born July 25, 1856; Sanford P., a farmer of Plain township, born June 10, 1858; Lucy C., who was born October 14, 1860, is the wife of D. B. Smith, a farmer of Huron county, Ohio; Laura R., who was born November 7, 1862, is the wife of Mark Chapman, of Connecticut; Ezekiel L., deceased, born April 11, 1864; Abraham L., a farmer of Wood county, born September 13, 1867; and George E., at home, born January 22, 1870. The mother of these children died October 1, 1887, at the age of fifty-five years.

At Haskins, Wood county, February 17, 1889, Mr. Low was again married, his second union being with Eliza Miller, widow of Albert H. Perry, a farmer of Middleton township. She was born in the Empire State, August 12, 1827, and is a daughter of George G. Miller, to whom four children were born, named as follows: Almira, wife of A. B. Johnson, a merchant; Eliza, wife of our subject; Roxanna, wife of Arthur B. Perry; and George C., a farmer of Nebraska. By her first husband, Mrs. Low became the mother of three children—Emma, wife of Joseph Watts, of Oak Harbor, Ottawa Co., Ohio; Mary Etta, who was born in 1851, and died in 1871; and Lester F., a cigar maker of Bowling Green.

Socially Mr. Low is a member of the Sons of Temperance, and, on account of his views on the liquor traffic, casts his ballot with the Prohibition party. He served his township as supervisor for five years, and for several years has been school director. His sterling integrity, inflexible honesty, and general high principles, have won him the respect of every community in which he has resided, and he is to-day one of the most esteemed and valued citizens of this portion of the county.

HENRY C. UHLMAN, the president of the Citizens Banking Company, of Weston, and a leading merchant of that town, was born June 3, 1842, in Hanover, Germany, which has been for many generations the home of his family.

His parents, Casper H. and Catherine M. (Hacke) Uhlman, were both born there, his father in 1810, and his mother in 1812. They were married in 1833, and ten years later came to Ohio, locating near Woodville, Sandusky county. They had American neighbors, and their children spoke English from childhood.

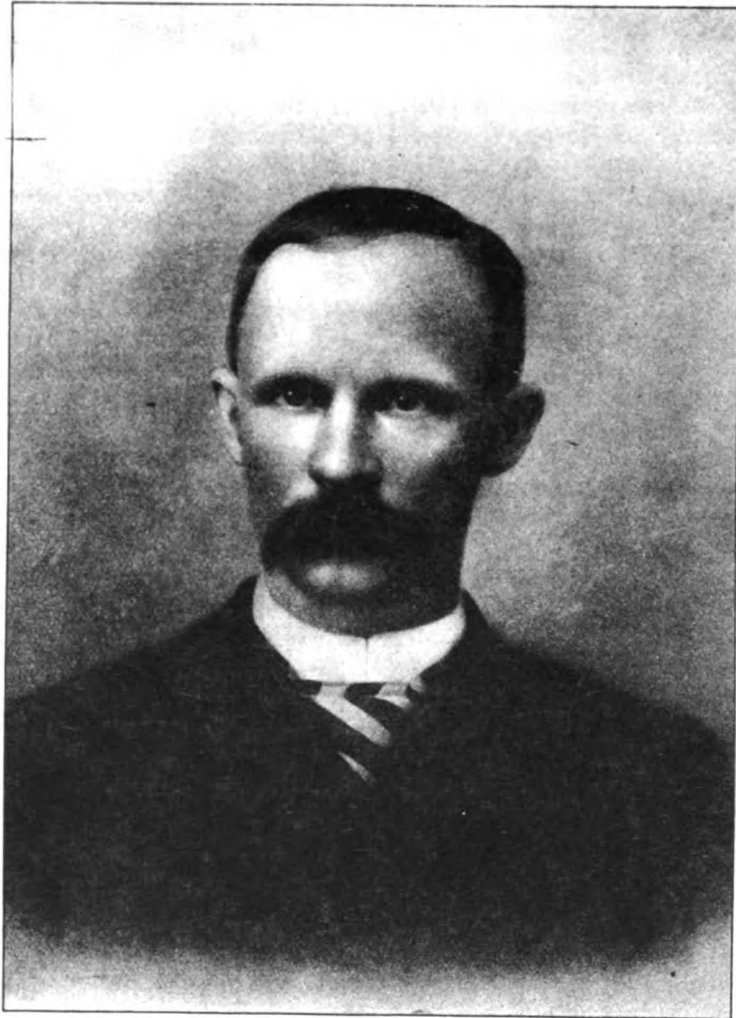
They were members of the German Lutheran Church, and the father adhered to the principles of the Democratic party. Seven children were born to them: Mary, the wife of John Schumaker; Louise, who married C. Habbeler; Caroline, who married William Bruns, of Woodville; Charles, who died in Germany; Henry C., our subject; Annie, who died in childhood; and one child, unnamed, who died in infancy.

Mr. Uhlman remained upon the farm until he was fifteen years of age, and then began clerking in the general store of Ira B. Banks, at Pemberville. After three years there he went to Toledo, and worked in the same capacity in a dry-goods store until the spring of 1867, when he went into partnership with Mr. Banks, his former employer, who had transferred his stock to Weston some time previous. They continued in business under the firm name of Banks & Uhlman until 1878, when Mr. Uhlman bought his partner's interest. Under his able management the enterprise has prospered, and in 1885 he built a fine brick block in which his handsome store 40 x 90 feet, is located. He has also been a leading grain buyer since he came to Weston, and was one of the chief organizers of the Citizens Banking Co. there, and its first president, which position he still holds.

He was married in 1870 to Miss Lizzie Hill, who was born August 20, 1844, in New York State. They have three children: Fannie A., Grace M., and Fred W., all of whom are at home. Mr. Uhlman and his wife are prominent members of the Presbyterian Church, and sympathize with every movement which concerns the public welfare. In politics Mr. Uhlman is quietly influential, as in other lines of activity, and gives support to the Republican party; he is also a member of the I. O. O. F.

W. H. FIFE, deceased, was for a third of a century prominently identified with the agricultural interest of Bloom township, Wood county, where he made his home from the age of two years up to his death, which occurred September 26, 1889. He was a native of Pennsylvania, born in Cecil township, Washington county, June 2, 1852, and was a son of Nathaniel and Letitia (Harsha) Fife, honored pioneers of this community.

Mr. Fife was reared on his father's farm, which adjoined the one where he spent his last days, receiving the advantages and privileges that were afforded the boys of the neighborhood. At Hammansburg, Wood county, on November 28, 1878, he was united in marriage with Miss Lizzie



*W. H. Fife*



Wilson, who was born in Knox county, Ohio, and when about eight years old was brought by her parents, Samuel and Anna Wilson, to Henry township, Wood county. The father's birth occurred August 1, 1828, in Belmont county, Ohio, the mother's on January 23, 1825, in Harrison county, this State. In their family were nine children—seven sons and two daughters. Mrs. Wilson died September 23, 1879. Mr. and Mrs. Fife had no children of their own, but adopted Frank Fisher, when he was seven years old, and he still finds a pleasant home with Mrs. Fife, as does also her aged father.

The entire married life of our subject was passed on the farm where his widow still resides, and which she now manages in a business-like manner, being a woman of good executive ability. In 1890 a substantial barn was built upon the place, and three years later the fine residence was erected. In politics Mr. Fife was an ardent Republican, though no politician in the sense of office-seeking, preferring to devote his time and attention to his business affairs, in which he was quite successful. In addition to his agricultural interests he was for a time engaged in the furniture business in McComb, Hancock county. He passed away after a lingering illness, from a complication of diseases, and his early death was widely mourned. He was laid to rest in the cemetery at Van Buren, Hancock county.

HENRY C. STROW is the owner of a fine farm in Milton township, comprising 310 acres of valuable land, the greater part of which is under a high state of cultivation, and yields to him a golden tribute in return for the care and labor he bestows upon it. He is recognized as one of the most progressive and enterprising agriculturists of the community, and, in the history of Wood county, well deserves mention.

Mr. Strow was born in Bloom township, Seneca county, February 12, 1827. His father, John Strow, was born in Dauphin county, Penn., October 24, 1790, and was a farmer by occupation. He married Margaret McMuller, who was born in Dauphin county, April 2, 1801, and subsequently removed to Seneca county, Ohio, where the father died in 1866. He was descended from German ancestry, and his wife is of Irish lineage. Her death occurred at the home of our subject, October 9, 1878. She was a second time married, becoming the wife of Chris McClung. Mr. Strow, of this sketch, was one of a family of eight children—Daniel, who was born in 1816, and is now deceased; John A., who was born June 16, 1818, and died July 3,

1863; Mary, born December 24, 1824, deceased wife of Mr. McMillan; Henry C., of this review; Phoebe, born October 13, 1830, wife of Adam Carpenter, of Seneca county; Hannah, born August 28, 1832, wife of Albert Stanard; Sarah and Nancy, twins, born June 6, 1836, both deceased, the former dying in July, 1854, the latter, who became the wife of Morrison McMillan, dying in December, 1853.

Our subject attended the district schools of Bloom township, and was a student in the Delaware Wesleyan University during its first year. At the age of sixteen he came with his mother to Wood county, and began teaching school, which profession he followed through the winter season for nineteen years. His summers have always been spent at farm work, which has been his chief occupation.

Mr. Strow was married in Washington township, Wood county, November 19, 1852, to Celia Amanda, daughter of Edmund and Priscilla (Feagles) Buttles. She was born in Washington township, November 11, 1832, and was one of five children: Mortimer, Henry A., John, Celia, Amanda and Edmund Miner (who, in 1867, was killed by the Indians on the present site of Denver, Colo.). The children of Mr. and Mrs. Strow are: Le Grand, who was born July 19, 1853, died January 29, 1859; Helen Melissa, born August 17, 1854, was thrown from a horse and killed, September 27, 1867; Fannie Lillian, born September 18, 1858, died July 27, 1867; Florence O., born March 28, 1861, is the wife of George Bradshaw, of Milton township, by whom she has three daughters; Alice May, born June 12, 1865, is the wife of Henry Dubbs; Henry Lee, born June 6, 1869, married Florence Starr, and lives in Milton; and Raymond, born February 22, 1876, is at home.

On coming to Wood county, Mr. Strow secured eighty acres of land, constituting the nucleus of his present extensive farm, and in 1870 their log cabin home was replaced with a commodious and pleasant residence. He gives the greater part of his attention to his business interests, but has found time to serve his fellow townsmen in the capacity of treasurer and town clerk for a number of years. His political support is given to the Democratic party and interests.

PERRY HEETER, a well-known resident of Grand Rapids township, and one of the most progressive farmers of that vicinity, was born November 9, 1844, in Seneca county, Ohio. His family is of English and German origin, and the



first of the American line settled in Union county, Pennsylvania.

John Heeter, our subject's father, was born in 1811, in Union county, Penn., and in early life moved to Seneca county, Ohio, where he engaged in clearing and cultivating his farm of 160 acres. He was married there to Miss Elizabeth Clay, and reared a family of nine children: Isaac, a farmer in Nebraska; Sarah, the wife of James South, of Henry county, Ohio; John, a veteran of the Civil war, now a resident of Henry county; David and Jacob, deceased; William, a soldier in the Civil war, now deceased; Perry, our subject; Lovina, the wife of Isaac T. Bisher, a veteran of the war; and Lizzie, who married S. R. Barton, of Grand Rapids township. Our subject's father moved to Williams county, Ohio, in 1850, and bought 160 acres of timber land, improved and cultivated it until 1857, when he went to Iowa, and purchased 240 acres; this he lost through some defect in the title, and in 1859 he came to Wood county, a poor man. He rented a farm, and, by careful management, in a few years was able to buy a good eighty-acre farm in Wood county, near Grand Rapids, Ohio. In 1871, he sold this farm, and returned to Iowa, where he died in 1879, followed January 12, 1881, by his wife.

Perry Heeter attended the country schools of Seneca and Wood counties during his boyhood, and worked on his father's farm until he was twenty-five years old. On October 7, 1869, he was married to Miss Mary M. Kerr, a lady of fine mental powers and generous culture, who had been for four years a teacher in Grand Rapids and Weston townships. She was a daughter of Jesse Kerr, a prominent resident of Weston township, and a sister of William B., Rev. James E., and Rev. Joseph W. Kerr. Two children were born of this marriage: (1) J. Eldon, February 28, 1872, who attended the district schools of Grand Rapids township when a boy, and at the age of thirteen entered the High School of Grand Rapids, where he graduated with honor, after which he taught school for two years. He then entered college at Monmouth, Ill., striving earnestly for the education he so much desired. He afterward went to Ada, Ohio, and attended the Students Normal Music School, of which he was business manager, for one year; and then completed both scientific and classical courses. He is at present a student of theology at Xenia, Ohio. (2) A younger child—Lura M.—born January 15, 1876, died in 1878.

Mr. Heeter and his wife began their married life with but little worldly wealth; but, by hard work and careful management, saved enough to

buy timber land, which he traded for forty acres of improved land, on which he lived some years. He sold this and bought eighty acres near Grand Rapids, known as the J. M. Carter farm, which he has brought to a high state of improvement. Aside from providing a comfortable home for old-age, they have been able to educate their son, J. Eldon, thus proving that industry can still win prizes in the business arena. Mr. Heeter and wife have been members of the United Presbyterian Church for over a quarter of a century. He is Republican in politics, and holds an influential place among the local leaders; takes especial interest in educational movements; has been member of the township board of education of which he has been president; and he is a good citizen and neighbor.

WILBUR D. MUDGE conducts one of the largest and best appointed drug stores in Wood county. He was born February 7, 1860, in Tiffin, Ohio, and, his mother dying when he was eighteen months old, he went to live with his maternal grandparents at Milan, who were retired farming people. Here he passed his youth and early manhood, attending the district schools in his earlier years, and later taking a two-years' course at the Delaware (Ohio) University, which he completed in 1879. He then came to Weston and engaged in the drug business, accepting a position as clerk with the firm of Beverstock & Smith. After remaining with them one year, he was appointed deputy postmaster, in which capacity he served one year. He then bought out Mr. Beverstock, and for two years thereafter the store was conducted under the firm name of Smith & Mudge, the latter continuing the business alone from that time until 1890.

In April, 1890, Mr. Mudge sold the store and accepted the position of assistant cashier with the Exchange Banking Company, in which he was a stockholder and director. This position he held some three years, and then again entered the drug business, in which he has since continued. He bought the property which he now occupies in 1890, and has fitted it up until it now is one of the finest drug stores in the county.

On January 4, 1892, Mr. Mudge was married to Miss Ida B. Roscoe, and they have one child, Wilbur D., Jr. Mrs. Mudge is the daughter of Levi and Julia (Gibbs) Roscoe, of Milan, both of whom were natives of Ohio, the mother born in Milan, where the father is a farmer and fruit grower. He served as a soldier in the Civil war. They had three children: Ida B., born March 26, 1861; Cora M., now Mrs. M. H. Bassett, of

Milan; and Emma, who died when twelve years old.

Mr. Mudge holds a prominent position in fraternal circles. He is an active member of the F. & A. M., of Weston; is affiliated with Kenilworth Lodge No. 340, K. of P., Weston, in which he has passed all the chairs (he was a representative to the Grand Lodge in 1895 and 1896); with the I. O. O. F. in all its branches, in which he has also passed all the chairs (he is a representative to the Grand Encampment at Marion, Ohio, this year); and with the K. O. T. M., Weston. He has held various local positions of trust, having served two years as member of the village council, and two years as township treasurer. In political sentiment he is a Republican, and in religious connection a member of the Presbyterian Church.

Rev. John A. Mudge, father of our subject, was a prominent M. E. divine in his day, being on the circuit for many years. He preached in Cleveland, Norwalk, Sandusky, Mansfield, Elyria, and many other cities in northern Ohio, and was secretary of the Northern Ohio Conference for many years. He was born October 27, 1829, in New Hampshire, of old Yankee stock, and died on his forty-fourth birthday. He located in Green Springs, Ohio. Like his ancestors, he was a Republican. On September 7, 1858, he married Miss Hannah D. Beverstock, who was born in Ridgefield township, Huron Co., Ohio, September 26, 1835, and died September 26, 1861, at Monroeville. Wilbur D. was their only child. Mrs. Mudge was a daughter of Volney L. and Mary L. Beverstock, whose other children were: Barney S.; Harriet L., who died November 28, 1880; Edwin J.; Mary U. Harriet L. was married to Henry C. Shattuck November 5, 1868, and had three children: Harry, Ralph, and Charlie. Mary U., born January 9, 1850, was married November 26, 1873, to George A. Dimon; they have had five children — James V., Thomas B., Harry, Ralph, and Mary U., deceased. The first child, Barney S., born February 4, 1839, was married December 26, 1860, to Miss Eliza A. Husted, of Monroeville; their children were John V., Kate E., Bertha, Frank, and an infant, who died at Weston April 20, 1894. Edwin J., a real-estate dealer in Washington, D. C., was born July 4, 1841, and in 1867 was united in marriage with Miss Maggie F. Bell, of Piedmont, W. Va.; they have one daughter, Pearl.

J. S. FREDERICK (deceased), who in his lifetime was a well-known citizen of Bowling Green, was born in Ross county, Ohio, February 22,

1818. His grandfather, who was of German descent, was born in New Jersey, and for some years lived in Berks county, Penn., coming from there to Ross county, Ohio, where he carried on farming the remainder of his life. The following record is given of the children of this early pioneer: Peter, was a farmer in Ross county, Ohio, where he served many years as justice of the peace, and where he died; Daniel died in or near Ada, Ohio, on a farm; George was a farmer in the eastern part of Ohio, and died there; Henry was a farmer in Ross county, and died there; Jacob was the father of our subject. All these children were born in Pennsylvania, and came to Ross county at an early day, when Chillicothe was the State capital.

Jacob Frederick was married in Pennsylvania to Miss Elizabeth Betzer, a native of that State, and of Dutch extraction. After removing to Ross county, he carried on farming there until 1837, when he took up his residence in Seneca county, where his death occurred in 1840, when he was about sixty-two years of age; his wife died in 1869, aged eighty years. This estimable couple were consistent members of the Presbyterian Church, and were highly respected by all who knew them. Their children were as follows: William died in Seneca county; Peter died in Piqua, Ohio; John died early in life; Jacob died in Ross county; Solomon died in Wood county, in 1895; Anthony lives in Bloom township, Wood county; J. S. is the subject of this sketch; Daniel was a member of the 49th O. V. I., during the Civil war, and died at Washington City; Amos died in Ross county; Susan married Samuel Pontius, and died in Ross county; Maria married J. W. Lawhead, and died in Seneca county.

The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood in Ross county, being seventeen years old when his parents removed to Seneca county, settling on a tract of land in the woods. Here the boy worked hard, assisting his father in clearing off the timber and cultivating the land, and learning by experience the toils and hardships of a pioneer's life. When twenty-one years old he returned to Ross county, and for a time attended school; then went to work at the carpenter's trade, remaining in Ross county two years. In 1843 he was married in Seneca county to Miss Mary M. Lawhead, a native of Gettysburg, Penn., born December 25, 1827. After his marriage Mr. Frederick settled on a farm in Seneca county, where he lived until coming to Bowling Green in 1868. After taking up his residence in the latter city; he followed the occupation of a contractor and builder, and carried on an exten-

sive business. His estimable wife passed away in 1884, after which event Mr. Frederick took little interest in business affairs. He died January 29, 1896. In politics he was always a staunch Republican, held a prominent place in his party and in the community, and did considerable work as assistant county treasurer. For fifty years he was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in all the relations of life proved himself a man of high principles and strict integrity.

To Mr. Frederick and his worthy helpmate seven children were born as follows: Jennie is now the widow of R. C. Kinney, and has one child—Wells; Melissa married E. H. Selkirk, and lives in Bowling Green (they have two children—Clyde and Robert); Howard, a boot and shoe merchant of Sandusky, married Miss Hattie Massey, of Sandusky City, and they have four sons—Howard, Samuel, Paul and Fred; Florence is the wife of A. S. Kinney, and lives in Wyandot county, Ohio (they have one child—Ralph); Homer married Nettie Bloomfield, and they live in Toledo (they are the parents of four children—Beulah, Maggie, Robert and Charles); Emma is the wife of N. S. Palmer, of Bowling Green (they have four children—Fred, Frank, Floyd and Howard); William married Miss Nettie Dunbar, and has two children—Mary and Beulah.

JOHN DULL, a pioneer farmer of Damascus township, Henry county, was born in Perry county, Ohio, July 19, 1822, and is one of a family of eleven children. Samuel Dull, father of our subject, was born in Pennsylvania, where he married Miss Catherine Koester, and afterward moved to Perry county, Ohio, and later, in the year 1831, located in Weston township, Wood county, trading a homestead in Perry county for a one-quarter section in Weston, a part of which he sold to his son Jacob. The remainder he cultivated and lived on until his death, which took place in 1864. His wife departed this life in 1850.

John, the subject of this sketch, came to Weston township in 1831, and attended the log school on Beaver creek, after which he worked on the homestead with his father, clearing the farm of underbrush and trees, and at times securing employment on some of the neighboring farms—chopping wood, clearing the land, etc. Later he moved to Damascus, Henry county, where he bought some land, cleared it, and continued to add to it, until to-day he possesses 320 acres, all of which is under improvement, and on which is a fine dwelling, barns and cribs, and an

orchard where several varieties of fruit are grown. He has also been a stockraiser to some extent, and altogether may be considered one of the enterprising and progressive agriculturists of Henry county.

In 1843 Mr. Dull was united in marriage with Miss Delilah Kimberlin, a daughter of Henry Kimberlin, a pioneer farmer of Weston township. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Dull, as follows: Jane is the wife of Mather Brown; George is a farmer of Henry county, and married Miss Rebecca —; Henry T. looks after the home farm; Sarah is the deceased wife of Albert Heyman; John died aged twelve years.

Mr. Dull in politics is a Republican, and has been school director, and supervisor of Weston township for several terms, and held the same offices in Damascus, besides being trustee of the latter township. Both he and his wife are members of the United Brethren Church, to which they are liberal contributors. Mr. Dull is industrious, highly respected, and, although verging on to four-score years, is hale and hearty, and is enjoying the fruits of his early toil.

PHILO S. PELTON. His entire life having been passed in Perry township has rendered this worthy citizen familiar to the majority of its people, with whom he is considered an important factor in its growth and development. He is a man who has made the most of his opportunities in life, and has kept his eyes open to what was going on in the world around him. These qualities, in connection with his natural industry and perseverance, have served to make him, wherever known, an object of uniform regard.

Mr. Pelton was born in Section 21, Perry township, October 13, 1853, and is a son of Daniel and Eleanor (Helm) Pelton. He attended school in District No. 4, and in farm work was an apt pupil of his father's. He remained under the parental roof until his marriage, which was celebrated in Perry township, on March 20, 1878; Miss Josephine Patterson becoming his wife. She is a native of Hancock county, Ohio, born March 8, 1860, and is the daughter of William and Matilda (Post) Patterson, farming people, who only had two children, the son being Andrew, a resident of Chicago, Ill. Mrs. Pelton's education was such as the common schools afforded.

For a short time our subject rented land in Section 16, Perry township, after which he conducted the old homestead in Section 17, until his removal to his present farm of eighty-two acres that he had previously purchased. An old log

house and log barn were the only buildings upon the place, but the former was replaced by his present comfortable dwelling in 1885, and in 1893 a good barn was built, while his fine farm is principally the result of his own efforts and management.

Mr. and Mrs. Pelton have become the parents of nine children, namely: Maud D., born January 30, 1879; Pearl M., who was born November 14, 1880, and died at the age of eight years; William Wade, born December 26, 1882; Bessie M., born January 2, 1885; Henry D., born March 17, 1887; Grace M., born April 17, 1889; Lee D., born December 21, 1891; Guy A., born December 11, 1893; and Lenah L., born January 18, 1896. In religious belief the parents are Methodists, attending Union Church, and, politically, Mr. Pelton is a strong supporter of the men and measures of the Republican party.

JOHN GUNDER was born in Franklin county, Penn., August 13, 1840, and is a representative of one of the old families of that State. His father, Isaac Gunder, was born near Harrisburg, Penn., and, having reached man's estate, married Susan Heller, a native of Harrisburg. They lived on a farm, and had a family of twelve children, namely: Daniel and Elizabeth, residents of Franklin county, Penn.; George, a farmer of Michigan; Catherine, wife of Daniel Shinew; David, a farmer of Portage township; John; Mrs. Susanna Warren; Benjamin F., a farmer of Middleton township; and Sarah, Rebecca, Solomon, and Manuel B., all deceased. The father of this family removed to Wood county, in 1848, locating near West Millgrove, where he carried on agricultural pursuits until his death. His wife died in 1895.

Our subject was quite young at the time of the removal. During his youth he attended the district school, and worked on his father's farm, and at an early age was employed as a farm hand in the neighborhood. In 1862 he enlisted at Haskins, in Company B, 111th O. V. I., under Capt. Norris and Col. Bond, and during his three-years' service participated in a number of important engagements. He was honorably discharged in North Carolina, in July, 1865, after which he immediately returned home, locating in Middleton township, where he worked on the farm of W. H. Ewing. For five years he operated that eighty-acre tract on shares, and then purchased eighty-four acres of land, which he still owns, and on which he has made many excellent improvements. In 1888 he bought eighty acres, where he now resides, and, alto-

gether, owns 164 acres, which is under a high state of cultivation, and yields to him a handsome tribute in return for his care and attention.

JOHN TELFER, deceased, represented in his life a splendid example of what downright hard labor, perseverance and close application to business can accomplish. He commenced life at the foot of the ladder, but blessed with a prudent and sensible wife as a helpmeet, not too proud to labor, he had secured at the time of his death a comfortable competence.

A native of Scotland, Mr. Telfer was born at Pettinain, Lanarkshire, in June, 1822, the son of John Telfer, who there spent his entire life. He was reared as a farmer boy, and was quite poor when he crossed the Atlantic to the New World, being the only one of the family to become a resident of the United States. He had secured, through his own efforts, a few dollars with which to pay his passage; but he carried with him a recommendation from the minister of the Church which he attended, as to his integrity, honesty and character, such as any young man would feel proud to possess. He had spent much of his time as a forester on the Carmichael estate in Lanarkshire; but in June, 1850, boarded a sailing vessel bound for America. The long journey, occupying nine weeks, he thoroughly enjoyed, as he was used to the water, having lived along the Clyde, and he had often run the ferry boat which his father owned.

On his arrival Mr. Telfer worked at anything that he could find to do, at last becoming steward in an insane asylum at Harrisburg, Penn., where he met the lady who afterward became his wife—Miss Martha Craig. She was born in County Donegal, Ireland, in 1827, the daughter of Seth and Mary (Patton) Craig, who in later years came to the United States, and died at Philadelphia, Penn. Mrs. Telfer, when twenty years of age, crossed from Londonderry, Ireland, on a sailing vessel—the "North Star"—which arrived safely at Philadelphia after a voyage of seven weeks and three days. There she happened to meet a gentleman from Ireland, Thomas Buchanan, who was an acquaintance of her father, and with whom she made her temporary home. She was then employed as a domestic at different places until securing a position as attendant in the insane asylum at Harrisburg, Penn., where her marriage was celebrated on January 3, 1856. With the combined savings of himself and wife, Mr. Telfer began life upon a rented farm near Harrisburg; but one misfortune after another soon exhausted their means, though it did not wholly

discourage him. Coming to Mt. Union, Ohio, in 1859, he worked for five years on the farm of William Nixon, and then purchased seventeen acres of land near Deerfield, Portage Co., Ohio, for which he went in debt. After living upon that place for seven years he sold out and bought another farm of forty acres in the same vicinity, on which he erected all the buildings; but in March, 1882, he came to Wood county, here buying eighty acres in Section 13, Montgomery township, where he made his home until his death, May 10, 1895. His remains were interred at Prairie Depot, Wood county. A faithful member of the Presbyterian Church, Mr. Telfer was a devout, conscientious man, avoiding notoriety and preferring the company of his family to the turmoil and excitement of political life. His political support was always given to the Republican party, in whose policy he placed the utmost reliance.

In the family were seven children: Mary P. is now the widow of Jonathan W. Hoiles, and lives in Montgomery township; Agnes W. is the wife of George Palmer, of the same township; William C. died at the age of three years; JOHN A. is next in order of birth; Jeanette is the wife of Theodore E. Frisbie, of Montgomery township; Margaret E. died when nearly fifteen years old; and Thomas died at the age of twenty-two years. Since the death of her husband, Mrs. Telfer has lived on the old home farm, which is operated by her son, John A., who is one of the most highly respected and prosperous young farmers of the community.

EMANUEL ZIEGLER, one of the most enterprising and prosperous of Bloom township's agriculturists, was born October 6, 1850, in Ashland county, Ohio, and came to Wood county with his parents, Peter and Sarah (Fulmer) Ziegler, in the spring of 1855. This family stands high in the esteem of the community, and an interesting history of our subject's ancestors is given in the biography of his father, which appears elsewhere.

Being only five years old at the time of the removal to Wood county, Mr. Ziegler was reared here, attending the district schools in boyhood, and learning the details of farm management by practical work. His first home here was in a hewed-log cabin 18 x 20 feet, and game abounded in the surrounding woods. As times improved his father built a more commodious and tasteful dwelling, however. On August 27, 1872, Mr. Ziegler was married to Miss Emma Blair, a native of Washington county, Md., born July 28,

1851, the daughter of Jackson Blair, a prominent farmer, who came to Bloom township in 1864. After his marriage, Mr. Ziegler took charge of his father's farm, and, for his home, fitted up an old house that had been built as a temporary home for the family, when their dwelling was destroyed by fire. This had been used as a store house for a time; but with some labor it was transformed into a comfortable abode, and Mr. Ziegler and his wife occupied it for eleven years. In 1883 he bought eighty acres in Section 15, of Bloom township, near Ted, going in debt \$1,400. Only forty acres were cleared, and the buildings were poor; but Mr. Ziegler has now seventy acres under cultivation, and has made many substantial improvements, including a fine barn built in 1891. He has made his own way, working hard, and never resorting to trickery in order to make larger gains. His straightforward methods have won for him the confidence and esteem of his neighbors, and his success demonstrates the truth of the old adage, "honesty is the best policy." He has a comfortable home, and a family of bright children: Charles, born March 12, 1874, is at home; Elmer, August 8, 1875, is a farmer of Bloom township; Lyman, August 25, 1880, died at the age of one year, nine months and seventeen days; Harley, May 21, 1884, and Milo, November 1, 1888, are at home. Mr. Ziegler is a believer in the doctrines of the Democratic party, but takes no active interest in politics, and seldom votes.

C. KEEFER, one of Perry township's best farmers and most well-to-do citizens, is a native of Orange township, Ashland county, where he was born November 15, 1834, and which at that time was a part of Richland county.

Mr. Keefer was but a lad of five years when his parents, William and Barbara (Kreps) Keefer, came to Perry township, and located in the woods on the same farm on which he now lives and owns, in Section 28. Our subject received meager schooling in the district schools, which institutions he has seen greatly improved and heartily endorses the improvement. Reared in a new, undeveloped country, as Perry township was in his youth, he in early days became thoroughly initiated into the hardships and trials of a pioneer farmer boy's life.

On May 1, 1856, our subject was married in Perry township to Miss Mahala McCrill, who was born in Ashland county, October 18, 1837. In the fall of 1856 he and his wife began house-keeping in a log house, then on a portion of the home farm, one acre, which he purchased from

his father. There our subject remained until 1861, in the meantime working his father's farm. In that year he bought thirty acres more of the homeplace, and began farming for himself. In the spring of 1865 he bought the remaining acreage of the home place, and moved into the old home, where he has since lived. He has added to the land from time to time until he now has 140 acres. In 1872 he built a most substantial residence of brick, which is to-day one of the best and most comfortable homes in the township. To Mr. and Mrs. Keefer have been born the following children: W. R. at home; Maggie, married to Cassius Lenhart, of Cass township, Hancock Co., Ohio; Nettie, now the wife of C. C. Kelley, of Fostoria; Mollie, at home; Rena, married to Charles Shirk, of Bloomdale, Ohio; Ella, now Mrs. Lambright, of Jackson township; and Ruie and Corwin C., at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Keefer are members of the Methodist Church, with which he united in 1855. He is at present one of the trustees, and has always been a liberal contributor. He is a staunch Republican, and has served as trustee of Perry township for several years at different times. On May 2, 1864, Mr. Keefer enlisted in Company E, 144 Regiment, O. V. I., and served until August 24, 1864, doing guard duty, a great part of the time in Wilmington, Del. Mr. Keefer is a strictly self-made man, of a peaceable nature, and is highly respected in his community.

J. O. CALDWELL, a prominent citizen of Perrysburg, was born in Montour county, Penn., September 24, 1848, the son of John W. and Susan (Folmer) Caldwell.

The father of our subject was born in Montour county, Penn., where he carried on farming during his entire life, dying at the age of sixty-five years and seven months. He was a Democrat in politics, and a member of the Presbyterian Church. The mother was also born in Montour county, and lived to be sixty-five years old, her death occurring one year after that of her husband. They were the parents of seven sons and one daughter, as follows: Mary E. is wife of Joseph R. Schmoker; James H. is a wealthy oil operator, owning a refinery in Titusville, Penn.; Robert is deceased; J. O. is our subject; Lazarus P. has a large lumber business in Alabama, but resides in Winchester, Va.; John F. is in the oil business in Titusville, Penn.; William D. lives in Northumberland county, Penn. The paternal grandfather of our subject was born in Scotland. His parents came to America when he was two years old, and settled in Montour county, where

he spent his life, engaged in farming. His maternal grandfather was of German descent, and lived and died in Pennsylvania. He was a colonel in the war of 1812.

J. O. Caldwell was reared in Montour county, Penn., and acquired his education in the high school and academy of Northumberland county. In 1861, he enlisted in Company H, 5th P. V. I., and served under McClellan in his various campaigns. For three years and two months he was under Gen. Grant, and among other noted battles took part in those of the West Virginia campaign; the seven-days' fight at Antietam; South Mountain; Fair Oaks; and Fredericksburg. He was in active service all the time he was in the army, until he was taken ill with typhoid fever and sent to the hospital at Alexandria, Va. He received his discharge at Alexandria, in 1864.

On his return home Mr. Caldwell began operating in the oil fields in Crawford county, Penn., where he remained for four years, meeting with excellent success. He then began farming in Montour county, which he carried on for several years, after which he kept a hotel at Danville, in the same county, and later again engaged in the oil business, in Allegheny county. In 1888 Mr. Caldwell came to Ohio, locating in Liberty township, Wood county, where he resided for four years. In March, 1892, he removed to Perrysburg, and built a handsome brick residence on the Maumee river, near the Belt Line railroad. This is one of the most delightful sites in the county, and in his pleasant home Mr. Caldwell enjoys all the comforts of life, his only drawback being the loss of his estimable wife, whose death took place in Montour county, Penn., in 1878. Mrs. Caldwell's maiden name was Almira Moat-hart, and she was united in marriage with our subject, in Montour county, Penn., in 1866. Two children were born to them: John W., who was educated in McConnellsburg, Penn., and is a merchant and justice of the peace at Webster Mills, in that State; and Lois, who is attending school at McConnellsburg. Mr. Caldwell is a strong Democrat, a public-spirited citizen, and a man of influence in his community.

F. M. SNYDER. Wood county, has many well-to-do and successful farmers, men who have accumulated what they have of this world's goods through individual effort. Among this class the name of the subject of this notice is entitled to a place. He is residing in Section 4, Montgomery township, where he is industriously engaged in the prosecution of his noble calling, and is meeting with far more than ordinary success.

Mr. Snyder is a native of Ohio, born in Erie township, Ottawa county, on the peninsula, January 16, 1850, and is the eldest of the six children of S. K. and Malinda (St. Clair) Snyder, who now make their home in Sandusky county, Ohio. The father is a native of Somerset county, Penn., and by trade is a tanner. The educational advantages of our subject were very limited, but he made the best of his opportunities in that direction, and was naturally intelligent and learned rapidly. His parents lived much of the time in town, and remain there; but at the early age of ten years our subject started out in life for himself, working as a farm hand. He was quite large for his age, weighing 140 pounds when only fourteen. At the age of nineteen years he secured work at grading on the Lake Shore railroad, and was soon made foreman of a gang of sixteen men employed in laying track on the Northern Division of that road, between East Toledo and Sandusky, Ohio. Later, he was brakeman on a through freight train running between Toledo and Cleveland. At the age of twenty-three years, he was married at Sandusky, to Miss Mary E. Downs, a native of Madison township, Sandusky Co., Ohio, and a daughter of Daniel and Annie (Burkitt) Downs. Six children grace this union: Rose E., now the wife of Frank Powell, of Cleveland, by whom she has one child; Hatti E., now Mrs. Joseph Burns, of Jamestown, N. Y.; Emma B., now Mrs. Forsyth, of East Toledo; and Annie, George G. and Alfred O., all at home.

After his marriage Mr. Snyder located at Gibsonburg, where he worked at the cooper's trade, which he had learned at Genoa, Ohio, under S. Kiser. Later he traded his property in the former place for ten acres of land in Madison township, Sandusky county, where he worked at coopering and farming. In April, 1885, he purchased forty acres of land in Section 4, Montgomery township, Wood county, going in debt for the same, and many predicted his failure, as the land was in such a poor condition. Only five acres had ever been chopped over, and a small house, 22 x 28 feet, stood upon the place; but he at once began the improvement and cultivation of his land, succeeding so well in this enterprise that he now has a fine farm of 160 acres under a high state of cultivation. After locating upon this place, he took contracts, and constructed ditches in the neighborhood, thus adding to his income. Politically, he cast his first vote in support of the Democratic party, but at present is not bound by party ties, and he has never been a seeker after political preferment. He is a strong believer in the system of public schools in the

State, and, if his own education had been of a higher order, he would have probably entered professional life, and would have undoubtedly made a successful lawyer. He is an interesting conversationalist, well-informed on the current events of the day.

ROBERT PLACE, one of the progressive farmers of Wood county, now owns and operates 560 acres of valuable land—240 in Wood county, and 320 in Putnam county, Ohio. By his career he has demonstrated the fact that success can be achieved by diligence, enterprise and capable management. These qualities, which are numbered among his leading characteristics, have brought to him prosperity, and he may well be called a self-made man.

Mr. Place was born in Webster township, August 22, 1852. His father, Robert Place, Sr., was born in Cambridgeshire, England, in 1815, and at the age of twenty-six married Sarah Easley, who was born in the same county in 1814. About 1850 he emigrated with his family to America, engaging passage at London on the sailing vessel, "Henry," which, after a voyage of five weeks, landed at New York. Their destination was Medina county, Ohio; but, Mr. Place having no money, he took a chance that offered to work his passage on a canal boat to Buffalo, while his wife served as cook. He then followed railroading for a year, when, with the money he had saved he took his family to Medina county, and for four years worked for William Pitchard. In 1855 he purchased forty acres of wild land in Webster township, Wood county, erected a log cabin, and began at once to clear his farm, transforming it into richly developed fields. He afterward erected thereon a substantial residence, and made it his home until 1873, when he removed to Plain township, and purchased fifty acres of partially improved land, on which stood an old log house. In 1884 he sold forty acres, retaining possession of the ten-acre tract on which stood his house. In March, 1893, he disposed of that property, and purchased a residence and five acres of land in Rudolph, where he is now living a retired life. A brief record of the members of the family is as follows: James was born in England, served as a soldier in the 10th Ohio Cavalry, and is now living retired in Perrysburg; John, also born in England, makes his home in the State of Washington; Robert is the subject of this sketch; Charles lives in Pemberville, Ohio; Thomas was accidentally drowned at Bowling Green; Sarah Ann died at the age of nine years; and Lydia died in infancy.



*Robert Place*



*Elmira Place*





Robert Place, of whom we write, spent his boyhood days in his native township, and, at the age of twenty years, completed his education in the Methodist Seminary, at Maumee. He then began school-teaching, which he followed for nine terms, afterward establishing a general store in the village of Mercer, which he successfully conducted for five years. On October 8, 1875, he was married in Liberty township, to Elmira Mercer, who was born in Portage township, in 1854, daughter of Daniel and Susanna (Roberts) Mercer. They began their domestic life upon their present farm, which Mr. Place rented until 1891, and then purchased. He traded his store for the Haley farm of eighty acres, in Liberty township, on which he lived for a year, and then removed to Lucas county, where he purchased forty acres of land, continuing its cultivation some eight years. Subsequently he bought his father's old home, but since 1891 has resided continuously upon his present farm, which now comprises 240 acres of valuable land, that yields to him a golden tribute in return for the care and labor he bestows upon it. Here he has one of the finest residences in the township, and, in addition, he owns a 320-acre farm in Putnam county, Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Place have two children: Alfred W., born May 8, 1877; and Alta Matilda, born October 8, 1885. Our subject and his wife are members of the Disciples Church; in politics he is a stalwart Prohibitionist. His life has been well spent, his career is an honorable and upright one, and his many excellencies of character have gained for him the confidence and good will of all with whom he has been brought in contact.

JOHN H. BUCHER, whose death on May 26, 1885, caused deep regret throughout the community, was one of the prominent and honored agriculturists of Perry township. He was a native of Virginia, born April 15, 1814, a son of Jacob Bucher, and when thirteen years of age was taken by his parents to Fairfield county, Ohio, where his father's death occurred. His mother passed away at the home of her daughter in Illinois.

In early life Mr. Bucher learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed for some time in Fairfield county. There he wedded Margaret Kiger, a daughter of William Kiger. She was born June 21, 1818, and in the fall of 1845, came with her husband to Wood county, locating on land which her father had entered in Section 6, Wood county. Four children graced that union—Josiah, who was born in Fairfield county, Feb-

ruary 4, 1844, and died in Perry township when a young man; William, who was born in Wood county, December 4, 1845, and died in Perry township, in January, 1863; Christy W., who was born February 5, 1848, and died in September, 1854; and George S., who was born December 29, 1849, and now makes his home in Defiance county, Ohio. The mother of the family died in September, 1854, and was laid to rest in Millgrove cemetery.

In January, 1857, Mr. Bucher was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Mary J. Kelley, widow of Lorenzo D. Kelley, by whom she had two children—John A. and Eleanor W., both of whom died while young. Mrs. Bucher was born in Richland county, Ohio, July 28, 1833, and is the eldest child of Justus and Sarah (Davis) Stearns, who were married March 1, 1832, and in the spring of 1834, became early settlers of Montgomery township, Wood county. Her father, who was born July 8, 1810, was twice married, Mrs. Bucher being a child of the first union. He was a successful farmer, extensively known throughout Wood county. In the fall of 1850, he removed to Perry township, and he died in Bowling Green, September 8, 1888.

By his second marriage, Mr. Bucher became the father of four children, as follows: Camillus, who was born December 8, 1860, and died in infancy; Anna M., who was born February 22, 1866, and is now Mrs. W. P. Hall, of Perry township; and Orrin L., born March 18, 1868, and Ella J., born October 16, 1877, both at home. In politics the father was an unswerving Republican, and was honored with several local offices in the school district, and also served as township clerk. He left a good farm of eighty-six acres, which he had cleared, and by the management of that place Mrs. Bucher has proven herself a good business woman. She has many friends and acquaintances throughout Perry township, where she has made her home for so many years, and by all who know her she is held in the highest esteem.

CHARLES ZINGG, one of the enterprising young farmers of Perrysburg township, and a successful educator of Wood county, was born February 14, 1869. His parents were Nicholas and Catherine (Wolfsberger) Zingg. The family is of Swiss origin, and the grandfather, John Zingg, a native of Switzerland, came to Perrysburg township in 1850. He was married previously to Miss Annie Stampfla, and they had eight children, namely: Barbara, who is living in Switzerland; John, who died in this country in 1886;

Nicholas; Rudolph, of Perrysburg, Ohio; Benjamin, of Perrysburg; Elizabeth and Mary, both in Switzerland; and Samuel, who died in this country at the age of nine years.

Nicholas Zingg was born in Switzerland, March 6, 1834, and in that land secured his education. When sixteen years of age, he accompanied his parents to the United States, and for a few years thereafter, was employed as a cobbler, in Perrysburg and Maumee, Ohio. He then entered the mercantile business, which he followed until 1857. On August 7, of that year, he married Miss Catherine Wolfsberger, a native of Germany, and they became parents of five children, namely: John, who was born June 30, 1858, and resides in Perrysburg township, married Caroline Reitzel, and has four children; William, of Perrysburg township, born in 1859, married Maggie Douer, and has two children; Julia, born August 4, 1862, is the wife of Lewis Emch, by whom she has four children; Amelia, born October 24, 1864, is the wife of Thomas Tinney, of Perrysburg township, by whom she has four children; Charles completes the family. Upon his marriage, Nicholas Zingg rented land for seven years, and then purchased forty acres, five miles southeast of Perrysburg, to which he removed in 1864, since which time he has made that farm his home. He now owns eighty acres of valuable land, and has erected thereon a fine brick residence, and made many excellent improvements. He belongs to the Lutheran Church, of Perrysburg, and is one of the esteemed citizens of the community.

The gentleman whose name introduces this review, acquired his education in the Ault school, in Perrysburg township, and at the age of seventeen laid aside his text books to aid his father in the cultivation of the home farm. When a young man of twenty-four, he was united in marriage with Miss Ida Whitson, the wedding being celebrated March 29, 1893. They reside in a pleasant little home in Perrysburg township, where Mr. Zingg owns twenty acres of land, which he cultivates through the summer months, while in the winter season he engages in teaching school. He is an able instructor, and his reputation as a teacher is well merited. His political support is given the Democracy, but he has never sought or desired political preferment.

SIMON CROUS BAILEY, a prosperous farmer, to whom success has come as the result of watchfulness and care in his business dealings, combined with energy and honorable effort, was born in Bloom township, April 17, 1856, the

second son and seventh child of Jacob and Elizabeth (Simon) Bailey. He was educated in the district schools, and reared to manhood under the parental roof, remaining at home until his marriage.

In May, 1877, in Bloom township, Mr. Bailey wedded Caroline Dennis, who was born July 8, 1857, in Hancock county, Ohio, a daughter of Marvel and Eliza (Smeltzer) Dennis, who came to Bloom township when Mrs. Bailey was nine years of age. It was for the father that Marvel post office was named. Our subject and his wife located on a portion of the home farm, and he became owner of eighty acres of the land when only twenty-five acres were cleared. He now has sixty acres cleared and under a high state of cultivation. He has been an earnest, energetic worker, and in this way has accumulated a comfortable competence. He is also an ardent admirer of fine horses, and for several years has been extensively engaged in teaming.

Mr. and Mrs. Bailey have two children—Grace M., wife of Elmer Ziegler, of Bloom township, by whom she has one child; and Jacob W., at home. The parents are members of the Church of God, in which Mr. Bailey is serving as trustee. He was also one of the building committee that had in charge the erection of the house of worship. He advocates the principles of the Republican party, but is not strictly partisan, nor has he ever been an office seeker, preferring to give his attention exclusively to his business interests.

WILLIAM E. DIEBLEY, one of the live business men of North Baltimore, was born in Iowa county, Iowa, July 3, 1864, a son of William and Amelia (Sweet) Diebley, the former of whom was born in Canton, Stark Co., Ohio, June 14, 1831. The mother is a native of New York State, where she was born February 21, 1828.

William Diebley went west when he was a young man of twenty-one years, and located in Iowa county, Iowa, where for a time he worked at the milling business. He was there married, in 1857, and when our subject was a year old returned with his family to Ohio and located in Biglick township, Hancock county, where he and his wife still reside. He has been a farmer for many years. In politics he is a Republican, and he and his wife are members of the United Brethren Church; they are most estimable people. Our subject's paternal grandfather, who was of German birth, died in Stark county, Ohio, when his children were all small, his death being caused by blood poisoning, the result of an acci-

dent. Six children were born to our subject's parents, as follows: Lewis is a physician in Miller City, Putnam Co., Ohio; Carrie married Rev. Mr. White, and lives at West Independence, Ohio; William E. is the subject of this sketch; Ida is the wife of Charles Moore, and lives in Washington township, Hancock Co., Ohio; John and Minnie reside with their parents.

William E. Diebley spent his boyhood days in Hancock county, and attended school at West Independence. When he was twenty-one years old he came to Wood county, and located in Liberty township, where he bought a farm which he operated some three years, at the end of that time removing to North Baltimore and opening up a livery stable, which he has since conducted in connection with an undertaking establishment. On February 21, 1896, he had the misfortune to be burned out, losing his entire livery stock. However, he immediately put in a full line of horses and carriages, together with hacks and other funeral equipments, and he is now erecting a barn complete in all its appointments for his rapidly growing business. His establishment is probably the most thoroughly equipped in southern Wood county. Mr. Diebley is a man of enterprise and progressive ideas, genial in manners and courteous in his dealings, is popular with all classes of society, and is well patronized. His business is constantly increasing under his energetic management, and he is classed among the prosperous and substantial citizens of North Baltimore. On October 11, 1885, he was married, in Hancock county, Ohio, to Miss Jessie I. Henderson, who was born in that county December 27, 1864. Two children have come to bless their pleasant home: Ethel and Hazel. In politics, Mr. Diebley is a stanch Republican; in 1896 he was elected a trustee of Henry township, and he is now serving as such; is a member of the North Baltimore city gas board, etc. Socially he is a prominent member of the I. O. O. F., Lodge No. 333, North Baltimore, and of North Baltimore Lodge, F. & A. M.

SAMUEL WARNER was born in Sandusky county, Ohio, August 15, 1839, and is the son of Jacob and Hannah (Disler) Warner, the former of whom was born in Berks county, Penn., and the latter in York, Penn., coming to Ohio with her parents.

Jacob Warner, the father, came to Ohio at an early day, and with his brothers located in Wayne county, where he lived for a time, and where he was married. In the early part of the '30s he moved to Jackson township, Sandusky county.

Those were the pioneer days, when it was necessary to cut a road to their new home, which was located in the woods. But the prevailing epidemic, fever and ague, induced them to return to Cuyahoga county, Ohio, and later, in 1857, to Sandusky county, where Mr. Warner died at the age of sixty-four, and his wife when sixty-six. He was a Whig, and later a Republican, and voted regularly at every election. The children of this estimable couple were: John died when eighteen years old; Peter died in California; Solomon is a farmer of Sandusky county; Samuel is our subject; Daniel is an expert machinist living at Cleveland, Ohio; Sarah is the widow of William Fought, of Cleveland, Ohio; David resides in Seneca county.

Our subject obtained what education he could in Sandusky county, where he attended school in a log school house, the floor of which was of puncheon, and the writing desks were set against the wall. When still a boy he went to work on the home farm, where he remained until his marriage, in Jackson township, May 6, 1860, to Miss Sarah Henry, of Sandusky county, who was born January 25, 1841, a daughter of Jacob and Sarah (Mowry) Henry. She received a limited education in the common schools. She owned forty acres of timber land, which was wet and swampy, being under water several months in the year. Four years after their marriage our subject built a log house, sixteen by twenty-six feet, and began to clear the land, cutting down huge trees and burning them, as there was no market for timber in those days. He bought forty acres of land adjoining that of his wife, paying for it \$600, which he borrowed. It took him fourteen years to get out of debt, as he had many improvements to make. He moved, in the spring of 1871, to Montgomery township, where he bought eighty acres of land, and, later on, added forty acres more. He sold this in August, 1881, and came to his present farm of 177 acres in Section 6, Perry township, where he now resides.

The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Warner: Franklin L., now living in Harrison township, Henry county; Wilson E., a farmer of Perry township; Minnie L., at home; and Bertha M., at home. Our subject has always been a stanch Republican, but has never been an office seeker. With his wife, he is a member of the United Brethren Church. He is one of the upright, honest farmers of Perry township, and possesses those grand traits of a good old Pennsylvania German. He is kind, pleasant, and hospitable, an excellent citizen, and always ready and willing to help the needy. He has an excellent home,

where he always welcomes his friends with hearty good cheer. He can boast of never having had the toothache, nor a tooth extracted, but possesses all of his second teeth intact.

A. A. SIMMONS, a well-known liquor dealer of Prairie Depot, was born in Elk county, Penn., January 3, 1842, and came to Prairie Depot in 1875. He is the son of Anthony and Eliza (Gross) Simmons.

Anthony Simmons was a minister in the Lutheran, and, later, in the Christian Church. He was reared between Albany and Schenectady. When our subject was fifteen years old, Mr. Simmons moved to Berlinville, Erie Co., Ohio, where he preached the Gospel. He was blind for five years, on account of a cataract, but an operation restored his eyesight. To him and his wife these children were born: Ann, who is the wife of Nathan Vining, of Berlinville; Loriania, now Mrs. John Allen, of Horton, Kans.; Thomas, a carpenter in Adrian, Mich.; Moriah, the wife of L. W. Drake, of Elyria; A. A., our subject; and Jane, now Mrs. Schræder, of Jamestown, N. Y. In politics Mr. Simmons was originally a Democrat, but, later, became a Republican, although he only took a voting interest in such matters. He died in Berlinville at the age of sixty-five years, and his wife in Toledo, aged seventy-five. Both are buried in Berlinville.

Our subject attended the common schools, and lived at home until a young man. When only fifteen years old he was obliged to go to work, as his father had but limited means. Mr. Simmons first bought a small farm in Erie county, for which he was obliged to go in debt. It was at this time that his father was stricken with blindness, and dependent upon for support, and he supplied him with a home, and by industry succeeded in paying for the little farm, supporting his parents until their death. At the age of twenty-two he was married in Erie county to Miss Mary Roberts, a native of that county, and a daughter of John Roberts, a farmer. In April, 1861, Mr. Simmons enlisted at Huron for three months' service in Company E, 7th O. V. I., under Capt. Sprague. After serving his term, without leaving the State, he was discharged at Camp Dennison and returned to Erie county. In the fall of 1861 he enlisted under Capt. Shipman, in Company C, 55th O. V. I., which went into camp at Camp McClellan, Norwalk, Huron county, and then proceeded to Grafton, W. Va., where their first fight was a skirmish at Moorefield. Mr. Simmons continued with his regiment, and fought all through the battles of the Shenandoah Valley, Cross Keys,

and the second battle of Bull Run. After the latter fight he was stationed at brigade headquarters most of the time, serving as forage master, and in this capacity was with Sherman on his march to Atlanta and the sea. He was present at the Grand Review at Washington, D. C., was mustered out at Louisville, Ky., and on July 20, 1865, was finally discharged at Cleveland, Ohio. He was never wounded, and was only in the hospital during his first enlistment, when he had the measles.

After the war Mr. Simmons returned to Erie county, and bought a hotel, the "Berlinville House," for which he went in debt \$1,300, which he subsequently paid. He was eight years in the hotel business, and then sold out and moved to Prairie Depot, where he was acquainted. He bought out a liquor store, which he conducted for six years, and then converted it into a drug and grocery store, taking J. W. Graham as a partner, to whom he sold out after a co-partnership of two and a half years. Mr. Simmons retired for several years, and then bought staves and ship timber in Ohio. In January, 1894, he again engaged in the liquor business, with John Fuher as a partner, buying him out January 1, 1896. He also purchased the building, and is now sole owner. One child has been born to our subject and his wife, Cora M., who is now Mrs. Eugene West, of Prairie Depot. Mrs. Simmons died in 1879, and was buried in Berlinville. Our subject is a Republican in political sentiment, and a staunch member of the party. He has been a member of the city council in Prairie Depot, and while in Berlinville was elected justice of the peace, but declined to accept the office. He joined the Masons at East Townsend, Ohio. He is a self-made man, a well-to-do citizen, and a kind-hearted and benevolent man. He owns sixteen and a half acres in the corporation of Prairie Depot, out of which he has platted an addition to the town, has a good home, and is one of the respected residents of the place.

EDWARD W. HICKS, who is now serving as trustee of Ross township, to which office he was elected in 1895, was born in that township, in 1859, though it was then known as Perrysburg, and he is a son of William W. and Elizabeth (Brockbent) Hicks, the former a native of Lockport, N. Y., and the latter of England. Lawson Hicks, his paternal grandfather, was also born in the Empire State, and at an early day brought his family to Lucas county, Ohio, where his last days were spent. There the parents of our subject were married, the mother's people having

also been pioneers of that county. On coming to Wood county they located upon a farm in Ross township, where they still reside, and there the father has served as treasurer and justice of the peace. Four children were born to them, but only two are now living. Edward W.; and Olive, wife of Thomas Rideout, of Ross township.

Our subject spent his early life in the usual manner of farmer boys, acquired his education in the district schools near his home, and early became familiar with agricultural pursuits, to which he has devoted his attention in later years. He now owns a good farm of twenty-five acres, which is highly cultivated, and besides general farming is also engaged in fruit raising.

In 1884 in Lucas county, Mr. Hicks was married to Miss Mary Rideout, who was born in that county, where her parents, James and Julia (Brown) Rideout, located at an early day. There her father died, and her mother now makes her home at Toledo. Around the hearthstone of our subject are gathered four children—Lilah, Raymond, Clyde and June. He is one of the representative men of his township, and an important factor of the farming and business community, being a wide-awake, energetic man, willing to aid in any work that will assist in developing the resources of the township. He affiliates with the Republican party, and, besides the office of trustee, he has also been supervisor of his township.

**FRANK O. BARNETT.** Farming in Wood county would be a very unprofitable business were it not for the progressive methods of tiling and ditching; and there is probably no man in the county who has done more to make the land cultivable and richly productive through the means of ditching than the subject of this review. His life record is as follows: He was born on a farm in Medina county, Ohio, April 12, 1854, and is a son of James Barnett, a native of England, who emigrated to America in 1836, and took up his residence in Medina county, where he purchased a farm of fifty acres. This he cleared and cultivated for six years, then returned to England in 1842, and worked in a brewery in Shropshire. In 1851 he married Eliza Collins, and soon after sailed with his bride from Liverpool to New York, and again located on his farm in Medina county, Ohio. In addition to this pursuit he also operated an old sawmill on Rocky river for a few years. In 1865 he sold his interests in Medina county, and removed to Lucas county, Ohio, where he purchased 160 acres of land, to which he afterward added eighty acres,

continuing to operate that place until his death. He lost one finger in a shingle machine, and this incapacitated him for service in the Civil war. His death occurred in 1890, and his wife passed away in 1875. Their children were Mary and Frank O., twins, the former now the wife of James Pollock, of Lucas county, Ohio; Henry, a farmer of Lucas county; Arthur, who follows farming there; and Emma, wife of Thomas Pollock, of Lucas county.

Mr. Barnett, of this sketch, was educated in Medina and Lucas counties, and in 1871 entered the seminary at South Toledo, where he remained for a year. He was reared as a farm boy, and remained at home until twenty-five years of age, assisting in clearing 240 acres of land. In the winter of 1878 he went to Kansas, accompanied by William Hodgman, making the journey by team as far as Galesburg, Ill. In the West he first operated a farm for one-fourth the crop. After two years he went to Silver Cliff, Colo., where he was employed in a silver stamp-mill at \$3 per day. He remained there nearly a year, living in a shanty and cooking his own meals. With several others he then started for Arizona; but after going a short distance the weather became so bad that they returned to Kansas, and soon after Mr. Barnett made his way home to Lucas county. For four months he was employed on a narrow gauge railroad, and for three months on the Continental railroad. He afterward went to Bairdstown, Ohio, and purchased a butcher shop; but after ten days sold at a loss of \$200. His next purchase made him, in connection with his brother, the owner of thirty acres of timber land, on which they lived for a year, cutting all kinds of timber, including sawlogs, railroad ties and cord wood. Frank Barnett then moved to Jackson township, and purchased eighty acres of land, on which he built a shanty, and commenced to clear his property, which was then an unbroken wilderness. He has not only developed this, but has added to it eighty acres, and the entire quarter-section is now under a high state of cultivation.

Mr. Barnett was married in Waterville township, Lucas Co., Ohio, April 10, 1883, to Miss Lucinda Hartman, who was born in Lancaster county, Penn., August 22, 1855. They lived with her parents until the following December, and then removed to their own home; but the water was so high upon the land that it almost seemed that they would be forced to abandon the property. However, by ditching, he has transformed this into a valuable property, which is now highly cultivated. The home is blessed by

the presence of two children—Guy Etta, born August 5, 1884; and Leah, born May 31, 1895. Mr. Barnett is a staunch Republican, and takes quite an active interest in political affairs.

DAVID L. DULL is one of the most enterprising and substantial agriculturists of Wood county, and his fine farm, situated in Weston township, gives evidence of his excellent management and progressive ideas.

Peter Dull, the father of our subject, was born in 1813, in Perry county, Ohio, son of Samuel Dull, and came with his parents to Wood county in 1837. He purchased 214 acres of land in Weston township, and eighty acres in Washington township, which he cleared and otherwise improved, and which became valuable property. In 1837 he was married to Miss Susanna Crom, who was born December 4, 1816, in Harrison county, Ohio, daughter of Rev. John Crom, who moved to Wood county about 1829. Six children were born of this union, four of whom are living: Hiram is a farmer in Huron county, Ohio; Mary C., wife of Levi Bassett, of Pottertown, Wood Co., Ohio, who died in 1868; Ephraim Wesley died while serving his country in the Civil war; John L. resides in Weston; David L. is our subject; and one died in infancy. The mother passed away January 15, 1884.

David L. Dull was born in Weston township, December 5, 1851, and when a boy attended the McKee District School in the winter season, the rest of his time being employed in the various duties which fall to the lot of a farmer's son. His school days were cut short, however, by the death of his father, which event occurred in 1870. From that time he was obliged to give his whole time and attention to the management of the farm, and the care of his widowed mother. That he has fulfilled both these trusts faithfully and well, is well-known in the community.

Mr. Dull's farm at present comprises 191½ acres, eighty being purchased by himself, the remainder being a part of the old home bought by his father, who at his death divided the farm between his two sons. Of this, 160 acres are under cultivation, and the place is supplied with substantial barns, windmills, and the most improved appliances for tilling the soil and taking care of the crops. He has been a progressive farmer, and for five years gave his attention to raising Berkshire hogs, with such success that he has carried off premiums at various county fairs. A fine dwelling, which cost \$3,000, and one of the best in the township, is pleasantly situated on the estate, and here Mr. Dull and his family en-

joy the result of their labors, and dispense a gracious hospitality to their large circle of friends.

Mr. Dull was united in marriage, March 9, 1875, with Miss Alice L., daughter of the late Jacob Walters, of Weston, and four children have come to bless their happy home, their names and dates of birth being as follows: Pearl M., October 4, 1876; Charles E., January 13, 1878; Myrtle L., November 22, 1879; Gertrude R., November 29, 1881.

In politics Mr. Dull is a Prohibitionist. He gives his best endeavors to promoting the interests of that party which he believes to be the best for the welfare of the country. He has been assessor in his township for three terms, and was a school director several terms for Sub-District No. 4, always doing all in his power to advance the cause of education. He has also held the office of supervisor for a number of years. In religious belief he and his family are members of the United Brethren Church, in which he has been a trustee about fifteen years, and they take an active part in Church work, he being a class-leader, and steward, and superintendent of the Sunday-school. He is also secretary and one of the five trustees of the Sandusky District of the United Brethren Church, which has the general superintendency of the district. For five successive years he has been elected and served as delegate to the Sandusky Annual Conference. He is a liberal contributor to all worthy enterprises, and is justly esteemed as an upright man, a devoted son, a kind husband and father, and a good citizen. Mrs. Dull is a most estimable woman, beloved by all who know her. She also is much interested in Church work, and has been an active member of the Sandusky Branch of the Woman's Foreign and Home Missionary Society for five years, now serving as treasurer of her branch.

JACOB SPACKEY, an industrious, respected farmer of Portage township, is one of the substantial thrifty German citizens who have settled in Ohio, and by hard work have made comfortable homes for themselves and families. He was born April 19, 1849, in Bavaria, Germany, son of Henry and Margreta (Glickner) Spackey, farming people, who came to the United States when Jacob was a boy of six years. The ocean voyage lasted twenty-six days, being a remarkably short time for those days, and after landing, the family came west to Ohio, settling in Seneca county. Here he rented land for a time, later moving to Portage township, Wood county, where he bought forty acres, and here he passed the remainder of his days, dying at the age of

fifty-one years; he was laid to rest in Perry township. The mother now makes her home with our subject. Their family consisted of three sons: Philip, of Webster township; Jacob; and Adam, of Jerry City.

Our subject attended the district schools during the winter months until he was about sixteen years of age, when his father died, since which time he has earned his own living. He was reared to farming, and when about nineteen years of age he began to work for others, also following the shoemaker's trade, which he had learned from his brother Adam. He also spent three years in Dell, Oregon, employed about steamboat docks. On January 19, 1882, he was married, in Bloom township, to Miss Lucy Rebecca Smalley, who was born October 1, 1863, in Portage township, daughter of John W. and Rebecca (Snyder) Smalley, and to this marriage have been born seven children, namely: Laura M.; Myron J.; Theresa E.; Bertha M.; Lucy A.; and Elza R. and Elsie F., twins, all living.

At the time of his marriage our subject owned a twenty-acre tract in Bloom township, where he resided five years, removing thence to his present home in Portage township, which comprises forty acres of good land in Section 23. He carries on a profitable general farming business, and is well and favorably known in his section. At present he is serving as trustee in Portage township, but he is no office seeker, and beyond taking a loyal interest in local affairs, devotes all his time to his agricultural interests. Politically he is a stanch Republican.

CHRISTIAN STODINGER, an agriculturist of Montgomery township, whose straightforward methods of doing business have gained him a wide circle of friends and acquaintances, was born in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, February 24, 1833, son of John Stouinger, who was also a farmer by occupation. Of the family of nine children, five grew to adult age—four sons and one daughter, our subject being the eldest son. He secured his education in his native land, and in the spring of 1854 bade farewell to the friends of his youth, and on the "Satellite" sailed from Havre, France. After forty-two days spent upon the ocean he arrived in the New World, and at once proceeded to York county, Penn., where he had friends living. In that county he worked until the spring of 1861, when he came to Wood county, an old schoolmate in Germany, Frederick Bower, having induced him to locate here. He had at that time a few dollars, which he had saved from his earnings. On August 18, 1862,

he enlisted in Company I, 111th O. V. I., and remained with his regiment until March 1, 1865, at which date, in North Carolina, he was seized with typhoid fever. From the hospital a Kinston, in that State, he was sent to Goldsboro, and afterward was in other hospitals, being in Newberne, N. C., at the time of his recovery. Rejoining the regiment at Salisbury, that State, he remained with the command until honorably discharged on June 27, 1865, when he returned to Wood county.

On October 25, 1865, Mr. Stouinger was married to Miss Elizabeth Myers, a native of Switzerland, who was born June 9, 1849, in Canton Schaffhausen, daughter of Christian and Magdalena (Switzer) Myers, who set sail for the United States in 1855, arriving after a long passage. They made their first location at Canton, Ohio, thence removing to Scott township, Sandusky county, where the father still lives. The mother's death occurred in August, 1895, when she was seventy-five years of age. She was a well-preserved old lady, not having a gray hair in her head at the time of her death. They had three children: Albert, a farmer of Scott township, Sandusky county; Elizabeth, wife of our subject; and Wilhelm, also of Scott township.

The first property owned by Mr. Stouinger consisted of twenty acres in Section 27, Montgomery township, a timbered tract, which he purchased of Frederick Bower, and thereon built a hewed log-house, which, although a rude affair, was the first home he could call his own since leaving Germany. In 1881, he purchased twenty acres more, adjoining, and upon that farm he has since resided, now having a substantial and pleasant dwelling. The eight children born to Mr. and Mrs. Stouinger are: Christina, now Mrs. George Hengsteler, of Risingsun, Wood county; Conrad W., a farmer of Montgomery township, married to Clara Keefer, of Perry township, this county; Rosa B., wife of C. P. Bigley, of Risingsun; Christian H., an agriculturist of Montgomery township; and Jacob F., Lewis F., Magdalena and Wilbur, all four at home. Our subject and his wife are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church, and Mr. Stouinger is connected with the G. A. R. at Prairie Depot. Though not bound by party ties, he usually supports the principles of the Democratic party. His life has been an honorable one, and is well worthy of emulation. On arriving in America he was a stranger in a strange land, with neither capital nor influential friends; he valiantly served his adopted country during the dark days of the Rebellion, has reared an ex-



cellent family, of which he may be justly proud, and now ranks among the most reliable and influential citizens of Montgomery township.

**JOHN C. BOWER.** There are few men more worthy of representation in a work of this kind than the subject of this biography, who is passing the later years of his life on a comfortable homestead in Montgomery township. His has been a long and busy career, rich with experience, and he has established himself in the esteem and confidence of all who know him. His family history is of more than ordinary interest.

Mr. Bower is a native of Germany, his birth having occurred in Wittenberg, September 16, 1825, and he is a son of J. C. Bower, a wagon-maker of that country. His education was there obtained, and, at the legal age, he entered the army, remaining in the service for six years. He learned the baker's trade, at which he worked in his native land, and saved some capital, knowing that if he secured a home of his own it must come through his own efforts. Some friends, who had come to the United States, wrote him of the excellent chances for securing a competence here, and, in April, 1853, he bade good-bye to the Fatherland, and the friends and scenes of his early life, sailing for America. After a voyage of sixty-three days he landed at New York, whence he came to Sandusky county, Ohio, and at Tiffin was ill with bilious fever, which seemed quite strange, for while crossing the ocean he had not been seasick. His ticket was for New Orleans, where a cousin and former army comrade was located; but, on account of his illness and a lack of funds, he was compelled to remain at Tiffin—a stranger in a strange land, with no money, but willing to work, when his strength would permit. His first employment here was as a laborer on the railroad.

In the fall of 1853, at Tiffin, Mr. Bower was united in marriage with Miss Barbara Hemminger, who was a native of the same province in Germany as himself. Soon after their marriage they removed to Fostoria, Ohio, where our subject worked as a laborer for several of the prominent citizens, including the father of ex-Gov. Charles Foster. By strict economy he was enabled to save something, and, going to Liberty township, Seneca Co., Ohio, he there rented a farm for sixteen years. At the end of that time he purchased 130 acres in Scott township, Sandusky Co., Ohio, at a cost of \$4,200, of which amount he paid down \$1,000. He had a rather liberal supply of stock and tools, and the chances for him to realize what he had come to America for

seemed good; but misfortune overtook him in the death of his excellent wife. To them had been born seven children—John C., Sophia, Frederick, Louisa, William, Amos, and Ella—all of whom are still living.

After the death of his wife, Mr. Bower sold his farm, with all his stock, etc., and, after paying all his debts, had left \$3,000. He then purchased the old Dieter homestead, in Section 27, Montgomery township, where he now makes his home, and has the place entirely free from debt. He has practically laid aside active business cares, resting in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil. He has ever been straightforward and honorable in all his dealings, has made the most of his advantages, and has fought life's battle unaided, so that he well deserves the success that has come to him, and the regard and confidence which are so freely accorded him by all. Politically he is an earnest Democrat, and religiously he is a faithful member of the Evangelical Church.

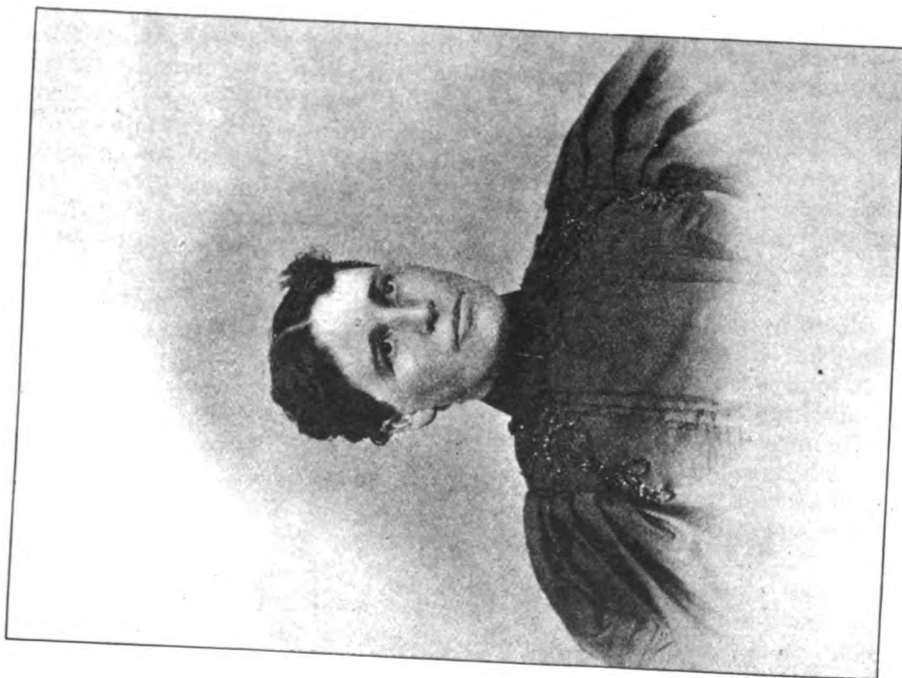
**W. O. KING,** the leading liveryman of Pemberville, was born in Jackson township, Sandusky Co., Ohio, October 2, 1854, and is the youngest son and child of William and Susan (Leshner) King. His father died during the infancy of our subject, and the mother afterward married again.

Our subject remained with his stepfather until eighteen years of age, and worked on the home farm, where he early displayed the habits of industry and steady application that have characterized his entire life. He then left home, his capital consisting of a scanty wardrobe; began cutting cordwood, and in the spring of 1873 he went to Vienna, Mich., where he spent the summer. In the fall he returned home, and attended school through the winter, after which he spent one summer in Toledo in the livery barn of his uncle, Joe Leshner. He next learned the tinner's trade at Fostoria, Ohio, under Mr. Alcott, and, after his term of apprenticeship, conducted a tinshop at Prairie Depot.

In December, 1878, at that place, Mr. King married Miss Phila Gould, daughter of Timothy Gould, a soldier of the Civil war. They there began their domestic life, and in the spring of 1879, Mr. King rented a farm of 120 acres in Section 19, Montgomery township, where he continued to make his home until January, 1896, when he came to Pemberville, having previously purchased the livery business of Emery Pember. He has here a large number of excellent horses, and vehicles of various kinds, and has largely increased his business, so that it yields to him a



*W. D. King*



*Phila King*



good income. All his life he has manifested a great fondness for horses, and, from the time when his financial resources would permit, he has always owned one or more good animals. He now has in his barn, "General Macey," one of the finest horses in the State, record 2:25½. Also, a fine roadster, "St. Hontas," by "Pocohontas Boy." Mr. and Mrs. King have one son, Sage, born in November, 1880. In politics our subject is a stalwart Republican, and is a public-spirited citizen, who gives commendable support to all measures calculated to prove of public benefit. His barn is neat and thrifty in appearance, his work conducted systematically, and his honorable dealing has won him the public confidence.

**JOHN J. LEATHERS.** Among the young and enterprising farmers of Bloom township there is probably none more energetic or thorough-going than the gentleman whose name begins this sketch. He and his brother, Benton, are now conducting the 320-acre farm owned by their father, which lies equally upon Sections 33 and 34. He is a native of Bloom township, where his birth occurred May 9, 1866, and is a son of Wesley and Minerva (Dustman) Leathers, the former now a prominent banker, of McComb, Ohio.

In District School No. 8 John J. Leathers received the major portion of his education, which he has greatly supplemented by reading and observation, and he was early inured to farm labor. On October 2, 1887, in Cass township, Hancock Co., Ohio, he wedded Miss Mary O. Barringer, who was born in Bloom township, February 5, 1867, and is a daughter of Jehu and Louisa (Billingsley) Barringer. They have become the parents of three children, namely: Burnie, born October 13, 1888, met his death by scalding in a pan of maple syrup, March 11, 1892, and was buried in Bloom Chapel cemetery; he was an exceedingly bright child, and his death caused great gloom in the household. Seba was born March 14, 1893. Bethel was born July 27, 1896.

Mr. Leathers has made most of the improvements found upon his place, and has as fine a location as any in the township, while, in connection with general farming, he also deals in stock, shipping to Buffalo. He has been very prosperous in his undertakings, and from present indications there can be no doubt that a bright future awaits him. He uses his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Republican party, and the spring of 1892 was elected assessor of his township. His excellent wife is a

Methodist in religious belief, attending Bloom Chapel.

**WILLIAM H. PUGH,** a pioneer farmer and stock-raiser of Weston township, where he has resided since he was four years of age, was born October 12, 1836, in Perrysburg, Ohio. The father of our subject, John Pugh, was born in Montgomeryshire, Wales, in 1808, and after his marriage to Miss May Evans he emigrated to this country, in 1830, settling first in Perrysburg, Ohio, where he carried on his trade of a carpenter. He often related stories of those early days, and remembered working for Commodore Perry, who made himself a name in history. In 1840 Mr. Pugh removed to Weston township, and rented a farm, which he operated for a short time, and then entered 160 acres in Henry county, on which he built a log cabin, and made it his home until he bought 160 acres in Milton township, adjoining; this he also cleared and improved. He was a hard-working, enterprising man, and lived to a good old age, his death taking place in 1891. He voted for both the Harrisons, grandfather and grandson, for the Presidency. By his first wife Mr. Pugh had five children, namely: Two who died in infancy; William H.; Sarah, residing in Utica, N. Y.; and Mary, who married John Pugh, and is deceased. The mother of these children died July 4, 1842, and the father took, for his second wife, Miss Clarissa Junkins, a sister of Thomas Junkins. Five children were born of this union: Anna M. is the wife of Lenza McKee, of Fostoria, Ohio; Samuel L. resides in Henry county, Ohio; Lacrisa J. is the wife of William Martin; Celestra E. is the widow of C. L. Powell, also represented in this work; John A. died when twenty-five years of age. Mrs. Pugh makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. Powell.

William H. Pugh received his early education in the district school at Beaver Creek, and assisted his father upon the farm until he was twenty years old, when, in 1857, he went out West, and for three years was driving team from Fort Leavenworth to Santa Fe, N. M. He returned home in 1860, and worked for McKee on a farm. In 1863 he entered the government employ in the quartermaster's department, serving under Gen. Thomas. For three years he was in business at Buckland Lock, at the end of that time removing to Weston township and purchasing 175 acres of land, on which he placed many valuable improvements, and which is to-day one of the finest and best equipped farms in the township. He has built a comfortable house, and large barn at a

cost of \$2,500.00, and has a fine cider press; also manufactures wine. He has progressive ideas, and has always kept abreast of the times, while his good judgment and excellent management have brought him success in all his enterprises. He may be truly called a self-made man, for his present comfortable position is due to his own efforts.

Mr. Pugh was married, May 12, 1863, at Grand Rapids, to Miss Louisa S., daughter of Ruthman Howard, who was born September 6, 1842. Their children were as follows: (1) Newbery H., born September 8, 1864, died in February, 1868. (2) John Edward, born December 6, 1866, completed his education at the Toledo Business College, which he attended for two years, and is now keeping store at Mark Center, Defiance county; he married Miss Lucy A. Ames, of Portage, Ohio, and has two children—Preston A., and William Howard. (3) Thomas J., the third son, is a merchant at Weston. The mother of these children died August 14, 1878, and Mr. Pugh was married, in 1880, to Miss Sarah A. Jones, who was born in Crawford county, May 31, 1844. No children have been born of this union.

Mr. Pugh, for some twenty-five years, was a member of the Greenback party; but he is now a Populist, and, in 1892, received a nomination on that ticket for county commissioner. He has served as school director for nine years, was president of the school board for three years, and clerk of the same for twelve years. He was supervisor of the township one term, and trustee three terms. In all these positions of trust and responsibility, Mr. Pugh has fulfilled his duties with credit to himself, and satisfaction to his constituents, and has, at all times, commanded the respect and esteem of his associates. Socially, he belongs to the K. of P., and the I. O. O. F., and Rebekah Lodge No. 681, his wife being a Daughter of Rebekah, and a member of Lodge No. 303.

ANDREW DIETER, a retired farmer of Prairie Depot, was born November 30, 1826, in Wurtemberg, Germany, and in 1841 came to the United States. His parents were Andrew and Barbara Dieter, the former of whom was a tailor in Germany. They embarked at Havre on a sailing vessel, and, after a four-weeks' voyage, landed in New York City. Their first location in Ohio was in Wayne county, twelve miles north of Wooster. The father had \$200 left after arriving in America, and he bought a little farm for \$400, for which he went in debt. After a four-

years' stay in Wayne county he sold this farm, and moved to Homer township, Medina county. In 1849 he came to Montgomery township and bought a farm in Section 27, only a few acres of which were cleared. He died at the age of sixty-two years, and his wife when eighty-four years old. Both are buried in Montgomery township. Their children were as follows: Christina, who married, and died in Iowa; Jacob, who lives in Risingsun; Andrew, our subject; George, a resident of Michigan; Barbara, now Mrs. Samuel St. Clair, of Freedom township; John, who died in Montgomery township; and J. C., a farmer of Montgomery township.

Our subject went to school in Germany, and later in America. After arriving in this country he was obliged to attend school, where he was the only German boy, and, not being able to speak the English language very well, was made fun of and called "Dutchy" by his schoolmates. The Germans were often the target for the unprincipled boys, and were imposed upon in various ways. Our subject was picked out by his schoolmates, and especially by one, a brother of the teacher, as an object to be tantalized with impunity. Though not naturally quarrelsome, he would not submit to any unjust imposition. This brother of the teacher was of about the same age, and his repeated taunts and mean tricks could no longer be endured by our subject, so one day he administered a sound thrashing, in true school-boy style, which seemed to be an intimation of what was in store for future offenders, and, needless to say, he was respected by all from that time on. Mr. Dieter worked on various farms in the neighborhood as a hand for \$4 per month. When twenty-one years old he was able to earn \$8 per month. He came to Wood county in advance of his father's family to look up a home, the parents joining him in 1849.

Mr. Dieter was married, March 28, 1850, in Montgomery township, to Miss Hannah Dunkel, who was born in Center county, Penn., a daughter of Malachi Dunkel. Up to this time he had never owned land, and at his marriage he had but a few dollars. His first real estate was ten acres of land, on which stood a log cabin, with puncheon floor and mud and stick chimney, the furniture of the house consisting of three stools and a table, and a home-made bedstead. Mr. Dieter followed farming until 1894, when he bought the fine house in Prairie Depot where he lives in retirement. The following children were born to him and his wife: John, residing in Prairie Depot; Jacob, a farmer of Montgomery township; Sarah, now Mrs. John Wisner, of

Montgomery; Lavina, who became the wife of Nelson Graham, a resident of Montgomery; Caroline, who married John Smith, and died in Michigan; Barbara, now the wife of Jack Dicken, of Montgomery; Adaline, Mrs. Edwin Gris, of Sandusky county; George, a farmer of Montgomery township; and James, also a farmer in that township. Mr. Dieter was at one time a Democrat, but became a staunch Republican. In religious connections he is a member of the Evangelical Church, and is one of its main supporters; has held various offices in the Church, and is foremost in all matters pertaining to its work. He gave the land on which to build Mt. Zion church, in Montgomery township, and gave the church its name. He is a self-made man, has been a hard worker, and stands high in the estimation of his fellow citizens.

JOHN O'LEARY, is a farmer of Lake township, residing in Section 32, the farm being the same on which he was born August 24, 1848. He can justly be considered a pioneer of this section, having watched the development of the township and county in which he resided from his infancy. Scarcely a farm house had been built, and the timbered land was the home of deer and other wild game. He has seen villages spring up, and small hamlets transformed into prosperous cities and thriving villages, and populous townships filling the places once occupied by forests. In all this wondrous growth he has lent material assistance, and all efforts put forth by him and his coadjutors in that direction have been faithfully aided by nature, whose resources here are unbounded.

His parents, John and Ellen (McCarthy) O'Leary, were natives of County Cork, Ireland. At an early age they came to America, to seek a home in the New World, and with that tide of humanity that was then rushing westward, they cast their lot, landing, in 1837, in the Maumee Valley. In 1842 they located on 140 acres of land in Lake township, on which the father passed the rest of his days, dying in 1883; the mother is still living at the old homestead. There are six children living: Mary, Dennis, Johanna, John, Daniel (of Mercer county), and Ellen. The father was an ardent Democrat in politics, and a devout member of the Roman Catholic Church.

WILLIAM ROBINSON, of Liberty township, belonged to one of the old families of Ohio. He was born March 1, 1845, in Huron county, Ohio, and was a son of William Jordan Robinson, also a native of Huron county, where he grew to

manhood and married Miss Nancy Wheaton. He was a prominent and well-known citizen, and locating in Liberty township, Wood county, at an early day, became an honored resident of this community. His death occurred in the spring of 1867, at the age of fifty years, and his wife passed away a few years later. Their children were Mary E., widow of Pierce Mercer, of Liberty township; William; George Washington, a farmer residing near Dunbridge; Nelson, deceased; Eliza Jane, now a widow; Martha, who died at the age of twenty-two; Lotishia, who died at the age of twenty; Henry, a farmer of Hoytville; Ellen, wife of Lewis C. McCrory, of Liberty township; Emma, deceased wife of Allen Curtis; and Joseph, who died in young manhood.

When a boy our subject came to Wood county with his parents, and was educated in the district schools of Liberty township. In early manhood he learned the carpenter's trade which he followed in connection with farming. He was married in Liberty township, December 16, 1866, to Hannah M. McCrory, who was born in Bloom township, January 23, 1845, and is a daughter of James McCrory, a native of Pennsylvania, who in that State married Nancy Setchler, and afterward came to Bloom township. Here Mrs. McCrory died about 1848, leaving but one child, Mrs. Robinson. The father afterward married Mary Ann Mercer, and their children were William P., who died when a young man; Samuel J., of Bowling Green; Mrs. Jennie Ferguson, of Cygnet, Ohio; James A., a liveryman of Cygnet; Mary Ann, at home; Harris A., a farmer of Henry county, Ohio; and Albert O., who operates the old homestead in Liberty township. Mr. McCrory was a very prominent citizen, and a stalwart Democrat in politics. He served as justice of the peace for many years, was also school director, and was a member of the Disciples Church. He died October 18, 1885, and was buried in Mercer cemetery. His widow now resides in Bowling Green.

For five years after his marriage our subject resided on the old Robinson homestead, and then rented a farm in Liberty township for a year, after which he purchased forty acres, later selling one-half of it. He made all of the improvements upon the place and erected a fine residence; also had three oil wells upon the farm.

To Mr. and Mrs. Robinson were born five children: Mary A., wife of Bertsell Mercer, of Liberty township; James W., at home; Clara C., wife of William Henton, of Liberty township; Sarah C. and William J., at home. Mr. Robin-

son was a highly esteemed citizen, well liked wherever he went, and his friends throughout the county were many. He died September 18, 1885, and his death was deeply mourned. His widow, with her children, still reside on the old family homestead. She is a member of the Disciples Church, and takes a deep interest in its growth and upbuilding. Her many excellencies of character have made her highly esteemed, and the family is one of genuine worth.

**JAMES A. GRAHAM** is pleasantly located upon a farm of 100 acres, in Section 22, Montgomery township, and the home with its surroundings displays the supervision of an intelligent farmer and capable business man, who has proved a useful member of society, and deserves the esteem and confidence of the people around him.

His father, John Graham, was a native of Ireland, born August 9, 1808, six miles from Belfast, and when thirteen years of age was brought by his parents, Thomas Graham and wife, to America, the family first locating at Pittsburg, Penn. They later made their home in Marion county, a mile and a half east of the county seat, where both parents died. In that county, on November 13, 1831, John Graham married Melita Anderson, who was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, May 12, 1811, of Irish and English parentage. Mr. Graham continued to live in Marion county until the fall of 1836, when he removed to Montgomery township, Wood county, and there built his cabin upon a little knoll, the site of the present home of our subject, it being the only dry spot upon the place at that time. He purchased 200 acres of wild land, on which he made his home until his death, which occurred January 4, 1854; he was laid to rest in the Graham cemetery, upon his farm. He was a man of more than ordinary ability, naturally very intelligent, and had obtained a fair education for those days. He became a local preacher in the Methodist Episcopal Church, and was one of the founders of the Church of that denomination at Prairie Depot. Possessing excellent judgment and sound common sense, he was looked up to and consulted on various questions. His political support was first given to the Whig party, and later he became a strong Abolitionist, always a friend of the negro. Although he died at the comparatively early age of forty-five, he left a comfortable competence, having been a good manager and shrewd dealer, and at that time had 320 acres, of which eighty belonged to his wife. After his death she resided upon the home farm, until 1872, when she removed to Prairie

Depot, living there until 1890, after which she made her home with her children, until called from this life, on April 14, 1894. She was an earnest Christian woman, a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Our subject is the fifth, in order of birth, in the family of seven children, who are as follows: John W., born September 28, 1832, is a resident of Prairie Depot; William B., born February 18, 1834, died in 1856; Thomas A., born April 18, 1837, lives in Montgomery township; Mary A., born January 4, 1840, is the wife of E. Young, of Illinois; James A. was born on the farm on which he now resides, May 8, 1843; Russell N., born February 5, 1848, makes his home in Montgomery township; and Melita A. C., born January 8, 1852, is the wife of G. W. Hedge, of the same township.

The early life of James A. Graham was spent upon the home farm and in attending the district schools. The first school which he attended was held in his father's house, as there was no school building in the district, his teacher being Phœbe Vosburg. He heartily endorses the improvements made in the educational institutions of to-day, and was for fourteen years an efficient member of the school board of Prairie Depot. As a farmer boy he used to ride a horse on the barn floor to thresh the grain. He remained a member of the parental household until his marriage, which important event in his life was celebrated at Maumee, Ohio, December 31, 1867, Miss Margaret Hoffman becoming his wife. She was born near Cardington, Morrow Co., Ohio, May 25, 1847, daughter of James and Mary (Halfhill) Hoffman, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter of Wayne county, Ohio. Her parents came to Wood county in 1855, but later went to Lucas county, this State, where they died. She was the eldest daughter and second child in their family of five children, and after completing her education taught two terms of school in Montgomery township, when only seventeen years of age. To our subject and his wife have come three children—J. Frank, who was born July 24, 1873, and was admitted to the Ohio bar in March, 1896, at the age of twenty-two; William A., born August 18, 1878; and Carrie A., born December 29, 1883.

For one year after his marriage Mr. Graham rented land in Section 16, Montgomery township, and then returned to the home farm, where he now lives. Five acres had been sold, but he purchased this, and now has 100 acres of rich and valuable land. He has always devoted his time and attention to agricultural pursuits, and has been very successful in his chosen calling. His first Presidential vote was cast for Lincoln when

that gentleman ran for his second term, and later he was a Democrat until the fall of 1880, since which time he has been a stalwart Prohibitionist. Though no office seeker, he has served in minor township offices. Socially, he is connected with the Odd Fellows Lodge, No. 646, at Prairie Depot; Crystal Encampment, of the same Order, and both he and his wife belong to the Rebekah Lodge at Prairie Depot. Religiously they are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he serves as recording steward, and she belongs to the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. The family is one of prominence in the community, its members being intelligent and well-read, and they hold an enviable position in social circles.

**SAMUEL LEVERTON.** In the career of this gentleman we find an excellent example for young men just embarking in the field of active life; of what may be accomplished by a man beginning poor, but honest, prudent and industrious. A native of another hemisphere, Mr. Leverton was born in Cambridgeshire, England, in October, 1848, and is a son of John Leverton. His parents were both natives of England, where their deaths occurred. In their family were ten children, namely: Mary, Naomi, John M., Elizabeth, Fisher, Cecelia, Hannah, Samuel, Daniel and James.

As his parents were in limited circumstances, the educational advantages which our subject received were very meager, and from a very early age he has been dependent upon his own resources for a livelihood. When sixteen years of age, at the solicitation of his brother, who was living in Ohio, Mr. Leverton left the shores of the Old World, resolved to try his fortune in this country, where better opportunities are afforded young men. He first located in Erie county, this State, where he worked on a farm, receiving \$13 per month for his services, and there he remained for four years, when he came to Wood county. After working as a farm hand for three years in Plain township, he took charge of the farm of Major Lawrence in Perrysburg township, and continued its operation for four years, when he returned to Plain township, renting land which he cultivated for nine years. Through industry and careful management, he succeeded in saving a few hundred dollars, with which he purchased sixty acres of partially improved land. His place is now under a high state of cultivation, with suitable buildings, and all the appointments of the model country home.

Mr. Leverton has been twice married, his

first union being with Hannah Huff, who died on the 11th of July, 1875. Six children blessed this union, but the youngest died while small. They are William, Henry, Mary, George, Frank, and Emma. In 1876 Mr. Leverton wedded Catherine, widow of S. Martindale, and she was called to her final rest June 11, 1895.

Our subject upholds the principles of the Republican party, and he and his family attend the Methodist Episcopal Church. He gives his encouragement to the enterprises tending to the general welfare of the people around him, and endeavors by a life of kindness and charity to set an example worthy of imitation.

**L. O. BROYLES,** a wide-awake and enterprising farmer residing in Section 2, Montgomery township, was born April 20, 1862, in Fairfield county, Ohio, and is a son of James Broyles, also a native of the same county. In Licking county, Ohio, the father was married November 29, 1860, to Miss Rebecca Bryan, whose birth occurred in Fairfield county, May 18, 1838. She was the daughter of Enoch and Rebecca (Myers) Bryan, the former a native of Virginia, and the latter of Lancaster, Penn.; in the family were six children, as follows: Hannah J., now the widow of A. Hashbarger, of Montgomery township; Mary, who wedded Stewart Plummer, and died in Licking county; Cornelius, of Bradner, Ohio; Jacob, of San Francisco, Cal.; George, of Bradner; and Rebecca, mother of our subject.

After their marriage the parents located in Licking county, where the father engaged in farming, and also made many thousand shingles by hand; but when our subject was quite small, the mother was left with herself and two children to support. In the fall of 1881 she came to Wood county, and has since lived in Montgomery township, on the farm where our subject now resides. She is a most estimable woman, a faithful member of the Protestant Methodist Church. The brother of our subject is Clement Broyles, of Bradner, Ohio.

The education of L. O. Broyles was obtained principally in the district schools of his native county. Coming to Wood county, his first location was upon Section 2, Montgomery township, where he still owns forty acres; but he has added to his property until his landed possessions comprise 115 acres of valuable land. Since his arrival here, in connection with his farming operations, for two years he followed rig-building for others, and for three years worked as a section hand on the Columbus, Hocking Valley & Toledo railroad. He is a steady-going, industrious



farmer, who has made his way in the world unaided, and has won the high regard of all with whom he has been brought in contact.

On October 30, 1890, in Montgomery township, Mr. Broyles was united in marriage with Miss Hattie Brown, who was born in Section 2, of that township, March 23, 1868, and is a daughter of William T. and Roena (Stahl) Brown, and they have become the parents of three children—William E., Alice B., and Ralph M. In religious belief both Mr. and Mrs. Broyles are Methodist Protestants, and he casts his ballot in support of Democratic principles.

ADAM DICKEN, a prosperous farmer of Montgomery township, was born in Bedford county, Penn., April 9, 1830. His parents, Charles and Keziah (Purdue) Dicken, moved to Crawford county when he was a child, lived there a while, and then went to Liberty township, Seneca county, where the father died. The mother died later in Jackson township, Seneca county. Mr. Dicken was a successful farmer, and left considerable property, being considered well-to-do for those days. To him and his wife nine children were born, four of whom are yet living, namely: Adam, our subject; Jonathan, of Jackson township, Seneca county; William, of the same place; and Eliza J., the widow of William Valance.

Adam Dicken attended school in Liberty township; but, being the eldest boy, he was the first to be of use to his father on the farm, so his schooling was somewhat limited. He lived at home continuously until June 9, 1854, when he was married to Miss Elizabeth Stahl, who was born in Perry county, November 17, 1837, the daughter of Jacob and Tena (Smith) Stahl. Mr. and Mrs. Stahl were natives of Pennsylvania, and came to Seneca county in the spring of 1838, locating in Jackson township. They had seven children, as follows: Maria, now Mrs. Thomas Pennel, of Fostoria; Elizabeth, wife of our subject; Sarah, who married Emmanuel Hampshire, of Anderson county, Kans.; Andrew, living in Gibsonburg, Ohio; William, a native of Gratiot county, Mich.; Levi, residing in Sandusky county; and Jacob, who died in Burgoon. Mrs. Stahl died at the age of thirty-two, and Mr. Stahl took, for his second wife Miss Eva Smith, by whom he had one child, Tena, who married Curt Elder, and died in Defiance, Ohio.

Mr. Dicken lived one year with his father after his marriage, and later went to housekeeping on his 160 acres of new land, where he built a log cabin 18 x 20 feet square, living there nearly three years. Then, his father having died, he

sold his land and bought the home farm, subsequently selling half of it, as it was too great an expense. He lived there until the fall of 1869, when he sold out and came to Wood county, locating in Section 29, Montgomery township, and purchasing 160 acres, on which he has continued to live. On this farm are nine producing oil wells, with five locations which promise fine additional profits. The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Dicken: Mary E., now Mrs. Frank Wollam, of Montgomery township; Jacob, of Jerry City; Jackson, in Montgomery township; William, a farmer in same township; Sherman, who died when five years old; Curtis, at home; Estelle, now Mrs. Clarence E. Dowling, also in Montgomery; and Charles F., who also resides there. Our subject is a member of the Evangelical Church, and formerly was very active in Church work, contributing liberally and holding various offices. He has always been fair and honest in all his dealings; and no citizen of Montgomery township is more highly respected. We may add that Mr. Dicken has never engaged in litigation either as plaintiff or defendant.

M. E. DIRK, member of the furniture firm of Dirk & Hough, was born September 7, 1862, in Henry township, Wood county. He spent his early life in North Baltimore, attending the public school there for several years, and then went to the Ada Normal School, at Ada, Ohio. After leaving school Mr. Dirk went to work on a farm, following that occupation until his marriage to Miss Libbie Beatty, which took place February 18, 1884. One child, Glenn, was born to them. Mrs. Dirk died November 19, 1891, and Mr. Dirk afterward married Miss Mary Dayringer.

In 1888 our subject entered the furniture business with Mr. Hough, who was reared on a farm adjoining that of Mr. Dirk, and the friendly relations begun in boyhood have been maintained in their business careers. They have established an extensive trade, and in their well-stocked store may be found everything in the way of furniture that could be desired for the fitting out of a beautiful home. Mr. Dirk has demonstrated his ability as a business man by the successful manner in which he has conducted his store. He is genial in disposition, upright in character, and holds the confidence and esteem of all who know him.

Jacob Dirk, the father of our subject, was born in 1819, in Pennsylvania. His wife, Sarah (Povenmier), was born in 1825. They were married at Sugar Ridge, Hancock county, living there until 1859, when they came to the present site of North Baltimore, and Mr. Dirk bought

land on which the present city has been built. In 1887 he erected a brick block, two stories in height, and 75 x 100 feet. Mr. Dirk is a Republican, and a member of the United Brethren Church. Both he and his wife enjoy the distinction of being among the pioneers of the county. To them were born five children, as follows: Jennie, the wife of Joseph Smith, of Liberty township; John, living in North Baltimore; William M., a retired farmer in Weston, Ohio; Amanda, who was married to George A. Smith, a clerk in Bowling Green; and M. E., our subject.

**M. D. SMITH.** Among the leading and representative agriculturists of Perry township, stalwart and sturdy tillers of the soil, there is none who stands a more prominent figure than the gentleman of whom this notice is written. His birth occurred in the Empire State, on April 10, 1850. His parents, Martin D. and Mary J. (Elvert) Smith, were natives of Ireland, and immigrated to the United States about 1849, locating in New York, where the father followed farming, and there died when our subject was but a child. He was then taken by his mother to Lorain county, Ohio, where they remained until 1856, when they came to Wood county. In Ionia county, Mich., the mother was again married, becoming the wife of E. A. Pelton, and now makes her home in Eagleville, Ohio.

On reaching a sufficient age our subject entered the common schools of Lorain county, which were much inferior to the schools of the present day, and there he pursued his literary studies. To rural pursuits he was reared, being employed on farms when quite young, and in 1866 went to Bowling Green, Ohio, near which place he obtained work as a farm hand, there remaining until 1873, when he returned to Perry township.

On May 23, 1874, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Smith and Miss Sarah J. Hall, a native of Perry township, born in Section 17, March 5, 1859, and a daughter of A. J. and Mary M. (Patterson) Hall. Her education was obtained in the district schools of the neighborhood. By her marriage she has become the mother of six children: Bertie E., born August 16, 1876; Harry W., born April 1, 1879; Charles N., born August 16, 1881; Andrew M., born July 29, 1883; Mary M., born August 4, 1886; and Ray D., born September 26, 1890.

For about ten years after his marriage, Mr. Smith lived with his wife's people, and in the fall of 1884 removed to his present farm of forty acres in Section 17, Perry township, which he

had purchased three years previously. In 1887 he replaced their first home, which was of logs, with a very comfortable and modern residence. All that he now possesses has been secured through his industry and perseverance, as he received no outside aid from any source. In business transactions he is perfectly honorable and straightforward, is progressive in his methods of farming, and justly ranks among the prominent citizens of the community. His political affiliations are with the Republican party.

**J. D. CONKLIN**, one of the well-known and successful business men of Weston, was born in Huron county, Ohio, May 25, 1855, and is the son of James and Eliza (Davenport) Conklin.

Our subject was educated in the district schools of Plain township, Wood county, and assisted his father upon the home farm until he was twenty years of age, when he rented a farm for himself in the same township. This he operated for six years, when he came to Weston, and was in the employ of H. H. Keel for eight years. He then went into the drug business, in connection with D. L. Aldrich, subsequently selling out his interest to his partner. In 1888 he was made postmaster, receiving his appointment under John Wanamaker, who was then Postmaster-General. This office he held for four years, and then engaged in the grocery business in 1893. He has since built a handsome brick business-block, two stories in height, and 20 x 80 feet, in which he now has his store. He carries a complete stock of fine goods, which he selects with great care, and with an eye to the wants of his customers. His well-known business ability and pleasant, genial manners, have secured him a large trade, which is constantly increasing, and he has a host of personal friends. In politics Mr. Conklin is a staunch Republican, and works for the interests of his party. He belongs to the Congregational Church, and to the F. & A. M., at Weston.

Mr. Conklin was married May 19, 1886, to Miss Ella R., daughter of William Mailey, and they have one child—Archie—born May 14, 1889. Mrs. Conklin was born September 18, 1864. She is a lady of refinement, and an active worker in all good causes. She is a member of the Methodist Church, and belongs to the Home Mission Aid Society.

**HARLAND W. HEDGE**, a representative farmer and well-known business man of Montgomery township, was born in Section 17, that township, February 23, 1862, the fifth child and fourth son

of George B. and Catherine (Crawfoot) Hedge, who have taken a prominent part in the upbuilding and welfare of the community.

The education of our subject was acquired in the district schools, and, when not busy with his text books he aided in the work of the home farm, and in hauling logs to his father's mill. He much preferred agricultural pursuits, however, and as a result became more skillful along that line than at the other occupation. He remained under the parental roof until his marriage, which was celebrated at Bowling Green, Ohio, October 11, 1883, Miss Annie E. Carr becoming his wife. Her birth occurred in Eden township, Wyandot Co., Ohio, January 25, 1861, and she is a daughter of Richard and Mary (Alexander) Carr, farming people. To Mr. and Mrs. Hedge have come two interesting children—Foil D., born February 15, 1888; and Earl S., born March 14, 1893. The young couple began their domestic life upon a good farm of forty acres in Section 18, Montgomery township, where they still continue to live. In August, 1892, Mr. Hedge purchased his father's interest in the extensive tile manufacturing plant of F. T. Hedge & Co., the members of the firm being himself and brother F. T. This is the largest factory of the kind in Wood county, and the product turned out is first-class in every particular. Our subject gives much of his attention to the business, but also operates his farm, on which he erected an excellent barn in 1894. Though a faithful Democrat, Mr. Hedge manifests but a voting interest in politics; he strongly sympathizes with his party, but is not radical, and cares nothing for political preferment. He is a genial, large-hearted, jolly good fellow, honest and upright in all his dealings, and is one of the most highly respected citizens of the township, in which he has made many warm friends.

L. J. LEFLER, one of the most progressive and substantial agriculturists of Bloom township, and a leading resident of Jerry City, was born October 8, 1851, in Brush Creek township, Muskingum Co., Ohio.

His father, Adam Lefler, was a cooper by trade, and filled large orders for salt barrels, which were much in demand in his day, cutting down the trees and making them by hand from the very beginning. He married Miss Mary Fetzer, and, of their family of eight children, five sons lived to adult age: John, who died in Zanesville in 1875; George, formerly a teacher, who is now farming in Bloom township; Noah, who died in Jerry City in 1882; L. J., our sub-

ject; and Alva, who was once a teacher, and is now an employe in a wholesale house in Toledo. Of the three daughters, Angeline died at the age of four years; Lorena, when two years of age; and Mary in infancy. Mrs. Mary (Fetzer) Lefler was born in Stuttgart, Germany, March 5, 1820, who, with a poor widowed mother and large family embarked at Amsterdam, in May, 1833, on a sailing vessel for America. The ship, becoming disabled, lost her reckoning, and wandered about at sea until provisions, especially water supplies, became very low. In fact, the family and others, would almost have perished for lack of water, had not Mrs. Lefler's mother fortunately had a keg of vinegar which she had taken on board with her, and which they diluted with the very scanty allowance of stale water that was portioned out to them. They finally landed at New York after a voyage of 108 days, during which dire experience nine persons died and were buried at sea.

Mr. Lefler's parents were not wealthy, but they owned a farm of forty acres, and managed to give their boys as good an education as the schools of the vicinity could furnish; several of them became successful teachers. At the age of twenty-one our subject entered this profession, which he followed in his native county for some years, at a time when teachers built their own fires and swept the school house. On September 30, 1875, he was married to Miss Mattie Fulker-son, who was born September 7, 1851, the daughter of Gabriel Fulkerson, a pioneer farmer of Muskingum county. They "kept house" during the following winter in a rented dwelling, and Mr. Lefler continued teaching; but, desiring to better his prospects, he moved to Wood county in the spring, traveling on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad to Fostoria, and taking a hand-car on the Coldwater railroad from that point to Jerry City, landing at Jerry City April 11, 1876. When their goods were moved Mr. Lefler drove a team from Fostoria, while his wife came by hand-car. With \$200, saved from his earnings, he made a start, he and his brother Alva renting a farm for four years in what is now Jerry City. For two years he was the proprietor of the "Union Hotel" there, after which he joined his brother Alva and Peter Gobble in the purchase of 104 acres of land near the town, and he has ever since cultivated his portion of it; there are four oil wells on the place. He has tasteful and substantial improvements, including one of the best houses in town. His barn, which was burned July 17, 1895; entailing a loss of \$1,000, was a good modern structure. For some years after

coming to Wood county he continued teaching, and his work in Bloom, Portage and Montgomery townships was deserving of high praise, affording an improvement upon the ordinary district school of the day. He is a good business man, ranking among the first in his locality, and in spite of losses, including that of a deposit of \$600 in a bank at Fostoria, he has done well in life. In 1885 his parents came to Wood county to be near "their boys," and the mother now lives in Section 16, Bloom township, the father having died April 21, 1896.

Mr. and Mrs. Lefler have always been in hearty sympathy with the progressive element of their community, taking part, as they had opportunity, in philanthropic movements. They have had three children: Carrie E. (a teacher at the present time), born September 26, 1876, who was married August 21, 1895, to Charles Conner, of Jerry City; Omar F., who died in infancy; and Vernie M., born April 26, 1896, at home. In politics Mr. Lefler is a Democrat, and he is an active worker in local affairs. He served two terms as township assessor, two as village clerk, and two as member of the city council, and is now the president of the board of education.

J. E. SMITH. The gentleman whose name stands at the beginning of this sketch is a general farmer, pursuing his pleasant and profitable occupation in Section 31, Ross township, and is the efficient town clerk, to which office he was elected in 1891, succeeding C. L. Hicks. He has continuously succeeded in that position to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Mr. Smith was born in Ross township, in 1867, and is the son of Jerome B. and Rachel (Eggleston) Smith. The father, who was a native of Onondaga county, N. Y., became a resident of Oregon township, Lucas Co., Ohio, as early as 1830, and there opened up a farm in the midst of the wilderness, which is now within the corporation limits of Toledo. In 1846 he was married to Miss Mary Cobb, who died in 1864; and, in Ross township, in 1866, his marriage with Mrs. Rachel (Eggleston) Lake was celebrated. She was also a native of New York, and a daughter of Truman and Lorinda (Paine) Eggleston, who were born in Dutchess county, that State, and, in 1858, came to what is now Ross township, locating in the midst of the woods. There the death of her father occurred, in 1863, and that of her mother in 1891. In their family were three children, who are still living: Ambrose P., who resides in Kansas; Mrs. Sarah Ann Gleason, of Chicago, Ill.; and Mrs. Smith. The

father of our subject purchased an eighty-acre tract of timber land in Ross township, which he cleared and developed, and thereon made his home until his death, in 1888. He was an ardent Democrat in politics, and served as a member of the school board. His wife is still living upon the old home farm. Their union was blessed by the birth of five children, three of whom are living, the eldest being the subject of this sketch; the others are Addie B. and Hattie L.

Mr. Smith, whose name introduces this narrative, was reared to farm life, having aided his father in the work of the fields as soon as he was large enough, and obtained his education in the district schools of the neighborhood during the winter months, and is now engaged in general farming. He is one of the most progressive and public-spirited young men of Ross township, and delights in noting its growth and progress, with which he has been prominently identified. Politically he follows in the footsteps of his father, giving his unfaltering support to the men and measures of the Democratic party, and for the past five years has capably filled his present office.

JAMES L. SPINK is a worthy representative of one of the honored pioneer families of Wood county, his grandfather, Buckley Spink, having located in Montgomery township at an early day. The latter was born April 11, 1793, at Rome, N. Y., and in that State was married, October 4, 1820, to Amy Moshier, who was born on January 14, 1796, at Attleboro, Mass., a daughter of Jonathan Moshier. The young couple located upon a farm in Hanover township, Chautauqua Co., N. Y., where were born to them three children—James R., born December 8, 1821, died March 3, 1852, in Montgomery township, Wood Co., Ohio; Tenetta, born February 22, 1824, died in the same township September 1, 1874; and Adelia, born June 26, 1827, now the widow of Charles Brooke, of Prairie Depot, Ohio. After their removal to Collins, Erie Co., N. Y., in 1828, the family circle was increased by the following children: Solon, born March 27, 1829, the father of our subject; Emeline, born November 24, 1831, the wife of Levi Halcomb, died in Montgomery township February 17, 1855; Volney, born January 26, 1834, died in the same township November 13, 1856; and Amy A., born November 8, 1836, now Mrs. Samuel Hemminger, of Montgomery township.

After settling upon his farm in Erie county, N. Y., the grandfather heard rumors about the title being imperfect, and, with many others of

that locality, sold his land and began looking for another home. He had two brothers, who were prominent citizens of Perysburg, Ohio—John, a well-known attorney, and Shibnah, a successful merchant. They each owned eighty acres of new land in Section 21, Montgomery township, which they gave to Buckley Spink in order to induce him to locate there. In a covered wagon drawn by three horses, he started with his family for Wood county, in the spring of 1837, and they were eleven days on the road, two and a half days being required to travel the last twenty-one miles from Fremont, Ohio, to their farm, and they were often compelled to seek help from owners of oxen to pull them out of the mud. Their first home was of logs, with a puncheon floor, and they endured all the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life. Upon that farm the grandfather died, May 26, 1877, and his wife August 20, 1874. They now rest side by side in the cemetery at Prairie Depot. His political support was given to the Republican party.

On reaching man's estate Solon Spink was married, March 6, 1859, in Wood county, the lady of his choice being Miss Martha Burns, who was born in Stark county, Ohio, September 18, 1836, daughter of Jacob Burns, and they became the parents of three children—James L., subject of this review; Albert W., a prominent farmer of Montgomery township; and Minerva F., now Mrs. John J. Dicken, of Jerry City, Ohio. The father was engaged in operating the home farm until his death, which occurred January 31, 1876, and his remains were interred at Prairie Depot. He left a debt upon the old homestead, as he was buying it from the other heirs, and was called from this life very suddenly, before he had finished paying for the place. The sons were quite young; but they went resolutely to work, and now have the farm free from indebtedness. It comprises 159 acres of rich and arable land, which they have placed under a high state of cultivation, and it is made to yield bountiful harvests for the care and labor expended upon it. The widowed mother still finds a pleasant home there with our subject, who is half-owner of the farm.

James L. Spink was born upon the place May 9, 1860, and as soon as old enough he entered the district school of the neighborhood; but his educational privileges were somewhat limited, as he had to begin work at the early age of eleven years, and he was only sixteen at the time of his father's death. On February 7, 1879, he married Miss Harriet Bockey, who was

born in Montgomery township January 11, 1862, daughter of Jackson and Elizabeth (Burns) Bockey. Her father died in Mungen, Portage township, Wood county, and her mother is now making her home there. To Mr. and Mrs. Spink have been born four children, their names and dates of birth being as follows: Elsie E., February 26, 1880; Phila, December 24, 1882; Emily, June 19, 1885; and Wilber, January 5, 1887. In 1894 our subject erected a pleasant residence upon his farm, on which he has made many excellent improvements, and he has stocked his place with a fine grade of Shropshire sheep and Jersey cattle. The neat and thrifty appearance of his farm denotes able management, strict attention to every detail of the business, and an enterprising, progressive and painstaking owner. As a man he holds a foremost place in the estimation of his fellow citizens, and well deserves the respect and confidence of all.

CHARLES L. CONKLIN, who is classed among the successful farmers of Plain township, is well worthy of notice in a work of this kind, and to be ranked among the men who have distinguished themselves as useful and enterprising citizens. He was born in Huron county, Ohio, December 15, 1851, and is the third in the family of seven children born to James and Eliza (Davenport) Conklin, the others being Jay, a farmer of Wood county; Alfred D., of Weston; James D., a merchant of Weston; Orma D., wife of Rev. B. Dupoy, of Henry county, Ohio; Luella J., wife of J. Brown; William H., a farmer; and A. J., of Middleton township. The father's birth occurred in 1825, in the Empire State, and when a young man he removed to Huron county, Ohio, where he was married to Miss Davenport, but later became a farmer of Plain township, Wood county. He is now living retired, he and his wife making their home in Weston.

In a manner similar to that of most farmer boys, Charles L. Conklin passed the days of his boyhood and youth, attending the common schools, and working on his father's farm until he reached his majority, when he started out in life for himself. He was first employed by the lumber firm of Stearns & Dubbs, of Deshler, Henry Co., Ohio, with whom he remained for five years, when he returned to Plain township and purchased twenty acres of arable land, which he operated for four years. He then disposed of that property and bought the forty-acre farm on which he now resides. A destructive fire visited him a few years ago, destroying his dwelling with its contents, also his barns and other farm build-

ings, causing him a loss of \$1,200, partly covered by insurance. These have been replaced, however, by substantial structures, including his residence, which cost \$1,000.

At Weston, Ohio, October 6, 1874, Mr. Conklin married Phœbe Brisbin, by whom he has three children—Jessie, born June 24, 1875; George, born October 18, 1876; and Edison, born December 10, 1878. Robert Brisbin, the father of Mrs. Conklin, was born in 1809, educated in his native place, and in New York married Phœbe Call, and twelve children were born by their union—Marsey, deceased; James F.; Elizabeth, deceased; Levi, who was killed in the Civil war; Marion, deceased; Warren, a veteran of the same war; Ellen, wife of Jesse Dease; Eugene, a resident of Bowling Green; Albert, who was a soldier in the war of the Rebellion, and now makes his home in Bowling Green; Charles, a resident of Michigan; William, of New York; and Phœbe, who was born March 25, 1853. Mr. Brisbin carried on farming in Weston township until his death in 1876, and his widow now finds a pleasant home with our subject.

Politically, Mr. Conklin is a staunch Republican, and the religious views of the family are those of the United Brethren Church. His thrift and industry have met with their legitimate reward, and he now has one of the best farms of the locality.

**CHARLES A. WHITMORE.** This gentleman is a general farmer and fruit raiser, pursuing his pleasant and profitable occupation in Sections 30 and 31, Ross township. He was born in that township, in 1855, and is a son of Waters and Susan (Consaul) Whitmore, the former a native of Massachusetts, and the latter of Steuben county, New York.

In 1825, Waters Whitmore had accompanied his father, Luther Whitmore, to Lucas county, Ohio, where the latter opened up a farm, and there died in 1845, his wife dying a few years later. The son was married in that county to Miss Susan Consaul, daughter of John and Marthy Consaul, who were also born in New York; they came west and located in Oregon township, Lucas county, where they developed and improved a farm, on which the mother died in February, 1862, the father surviving her a few years. After their marriage, the parents of our subject located on the banks of the Maumee river, where the father erected a brick house, which is still standing. He took the clay out of the bank and burned it, thus making his own brick; he finally sold this, and bought a good farm of 125 acres in Ross

township, this county, to which he removed in 1850; at the time of his purchase the land was covered with timber; but he devoted his time to its improvement, until his place was one of the most highly cultivated in the locality. He made his home there until his death in 1885; his widow is still living at the old homestead. Five children were born to them, one son dying in infancy; Louisa and Sophia, at home; Charles A., of this review; and Mrs. Mary Jane Henry, of East Toledo, Ohio.

Charles A. Whitmore early became familiar with agricultural pursuits upon the home farm, and acquired his literary education in the district schools of the township. He later attended school for one year at Toledo. He has always followed the occupation to which he was reared, and now owns a part of the farm on which he was born and has always lived, just outside the city limits of Toledo, where he is successfully engaged in fruit raising.

In Oregon township, Lucas county, Mr. Whitmore was married in 1882, the lady of his choice being Miss Dorcas Moon, who was born in that township, where her parents, Trayton and Harriet (Sands) Moon, natives of England, had located in 1852. Her father aided his adopted country in her struggle to preserve the Union during the Civil war. He and his worthy wife still make their home upon their old farm in Oregon township. Five children have come to bless the union of our subject and his wife—Freddie, Charley, Nina, Robert and Raymond.

As an honest man and worthy citizen, Mr. Whitmore deserves the respect and esteem in which he is held by his fellow-townsmen. In politics he is a Republican, intelligently supporting his party by voice and vote, although he does not care to take an active part in public life.

**A. J. SCHAUWEKER.** Among the enterprising and thrifty citizens of Bowling Green, whose ancestors were born in the old country, and who have done so much to promote the interests of the community in which they live, is the subject of this sketch. Born in Richland county, Ohio, November 19, 1843, he was the son of Michael and Mary M. (Goodbed) Schauweker, both natives of Germany, the former of whom was born about 1803, in Wittenberg, and the latter in 1812, in the same town. They were married in Richland county, and settled for awhile in Columbiana county, later moving to Crawford county, in about 1852, where the mother died, when our subject was eight years old. The father died in 1879, at about the age of seventy-six years.

They were the parents of three children: Andrew, a farmer in Portage township; A. J.; and Mary, who is the wife of Jerry Armstrong, of Wyandot county. After the death of his wife, Mr. Schauweker married Miss Terrece Peters, and six children were born to this union, as follows: Herman, living in Wyandot county; Lena, wife of J. Keller, of Crawford county, Ohio; Emma, who is single; Louise, who married Elmer Balielt, of Wyandot county, Ohio; William, living in Delaware county, Ohio; and Bertha, who is at home.

Mr. Schauweker spent his youth in Crawford county, where he learned the blacksmith's trade. He then satisfied his greatest desire in life by going to California, in 1863, and seeing for the first time the beauties of the Pacific slope. There he located, in Yuba county, and engaged in business, remaining for a time and then going to Placer county, taking up farming for himself. After staying there for three years, he moved to Santa Clara county, and teamed at Gilroy, besides working on a farm. He next spent one year in Alaska and British Columbia, and another year on the Deyoste river, mining and prospecting. He started from California in February, 1874, reaching his final destination in June, 1874, and remained there one season; then, returning to California, farmed in Contra Costa county for about six years. He was on the Pacific slope altogether eighteen and a half years. He returned to Ohio in 1882, and located in Wood county, where he was engaged in sawmilling, in Portage township. In 1888 he entered the oil business, and was associated with various oil-producing companies, in all of which he was very successful, and accumulated a comfortable fortune, after which he sold out his interest, and, with the exception of looking after his farm, is at present living retired in Bowling Green.

Mr. Schauweker was married April 24, 1883, in Wood county, to Mrs. Alice Ricket, who was born in Wood county, December 1, 1861. Four children have blessed this union, as follows: May, Orma, Lloyd, and Howard. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., the Encampment of Whitney Lodge in Portage, and the camp in Bowling Green. He is looked upon as one of the substantial men of the county, and has the respect and esteem of his fellow-citizens.

ALEX. S. BROWN. It is quite interesting to observe, in noting the various members of a community, how they gathered together from different States and localities, and how well they usually combine to form an intelligent and pros-

perous community. The subject of this history is a native of Pennsylvania, born in Allen township, Cumberland county, November 25, 1841. He is the offspring of James R. and Susanna (Searight) Brown, who in 1852, removed to Harrisville township, Medina Co., Ohio, where they rented land for two years. On August 24, 1855, they located in Section 31, Perry township, Wood county, their home being a log cabin, 18 x 20 feet, and wild game was still to be found in abundance in this then frontier region. Here the parents both departed this life, the father at the age of eighty, and the mother when over seventy-six years, and their remains were interred in Fostoria cemetery. At the time of their deaths they were members of the United Brethren Church, though they had formerly been Methodists, and in politics, the father was a stalwart Democrat. Our subject's only brother, James M. Brown, is at present a ranchman of Custer county, Montana.

Since the early days when Mr. Brown, of this review, attended the district school, he has seen great improvements in those institutions, which he thoroughly endorses. Like most farmer boys he was reared to habits of industry, and when the family located on the 160 acres of wild land in Wood county, which the father had purchased, he secured work from neighbors in order to earn the money for the support of the family.

In Hancock county, Ohio, in 1866, Mr. Brown was joined in wedlock with Miss Rebecca Crawford, by whom he had one child, James E., born January 14, 1867, and on the death of the mother she was laid to rest in Cannonsburg, Hancock county. He was again married in 1870, the lady of his choice being Miss Margaret Livingston, a native of Pittsburg, Penn., born January 25, 1843, and a daughter of Thomas and Rachel (Reed) Livingston. The father was a drayman, and was killed, in 1847, by the caving in of a sand bank, which caused him to fall upon a pick. When eighteen years of age Mrs. Brown came to Fostoria, Ohio, and lived with an aunt, Mrs. Mary Ferguson, the wife of William H. Ferguson, until her marriage. The family now includes six children born of the second union—William H., an oil-well-driller, of Perry township, born January 17, 1872; Jessie M., born May 4, 1873; Milo M., a bicycle rider, born February 1, 1877; Raymond L., born September 19, 1880; Frank S., born August 16, 1882; and Carl W., born January 25, 1886.

From its primitive condition, Mr. Brown has transformed his land to a finely cultivated farm, has made many excellent improvements, and is a

business man of more than ordinary ability. At one time he owned a half interest in a sawmill upon his farm, and was agent for farming implements and wind pumps, which added materially to his income. He now has 156 acres of arable land, which he is operating very successfully. Politically he is a Democrat, has served as school director of District No. 9, and is at present trustee of his township, while religiously, he and his wife are members of the Radical United Brethren Church of Bloomdale, of which he has been steward and is now a trustee.

HENRY W. LEHR, a hardware merchant of Dowling, and agent for the Lehr Manufacturing Company, is a native of Michigan, his birth having occurred in Monroe county, that State, March 28, 1857. His father, John Lehr, was a native of Germany, and acquired his education in the schools near his boyhood home. On coming to America he located in the Wolverine State, where he carried on farming until his death in 1892. His wife bore the maiden name of Mary C. Foster, and was called to the home beyond in 1890. Their family numbered nine children—Joseph; Adam, a resident of Monroe, Mich.; Peter; John F., a miner of Mexico; Frances, wife of Ludwig Lay; Henry; Mary, wife of C. Billmaier; Lizzie, who is keeping house for our subject; and Trissie, deceased.

Henry W. Lehr early became familiar with farm work on the old homestead, and he pursued his education in the common schools of Monroe county, Michigan. At the age of sixteen he left home and went to Fremont, where for three years he worked at the carriage trade. He then entered the car shops in Norwalk and Cambridge, Ohio, where he was employed for two years as car repairer, after which he spent five years in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, as a bridge builder on the Lake Erie & Western railroad. In 1892 he came to Dowling, and established the first hardware store in this place. He has since built up a good business, securing a good trade from the town and surrounding country. He is also agent for P. P. Mast & Co., the Lehr Manufacturing Company, the Plano Co., and D. M. Osborne, manufacturers of farm implements, and the patronage which he receives in this department of his business also adds considerable to his income. He manufactures and sells the Lehr wagons, and does all kinds of repair work, and a good business, secured through his capable management and enterprise, has brought to him a comfortable competence. He is known far and wide as a successful merchant and wagon maker, and

his high reputation in business circles is most enviable. After the death of his wife, Mr. Lehr spent a year traveling through the South and Southwest—Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Missouri, Texas, Arkansas and Iowa—and, in the last three States mentioned, was employed for a time.

On September 18, 1878, Mr. Lehr wedded Maggie Madigan, a native of Toronto, Canada, who died at Norwalk, Ohio, in 1883, leaving two children—John O., born April 19, 1879, is in the jewelry business at Toledo; and Ella May, born March 17, 1882, is attending school at Fremont. Mr. Lehr is a Democrat in politics. He holds membership with the Roman Catholic Church of Perrysburg.

CHRIS SHEARER, a retired farmer of Bowling Green, was born in Bavaria, Germany, June 2, 1833, a son of Henry and Wilhelmina (Vight) Shearer. The father was born in Bavaria in 1794, and came to America in 1856, settling in Crawford county, Ohio, where he died in 1877, his wife having departed this life in Germany. Their children were eight in number, of whom the youngest died in infancy. The others were Mary, who died in Germany; Daniel, who still lives in the old country; Nicholas, residing in Crawford county, Ohio; Elizabeth, who died in Germany; Henry, living in Seneca county, Ohio; Jacob, who died in Indiana; and Chris, our subject.

The subject of this sketch spent his youth in attending school, and working on a farm in his native country. In 1852 he emigrated to America, landing at New York City, whence he came to Ohio and settled in Crawford county. The story of his subsequent life is one which could hardly be told of the resident of any other country than the United States, where pluck and energy, with a good supply of common sense, are the best stepping stones to fortune. When the young emigrant reached New York, one dollar represented his entire capital, and he was obliged to borrow money from a companion to take him to Ohio. He could not speak a word of English, yet he at once undertook to learn the carpenter's trade, and soon was able to earn a living. His next step was equally as enterprising and successful, being his marriage to a bright American girl, Miss Catharine Brillheart, who was born in Stark county, Ohio, June 16, 1836.

In 1862 Mr. Shearer came to Wood county, where he worked at his trade, and also carried on farming. He first purchased a farm on Tontogany creek, in Washington township, on which



he lived until 1870, then buying a place in Plain township. This he cultivated until in October, 1893, when he took up his residence in Bowling Green, where he and his estimable wife are spending their declining years, surrounded by all the comforts of life, and enjoying the fruits of their labor. Mr. Shearer owns 210 acres of productive land, and during his busy and successful life has accumulated a comfortable fortune. He belongs to that class of sturdy Germans who become many of our best citizens, and by whose industry and thrift our country grows richer and stronger. Mr. Shearer and his wife reared a large family of children, whom they trained in habits of diligence and economy, and who have proved worthy. The following is the record: Laura Ann, born October 9, 1857, married Rev. Charles Shear (they reside in Marietta, Ohio, and have one child—Marie); John, born April 3, 1859, married Phœbe Haramon, and they have one child—Howard; Frank, born January 18, 1861, is unmarried and lives in Colorado; Philip, born December 16, 1862, married Genevieve Hearn, and resides in Texas (they have one child—Leslie); Mary, born April 3, 1865, became the wife of John Richard, and died June 24, 1881, leaving two children—Claude and Evalena; Oliver, born October 21, 1867, married May Hopkins, and they have two children—Guy and Ralph; Chris, born March 21, 1870, married Iva Irvin, and lives at Weston; Albert, born March 20, 1872, married Edna Himes; Jennie M., born October 9, 1875, died June 25, 1896; and Coral, born December 16, 1878.

In politics Mr. Shearer is a Republican, and in religious faith is a Baptist. He is highly respected by all who know him, and fills an honored place in the community.

GEORGE BROWNELLER, one of the leading agriculturists of Bloom township, and a veteran of the Civil war, is one of the self-made men of the county, whose untiring efforts to transform their once unproductive acres into fertile farms have made this region a beautiful garden spot. He was born November 21, 1842, in Perry township, Fayette Co., Pennsylvania.

Samuel Browneller, his father, was born east of the mountains in that State, but settled, in early manhood, in Fayette county, and married Miss Sarah Slotterback, by whom he had seven children: Lucinda, who married Elliott Porter, and lives near the old homestead; Frederick, a retired farmer, living in Findlay; David, a wealthy carpenter, of Fayette county, Penn.; Mary, the widow of Jacob Harris, residing near Flushing,

Ohio; George, our subject; Rebecca, Mrs. Porter Haggerty, of Hancock county; and Albert, a farmer of near Oskaloosa, Iowa. Our subject's father was a farmer, and accumulated a fine property from a meager start in life. He was a Democrat before the war, but became a Republican when the issues of that time were forced to the front; in his later years, however, he showed his sympathy with the temperance movement by voting with the Prohibition party. He was a regular and conscientious voter, but took no other part in political work. Both he and his wife were prominent members of the M. E. Church. They lived to a good old age, the mother dying in October, 1894, when eighty-four years old, and the father in August following, at the age of eighty-six, and both were buried at East Salem church, near their old home.

George Browneller spent his boyhood days mainly in farm work. He attended school three months in the year, and acquired a good elementary education, and he is now a hearty advocate of the best opportunities which can be given to the rising generation. When seventeen he began to learn the shoemaker's trade, and worked at same until 1862, when he enlisted in Company G, 16th Penn. Cav. He served seven months and was discharged; but later enlisted in Battery C, 2nd Penn. Heavy Art., and served until the close of the war, taking part in the operations around Petersburg and Richmond. He was detailed to carry messages most of this time. In April, 1865, he was discharged, being in the hospital at the time. He returned home, and remained until the spring of 1866, when he came to Wood county on a visit, and, the country pleasing him, he concluded to make his home here. He hauled wood for Mr. Vickers, of Toledo, for one year, and later for E. J. Rosendale and Alva French, of Bloom township. In 1867 he was married to Miss Caroline Rosendale, a native of Lorain county, and a daughter of William Rosendale, a leading citizen of Bloom township. She died in 1873, leaving two children: Sarah Jane, now Mrs. Charles Wineland, of Center township, and Charles M., a farmer of Webster township. Mr. Browneller was married, the second time, on January 21, 1874, to Mrs. Sarah (Ziegler) Walley, the widow of Alexander Walley, and daughter of Peter and Sarah E. (Fulmer) Ziegler, who came to Bloom township, in 1852, from Ashland county, where she was born, June 17, 1844. She had one child by her first marriage—John H. Walley, a farmer in Jackson township, Paulding county. Four children were born of the second union: Tulley lives at home, and is married to

Miss Nellie B. Stecker, of Cass township, Hancock county; George died in infancy; Flossie died at four years of age, and Daisy F. is at home.

After his first marriage Mr. Browneller lived a short time in Eagleville, and then bought sixty-four acres of land in Perry township, for which he went heavily in debt. The land was partly improved, but he was obliged to work hard to bring it into satisfactory condition. In the spring of 1877 he sold it, and bought eighty acres in Section 36, Bloom township, again incurring a debt. Thirty acres were cleared, but little ditching had been done, and Mr. Browneller had many years of hard work to make his present valuable farm, which now includes 120 acres in fine cultivation. A log house and barn stood on the place, and these they used for a time; but a new house was built in 1878, and a barn in 1879. In addition to the farm near Bloomdale, he owns forty acres in Center township, and at one time he possessed 240 acres, but he had given eighty acres to his children. He is a reliable man, good-hearted, and ready to help forward any worthy pleasure; his wife, who has been to him a most efficient helper, is an active member of the M. E. Church. Mr. Browneller is a charter member of Urie Post No. 110, G. A. R., of Bloomdale.

AMOS M. NEIFER, a prominent produce dealer of Bowling Green, was born in Paradise township, Lancaster Co., Penn., November 17, 1844, and is of German descent on his father's side.

Isaac Neifer, his grandfather, emigrated from the Fatherland in 1805, at the age of eighteen. He married Miss Elizabeth Miller, after his arrival, and later they settled at Wolcottville, Ind., where they spent the remainder of their lives. They had twelve children: Isaac (2) (our subject's father), Barbara, Catherine, Margaret, Abraham, Jacob, Christanna, Samuel, Julieann, Susan, Amos and Harriet. Isaac Neifer (2) was born in Pennsylvania, July 29, 1813. He married Harriet Oberly, a native of the same State, born May 16, 1821, a daughter of Adam Oberly; who was born in Lancaster county, Penn., February 28, 1788. He was married, in 1800, to Catherine Myers, also a native of Lancaster county, Penn., born July 6, 1788, and twelve children were born to them, viz.: Elizabeth, John, Isaac, Catharine, Daniel, Samuel, Margaret, Liddie, Sarah, Levi, Harriet (subject's mother), and Adam. Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Neifer came to Wood county in 1847, and located in the then unbroken forest, one mile south of Weston. They secured 120 acres of land, to which

they afterward added forty acres in the same section, being Section 3, Township 4, Range 9, in Milton township. Their implements for clearing and cultivating the farm were of a decidedly primitive sort; all the logging was done by hand, and for breaking the soil an old-fashioned shovel plow was used, with a cutter and oxen. The boyhood of our subject, and his brothers, was mainly spent in cutting and rolling logs, with but a short attendance at the neighboring district school. His father was a Whig previous to the war, and then a Republican until the Hayes and Tilden contest, after which he became a Greenbacker, and later an adherent of the People's Party. He and his wife, who is still living on the old farm, united with the M. E. Church many years ago, and he died in that faith on May 17, 1892. They had six children: Catherine, who died in infancy; Adam O., residing at the homestead; John M., who did gallant service for three years during the Civil war, in the 10th Company of Sharpshooters, attached to the 60th O. V. I.; Amos M., our subject; Sarah E., who died in childhood; and Isaac Newton, now a leading produce merchant at Weston.

At the age of nineteen our subject left the farm and learned telegraphy, and for several years was employed as an operator on the D. & M. S. R. R. Not finding this congenial, he tried several other occupations, and for a time was "on the road," first as salesman for a cigar manufacturer, and later as a buyer for a poultry dealer. He was remarkably successful in these ventures, and soon began trading on commission for himself in grain and other produce, but now deals mainly in poultry. He was married in 1866 to Miss Flora Bassett, a native of Wood county. Of their four daughters, the eldest, Emma B., married Russell Angel, of Weston, and has two children—Harry, and Fern; the second daughter, Hattie H., married Charles Strong, of Seville, Ohio, and they now live at Pemberville, Ohio; Minnie, died in childhood; the youngest, Lulu, is still at home.

Mr. Neifer is a man of varied talents, and an original and independent thinker. He takes great interest in politics, making close study of the issues of the time. Until the administration of Hayes he was a Republican, then, after championing the Greenback cause for some years, he became a supporter of the principles of the People's Party. Through these changes he has been led by one consistent hope, that of securing to the common people of our land, the freedom and the prosperity that should be the heritage of all. He is an earnest and impressive speaker upon

his favorite topics, and his well-stored memory gives him a ready command of facts in our political and financial history, which causes the average politician to dread to meet him in debate. He has held numerous offices; those of postmaster in Weston, while a mere youth, member of the city council of Bowling Green, acting chief of police on several occasions, and deputy U. S. marshal, being among them.

B. B. ROCKWELL, merchant miller and oil operator of North Baltimore, is regarded as one of the most popular and influential of the younger element of business men in the city. His birth occurred at Findlay, Ohio, October 24, 1866.

P. V. Rockwell, the grandfather of our subject, came from Vermont to Ohio before his marriage, and settled in Holmes county, where he married Miss Eliza Ann Freeman, who was born in Lancaster county, Penn., in 1813, and died in Holmes county, in 1883. They were members of the Presbyterian Church; he was deputy sheriff of Holmes county for several years, and also taught school there. In politics he was a Democrat. He died August 15, 1880, in North Baltimore. Twelve children were born to this couple, ten of whom grew to maturity. The great-grandfather, Jeremiah Rockwell, died in Holmes county, Ohio. He was of Puritan stock, his ancestors being among those who landed at Plymouth Rock.

G. G. Rockwell, father of our subject, was reared in Wayne county, Ohio, whence he went to Ashland county, and then to Holmes county. He received a common-school education, and learned the trade of a miller. At the solicitation of his son he came to North Baltimore, in 1880, and purchased what is now the North Baltimore Rolling Mills. He has since completely remodeled it from the old-fashioned flouring-mill with its old-time millstones to its present condition, with an entire outfit of modern machinery, and a capacity for grinding 100 barrels of flour daily. It is the pioneer mill of the town, being built in 1874, by Dr. Eaton. Mr. Rockwell buys and ships grain and flour, and sells all kinds of feed and coal. He was married December 31, 1860, to Miss Hannah Cromley, who was born in Findlay, Ohio, July 16, 1844, and they have three children: B. B. our subject; Charles J., bookkeeper in the First National Bank of North Baltimore; and Fred B., who lives at home.

Our subject grew up in Findlay, Ohio, and went to school there; he learned telegraphy, but made no practical use of it. He induced his father to move to North Baltimore and go into the

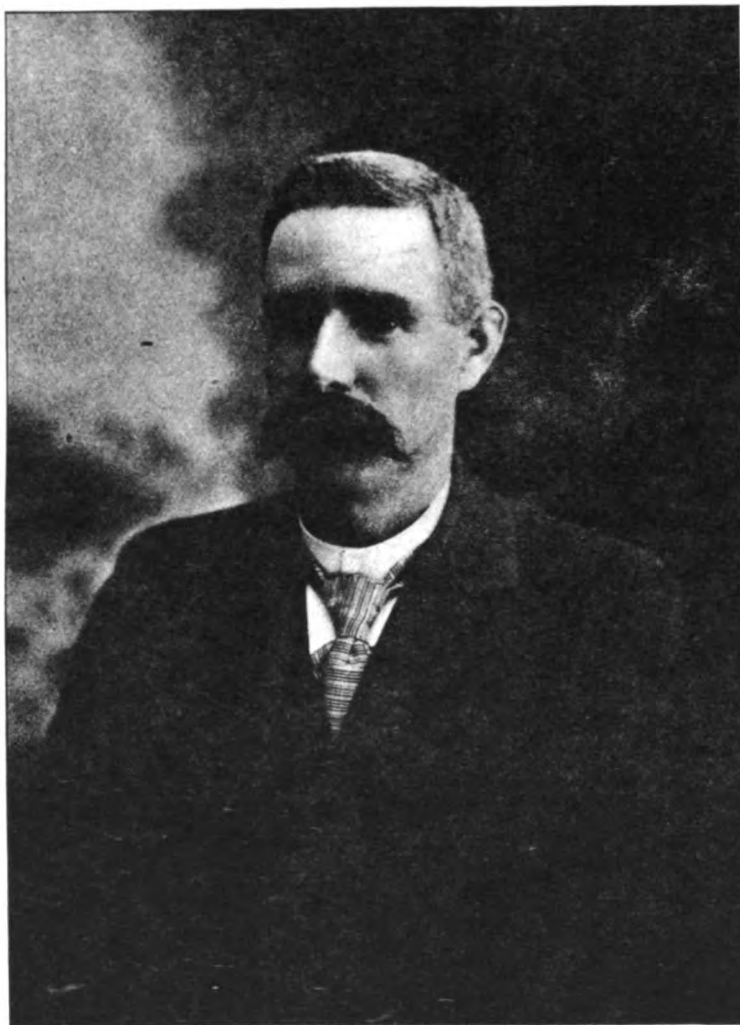
milling business. To this he applied all his energy, and by his perseverance and enterprise made himself popular among all classes of people. He was president of the S. F. A. in 1895. For the last year and a half he has been engaged in operating oil wells.

He was married Dec. 8, 1890, to Julia Martin, who was born May 22, 1870, and they have one child, Nellie G., born November 18, 1891. He is a Democrat in politics, and was the nominee of his party in 1896 for sheriff of Wood county, and ran ahead of his ticket; but, as the county is Republican by a large majority, he was not elected.

JOHN G. WATTS, a resident of Haskins, Middleton township, one of the most enterprising and successful business men of Wood county, was born November 23, 1854, in Somersetshire, England, where his ancestors on both sides had resided for many generations. His parents, Joseph and Mary (Haymes) Watts, were both born there.

Joseph Watts, his father, started in life as a day laborer, and in 1856 came to Ohio, spending a few years in Cuyahoga county, also at Clyde, Sandusky county, finally moving to Wood county, in 1864 locating at the present site of Haskins. At that time there were but few houses there; but, seeing the fine opportunities for the lumber business, he bought a sawmill, and eventually established a large trade. He kept abreast of the tide of progress, which, indeed, his own energy did much to strengthen, and he will always be remembered as a leader among the founders of the town. In early days he was a Republican, but later a Democrat. He died in 1891, his wife in 1888. Of their seven children, five grew to maturity, viz.: Joseph, a lumberman at Pennington Gap, Va.; Ann, the widow of John Slawson, of Haskins; Alfred, who died at the age of twenty; John G., our subject; and Elizabeth, who married Henry Brooks, of Haskins.

John G. Watts, whose name introduces this sketch, acquired his early education mainly in an old log school house near Haskins. In his boyhood he became of valuable assistance to his father, for whom he worked until he was twenty-six years old, when he bought the Haskins sawmill from him. In 1881 he purchased the Haskins gristmill, and combined the two, to which he has since added a feed-mill and a large planing-mill and lumber yard. He also engaged in the grain business, and is now the principal buyer and shipper in his vicinity. In addition to these he conducts a farm of 120 acres, and is interested in some oil wells. He was among the first to de-



*J. G. Hatto*



velop the oil industry in his section of the county, and to his personal energy much is due in this line, as in other lines of enterprise. In his business interests he gives employment in all to a large number of hands.

In 1875, Mr. Watts was married to Miss Ellen Hogland, a native of Haskins, born March 12, 1857, one of the ten children of John and Arrietta Hogland, highly respected farming people, who were of New Jersey birth, in which State they were married, about 1840, moving to Butler county, Ohio. There they remained some eight years, and then came to Haskins, where they passed the remainder of their days, Mr. Hogland dying in March, 1874, his wife in June, 1892. Mr. and Mrs. Watts have two children: Charles, born August 8, 1878, and Ross, born July 19, 1885. Mrs. Watts is a member of the Baptist Church, while Mr. Watts is a liberal supporter of both Church and school. He is justly classed among the solid, well-to-do men of Middleton township, a leader in all measures tending to the prosperity and improvement of the county at large. In politics he affiliates with the Democratic party, but in voting he is not influenced by political ties. He has no time for office, although he has served in the council. Socially he is a member of the F. & A. M., and at the present time is a member of Tontogany Lodge.

**A. B. GOODYEAR.** The name of this gentleman is widely and favorably known throughout Bloomdale, and the surrounding country, where he is prosperously engaged in the blacksmithing and plumbing business. His birth occurred in Southampton township, Franklin Co., Penn., September 24, 1856, and he is a son of Conrad and Elizabeth (Hasfield) Goodyear. In the family were eight children, three sons and five daughters, seven of whom are still living. The mother passed away in the Keystone State; but the father, who is a shoemaker by trade, now finds a pleasant home with our subject.

A. B. Goodyear is the third son and sixth child in the family. His education was obtained in the common schools, and at the age of seventeen years, he began learning the blacksmith's trade, at which he served an apprenticeship of two and a half years. He was then employed in his native State until the fall of 1876, when he came to Bloomdale, working for Jesse Andress, and later for John Hyter. When the blacksmithing business was dull, he learned the shoemaker's trade, at which he worked for a year and a half. In 1886 he opened a blacksmith shop on Walnut street, conducting same until the fall of 1894,

when he removed to his new building in the Linhart addition, where he also has a plumbing establishment, he having embarked in the latter business in 1887.

Since casting his first vote Mr. Goodyear has ever supported the Democratic party. He has served two terms as a member of the city council. Socially he is a member of Bloomdale Lodge No. 278, K. of P. He is a stockholder in the Building and Loan Association of Bloomdale, and also in the Bloomdale Creamery. He is a straightforward business man, enterprising and progressive. On his arrival in Bloomdale he was but a laborer in search of employment; but by perseverance and ceaseless activity he has secured a liberal patronage, and won the confidence of all with whom he has had business or social dealings. Besides his shop he also owns a pleasant home, where he and his father reside, the latter, who came here in 1886, having reached the ripe old age of eighty-three years.

**JOSEPH HORN**, a prominent retired agriculturist of Bowling Green, was born in Blanchard township, Hancock Co., Ohio, March 6, 1847, the son of Christopher Horn. His mother died when he was only six months old, and his father, a year and a half later, leaving him to the kindly care of a neighboring farmer, Mr. John Dukes, with whom he lived until his marriage. He enjoyed the usual educational advantages furnished in the country schools, and worked upon the farm until the age of twenty-six, when he married his first wife, Miss Elizabeth Wood, and settled in Milton township, Wood county, upon a farm of eighty acres, a gift from his foster-father. His wife was a native of Hancock county, born near Findlay in 1852. She died February 9, 1877, leaving one child, J. E., born September 21, 1876, now a clerk in a store at Bowling Green, Ohio.

On October 4, 1877, Mr. Horn was married to Mrs. E. M. W. McMahan, who was born in England December 8, 1848, and came with her parents to this country when she was four years old. By her first union, with George M. McMahan, she has one daughter, Luella C., now Mrs. Lashuay, of Liberty township, this county. One daughter was born of the second marriage, Candace L., who is at home.

In 1891 Mr. Horn moved to Bowling Green. Subsequently he sold his farm in Liberty township, on which he had resided before coming to Bowling Green, and bought a farm near that city, on which oil was found later in paying quantities, and he has since disposed of it to good advantage by sale and lease, investing the proceeds in real

estate in Bowling Green, where he has resided since 1891. He is an active worker in the Church of Christ, in which he has held positions of honor and usefulness. He was the superintendent of the Sunday-school at Bethel Church for three years, and State delegate to the International Sunday-school Convention at St. Louis in June, 1893. Mr. Horn has voted the Prohibition ticket of late years, but he was formerly a Republican; socially he is a member of the K. O. T. M., is also a member of the A. T. U.

EDGAR KNODLE is at present a general merchant of Bairdstown, where he is also serving as agent for the Baltimore & Ohio railroad and the United States Express Company. His father, Rev. Hiram Knodle, was born in November, 1829, at Fairplay, Md., where his school days were passed, after which he entered the employ of his father, who owned a general merchandise store and shoe factory, having under him about ten men. Slavery prevailed in the community at that time. At the age of twenty-four he entered a Lutheran University near Hagerstown, Md., and after his graduation began the work of the ministry at Hancock, that State, where he remained for seventeen years, during which time his father died and he was left a good legacy. At that place he was married, and by the union had two children—Mattie, who died at the age of twenty-two years; and Freeland, a resident of Sharpsburg, Md. In 1856 his wife died, and he later married Susan Mason, of Indian Springs, Md. Of the three children born of this union two reached adult age—Jeremiah Mason, who for the past two years has been superintendent of the Minster Manufacturing Company, at Minster, Ohio; and Edgar.

The last named was born at Moresville, Md., July 23, 1865, and was only two years of age when his mother died. At the age of five years he entered the schools of Clear Spring, that State, which he attended for two years, his first teacher being Miss Lizzie Gardner, and as his father removed to Little Cove, Penn., a distance of eighteen miles, he there continued his studies for the following two years. The family then became residents of Mercersburg, Franklin Co., Penn., eighteen miles from Chambersburg, where the father was foreman of several mills engaged in taking out ship timber and tan bark. The education of our subject was completed at Convey, Ohio, where his father was then preaching, and, at the age of sixteen, he went to Middle Point, Ohio, where he was employed at \$1 per day in the stove-jointing busi-

ness. Being offered an increase in salary, he went to Belmore, where he gradually worked his way upward, and received a recommendation from his employer, George Marsh, to a position as foreman of a factory at Danville, Tenn. He held that position until failing health compelled him to go to the mountains to recuperate; but as he seemed to derive no benefit therefrom, he returned North, and for a time worked at his trade at Belmore, Hectar and Elm Center, Ohio, receiving from \$3 to \$3.50 per day. Inheriting some money from his mother, which property had been in the Orphans Court at Hagerstown, Md., for twenty years, he went to Nevada, Ohio, where he served an apprenticeship as a watchmaker in his father's store, and at the end of three years he started a jewelry store at New Rieggle, Ohio. Being called to the aid of his father, he returned, after a few months, to Nevada, where, for about a year, the firm of Knodle & Son existed. The father then resigned the ministry, and took complete charge of the store. After a few months then spent at New Rieggle, Mr. Knodle came to Bairdstown, where he has since resided, and to his stock of jewelry he added general merchandise. In August, 1890, he was appointed postmaster, which office he resigned to Frank H. Crawford in January, 1894, and he has since devoted his time to his present occupations.

On November 24, 1892, Mr. Knodle was united in marriage with Miss Hester Estella Weaver, and to them have been born two children—Carl E. and Helen G. Politically he is a staunch Republican, and has been elected clerk of the corporation by a handsome majority. He is identified with Rathbone Lodge, K. of P., and is a sincere and faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he is now trustee. Mr. Knodle is a man of good financial ability and excellent judgment, and, since becoming a resident of Bairdstown, has won the respect and confidence of the community, occupying a leading position among its influential citizens.

JONAS HANELY, one of the early pioneers of Wood county, located first on forty acres of land in Troy township. Here since that time he has wisely continued to live, and given his time and attention to the building up of a homestead, and judging from present appearances he has succeeded in an admirable manner. His fine farm, comprising 100 acres, has been placed under a good state of cultivation, and he has erected suitable buildings thereon. He looked upon this portion of the county during its early

settlement by white men, and has watched with the deepest interest its development and prosperity.

Lebanon county, Penn., was the early home of our subject, where he was born in January, 1826, on the farm of his parents, Michael and Susanna (Stoner) Hanely, also natives of the Keystone State, and, in 1830, was brought to Stark county, Ohio, where the father opened up a farm in the midst of the wilderness, and there died. His wife, who survived him, departed this life in Defiance county, Ohio. Of their children we have record of the following: Elias resides in Lake township, Wood county. Moses died in Richland county, Ohio. Mrs. Catherine Shriner died in Troy township. Jonas is next in order of birth. Andrew makes his home in Defiance county, Ohio. Mrs. Sally Gockly, a widow, lives in Stark county.

On coming to Ohio, our subject was only four years old, and the common schools of Stark county afforded him his educational privileges. At the age of twenty-two he became a resident of Troy township, where he was married, in 1855, to Miss Susanna Smith, a native of Wayne county, Ohio, and a daughter of John and Eva Smith, who were born in Pennsylvania and removed to Wayne county, at an early day, whence they came to Troy township. Her parents both died in Wood county, the father in Lake township, and the mother in Troy township. To Mr. and Mrs. Hanely were born six children, but two are now deceased—Joseph, who died in Valparaiso, Ind., and William, who died in Troy township. Those living are Mrs. Mary Ream, of Lemoyne, Ohio; Mrs. Sarah Crawford, of Paulding county, Ohio; George, who is married, and resides in Lake township; and John, at home. Mr. Hanely is a member of the Lutheran Church, and in politics votes independently, not caring to be bound by party ties.

CHARLES COUTANT, a son of Jasper and Phœbe (Birdsall) Coutant, was born in Northampton county, Penn., March 28, 1822. His father, who was born in 1793, was the son of Samuel Coutant, a farmer. Jasper Coutant also followed farming and lumbering. He was the eldest of nine children, and was reared in Ulster county, N. Y. In that State he married Miss Phœbe Birdsall, who was born January 22, 1796. They had eleven children, five of whom are yet living: Gideon and Joseph, both of Greenwich; Charles, the fifth child; Benjamin, of Cleveland, Ohio; and Birdsall Z., of Bloom township. The father lived for many years in Pennsylvania, where

he died in February, 1855. In 1856, his widow removed to Greenwich, Ohio, where her death occurred May 7, 1896, at the extreme old age of one hundred years, three months and sixteen days.

Our subject's educational privileges were very limited, as his services were much needed at home. At the age of twenty-three, he began work at the carpenter's trade, and in the fall of 1845, he removed to Huron county, Ohio, working at his trade in Greenwich. He was married in Bronson township, Huron county, April 13, 1848, to Rebecca Taylor, who was born in Sophiasburg, Canada, February 18, 1824, a daughter of Oliver and Eleanor (King) Taylor, the former of whom was for several years a butcher of Norwalk, Ohio.

In the fall of 1845, Mr. Coutant came to Wood county, and purchased eighty acres of land in Section 36, Bloom township, for \$250. His capital then consisted of but \$15, but by working at the carpenter's trade he succeeded in paying for his land. This necessarily made the improvement of his farm slow work. He returned to Huron county, where he followed carpentering, and it was not until after his marriage that he erected a building on his place. The first was a log cabin, 18 x 20 feet, into which he moved before doors and windows had been put in. There was wild game in the forest, and it seemed that the work of civilization had hardly been begun. He vigorously prosecuted his work, and in the course of time bought eighty acres of land adjoining his first purchase, transforming the whole into an excellent farm. His wife proved him a faithful helpmeet; before her marriage she learned to do tailoring, and by her needle saved many a dollar to the family.

The children were all born on the home farm, and are now all in homes of their own. Jasper O. is deputy county auditor of Iowa county, Iowa; David B. is a farmer of Bloom township; Phœbe died at the age of three years; Mary A. is the wife of J. W. Smith, of Bloom township; and George B. is a farmer of the same locality. The parents also reared an adopted daughter, Jennie Pitcher, who lived with them from the age of three years until her marriage with Foster Ferguson, of Perry township.

In politics Mr. Coutant was originally a Whig, but has been a Republican since the organization of that party, and has been tendered a number of offices, which he has always declined. In religious faith he is a Quaker, and his wife is connected with the Liberal United Brethren Church of Bloomdale.



AMOS HAMPSHIRE, a prominent and influential agriculturist of Perry township, is descended from one of the earliest pioneer families of Seneca county, Ohio. His birth occurred there March 20, 1849, and he is a son of Adam and Margaret (Shonts) Hampshire, the former a native of Muskingum county, and the latter of Stark county, Ohio. At an early day the paternal grandfather, Adam Hampshire, removed to Seneca county, where the parents of our subject were married, and the father purchased the forty-acre farm of new land in Loudon township, where our subject was born. He later moved to Jackson township, where he resided for over forty years, his death there occurring at the age of seventy-two; but his wife had passed way eighteen years previous, and he had married the second time. By the first union ten children were born, three sons and seven daughters, six of whom are still living—Annie, Amos, Lucinda, Reuben, Rufus, and Amanda. In his farming operations the father was very successful, leaving at his death a property valued at \$17,000, all of which had been accumulated through his own hard work and good management. Though not an aspirant for political honors, he held several minor offices, and ever discharged the duties with promptness and fidelity.

As Amos Hampshire was the eldest son, there was always plenty of work for him to do on the farm, and education was considered a secondary matter. Though his own privileges in that direction were limited, he is a great friend of the cause of education, and does all in his power for its advancement. He remained upon the home farm until his marriage, which was celebrated in Perry township, November 19, 1872, when Miss Emma Strouse became his wife. A native of Montgomery township, Wood county, she is a daughter of George Strouse, and, by her marriage, she has become the mother of two children—Amanda M. and George A., both of whom are well-known young people of the community.

Mr. Hampshire located on his present farm of eighty acres in Section 11, Perry township, where he has made many excellent improvements—a good home has replaced his first log house, and, where at present is one of his best fields, he once cradled wheat when the water covered the ground about one-half foot deep. It was an arduous task, but he succeeded in making his place one of the best in the township. He is a wide-awake, public-spirited man, and very popular with all who know him. Politically Mr. Hampshire votes the straight Democratic ticket, has served as constable in Perry township, and

for over seventeen years has been school director of District No. 7. Socially he is connected with the Odd Fellows Lodge of Risingsun, Ohio; in religious faith, his wife is a member of the Evangelical Church.

R. A. HUGHES. Foremost among the leading citizens and wide-awake business men of Cygnet, Ohio, is the subject of this sketch. He is a native of Aroostook county, Maine, born September 10, 1853.

The father of our subject, Alexander Hughes, was a farmer of Maine, and died when R. A. was sixteen years old, the mother dying three years later. Two children were born to this couple—R. A. and Alice, and, on the death of his parents, our subject was left the care of his sister, and the home farm, which he still owns. He educated his sister, who was five years his junior, and she is now the wife of M. A. Siphers, of Toledo, Ohio.

On August 23, 1874, Mr. Hughes was united in marriage with Miss Lena Martin, a native of Aroostook county. Two years later he moved to the Pennsylvania oil fields, locating at Grease City, Butler county, at which time he was only a day laborer. Later he went to Belle Camp, McKean Co., Penn., where he opened a small general store, which was his first experience in that line, and, although his means were limited, and his stock small, he prospered in the business. In the fall of 1880 he began to operate in the oil territory; and in August, 1890, he moved to Cygnet, and built a frame business office, which was destroyed in the great fire. He then erected his present substantial brick block, one of the best in Cygnet, in which he conducts a general store, doing a leading mercantile trade, in addition to which he is a member of the Jim Oil Company, and of the oil firm of Barnum & Hughes, and has individual holdings in the oil territory. He is an extensive producer and well-known operator. In 1894 he started in the coal business, which he conducts in connection with his other enterprises. On January 1, 1896, the first electric light in Cygnet was produced from the plant put in by Mr. Hughes, of which he is sole owner. The plant is a modern one, supplied by the Jenny system, with a capacity of 800 volts, forming one of the most complete plants, for the size of the town, in Ohio. This piece of public-spiritedness has been a great help to the place.

Our subject is a member of Lodge No. 272, F. & A. M., at Butler, Penn., and of White Swan Lodge, K. of P., at Cygnet. In politics he is a staunch Democrat, and has the interest of his party at heart, although no office-seeker. He

served one term in the city council, and has been chief of the fire department since its organization. Mr. Hughes is an extensive real-estate owner, and has several fine houses in Cygnet, of which he is one of the substantial business men, popular, admired, and respected by his many friends.

W. A. ESTERLY, a well and favorably known citizen of Portage township, is a son of Jacob Esterly, who was a farmer of that township for about twenty years.

Jacob Esterly was born in September, 1822, in Wittenberg, Germany, son of Jacob Esterly, Sr., and when seven years old was brought by his parents to the United States, the family settling in Ohio in an early day. They lived for a time in Columbiana county, and thence removed to Hancock county, near Mt. Blanchard, where Jacob Esterly, Sr., died. Jacob Esterly married Miss Rhoda Armantrau, a native of Knox county, Ohio, whose mother died in that county when she was but a girl, and, her father remarrying, she left home and went to Hancock county, supporting herself until her marriage. She became the mother of two children, viz.: Henry, a carpenter of St. Mary, Ohio, and W. A., whose name opens this sketch. She died in October, 1860, when the latter was only a few weeks old. She was laid to rest in Hancock county. On October 31, 1861, Mr. Esterly remarried, in Hancock county, his second wife being Annie Bowers, who was born January 27, 1839, in Stark county, Ohio, daughter of Samuel and Mary (Rangeler) Bowers, who settled in Biglick township, Hancock county, when Annie was but nine months old. To this union were born four children: Mary (Mrs. Wesley Gilson), of Portage township; Samuel, who died at the age of twelve years; Annie (Mrs. Alonzo Clemens), of Portage township, and Ada, who died when seventeen years old.

In March, 1864, Jacob Esterly came with his family to Wood county, making the trip with an ox-team, which afterward often took them to church. They settled on eighty acres of new land which he had purchased, situated in Section 23, Portage township, and an old log house with rough floor, and altogether rudely constructed was their first home. Only the higher portions of the ground were cleared, the lower portions having been merely cut over, and a dense growth of brush covered the portions where the timber had been felled. Mr. Esterly continued to work this place the remainder of his life, and made a fine property of it. He was a self-made man, having begun life with nothing but his own en-

ergy and ambition, though, after he had been fairly started on the road to prosperity, he received a little help in the shape of \$200, which had been left to him. He died November 30, 1884, of typhoid fever, and was laid to rest in Mt. Zion Church cemetery. He was a member of the German Baptist Church, in which he served as deacon, and in political belief he was a Republican. He served as school director of Portage township, but was no office-seeker, attending strictly to his own affairs. After his death Mrs. Esterly lived on the farm until June, 1895, when she removed to Six Points, and on July 4, 1895, she became the wife of Israel Whisler. She is a member of the German Baptist Church.

W. A. Esterly was born September 26, 1860, near Vanlue, Hancock Co., Ohio, and, being a mere child when his parents settled in Wood county, received all his education in District No. 8, Portage township, having Miss Loomis for his first teacher. He attended school until about eighteen years old, and has since been a great reader, acquiring in this way much useful information. He remained at home until twenty years of age, and, having learned the carpenter's trade under his brother Henry, followed the same until 1885, since which time he has been engaged in agriculture on his present farm in Section 23, Portage township, where he owns forty acres of good land. When he took this farm but four acres of the land were cleared, and he has not only succeeded in placing the whole tract under cultivation, but has also done all his own carpenter work, a fact which speaks volumes for his enterprise and industry.

On March 13, 1880, in Portage township, Mr. Esterly was married to Miss Emma Redman, daughter of George W. Redman; she was born in Portage township, and died July 10, 1882, leaving no children; her remains rest in Mt. Zion Cemetery. On May 13, 1886, in Portage township, our subject married, for his second wife, Miss Leora Whitman, who was born in July, 1869, near Syracuse, N. Y., daughter of Luther Whitman, a farmer, who died in Portage township in 1894. One child has come to this union, Georgie M., born May 13, 1887. Mrs. Esterly is a member of the Methodist Church, while Mr. Esterly affiliates with the U. B. Church. He has been an active man in his community, where he is widely and thoroughly acquainted, and his influence in all local matters has ever been given to those measures he considers best for the welfare of his town and county. In 1881 he was elected constable of Portage township, and served one year in that office; in 1884 he was

that locality, sold his land and began looking for another home. He had two brothers, who were prominent citizens of Perfysburg, Ohio—John, a well-known attorney, and Shibnah, a successful merchant. They each owned eighty acres of new land in Section 21, Montgomery township, which they gave to Buckley Spink in order to induce him to locate there. In a covered wagon drawn by three horses, he started with his family for Wood county, in the spring of 1837, and they were eleven days on the road, two and a half days being required to travel the last twenty-one miles from Fremont, Ohio, to their farm, and they were often compelled to seek help from owners of oxen to pull them out of the mud. Their first home was of logs, with a puncheon floor, and they endured all the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life. Upon that farm the grandfather died, May 26, 1877, and his wife August 20, 1874. They now rest side by side in the cemetery at Prairie Depot. His political support was given to the Republican party.

On reaching man's estate Solon Spink was married, March 6, 1859, in Wood county, the lady of his choice being Miss Martha Burns, who was born in Stark county, Ohio, September 18, 1836, daughter of Jacob Burns, and they became the parents of three children—James L., subject of this review; Albert W., a prominent farmer of Montgomery township; and Minerva F., now Mrs. John J. Dicken, of Jerry City, Ohio. The father was engaged in operating the home farm until his death, which occurred January 31, 1876, and his remains were interred at Prairie Depot. He left a debt upon the old homestead, as he was buying it from the other heirs, and was called from this life very suddenly, before he had finished paying for the place. The sons were quite young; but they went resolutely to work, and now have the farm free from indebtedness. It comprises 159 acres of rich and arable land, which they have placed under a high state of cultivation, and it is made to yield bountiful harvests for the care and labor expended upon it. The widowed mother still finds a pleasant home there with our subject, who is half-owner of the farm.

James L. Spink was born upon the place May 9, 1860, and as soon as old enough he entered the district school of the neighborhood; but his educational privileges were somewhat limited, as he had to begin work at the early age of eleven years, and he was only sixteen at the time of his father's death. On February 7, 1879, he married Miss Harriet Bockey, who was

born in Montgomery township January 11, 1862, daughter of Jackson and Elizabeth (Burns) Bockey. Her father died in Mungen, Portage township, Wood county, and her mother is now making her home there. To Mr. and Mrs. Spink have been born four children, their names and dates of birth being as follows: Elsie E., February 26, 1880; Phila, December 24, 1882; Emily, June 19, 1885; and Wilber, January 5, 1887. In 1894 our subject erected a pleasant residence upon his farm, on which he has made many excellent improvements, and he has stocked his place with a fine grade of Shropshire sheep and Jersey cattle. The neat and thrifty appearance of his farm denotes able management, strict attention to every detail of the business, and an enterprising, progressive and painstaking owner. As a man he holds a foremost place in the estimation of his fellow citizens, and well deserves the respect and confidence of all.

CHARLES L. CONKLIN, who is classed among the successful farmers of Plain township, is well worthy of notice in a work of this kind, and to be ranked among the men who have distinguished themselves as useful and enterprising citizens. He was born in Huron county, Ohio, December 15, 1851, and is the third in the family of seven children born to James and Eliza (Davenport) Conklin, the others being Jay, a farmer of Wood county; Alfred D., of Weston; James D., a merchant of Weston; Orma D., wife of Rev. B. Dupoy, of Henry county, Ohio; Luella J., wife of J. Brown; William H., a farmer; and A. J., of Middleton township. The father's birth occurred in 1825, in the Empire State, and when a young man he removed to Huron county, Ohio, where he was married to Miss Davenport, but later became a farmer of Plain township, Wood county. He is now living retired, he and his wife making their home in Weston.

In a manner similar to that of most farmer boys, Charles L. Conklin passed the days of his boyhood and youth, attending the common schools, and working on his father's farm until he reached his majority, when he started out in life for himself. He was first employed by the lumber firm of Stearns & Dubbs, of Deshler, Henry Co., Ohio, with whom he remained for five years, when he returned to Plain township and purchased twenty acres of arable land, which he operated for four years. He then disposed of that property and bought the forty-acre farm on which he now resides. A destructive fire visited him a few years ago, destroying his dwelling with its contents, also his barns and other farm build-

ings, causing him a loss of \$1,200, partly covered by insurance. These have been replaced; however, by substantial structures, including his residence, which cost \$1,000.

At Weston, Ohio, October 6, 1874, Mr. Conklin married Phœbe Brisbin, by whom he has three children—Jessie, born June 24, 1875; George, born October 18, 1876; and Edison, born December 10, 1878. Robert Brisbin, the father of Mrs. Conklin, was born in 1809, educated in his native place, and in New York married Phœbe Call, and twelve children were born by their union—Marsey, deceased; James F.; Elizabeth, deceased; Levi, who was killed in the Civil war; Marion, deceased; Warren, a veteran of the same war; Ellen, wife of Jesse Dease; Eugene, a resident of Bowling Green; Albert, who was a soldier in the war of the Rebellion, and now makes his home in Bowling Green; Charles, a resident of Michigan; William, of New York; and Phœbe, who was born March 25, 1853. Mr. Brisbin carried on farming in Weston township until his death in 1876, and his widow now finds a pleasant home with our subject.

Politically, Mr. Conklin is a staunch Republican, and the religious views of the family are those of the United Brethren Church. His thrift and industry have met with their legitimate reward, and he now has one of the best farms of the locality.

**CHARLES A. WHITMORE.** This gentleman is a general farmer and fruit raiser, pursuing his pleasant and profitable occupation in Sections 30 and 31, Ross township. He was born in that township, in 1855, and is a son of Waters and Susan (Consaul) Whitmore, the former a native of Massachusetts, and the latter of Steuben county, New York.

In 1825, Waters Whitmore had accompanied his father, Luther Whitmore, to Lucas county, Ohio, where the latter opened up a farm, and there died in 1845, his wife dying a few years later. The son was married in that county to Miss Susan Consaul, daughter of John and Marthy Consaul, who were also born in New York; they came west and located in Oregon township, Lucas county, where they developed and improved a farm, on which the mother died in February, 1862, the father surviving her a few years. After their marriage, the parents of our subject located on the banks of the Maumee river, where the father erected a brick house, which is still standing. He took the clay out of the bank and burned it, thus making his own brick; he finally sold this, and bought a good farm of 125 acres in Ross

township, this county, to which he removed in 1850; at the time of his purchase the land was covered with timber; but he devoted his time to its improvement, until his place was one of the most highly cultivated in the locality. He made his home there until his death in 1885; his widow is still living at the old homestead. Five children were born to them, one son dying in infancy; Louisa and Sophia, at home; Charles A., of this review; and Mrs. Mary Jane Henry, of East Toledo, Ohio.

Charles A. Whitmore early became familiar with agricultural pursuits upon the home farm, and acquired his literary education in the district schools of the township. He later attended school for one year at Toledo. He has always followed the occupation to which he was reared, and now owns a part of the farm on which he was born and has always lived, just outside the city limits of Toledo, where he is successfully engaged in fruit raising.

In Oregon township, Lucas county, Mr. Whitmore was married in 1882, the lady of his choice being Miss Dorcas Moon, who was born in that township, where her parents, Trayton and Harriet (Sands) Moon, natives of England, had located in 1852. Her father aided his adopted country in her struggle to preserve the Union during the Civil war. He and his worthy wife still make their home upon their old farm in Oregon township. Five children have come to bless the union of our subject and his wife—Freddie, Charley, Nina, Robert and Raymond.

As an honest man and worthy citizen, Mr. Whitmore deserves the respect and esteem in which he is held by his fellow-townsmen. In politics he is a Republican, intelligently supporting his party by voice and vote, although he does not care to take an active part in public life.

**A. J. SCHAUWEKER.** Among the enterprising and thrifty citizens of Bowling Green, whose ancestors were born in the old country, and who have done so much to promote the interests of the community in which they live, is the subject of this sketch. Born in Richland county, Ohio, November 19, 1843, he was the son of Michael and Mary M. (Goodbed) Schauweker, both natives of Germany, the former of whom was born about 1803, in Wittenberg, and the latter in 1812, in the same town. They were married in Richland county, and settled for awhile in Columbiana county, later moving to Crawford county, in about 1852, where the mother died, when our subject was eight years old. The father died in 1879, at about the age of seventy-six years.

They were the parents of three children: Andrew, a farmer in Portage township; A. J.; and Mary, who is the wife of Jerry Armstrong, of Wyandot county. After the death of his wife, Mr. Schauweker married Miss Terrece Peters, and six children were born to this union, as follows: Herman, living in Wyandot county; Lena, wife of J. Keller, of Crawford county, Ohio; Emma, who is single; Louise, who married Elmer Balielt, of Wyandot county, Ohio; William, living in Delaware county, Ohio; and Bertha, who is at home.

Mr. Schauweker spent his youth in Crawford county, where he learned the blacksmith's trade. He then satisfied his greatest desire in life by going to California, in 1863, and seeing for the first time the beauties of the Pacific slope. There he located, in Yuba county, and engaged in business, remaining for a time and then going to Placer county, taking up farming for himself. After staying there for three years, he moved to Santa Clara county, and teamed at Gilroy, besides working on a farm. He next spent one year in Alaska and British Columbia, and another year on the Deyoste river, mining and prospecting. He started from California in February, 1874, reaching his final destination in June, 1874, and remained there one season; then, returning to California, farmed in Contra Costa county for about six years. He was on the Pacific slope altogether eighteen and a half years. He returned to Ohio in 1882, and located in Wood county, where he was engaged in sawmilling, in Portage township. In 1888 he entered the oil business, and was associated with various oil-producing companies, in all of which he was very successful, and accumulated a comfortable fortune, after which he sold out his interest, and, with the exception of looking after his farm, is at present living retired in Bowling Green.

Mr. Schauweker was married April 24, 1883, in Wood county, to Mrs. Alice Ricket, who was born in Wood county, December 1, 1861. Four children have blessed this union, as follows: May, Orma, Lloyd, and Howard. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., the Encampment of Whitney Lodge in Portage, and the camp in Bowling Green. He is looked upon as one of the substantial men of the county, and has the respect and esteem of his fellow-citizens.

**ALEX. S. BROWN.** It is quite interesting to observe, in noting the various members of a community, how they gathered together from different States and localities, and how well they usually combine to form an intelligent and pros-

perous community. The subject of this history is a native of Pennsylvania, born in Allen township, Cumberland county, November 25, 1841. He is the offspring of James R. and Susanna (Searight) Brown, who in 1852, removed to Harrisville township, Medina Co., Ohio, where they rented land for two years. On August 24, 1855, they located in Section 31, Perry township, Wood county, their home being a log cabin, 18 x 20 feet, and wild game was still to be found in abundance in this then frontier region. Here the parents both departed this life, the father at the age of eighty, and the mother when over seventy-six years, and their remains were interred in Fostoria cemetery. At the time of their deaths they were members of the United Brethren Church, though they had formerly been Methodists, and in politics, the father was a stalwart Democrat. Our subject's only brother, James M. Brown, is at present a ranchman of Custer county, Montana.

Since the early days when Mr. Brown, of this review, attended the district school, he has seen great improvements in those institutions, which he thoroughly endorses. Like most farmer boys he was reared to habits of industry, and when the family located on the 160 acres of wild land in Wood county, which the father had purchased, he secured work from neighbors in order to earn the money for the support of the family.

In Hancock county, Ohio, in 1866, Mr. Brown was joined in wedlock with Miss Rebecca Crawford, by whom he had one child, James E., born January 14, 1867, and on the death of the mother she was laid to rest in Cannonsburg, Hancock county. He was again married in 1870, the lady of his choice being Miss Margaret Livingston, a native of Pittsburg, Penn., born January 25, 1843, and a daughter of Thomas and Rachel (Reed) Livingston. The father was a drayman, and was killed, in 1847, by the caving in of a sand bank, which caused him to fall upon a pick. When eighteen years of age Mrs. Brown came to Fostoria, Ohio, and lived with an aunt, Mrs. Mary Ferguson, the wife of William H. Ferguson, until her marriage. The family now includes six children born of the second union—William H., an oil-well-driller, of Perry township, born January 17, 1872; Jessie M., born May 4, 1873; Milo M., a bicycle rider, born February 1, 1877; Raymond L., born September 19, 1880; Frank S., born August 16, 1882; and Carl W., born January 25, 1886.

From its primitive condition, Mr. Brown has transformed his land to a finely cultivated farm, has made many excellent improvements, and is a

business man of more than ordinary ability. At one time he owned a half interest in a sawmill upon his farm, and was agent for farming implements and wind pumps, which added materially to his income. He now has 156 acres of arable land, which he is operating very successfully. Politically he is a Democrat, has served as school director of District No. 9, and is at present trustee of his township, while religiously, he and his wife are members of the Radical United Brethren Church of Bloomdale, of which he has been steward and is now a trustee.

**HENRY W. LEHR**, a hardware merchant of Dowling, and agent for the Lehr Manufacturing Company, is a native of Michigan, his birth having occurred in Monroe county, that State, March 28, 1857. His father, John Lehr, was a native of Germany, and acquired his education in the schools near his boyhood home. On coming to America he located in the Wolverine State, where he carried on farming until his death in 1892. His wife bore the maiden name of Mary C. Foster, and was called to the home beyond in 1890. Their family numbered nine children—Joseph; Adam, a resident of Monroe, Mich.; Peter; John F., a miner of Mexico; Frances, wife of Ludwig Lay; Henry; Mary, wife of C. Billmaier; Lizzie, who is keeping house for our subject; and Trissie, deceased.

Henry W. Lehr early became familiar with farm work on the old homestead, and he pursued his education in the common schools of Monroe county, Michigan. At the age of sixteen he left home and went to Fremont, where for three years he worked at the carriage trade. He then entered the car shops in Norwalk and Cambridge, Ohio, where he was employed for two years as car repairer, after which he spent five years in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, as a bridge builder on the Lake Erie & Western railroad. In 1892 he came to Dowling, and established the first hardware store in this place. He has since built up a good business, securing a good trade from the town and surrounding country. He is also agent for P. P. Mast & Co., the Lehr Manufacturing Company, the Plano Co., and D. M. Osborne, manufacturers of farm implements, and the patronage which he receives in this department of his business also adds considerable to his income. He manufactures and sells the Lehr wagons, and does all kinds of repair work, and a good business, secured through his capable management and enterprise, has brought to him a comfortable competence. He is known far and wide as a successful merchant and wagon maker, and

his high reputation in business circles is most enviable. After the death of his wife, Mr. Lehr spent a year traveling through the South and Southwest—Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Missouri, Texas, Arkansas and Iowa—and, in the last three States mentioned, was employed for a time.

On September 18, 1878, Mr. Lehr wedded Maggie Madigan, a native of Toronto, Canada, who died at Norwalk, Ohio, in 1883, leaving two children—John O., born April 19, 1879, is in the jewelry business at Toledo; and Ella May, born March 17, 1882, is attending school at Fremont. Mr. Lehr is a Democrat in politics. He holds membership with the Roman Catholic Church of Perrysburg.

**CHRIS SHEARER**, a retired farmer of Bowling Green, was born in Bavaria, Germany, June 2, 1833, a son of Henry and Wilhelmina (Vight) Shearer. The father was born in Bavaria in 1794, and came to America in 1856, settling in Crawford county, Ohio, where he died in 1877, his wife having departed this life in Germany. Their children were eight in number, of whom the youngest died in infancy. The others were Mary, who died in Germany; Daniel, who still lives in the old country; Nicholas, residing in Crawford county, Ohio; Elizabeth, who died in Germany; Henry, living in Seneca county, Ohio; Jacob, who died in Indiana; and Chris, our subject.

The subject of this sketch spent his youth in attending school, and working on a farm in his native country. In 1852 he emigrated to America, landing at New York City, whence he came to Ohio and settled in Crawford county. The story of his subsequent life is one which could hardly be told of the resident of any other country than the United States, where pluck and energy, with a good supply of common sense, are the best stepping stones to fortune. When the young emigrant reached New York, one dollar represented his entire capital, and he was obliged to borrow money from a companion to take him to Ohio. He could not speak a word of English, yet he at once undertook to learn the carpenter's trade, and soon was able to earn a living. His next step was equally as enterprising and successful, being his marriage to a bright American girl, Miss Catharine Brillheart, who was born in Stark county, Ohio, June 16, 1836.

In 1862 Mr. Shearer came to Wood county, where he worked at his trade, and also carried on farming. He first purchased a farm on Tontogony creek, in Washington township, on which

he lived until 1870, then buying a place in Plain township. This he cultivated until in October, 1893, when he took up his residence in Bowling Green, where he and his estimable wife are spending their declining years, surrounded by all the comforts of life, and enjoying the fruits of their labor. Mr. Shearer owns 210 acres of productive land, and during his busy and successful life has accumulated a comfortable fortune. He belongs to that class of sturdy Germans who become many of our best citizens, and by whose industry and thrift our country grows richer and stronger. Mr. Shearer and his wife reared a large family of children, whom they trained in habits of diligence and economy, and who have proved worthy. The following is the record: Laura Ann, born October 9, 1857, married Rev. Charles Shear (they reside in Marietta, Ohio, and have one child—Marie); John, born April 3, 1859, married Phoebe Haramon, and they have one child—Howard; Frank, born January 18, 1861, is unmarried and lives in Colorado; Philip, born December 16, 1862, married Genevieve Hearn, and resides in Texas (they have one child—Leslie); Mary, born April 3, 1865, became the wife of John Richard, and died June 24, 1881, leaving two children—Claude and Evalena; Oliver, born October 21, 1867, married May Hopkins, and they have two children—Guy and Ralph; Chris, born March 21, 1870, married Iva Irvin, and lives at Weston; Albert, born March 20, 1872, married Edna Himes; Jennie M., born October 9, 1875, died June 25, 1896; and Coral, born December 16, 1878.

In politics Mr. Shearer is a Republican, and in religious faith is a Baptist. He is highly respected by all who know him, and fills an honored place in the community.

GEORGE BROWNELLER, one of the leading agriculturists of Bloom township, and a veteran of the Civil war, is one of the self-made men of the county, whose untiring efforts to transform their once unproductive acres into fertile farms have made this region a beautiful garden spot. He was born November 21, 1842, in Perry township, Fayette Co., Pennsylvania.

Samuel Browneller, his father, was born east of the mountains in that State, but settled, in early manhood, in Fayette county, and married Miss Sarah Slotterback, by whom he had seven children: Lucinda, who married Elliott Porter, and lives near the old homestead; Frederick, a retired farmer, living in Findlay; David, a wealthy carpenter, of Fayette county, Penn.; Mary, the widow of Jacob Harris, residing near Flushing,

Ohio; George, our subject; Rebecca, Mrs. Porter Haggerty, of Hancock county; and Albert, a farmer of near Oskaloosa, Iowa. Our subject's father was a farmer, and accumulated a fine property from a meager start in life. He was a Democrat before the war, but became a Republican when the issues of that time were forced to the front; in his later years, however, he showed his sympathy with the temperance movement by voting with the Prohibition party. He was a regular and conscientious voter, but took no other part in political work. Both he and his wife were prominent members of the M. E. Church. They lived to a good old age, the mother dying in October, 1894, when eighty-four years old, and the father in August following, at the age of eighty-six, and both were buried at East Salem church, near their old home.

George Browneller spent his boyhood days mainly in farm work. He attended school three months in the year, and acquired a good elementary education, and he is now a hearty advocate of the best opportunities which can be given to the rising generation. When seventeen he began to learn the shoemaker's trade, and worked at same until 1862, when he enlisted in Company G, 16th Penn. Cav. He served seven months and was discharged; but later enlisted in Battery C, 2nd Penn. Heavy Art., and served until the close of the war, taking part in the operations around Petersburg and Richmond. He was detailed to carry messages most of this time. In April, 1865, he was discharged, being in the hospital at the time. He returned home, and remained until the spring of 1866, when he came to Wood county on a visit, and, the country pleasing him, he concluded to make his home here. He hauled wood for Mr. Vickers, of Toledo, for one year, and later for E. J. Rosendale and Alva French, of Bloom township. In 1867 he was married to Miss Caroline Rosendale, a native of Lorain county, and a daughter of William Rosendale, a leading citizen of Bloom township. She died in 1873, leaving two children: Sarah Jane, now Mrs. Charles Wineland, of Center township, and Charles M., a farmer of Webster township. Mr. Browneller was married, the second time, on January 21, 1874, to Mrs. Sarah (Ziegler) Walley, the widow of Alexander Walley, and daughter of Peter and Sarah E. (Fulmer) Ziegler, who came to Bloom township, in 1852, from Ashland county, where she was born, June 17, 1844. She had one child by her first marriage—John H. Walley, a farmer in Jackson township, Paulding county. Four children were born of the second union: Tulley lives at home, and is married to

Miss Nellie B. Stecker, of Cass township, Hancock county; George died in infancy; Flossie died at four years of age, and Daisy F. is at home.

After his first marriage Mr. Browneller lived a short time in Eagleville, and then bought sixty-four acres of land in Perry township, for which he went heavily in debt. The land was partly improved, but he was obliged to work hard to bring it into satisfactory condition. In the spring of 1877 he sold it, and bought eighty acres in Section 36, Bloom township, again incurring a debt. Thirty acres were cleared, but little ditching had been done, and Mr. Browneller had many years of hard work to make his present valuable farm, which now includes 120 acres in fine cultivation. A log house and barn stood on the place, and these they used for a time; but a new house was built in 1878, and a barn in 1879. In addition to the farm near Bloomdale, he owns forty acres in Center township, and at one time he possessed 240 acres, but he had given eighty acres to his children. He is a reliable man, good-hearted, and ready to help forward any worthy pleasure; his wife, who has been to him a most efficient helper, is an active member of the M. E. Church. Mr. Browneller is a charter member of Urie Post No. 110, G. A. R., of Bloomdale.

AMOS M. NEIFER, a prominent produce dealer of Bowling Green, was born in Paradise township, Lancaster Co., Penn., November 17, 1844, and is of German descent on his father's side.

Isaac Neifer, his grandfather, emigrated from the Fatherland in 1805, at the age of eighteen. He married Miss Elizabeth Miller, after his arrival, and later they settled at Wolcottville, Ind., where they spent the remainder of their lives. They had twelve children: Isaac (2) (our subject's father), Barbara, Catherine, Margaret, Abraham, Jacob, Christanna, Samuel, Julieann, Susan, Amos and Harriet. Isaac Neifer (2) was born in Pennsylvania, July 29, 1813. He married Harriet Oberly, a native of the same State, born May 16, 1821, a daughter of Adam Oberly; who was born in Lancaster county, Penn., February 28, 1788. He was married, in 1800, to Catherine Myers, also a native of Lancaster county, Penn., born July 6, 1788, and twelve children were born to them, viz.: Elizabeth, John, Isaac, Catharine, Daniel, Samuel, Margaret, Liddie, Sarah, Levi, Harriet (subject's mother), and Adam. Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Neifer came to Wood county in 1847, and located in the then unbroken forest, one mile south of Weston. They secured 120 acres of land, to which

they afterward added forty acres in the same section, being Section 3, Township 4, Range 9, in Milton township. Their implements for clearing and cultivating the farm were of a decidedly primitive sort; all the logging was done by hand, and for breaking the soil an old-fashioned shovel plow was used, with a cutter and oxen. The boyhood of our subject, and his brothers, was mainly spent in cutting and rolling logs, with but a short attendance at the neighboring district school. His father was a Whig previous to the war, and then a Republican until the Hayes and Tilden contest, after which he became a Greenbacker, and later an adherent of the People's Party. He and his wife, who is still living on the old farm, united with the M. E. Church many years ago, and he died in that faith on May 17, 1892. They had six children: Catherine, who died in infancy; Adam O., residing at the homestead; John M., who did gallant service for three years during the Civil war, in the 10th Company of Sharpshooters, attached to the 60th O. V. I.; Amos M., our subject; Sarah E., who died in childhood; and Isaac Newton, now a leading produce merchant at Weston.

At the age of nineteen our subject left the farm and learned telegraphy, and for several years was employed as an operator on the D. & M. S. R. R. Not finding this congenial, he tried several other occupations, and for a time was "on the road," first as salesman for a cigar manufacturer, and later as a buyer for a poultry dealer. He was remarkably successful in these ventures, and soon began trading on commission for himself in grain and other produce, but now deals mainly in poultry. He was married in 1866 to Miss Flora Bassett, a native of Wood county. Of their four daughters, the eldest, Emma B., married Russell Angel, of Weston, and has two children—Harry, and Fern; the second daughter, Hattie H., married Charles Strong, of Seville, Ohio, and they now live at Pemberville, Ohio; Minnie, died in childhood; the youngest, Lulu, is still at home.

Mr. Neifer is a man of varied talents, and an original and independent thinker. He takes great interest in politics, making close study of the issues of the time. Until the administration of Hayes he was a Republican, then, after championing the Greenback cause for some years, he became a supporter of the principles of the People's Party. Through these changes he has been led by one consistent hope, that of securing to the common people of our land, the freedom and the prosperity that should be the heritage of all. He is an earnest and impressive speaker upon



his favorite topics, and his well-stored memory gives him a ready command of facts in our political and financial history, which causes the average politician to dread to meet him in debate. He has held numerous offices; those of postmaster in Weston, while a mere youth, member of the city council of Bowling Green, acting chief of police on several occasions, and deputy U. S. marshal, being among them.

**B. B. ROCKWELL**, merchant miller and oil operator of North Baltimore, is regarded as one of the most popular and influential of the younger element of business men in the city. His birth occurred at Findlay, Ohio, October 24, 1866.

**P. V. Rockwell**, the grandfather of our subject, came from Vermont to Ohio before his marriage, and settled in Holmes county, where he married Miss Eliza Ann Freeman, who was born in Lancaster county, Penn., in 1813, and died in Holmes county, in 1883. They were members of the Presbyterian Church; he was deputy sheriff of Holmes county for several years, and also taught school there. In politics he was a Democrat. He died August 15, 1880, in North Baltimore. Twelve children were born to this couple, ten of whom grew to maturity. The great-grandfather, Jeremiah Rockwell, died in Holmes county, Ohio. He was of Puritan stock, his ancestors being among those who landed at Plymouth Rock.

**G. G. Rockwell**, father of our subject, was reared in Wayne county, Ohio, whence he went to Ashland county, and then to Holmes county. He received a common-school education, and learned the trade of a miller. At the solicitation of his son he came to North Baltimore, in 1880, and purchased what is now the North Baltimore Rolling Mills. He has since completely remodeled it from the old-fashioned flouring-mill with its old-time millstones to its present condition, with an entire outfit of modern machinery, and a capacity for grinding 100 barrels of flour daily. It is the pioneer mill of the town, being built in 1874, by Dr. Eaton. Mr. Rockwell buys and ships grain and flour, and sells all kinds of feed and coal. He was married December 31, 1860, to Miss Hannah Cromley, who was born in Findlay, Ohio, July 16, 1844, and they have three children: B. B. our subject; Charles J., book-keeper in the First National Bank of North Baltimore; and Fred B., who lives at home.

Our subject grew up in Findlay, Ohio, and went to school there; he learned telegraphy, but made no practical use of it. He induced his father to move to North Baltimore and go into the

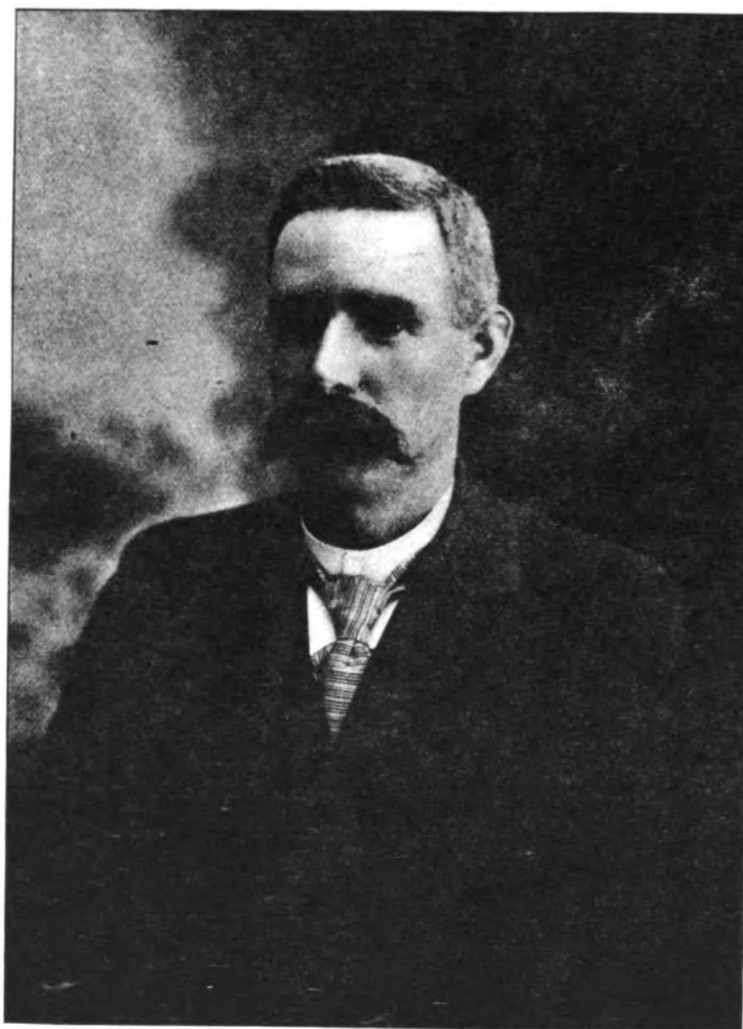
milling business. To this he applied all his energy, and by his perseverance and enterprise made himself popular among all classes of people. He was president of the S. F. A. in 1895. For the last year and a half he has been engaged in operating oil wells.

He was married Dec. 8, 1890, to Julia Martin, who was born May 22, 1870, and they have one child, Nellie G., born November 18, 1891. He is a Democrat in politics, and was the nominee of his party in 1896 for sheriff of Wood county, and ran ahead of his ticket; but, as the county is Republican by a large majority, he was not elected.

**JOHN G. WATTS**, a resident of Haskins, Middleton township, one of the most enterprising and successful business men of Wood county, was born November 23, 1854, in Somersetshire, England, where his ancestors on both sides had resided for many generations. His parents, Joseph and Mary (Haymes) Watts, were both born there.

Joseph Watts, his father, started in life as a day laborer, and in 1856 came to Ohio, spending a few years in Cuyahoga county, also at Clyde, Sandusky county, finally moving to Wood county, in 1864 locating at the present site of Haskins. At that time there were but few houses there; but, seeing the fine opportunities for the lumber business, he bought a sawmill, and eventually established a large trade. He kept abreast of the tide of progress, which, indeed, his own energy did much to strengthen, and he will always be remembered as a leader among the founders of the town. In early days he was a Republican, but later a Democrat. He died in 1891, his wife in 1888. Of their seven children, five grew to maturity, viz.: Joseph, a lumberman at Pennington Gap, Va.; Ann, the widow of John Slawson, of Haskins; Alfred, who died at the age of twenty; John G., our subject; and Elizabeth, who married Henry Brooks, of Haskins.

John G. Watts, whose name introduces this sketch, acquired his early education mainly in an old log school house near Haskins. In his boyhood he became of valuable assistance to his father, for whom he worked until he was twenty-six years old, when he bought the Haskins sawmill from him. In 1881 he purchased the Haskins gristmill, and combined the two, to which he has since added a feed-mill and a large planing-mill and lumber yard. He also engaged in the grain business, and is now the principal buyer and shipper in his vicinity. In addition to these he conducts a farm of 120 acres, and is interested in some oil wells. He was among the first to de-



*J. G. Hatto*



velop the oil industry in his section of the county, and to his personal energy much is due in this line, as in other lines of enterprise. In his business interests he gives employment in all to a large number of hands.

In 1875, Mr. Watts was married to Miss Ellen Hogland, a native of Haskins, born March 12, 1857, one of the ten children of John and Arrietta Hogland, highly respected farming people, who were of New Jersey birth, in which State they were married, about 1840, moving to Butler county, Ohio. There they remained some eight years, and then came to Haskins, where they passed the remainder of their days, Mr. Hogland dying in March, 1874, his wife in June, 1892. Mr. and Mrs. Watts have two children: Charles, born August 8, 1878, and Ross, born July 19, 1885. Mrs. Watts is a member of the Baptist Church, while Mr. Watts is a liberal supporter of both Church and school. He is justly classed among the solid, well-to-do men of Middleton township, a leader in all measures tending to the prosperity and improvement of the county at large. In politics he affiliates with the Democratic party, but in voting he is not influenced by political ties. He has no time for office, although he has served in the council. Socially he is a member of the F. & A. M., and at the present time is a member of Tontogany Lodge.

**A. B. GOODYEAR.** The name of this gentleman is widely and favorably known throughout Bloomdale, and the surrounding country, where he is prosperously engaged in the blacksmithing and plumbing business. His birth occurred in Southampton township, Franklin Co., Penn., September 24, 1856, and he is a son of Conrad and Elizabeth (Hasfield) Goodyear. In the family were eight children, three sons and five daughters, seven of whom are still living. The mother passed away in the Keystone State; but the father, who is a shoemaker by trade, now finds a pleasant home with our subject.

A. B. Goodyear is the third son and sixth child in the family. His education was obtained in the common schools, and at the age of seventeen years, he began learning the blacksmith's trade, at which he served an apprenticeship of two and a half years. He was then employed in his native State until the fall of 1876, when he came to Bloomdale, working for Jesse Address, and later for John Hyter. When the blacksmithing business was dull, he learned the shoemaker's trade, at which he worked for a year and a half. In 1886 he opened a blacksmith shop on Walnut street, conducting same until the fall of 1894,

when he removed to his new building in the Linhart addition, where he also has a plumbing establishment, he having embarked in the latter business in 1887.

Since casting his first vote Mr. Goodyear has ever supported the Democratic party. He has served two terms as a member of the city council. Socially he is a member of Bloomdale Lodge No. 278, K. of P. He is a stockholder in the Building and Loan Association of Bloomdale, and also in the Bloomdale Creamery. He is a straight-forward business man, enterprising and progressive. On his arrival in Bloomdale he was but a laborer in search of employment; but by perseverance and ceaseless activity he has secured a liberal patronage, and won the confidence of all with whom he has had business or social dealings. Besides his shop he also owns a pleasant home, where he and his father reside, the latter, who came here in 1886, having reached the ripe old age of eighty-three years.

**JOSEPH HORN,** a prominent retired agriculturist of Bowling Green, was born in Blanchard township, Hancock Co., Ohio, March 6, 1847, the son of Christopher Horn. His mother died when he was only six months old, and his father, a year and a half later, leaving him to the kindly care of a neighboring farmer, Mr. John Dukes, with whom he lived until his marriage. He enjoyed the usual educational advantages furnished in the country schools, and worked upon the farm until the age of twenty-six, when he married his first wife, Miss Elizabeth Wood, and settled in Milton township, Wood county, upon a farm of eighty acres, a gift from his foster-father. His wife was a native of Hancock county, born near Findlay in 1852. She died February 9, 1877, leaving one child, J. E., born September 21, 1876, now a clerk in a store at Bowling Green, Ohio.

On October 4, 1877, Mr. Horn was married to Mrs. E. M. W. McMahan, who was born in England December 8, 1848, and came with her parents to this country when she was four years old. By her first union, with George M. McMahan, she has one daughter, Luella C., now Mrs. Lashuay, of Liberty township, this county. One daughter was born of the second marriage, Candace L., who is at home.

In 1891 Mr. Horn moved to Bowling Green. Subsequently he sold his farm in Liberty township, on which he had resided before coming to Bowling Green, and bought a farm near that city, on which oil was found later in paying quantities, and he has since disposed of it to good advantage by sale and lease, investing the proceeds in real

estate in Bowling Green, where he has resided since 1891. He is an active worker in the Church of Christ, in which he has held positions of honor and usefulness. He was the superintendent of the Sunday-school at Bethel Church for three years, and State delegate to the International Sunday-school Convention at St. Louis in June, 1893. Mr. Horn has voted the Prohibition ticket of late years, but he was formerly a Republican; socially he is a member of the K. O. T. M., is also a member of the A. T. U.

EDGAR KNODLE is at present a general merchant of Bairdstown, where he is also serving as agent for the Baltimore & Ohio railroad and the United States Express Company. His father, Rev. Hiram Knodle, was born in November, 1829, at Fairplay, Md., where his school days were passed, after which he entered the employ of his father, who owned a general merchandise store and shoe factory, having under him about ten men. Slavery prevailed in the community at that time. At the age of twenty-four he entered a Lutheran University near Hagerstown, Md., and after his graduation began the work of the ministry at Hancock, that State, where he remained for seventeen years, during which time his father died and he was left a good legacy. At that place he was married, and by the union had two children—Mattie, who died at the age of twenty-two years; and Freeland, a resident of Sharpsburg, Md. In 1856 his wife died, and he later married Susan Mason, of Indian Springs, Md. Of the three children born of this union two reached adult age—Jeremiah Mason, who for the past two years has been superintendent of the Minster Manufacturing Company, at Minster, Ohio; and Edgar.

The last named was born at Moresville, Md., July 23, 1865, and was only two years of age when his mother died. At the age of five years he entered the schools of Clear Spring, that State, which he attended for two years, his first teacher being Miss Lizzie Gardner, and as his father removed to Little Cove, Penn., a distance of eighteen miles, he there continued his studies for the following two years. The family then became residents of Mercersburg, Franklin Co., Penn., eighteen miles from Chambersburg, where the father was foreman of several mills engaged in taking out ship timber and tan bark. The education of our subject was completed at Convey, Ohio, where his father was then preaching, and, at the age of sixteen, he went to Middle Point, Ohio, where he was employed at \$1 per day in the stave-jointing busi-

ness. Being offered an increase in salary, he went to Belmore, where he gradually worked his way upward, and received a recommendation from his employer, George Marsh, to a position as foreman of a factory at Danville, Tenn. He held that position until failing health compelled him to go to the mountains to recuperate; but as he seemed to derive no benefit therefrom, he returned North, and for a time worked at his trade at Belmore, Hectar and Elm Center, Ohio, receiving from \$3 to \$3.50 per day. Inheriting some money from his mother, which property had been in the Orphans Court at Hagerstown, Md., for twenty years, he went to Nevada, Ohio, where he served an apprenticeship as a watchmaker in his father's store, and at the end of three years he started a jewelry store at New Riegle, Ohio. Being called to the aid of his father, he returned, after a few months, to Nevada, where, for about a year, the firm of Knodle & Son existed. The father then resigned the ministry, and took complete charge of the store. After a few months then spent at New Riegle, Mr. Knodle came to Bairdstown, where he has since resided, and to his stock of jewelry he added general merchandise. In August, 1890, he was appointed postmaster, which office he resigned to Frank H. Crawford in January, 1894, and he has since devoted his time to his present occupations.

On November 24, 1892, Mr. Knodle was united in marriage with Miss Hester Estella Weaver, and to them have been born two children—Carl E. and Helen G. Politically he is a staunch Republican, and has been elected clerk of the corporation by a handsome majority. He is identified with Rathbone Lodge, K. of P., and is a sincere and faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he is now trustee. Mr. Knodle is a man of good financial ability and excellent judgment, and, since becoming a resident of Bairdstown, has won the respect and confidence of the community, occupying a leading position among its influential citizens.

JONAS HANELY, one of the early pioneers of Wood county, located first on forty acres of land in Troy township. Here since that time he has wisely continued to live, and given his time and attention to the building up of a homestead, and judging from present appearances he has succeeded in an admirable manner. His fine farm, comprising 100 acres, has been placed under a good state of cultivation, and he has erected suitable buildings thereon. He looked upon this portion of the county during its early

settlement by white men, and has watched with the deepest interest its development and prosperity.

Lebanon county, Penn., was the early home of our subject, where he was born in January, 1826, on the farm of his parents, Michael and Susanna (Stoner) Hanely, also natives of the Keystone State, and, in 1830, was brought to Stark county, Ohio, where the father opened up a farm in the midst of the wilderness, and there died. His wife, who survived him, departed this life in Defiance county, Ohio. Of their children we have record of the following: Elias resides in Lake township, Wood county. Moses died in Richland county, Ohio. Mrs. Catherine Shriner died in Troy township. Jonas is next in order of birth. Andrew makes his home in Defiance county, Ohio. Mrs. Sally Gockly, a widow, lives in Stark county.

On coming to Ohio, our subject was only four years old, and the common schools of Stark county afforded him his educational privileges. At the age of twenty-two he became a resident of Troy township, where he was married, in 1855, to Miss Susanna Smith, a native of Wayne county, Ohio, and a daughter of John and Eva Smith, who were born in Pennsylvania and removed to Wayne county, at an early day, whence they came to Troy township. Her parents both died in Wood county, the father in Lake township, and the mother in Troy township. To Mr. and Mrs. Hanely were born six children, but two are now deceased—Joseph, who died in Valparaiso, Ind., and William, who died in Troy township. Those living are Mrs. Mary Ream, of Lemoyne, Ohio; Mrs. Sarah Crawford, of Paulding county, Ohio; George, who is married, and resides in Lake township; and John, at home. Mr. Hanely is a member of the Lutheran Church, and in politics votes independently, not caring to be bound by party ties.

CHARLES COUTANT, a son of Jasper and Phœbe (Birdsall) Coutant, was born in Northampton county, Penn., March 28, 1822. His father, who was born in 1793, was the son of Samuel Coutant, a farmer. Jasper Coutant also followed farming and lumbering. He was the eldest of nine children, and was reared in Ulster county, N. Y. In that State he married Miss Phœbe Birdsall, who was born January 22, 1796. They had eleven children, five of whom are yet living: Gideon and Joseph, both of Greenwich; Charles, the fifth child; Benjamin, of Cleveland, Ohio; and Birdsall Z., of Bloom township. The father lived for many years in Pennsylvania, where

he died in February, 1855. In 1856, his widow removed to Greenwich, Ohio, where her death occurred May 7, 1896, at the extreme old age of one hundred years, three months and sixteen days.

Our subject's educational privileges were very limited, as his services were much needed at home. At the age of twenty-three, he began work at the carpenter's trade, and in the fall of 1845, he removed to Huron county, Ohio, working at his trade in Greenwich. He was married in Bronson township, Huron county, April 13, 1848, to Rebecca Taylor, who was born in Sophiasburg, Canada, February 18, 1824, a daughter of Oliver and Eleanor (King) Taylor, the former of whom was for several years a butcher of Norwalk, Ohio.

In the fall of 1845, Mr. Coutant came to Wood county, and purchased eighty acres of land in Section 36, Bloom township, for \$250. His capital then consisted of but \$15, but by working at the carpenter's trade he succeeded in paying for his land. This necessarily made the improvement of his farm slow work. He returned to Huron county, where he followed carpentering, and it was not until after his marriage that he erected a building on his place. The first was a log cabin, 18 x 20 feet, into which he moved before doors and windows had been put in. There was wild game in the forest, and it seemed that the work of civilization had hardly been begun. He vigorously prosecuted his work, and in the course of time bought eighty acres of land adjoining his first purchase, transforming the whole into an excellent farm. His wife proved him a faithful helpmeet; before her marriage she learned to do tailoring, and by her needle saved many a dollar to the family.

The children were all born on the home farm, and are now all in homes of their own. Jasper O. is deputy county auditor of Iowa county, Iowa; David B. is a farmer of Bloom township; Phœbe died at the age of three years; Mary A. is the wife of J. W. Smith, of Bloom township; and George B. is a farmer of the same locality. The parents also reared an adopted daughter, Jennie Pitcher, who lived with them from the age of three years until her marriage with Foster Ferguson, of Perry township.

In politics Mr. Coutant was originally a Whig, but has been a Republican since the organization of that party, and has been tendered a number of offices, which he has always declined. In religious faith he is a Quaker, and his wife is connected with the Liberal United Brethren Church of Bloomdale.

AMOS HAMPSHIRE, a prominent and influential agriculturist of Perry township, is descended from one of the earliest pioneer families of Seneca county, Ohio. His birth occurred there March 20, 1849, and he is a son of Adam and Margaret (Shonts) Hampshire, the former a native of Muskingum county, and the latter of Stark county, Ohio. At an early day the paternal grandfather, Adam Hampshire, removed to Seneca county, where the parents of our subject were married, and the father purchased the forty-acre farm of new land in Loudon township, where our subject was born. He later moved to Jackson township, where he resided for over forty years, his death there occurring at the age of seventy-two; but his wife had passed way eighteen years previous, and he had married the second time. By the first union ten children were born, three sons and seven daughters, six of whom are still living—Annie, Amos, Lucinda, Reuben, Rufus, and Amanda. In his farming operations the father was very successful, leaving at his death a property valued at \$17,000, all of which had been accumulated through his own hard work and good management. Though not an aspirant for political honors, he held several minor offices, and ever discharged the duties with promptness and fidelity.

As Amos Hampshire was the eldest son, there was always plenty of work for him to do on the farm, and education was considered a secondary matter. Though his own privileges in that direction were limited, he is a great friend of the cause of education, and does all in his power for its advancement. He remained upon the home farm until his marriage, which was celebrated in Perry township, November 19, 1872, when Miss Emma Strouse became his wife. A native of Montgomery township, Wood county, she is a daughter of George Strouse, and, by her marriage, she has become the mother of two children—Amanda M. and George A., both of whom are well-known young people of the community.

Mr. Hampshire located on his present farm of eighty acres in Section 11, Perry township, where he has made many excellent improvements—a good home has replaced his first log house, and, where at present is one of his best fields, he once cradled wheat when the water covered the ground about one-half foot deep. It was an arduous task, but he succeeded in making his place one of the best in the township. He is a wide-awake, public-spirited man, and very popular with all who know him. Politically Mr. Hampshire votes the straight Democratic ticket, has served as constable in Perry township, and

for over seventeen years has been school director of District No. 7. Socially he is connected with the Odd Fellows Lodge of Risingsun, Ohio; in religious faith, his wife is a member of the Evangelical Church.

R. A. HUGHES. Foremost among the leading citizens and wide-awake business men of Cygnet, Ohio, is the subject of this sketch. He is a native of Aroostook county, Maine, born September 10, 1853.

The father of our subject, Alexander Hughes, was a farmer of Maine, and died when R. A. was sixteen years old, the mother dying three years later. Two children were born to this couple—R. A. and Alice, and, on the death of his parents, our subject was left the care of his sister, and the home farm, which he still owns. He educated his sister, who was five years his junior, and she is now the wife of M. A. Siphers, of Toledo, Ohio.

On August 23, 1874, Mr. Hughes was united in marriage with Miss Lena Martin, a native of Aroostook county. Two years later he moved to the Pennsylvania oil fields, locating at Grease City, Butler county, at which time he was only a day laborer. Later he went to Belle Camp, McKean Co., Penn., where he opened a small general store, which was his first experience in that line, and, although his means were limited, and his stock small, he prospered in the business. In the fall of 1880 he began to operate in the oil territory; and in August, 1890, he moved to Cygnet, and built a frame business office, which was destroyed in the great fire. He then erected his present substantial brick block, one of the best in Cygnet, in which he conducts a general store, doing a leading mercantile trade, in addition to which he is a member of the Jim Oil Company, and of the oil firm of Barnum & Hughes, and has individual holdings in the oil territory. He is an extensive producer and well-known operator. In 1894 he started in the coal business, which he conducts in connection with his other enterprises. On January 1, 1896, the first electric light in Cygnet was produced from the plant put in by Mr. Hughes, of which he is sole owner. The plant is a modern one, supplied by the Jenny system, with a capacity of 800 volts, forming one of the most complete plants, for the size of the town, in Ohio. This piece of public-spiritedness has been a great help to the place.

Our subject is a member of Lodge No. 272, F. & A. M., at Butler, Penn., and of White Swan Lodge, K. of P., at Cygnet. In politics he is a staunch Democrat, and has the interest of his party at heart, although no office-seeker. He

served one term in the city council, and has been chief of the fire department since its organization. Mr. Hughes is an extensive real-estate owner, and has several fine houses in Cygnet, of which he is one of the substantial business men, popular, admired, and respected by his many friends.

W. A. ESTERLY, a well and favorably known citizen of Portage township, is a son of Jacob Esterly, who was a farmer of that township for about twenty years.

Jacob Esterly was born in September, 1822, in Wittenberg, Germany, son of Jacob Esterly, Sr., and when seven years old was brought by his parents to the United States, the family settling in Ohio in an early day. They lived for a time in Columbiana county, and thence removed to Hancock county, near Mt. Blanchard, where Jacob Esterly, Sr., died. Jacob Esterly married Miss Rhoda Armantrau, a native of Knox county, Ohio, whose mother died in that county when she was but a girl, and, her father remarrying, she left home and went to Hancock county, supporting herself until her marriage. She became the mother of two children, viz.: Henry, a carpenter of St. Mary, Ohio, and W. A., whose name opens this sketch. She died in October, 1860, when the latter was only a few weeks old. She was laid to rest in Hancock county. On October 31, 1861, Mr. Esterly remarried, in Hancock county, his second wife being Annie Bowers, who was born January 27, 1839, in Stark county, Ohio, daughter of Samuel and Mary (Rangeler) Bowers, who settled in Biglick township, Hancock county, when Annie was but nine months old. To this union were born four children: Mary (Mrs. Wesley Gilson), of Portage township; Samuel, who died at the age of twelve years; Annie (Mrs. Alonzo Clemens), of Portage township, and Ada, who died when seventeen years old.

In March, 1864, Jacob Esterly came with his family to Wood county, making the trip with an ox-team, which afterward often took them to church. They settled on eighty acres of new land which he had purchased, situated in Section 23, Portage township, and an old log house with rough floor, and altogether rudely constructed was their first home. Only the higher portions of the ground were cleared, the lower portions having been merely cut over, and a dense growth of brush covered the portions where the timber had been felled. Mr. Esterly continued to work this place the remainder of his life, and made a fine property of it. He was a self-made man, having begun life with nothing but his own en-

ergy and ambition, though, after he had been fairly started on the road to prosperity, he received a little help in the shape of \$200, which had been left to him. He died November 30, 1884, of typhoid fever, and was laid to rest in Mt. Zion Church cemetery. He was a member of the German Baptist Church, in which he served as deacon, and in political belief he was a Republican. He served as school director of Portage township, but was no office-seeker, attending strictly to his own affairs. After his death Mrs. Esterly lived on the farm until June, 1895, when she removed to Six Points, and on July 4, 1895, she became the wife of Israel Whisler. She is a member of the German Baptist Church.

W. A. Esterly was born September 26, 1860, near Vanlue, Hancock Co., Ohio, and, being a mere child when his parents settled in Wood county, received all his education in District No. 8, Portage township, having Miss Loomis for his first teacher. He attended school until about eighteen years old, and has since been a great reader, acquiring in this way much useful information. He remained at home until twenty years of age, and, having learned the carpenter's trade under his brother Henry, followed the same until 1885, since which time he has been engaged in agriculture on his present farm in Section 23, Portage township, where he owns forty acres of good land. When he took this farm but four acres of the land were cleared, and he has not only succeeded in placing the whole tract under cultivation, but has also done all his own carpenter work, a fact which speaks volumes for his enterprise and industry.

On March 13, 1880, in Portage township, Mr. Esterly was married to Miss Emma Redman, daughter of George W. Redman; she was born in Portage township, and died July 10, 1882, leaving no children; her remains rest in Mt. Zion Cemetery. On May 13, 1886, in Portage township, our subject married, for his second wife, Miss Leora Whitman, who was born in July, 1869, near Syracuse, N. Y., daughter of Luther Whitman, a farmer, who died in Portage township in 1894. One child has come to this union, Georgie M., born May 13, 1887. Mrs. Esterly is a member of the Methodist Church, while Mr. Esterly affiliates with the U. B. Church. He has been an active man in his community, where he is widely and thoroughly acquainted, and his influence in all local matters has ever been given to those measures he considers best for the welfare of his town and county. In 1881 he was elected constable of Portage township, and served one year in that office; in 1884 he was



elected assessor on the Union ticket, holding that office eight years in all. In the spring of 1895 he was elected to his present position, that of justice of the peace, and in all these offices he has proved himself worthy of the trust reposed in him, and has gained the respect of all with whom he has come in contact. Up to 1885, Mr. Esterly was an ardent Republican, but since that time he has been independent in local matters, supporting the candidates he considers best fitted for offices; in National affairs, however, he votes with the Democratic party. In 1894 he was the candidate of his party for recorder of Wood county. Owing to the large Republican majority in the county, he was defeated by his Republican opponent, Herman Hinkly. August 25, 1896, he was nominated by the Democratic and Populist Fusion Convention for auditor, but was again defeated by the Republican candidate.

WILLIAM JEFFERY, deceased, was a worthy representative of the farming interests of Lake township, and was numbered among its pioneer settlers. He was one of the first to locate within its borders, where he arrived in 1832, and, in Section 32, entered land from the government, which he continued to improve and cultivate until October, 1844, when he traded that property for the present homestead of the family in Section 18. He endured all the hardships and trials that fall to the lot of a frontier settler; but, by perseverance and determined effort, he succeeded in placing his farm of forty acres under a high state of cultivation. Mr. Jeffery came from across the sea, being born in Cornwall, England, June 10, 1806, and was a son of William and Mary Jeffery, natives of the same place. His father was a whaler, and died while away from home on a long cruise. While a young man, William determined to come to America, and embarked on a sailing vessel at Liverpool, England, which was three months in making the voyage. After his arrival in New York City, in July, 1832, he had the cholera, but on his recovery started at once for Wood county.

In Lake township, in 1842, he was united in marriage with Miss Louisa Lewis, who was born in Gloucestershire, England, and was a daughter of Philip Lewis. Her parents both died in England, and at the age of ten years she came to the New World, being six months upon the ocean. She came direct to Wood county where she had a sister living—Mrs. Goss, then a resident of Lake township, but who died in Troy township. To Mr. and Mrs. Jeffery were born ten children—Isaac, who enlisted in April, 1865, in the 189th

O. V. I., was taken sick at Nashville, Tenn., and after coming home died August 8, 1865; Mrs. Sarah Haskell died in Lake township, June 17, 1895; Hannah is at home; Cornelia died on the home farm September 16, 1867; Mary A. died June 30, 1870; Jane died March 11, 1855; JAMES is upon the home farm; George is next in order of birth; Wesley was married October 19, 1895, to Mrs. Anna Cole; and Charles died January 8, 1864. The family is one of the oldest and most highly respected in the township.

Mr. Jeffery took a prominent part in public affairs, assisting in the organization of Lake township, where he served as the first assessor, and held that office for many years, while for several years he was trustee. For three years he held the position of State assessor, and throughout the county he was well and favorably known. He did much toward the development of his township, clearing 100 acres of heavily timbered land, and was numbered among the liberal-minded and public-spirited citizens, who, while carving out their own fortunes, contributed, as they had opportunity, to the well-being of the people around them. In early life he was a member of the Evangelical Church, but later was connected with the Methodist denomination, and he was a conscientious, Christian gentleman. His earthly career was ended December 13, 1890, that of his wife, on the 13th of March, 1875.

DANIEL N. EASLEY, deceased, was one of the well-known citizens and highly respected men of Bloomdale. He was a native of Switzerland, born in Canton Berne, January 30, 1831, and was a child of only three years when he emigrated to America with his parents. His father, Jacob Easley, was a farmer of limited means in Switzerland, and hoped by coming to the United States to better his financial condition. Landing on the shores of this continent, he remained in the Empire State for about a year; but, as land was cheaper farther west, he removed to Crawford county, Ohio, and in Cranberry township, that county, died, March 30, 1847, aged fifty-four years. He was twice married, the mother of our subject being the second wife, and his family was quite large.

The boyhood days of Daniel N. Easley were spent upon his father's farm, aiding in the arduous task of clearing and developing the land with the primitive machinery of that early day. His father dying when he was quite young, he was deprived of the care and advice of that parent; but he had, however, a kind and loving mother, who endeavored to teach him the principles of

good citizenship, in which she succeeded, as his later life plainly demonstrated. Learning the carpenter's trade, he afterward followed that occupation in Missouri and Illinois, and while in the latter State attended a business college at Aurora, from which institution he was graduated in February, 1860. He later taught school in both Illinois and Wisconsin.

In Crawford county, Ohio, July 5, 1863, Mr. Easley was joined in wedlock with Miss Rosanna Bittikoffer, a native of Stark county, Ohio, and a daughter of Jacob Bittikoffer, who was born in Switzerland, and was a farmer by occupation. Eight children blessed this union, as follows: (1) Justin L. is a carpenter and contractor, and is the present mayor of Bloomdale. (2) Francis died at the age of ten years. (3) JACOB N., of Bowling Green, is one of the three gentlemen comprising the Wood County Abstract & Loan Company, and his business has given him a wide acquaintance throughout the county, where he is well and favorably known. He was formerly a teacher in the public schools of Bloomdale, removing in February, 1890, to Bowling Green. (4) John C. was a teacher in the public schools of Bloom township, but is now the carpenter and joiner in Bryant & Linhart's planing-mills at Bloomdale. (5) Paul M. died when five years old. (6) Webster D. died August 16, 1896, aged twenty-two years. (7) Ida M. is at home. (8) Edna R., who is also at home, completes the family.

Mr. Easley began his domestic life upon a fifty-acre farm which he owned in Crawford county, and about 1874 he removed with his family to Cass township, Hancock county, there remaining until 1881, when they came to Bloomdale. A comfortable home was here erected, and, on disposing of his land in Cass township, he purchased eighty acres of land in Section 20, Bloom township, Wood county, which is still in the possession of the family, but was never occupied by them. Here Mr. Easley followed carpentering and contracting until his untimely death, August 15, 1893. His remains were interred in Van Buren cemetery, Hancock county. While a lifelong Democrat, always taking a deep interest in the success of his party, he was by no means a politician, and after regularly casting his vote his interest subsided. Notwithstanding this, however, he was elected the first city treasurer of Bloomdale, and also served as a member of the city council, which position he held at the time of his death. He was connected with Odd Fellows Lodge No. 406, of Bloomdale, and also with the Daughters of

Rebekah. Religiously, he was a leading member of and liberal contributor to the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was an intelligent, hard-working man, a good mechanic and a prominent citizen, and every enterprise for the advancement and welfare of the community received his support. Since his death Mrs. Easley, a most highly respected lady, has resided in their comfortable home at the corner of Main and Vine streets, Bloomdale.

BYRON FREDERICK. The subject of this personal narrative is one of the most successful and progressive farmers of Bloom township, and is most highly esteemed and respected by those who know him best. He is descended from a family that has resided in this State from an early day, his father having been born in Green township, Ross county, September 24, 1816, to Jacob and Elizabeth (Bitzer) Frederick. The grandfather's birth occurred in 1778, in Northumberland county, Penn., where he married Miss Bitzer, born in 1786, a daughter of a New Jersey family. They continued to reside in Pennsylvania until after the birth of their eldest children; but in the early part of the present century crossed the Alleghany mountains, locating in Ross county, Ohio. In 1834 they removed, in wagons, to Big Spring township, Seneca Co., Ohio, driving their cattle, and located on a quarter-section of land, which Jacob Frederick had previously entered, and on which he erected a log house, into which the family moved. He died on that farm at the age of seventy years, and his wife at the age of eighty-five. They were members of the German Reformed Church, and in politics he was a Whig. In their family were the following children: William, who died in Seneca county; Peter, John and Jacob, who all died in Ross county; Susanna, who became the wife of Samuel Pontius, and died in Ross county; Solomon, who passed away in Bloom township, Wood county; Anthony, the father of our subject; Jonas, of Bowling Green, Ohio; Samuel, who died in Ross county; Daniel, who entered the one-hundred-days' service, during the Civil war, and died at a fort near Washington, D. C.; and Maria, who married J. W. Laughead, and died in Seneca county.

At the age of about nineteen years Anthony Frederick came, with his father, to Seneca county. By agreement he and his brother, Solomon, were to remain at home and clear half of the 160-acre tract, and receive a deed for the other eighty acres; but the father died suddenly before the deed was made, and the two brothers divided the land, receiving forty acres each. On November

3, 1838, in Seneca county, he married Miss Rhoda Nafus, who was born in Hopewell township, Ontario Co., N. Y., April 15, 1817, daughter of William and Saloma (Carpenter) Nafus. Her father was a shoemaker by trade, and, in the fall that Andrew Jackson was first a candidate for the Presidency, came to Ohio, locating in Wyandot county, near the present site of McCutchenville, where he bought three acres of land close to his two sons, John and Cornelius, who had preceded him. There he built a shop, where he carried on shoemaking. His first wife died at the age of sixty-two, after which he was again married, and he died, in Wyandot county, at the age of seventy-seven years.

After his marriage Anthony Frederick located on his forty-acre timber tract, where a log house 16 x 18 feet had been erected, and carried on the improvement of his place until 1852, when he removed to Adrian, Seneca county, there conducting a sawmill, in connection with his brother Jonas, for two years and a half. On disposing of his interest, he secured a position as foreman of a sawmill in Berwick, same county; but after a short time he returned to his farm in Big Spring township. Later he went to Benton, Crawford county, where he also engaged in the sawmill business, following that pursuit in several places until January, 1861, when he came to Jerry City, Wood county, there operating a sawmill until 1865. In the year 1867 he went to Bloom Center, and there engaged in the same business for awhile; but he now operates his farm of forty acres at that place. His first vote was cast for William H. Harrison, the Whig candidate, but he has supported the Republican party since its organization. For five years he served as constable and for two years as assessor of Big Spring township, Seneca county, while he was assessor of Bloom township, Wood county, for five years, and trustee for one year during the war. He and his estimable wife belong to the Church of God, in which he is at present an elder. In their family were the following children: Solomon S., of Henry township, Wood county; William H., of Jerry City; Nathaniel, who died at Bloom Center, at the age of forty-three years; Charles, who died in the same place; Byron, whose name introduces this sketch; Susan E., who married J. A. Bailey, and died in Bloom township; and Rosa E., wife of W. H. Dennis, of Bloom Center.

In Big Spring township, Seneca county, Byron Frederick first opened his eyes to the light of day, July 16, 1850, and at the age of ten years was brought by his parents to Jerry City, Wood county. He received a common-school educa-

tion, and became familiar with farming, milling and several other lines of business. On October 26, 1873, at the home of W. S. Richard, in Bloom township, he was united in marriage with Miss Amanda J. Bailey, who was born at Bloom Center, November 5, 1853, a daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Simon) Bailey. They have become the parents of two children—Naman O., born July 15, 1875; and Harry B., born March 23, 1883. After his marriage Mr. Frederick took up his residence in Bloom Center, where he became interested in a sawmill, in connection with George Dennis; but he disposed of his interest before they began operations. At the end of six years he removed to Jerry City, entering the employ of the Dewey Stave Company, for which he continued to work until March, 1885, when he removed to his present fine farm in Section 3, Bloom township, on which an old house was then standing; in the fall of 1890 he completed his present comfortable residence. He is a natural mechanic, taking great delight in machinery, with which he is quite familiar. Politically he is a staunch supporter of the Republican party, socially he is a member of Vitus Lodge No. 602, I. O. O. F., of Jerry City, and religiously he and his worthy wife belong to the Church of God, in which he was formerly an elder, and is now superintendent of the Sunday-school, while she is a teacher in the same. They are earnest Christian people, and well deserve the high regard in which they are held.

RUFUS A. EMERSON, the pioneer merchant of Bloomdale, was born October 21, 1855, in Wyandot county, Ohio. He is descended from an old Virginia family, a son of Noble and Mary (Keesecker) Emerson, who were the parents of ten children, three of whom were born in Ohio.

His grandfather Emerson was a slave-holder, but his father, Noble Emerson, being opposed to this, in early manhood determined to seek a home in a free State. He had been employed in boyhood as a boatman on the Potomac, and as a steersman on the Chesapeake and Ohio canal, but later learned the cooper's trade which he followed throughout his life. In 1833 the family moved to Beaver county, Penn., and in May, 1848, they came to Mexico, Wyandot Co., Ohio, traveling in a small two-horse wagon. Our subject's father had but limited means, and on reaching Mexico he found employment at his trade, and later bought the shop, the trade in potash and in pork barrels furnishing him a good income. In 1859 he moved to Sycamore, where our subject's mother died December 7, 1862. The father



*R. A. Emerson*



never married again. He survived her thirty years, dying September 10, 1892, at the age of eighty-three, and their remains now rest in the cemetery at Sycamore. Two years after his wife's death, he moved to the vicinity of Frankfort, Pike Co., Mo., and bought a farm, which he later sold. He worked at his trade for some time, and in 1871 came to Eagleville to live in the home of our subject's elder brother, Hon. E. P. Emerson. He was a man of industrious habits, and was over 6 feet, 2 inches tall, but spare in flesh. While he was no politician, he took an intelligent interest in all the questions of his time, and was a regular voter, being a Whig in his early years and later a Republican.

Our subject is one of six surviving children in the following family: Samuel B. died in Ohio, a wealthy man, after many years spent in the practice of medicine at Eagleville. Elijah P. resides at Bloomdale. John M. enlisted in Company G, 123d O. V. I., and, it is believed, was one of the many who perished in Andersonville prison. Rachel A. died in Virginia. William W. lives in Bloomdale. Enoch died in Virginia. Mary J. is the wife of Rufus W. Lundy, a hardware merchant of Myrtle Point, Ore. Milton L. is a prosperous resident of Sycamore, Ohio, a blacksmith by occupation. Frank N. lives in San Francisco. Rufus A. is our subject.

Until the age of ten years Rufus A. Emerson attended the schools of Sycamore, Ohio, but after that his educational opportunities were less satisfactory. In 1869 he returned to his native county, and for two years made his home with a brother-in-law, R. W. Lundy, then returning to Missouri. In the spring of 1870 he accompanied Mr. Lundy to Mitchell county, Kans., then a frontier section, where buffaloes were plenty. The journey was made by wagons, and Mr. Emerson walked, driving the cattle. He came to Eagleville, Wood county, in March, 1871, and assisted his brother, E. P. Emerson, in the work of his store and farm, attending school in the winter. Remaining there until 1874, he was then employed for a short time in a brickyard in Hancock county, belonging to Isaac Hale, returning in July of that year to Eagleville to haul stone for the first building constructed in Bloomdale for business purposes exclusively, and here, on December 22, 1874, his brother, E. P. Emerson, opened a general store, our subject being employed as clerk. In April, 1877, Mr. Emerson and another elder brother, William W., bought out the business and conducted it under the firm name of Emerson Bros., until August 15, 1882, when he became the sole owner, having in the mean-

time built a new store which was first occupied in February, 1882. Courteous in manner, upright in character, and possessing keen perceptions and judgment, he enjoys the confidence of a wide circle of acquaintances. One seldom finds a town like Bloomdale which has only one dry-goods store; but so strongly is this one entrenched in the favor of the community that when opposition has been attempted it has failed. Mr. Emerson takes an active interest in the improvement of the town, and is connected with a number of business enterprises, being a director in the Bloomdale Building & Loan Association, of which he was an organizer, a stockholder in the Lakeside Co., owners of the assembly grounds at Lakeside, and, since March, 1894, he has been sole owner of the Bloomdale Gas Company.

Mr. Emerson was married, October 24, 1878, in Bloom township, to Miss Ellen Shirk, a native of Mercer county, Penn., whose parents, A. J. and Harriet May Shirk, came to Wood county during her childhood. Mr. and Mrs. Emerson have had nine children: Jay N. and Edna, at home; Max C., who died at the age of three years; Lois, Mary and Roland R., at home; Robert B., who died when nearly three years old; Nellie A.; and one unnamed. Mr. Emerson and his wife are leading members of the Radical U. B. Church, of which he is a trustee. In 1890 he built one of the finest residences in the town. He was a Republican until 1887, since when he has given his support to the Prohibition party.

**JOHN SCHUTZBERG.** Success in any calling is an indication of persistent effort, enterprise and sound judgment—qualities which are possessed in a high degree by the subject of this review. From a humble position he has worked his way upward to one of affluence; has surmounted difficulties and overcome obstacles, and, to-day, as the reward of his earnest labor, has one of the fine farms of Middleton township.

Mr. Schutzberg was born in Hessen, Germany, November 2, 1824, and is a son of William and Elizabeth (Chollpiffer) Schutzberg, who spent their entire lives in that country. In the public schools near his home, John acquired a good education, and, at the age of fourteen, began earning his own living. He spent one year in the German army, and continued to work at various employments until 1851, when, determined to seek a home in America, he took passage on a westward-bound sailing vessel, which dropped anchor in the harbor of New York, after a voyage of sixty-five days. He at once made his way to Erie county, Ohio, where he worked

as a farm hand until 1853, when he rented land and began farming on his own account. His first purchase made him the owner of forty acres in Middleton township, Wood county, on which he erected a log house, and then began clearing the place. He has since added three forty-acre tracts, and now has a very valuable and desirable property, which yields to him a golden tribute in return for the care and labor he bestows upon it.

In Erie county, Ohio, in 1853, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Schutzeberg and Miss Mary A. Keithel, who was born in Hessen, Germany, in 1831. They became parents of eight children—Lizzie, wife of George Forst, a farmer; Henry and John, who carry on agricultural pursuits; Mary, deceased wife of William F. Brinker, of Cleveland; Christ, an oil operator; Anna, deceased wife of G. Rudolph, a farmer of Washington township; Lorance, a teamster of Has-kins; and William, who operates the homestead farm. The mother of this family died in April, 1892, and her death was mourned by many friends as well as her family.

In politics, Mr. Schutzeberg is a Democrat, and has served as road supervisor and school director for a number of years. He is a very active and consistent member of the German Reformed Church, and for twenty-eight years has been an elder in same. He came to this country empty-handed, but has steadily worked his way upward, and his honorable, upright life is certainly worthy of emulation.

**WILLIAM MASON.** The handicap of early poverty does not prevent some energetic natures from making a success in worldly affairs, which is all the more creditable for the difficulties overcome.

The subject of this review was born in Yorkshire, England, March 8, 1825, the son of James and Hannah (Taylor) Mason, both of whom died in the old country. His father was a day laborer, and, as our subject was the youngest in a family of six sons and eight daughters, he had to make his own way from the early age of eight years. He worked for the first five years for five pounds, doing such tasks as his youth permitted, but as he grew older his services became more valuable. He never knew a home until his marriage, in January, 1850, to Miss Jane Fenton, who was also a native of Yorkshire, born about 1828. He had no schooling whatever in his native country; but since coming to America he has gained a practical education, his shrewd brain making the most of every opportunity. In March, 1850, Mr. Mason and his bride left Hull on the "Rumswell," and landed at New York after a voyage of eighty-

five days. Their destination was Ohio, but they spent some months with Mr. Mason's brother, Thomas, at South Bend, Wis., before locating upon a rented farm in Riley township, Sandusky county. The forty pounds, which Mr. Mason had when they left Hull, was by this time nearly exhausted, and he worked as a laborer for two years at fifty cents a day in ordinary times, and seventy-five cents in harvest. He managed to buy a team of oxen, and forty acres of partly-improved land located in Scott township, Sandusky county. After two years Mr. Mason sold this farm and purchased forty acres in Section 1, Montgomery township, where he now resides. The first house on the place was a log shanty, 16 x 20 feet, and it has taken many years of hard work to bring the property into its present highly-improved condition. He has met with well-deserved success, and his possessions now include 126 acres of land in Wood and Sandusky counties. In the dark days of the Rebellion, he manifested his loyalty to the land of his adoption, by enlisting in Company K, 144th O. V. I., and was one of the twenty-nine survivors of that company. Politically he is a steadfast Republican, but he is not a seeker for political position.

On February 7, 1889, his home was darkened by the "death angel" when the beloved partner of his life passed from earth. Her remains lie in the Bradner cemetery. Six children survive her: Charles lives in Missouri; Margaret married Samuel Wygant, of Madison township, Sandusky county; James also resides there; Hannah is the wife of Noble Holcomb, of Rollersville, Ohio; Edward T. resides in Freedom township; Mary is at home. Mindful of the deprivations of his own early life, Mr. Mason has given his children good educations, and two, Mary and Hannah, have taught school.

**JOEL KIMBLE** has justly earned the proud American title of a self-made man, and the farm which he occupies to-day has been acquired entirely through his own industrious efforts. He was born in Harmony township, Morrow Co., Ohio, February 25, 1842, and is a son of William D. and Rebecca (Stilley) Kimble, who, in April, 1864, came to Wood county. The father purchased 120 acres of land in Freedom township, and our subject cut the first tree on the farm. William Kimble was born in Chester township, Morrow county, in 1814, and was a son of Daniel Kimble, who removed to this State from Washington county, Penn. The mother of our subject was born in Knox county, Ohio, and was a daughter of John Stilley, who left the Keystone State

and became one of the pioneers of Knox county. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Kimble are Nellie, wife of S. J. Munsel, of Freedom township; Sarah, wife of William Bell, of Freedom; Joel; Lavina J., who died in 1868; Perry, of Monroe county, Mich.; and Josephus, of Freedom township. The father of this family died December 14, 1883, and the mother died July 10, 1887, their remains being interred in Bradner cemetery. Mr. Kimble gave his political support to the Democracy, but never sought office. He made farming his work throughout life, and the success that attended his efforts was due to his own energy and perseverance.

Joel Kimble, of this review, received only such educational privileges as the primitive schools of the neighborhood afforded. He was reared on the home farm until seventeen years of age, and then began to learn the carpenter's trade under Milton Hathaway, following that pursuit the greater part of the time for twelve years. He was married in 1868, and for five months thereafter resided on a rented farm in Montgomery township. His first purchase was forty acres of wooded land in Section 36, Freedom township, whereon he built a frame house 18 x 24 feet. He lived there until removing to his present home, April 14, 1873. He purchased sixty acres of land in Section 25, Freedom township, and cleared a space for the erection of a log house, 20 x 24 feet. He was at that time \$400 in debt. During the first two years he worked out by the day, and in the evenings and mornings cleared his own land. His earnest labor and persistent efforts have brought him success, and he is now the owner of a valuable farm of ninety-two acres. In 1891 he built a good barn, and in 1896 erected his present excellent residence.

Mr. Kimble was married December 24, 1868, in Madison township, Sandusky county, to Miss Eva Hanline, who was born in Section 1, Montgomery township, Wood county, July 31, 1844, a daughter of David and Eve (Rumler) Hanline. Their children are Geneva, now the wife of Henry Saam, of Madison township, Sandusky county; Josephus, who died at the age of five months; and Effie, wife of Frank Wolfe, of Pemberville, Ohio. The parents are members of the Lutheran Church, and in politics Mr. Kimble is a Democrat.

BENJAMIN RHODES is one of the most genial and whole-souled men of Portage township. He was born in Bingley, Yorkshire, England, December 15, 1835, and is one of a family of ten children, four sons and six daughters, whose father was Joseph Rhodes. His parents both died in

England, the father, when our subject was only ten years old. At the age of fifteen he began learning the machinist's trade, which he followed in his native land until the spring of 1854, when he left the Old World, resolved to try his fortune on this side of the Atlantic. Thirty days after sailing from Liverpool, he arrived in New York City, a stranger in a strange land, with only \$5 in his pocket, with which to begin life. Mr. Rhodes first secured work with J. S. Gwynn, a maker of rotary pumps, on 29th street, but the shops were afterward removed to Brooklyn, and with that gentleman he remained for sixteen months. He then worked for four months in the Essex Machine Shops in Lawrence, Mass., at the end of which time he returned to New York City, being employed on Cherry street by machinists. Later he entered the Sirwell White-lead Works as a fixer; but in December, 1857, he went to Chicago, where he worked for Wimple, Kline & Co., manufacturers of threshing machines, for a year and a half.

On August 9, 1859, Mr. Rhodes first arrived in Wood county, driving to the village of Portage from La Porte, Ind., with an ox-team, for an emigrant family who came by rail. For a time he was employed in the sawmill of Hiram Ives, of Center township; but the following spring went to Toledo, where he obtained work at his trade, in the Fulton Iron Works, at the foot of Lafayette and St. Clair streets.

At Portage, in September, 1861, Mr. Rhodes enlisted in Company C, 21st O. V. I. At Camp Vance, Findlay, Ohio, under Capt. A. McMahan, the troops received their arms, after which they were sent to Camp Dennison, Cincinnati. The first engagement in which our subject participated was at Ivy Mountain, Ky, November 8, 1861, and from that time until they reached Nashville, he was with the regiment; but there he was ill for three weeks, and rejoining his command at Murfreesboro, remained with it until September 20, 1863, when he was taken prisoner at Chickamauga. He was confined in Rebel prisons in Richmond, Danville, Andersonville, and other places until paroled in March, 1865. He endured all the sufferings and privations of Southern prison life, and, when liberated at Goldsboro, N. C., lay unconscious for seventeen days, the result of the cruel treatment he had received. From Wilmington he was sent to Annapolis, and at Columbus, Ohio, was honorably discharged April 9, 1865, after almost four years of arduous and faithful service.

In Fremont, Ohio, July 2, 1865, Mr. Rhodes was united in marriage with Miss Ellen Brown, a



native of Sandusky county, Ohio, by whom he had one child, Katy, who died in infancy, and the mother died fourteen months after her marriage. Later, in Montgomery township, Wood county, our subject wedded Caroline Lein, and to them were born two children: Mary, now Mrs. E. E. Rickard, of Montgomery township; and Joseph A., at home. The lady, who now bears the name of Mrs. Rhodes, was in her maidenhood Miss Mary Shinew, a daughter of Francis Shinew.

At the close of the war, Mr. Rhodes made his home for a time in Portage, after which for three years he worked at his trade in Toledo, and then bought land in Liberty township, Wood county, which he operated about a year. Next he bought a farm in Montgomery township, which he cultivated until 1885, when he removed to his present farm of 122 acres. The land has been brought to a high state of cultivation, and yields in abundance the rich crops adapted to this climate. He holds membership with Randall Post, No. 55, G. A. R., at Prairie Depot, and in politics he is an unswerving Republican, by which party he was elected supervisor. He is recognized as an honest man and good neighbor, and has the esteem of all who know him.

**A. VAN VORHIS.** There is no class of biographies which is more interesting to read than that of the industrious and enterprising farmer's boy, who has risen unaided from a state of comparative poverty to a position of affluence and comfort. Prominent among the men of Portage township, who have thus laboriously toiled onward and upward, is the individual of whom this sketch is written.

Mr. Van Vorhis was born in Whetstone township, Crawford Co., Ohio, February 12, 1850, and is the eldest child of H. N. and Sarah A. (Beck) Van Vorhis, with whom he came to Wood county, at the age of fourteen years. In the primitive log school houses of that day he received his literary training, and, when not in school, he aided in the labor of the fields on the home farm until reaching his majority. He then returned to Crawford county, where for two years he was employed as a farm hand.

On Christmas Day of 1873, in Portage township, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Van Vorhis and Mary J. Long, who was born in Medina county, Ohio, April 22, 1852, and when quite small was brought to this county by her parents, Lewis and Polly (Yonker) Long. Five children have been born to our subject and his wife: Alice L., who is now Mrs. F. W. Lem-

brich; Aura B., at home; a son who died in infancy; and Albert C. and Lewis E., also at home. At the time of his marriage Mr. Van Vorhis had no property, but later purchased forty acres of land in Section 15, Portage township, covered with a dense growth of timber, and, after improving that tract for some time, purchased a farm in Section 33, Center township. While residing there, in March, 1886, his house was burned to the ground. He next removed to Plain township, and, in January, 1890, returned to Portage township, purchasing fifty-four acres in Section 3, which still continues to be his home. Four years later he built his comfortable residence, and the neat and thrifty appearance of his place denotes that the owner is a good manager and systematic farmer. He has held several minor offices in the township, and his political support is given the Republican party, while religiously he and his wife are members of the Christian Church.

**JOSEPH S. ENOS**, one of the highly-respected and representative citizens of Bloomdale, has since 1892 been engaged there in painting and paper-hanging. His father, Joseph Enos, was born September 1, 1805, near the city of Wilmington, Del., of Welsh-Irish parentage, and, in 1837, was married in that city to Miss Elizabeth Shakespeare, who, though native-born, was of high English parentage. Her birth occurred May 11, 1815. The parental household included seven children, two sons and five daughters, namely: Caroline E., who became the wife of Robert Cellar, died in Jerry City, Ohio, in 1874, leaving three children; Mary A. is the widow of John Bosler, and now makes her home in Toledo, Ohio; Joseph S. is the next in order of birth; George W. is a painter and paper-hanger of Fostoria, Ohio; Jennie E. is the wife of Henry Myers, who is engaged in the oil business at Toledo, and they have three children; Loraine S. married F. G. Horn, a furniture dealer and undertaker of Bloomdale, and they have five children; Henrietta M. is the wife of George Adams, an extensive farmer and stock dealer of Jerry City. By trade, the father was a millwright and miller, which vocation he continued to pursue until 1845, when he came to Ohio, arriving at Fostoria in November. He then engaged in farming until his death, October 2, 1856, which was caused by typhoid fever. Two years later his widow became the wife of John Cellars, who died at Bloomdale in 1883, and she now makes her home at Fostoria.

Our subject first saw the light of day at New

Castle, Del., March 8, 1845, and in November of the same year was brought by his parents to Ohio, his boyhood days being passed in Perry township, Wood county. His primary education was there received at the Beech schoolhouse, his first teacher being Mary Jane Halsey, and he later attended a school taught by Frank W. Dunn. In 1862 he entered the Fostoria High School, but on the 13th of June, of the following year, at the age of eighteen, he joined the First Ohio Heavy Artillery, and served in many skirmishes and foraging expeditions. He was an adept at the latter. For example, he once turned over a barrel, resembling an ash barrel set up to run off lye, to find four large hams roll out. At the close of hostilities he was discharged, in August, 1865, and then returned to his studies at Fostoria, which he completed in 1866. He then followed carpentering for a time, and during the years 1869 and 1870 engaged in school teaching.

On September 29, of the latter year, Mr. Enos married Miss Martha Johnson, a lady of Scotch-Irish descent, who was born October 31, 1848. Three children graced their union—John J., a painter living at Bloomdale, is married and has one child; Flora E., died at that place in 1888, from dropsy, originating in a diseased hip joint and curvature of the spine; and Glenn D., married to Scott S. Pelton, a driller of Wood county. Until 1882 Mr. Enos worked at the carpenter's trade in Perry township, and then came to Bloomdale to enter the shops of Bryant & Linhart, where the following ten years were passed. In 1892 he met with an accident which came nearly costing him his life. He caught his right arm in a saw, which completely severed the ulna bone, and partially the radius, and though he still retains that member, it is in a crippled condition. He has since devoted his time and attention to painting and paper-hanging at Bloomdale, where he has built up a good trade, and there has a pleasant home on Garfield street.

Mr. Enos has been a lifelong supporter of the Republican party, in whose ranks he is an earnest worker, and he has held several local offices, having been constable of Perry township two terms; clerk of the same township three terms; assessor of Bloom township three terms; a member of the board of education also for three terms; and at present he is serving as city marshal of Bloomdale. He is one of the founders of the special school district of Bloomdale, and has always taken a commendable interest in educational affairs. He has been a worthy member of and active worker in the Methodist Episcopal

Church of that place since 1866, and socially he is connected with Urie Post, G. A. R. For eight years he belonged to the Ohio National Guards, holding the rank of sergeant; was a member of Bloom Lodge No. 406, I. O. O. F., fifteen years; and of the Independent Order of Good Templars at Ted, Ohio, for nearly ten years. He has ever been a loyal citizen, faithful to his country in days of peace as well as when following the old flag on Southern battle fields, and he discharges every duty, whether public or private, in the most satisfactory manner.

W. C. BURDICK. The subject of this history is a man of more than ordinary intelligence and business capacity, and now owns a good farm in Perry township. Like a large portion of the go-ahead men of Wood county, he is a native of New York, born in Cattaraugus county, March 25, 1829, and his ancestors were originally from Calais, France. His father, Seth L. Burdick, was born in Connecticut, but when a boy removed with his parents to Oneida county, N. Y., and at Paris Hill, that county, wedded Lydia Maltby, by whom he had six children—Charlotte, now the widow of John F. Todd, of Saco, Texas; Susan, who was married and died in Montana; Morris, formerly a printer, but now a proof-reader of New Haven, Conn.; Augustus P., a machinist of Niagara Falls, N. Y.; Lucy, widow of Henry J. Burdick, of that city; and W. C., of this review. The mother died in 1831, and in 1836 the father removed to Niagara Falls, where the following year he witnessed the burning steamer, "Caroline," drift over the Falls, having been set on fire by the Canadians. In that city he followed the trade of millwright and there died in March, 1859.

Our subject received a common-school education, and at the age of sixteen began the millwright's trade under his father. He was very handy, with tools and for two years served an apprenticeship at the carpenter's and joiner's trade in Buffalo, N. Y., after which he went to Genesee county, that State, where he built a fine farm house for a man named Barnes. Later he was employed at carpentering in New York City and New Haven, Conn., after which he started for Mississippi City, Miss.; but while *en route* he learned that yellow fever had broke out there, so changed his mind and went to Niagara Falls, where he worked in his father's sash and blind factory for several years. Going to Buffalo, he was employed by his brother-in-law, H. J. Burdick, for two years at car building, and on the expiration of that time went to Niagara, Canada, where

he was employed in the same business for the Grand Trunk railroad.

Several years previous, an acquaintance of our subject, John Bradner, had come to Wood county, and through his influence Mr. Burdick located here in June, 1859. He was accompanied by the brother-in-law with whom he worked in Buffalo, but that gentleman died a month later. It had been their intention to erect a cabinet shop, but this caused a complete change in the plans of our subject, and at Millgrove he erected the first steam sawmill, which he conducted for some time. In 1870, however, he removed to Section 4, Perry township, where he owns a good farm of forty acres, and there has a pleasant home. He is an excellent mechanic, and to some extent has also engaged in carpentering since coming to the county, many of the best farm residences in Perry and adjoining townships standing as monuments of his skill.

On October 24, 1861, in West Millgrove, Mr. Burdick was joined in wedlock with Miss Cornelia A. Willard, a native of that place, born August 13, 1841, and a daughter of John G. and Malissa (Peabody) Willard, the former born in Trenton, Oneida Co., N. Y., February 25, 1802, and the latter in Stonington, Conn., November 26, 1804. The father was a farmer, merchant and hotel-keeper, and, in the spring of 1837, he brought his family to Perry township, Wood county. In his family of eight children, four sons and four daughters, Mrs. Burdick is the sixth in order of birth. After completing her education, she taught in Bloom and Perry townships for \$2.50 per week. Seven children have been born to our subject and his wife—Charles W., who died at the age of five years; Helen A., now Mrs. Barton Phillips, of West Millgrove; Frederick C., at home; Emma, who died at the age of two years; Ralph A., agent at Hatton, Ohio, for the Toledo & Ohio Central railroad; and Louis G. and Edgar B., at home.

In politics Mr. Burdick is a Republican, though at one time he was a Know-Nothing, and has served several years as school director, taking a great interest in advancing the cause of education. Socially, he is a Mason, and religiously he and his wife are members of the Congregational Church. They are frank, opened-hearted people, and have many friends throughout the community.

ISAAC ACKERMAN was born in Henry township, November 24, 1846, on the farm which is still his home, and is a worthy representative of an honored pioneer family. His father, David

Ackerman, was a native of Switzerland, and, on a sailing vessel, started for America with his parents, but they died while *en route*, and were buried in the ocean. After a six-months' passage, David Ackerman landed in New York, and went to Lancaster county, Penn., where he was bound out to a farmer, with whom he remained until he attained his majority. He there married Catherine Auwerter, a native of Germany, and in the fall of 1838 removed, with his family, from Lancaster county to Wood county, Ohio. The boat on which they took passage caught fire, but they reached their destination without loss of life.

The father entered eighty acres of wild land in Henry township, erected a rude dwelling of round logs, but afterward replaced it by a more substantial one of hewed logs. There he carried on agricultural pursuits until his death, in 1876, his wife having passed away in 1875. He was a member of the Methodist Church, and she was a Dunkard in religious faith. Their children were as follows: Bevy, who died in childhood; Fannie, wife of B. L. Peters, of North Baltimore, Ohio; Mary, who died at the age of eighteen; Jacob, a farmer of Michigan; Catherine, wife of Fergus Hughes; Lydia, widow of Lewis Bloom, of Henry township; David, a farmer of Knox county, Mo.; Isaac; Phebe, wife of D. Wiley, of North Baltimore; Michael, a farmer of Michigan; and Millie, wife of John W. Sterling, of Henry township.

Our subject was reared on the home farm, and educated in the district schools. In the fall of 1865 he enlisted in Company F, 12th U. S. V. I., but was afterward transferred to the 21st U. S. I., from which he received an honorable discharge in 1868. He was engaged in doing guard duty, being stationed at Richmond, Va., at Petersburg, and at Fortress Monroe, where, for six months, he guarded Jefferson Davis. Later he was sent in pursuit of a band of robbers in Virginia, and was discharged at Camp Hamilton. Returning home, Mr. Ackerman followed farming, with his father, until his marriage. In Henry township, January 6, 1870, he wedded Nancy J. Slaughterback, who was born in Bloom township, Wood county, October 10, 1849. They located on the old family homestead, and their union was blessed with seven children: Lillian G., wife of Loring Leathers, of Findlay, Ohio; Franklin E.; Lulu C.; Margaret; Calvin; and two, Arthur W. and Ray, who died in infancy.

From his father, Mr. Ackerman inherited forty-four acres of land, and afterward purchased thirty-six acres of his brother, so that he now has an excellent farm, upon which he has made many

splendid improvements. His present commodious home was erected in the fall of 1893. In politics he is a Democrat, and is an intelligent, self-made man and highly esteemed citizen. His wife belongs to the United Brethren Church.

J. D. PHILO, a well-known agriculturist of Webster township, and one of the leaders in local affairs, was born in Erie county, Ohio, October 28, 1854.

Daniel Philo, the father of our subject, and one of the most prominent pioneers of this vicinity, was born in 1827, in Luzerne county, Penn., where his father, Hurlbut Philo, was for many years engaged in agricultural pursuits. On reaching his majority, Mr. Philo left home and worked as a laborer for three years. He then rented a farm of 200 acres in Erie county, Ohio, where he remained until April, 1858, when he came to Wood county, and settled on a farm near Tontogany. He was married in Erie county, January 19, 1854, to Miss Caroline Marks, a native of England, born April 27, 1835, who came to America with her parents when she was seven years old. Of this union seven children were born: J. D., subject of this sketch; Mary is the wife of Isaac Emmett; William A., George, Ward, and William L., are all prosperous farmers, and Sarah Jane, the youngest, is the wife of Job Walker.

Our subject was educated in the schools of his district, and remained at the old homestead until the age of twenty-one, when he started in business for himself. In 1879 he bought twenty acres of land near Fenton, to which he added later purchases until he now has eighty acres under cultivation, with fine modern buildings. He was married in 1879 to Miss Maria Fenton, of Webster township, and has three children, Lewis, Fred, and Robert. Mr. Philo is a man of rare geniality and kindness, and his good judgment and ability make him a popular candidate of the Democratic party of his township. He was a supervisor for a number of years, school director for six years, also a member of the board of education, and is now serving his second term as trustee, giving general satisfaction in the discharge of his duties.

SAMUEL HYTER, of Bloomdale, has accomplished satisfactory work as a farmer, and, having acquired a competency to live on in his declining years, has retired from the business to make room for younger blood, required in the active life of a farmer. He was born in what is now Carroll county, Md., July 22, 1826.

His father, Jacob Hyter, was also a native of Maryland, where he married Margaret Koontz, and to them were born the following children: Elias, who was known as the "lame schoolmaster," being crippled from white swelling from the age of three years; Ephraim, a farmer of Henry county, Ohio, who died in March, 1895; Alice, who became the wife of John Longley (after whom the station on the Ohio Central railroad was named), and died in Seneca county, Ohio; Susan, who married Hezekiah Dern, in Maryland, and died in Fostoria, Ohio; Catherine, now Mrs. Samuel Shunk, who resides near Westminster, Md.; Julia A., who first wedded G. W. Crabb, but is now the widow of John Conley, and lives in Hillsdale county, Mich.; Jacob, who died at the age of three years; Margaret, now Mrs. David E. Coe, of Perry township, Wood county; Samuel; Abraham, of Bradner, Ohio; and William, a farmer of Clinton township, Seneca county. The parents were both of German descent, and spoke that language very readily, but the children never learned it.

On October 18, 1839, the parents, with six of their children, including a married daughter and her husband, started for Ohio with two two-horse wagons. The father had disposed of all his property in Maryland, and had several hundred dollars. He purchased forty acres of partially improved land in Pleasant township, Seneca county, to which he later added an adjoining forty acres, and there died at the age of seventy-five years, his remains being interred at Tiffin. His wife, who survived him, lived to the age of eighty years, and was buried in Perry township, Wood county. She was a Methodist in religious belief, while he belonged to the German Reformed Church. He was a strong man, never ill, weighing almost two hundred pounds, and, at the time of his death, his hair was not yet gray. In the success of the Whig party he took an active interest, and he delighted in arguments both on politics and the Scriptures, on which he was well informed.

The education of Samuel Hyter was obtained principally in Maryland; the nearest school in Seneca county was three miles from his home, and he was allowed to attend only a few weeks in the winter season, as through the summer months his services were needed upon the home farm. At the age of twenty-three he started out in life for himself, securing forty acres of land in Jackson township, Seneca county. In that township Mr. Hyter was united in marriage, on October 18, 1849, with Miss Rebecca McKee, who was born August 27, 1824, in Washington coun-

ty, Penn., daughter of Thomas and Nancy (Scheller) McKee. Her father was a native of County Down, Ireland, whence, at the age of nine years, he came with his father, John McKee, to America, locating in Pennsylvania, where the son was married. When only two years old Mrs. Hyter was taken by her parents to Muskingum county, Ohio, later to Guernsey county, where she taught two terms of school, and, after going to Seneca county, in 1846, engaged in teaching for one term, her wages being but \$10.00 per month.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Hyter began their domestic life upon the old "Longley homestead," in Jackson township, Seneca county, and she spun and wove the cloth for the family's use, being quite an expert in spinning flax. The children that came to brighten their home are as follows: John A., a farmer of Perry township, Wood county; Margaret A., wife of Dr. B. R. Hubbard, of Sandusky, Ohio; Emily J., now Mrs. Charles Redfern, of Perry township; Cora, who died at the age of four years; William A. and Rolla, who died in infancy; and Luella, who died at the age of fifteen years. They have an adopted son, Earl D. Bossler, who has lived with them from the age of four weeks. On selling his first farm of forty acres, in Seneca county, Mr. Hyter bought eighty acres in Section 28, Perry township, Wood county, to which he subsequently added until he at one time had 200 acres. There he made his home until November 14, 1882, when he removed to Bloomdale, where he has a commodious brick residence, and there he and his estimable wife expect to spend their remaining days in peace and retirement. They are leading workers in the Methodist Episcopal Church, to which they have contributed liberally, and Mr. Hyter was one of the building committee at the time the present house of worship was erected, and is now trustee of the Church.

C. B. HATFIELD, M. D., a rising young physician of West Millgrove, is a representative of one of the old pioneer families of Wood county.

Our subject's birth occurred in Perry township, December 2, 1861, and he is the son of John S. and Johanna (Bunnell) Hatfield. During his youth and early manhood he remained upon his father's farm, receiving in the meantime a substantial foundation for an education in the district school. In the fall of 1889, at the age of twenty-seven years, he entered Western Reserve Medical School, at Cleveland, Ohio; but, before completing the prescribed course, was compelled to leave school, in the spring of 1891, on account

of ill health. He later, however, became a student in the Kentucky School of Medicine, at Louisville, where he graduated in the spring of 1893.

In June of that year, Dr. Hatfield located at West Millgrove, Wood county, where he has since engaged in a successful practice. He has won his way to the regards of the people, with whom he comes in contact in his daily rounds, by his ready tact and kindly sympathy. At Fostoria, Ohio; on the 1st of September, 1892, he wedded Miss Caroline E. Simon, a native of Bloom township, and a daughter of Stillings Simon. A bright little daughter blesses this union — Neva V., born August 5, 1894. At local elections the Doctor is independent of party lines, his only criterion in such matters being that a proposed measure is for the benefit of the community in which he lives; but on national questions his sympathies are usually with the Democratic party.

JOSEPH G. STARN, a well-known merchant of Bowling Green, dealing in decorators' materials, was born in Galion, Ohio, December 10, 1853.

His grandparents, Jacob and Mary Starn, were among the early settlers of Wingard's Corners, Crawford county, coming from Pennsylvania, where their son, Samuel, our subject's father, was born in 1815. He was married in Ohio, to Miss Elizabeth Dague, a daughter of Gabriel Dague, a hardy pioneer of Medina county, eighty-two years old at the time of his death in November, 1868. For some years the young people lived in that county, where Mr. Starn was employed as master mechanic on a railroad. Later he moved to Crawford county, and then to Hancock county, farming and working at the carpenter's trade. In 1864 he came to Perry township, Wood county, and ten years later went to Fostoria, where he died in 1891. His wife, who was born in 1823, survives him and resides in Fostoria. They had nine children: (1) Rachel, deceased, formerly the wife of H. B. Nievel; (2) Martha, who died in childhood; (3) Mahala, who married J. H. Nievel, of Tiffin; (4) Hannah, the wife of J. B. Linhart, a wealthy farmer living near Van Buren, Ohio; (5) Joseph G., our subject; (6) Frank and (7) Johnson, residents of Fostoria; (8) Thomas C., who died in early manhood; and (9) Edwin Wilkins, who died December 20, 1895.

Mr. Starn passed the first five years of his boyhood in Galion, but, his parents removing then from that town, his education was obtained chiefly in the district schools of Arlington, Ohio,



*C. B. Hatfield M. D.*



and Perry township, Wood county, and in the high school at Fostoria. At the last mentioned place he learned the trade of decorator, serving a two-years' apprenticeship. His employer then put him in charge of one of his shops where he remained until 1873, when he went to Akron and engaged in carriage painting. In 1878 he came to Wood county, and for some time followed his trade in Bowling Green. He was married the same year to Miss Maggie Minear, a native of Hancock county, born September 29, 1856. They have one living child, Harold, their first born, Glennah, having died at the age of nine. In 1880 Mr. Starn moved to Fostoria and formed a partnership with his father in the grocery and queensware trade; but about a year later he sold his interest, and returned to Bowling Green to work in the auditor's office. The term expiring, he began clerking, and this he continued for several years with different firms—fires, failures and sickness giving him a number of unwelcome vacations. In January, 1890, he opened his present store, where he keeps a well-selected stock of paper hangings, paints and artists' supplies. He also contracts for the artistic decoration of interiors, taking orders in town and country. He has a number of other business enterprises, and is a director in the Globe Building and Loan Association of Columbus, a stockholder appraiser in the Indemnity Building & Loan Co., of Cleveland, and owns a farm of forty acres near Bowling Green.

He is an active and influential worker in the Republican party, and has held the office of clerk of Plain township for seven years, and been trustee of Oak Grove cemetery for nine years, serving as secretary and treasurer of the board, and devoting much time and energy to the improvement of the grounds. He belongs to the fraternal orders of the K. of P. and the P. O. S. of A.

GEORGE WAGONER is well known throughout Lake township as one of the most thorough-going and enterprising farmers, pleasantly situated in Section 33. His birth occurred in that township, in 1844, and here he has ever made his home. His parents, Samuel and Catherine (Shook) Wagoner, were natives of Franklin county, Penn., where they were reared and married, and emigrated to Wood county, Ohio, in 1835, making their first location at Stony Ridge, or East Empire House, where the father followed blacksmithing and was also employed on the pike. He entered 110 acres of wild land in Lake township, which he at once began to clear and cultivate, and

made his home thereon until his death in 1883. His wife departed this life in 1889.

The parental household included nine children, namely: Joseph, who joined the boys in blue during the Rebellion, becoming a member of the 189th O. V. I., and died in Alabama. Samuel, who was a member of the same regiment, with which he served nine months, and died in Lake township, in 1894. Mrs. Sally Crayo, who resides in that township. Catherine, who became the wife of Joseph Shook, and lives in East Toledo, Ohio. Barney, who also served for nine months in the 189th O. V. I., and now resides on the old home farm in Lake township. Jonathan, who was a member of the same regiment, died in Ottawa county, Ohio, in 1891. Isaac, who served for three years in the 111th O. V. I., and died in Lake township, in 1893. George, the subject of this sketch, is next in order of birth. Henry, who also belonged to the 111th O. V. I., in which he served for three years, and now makes his home at Emporia, Kansas.

Our subject obtained his education in the district schools of Lake township, and remained upon the home farm until his enlistment in the Union army. In February, 1865, he joined Company G, 189th O. V. I., for one year or until the close of hostilities. At Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio, he was mustered in and was first ordered to Nashville, Tenn. At Huntsville, Ala., the regiment was engaged in guarding railroads and bridges and in scouting, until honorably discharged at Nashville in the fall of the same year. Mr. Wagoner at once returned home to Lake township, where he has since engaged in farming. In 1875 he located upon his present farm; having purchased eighty acres of timber land, and erected thereon a good brick residence. He has two substantial barns besides other outbuildings, one built in 1876, which is 18x28 feet, and the other 36x50 feet was erected in 1882. He now has ninety-three acres, all cleared and placed under a high state of cultivation, and the neat appearance of the place indicates the progressive and enterprising spirit of the owner.

In 1865, in Sandusky county, Ohio, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Wagoner and Miss Matilda Baker, a native of Stark county, this State, and a step-daughter of Levi Baker, who became a resident of Lake township, but is now deceased. Her mother, Mrs. Leah Baker, still makes her home in this township. Six children have been born to our subject and his wife—James, who is married, and resides at Stony Ridge; Mrs. Laura Truman, who lives on the home farm; Hallie, also at home; and three



others who are all deceased: Cyrus G. died April 18, 1872, aged two months; Dory Edna died March 9, 1883, aged three years, one month and twenty-five days; and Gracy Ellen died March 29, 1883, aged five years, eight months and seventeen days.

Mr. Wagoner belongs to one of the old and honored families of Lake township that was so well represented in the Union army during the Civil war, seven of the sons having entered the ranks to fight for the old flag that now waves so proudly over the united nation, and one laid down his life on the altar of his country. The political support of our subject is unswervingly given the Democratic party, and he has served as a member of the school board. He takes a just pride in the welfare and advancement of his township and county, and has aided materially in its improvement.

JOHN A. CREPS is numbered among the county's pioneers, and for fifty-seven years has been identified with the interests of his locality. He has, therefore, witnessed much of its growth and upbuilding, and has ever borne his part in the work of progress as a loyal and devoted citizen. He was born in Perrysburg, this county, August 24, 1838. His father David Creps, was a native of Cumberland county, Penn., and, in 1830, was married to Rosanna All. They came to Ohio, in 1831, taking up their residence in Perrysburg, where he was engaged in tanning leather from 1831 to 1847. They became parents of seven children, namely: Joseph, deceased; Amanda, wife of John Mercer; Shebna S., deceased; John A.; Mary, wife of Samuel Ryder; Catherine, deceased wife of George Chapman; and David R., a farmer of Waterville, Ohio. The father of this family carried on agricultural pursuits for twenty-one years. His death occurred in 1868, and his wife passed away in 1878.

In the district schools of Middleton township, John A. Creps acquired his literary education, and subsequently attended the Commercial College of Maumee, graduating from that institution. He then worked in a sash and blind manufactory at Perrysburg, and after a time became the owner of a controlling interest in the establishment. Later, he sold out, and from 1858 to 1861 was in the grocery business at Perrysburg, when he sold his interest to his partner, who gave his note for the amount. The partner afterward became bankrupt, and Mr. Creps lost over \$700 through the transaction. From 1861 to 1871 he was engaged in the wholesale and retail butchering business in Maumee, meeting with fair success

in that undertaking. In 1871 he returned to the homestead farm which he operated for his mother until her death, and has since carried it on in his own interest. He now has an excellently improved farm, and is successfully engaged in the raising of grain and stock.

Mr. Creps is a man of excellent business and executive ability, of resolute purpose and of great force of character. He started out in life for himself a poor boy, but has been enterprising and progressive, and is now the possessor of a handsome farm. In politics he is a stalwart Republican, and for six years served as school director. His religious connection is with the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1888, in Lucas county, Ohio, he was united in marriage with Susanna Carroll, a native of Waterville, Ohio, and a daughter of James Carroll, of Lucas county.

JOSHUA WEAVER, an agriculturist of energy and ability, is a native of Bloom township, where he still resides, belonging to one of the pioneer families. His birth occurred August 17, 1849, and he is a son of John and Harriet (Martin) Weaver, both natives of Washington county, Penn., the father born in March, 1815, and the mother December 26, 1814. There they were married, and about 1840, with their two children, started for Wood county, Ohio. The father purchased eighty acres of land in Section 28, Bloom township, from Joshua Swaine, and immediately began its improvement. There he died April 12, 1875, and his wife on December 26, 1886. They were laid to rest in Weaver cemetery, which is on a portion of the old home farm. He had become one of the substantial farmers of the community, owning at the time of his death 320 acres, 240 of which were in one body. He always took quite an active interest in political affairs, supporting the Democratic party, and held several prominent positions, including those of justice of the peace, assessor, treasurer, and trustee. Although not a member of any Church, he always contributed liberally to the support of several.

In the family were the following children: Isaac, who died after reaching manhood in Bloom township; Joel, of Hancock county, W. Va.; Sarah A., who first married Cornelius Howard, later became the wife of Conrad Flaughter, and died in Bloom township; George, a farmer of Kosciusko county, Ind.; James, who died in Bloom township after reaching maturity; Mary E., who died while young; Joshua, subject of this sketch; Thomas, deceased; Harriet S., now Mrs. William Nusbaum, of Hancock county, Ohio;

and Emma, wife of Samuel Kochensberger, of North Baltimore, Ohio.

Joshua Weaver passed his early life upon his father's farm, which he now owns and successfully operates, and received his education at District School No. 9, his first teacher being George Bronson. After completing his studies he gave his entire time and attention to the cultivation of the land, and now has a good farm of forty acres in Section 28, on which, in 1886, he erected his present comfortable residence, while the barns and other outbuildings are all that could be wished for.

The marriage of Mr. Weaver and Miss Amy Whitacre took place in Bloom township on September 13, 1874. The bride is a native of that township, born June 12, 1855, and is the daughter of Isaac and Elizabeth (McCrorry) Whitacre. To this worthy couple have been born six children: Mary R., George, Isaac N., Alta M., Earl R. and Floyd J. All are at home with the exception of George, who died in infancy, and Floyd J., who died at the age of four years. The parents are active members of the Disciples Church at Eagleville, and are true and sincere Christian people. In politics Mr. Weaver is a strong adherent of the doctrines of the Democratic party, although but little of a politician. As a friend he is an ardent and consistent one, and at his death will leave to his children the priceless heritage of a good name, which is to be chosen rather than great riches.

**M. C. BRIGGS.** Foremost among the enterprising business men and capitalists of Bairdstown is the subject of this sketch, who, though he is not a native of the county, has during his short residence here so thoroughly identified himself with its best interests, and demonstrated his ability and public spirit, as to receive the entire confidence of the community. He is of "Yankee" ancestry, and displays all the shrewdness, caution and energy which characterize that race.

Mr. Briggs was born December 12, 1851, in Plessis, Jefferson Co., N. Y., where his parents, Clark and Margaret (Spalsbury) Briggs, still reside. Only two of their children lived to adult age, the other being Edwin D. Briggs, a prominent resident of Bairdstown. During boyhood our subject attended the schools of his native village and assisted his father, who was a carpenter by trade, working also at odd jobs as opportunity offered. At the age of sixteen he began clerking in the general store of Vandenberg & Avery, at fifty cents per day, which seemed a small fortune to him. It required twenty-six and one-half days

of this labor to secure a new overcoat, and, although it was by no means of the best material, he took great pride and satisfaction in it. After one year passed in the store, he attended a select school, where he pursued advanced studies and made rapid progress. At nineteen he began to learn the trade of cheesemaking, and for five years worked at that in summer, teaching school in the winter. From boyhood he has been noted for thoroughness and efficiency in any work he undertakes, and, therefore, he naturally made a success of his cheese making. In 1875 he received a gold medal and \$75 in money from the Watertown Dairymen's Board of Trade for the best sample of cheese made, the contest being open to New York State.

On March 15, 1876, Mr. Briggs was married at Plessis, by Rev. William M. Holbrook, to Miss Amanda Jones, a native of Oneida county, and a lady of fine social gifts. She was a teacher in Jefferson county, N. Y., for fifteen terms. They have a bright and interesting family of four children—Tennie C., who is now teaching music (she studied music under Prof. Billings, of Findlay); and Carie M. and Maud C. (twins), and Estella. Mr. Briggs came to Wood county November 17, 1877, to take a position as bookkeeper for the Dewey Stave Co., at Bairdstown. He discharged his duties so satisfactorily that in the following year he became manager of the general store conducted by the company. In October, 1881, he and a brother-in-law, William A. Jones, bought this store, which they have carried on ever since, the firm name being first M. C. Briggs & Co., and later Briggs & Jones. They now own 555 acres of land, of which 405 acres are in Bloom township, seventy acres in Perrysburg township, and eighty in Hancock county.

On March 26, 1886, the Palmer Oil Company was incorporated, Mr. Briggs being one of its leading members, and he has been the secretary from that date to the present. The affairs of this company have been managed with unusual discretion and ability, and it is one of the most successful companies operating in Wood county, where they hold 600 acres in fee, and 4,000 acres under lease. No less than 125 wells are in operation, and the average monthly output is 30,000 barrels. They drilled the largest gas well ever put down in Wood county, "The Simon Well," on the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 29, which at this writing has been in active operation for ten years, and is still a paying investment. The Company have also extensive interests in southeastern Kansas, where they have 40,000 acres under lease, and are operating thirteen wells,

ten of them gas wells which yield an average of 55,000,000 feet of gas per day. The remaining three, which are oil wells, are not yet in operation. The officers of the Palmer Oil Company are Andrew Emerine, of Fostoria, president; C. E. Palmer, of Fostoria, treasurer; William A. Jones, of Bairdstown, field manager; James S. Rodgers, of Toledo, S. Z. Foster, of Toledo, William Hardee, of Toledo, Joseph L. Wolcott, of Toledo, Andrew Emerine, of Fostoria, C. E. Palmer, of Fostoria, and M. C. Briggs, of Bairdstown, directors.

In addition to giving to the details of his business enterprises that close attention which ensures success, Mr. Briggs finds time to keep well-informed upon general topics, and to take an active part in local affairs. He is a generous supporter of various philanthropic movements, and contributes to the M. E. Church, of which his wife is a prominent member. He is a leader in the Republican party in his locality, and served a term as postmaster at Bairdstown under Arthur's administration. He has also been the clerk of the village, and is now village treasurer.

**SAMUEL KNIGHT.** Prominent among the active citizens of North Baltimore, as well as influential officials of Wood county, is found the gentleman whose name is here recorded. Mr. Knight is a native of Guernsey, one of the Channel Islands, in the English Channel, having been born there July 10, 1859, a son of Thomas W. and Eliza (Warren) Knight. The family came to America in 1861, making their first New World home in Erie county, Ohio, on Kelley's Island, and here remained until 1872, in that year removing to Sandusky county. Our subject received his education in part at Sandusky City, and in part at Clyde, Sandusky county, remaining under the parental roof until November 23, 1882. On November 10, 1881, he was united in marriage with Miss Ella Hostetter, who was born April 4, 1863, in Meigs county, Ohio, a daughter of James and Mary J. (Daugherty) Hostetter. She received her early schooling in her native county, made a study of elocution, and in June, 1895, was graduated from the Cleveland School of Elocution and Oratory. She is now a highly efficient teacher in her chosen profession, having classes in Bowling Green, Fostoria and North Baltimore, and is an officiating member of the National Association of Elocution and Oratory.

Some time after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Knight took up their home at Mungen, Wood county, and were residents of that village until 1866, when they purchased a farm in Henry town-

ship, from ex-Gov. Foster, for whom Mr. Knight was land agent at the time. On this property they lived until 1892, then sold and bought a place in Milton township, which, also, they recently sold. In the same year (1892) they purchased a neat home on Tarr street, North Baltimore, where they have since resided, and where their many friends enjoy unstinted hospitality.

To our subject and his amiable wife was born at Mungen, Wood county, November 23, 1883, one child, named Earl Alonzo. In his political preferences Mr. Knight is a Republican; in 1891 he was elected a member of the board of commissioners of Wood county, and is still filling that incumbency, having been re-elected in 1894. The parents of Mrs. Knight are both natives of Virginia, the father born in 1831, the mother in 1833. They had a family of two sons and four daughters. Mrs. Knight's grandfather, James Hostetter, was born about the year 1800, and his widow is still living, at the patriarchal age of ninety years.

**LEWIS CRAMER,** a wealthy citizen of Bowling Green, and now retired from active life, was born April 6, 1830, in Fairfield county, Ohio, a son of Jacob and Louisa (Moore) Cramer.

The great-grandfather of our subject, on the paternal side, was born in Germany, and, when ten years old, came to America with his parents. They located in Pennsylvania, in what was then known as Penn's Valley. He was a farmer by occupation, and a soldier and pensioner of the Revolutionary army. Lewis Cramer, the grandfather of our subject, was a resident of Fairfield county, Ohio, where he died when nearly seventy years of age. In the early part of his life he was a farmer, and a minister in the United Brethren Church, afterward, in that county, operating a flouring-mill and sawmill, by water-power, on Walnut creek. He was one of a large family of children, the following being the names of some of them: Lewis, Philip, John, Michael, Adam, Jacob, George, and Sarah. Lewis became the father of eight children, namely: Jacob, George, Adam, Lewis, Sarah, Margaret, Mary, and Christina.

Jacob Cramer, the father of our subject, was born in Pennsylvania, in 1808, was married in Fairfield county, Ohio, to Louisa Moore, who died in Fairfield county, in 1836, at the age of thirty-three. They followed farming for many years. Jacob was three times married, having five children by his first wife, namely: Levi, who died in Wood county, when sixty-one years old; Susan, married to Daniel Knepper, of Fairfield

county, and died when about twenty years of age; Lewis, our subject; Irvin, who enlisted from Fairfield county, in the regular army, during the Civil war, and died in Libby prison; and Louisa, married to Henry Knepper, and now residing near Carey, Wyandot county. Mr. Cramer's second marriage was to Miss Sarah Derr, and of this union three children were born: William, who died when seven years old; Margaret, who is married, and residing in Lancaster, Ohio; Sarah, married, and living near Warsaw, Ind. Jacob Cramer's third wife was Mrs. Annie Moore (widow of George Moore), by whom he had no children. Mr. Cramer died in Ohio, about the year 1873. Mrs. Louisa (Moore) Cramer, mother of our subject, was a daughter of Levi and Mary (Bright) Moore, natives of Delaware, and who were among the first settlers of Fairfield county, where they followed farming. They were the parents of several children, named respectively: John, Louisa, Edward, Abigail, George, Elizabeth, Sarah, Levi, and Erwin. The father was a very highly respected citizen, and a leader among men. Both parents died on the farm they had settled on.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in Fairfield county, remaining on the home farm with his father until he was some twenty-two years old, when he moved to Hancock county, on to a new farm whereon he lived twenty-one years, and then came to Wood county. At the age of twenty-three he married Miss Martha Carnes, who died in 1852, and December 13, 1855, for his second wife, he wedded Miss Jennie Black. In 1876 he purchased land in what was then the suburbs of Bowling Green, but which is now a part of the city, and has an elegant and comfortable home. He has spent a busy life, dealing in real-estate, flour-milling and loaning money; but is now taking his ease and comfort, his chief occupation being to look after his property, and his interest in the Union Flouring Mills of the city, of which he is one of the proprietors. Mr. Cramer cast his first Presidential vote for James K. Polk, his last Democratic vote going for James Buchanan, and for many years past has exerted his influence in behalf of the Republican party. He is a member of the United Brethren Church, liberal in his contributions to all worthy causes, and is highly regarded as one of the valuable citizens of Bowling Green. Mrs. Cramer was born in Fairfield county, in 1838, and is a daughter of Lemuel and Sarah (Bogart) Black, the former of whom was born in Fairfield county, the latter near Reading, Penn. Mr. Black was a wheelwright and chairmaker by trade, and died when about sixty-five years old, a member

of the United Brethren Church; his wife died in June, 1894, aged eighty-two years. Lemuel Black was the son of John Black, who was of Scottish descent, and whose family comprised six children: Lemuel, Ira, John, Millie, Susan, and Catherine. Mrs. Cramer was the eldest of seven children, the others being Maggie and Martin, both deceased; William, living at Findlay, Ohio; Elroy, living in Smithton, Mo.; Elmer and Cloe K.; living in Hancock county. Mrs. Cramer died suddenly at Bowling Green, mourned by many friends by whom she was beloved, and held in the highest respect for her many virtues, her amiability, and her sweet disposition.

J. H. SMITH, a retired agriculturist of Jerry City, was born November 13, 1817, in Mifflin township, Richland county, on the "Black Fork of the Mohegan river."

John H. Smith, his father, was born in Frederick county, Md., in 1789, but he came to Ohio when a young man, the family settling in Harrison county. During the war of 1812 he, and a brother-in-law, went to Richland county, and spent their time making improvements upon a tract of land; they returned home for a supply of clothing, expecting to be drafted, but while there peace was declared. Mr. Smith was married in Harrison county to Miss Elizabeth Keefer, also a native of Maryland, and soon after moved to Richland county. Of their ten children our subject was the second in order of birth, but the eldest living, the first child, Margaret, having died in childhood; the others were Henry, who died in Bloom township; Maria, who died in infancy; Jacob, who died in 1859; Elizabeth, deceased wife of Asa Brown, of Michigan; Solomon, still living; Sarah A., who died in infancy; Mary A., deceased wife of David Wirick, of Bloom township; and Ellen, deceased, who married Abraham Myers.

Mr. Smith attended the district schools of his day, such as they were, and, as the eldest son, found no lack of employment at home, where he remained until his marriage, April 22, 1841, to Miss Sarah Wirick. She was born March 18, 1822, daughter of Henry and Catherine (Spade) Wirick, early settlers of Richland county. They began their housekeeping on land belonging to his father, and their shanty, though rude in construction, was clean, and their furniture good for the time. On November 1, 1849, Mr. Smith moved on his eighty acres of land in Crane township, Wyandot county, all of which was in its primitive state, and lived there for over two years in true pioneer style. Game was plenty, but

Mr. Smith was too busy with his farm work to do much hunting. Later they bought a tract of 160 acres of wild land, which they cleared and cultivated, making a fine farm which they still own. He also has seven oil wells in operation at the present time. Mrs. Smith has been her husband's faithful helper in all his efforts, and he takes manly pride in acknowledging her share in his success. Five children were born to them, all of whom are living: Mary married William B. Woolsey, of Wyandot county; Frank H. lives in Cedar county, Mo.; Lodemia married S. P. Balliet, of Wyandot county; Samantha married Samuel Suder, who died seven months later, and she now resides with her parents; Almarine is the wife of Samuel B. Bowman, of Wyandot county.

Although now advanced in years, Mr. Smith is vigorous and well preserved, and still works occasionally by way of exercise. Since October 1, 1889, he has lived in Jerry City, and he owns ninety-one acres of land near by. He has never been a believer in unnecessary self-denial, and while he has saved as he could, he has always lived comfortably. He and his wife have been active members of the M. E. Church for a number of years, and they take a generous interest in the welfare of others, and in all public movements. Politically, Mr. Smith is a Democrat.

GEORGE D. CHASE, a retired agriculturist, came from Liberty township, Hancock Co., Ohio, where he was born July 10, 1842. He is the son of Justus and Mary Ann (Jones) Chase. Justus Chase was born in New York, August 29, 1817, and went to Hancock county with his parents when he was thirteen years old. He was married in that county to Miss Jones, who was born in Westmoreland county, Penn., July 24, 1821. After their marriage they settled on the farm where Mr. Chase resided until 1895, in which year he went to Findlay, the mother having passed away June 27, 1889. They reared the following children: Martha J. married William Bryan, who died while in the army; George D. is the subject of this sketch; Elizabeth is the wife of C. Porter, and lives in Michigan; Serelda M. married Isaac Taylor, and now lives in North Baltimore; Mary M. is the wife of Mr. Thompson, now living in Olympia, Wash.; Aretta is the wife of John Osbourne, of Hancock county; J. Z. lives at home; James W. died in Chillicothe, Mo.; Robert H. died at the old homestead. Grandfather George Chase was born in New York, and died in Hancock county, Ohio. The maternal

grandfather, James Jones, was born in Pennsylvania, and also died in Hancock county.

Our subject remained at home until the outbreak of the Civil war, when, on February 1, 1862, he joined Company G, 21st O. V. I., Fourteenth Army Corps, and served nine months and ten days. He again enlisted, on February 10, 1864, in Company I, 21st regiment, and served until the close of the war. He was in the battles of Chatahoochee River, Resaca and Buzzard's Roost, and was wounded at Jonesboro, Ga., September 1, 1864, by an exploding shell. After the war Mr. Chase came home and located on a farm in Henry township, Wood county, and in 1867 he was married to Mary M. Caskey, who was born in Henry township December 10, 1846. They became the parents of the following children: John W., born December 14, 1867, married Norah Frederick (they live on a farm and have three children, Iva, Edith and Naoma Cleo); Thomas is unmarried; Edith married A. C. Seguyne, and died April 4, 1894; Mattie A., and Clyde H.

Mr. Chase followed farming until 1873, when he went into the sawmill business, continuing in that until 1890. He then became interested in the oil fields, and at present has a large income from the wells on his land, which he leases. His income from this source averages over \$200 a month, and has been as high as \$1,700. He is a Republican, and a member of the U. V. U. Mr. Chase is one of the substantial citizens of North Baltimore, and does everything in his power to promote the interests of the community in which he resides.

WILLIAM DUNIPACE, one of the honored old pioneers of Webster township, has dwelt on his present homestead for the past fifty-eight years. In his early manhood he took up a tract of government land, paying therefor \$1.25 per acre, and, from that time forward, he devoted his energies to its improvement and development. The place was heavily timbered, and barely five acres a year could be cleared by the most industrious efforts. Mr. Dunipace helped to lay out the roads, to erect school houses, and in other ways to advance the interests of the community.

The birth of our subject occurred in the parish of Liberton, Edinburghshire, Scotland, January 19, 1816—his parents, William and Margaret (Gill) Dunipace, being likewise natives of that country. Their children were as follows: Robert, Margaret, Jeanette, Isabella, Mary (Mrs. James Muir), James, Annie, and Charles. Margaret was born January 4, 1813, and January 10,

1836, married William Weddell, a mechanic, who died in 1843, aged thirty-two years; his son George is deceased; another son, William is a farmer of Webster township; his only daughter was named Margarét, in honor of her mother. Jeanette, the second sister of our subject, died in infancy; and the next sister, Isabella, was born July 24, 1814. Robert and James are deceased.

On March 28, 1834, William Dunipace, Sr., and his family, started for the United States on a sailing vessel, and for eight weeks were tossed to and fro on the Atlantic. Finally landing at New York City, they proceeded by way of the canal and the great lakes to Perrysburg, Ohio, arriving there July 3. In that place the father died about one month later, in his fifty-fourth year. His wife, after surviving him many years, died in 1878, at the ripe old age of ninety-three years.

William Dunipace came to America at the same time as his parents and brothers and sisters, and, by the death of his father, was early obliged to make his own livelihood. He obtained a position as a farm hand near Perrysburg, and worked for \$13.00 a month. In 1837 he removed to the homestead, which he has since cultivated, and which was situated in what was formerly known as Freedom township. As the years passed, he added to his possessions until he now has over five hundred acres of valuable and improved land. He experienced all the hardships which fall to the lot of a pioneer, and for years his humble abode was in a log cabin, 18 x 24 feet in dimensions. Though those years were full of toil and difficulties, yet they were not unhappy, as he was full of hope and ambition, and could not but feel pride in the success which he was achieving. Mr. Dunipace received but a limited education, as he was able to attend school only until he was thirteen years of age, and he has had to rely upon his own private study and observation for the practical knowledge which he possesses. In politics he is a Republican, and religiously is identified with the Presbyterian Church. He can look back upon a life well spent in doing good to his fellows, and is now passing his declining years surrounded with comforts which his toil has provided, and in the secure enjoyment of the confidence and respect of his many friends and neighbors.

**GEORGE ADAMS.** One of the finest and best-conducted farms in Bloom township is the result of the labors of this gentleman, and it is also the place of his nativity. He was born September 18, 1855, and is a member of a well-known pio-

neer family, his parents being David and Lucinda (Henry) Adams, who were married in this county. The father's birth occurred March 30, 1821, in Beaver county, Penn., while the mother was a native of the Empire State, born December 27, 1825. The former came with his father, David Adams, Sr., to this locality, first locating in Montgomery township, but in April, 1837, bought from the government the northwest quarter of Section 2, Bloom township, making his home there when the nearest post office was Fremont.

The father of our subject was a remarkably active man, stout and robust, and was one of the best financiers of the township; and had it not been for his untimely death he would probably have become one of the wealthiest men of the county. He served as trustee and school director, always voted with the Democratic party, and he and his wife always attended religious service. He departed this life June 9, 1866, but his wife long survived him, dying February 1, 1895, and they were laid side by side in West Millgrove cemetery. Their children were as follows: Emeline, wife of Norrington Beadall, of North Baltimore, Ohio; Henry, a farmer of Portage township; Sarah, who married Peter Landis, and died in Perry township; Thomas J., of North Baltimore; Mary E., who became the wife of Lorenzo Hatfield, and died in Bloom township; George; Almira, now Mrs. Jerry Blair, of Bloom township; Minerva, wife of Erastus Bosler, of Portage township; and Madison, a farmer of Perry township.

Our subject in his boyhood received the education that the district schools of the neighborhood afforded, and at the age of thirteen assumed charge of the home farm, while two years later he had almost absolute control, as his father had died when he was only eleven. On December 29, 1876, in Bloom township, Rev. Isaac Feasel, a Methodist Episcopal minister, performed the wedding ceremony that united the destinies of Mr. Adams and Miss Etta Enos, who was born in Jackson township, Seneca Co., Ohio, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Enos, farming people. The date of her birth is July 12, 1855.

The first land owned by Mr. Adams was a tract of forty acres in Section 4, Bloom township; but he never lived upon the place or upon any of the numerous tracts he later purchased, his residence always being on the old homestead, which he still cultivates. In the spring of 1877 he began its operation on shares, which system was continued until the death of the mother, whom he had always cared for like a dutiful son, having the greatest regard for his parents.

Besides the home place, which comprises seventy-two acres of valuable land, he also owns a half interest in the celebrated Alva Thomas farm, in Perry township, which is the acknowledged banner farm of Wood county. He is a wide-awake, progressive business man, and in addition to general farming also deals quite extensively in fine stock. He is an excellent judge of horses, which he handles in considerable numbers, and has sold many fine animals. In politics Mr. Adams votes for the candidates of the Democratic party, and, although not taking an active part in public life, he conscientiously performs his duties as a good citizen. He is intelligent and public-spirited, deeply interested in the advancement of educational affairs, and for three years acceptably served as school director. His excellent wife is a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Mrs. Adams' parents, Joseph and Elizabeth (Shakespeare) Enos, were born in Pennsylvania and Delaware, respectively. The father was a miller in the East, but after his removal to Ohio engaged in agricultural pursuits, which he continued to follow the remainder of his life. He passed away October 2, 1856, near Fostoria, in which city Mrs. Enos now resides. She has been a resident of Wood county for over fifty years. She is the mother of seven children, two sons and five daughters, six of whom are yet living, one daughter, Mrs. Carrie Cellors, having died in 1874.

FRANK W. STRATTON is proprietor of the general store and a livery stable in Portage, and it is to such enterprising, progressive citizens that the upbuilding and welfare of a community is attributable. He was born in Monroeville, Huron Co., Ohio, February 13, 1852, and is a son of Matthew T. and Jane (Smith) Stratton. His early school days were passed in Milan, Huron county, and at the age of sixteen he accompanied his parents on their removal to Plain township, Wood county, where he continued his studies for two years. He was reared on the farm and remained at home until his marriage. His parents lived in Plain township only one year, and then removed to Liberty township, where in 1863 the father purchased 165 acres of wild land. He erected a rude board shanty in which the family lived for many years, and then made more substantial improvements upon the place.

Mr. Stratton was married in Weston, June 22, 1875, to Hattie L. Caswell, who was born in Michigan, September 19, 1852. They began their domestic life on the old homestead—his par-

ents having removed to Michigan—and in January, 1876, our subject and his wife took up their residence at Averill, Midland Co., Mich., where Mr. Stratton opened a general store, and also speculated in lumber, meeting with excellent success in both undertakings. On the expiration of eight years, Mr. Stratton returned with his family to Wood county, and established a general store at Weston, where he remained for two years. He then came to Portage, where he established a general mercantile store, and in the spring of 1895 began the livery business which he is now conducting.

Mr. and Mrs. Stratton have four children—Fred, Charles, Lenna and Howard. The family attend the Methodist Church, of which our subject is a member. In politics he is a Republican, and has served as an officer in the township for many years. In his business dealings he has won success, and is the owner of considerable valuable farming land in the county; progressive and enterprising, he is recognized as one of the leading merchants of his locality, and well deserves representation in this volume.

GEORGE DOIL. Among the citizens whose well-spent lives entitle them to representation in the history of Wood county is this gentleman, who is a leading and influential farmer of Henry township.

Mr. Doil was born November 9, 1858, in Seneca county, Ohio, son of Michael and Catherine (Souders) Doil, the former of whom was a native of Ireland, the latter of America. The father came to this country when a young man, locating in Seneca county, Ohio, where he followed farming. There he was married, and about 1860 he removed with his family to Bloom township, Wood county, where he purchased eighty-eight acres of wild land, erected a log cabin, and at once began to improve the property. As his financial resources increased he added to it, and, at the time of his death, owned a valuable farm of 168 acres. Both he and his wife spent their remaining days on the old homestead, the former passing away in March, 1886, at the age of fifty-six, while the latter died in 1879, aged forty-five years. Their children were: Anna, deceased; George; James, deceased; Emma, wife of William Pattee, of Tiffin, Ohio; and Ella, wife of James Gilder, of Portage township.

George Doil was only two years of age when his parents came to Wood county. He attended the district schools of Bloom township, and until his marriage gave the benefit of his services to his father in the development of the old home



*George Doil*



*Anna Doil*





farm. On April 2, 1891, he wedded Miss Annie Shatzer, who was born January 25, 1870, in Richland county, Ohio, and was educated in Richland and Henry counties. They began their domestic life on the old homestead, and there resided until March, 1894, when they removed to North Baltimore, residing there the succeeding year. In the meantime Mr. Doil sold his interest in the old homestead. In connection with his brother, he owned 246 acres, which they sold at \$100 per acre. He then, in November, 1892, purchased his present farm, comprising 160 acres in Henry township, the greater part of which is under a high state of cultivation, while the well-tilled fields and many improvements upon the place indicate the thrift and enterprise of the owner. He located thereon in March, 1895, and to-day has one of the most desirable farm properties in the county.

Mr. and Mrs. Doil have three interesting little children: Mabel, born May 16, 1892; George, born May 21, 1894, and Reah, born May 25, 1896. Mrs. Doil is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is a most estimable lady. Mr. Doil gives his political support to the Democratic party. He owes his success in life to the honest pursuit of a persistent purpose, to his energy and sound judgment, and to-day he is numbered among the substantial citizens of the community.

**WINFIELD BARBER.** Among the native sons of Ohio who well deserve representation in this volume, is the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch, and who in all the relations of life has proved himself a valued citizen. He was born in Seneca county, March 19, 1836. His father, Jonathan Barber, was born in Orange county, N. Y., and was the only child of Joseph Barber, a farmer of the Empire State, who served as a soldier in the Revolutionary war. Jonathan learned the shoe-maker's trade, which he afterward followed in connection with farming. In Cattaraugus county, N. Y., he married Esther Millerman, and located in Steuben county, that State. In 1848 he brought his family to Medina county, Ohio, making the journey by wagon, and in the fall of 1852 came to Wood county, locating on forty acres of land in Milton township. His death occurred in 1855, and his wife survived him fifteen years. Their children were: Rachel, who became the wife of John An-nobel, and died in Medina county, Ohio; Hannah, who became the wife of Amos Knapp, and died in Michigan; Nancy, who died in Steuben county, N. Y., and was the wife of George Bird;

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Mary, who was the wife of William Brower, and died in Steuben county; Joseph, William and Jonathan who are residents of Michigan; Israil is a resident of Oklahoma; Chauncey, who mysteriously disappeared in 1894 and has never been heard from since; Betsy, who was the wife of Joseph Clark, and died in Medina county; and Winfield.

Our subject is indebted to the district schools for his education. At the age of eighteen he came with his parents to Wood county, and in 1857 he left home, going to Hancock county, where he worked through the winter, then rented a farm of his brother in Lenawee county, Mich. After operating that farm for two years, he returned to Hancock county, where he carried on agricultural pursuits and carpentering. In 1861 he was found among the loyal defenders of the Union, enlisting in Company F, 21st O. V. I., under Capt. Alban. He participated in the battles of Ivy Mountain, Stone River, and Resaca, and on August 9, 1864, was transferred to the 1st United States Engineer Corps. On September 28, 1863, while building a corduroy road, he was quite severely injured by a log falling on his chest. He served sixteen months in the pioneer brigade, under Gen. Rosecrans, and when the war was over received an honorable discharge.

Mr. Barber was married in Hancock county, February 21, 1864, to Elizabeth Fox, a native of that county, and in 1868 they came to Wood county, where our subject purchased eighty acres of land, living first in a log house. For many years he has been engaged in ditching, and is numbered among the industrious, progressive citizens of the community. His wife died July 8, 1892, leaving two children—George, at home; and Nora, wife of Elder Salisbury, of Milton township. On January 28, 1894, Mr. Barber married Sarah Jane Kramer, widow of Emmet Thomas. In politics he is an ardent Republican, and his religious belief is in harmony with the doctrine of the United Brethren Church. His success in life is the result of his own exertions.

**ISAAC J. DENT,** a prominent resident of Fenton, is a native of Cambridgeshire, England, born April 1, 1848. Charles Dent, his father, was also born in England, and was married there to Miss Frances Johnston. He came to the United States with his family in 1853, locating first on a farm in Medina county, Ohio. He afterward lived for a short time in Lorain county, but finally settled in Wood county, where he died November 6, 1872, his wife having passed away ten years previous. Seven children were born to

this worthy pioneer couple: Sarah, the wife of George Bell; Mary, who married John Whitney, a carpenter in Lorain county; Elizabeth, the wife of Charles Bales, of Kipton; Isaac, our subject; George, who died at the age of twenty-three; Lutisha; and Adolphus, a resident of Kipton, Ohio.

Mr. Dent was only six years of age when he came to Ohio, and his boyhood was spent mainly in Medina and Lorain counties. He worked for two years as a farm laborer, and then, in 1869, came to Wood county, and bought forty acres of land, improving and adding to it, until he now has a fine farm of eighty acres. He also carries on a general supply store and for eleven years has been postmaster at Fenton. Energetic, progressive and honest, he holds the esteem and confidence of the entire community, which he has served as school director, and supervisor, in addition to his other important trusts. On July 11, 1871, he was married, in Webster township, to Miss Martha Emmett, a native of Huron county, and a daughter of P. G. Emmett, of Fenton. Three children were born to this union: Mary F., a young lady of fine mental gifts and rare womanliness, is a teacher, and also assists her father in conducting the store; Emily and Ida are attending school. The family are active and prominent workers in the U. B. Church of Webster.

JAMES CASKIE, a farmer, was born in Wigtownshire, Scotland, March 17, 1834, and is the son of Alexander and Mary (Wilson) Caskie. Our subject attended the common schools in the old country continuously until fourteen years old, at which time he worked on the farm in summer and went to school in the winter. In the fall of 1853 he carried out an idea that he had entertained for some time, that of coming to America, where there was a better chance of getting a home, which he must do by his own efforts. In October, 1853, he left Liverpool on the sailing vessel "Schackmaxon," and after a voyage of seven weeks, landed in Lehigh county, Penn., where he had an acquaintance in the slate quarries. Here he secured his first employment and received seventy-five cents a day in winter, and one dollar in summer. After working there one year he left for the West, and located at Carey, Ohio, working on a farm near that place, where he received \$8 a month in the winter season, and \$13 a month in the summer.

On March 17, 1855, Mr. Caskie was married at Carey, Ohio, to Miss Matilda Smith, a native of Scotland, where she was born October 5, 1835,

the daughter of James and Martha (Elder) Smith. Her father was Scotch, and was an officer in the British army for many years. After marriage our subject located near Carey, Ohio, on a rented farm, where he lived until the fall of 1859. In 1857 he bought eighty acres of land in Section 18, Montgomery township, then in a primitive condition, for which he paid \$200, going in debt for part of the amount. In order to meet the last payment he was obliged to return to the slate quarries of Pennsylvania, where wages were higher, and where he stayed one year. In the fall of 1860 Mr. Caskie made the last payment on his land, to which he moved. He and his family lived in a cabin made of round logs, which was the first home our subject could call his own. A portion of his farm was wet and swampy, and a small part of it was sandy, and on the latter he raised his first crop, fifty bushels of wheat. He farmed other lands, and was in this way able to support his family. He added sixty acres to his other land and built a larger log house, which was his home until, in 1883, he moved to his present place of residence, where he has 120 acres of good land and a fine house, all the improvements on the place being made by Mr. Caskie.

To Mr. and Mrs. Caskie have been born the following children: Mary, December 22, 1856, married Albert Faatz, of Montgomery township, and they have two children; Martha, May 3, 1858, became the wife of F. T. Hedge, of Montgomery township, and they have two children; Alexander R., August 21, 1861, married Miss Emma Sutton (they live in Jerry City and have one child); William C., October 7, 1863, a farmer of Perry township, married May Wetmore, and they have five children; John, December 9, 1865, married Frankie Spielman, and lives in Toledo (they have one child); Daisy, May 9, 1868, married William Odell, of Montgomery township; James R., March 29, 1872, died February 19, 1873; Milton, August 1, 1875, is at home. In 1882 Mr. Caskie went to Scotland and revisited the scenes of his childhood, after an absence of twenty-nine years, spending six weeks there. He went over on "The City of Rome" and returned on "The City of Berlin."

Politically Mr. Caskie is a Republican, and cast his first vote for Lincoln's second term. He has served his party in various offices, among them being township trustee and school director, holding the latter position for over twenty years. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Church, of which he has been steward and is at present one of the trustees.

Alexander Caskie was a laborer, and made his living by farming and working by the day. Our subject was the only child. In 1854 he brought his wife to the United States, and one week after their arrival Mrs. Caskie died at Slatington, Penn. Mr. Caskie lived with his son until his death at the latter's home in Montgomery township, at the age of seventy-eight years. He is buried at Prairie Depot. The grandfather of our subject was David Caskie, a farmer.

V. R. PORTER, a wealthy retired farmer, residing at Bowling Green, was born August 1, 1837, in Chautauqua, New York.

His father, Truman Porter, was a native of Vermont, born in 1801, and left his native hills in early manhood, to carve out for himself a fortune in the West. Locating first in Pennsylvania, he met his future wife, Miss Maria Darrow, who was born there in 1812. They were married, and a few years later came to Ohio, settling upon a farm in Ottawa county, where they lived seventeen years. In 1847 they moved to a farm in Plain township, Wood county, near Bowling Green, where Mr. Porter, Sr., died in 1878, and the farm is now owned by our subject.

V. R. Porter was just entering manhood when his parents came to Wood county. On January 1, 1858, he married Miss Lydia A. Sizer, who was born in Huron county in 1835. They went to housekeeping on a rented farm in Portage township, making their household furniture out of dry-goods boxes, and building a stove out of "nigger heads." After one year they moved to Plain township, but returned the following year to Portage. Fortune's frowns had but little effect upon the happy young couple, and they worked hard, and soon began to prosper. In 1863 they bought a farm in Plain township, in the corporation of Bowling Green. Finding a good opportunity to sell, they did so, and for some time Mr. Porter speculated in a small way in real estate, "coming out ahead" on every deal. The proceeds of the first sale bought sixteen acres in Plain township. The price of that bought forty acres in Weston township, and when that was sold Mr. Porter purchased sixty acres in Portage township, which he still owns. He has since bought other property, including forty-two acres in Plain township, and at the present time owns 159½ acres in different places, upon which he has three good oil wells. His first wife died in 1877, leaving four children. (1) Sophronia, now deceased, born December 11, 1862, married Edward Woodruff, of Michigan, and had two children, of whom only one—Linnie—is now living. (2) William, born

November 15, 1864, married Miss Rosa Freen, and lives in Jackson township. They have one child. (3) Milo, born July 18, 1866, married Miss Sadie Kromer, and resides in Center township; three children were born to them—Archie, Claude, and Ina. (4) Rosa, born January 10, 1868, married Charles Strubble and lives on the old farm in Portage township; they have three daughters—Linnie, Vernie, and Hazel. Mr. Porter married for his second wife Miss Jennie Miner, who was born in Michigan in 1850. She died in 1893. Of their three children, one died in infancy; the others are—Fred H., born December 17, 1882, and Ada, born April 19, 1885.

Mr. Porter's present wife was Miss Ina Daniels, who was born in Oneida county, N. Y., July 4, 1859. Mr. and Mrs. Porter are leading members of the M. E. Church of Bowling Green, and take a prominent part in the social and philanthropical enterprises in the community, using their wealth to advance every good cause. Mr. Porter is a Republican, politically, but has never sought office. He has now reached a point where his past hardships can be surveyed with satisfaction, as a sharp contrast to the present, although, with youth, and all its blessings, and with hope to gild the future, life was happy then.

CHARLES ROPER, a prominent agriculturist of Webster township, residing near Fenton, was born in Lincolnshire, England, June 9, 1830. Noah Roper, his father, who was by occupation a laborer, married Miss Lucy Dorr, also a native of England, by whom he had nine children, our subject being the eldest. Four others grew to maturity, Eliza (now deceased); Ann (married), George, Fannie, and four died in infancy. Both parents died in England.

Mr. Roper availed himself of the educational opportunities afforded by the schools near his home. In 1855 he married Miss Elizabeth Emmett, who was born in Lincolnshire, April 8, 1829. He worked as a laborer until 1856, when, desiring a better outlook in life, he emigrated to America. He first located in New Castle county, Del., but a year later came to Erie county, Ohio, and worked upon a farm for a year. In 1861, he bought twenty acres of land in this county, which formed a nucleus for his present fine farm of sixty acres. His time mainly is devoted to dairying and stock raising. His energy and wise management have met reward, and he is one of the most highly respected citizens of the community. He is one of the stockholders in the Luckey Creamery Company. He and his wife are members of the United Presbyterian Church. They have

had five children, whose names with dates of birth are here given: Lucy A., May 4, 1857, married Robert Forrester; Perry, January 23, 1859, is a farmer in Webster township; Jeannette, May 24, 1867, is now deceased; Mary, February 8, 1870, married Anthony Siefert, of Webster township; and Charles, June 28, 1865, died in infancy.

In politics Mr. Roper is a Democrat, and he takes an influential part in local affairs. He has served two terms as supervisor and trustee of his township.

**HARRY MAIDLOW.** Among the native sons of Maryland, who have emigrated westward in search of homes, and have become valued and esteemed citizens of the localities in which they reside, is numbered this gentleman. A son of Charles and Sarah (Care) Maidlow, he was born in Baltimore, Md., February 12, 1859. His father was born near Evansville, Ind., in 1821, and during his childhood, went with his parents to the Oriole City, where he learned the trade of brick laying, and also engaged in clerking in that city. There he was married to one of the native daughters of Baltimore. Her death occurred June 25, 1885, and the father has also passed away. Their children were Isabel, who died in infancy; James, who died in childhood; Mary, who became the wife of Robert Brooks, and died in Putnam county, Ohio; Charles, who died in Baltimore, Md.; Kate, wife of James Bowers; Harry; and Edward, of Baltimore.

Mr. Maidlow, of this sketch, acquired a good education in his native city, and entered upon his business career with his father, in the wholesale and retail produce business. He afterward engaged in traveling for several years, and was married in Baltimore in 1887, to Miss Mary Maidlow. The lady was born in Vanderburg county, Ind., April 24, 1863, and is a daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Earl) Maidlow, who reside near Evansville, Ind. Our subject's wife had always remained at home until her marriage, and was one of a family of eleven children—John, who died in childhood, Leslie, Alice, William, Maria, Emma, Mary, Kate, Fannie, Richard and Elizabeth.

In 1889, Harry Maidlow removed with his wife to Liberty township, Wood county, and purchased eighty acres of land, the greater part of which was still wild and unimproved. He erected a good residence and substantial out-buildings, and now has one of the valuable and desirable farms of the community, his land being under a high state of cultivation. The home is

blessed by the presence of two daughters—Sarah and Ruth. Mr. Maidlow has been the architect of his own fortunes. All that he has, has been secured through his own efforts, and his diligence and enterprise have been the factors in his success.

**F. G. ENSMINGER,** the efficient and capable foreman of the Dewey Stave Company, of Bairdstown, Wood county, is a native of Hancock county, Ohio, born in Van Buren February 22, 1862, son of A. G. and Lucy (Ishman) Ensminger. By occupation the father was a carpenter and cooper. He reared a large family of children. He is now deceased.

Our subject passed his early life under the parental roof, receiving his education in the common schools, and when a child was brought by his parents to Bairdstown, arriving soon after the village had been laid out. He remained at home until his marriage, which important event occurred May 3, 1888, Miss Frances E. Ault becoming his wife. She is a native of Fairfield county, Ohio, a daughter of John Ault, an agriculturist, and by her marriage has become the mother of three children—Ralph W., Bertha and Elsie. At the time of his marriage Mr. Ensminger was engaged in drilling water wells, which business he continued to follow for three years, and in Bairdstown began his domestic life. He later entered the employ of the Dewey Stave Company, where he had previously worked, and has since remained with that firm, with the exception of five months, when he was hired by the Montpelier Stave Company. In June, 1894, he was made foreman, and is now filling that important position to the satisfaction of all concerned. It is one of the most extensive plants of the kind in the county, and he enjoys the highest confidence of his employers.

Mr. Ensminger has served as a member of the city council of Bairdstown, was treasurer for one term, and in 1894 was elected city marshal. His public as well as his private duties are always faithfully discharged. He uses his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Republican party. He is a straightforward, upright gentleman, highly regarded by all, and one who has fought his own life's battle unaided from boyhood.

**FREDERICK WITTMER.** Among the most successful and reliable citizens of foreign birth, who make their home in Bowling Green, is to be found the subject of this sketch. He is the son of David and Mary (Maitrot) Wittmer, who were

natives of France, where the former was born in 1805, and died in 1873. He was a butcher by occupation, and carried on a meat market and bakery. His family consisted of three children, our subject and two daughters, Catherine and Louise, who still live in France, and own a large amount of property.

The grandfather of our subject was also a Frenchman by birth, but during the Napoleonic war was forced to join the German army. He was finally able to make his escape and return to the assistance of his countrymen. He died when only thirty-three years of age.

Mr. Wittmer is the only one of his family who came to America. He landed at New York City January 18, 1866, and soon after came to Wood county, where he settled in Center township. He was a butcher by trade in the old country; but as he could not speak English, he engaged in farming, which he carried on for eleven years, removing to Bowling Green in 1877. Unlike most Europeans who come to America, Mr. Wittmer brought considerable money with him, and soon became known as one of the most successful business men of Wood county. He possesses remarkable financial ability, and it may truthfully be said that no business enterprise with which he has been connected, has ever been a failure. He has assisted materially in the development of the oil fields in the vicinity of Bowling Green, and his investment in this line is now paying him a handsome annuity. He is a man of progressive ideas, of untiring energy, honorable and straightforward in all his dealings, and is one of the most respected and substantial citizens of Bowling Green. He at one time owned a farm of 120 acres, in Wood county, which he afterward sold, his other numerous interests demanding his entire time and attention.

Mr. Wittmer was born in the southeast part of France, May 26, 1840, and was there married to Miss Marie Marchand, whose birth took place in 1846. Six children have been born to them, namely: Marie, Frederick, David, George, Eugene, and Henry.

HERMAN H. SCHROEDER, deceased, who was a pioneer agriculturist of Perrysburg township, was born in Prussia, Germany, in 1818. In 1842 he came to America and settled in Wood county, where, in Perrysburg township, he bought eighty acres of land, which formed the nucleus for further acquisitions. So successful was he, that at the time of his death, in 1891, he owned 400 acres of the finest land in the county. He was a leader in his community, and delighted in his

later days to tell the story of early times to the generation which is reaping the reward of the labors of the pioneers. In 1847 he was married to Miss Angeline Sielscott, who was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1831. Six children were born to them, named, respectively, Henry A., John F., Louis, Louise, Frank and Sophia, all of whom are yet living except Frank, who died at the age of one year and four months. The widowed mother is yet living on the home farm, in vigorous health for one of her advanced years, and is tenderly cared for by her son John.

JOHN F. SCHROEDER, the second in the above named family, received his education in the district schools. On entering business life he was for a time engaged in business at Toledo, Ohio, and then returned to the farm, where he assisted his father in his declining years, and of which he has now entire charge. Possessing great energy and much tact, he operates the homestead by modern and progressive methods. Politically, he is a Republican, and in religious faith he is a member of the Lutheran Church.

JOHN KATON, deceased, was a well-known retired agriculturist of Grand Rapids, and a veteran of the Civil war, born in Fairfield county, Ohio, October 18, 1841. His ancestors have been for many generations people of culture and good standing, and his grandfather, Thomas Katon, was a farmer of Fairfield, Ohio. Jesse Katon, our subject's father, born in Pennsylvania, May 3, 1808, was a teacher, and in 1834 moved to Hancock county, Ohio, where he married Miss Nancy Johnson, who was born June 19, 1812. Seven children blessed this union, whose names with dates of birth are as follows: Thomas, April 25, 1835, a resident of Hillsdale, Mich.; Anna M., March 4, 1837, who died in early youth; Mary E., April 28, 1839, the wife of E. A. Moore, of Weston, Ohio, died September 24, 1896; John, our subject; Sarah D., December 31, 1843, the wife of James Barrett, of Fulton county, Ohio; William F., April 2, 1845, and James H., September 1, 1854, who resides near Deshler, Ohio. In 1860 our subject's father sold his farm in Hancock county, and moved to Michigan, remaining five years, and then located in Wood county, where he bought forty acres of land in what is now known as Grand Rapids township. Here he passed to his final rest March 24, 1881, his wife having died two years before, on December 8, 1879.

John Katon was instructed during his boyhood by his father, who was a man of unusual mental ability and attainments, and remained at

home until August 5, 1862, when he enlisted in Co. H, 18th Mich. V. I., Col. Doolittle and Capt. Ingersoll commanding. He participated in all the battles in which his regiment was engaged, and endured hardships and exposure from which his health ever suffered. He was discharged June 26, 1865, and returned to Michigan, and, after the removal of the family to this county, he continued to assist his father until 1869, when he bought twenty acres of land and began farming on his own account. He possessed naturally the energy and industry which ensure success, and gradually enlarged his farm until he owned seventy-nine acres of fine land with well-planned improvements. His ill health, which dated back to his gallant service in the army, had of late years been a source of anxiety, and on the advice of his physicians he retired to Grand Rapids to seek freedom from responsibility and care. He was married October 13, 1869, to Miss Ruvilla Kerr, a sister of W. B. Kerr, a prominent resident of Grand Rapids township, and had three children: William W., born November 8, 1870, a farmer in Grand Rapids township; Carrie, born May 17, 1874, who resides with her parents; and Clyde E., born January 16, 1876, who has a prosperous grocery and meat market in Grand Rapids. Mrs. Katon is a lady of fine social gifts and gracious manners, and is one of the leading workers of the Presbyterian Church, to which Mr. Katon also belonged, and in which faith he passed away July 20, 1896. He held a high place in the esteem of his acquaintances; his upright character and liberality of thought made his friendship something to be valued.

In politics he was a Republican, and he was for several years school director and member of the school board in his township, and, later, was elected to the office of trustee, but he was obliged to resign because of his health. He was a member of the G. A. R., Bond Post No. 24, at Grand Rapids.

J. R. PHILLIPS, a merchant and farmer of West Millgrove, was born in Rutland county, Vt., March 10, 1832, a son of Caleb and Rhoda (Sherman) Phillips. Our subject was two years old when his parents moved to Seneca county, Ohio, and located near Melmore, where they lived until 1854, and then went to Linn county, Iowa, where the mother died in 1864. The father returned to Vermont, and died there in 1888, at the age of seventy-eight years. They had seven children, as follows: Izetus died in Millgrove; J. R., our subject; Sally A., married Solomon Yambert, and died in Iowa; Montro-

ville was a soldier, and ex-sheriff of Brown county, Kans., and died at Oil Springs, Cherokee Strip, Indian Territory, in 1890; Theron died in Iowa; Mercy died at an early age in Iowa; Winfield S. is a specialist physician of St. Joseph, Mo., and possesses great natural ability.

Mr. Phillips' first schooling was obtained in Seneca county, in log school houses, furnished with plank seats, and of which he has fond recollections, as he claims that better progress was made then than at the present time. He learned rapidly, although his attendance was interrupted by his being compelled to work on the farm, as his parents were poor. He walked three miles to and from school, without overcoat or underwear in winter, as such luxuries were unknown in those days, and for his lunch carried a package of corn bread. His clothing was home made, the product of his mother's skill. He was a hardy, robust boy, to whom sickness was unknown, and in the morning he would get up, and in his bare feet would run eighty rods in the snow to a quail trap. In the spring of 1853 Mr. Phillips started for Cedar Rapids, Iowa, riding the entire distance on a little bay mare. He had \$45 in cash, and was twenty-eight days on the road. When he reached Linn county he had \$27 left. He worked at odd jobs by the day, but in July, 1853, was unfortunate enough to be taken ill. He sold his mare for \$95 and bought eighty acres of land in Otter Creek township, Linn Co., Iowa, where he put up a shanty twelve by fourteen feet, with one window in it.

On September 18, 1855, he was married in Tiffin, Seneca Co., Ohio, to Miss Ann M. Lott, who was born in that county, October 16, 1835. She was the daughter of Peter and Mary (Black) Lott, the former of whom was born in Adams county, and the latter near Fredericksburg, Md. They were early settlers in Seneca county and had eight children, three sons and five daughters. Peter was one of the well-to-do men of his section, and was justice of the peace for twenty years in Seneca county. Our subject went to housekeeping, first on his prairie farm in Iowa, where the furniture consisted of what Mr. Phillips made himself, and was consequently very crude. At that time he was as poor as "Job's turkey." In the fall of 1864 he returned to Ohio, and in the spring of 1865 bought eighty acres of land in Montgomery township, Wood county, where he remained a few years and then went to Pleasant township, Seneca county, and later to Perry, near Norris Station. In the spring of 1871 he came to Section 9, Perry township, bought 160 acres of land, for which he paid cash,

and on which he now lives. To him and his wife were born the following children: Lisuel, died in infancy; May, May 8, 1857, married E. D. Maffett, of Hartford City, Ind., who is editor of the *Times*; Elmer E., April 9, 1859, a farmer of Perry township; Metta E., January 22, 1861, is the wife of J. M. Laurence, of Prairie Depot; Barton M., March 30, 1866, is employed in the store of our subject; Jennie, April 13, 1869, died in infancy.

Mr. Phillips is a Republican, and was for nine years justice of the peace of Perry township, and for eight years mayor of West Millgrove. He is counsellor and advisor of his party, in which he has always manifested a keen interest. In 1876 he entered into partnership with his brother in the general merchandise business at West Millgrove. After his brother's death he took entire charge of the store, which he now conducts in connection with his farm. Both he and his wife are members of the Disciples Church. "Squire" Phillips, as he is known, is a self-made man, and one of the substantial citizens of Perry township. He is a man of fine intellect, a fair legal knowledge, and his opinion is sought by many on matters of various kinds. By hard work in his younger days, and with the cheerful assistance of his good wife, he has secured a comfortable competency, and is enjoying his latter days in the peace and quiet he has so well earned.

**CORNELIUS BIERLY.** Among the influential members of the farming community of Montgomery township, and one of its most highly respected citizens, is the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch. He is entirely a self-made man in the truest sense of the word, having been the architect of his own fortune, and he was one of the brave defenders of the Union during the Civil war. He was born April 24, 1837, in Miles township, Center Co., Penn., and traces his ancestry back through several generations to a Prussian cavalryman, who served in the Thirty-Years war in Europe, and was founder of the family in the United States, locating in Pennsylvania. His son, Anthony Bierly, aided the Colonies in their struggle for independence, and in the Keystone State wedded a Miss Warner.

The next in direct line was Nicholas Bierly, the grandfather of our subject, who was born in Sunbury, Penn., and was one of the oldest in a family of twelve children, three sons and nine daughters. In Miles township, Center Co., Penn., he was united in marriage with Lucinda Buchtel, also a native of Sunbury, and they became the

parents of ten children—Nicholas; Hannah; Michael; John; David, living in Montgomery township, Wood Co., Ohio; Anthony, the father of our subject; Reuben; Peter; Simon; and George, also of Montgomery township. The grandfather, who was a large, tall man, was a farmer by occupation, a Democrat in politics, and a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, while his wife belonged to the German Reformed Church. He died at the age of seventy-five, and she when sixty-three years of age.

Anthony Bierly was a natural mechanic, and a cooper by trade, but he also engaged in agricultural pursuits. In Center county, Penn., he wedded Rachael Ruhl, a native of that State, and to them were born nine children, as follows: Catherine, Hannah, Lydia, Cornelius, Abie, Margaret, Paulina, Reuben and Fayette; all are still living with the exception of Catherine and Abie. The parents, who are now deceased, passed their entire lives in Pennsylvania.

Our subject is the only one of the family to come to Ohio. He had a common district-school education in his native State, and remained at home until seventeen years of age, aiding in the work of the farm and in his father's shop, as he was a natural mechanic. At that time he began learning the trades of a brick-layer and a plasterer, and during the first summer, while he was working as an apprentice, his wages were only two shillings per day. As he learned quite rapidly, he then became a journeyman, and was employed at his trade until the spring of 1857, when he came to Ohio with his uncle, George Bierly, who at that time had a felon on his thumb, and wished our subject to help him in getting settled in this State.

On his arrival he decided to remain, and he worked at his trade for some time at Fostoria, Bellevue and elsewhere.

On January 30, 1858, in Section 12, Montgomery township, Mr. Bierly led to the marriage altar Miss Caroline Hartman, who was born near Prairie Depot, November 19, 1840, the daughter of William and Esther (Buchtel) Hartman. They now have three children—Clara E., wife of C. H. Hailes, of Prairie Depot; A. A., a plasterer, of Prairie Depot, Ohio; and Delta G., a music teacher, residing at home. Mr. Bierly located upon his father-in-law's farm, but also worked at his trade in connection with farming. In 1860 he removed to Prairie Depot, where he bought a log house on a lot which is now in the center of the business portion of that village, for \$100, and his first payment consisted of cattle worth \$17. Prompted by patriotism he enlisted, on October 8, 1862, in Company C, 72nd O. V. I., under



Capt. Samuel Snyder, and joined the regiment at Duck Port, La. He was with the command during the siege of Vicksburg, but illness compelled him to enter the hospital, and he was later transferred to the invalid corps, with which he served until discharged in August, 1865.

After visiting his old home in Center county, Penn., Mr. Bierly returned to Prairie Depot, very much broken down in health, and for three years was there engaged in the mercantile business, in connection with work at his trade. Selling out his store, he gave his entire attention to the latter occupation until November 23, 1886, when he removed to his present home, having previously purchased sixty acres in Section 12, Montgomery township, which is one-half of the old Hartman homestead. He has a very pleasant residence, and has also erected all the other buildings upon the place. Until 1881 Mr. Bierly was a Republican, but since that time, on account of his views on the temperance question, he has been a stalwart Prohibitionist. While a resident of Prairie Depot, Mr. Bierly served as a member of the council, receiving every vote cast with the exception of four, and was a member of the first board of aldermen that assembled in that village. He has also been constable in Montgomery township, and a member of the school board of Prairie Depot District.

CLARENCE POTTER, of Liberty township, is a young man of excellent business and executive ability, whose leading characteristics are enterprise and energy. He is careful in his management, far-sighted in his dealings, and above all is honorable and straightforward in every transaction. His fellow citizens accord him a place among the representative men of Liberty township, and give him their confidence and high regard.

Mr. Potter was born in Fayette county, Penn., September 5, 1859, and is a son of George and Almira Jane (Collins) Potter. The father was born in Fayette county, in 1833, was educated in the district schools, and then began work at the stone mason's trade; he also learned chair-making before his marriage, and followed that occupation for a number of years. At the age of twenty-six he was married, in Fayette county, to Miss Collins, a native of West Virginia, who died April 14, 1879. The father afterward wedded Mary Leonard, with whom he is now living, on a farm which our subject purchased in the spring of 1889. The children of the first marriage are Clarence; Miriam, of Youngstown, Ohio; Charles, a lumber merchant of Washington county, Penn.;

Isaac, who died at the age of three years; Joseph, who died in infancy; Eunice, who died at the age of three years; Josephine; Angeline, who is living with our subject; and Horace. The two children of the second marriage are Jessie and Logan.

Our subject received a good English education, and at the age of sixteen began work in a tannery, on Beaver creek, one mile and a half from his home. He also followed the mason's trade to some extent, and before the age of sixteen laid the foundation under his father's barn. As a boy he greatly enjoyed hunting and fishing, and was an expert shot with the rifle. At the age of twenty he went to McKean county, Penn., and procured work as a tool dresser in the oil fields of Bradford, receiving \$2 per day for a year, and afterward \$3 per day. He continued in the oil fields of McKean county and of Allegany county, N. Y., for three years, and became a driller. Subsequently he went to Bottineau county, N. D., where he secured a squatter's claim on the bank of Willow river. The journey was made by rail to Devil's Lake City, and thence on foot to his destination, a distance of 200 miles. This was in the summer of 1884. On his 160-acre claim of prairie land he built a rude cabin, partly of logs and partly as a dug-out, and then broke fifteen acres of land, with a team of horses borrowed from his nearest neighbor, whom he repaid by aiding him to erect a substantial dwelling. As he could not get a deed for his land, on account of it being unsurveyed, and not in the market, Mr. Potter returned in the following November, to the Allegany county oil fields, expecting to return to his claim in the spring; but, having a paying position, he abandoned this plan. After two years in the oil fields, he returned home, and in March, 1887, removed to Findlay, Ohio, where he engaged to go to Bowling Green and take charge of the De Witt oil well for his uncle, Isaac Collins. He continued to work in the oil fields of Ohio and Michigan until the spring of 1888, when he purchased tools and began taking contracts for drilling wells. In 1888 he drilled, on the Ducat farm, a well whose estimated yield was 10,000 barrels per day; after two weeks he sold this well for \$10,000. In June, 1889, he purchased forty acres of land, to which he has added until he now has 200 acres, upon which he has drilled twelve wells, which have proved productive and profitable. Mr. Potter has also many acres of leased land, upon which he has nineteen producing wells; his production of oil for the month of March, 1896, shows over three thousand barrels, net.



GEORGE.

CLARENCE POTTER.

MRS. LUELLA POTTER.



Mr. Potter was married, in Milton township, April 15, 1891, to Miss Luella Poland, who was born August 31, 1866, in Hancock county, Ohio, a daughter of Joseph and Nancy (Swisher) Poland. They have one child, George Poland. In politics Mr. Potter is a Republican. He is a popular and esteemed citizen, genial and pleasant in manner, and ever ready to extend a helping hand to those in need, many having received timely assistance from him.

HENRY HUFFMAN, a leading agriculturist of Grand Rapids township, was born near Harrisburg, Penn., November 4, 1831. His family is of German origin; but his father, John Huffman, was born in Pennsylvania, where he followed, for many years, the occupation of tailoring. He married Miss Nancy ———, and reared a family of twelve children, of whom our subject is the eldest. Catherine is the widow of Jacob Walters; Mary is the widow of John Walters; Jacob and Daniel are farmers in Washington township; Harriet married Francis Franklin, of Tontogany; John is a farmer in Grand Rapids township; Jeremiah is a grocer in Grand Rapids; Israel is a butcher in the same town; Anna married R. D. Hannah; Joseph is a farmer in Washington township; and Sarah is the wife of Byron Phillips, of Otsego. Our subject's father came to Wood county in 1850, and bought a large tract of land in Grand Rapids township, which he cultivated until his death, which occurred March 15, 1864. His wife survived him many years, passing away August 12, 1880, having seen her large family, whom she and her husband had early trained in the Christian faith, all well settled in life.

Henry Huffman, the subject of this sketch, attended school in his native State during his boyhood, and afterward learned the tailor's trade, which he followed for some years. At the age of twenty-one he took a farm on shares, and kept it for seven years, when he bought eighty acres in Washington township, where he constructed a dwelling and farm buildings out of logs. In 1868 he bought forty acres more, and built a handsome brick residence, with barns of modern style, and, a few years later, he bought forty acres near Grand Rapids, building a fine residence, in which he now lives, and making first-class improvements. He has since purchased thirty acres more, now owning 190 acres of land; but for the last ten years he has left the active work of his estate in the hands of his sons and sons-in-law. He has been twice married—first, in 1859, to Miss Christiana Seitz, who was born in Lancaster, New York, October 31, 1836. Eight chil-

dren were born of this union, whose names, with dates of birth, are as follows: Lucy E., November, 1860, is the wife of C. A. Eager, of Pleasant Bend, Ohio; Clark F., April 25, 1864; Samuel H., August 10, 1862; Fannie E., July 17, 1865, married Charles Riggs, of Grand Rapids, Ohio; Sarah A., April 9, 1867, married George Kylean; John W., November 13, 1868, is in the windmill business at Boston, Mass.; Cristie Maria, October 9, 1872, married George Mason; and Meno M., February 15, 1874, is a manufacturer of windmills, at San Francisco, Cal. The mother of this family died May 21, 1876.

On March 3, 1878, he married, for his second wife, Miss Mary Roth, who was born February 27, 1844, a daughter of Nicholas Roth, a well-known farmer of Lucas county. Cheered by her companionship, Mr. Huffman is passing his declining years in retirement, taking no part in worldly affairs, and already looking forward to the joys of another and higher life. He is a devoted student of the Bible, and a member of the New Mennonite Church.

B. P. STRATTON, a member of the well-known firm of Stratton, Powell & Co., leading hardware merchants at Bowling Green, was born at Milan, Ohio, August 10, 1859.

His grandfather, Daniel Stratton, came from Beaver county, Penn., to Norwalk, Ohio, as a "Fireland Pioneer" at an early date, and lived there for many years. He died at Tontogany, Wood county, in 1876. Our subject's father, N. T. Stratton, was born in Norwalk, he has followed farming as an occupation all his life, most of the time in Wood county. In 1871 he engaged in lumbering, and had a general store at Averill, Mich., but he now resides at Yale, Mich. In politics he is a Republican, and he has always been an earnest supporter of progressive movements in his locality. He married Miss Jennie A. Smith, who was born on August 18, 1834, in Milan township, Erie county, by whom he had seven children: Frank, who resides at Portage, Ohio; B. P., our subject; John W., of Yale, Mich.; Hattie, wife of Harry Higgins, of Yale; Mellie, the wife of Frank A. Griswold, of the same place; Burt S., and Louie, both residents of Howell, Mich. Our subject's mother died in 1884, deeply mourned by a large circle of friends in the M. E. Church, of which she and her husband had been members for many years.

Mr. Stratton's early education was obtained in the schools of Wood county, and in Flint, Mich., where he studied for about eight years. For a short time he worked on his father's farm

in Wood county, but soon established a store at Portage, dealing in hardware and all sorts of implements. This he sold in 1885, and, coming to Bowling Green, he and J. W. Powell formed a partnership in a similar business, which is now known far and near, and is regarded as one of the most substantial, as it is certainly one of the most popular, in northern Ohio. Much of its success is due to the personal influence of Mr. Stratton, whose fine presence and courteous manners have won him friends wherever he is known. His energy and judgment are highly appreciated in business circles, and he is a valued member in the Crystal Oil Co., holding the offices of secretary and treasurer; he owns a one-fourth interest in this company. In municipal affairs, also, is his advice prized, and he is a leading member of the city council of Bowling Green, where his influence can always be relied upon for any measure tending to promote the good of the community. Mr. Stratton married Miss Hattie J. Avery, an accomplished and honored young lady, of Weston, and has two children, Pearl and Harold. He is a member of the fraternal order of the Knights of Pythias, and of the Masonic Order.

HENRY A. SCHROEDER, a well-known agriculturist of Perrysburg township, residing near Dowling, was born in Perrysburg township, April 11, 1849. His parents, Herman and Angeline (Sielscott) Schroeder, were natives of Germany, the father born in Prussia, in 1818, the mother born in Hanover in 1831. They were early settlers of Perrysburg township, where they acquired a large tract of land. The father died in 1891, but the mother is still living at the old homestead, which is now managed by our subject's brother, John F. Schroeder.

Henry A. Schroeder received his early education in the district schools, and assisted his father on the farm up to the age of twenty-seven, when he inherited 137 acres of land from his father, which he has since improved and converted into a fine farm. He does a general farming and dairy business, and is engaged, to some extent, in stock raising. His industry and frugality, combined with a sound business judgment, have made him successful in every undertaking so far, and given him a high reputation in business circles, while his genial nature makes him friends throughout the community. In 1877 he married Miss Eliza Hartman, a daughter of Philip and Clara Hartman, a prominent citizen of Woodville, Ohio. She was born December 7, 1852, and died March 5, 1891, leaving two children: Edward H., born September 10, 1882,

and George P., born January 14, 1886. On May 7, 1896, Mr. Schroeder was married to Miss Carrie White, a daughter of Henry R. and Mary White, prominent citizens of Perrysburg township; she was born in Toledo, Lucas county, September 21, 1856. In politics Mr. Schroeder is a Republican.

A. J. HASTINGS, one of Risingsun's substantial citizens, and a man who has been identified with its business interests ever since his residence there, was born on November 30, 1846, in Groton township, Erie Co., Ohio, and is a son of Ephraim Hastings, a native of New York, and a farmer by occupation. Our subject is next to the youngest in a family of eight children—all sons—and was reared in the usual manner of farmer boys of his day, his school privileges being such as the locality afforded.

Mr. Hastings remained at home until his enlistment in the Union army, December 28, 1863, when he became a member of Company K, 128th O. V. I., which did guard duty on Johnson's Island, near Sandusky City, until the close of the war, our subject being discharged in July, 1865. When hostilities had ceased, he began life for himself, ambition and energy being his only capital. At Sandusky he worked for some time in a wheel factory, and after leaving that employ opened a grocery store at Parktown, Ohio, which was his first experience in mercantile pursuits. He was there engaged in business for six years, during which time he was quite successful, and on selling out he became proprietor of the well-known hotel, "Seven-Mile House," in Erie county, which hostelry he continued until October, 1888.

It was at that time of life that Mr. Hastings came to Risingsun, where he was engaged in the same line of business for some time, but later carried on a retail liquor store, which proved very profitable, and he was thus employed until 1895. During that time he conducted a very respectable and most orderly place of business. In 1896 he erected a valuable store room on Main street, where he owns a lot, having a 132 foot front, on which is also located his comfortable home.

In 1866, in Erie county, Ohio, Mr. Hastings married Miss Barbara Hastings, a native of that county, and a daughter of Joel Hastings, a farmer. This wife died June 28, 1889, and was buried at Risingsun. For his present wife our subject chose Miss Minnie Groff, who was born in Sherman township, Huron county, and is a daughter of George Groff. They now have

one son, Vivian A., born in 1895. In politics, Mr. Hastings is a firm believer in the principles of the Democratic party, but has never been an office seeker or politician, and socially holds membership with the Grand Army of the Republic. His comfortable competence is the result of good business management, and "Jack," as he is familiarly called, has many friends throughout Wood county.

**CHRISTOPH LEHMANN.** The history of this gentleman, who for a quarter of a century has made his home in Bowling Green, where he holds a high position in the esteem of his fellow citizens, is a striking example of what can be accomplished in this land of the free, by the man who possesses sufficient force of character to overcome adverse circumstances and work his way steadily forward.

Mr. Lehmann is a native of Germany, born in Baden, April 9, 1843, the son of William and Catherine (Hauenstein) Lehmann. His parents were both natives of Baden and were married there. His father, who was a weaver by trade, died when our subject was three years old; the mother remarried, and lived to be sixty-eight years of age. She had a large family, of whom four grew to maturity: Thomas, a farmer in Wood county; Jacob, who still lives in Germany; Christoph, our subject; and Gottlieb Schwechheimer, a son by her second marriage.

When twenty-two years of age Mr. Lehmann came to America, landing at New York City with a capital of fifty cents. Through the kindness of a friend he was enabled to reach Tiffin, Ohio, where he worked at anything that came to hand, shoveling dirt on the railroad, working in a brewery, etc., until he went into a meat market and learned the trade of a butcher with John Remerly, remaining with him three years. At this time he determined to improve his knowledge of English and entered a country school at Tiffin, Ohio, where he remained a short time. He then went to Toledo, Ohio, and while in that city, came to the end of his resources; wondering how to raise money to live on, he fell in with a wandering Italian musician. The two concluded to do business together, and Mr. Lehmann passed the hat while the other performed on the harp. They made considerable money, but one fine morning, our subject awoke to find that his partner had decamped. He had enough money left to take him to Tiffin. There he met Gen. John C. Lee, for whom he worked over a month, doing various odd jobs about his premises and being paid \$1.65 per day. He then went to Chicago,

Ill., where he worked at his trade for three months, afterward going to Buffalo, N. Y., and then to Crestline, Ohio, finally returning to Tiffin, where he borrowed \$100, and in 1868 started a meat market of his own. On August 27, 1871, Mr. Lehmann took up his residence in Bowling Green, where he has since pursued his calling with great success. He made money steadily, and invested it in property, his first purchase being the building which he still occupies. In 1877, in connection with Messrs. Bolles & Manville,\* he put up the brick structure known as the "Union Block," in 1885 built another brick block, and still another in 1896, of which he is the sole proprietor.

Mr. Lehmann was married November 11, 1869, to Miss Caroline Kabig, of Tiffin, who was born in Wooster, Ohio, July 22, 1848, and seven children have come to them: William and Frank, associated in business with their father; Mrs. G. W. Fernside; Margaret; Carrie; James Garfield; and Katie.

In politics Mr. Lehmann is a thorough Democrat, and a worker in the interests of his party. Socially he belongs to the Masonic Order and the I. O. O. F. He was a member of the city council for many years, and has always commanded the respect and esteem of the community. He is a man of good sense and excellent judgment, and his advice is often asked in matters of interest pertaining to the welfare of the public. He is always willing and ready to give of his time and money for the furtherance of public enterprises, and has proved a loyal citizen to his adopted country. He has made his way in the world by his own industry and thrift, and well deserves the success which has attended him.

**SHELMAN BAIRD** is a member of one of the honored pioneer families of Wood county, who for half a century has been connected with its upbuilding and progress. He was born December 17, 1829, in Wayne county, Ohio, and is a son of Asa I. and Sarah (Shelman) Baird. When the latter was quite small her mother died, and she was reared in a family by the name of Whitford. The father was an Eastern man by birth, and a son of Charles Baird, who came to Wood county at a very early day, dying here in March, 1848, and was laid to rest in Perry Center cemetery. Asa Baird had been married in Wayne county, and in October, 1848, brought his family to Perry township, where he owned forty acres of land in Section 20, and eighty acres in Section 19. Two of his brothers had previously come to

Wood county—Ora, who had located in Bloom township as early as 1833; and Milton B., also an early settler of that township. The first home of the family was of round logs, with a clapboard roof and puncheon floor, the size of which was only 18 x 20 feet, but later an addition of hewed logs was built. Only a small portion of the land had been cleared, mainly the high knolls. The father brought the first separator into the southern part of Wood county, and for twenty years followed threshing in connection with the operation of his own land. He possessed a great fondness for horses, and owned a draft horse known as "Old Rockingham." He was a hardy, robust man, who lived to the age of sixty-eight years, dying in 1870, and surviving his wife about five years. Their remains were interred side by side in Perry Center cemetery. They belonged to the Disciples Church, and he was an enthusiastic member of the Republican party, while before its organization he was a Whig. Their children, who lived to an adult age, are as follows: Hannah, who died in Wayne county, Ohio, upon her wedding day, of scarlet fever; James, who died in Charlotte, Mich.; Shelman, of this review; Mary A., who first wedded Levi Spitler, but is now the widow of John Langam, and lives in Indiana; David, a farmer of Perry township; and Sarah A., now Mrs. H. J. Pelton, of Bloomdale, Ohio.

Shelman Baird passed his boyhood and youth in the manner of most farmer boys, and with his parents came to Wood county in the fall of 1848. It was on October 10, 1850, that he married Keziah Lacey, who was born in Pennsylvania, March 23, 1831, and was a daughter of Peter Lacey, who followed farming as a means of livelihood. They became the parents of the following children: Sarah J., born August 8, 1851, is the wife of George Zimmerman, of Sandusky county, Ohio; William S. resides in Bloom township, this county; Malissa L., born July 23, 1855, married John W. Sharp, and died in Henry township, Wood county, March 31, 1892; Mary Ann M., born January 13, 1858, is now Mrs. John Houtz, of Sandusky county; Minnie K., born July 6, 1861, is the wife of David Henning, of Henry township; David, born October 24, 1863, lives in the same township; Claria E., twin sister of David, married Charles Milbourn, of Bays, Wood county; and Lorenzo C., born December 18, 1866, makes his home in North Baltimore, Ohio. The mother of this family died May 17, 1873, and was laid to rest in Millgrove cemetery.

At Tiffin, Ohio, September 12, 1881, Mr.

Baird was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Isabella Taylor, widow of Henry Taylor, by whom she had seven children: Mary E., now Mrs. Daniel Weller, of Fremont, Ohio; Eva M., who died in infancy; Addie, now Mrs. George Bowersox, of Tiffin; Richard H., of Sandusky, Ohio; George D., of Rockaway, Ohio; Leonard E., who lives with our subject; and Herbert, who died at the age of five years. Mrs. Baird was born in Mansfield, Ohio, October 5, 1837, was a bright scholar in the common schools, learning rapidly, and at the age of twenty was licensed to teach, but never followed that profession. Her parents, Henry and Sarah (Kitchen) Bowen, were married in Pennsylvania, and had eight children, three sons and five daughters. The father, born in Connecticut, February 6, 1801, was a tailor by trade, which he followed in Mansfield and near Sandusky, Ohio, as well as in Portland township, Erie county, and in Hancock county, Ohio, died, when past the age of seventy-three. His wife, who was born in Lycoming county, Penn., August 7, 1806, died in Fostoria, Ohio, when nearly eighty years of age.

After his first marriage Mr. Baird had located upon his present farm of eighty acres in Section 18, Perry township, and has converted the dense forest into one of the best farms of the locality. He is now the oldest male descendant of this branch of the Baird family, is conservative, but commands the respect of all, and in politics was a Republican until 1875, when he joined the Greenback party, but is now a Populist. Mrs. Baird is an intelligent, cultured lady, possessing a retentive memory, and her knowledge of National issues of importance is wonderful. She is an earnest Christian, a member of the Disciples Church.

JOHN T. JOHNSON, a prominent agriculturist residing near Dowling, was born November 13, 1850, in Hanover, Germany. He was a son of Garrett and Mary Johnson, their family consisting of Mary, John T., Catherine, Garrett, Margetta (wife of Fred Myers of Hanover, Germany), Henry, Hank and Derrick.

Mr. Johnson availed himself of the excellent educational opportunities afforded by the schools of his native place, and on reaching manhood determined to come to America to make his home. Previous inquiries had caused him to decide upon this locality as the best field for his efforts, and in 1872 he arrived in Perrysburg. There were but fifty-four cents in his pocket; but he possessed a stout heart, and a willingness to accept

toil and hardships as the price of success. He secured employment on a farm by the month, later worked in a sawmill, and by close economy managed to save enough money to buy forty acres of wild land. Here the proud and happy owner proceeded to build a log house and clear a farm.

In 1874, Mr. Johnson married Miss Engel Brinker, of Perrysburg township, and ten children were born to the union, of whom seven are living: Mary (the wife of Charles Shelden), Hank, John, William, Louie, Whilomene and Katrina. As his first little home came under cultivation, Mr. Johnson gradually extended its borders until he now owns one of the finest farms in the township. He is a Democrat in politics, and a leading member of the Lutheran Church.

**JOSIAH HALL.** Among the most progressive and successful farmers of Perry township will be found the gentleman whose name opens this sketch, and who is regarded as one of its representative citizens.

Mr. Hall was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, December 15, 1828, and is one of eleven children comprising the family of Joseph and Mary (Mills) Hall. The father was of Irish ancestry, and a man of sturdy build and of an active, energetic character. He was a self-made man, and acquired, through his own efforts, a comfortable fortune, being the owner, before his death, of 300 acres of good land in Crawford county. He died in the latter county, at the age of seventy-two years, his wife preceding him to the better land some eight years.

Josiah Hall was the youngest son of the family, and was only one year old when his parents settled in Likens township, Crawford county. He had a very limited education, and his boyhood was spent in the usual manner of farmer's lads, working on the home place, and getting what schooling he could during the short days of the winter time. All the other sons, as they reached maturity, went out into the world to make their own way, but our subject remained with his parents until their death. November 1, 1885, in Bloom township, Seneca county, Mr. Hall was married to Miss Sarah A., daughter of Christopher and Mary Swartz, and who was born in Virginia, January 23, 1830. For eight years after his marriage our subject lived on the old homestead, and then, in April, 1864, bought eighty acres in Section 18, in Perry township, Wood county. For this he had paid in part with a team and some tools, but was still heavily in debt. Only ten acres of the place were cleared,

and on this was built a hewed-log house, but much work was still needed to bring the soil under cultivation. He owned this land for eight years, working on and improving it, before taking up his residence there, in the meantime adding eighty more acres to it, so that when he finally removed to the farm he had a fine property of 160 acres. After locating there permanently, he erected good buildings, and otherwise improved the place, and has never since spent a month at a time away from his home. He now owns 280 acres, and is one of the well-to-do farmers of the community.

To Mr. Hall and wife eight children have been born, as follows: William, who is farming in Milton township, this county, on forty acres given him by his father; Mary and Franklin, who died in childhood; Eliza, who died when twenty-three years of age; Owen, living with his parents; Alice, now Mrs. Frank Patterson, living in Perry township; Dow and Daniel, both at home with their parents. Mr. Hall has always been a staunch Democrat, and, while taking the interest which every good citizen should take in the government of the State and Nation, he has never aspired to office. He is unusually well preserved for a man of his age, and is still industrious, working about his place, and overseeing affairs as actively as a much younger man might do. He is an excellent citizen, progressive in his ideas, and has deservedly made a success of his calling.

**HARRISON NELSON.** The story of our heroic American ancestors is a source of inspiration, interest and encouragement, and often valuable lessons can be learned from those around us. The life of our subject is in many respects exemplary, for his career, honorable and upright in all respects, is that of a self-made man who has overcome the obstacles of limited circumstances, and by persistence, energy, and resolute purpose worked his way steadily upward. Mr. Nelson was born in Mercer county, Penn., January 8, 1840, and is a son of Nicholas and Catherine (Lightner) Nelson, also natives of the Keystone State. His great-grandfather, William Nelson, was born in the North of Ireland, and in the latter part of the eighteenth century came to America, establishing the family in this country. His son Joseph, the grandfather, removed from Huntingdon to Venango county, Penn., in 1802, but in 1810 returned to Huntingdon, where he made his home until 1837. In that year he removed to Mercer county, where his death occurred in 1850. His children were John, who died in 1878; Harriet, deceased wife of John Mc-



Kim, of Pennsylvania; Daniel and James, both deceased; Margaret, wife of Matthew McCord, of Mercer county; Lydia, wife of Curtis Pierson, of Mercer county. On both the paternal and maternal sides the family of our subject is connected with men prominent in American annals, especially the history of the Revolution. Among the number were Thomas Nelson, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence from Virginia. The father of Robert Lee was also descended from the same ancestry.

The father of our subject was born in 1804, was reared as a farmer boy, and throughout his life carried on agricultural pursuits, owning 100 acres of valuable land in Mercer county, Penn. There his death occurred in 1882, and his wife passed away July 12, 1859. Their children were James, who is living on the old homestead in Mercer county; Samuel, also on the homestead farm; Adam, who has lived in California since 1860; Nancy, who died at the age of seventeen; David, who entered the United States army in 1861, and died in the hospital in front of Richmond, June 9, 1862; Harrison, of this sketch; and Catherine, who died at the age of four years.

In his youth Mr. Nelson, of this review, acquired a good English education, and at the age of fifteen entered upon his business career as clerk in a mercantile establishment in his native county, being thus employed at the time of the breaking out of the war. In October, 1861, he enlisted as a private of Company F, 57th Penn. V. I., and served until November 12, 1864, participating in the battles of Yorktown, Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, seven day's fight in front of Richmond, Bull Run, Chantilla, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Kelly's Ford, Mine Run, the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Deep Bottom and the siege of Petersburg. In May, 1862, he was promoted to the rank of second lieutenant, and in May, 1863, after the battle of Chancellorsville, for gallant and meritorious service was made first lieutenant. After the battle of Gettysburg he was promoted to the rank of captain, but for two months was forced to lie in a hospital in Virginia, owing to a wound received in the left thigh during that most important engagement of the war. In March, 1863, he had been detailed as adjutant of the regiment, and continued in that capacity until January 1, 1864, when he assumed command of his company. When his term expired, Capt. Nelson returned home and resumed clerking. In 1877 he entered the employ of the Standard Oil Company, with which he has remained continuously

since. On the 29th of November, 1888, he came to Wood county, and assumed charge of the business of the company here in the capacity of guager. He started out in life for himself as a poor boy, but has steadily worked his way upward, his merit and fidelity winning him continued promotion, until he now occupies a remunerative and responsible position.

On March 29, 1866, Mr. Nelson was joined in wedlock with Miss Kate Bell, a native of Mercer county, Penn., born December 14, 1844, and a daughter of John B. and Ann (Scott) Bell, natives of the Keystone State. In politics Mr. Nelson is an active Democrat, and an earnest worker in his party. In religious faith, his views coincide with the doctrine of the Presbyterian denomination. Socially, he is connected with the Masonic Lodge, the Union Veteran Legion, and the Grand Army of the Republic, and in all the relations of life he displays the same loyalty and fidelity, that marked his career, when, on Southern battle fields, he followed the old flag that now waves victoriously and proudly over the united nation.

LEWIS F. MYERS, who is engaged in general farming in Bloom township, is a native of the same locality, born in Section 12, July 26, 1854, and is a son of John Myers. The paternal grandfather, Frederick Myers, was born in Switzerland, where he was married, and later came to the United States, being six months upon the ocean, during which time some of his children died and were buried at sea. After living for a time in Pennsylvania, he removed to Stark county, Ohio, and later, to Seneca county, same State, where he owned forty acres of land, but he and his wife passed their last days in Indiana.

The birth of the father of our subject occurred December 25, 1820, in Pennsylvania, and when ten years of age he left home, going to live with a man who sent him to school. On the removal of his parents to this State he came with them. In Seneca county he was married June 15, 1840, the lady of his choice being Miss Polly Bare, who was born in Washington county, Penn., February 3, 1817, daughter of Henry and Catherine (Kraft) Bare. Her father died in the Keystone State, after which Mrs. Bare accompanied her father, Henry Kraft, to Stark county, Ohio, later moving to Seneca county, where she married David Snyder, and there her death occurred. After his marriage Mr. Myers rented land in Seneca county for a time, but, in the fall of 1854, he removed to Section 14, Bloom township, Wood county, having purchased eighty

acres there the day after Franklin Pierce was elected President. Not a stick of timber had been cut, and most of the place was under water, while the dwelling was a rude log cabin with clapboard roof, and boards, laid loosely, formed the floor. It was a difficult task to clear and develop the land, provisions were high, flour being \$14 per barrel, and the family experienced all the sufferings and privations incident to pioneer life. The father still makes his home upon that land, which is now one of the best cultivated tracts in the community, and is operated by the youngest son, while he is practically living retired. He was formerly a Democrat, but now supports the People's party, taking little interest in politics, however. During their early residence here Mrs. Myers, after a hard day's work, would sew for others; thus aiding in the support of the family. She is an earnest Christian woman, a member of the Protestant Methodist Church. In the family were the following children: Catherine A., wife of William Apple, of Bloom township; William, who was a member of Company A, 8th O. V. I., and was killed at the battle of Gettysburg, being buried in the National Cemetery there; Henry, of Toledo, Ohio; Barbara, now Mrs. Snowden Sargent, of Jerry City; John G., of Cygnet, Ohio; George, who died at the age of twenty-one years; Elizabeth, wife of Joseph Madden, of Bloom township; Lewis F., of the same township; David, of Jerry City; and Josiah at home.

As his parents were in limited circumstances the school privileges of Lewis F. Myers were limited, and since the age of fourteen he has provided for his own maintenance, working as a farm hand for several years. His first property consisted of forty acres, which had originally belonged to his brother George, who was drowned, and he purchased the interests of his brothers and sisters. It was in its primitive condition, and he began its improvement while still under the parental roof.

On December 5, 1886, Mr. Myers was united in marriage with Mrs. Aggie Munn, widow of David Munn. Her birth occurred in Liberty township, Wood county, March 12, 1850, and she is a daughter of Snowden L. and Hannah (Jones) Sargent, farming people. Our subject and his wife began their domestic life upon rented land; but in the summer of 1887 he erected his present home upon his place, and, on its completion, they removed to it. He has also built a barn 36 x 60 feet, with 18 foot posts, and made other necessary improvements. He is a systematic farmer, progressive and industrious, as the neatness of his place well indicates. At

State and National elections he generally votes the Democratic ticket, but in local affairs he is not strictly partisan, holding himself free to vote for the man and not the party.

ISAAC WHITSON is one of the highly-esteemed and popular citizens of Wood county, who, during the Civil war, went forth in the defense of his country, and made for himself an honorable record as one of the boys in blue. All who know him, respect him for his genuine worth, and he is justly numbered among the leading citizens of Perrysburg township. His father, James Whitson, was a native of Scotland, and in the early '40s became a resident of Stark county, Ohio. In 1843 he married Jane Rideout, and took up his abode near Massillon, Ohio, whence, in 1853, he removed with his family to Davenport, Iowa. He died in that city two years later, leaving a widow and the following children: Isaac; George Washington, who was drowned in Maumee river, in 1857; Mary, wife of Horace Coy, of Oregon township, Lucas Co., Ohio; and Ella, wife of Arthur Mandell, of Perrysburg township.

The subject of this review acquired his early education under rather unpropitious circumstances. He entered the schools of Massillon, Ohio, spent two terms in a school at Davenport, Iowa, and continued his studies in Ross township, Wood county, whither he had come after his father's death to live with his grandparents. Before he attained his majority he entered the army, enlisting February 13, 1864, as a member of Company C, 3d Ohio Cavalry, under Capt. O. M. Brown, and Col. Horace Howland. He served for eighteen months, holding the rank of corporal, and participated in the battles of Edgefield, Big Shanty, Atlanta, Kenesaw Mountain and Wilson's raid. On August 4, 1865, he received an honorable discharge and returned home.

In October, 1868, Mr. Whitson was united in marriage with Miss Lavina Mogle, a native of Wood county. They have four children: George E., born July 2, 1869, is now married, and living at home; William J., born January 13, 1871, is also married, and living at home; Ida May, who was born October 28, 1875, and is the wife of Charles Zingg; and Sarah Jane, born May 4, 1881.

Soon after his marriage, Mr. Whitson removed to a forty-acre farm, one mile south of Lime City. To this he has added until he now owns 120 acres of valuable farming land, improved with good buildings, and all modern accessories and conveniences. His political support is given the Republican party, and he was

elected and served as trustee of Perrysburg township, although the township is strongly Democratic. His election certainly evidenced his personal popularity, and it is said of Mr. Whitson that he has not an enemy in all Wood county. Socially, he is connected with Fort Meigs Lodge No. 774, I. O. O. F., and Wolford Post No. 54, G. A. R. He usually attends the National Encampments of the G. A. R. In 1890 he visited his old home in Iowa, and in 1893, he had the pleasure of attending the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

HOWARD H. McCLARAN, M. D., is one of the rising young physicians of Wood county, and has also taken an active part in the public affairs of his locality, where he enjoys great popularity.

His father, Avery McClaran, was born in Wayne county, Ohio, of Scotch-Irish extraction, and became a successful medical practitioner. He graduated at the Wooster Medical College, Cleveland, later followed his profession in Nashville, Holmes Co., Ohio, and in Seal, Wyandot county, and then came to North Baltimore, Wood county, where he was successfully engaged in practice at the time of his death. He passed away December 23, 1887, at the age of fifty-eight years, and was buried at North Baltimore on Christmas Day. He married Eleanor Boles, who still makes her home at that place, and to them were born the following children: Mary A., wife of W. W. Lemon, a shoe merchant of Mansfield, Ohio; William B., agent for the Lake Erie & Western railroad at Frankfort, Ind.; Florence, wife of B. H. Peters, of North Baltimore; Howard H.; and Zella M., wife of J. W. Borough, of North Baltimore. The father was a self-educated as well as a self-made man, having been left an orphan at the age of seven years, and he managed to secure a good education, and, later, a comfortable amount of worldly goods. He took an active interest in the welfare of the Democratic party, with which he always cast his ballot, and intended in later life to take a more active part in politics.

Howard H. McClaran was born at Nashville, Holmes Co., Ohio, February 4, 1867. When he was a boy of about nine years, his parents removed to North Baltimore, where he completed his literary studies in the public schools. At the age of seventeen he began work in a stove factory, and, after being employed there for some time, learned telegraphy, which he followed from 1885 until 1890, during that time filling various positions: On November 25, 1885, he became night operator at St. Joe, Ind., and was then stationed

at Hoyts Corners and Holgate, Ohio, at the latter place working for both the Baltimore & Ohio and Toledo, St. Louis & Kansas City (now Cloverleaf) railroads. He later went to North Baltimore, remaining there until April 14, 1890, when he resigned to accept the position of book-keeper for J. S. Hamilton, in the lumberyard and planing-mill business, at North Baltimore. In September, 1890, he was offered a higher salary by the Buckeye Pipe Line Company, with which he went to Station 33, one and one-half miles north of Jerry City, Wood county, as engineer and operator. At the end of a year, however, he resigned and began the study of medicine, entering Starling Medical College, Columbus, Ohio, on September 5, 1891. At the end of six months his means were exhausted, and he was compelled to secure work, being employed at driving a delivery wagon for a time. Later he resumed his studies at the Nashville (Tenn.) Medical College, where he was graduated February 23, 1893, and, returning to North Baltimore, practiced there for a short time. On April 22, 1893, he located at Bloomdale, where he has since built up a good practice.

In Bloomdale the Doctor was married, November 15, 1894, to Miss Mary George, of that city, daughter of David George, who was at one time a miller, but later engaged in farming. Dr. McClaran has always been a strong supporter of the Democratic party, and in the spring of 1894 was elected mayor of Bloomdale on the Democratic ticket, although the village is Republican by 100 majority. This honor was conferred upon him after only one year's residence in the place, and there is probably not another instance of the kind in Ohio. His administration was highly satisfactory, and he displayed careful judgment and sound common sense in his management of affairs. The Bloomdale *Derrick*, which is opposed to the Doctor in politics, gave him the following highly complimentary "send-off"—  
 "DOWN AND OUT: This week the mayor, Dr. McClaran, steps down and out, and his successor, J. L. Easley, takes his place. The Doctor has proved to be a careful and pains-taking officer. His administration of the village government has been one of conservative action. He has always taken pains to be on the safe side of the public questions." He enjoys the confidence of the best citizens, and by his successful practice in his chosen profession has gained a liberal patronage. He takes quite an active interest in civic societies, belonging to Bloomdale Lodge No. 278, K. of P., also the Rathbone Sisters of Bloomdale, and was formerly a member of Fostoria Division



Howard A. McClaran m.d.  
Mary A. McClaran.



No. 32, Order of Railway Telegraphers. The Doctor is a stockholder in the Bloomdale Building and Loan Association, and owns an interest in a business block at North Baltimore

JACOB METZGER, a valued and esteemed agriculturist of Perrysburg township, has his residence upon Section 24, where he has a farm of seventy acres of most superior land, which is under excellent culture and well improved. The buildings upon the place, including a good brick residence, are of a neat and substantial character, betokening thrift and prosperity. He is meeting with a merited success in his farming operations, and bids fair to achieve an easy competence, so that in his declining years he may rest peacefully from the cares of life.

Mr. Metzger was born in Liverpool township, Medina Co., Ohio, and is the son of Jacob and Catherine (Struble) Metzger, natives of Stuttgart, Wurtemberg, Germany, where they were reared and married about 1835. Coming to the New World, they located in Liverpool township, Medina county, where the father opened up a fifty-three-acre farm in the midst of the woods, and there his death occurred in 1882, while his wife died in 1888. In their family were nine children, namely: Fredericka, who was the wife of Jacob Kurfus, died April 14, 1883, in Troy township, Wood county; Lewis resides in that township; Mrs. Julia Hager makes her home in Michigan; John was killed in Troy township, March 19, 1855; Mrs. Kate Bordner lives in Onawa, Iowa; Jacob is next in order of birth; Mrs. Margaret Brooker died June 21, 1874, in Litchfield, Medina county; Mrs. Eliza Messmer resides at Erhart, Medina county; and Andrew lives upon the old homestead farm in that county.

Mr. Metzger, of this review, was reared and educated in his native county, and has always followed the occupation of farming, working at home until coming to Wood county in 1861, when he located in Troy township; but the following year found him a resident of Perrysburg township, where he has since made his home. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company K, 111th O. V. I., for three years, or until the close of the war, and was mustered into service at Toledo, being assigned to the Western army. He was first on guard duty at Bowling Green, Ky., was then in the East Tennessee campaigns, after which he joined Sherman's army and participated in the siege of Atlanta. Returning to Tennessee, he was in the battles of Franklin, Nashville, and Clifton, was then ordered to Cincinnati, whence he proceeded to Washington, D. C., and later was in

the Carolina campaigns. At Salisbury, N. C., he was discharged, and was paid off at Cleveland, Ohio, in June, 1865. On the termination of his war experience he returned to his home in Perrysburg township.

In November, 1865, in Liverpool township, Medina county, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Metzger and Miss Catherine Snyder, a native of that county, and a daughter of Daniel and Amelia (Swartz) Snyder, who were born in Germany and became residents of Medina county, Ohio, at an early day. Since 1852 her father has made his home in Troy township, Wood county, where her mother died in 1892. To our subject and his wife were born five children, two of whom died in infancy. Those living are Anna, who is preparing for a teacher; William, at home; and Bertha.

Politically, Mr. Metzger is a staunch Republican, always taking a deep interest in public affairs, and socially is connected with Wolford Post No. 51, G. A. R., of Perrysburg, of which he is past commander. Both himself and wife are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church, and have a large circle of friends and well-wishers.

GEORGE W. SLOTTERBECK, an agriculturist of energy and ability, who is residing in Section 23, Bloom township, is a native of Wood county, born in Perry township, February 15, 1840. He is a son of John and Rachel (Anderson) Slotterbeck, both of whom were natives of Westmoreland county, Penn., where their marriage was celebrated. As early as 1833 the father entered land in Perry township, where he brought his family the following year. Several children were born before coming to this county, namely: Sarah, Henry, Leah, Samuel, Mary and John, and the family circle was later increased by the birth of three—Jacob, Catherine and George W., of whom three sons and one daughter yet survive. From Pennsylvania the trip was made in a covered wagon, and from Fostoria to their farm the road lay through an almost unbroken forest. There were few settlers in Perry township on their arrival, and they experienced all the sufferings and privations of life on the frontier. The father was a strong man, of powerful build, and lived to the ripe old age of nearly eighty years, dying June 27, 1880. He was born July 4, 1800. His wife had preceded him to her final rest, passing away in 1876, and was buried in Bloom Chapel cemetery, while his remains were interred at East Toledo, Ohio. For his second wife he married a Mrs. Barnhisel. He was originally a

Whig in politics, was a staunch Abolitionist, and on the organization of the Republican party joined its ranks. Four of his sons served in the Union army during the Civil war, two being wounded, though none killed.

The educational privileges of George W. Slotterbeck were such as the district schools of Perry township afforded, and his first teacher was Ellen Keiger, of West Millgrove, Ohio, while his early farm training was received under the supervision of his father. On the outbreak of the Rebellion he resolved to strike a blow in defense of the Union, and on April 15, 1861, joined company H, 21st O. V. I., under Capt. Blackman. From Fostoria the troops went to Columbus, where their guns were secured, on to Gallipolis, Ohio, and pursued the enemy through West Virginia to Charleston, where their term expired. At Columbus our subject was discharged in July, 1861, and he returned to his home in Perry township.

In Toledo, Ohio, in the following November, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Slotterbeck and Maria Prentice, a native of Wood county, and a daughter of Augustus Prentice. They began their domestic life upon the home farm in Perry township, our subject remaining there until 1862, when he re-enlisted, this time becoming a member of Company B, 111th O. V. I.; but at Perrysburg, Wood county, he was taken ill and was ordered home by Capt. Norris. Later he went to the recruiting office of the 57th Regiment and joined Company B, under Capt. Faulhaber. They met the regiment at Memphis, Tenn., and his first active engagement was at Chickasaw Bayou, which was followed by the battle of Arkansas Post, where he was wounded, a ball grazing his chin, taking away a small portion of his beard, and entering his right arm near the shoulder. For eight months he was at Lossing Hospital, St. Louis, after which he was discharged, but his wound has never entirely healed, and still bothers him.

After remaining for a time in Perry township, Mr. Slotterbeck removed to a farm near Toledo, in Wood county, where, besides farming, he also engaged in hauling wood to that city. On his father's removal to Bloom township, he also came here, securing an eighty-acre tract in Section 23, which was partially improved, though no buildings stood upon the place. With the exception of fifteen acres, the land is now under a high state of cultivation, and the improvements found thereon include a good class of farm buildings and an excellent orchard, all of which has been accomplished by our subject's persistent energy and unflinching determination to succeed. He now

has in his possession the patent deed to his land, signed by Andrew Jackson, which he preserves as a relic.

To Mr. and Mrs. Slotterbeck have been born eight children, namely: William A., of Eaglesville, Ohio; Charles, who died in infancy; Frederick, of Freeport, Wood county; Bert, of Eaglesville; Frank, a farmer of Henry township, Wood county; Maud, the wife of Dr. Charles D. Dibert, of Millbury, Wood county; and Clyde and Edward, at home. The parents are earnest members of the Disciples Church of Eaglesville, and are people of refined tastes, genial and social in disposition. Mr. Slotterbeck is a charter member of Urie Post No. 110, G. A. R., of Bloomdale. He cast his first Presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln, since which time he has been an ardent Republican, and he has served as a member of the school board.

**D. C. FAST.** Among the sturdy, energetic and successful farmers of Bloom township stands prominent the subject of this sketch. On both the paternal and maternal sides he is of German descent, and was born in Greenwich township, Huron Co., Ohio, July 25, 1834, a son of John and Sarah (Hess) Fast, the former born in Pennsylvania, July 10, 1809, and the latter on June 13, 1811. David Hess, the maternal grandfather, born in Germany, married a Miss Hess, a lady of English extraction.

The father of our subject was the youngest son of Christian Fast, who, for a time, was held in captivity by the Indians. The parents were married in Richland county, Ohio, November 11, 1830, and there the father carried on farming until 1839, when he brought his family to Bloom township, Wood county, locating in Section 27. Their first home here was a structure made of poles and clapboards, which was soon replaced by a substantial log building, and the land was still in its primitive condition, not a road even leading to the place, while wild game of all kinds was plentiful. There the father died of cholera, September 22, 1854, and in less than a week two of his children, John and Eliza, died of the same disease. This left the mother with five small children, whom she kept together. She passed away January 17, 1888, and she and her husband and deceased children now lie side by side in the Bloom Chapel cemetery. Mr. Fast was a strong, muscular man, standing five feet nine inches in height; in politics he was an earnest Democrat. In the family were twelve children, namely: (1) Hannah J., born August 27, 1831, became the wife of James McGiffin, and died in Henry coun-

ty, Ohio, at the age of sixty years. (2) Eliza C., born January 31, 1833, died in young womanhood, and was buried in Bloom Chapel cemetery. (3) D. C., the subject of this sketch, is next in order of birth. (4) Nancy A., born January 23, 1836, married Cornelius Keeran, but is now the wife of David Farral, of Eagleville, Ohio. (5) Sarah A., born August 31, 1837, died at the age of sixteen, and was buried in Bloom Chapel cemetery. (6) John B., born April 22, 1839, died at the age of about sixteen, and was buried in the same place. (7) Anna B. was the first child of the family born in Wood county, the date being February 25, 1841; she married Asa Loman, and died in Bloom township. (8) Mary M., born November 12, 1842, is now Mrs. E. L. Stove, of Bloom township. (9) Ephraim, born February 7, 1845, makes his home in Jefferson county, Kans. (10) George W., born July 3, 1847, is a school teacher of West Plains, Howell Co., Mo. (11) Charlotte E., born July 3, 1849, is the wife of George Black, of Bloom township. (12) Matthias J., born September 13, 1851, died, and was buried in Bloom Chapel cemetery.

The education of our subject was acquired in District No. 8, in a log school house on the Leathers farm, furnished with rough benches and having a huge fireplace at one end, while the floor was puncheon, and a desk ran along the entire side of the room. He has watched with satisfaction the improvements made in the schools and takes an active interest in the cause of education, although his own advantages in that respect were somewhat limited. At the age of twenty he assumed the management of the home farm, which he controlled until his enlistment, on August 29, 1862, at Fostoria, in Company H, 49th O. V. I., joining the regiment at Murfreesboro; soon after, however, he contracted rheumatism, and for three months was unfit for active service. After being examined at Nashville, Tenn., he was consigned to the Veteran Reserve Corps at Louisville, Ky., and later entered Hospital No. 7, near that city, as nurse, filling that position until May 13, 1864. He was then sent to Washington, D. C., as a member of Company H, 12th Regiment V. R. C., and did guard duty in that vicinity and in Virginia until discharged, June 29, 1865, after which he returned home and resumed farming.

On May 31, 1866, in Montgomery township, Wood county, Mr. Fast was married, by the Rev. William Dowling, to Miss Calesta Smith, who was born in Madison township, Sandusky Co., Ohio, February 25, 1843, the daughter of Daniel and Jeannette (Holcomb) Smith. To this

worthy couple have been born two children: ROLLA B., who completed his education by two years' attendance at the Ohio Normal University, of Ada, has since taught school, and is at present clerk of Bloom township (in 1892 he held the office of constable); and Mary M., still with her parents.

Mr. Fast works 107 acres of rich, arable land, eighty of which are comprised in the home farm, and all the improvements found thereon have been the work of some member or other of the Fast family, as it was still in a wild state when they located there. For fifty-six years our subject has known no other home and throughout the community he is widely and favorably known. His first vote was cast for the Democratic party, but since the Civil war he has been an unswerving Republican. He has served as supervisor and school director. He and his estimable wife are active members of the Christian Church at Eagleville, Ohio, in which he has served as deacon, and to the support of which he has contributed liberally when the house of worship was being erected, and since.

G. F. CLAUS, whose name is familiar to many people in this county, has been engaged in the boot and shoe business in Luckey since 1881, and has built up a fine trade. His first store here was conducted in a building near the depot, now used as a dwelling-house, where he carried on operations for seven years. At the end of that time he traded that property for a frame building, which was destroyed by fire on July 12, 1893; but, in the fall of that year, he erected a one-story double-brick block, where he carries a large line of boots, shoes, harness, etc. In 1888 he had added harness to his stock, and, in both lines of trade, has secured a liberal patronage.

Mr. Claus comes from the far-away Fatherland, his birth having occurred in Hanover, in 1859, and he is a son of Frank and Mary (Roehl) Claus, natives of the same kingdom, where the mother died, in 1864. In 1879 the father crossed the Atlantic and located in Pemberville, but his last days were spent near Perrysburg, where he passed away in 1888. In his family were four children, namely: Mrs. Mary Kahlenbrink, of Perrysburg; Ernest, who came to Ohio in 1874, and makes his home in Pemberville; G. F., of this review; and Henry, who died in Chicago in 1882. Our subject received a very fair education in his boyhood days in the schools of Hanover, where he remained until 1878, when he determined to try his fortune on this side of the Atlantic. In his native land he had learned



the trade of a shoemaker, at which he worked for three years, and, on coming to America, in 1878, was employed at that occupation in Pemberville, Ohio, until his removal to Luckey, in 1881. The marriage of Mr. Claus with Miss Julia Landwehr took place in 1884. The lady of his choice was born in Troy township, and is a daughter of Frederick Landwehr, now deceased. One son has been born of this union—Frank.

Mr. Claus votes the straight Democratic ticket, and, in February, 1895, was appointed postmaster of Luckey, which office was established in 1881. In religious affairs he is identified with the Lutheran Church, and, his fair dealing and systematic methods of doing business have won for him the confidence and respect of all with whom he has had any transactions.

A. L. THOMPSON is a representative of one of the honored pioneer families of Wood county, and has been a prominent factor in its development, so that his identification with its interests well entitles him to representation in a volume of this character. His father, Aaron Thompson, was born in Hunterdon county, N. J., December 31, 1811, a son of Cornelius and Frances (Gano) Thompson. The grandfather was a farmer who spent his entire life in New Jersey, and died at the age of seventy-seven, while his wife survived him several years. Their children were William, Mary, Wilson, Eliza and Aaron, who reached adult age; and George, who died in infancy.

Aaron Thompson was reared on his father's farm, receiving but limited school privileges. At the age of twenty-four he began earning his living at whatever work he could find to do, and afterward followed the cooper's trade for some time. At the age of twenty-eight he removed to Lorain county, Ohio, where he was married in August, 1841, to Lucetta McBride, who was born in Leroy, N. Y., November 13, 1825, a daughter of Amos and Clarissa (Brown) McBride, who removed to Niagara county, N. Y., during Lucetta's early girlhood, and later to Lorain county, Ohio, where they died. They had nine children—four sons and five daughters—and the father followed farming as a means of livelihood.

Aaron Thompson began his domestic life in Elyria, and afterward lived in Ridgeville, Ohio, until his removal to Pemberville, being there engaged in the manufacture of potash. Subsequently he came to Woodville, where he also worked in an ashery until about 1856, when he purchased a small farm in Webster township, on which he has since lived. He has made all the

improvements on the place, including the erection of the buildings and the transforming of the wooded tract into cultivated fields. In August, 1861, he joined Company K, 21st O. V. I., and was discharged on account of disability in September, 1862, but in February, 1864, joined the construction corps, and was in the vicinity of Chattanooga until hostilities had ceased. He has always been a staunch Republican, is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and is a highly respected citizen. He and his estimable wife have lived together for more than fifty-five years. Their children are: Victoria, wife of James Van Buren, of Mendon, Mich.; Caroline, wife of William Meeker, of Mendon; A. L.; Augusta, wife of Adelbert Wright, of Gratiot county, Mich.; John, of Freedom township; Salina, wife of Walter Davidson, of Webster township; and Wesley, of Woodside, Ohio.

A. L. Thompson, of this review, was born in Pemberville, May 23, 1851, and was an only child when his parents located in Webster township, near Scotch Ridge. He there attended school, and has ever been a warm friend of education, being deeply interested in its progress. He was married, in Webster township, to Emma Bassor, daughter of John Bassor, who lives near Blissfield, Mich. He then rented a home near Scotch Ridge, and was employed at various places in the neighborhood, mostly at farming, until the spring of 1884, when he bought sixty acres of land in Section 27, Freedom township. This land was then but slightly improved. It was undrained, and hard labor has been required to transform it into the valuable farm which it is to-day. Oil has been found upon the place, and is a profitable source of income. He has been largely engaged in clearing timber tracts, having cleared over 800 acres, probably more than any other man of his age in Wood county. Industry and energy are numbered among his chief characteristics, and have been the means of bringing to him the success which crowns his efforts.

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have five children—Robert C.; Agnes G., wife of Harvey Garner, of Lima, Ohio; Lula M., Walter L. and Nellie, at home. By his ballot, Mr. Thompson evinces his hearty endorsement of Republican principles, and is a liberal, progressive citizen, devoted to the welfare of the community. Socially, he is connected with the Masonic and Odd Fellows societies.

EVERHARD GERKINS, who devotes his time and energies to agricultural pursuits, in Perrysburg township, was born June 24, 1826, in Ger-

many, and is a son of Clamor and Gertrude (Bruning) Gerkins, natives of Schledehausen, Prussia, and farming people of that country. They had six children, of whom our subject is the eldest; the others being John, who was born September 16, 1833, and is a farmer of Prussia; Annie Elizabeth, who was born in 1835, and died April 3, 1860; Annie Marie, who was born October 13, 1837, and is now in Prussia; Clara, who was born September 29, 1840, and died in America in 1872; and Herman, who was born in 1844, and is now living in Prussia.

Our subject acquired his education in his native land, and came to the United States in 1853, reaching Toledo, Ohio, on October 6. The following spring he began farming, which pursuit he followed two years. He then removed to Lucas county, Ohio, where he remained for eight years, when he came to his present home, a valuable and well-improved property of one hundred acres. He has placed this under a high state of cultivation, and has added all the accessories of a model farm.

On April 10, 1849, Mr. Gerkins married Miss Anna Maria Schwake, who was born July 15, 1825. They have nine children: Kathrina, who was born June 2, 1850, and is now deceased; William, who was born 1852, died 1853; Melissa, who was born 1853, died in infancy; Sophia, who was born February 28, 1854, and is the wife of Philip Ziss, of Wood county; Elizabeth, who died at the age of three years; Henry, who was born June 2, 1859, and was killed by a runaway team October 2, 1888; Anna, who was born December 4, 1861, and is the wife of Albert Limmer, of Wood county; Amelia, born February 2, 1864, now at home; and Carrie, who was born September 22, 1866, the wife of Theodore Minneker, of Toledo, Ohio. The parents have been consistent members of the German Reformed Church, of Toledo, since 1866, and for twenty years our subject has served as elder. Since becoming an American citizen he has given his political support to the Democracy, and has been an advocate of all measures calculated to prove of public benefit, or to promote the general welfare.

**G. B. BRIM.** The well-appointed farm of this gentleman is finely located in Section 27, Lake township, within whose limits he arrived in 1877, though he had purchased the land two years previously. He has given his close attention to its cultivation and improvement, with results which can hardly fail to be satisfactory to himself. He is numbered among the energetic and stirring

men who have operated to such good purpose in Wood county. His first purchase comprised eighty acres, but now 116 acres pay to him a golden tribute in return for the labor expended upon them.

The birth of our subject occurred in Woodville, Sandusky Co., Ohio, in 1853, and he is a son of George and Betsy (Loop) Brim. His father, who was a native of Devonshire, England, came to Wood county, when a young man, locating in Troy township, where his marriage with Miss Loop, a native of Pennsylvania, was celebrated. He was employed on the construction of the Maumee pike, but, after his marriage, removed to a farm in Woodville township, Sandusky county, where he made his home until his death in 1873. His wife departed this life in the same township, in March, 1895. In their family were eight children: James, who still operates the old home farm; Walter, a resident of Millbury, Wood county; Mrs. Emeline Duke, of Pettis county, Mo.; George, who died in Johnson county, Mo.; Mrs. J. C. Ricker, of Troy township, this county; G. B., of this review; Tillie, wife of George Ash, who is engaged in the manufacture of furniture at Logansport, Ind.; and Mrs. William Gardner, of Lake township.

Mr. Brim, whose name introduces this sketch, passed his boyhood days in a manner similar to most farmer lads, and remained a member of his father's household until coming to Wood county in 1875, where, for two years, he resided in Millbury, and then removed to his present farm. In Lake township, on March 1, 1877, he was married to Miss Lizzie Hahn, who was born in Perrysburg township, Wood county, and is a daughter of Valentine and Magdalene (Berg) Hahn, who are both natives of Germany, but were married in Ashland county, Ohio, whence they removed to Perrysburg. Both are still living, and are numbered among the honored pioneers of the county. Seven children grace the union of our subject and his wife—George, Clara, Otto, Orville, Lloyd, Logan and Edna.

The Republican party finds in Mr. Brim a stalwart supporter, and he has served as a member of the school board for a number of years. Socially, he is identified with the Knights of the Maccabees, being an honored member of the lodge, and takes a genuine interest in the enterprises set on foot for the progress and welfare of his adopted county.

**WILLIAM BUDD**, a farmer of prominence in Perrysburg, was born in Minden, Prussia, June 3, 1845, and is the son of Casper and Anna

Mary Budd, the former of whom was born in Hanover, December 13, 1786.

Casper Budd's name was Casper Henry Curtis, but according to the custom of the country at that time, he took his wife's surname upon marrying her. She was born in Minden, Prussia, September 8, 1811, and was married the day before Easter, 1828. Mr. and Mrs. Budd remained in Germany seventeen years, following the occupation of farmers. Mrs. Budd owned an estate, but they lost it, and in 1846 they came to America, the voyage occupying seven weeks and two days. They located at Cincinnati, Ohio, where Mr. Budd secured work in a stone quarry. He had a hard time of it, and among other misfortunes broke his leg. He then moved to Perrysburg and chopped wood, saving enough to buy four acres of land on which he built a log cabin, where our subject was born. Their lot was a hard one, and Mrs. Budd worked hard and took in washing. Later they bought eighty acres of Government land in Perrysburg township, built a shanty on it and subsequently sold it. Mr. Budd was a long time in recovering from the injury he received, and Mrs. Budd was obliged to earn a living for the family. During the war Mr. Budd engaged in the huckstering business, in which he made money enough to buy 180 acres of land. After the war he quit the huckstering business and retired to his farm, where he died in 1872. He was a member of the Lutheran Church, as is also Mrs. Budd, who is still vigorous for one of her age. To this couple were born ten children, four of whom grew to maturity, as follows: Anna Mary, who married Chris Spilker, lives in Perrysburg township, and they have ten children, all of whom are living; Caroline M. is the widow of Charles Clauder, and lives in Minnesota; Peter is a contractor and carpenter, and lives in Toledo, Ohio; William, our subject, was the fourth child, and he grew up in Perrysburg where he was able to obtain but limited advantages in the way of schooling. He learned the butcher and huckster business, in which he was engaged for ten or twelve years, eight months of which he spent in Wisconsin. He gave this up, and returned to the home farm, where he has continued to reside ever since.

On April 10, 1888, he was married to Miss Jennie Walker, who was born in Scotch Ridge, May 23, 1866, and who is a daughter of William and Lydia Ann (Bowen) Walker. Six children have been born to them, namely: Sarah M., November 17, 1888; Mary Della, December 27, 1889; John C., February 15, 1891; Eugene W., August 29, 1892; Esther R., February 4, 1894;

Jennie S., September 30, 1895. Mr. Budd is a Democrat in politics, and a member of the I. O. O. F. at Perrysburg.

WILLIAM BUCK, who is successfully engaged in general merchandising in Milton, and is numbered among the leading business men of the community, was born in Stark county, Ohio, July 31, 1832. His grandfather, David Buck, was one of the heroes of the Revolution, and served throughout the long struggle for independence. The family was founded in America by three brothers, who came from England and located in Pennsylvania. The father of our subject, Thomas Buck, was born in Lancaster county, Penn., in 1791, and was a farmer by occupation. When a young man he came to Ohio, and married Miss Twesch, who died in Stark county. They had five children, but Mrs. Susan Bishop, of La Salle, Ill., is the only one now living. One son served in the United States army during the Mexican war. He afterward joined a surveying expedition, and it is supposed was massacred by the Indians while on his way to Utah. For his second wife, Mr. Buck married Mrs. Wintrode, a lady of German descent, who was formerly Elizabeth Fox. She became the mother of our subject. Her father served all through the war of 1812, and while returning home was accidentally killed by the discharge of a gun. The parents of our subject had six children, namely: William; Levi, of Deshler, Ohio; Thomas, a farmer of Iowa; Rachel, of Nebraska, widow of John Heldenground; Sophia, of Illinois, widow of Joseph Stover; and Louisa, wife of Leal Mitchell, of Kansas.

William Buck was a child of seven years when he came with his parents to Wood county, and first attended school in Milton township when thirteen years of age. His father had entered forty acres of land from the government which he aided in clearing, until fifteen years of age, when he started out to make his own living. He also aided in the support of his parents until their deaths, which occurred in Illinois, whither they had removed in 1862. During the summer months our subject worked at farm labor, receiving \$8 per month and board, and in the winter season attended school. His wages were afterward increased to \$16. When a young man of twenty-four he went to Portage, and began learning the harness-maker's trade, at which he served a two-years' apprenticeship, when he bought out his employer, and continued the business for four years. He then sold out, and for three years was engaged in general merchandising

in Portage. On the expiration of that period, he again disposed of his property, and came to Milton, conducting there a general merchandising establishment for three years. When he had sold his store there, he bought a farm of forty acres in Milton township, which was afterward taken from him on account of a mortgage that had been placed upon it by the former owner. He lost everything he had, except the household goods, and in consequence returned to Milton, and once more engaged in the harness trade. In 1887 he added a store of general merchandise, and in the conduct of this business has been quite successful. He is strictly a self-made man, whose success is attributable entirely to his own efforts. In politics he is a Republican, and has served for many terms as school director, trustee, township assessor and school treasurer. He also belongs to the Disciples Church.

Mr. Buck was married in Milton township, December 13, 1861, to Ann Hartz, who was born in Pennsylvania, February 11, 1843, a daughter of Conrad Hartz, now deceased. Their children are Burton B., who married Jessie Schooley, and is cashier of the Bank of Weston; Cora E., wife of Solomon Harris, of Toledo; and Royal William.

**JULIUS HAHN**, a prominent and progressive farmer, and a business man of more than ordinary ability, is a worthy representative of the agricultural interests of Troy township, owning a fine farm of 120 acres in Section 2, where he located in June, 1876. He is a native of the Buckeye State, born in Ashland county, in 1848, and is a son of Valentine and Elizabeth (Burg) Hahn, both natives of Bavaria, Germany.

On becoming a resident of Ashland county, the father was still single, but there he married the mother of our subject, and in 1850 removed to Perrysburg township, Wood county, where the mother died three years later, leaving two sons—Julius, of this review; and Rudolph J., a resident of Lake township, this county. In 1855 the father purchased land in Troy township, Wood county, on which he still makes his home. He was again married in Perrysburg township, his second union being with Ellen Burg, and to them were born ten children—Elizabeth, now the wife of G. B. Brim, of Latchie, Ohio; Harmon, of Cygnet, Wood county; Mary and Laura, twins, the former now Mrs. Brown, and the latter Mrs. Andrews; Theodore, at home; Mrs. Barbara Waggoner, of Toledo, Ohio; Katie; Albert; August and Clara.

The boyhood days of our subject were passed

in Perrysburg and Lake townships, where he aided his father in clearing his land until his removal to his present farm in 1876, which at that time was mostly covered with timber. In 1885 he erected his present comfortable and substantial residence, and upon his place is engaged in general farming with most excellent success.

In Troy township, in 1885, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Hahn and Miss Emma Keller, who was born in Lake township, and is a daughter of John and Ursula (Houser) Keller, natives of Switzerland, who in a very early day became residents of Lake township, where they opened up a farm. The father died in 1876, but the mother is still living and makes her home at Perrysburg. Three children bless the union of our subject and his wife—Walter, Nettie and Orvil. In political sentiment, Mr. Hahn is a stalwart Democrat. No man takes a deeper interest in the prosperity of his adopted country, and it is safe to say that few have contributed in a larger degree to bring about the results.

**J. C. BRANDEBERRY**, an industrious and thrifty farmer of Wood county, was born in the northeast corner of Section 34, Bloom township, February 29, 1844, and is a son of William and Anna (Clark) Brandeberry. The father's birth occurred in Columbiana county, Ohio, October 19, 1819, and in pioneer days he located in Perry township, Wood county, where he married Miss Clark, a daughter of George Clark. Soon after he located on the farm of eighty acres, where our subject was born, erected a log house, 18 x 20 feet, with stick chimney, and made all the improvements upon the place, which at the time of his purchase was still in its natural state. There his first wife died in 1851, and was buried in Brandeberry cemetery, Perry township. She left five children—Philip, who enlisted August 12, 1861, becoming a corporal of Company E, 49th O. V. I., and died at Camp Nevin, Ky., November 5, of the same year; J. C., of this review; Thompson, a butcher at Jerry City, Ohio; Isaac, who died after reaching manhood, at Bloom Center, Wood county; and Samantha, who first wedded Joseph Wilson, but is now the widow of Henry Dardis, of Bloomdale, Ohio. The father later married Miss Sophrona Monroe, by whom he had six children—Henry and William, both farmers of Bloom township; Grace, who died in infancy; Mercy, who also died in infancy; Oliver of Bloom township; and Silas, who died in infancy. The mother of these children passed away April 1, 1883, and was also laid to rest in Brandeberry cemetery, as was her husband, who

died February 14, 1893. He always took an active part in political affairs, casting his vote with the Republican party.

The first school which our subject attended was taught by Clarissa Roberts, and he has watched with satisfaction the great improvement made in educational matters since that time. He remained under the parental roof until his enlistment on the 2nd of May, 1864, in Company E, 144th O. V. I., under Capt. Smith, and was mustered into the United States service at Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio, whence he proceeded to Baltimore, Md., to report to Gen. Wallace. He was later sent to Wilmington, Del., where he did guard duty, until the expiration of his time, and on being discharged at Columbus, August 25, 1864, he returned home, working on his father's farm until his marriage.

In Bloom township, on the 13th of February, 1868, Mr. Brandeberry was married to Miss Harriet Berger, who was born in Boardman township, Mahoning Co., Ohio, July 26, 1849, and is a daughter of John and Susan (Fiester) Berger. To this worthy couple have been born five children: Adell, who was born August 22, 1869, is now Mrs. James O'Leary, of Bloomdale, and a member of Jewell Temple, Rathbone Sisters; Harry E., who was born February 16, 1871, and is a member of Sr. O. U. A. M.; H. James, who was born July 7, 1873, and now makes his home in Bloomdale; J. Scott, who was born October 7, 1875, and died at the age of ten years from measles and pneumonia; and Minnie M., born July 30, 1883.

After his marriage Mr. Brandeberry located on the fifty-acre tract in Section 35, Bloom township, which he still makes his home. The land was all wild, and he erected the first buildings upon the place. He is an energetic, enterprising man; the trees soon fell before his sturdy blows, and the place has been transformed into a highly-cultivated farm. Politically he is a Republican, for which party he always casts his ballot, and, socially, is a charter member of Urie Post No. 110, G. A. R., of Bloomdale, while his wife belongs to the Woman's Relief Corps, an auxiliary of that order, and is a faithful member of the Lutheran Church.

ABRAM MANSON LASHUAY. It is largely to the young men that the West is indebted for its rapid advancement, and to this class of enterprising, progressive citizens belongs our subject. He was born in Liberty township, October 4, 1866, son of Alexander Elixir and Charity (Mercer) Lashuay, the former of whom, a native of Michi-

gan, came during his boyhood to Wood county, and was married in Liberty township. The children born to this union were Abram M.; Hattie, deceased wife of William Kidd, of Portage township; Dana Cline, who died in infancy; and Clarence, at home.

Under the parental roof our subject spent his boyhood days, and attended the common schools of the neighborhood until eighteen years of age, when he entered the Normal School at Ada, Ohio, pursuing his studies there for three terms. He then returned home and resumed farm labor on the old homestead, being thus employed until he went to a home of his own. He was married, November 24, 1887, to Miss Luella McMahan, who was born in Liberty township June 29, 1867, daughter of George and Emily (Bradshaw) McMahan. Her father, a farmer, died in 1874, leaving one child, Mrs. Lashuay; Benjamin Franklin, her brother, died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Lashuay at the time of their marriage located on a tract of land of eighty acres, which she had inherited from her father, and there lived about three years. They next removed to an eighty-acre farm, of which our subject had inherited ten acres from his father. He now controls the entire amount, and his wife rents her property, on which are eight producing oil wells. Their union has been blessed with two children, Flossie B., born November 1, 1888; and Eldon Stanley, born August 20, 1893.

Mr. Lashuay was a supporter of the Republican party until 1892, after which he was a stalwart advocate of the Prohibition party, until the "money question" came up, when he returned to the Republican party. In religious faith he holds membership with the Disciples Church, takes quite an active part in his work, is a warm friend of the cause of education, and lends his aid to all enterprises that he believes will benefit the community or promote the general welfare.

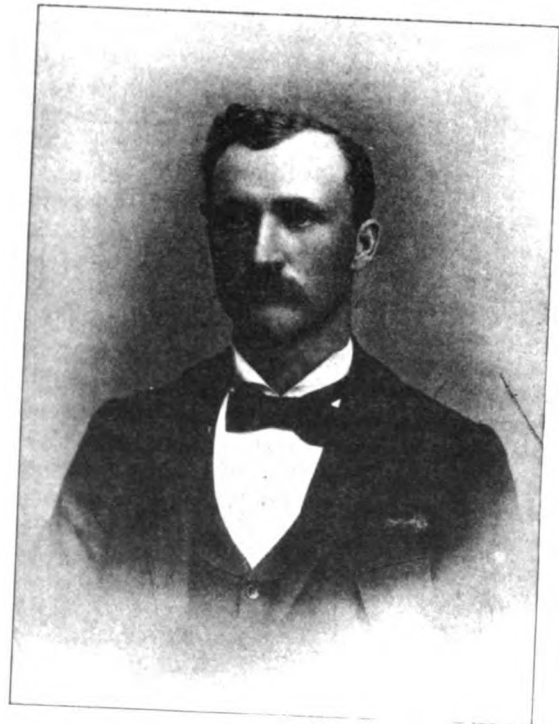
A. FULTON M. MERCER, still a resident of Liberty township, was born there August 1, 1859, son of Charles and Jane (Mominee) Mercer, of Bowling Green. To the public schools of his home neighborhood he is indebted for his education. He left school on attaining his majority, and began farming in his own interest on a tract of 137 acres of land in Liberty township. He is a wide-awake and enterprising farmer, follows progressive methods, and is always found on the side of advancement. In 1888, on the removal of his father to Bowling Green, he took up his abode on the old homestead, which he has since purchased, and here owns 100 acres,



ELDON B.



FLOSSIE B.



*Mrs. W. W. Lashway. A. W. Lashway*



together with a farm of 240 acres in Jackson township. Over his business career there falls no shadow of wrong, for every business transaction conducted by him has been one of fair dealing, and he has the confidence and support of many friends.

On February 26, 1879, Mr. Mercer was married to Miss Frances C. Frisbie, a native of Wood county, and a most estimable lady. Their union has been blessed with four children—Clayton, who died at the age of ten years; and Elmer, Blanche and Leonard, all at home. In his political views Mr. Mercer has always been a Republican, and he has served ten years as school director, being a warm champion of the cause of education. He is also an active member of the Christian Church of Rudolph, and does all in his power to promote its interests. Popular and esteemed, his friends are many, and he is well liked by all who know him.

B. F. LUSHER, an enterprising merchant and the popular postmaster of Latchie, established business there on March 21, 1892, when he purchased the building which he now occupies. For a year and a half previously he had conducted a store at Moline, Wood county. He has succeeded in building up a good trade, which his well-selected stock and courteous treatment of his customers well merit. He also owns a good farm in Lake township, well improved, and from that source adds not a little to his income.

A native of Wood county, Mr. Lusher's birth took place in Perrysburg township, in 1846, at the home of his parents, Rudolph and Lavina (Zimmerman) Lusher. His father was born in Switzerland, and on coming to the New World, he first located in Virginia when nine years of age. Later he accompanied his father to Perrysburg township, Wood Co., Ohio, where he assisted in building the pike, and was there married. The mother's death occurred in Perrysburg township, November 1, 1889, when she was aged sixty-nine years; the father died June 16, 1896, aged eighty-four. Their family consisted of four sons and four daughters, namely: Samuel, who, in 1861, enlisted in Lake township, in the 72nd O. V. I., for three years, and died at Corinth, Miss.; David, a merchant at Moline; B. F., of this sketch; Ezra, who operates the home farm in Lake township; Emeline; Mrs. Edgar Mandell, who died July 15, 1893, at the age of forty-three years; Mary Ann, who died in Lake township, October 5, 1884; and Delilah.

B. F. Lusher was seven years of age on the removal of the family to Lake township, where,

as soon as large enough, he began to assist in clearing and developing the land, and continued to engage in agricultural pursuits until starting in the mercantile business at Moline. He acquired his education at that place, and is well-informed, especially on the current topics of the day. In 1893 he was appointed postmaster of Latchie, which position he is now capably filling.

In Perrysburg township, in 1895, Mr. Lusher was married, the lady of his choice being Miss Margaret Creps, a native of that township, and a daughter of John and Maria (Cranker) Creps, the former born in Pennsylvania, and the latter in Perrysburg township. Her father was one of the early pioneers of the township, arriving there in 1833, when only thirteen years of age, and there his father, Joseph Creps, carried on a tavern for some years. The latter died at Perrysburg, in 1854. After his marriage, the son located there, where he engaged in carpentering, but at present he and his wife are living upon a farm in Perrysburg township.

On political questions, Mr. Lusher affiliates with the Democratic party, and served as trustee of Lake township from 1887 to 1893. He is nothing of a politician, however, giving most of his attention to his business; but is in favor of any or every thing that is calculated to elevate the community in which he lives. Whatever he has accumulated in this world is due entirely to his own industry, energy and perseverance. Mrs. Lusher, a most estimable lady, is a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Lime City.

FRANK H. VENIA, one of the well-to-do and prosperous farmers of Ross township, is one of those men who thoroughly understand the business they are pursuing, and he is rapidly progressing toward a comfortable competence. Besides general farming he is also extensively engaged in fruit growing. In 1867 he came to Ross township, where he bought a tract of forty acres of timber land, which he sold in 1883, and purchased his present farm of sixty acres, forty of which he has tilled and placed under a high state of cultivation. He is the architect of his own fortune, having started in life with but little capital beyond his own industry and laudable ambition to rise in the world.

He was born at Monroe, Mich., July 27, 1845, and is a son of John and Mary (Shinaver) Venia, natives of Canada, who at an early day located upon a farm in Michigan, where the father died in 1852. The mother still resides near Monroe, that State, and is now the wife of



John Boimier. By her first union she had ten children, two of whom are now living—Godfrey, who resides at Whiteford Center, Mich., and Frank H. The educational privileges of our subject during his youth were very limited, he being able to attend school for only about six months; but, through reading and observation in later years, he has become a well-informed man. On leaving his native State he located in Lucas county, Ohio, and at Sylvania, Ohio, on August 27, 1862, he enlisted in the 18th United States Regulars for three years. He became a member of the army of the Cumberland, and participated in all the battles from Murfreesboro, Tenn., to Jonesboro, Ga., under Gen. Sherman. At the latter he was taken prisoner September 1, 1864, and was confined in Andersonville for twenty-two days. After being exchanged he went to Atlanta, where he was granted a furlough, and after a visit to Toledo, he rejoined his regiment at Lookout Mountain, where he was honorably discharged, August 27, 1865.

Returning to Toledo, Mr. Venia worked there for \$20 per month at gardening, until coming to Ross township in 1867. In 1882, he again made his home in Toledo for a time, and was there engaged in contracting, furnishing all the heavy timbers for elevators, bridges, and other improvements at that place. He now devotes most of his time and attention to fruit raising, having all kinds of fruit on his farm, and has been very successful in this venture.

In Washington township, Lucas county, in 1868, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Venia and Miss Hattie E. Johnston, a native of Toledo, and a daughter of Martin R. and Harriet E. (Breed) Johnston, who were from the New England States, and located in that city in the early '40s. Her father engaged in gardening near Toledo, where his death occurred in 1882. His wife also died in that city, in 1890. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Venia (four of whom are still living): Martin R., who died at the age of eleven years and seven months; Carrie, wife of W. L. Alexander, of Crestline, Ohio; Frank E., who is married and resides in Ross township; and Harvey R. and Edith, at home.

Mr. Venia is quite prominently identified with the interests of the community in which he lives, and has assisted materially in the development of his portion of the county. He bears a high character for sterling integrity, is entirely a self-made man, and well deserves the success that has come to him. In political questions he casts his ballot in support of the men and measures of the Democratic party, and has

been called upon to serve as trustee, assessor and constable in his township.

JOHN A. ROGERS is one of the younger representatives of agricultural interests in Wood county, and is also numbered among the most prominent farmers. He was born in Henry township, September 30, 1869, and is a son of William W. Rogers, a native of Maryland, who, during his infancy, was taken by his parents to Guernsey county, Ohio. About 1853 the family came to Wood county, and Lilburn Rogers, the grandfather, purchased 600 acres of wild land in Henry township. In that township William Rogers married Miss Elizabeth Hough, and then located on the old family homestead, where he lived until the spring of 1891. He has since resided in North Baltimore, Ohio, and has laid aside the cares of business life. His wife died on the old homestead in 1872. Their children were as follows: Winfield Scott, of North Baltimore; Melissa and Bart, who died in childhood; James Madison, a farmer of Hancock county, Ohio; Mrs. Ida Wilson, of Henry township; Mrs. Ada Haines, of Henry township; John A., and Mrs. Lillie Brewster, of Dunkirk, Ind. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Rogers married Nancy Burkhead, and they have a daughter, Eva, at home.

Mr. Rogers, of this review, attended the district schools, and spent one term in school in North Baltimore. He has always lived on the old home farm, with the exception of one year spent with his father in the town, and since old enough to handle the plow has engaged in farm work. He is now successfully engaged in the operation of eighty acres of land, and has developed upon the place nine productive oil wells. He is a wide-awake young business man, thoroughly abreast with the times, and is meeting with success in his undertakings.

In Henry township, on April 1, 1893, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Rogers and Miss Edith Peters, who was born in that township, December 23, 1873, a daughter of J. C. Peters, of Henry township; at first they lived on the old home place, but later moved from North Baltimore to Hancock county, one mile south and one-half mile west of Mt. Cory. Their union has been blessed with one daughter, Vera, who was born September 26, 1894. Mr. Rogers gives his political support to the Republican party.

GEORGE RIEHM, a prominent agriculturist and manufacturer of Perrysburg township, residing near Lime City, was born February 26, 1840, at Haardt, Bavaria, Germany.

His parents, George and Barbara (Naumer) Riehm, natives of Germany, came in 1850 to Cuyahoga county, Ohio, to spend their remaining years. Both were devout adherents of the Lutheran Church, and were highly esteemed for their excellencies of character. The father died in 1867, aged sixty-seven years; the mother, surviving many years, died in 1893, at the age of eighty-three. Of their two children, the elder Elizabeth, is now Mrs. William Mack. The younger, the subject of our sketch, was only ten years old at the time of the removal to Cuyahoga county, and he received his education mainly in the public schools of that vicinity. He was married June 5, 1866, to an early acquaintance, Miss Mary Rietz, a native of Germany, born May 9, 1843, whose parents had settled in Cuyahoga county, in 1849. Six children were born of this union; Elizabeth married George Elder, and has two children—Henry and Mary; John G. is at home; George P. is a student in the Normal University at Ada; Katie and Annie, twins, are greatly admired for their culture and social graces, and their marvelous resemblance adds a unique interest to their physical and mental charms; Fred A. is a student at Normal University at Ada, with a view to preparing for the study of law.

Shortly after his marriage Mr. Riehm came to Wood county, and his well-tilled farm gives pleasing evidence of his years of industry and judicious management. The improvements are of a high order, and his residence, a handsome twenty-room brick house with furnace and other modern conveniences, is one of the finest in the county. In 1892 Mr. Riehm and his sons opened a factory for the manufacture of brick and tile, the enterprise meeting with success. Mr. Riehm takes an active part in local affairs, and is an influential worker in the Republican party, serving as a delegate to the county conventions at various times, and being recognized as a shrewd and safe adviser.

SAMUEL WIKLE, deceased, who owned and operated a good farm in Liberty township, had acquired a competence through his own perseverance and unfaltering energy. His father, Andrew Wikle, was a pioneer of Wayne county, Ohio, where he located in his younger years, and was married to Elizabeth Lawrence. He then located on a farm where our subject was born, June 13, 1846. In 1859 he brought his family to Wood county, and secured forty acres of wild land in Henry township, which he cultivated until his death in 1868. His wife survived until 1889. They had seven children—John, who is

living on the old homestead in Henry township; Mary, who resides with her brother; Sarah, wife of Percival Bishop, of Paulding county, Ohio; Martin, who died in the army after three months' service in the Civil war; Samuel; Margaret Ann and Daniel, who died in infancy,

Samuel Wikle was reared in Henry township. His educational privileges were meager, but his training at farm work was unlimited. He worked at home until 1867, after which he was employed as a farm hand for two years. He was married March 4, 1869, in Findlay, Ohio, to Martha Jane Cox, who was born January 16, 1848, in Crawford county, Ohio, a daughter of George and Nancy Jane (Young) Cox. For a few months they lived in Findlay, then came to Wood county, and after Mr. Wikle had worked for others for a short time, he purchased a house and lot in North Baltimore, which was his home for four years. He afterward lived in Liberty for two years, then went to Allen county, Ind., where he purchased twenty acres of wild land. Having cultivated it for four years, he returned to Wood county, where, at the time of his death, he owned a good farm of thirty-six acres, on which are seven producing oil wells; in 1886 he erected a fine residence.

Mr. Wikle was a stalwart Republican in politics. His widow is an active worker in the Methodist Church, and, as was also her husband, is highly esteemed. Their children are Francis Marion, who was born October 12, 1870, and died December 18, following; George H., who was born December 15, 1873, and married Rebecca Waltemyer; Maud M., born February 11, 1876, wife of Albert Rose, by whom she has one child, Verner; and Ofta, born February 5, 1879. Mr. Samuel Wikle had been in poor health for about six years, and in April, 1896, was prostrated with heart trouble, from which he suffered greatly until relieved by death, June 2, 1896. Even in the hour of their affliction, the wife and children found their greatest comfort in the certainty, the faithful hope, of future reunion, when, weary of the gaudy trappings of this world, the soul puts on the robes of immortality.

DAVID G. POTTER. Among the leading and influential farmers of Washington township, who thoroughly understand their business and pursue the vocation of their chosen calling in a methodical and workman-like manner, is the subject of this biography. He was born in Huron county, Ohio, between Monroeville and Norwalk, on August 24, 1822, and is one of the eleven children of Elihu and Jerusha (Cadwell) Potter, only four

of whom are now living, the others being: Allen, an employe in a glass factory of Anderson, Ind.; Jane, wife of Joseph McKenzie, a farmer residing near McClure, Henry Co., Ohio; and Henry, a farmer of Washington township.

Our subject received his education in the district schools of Huron county, and remained under the parental roof until he had attained the age of twenty-six years. He was married in 1848, his wife bearing the maiden name of Mary Ann Bates. She was born in 1827. By this union they had six children: Loron C.; Emma Jane, wife of Israel Huffman, who resides in Grand Rapids, Wood county; Celia, deceased; Elnora, a resident of Toledo, Ohio; Rosilla, deceased; and Alice, wife of William Bemis, of Waterville, Ohio. The mother of this family departed this life in 1882. On December 17, 1890, Mr. Potter was again married, his second union being with Clara Etta (Parks) Roderick, who was born in Vermilion county, Ill., March 4, 1857. Her parents were Isaac and Mary (Fahl) Parks, the former of Quaker stock, and the latter a Canadian by birth. By her first husband Mrs. Potter has a son, Ransom W., born November 5, 1882. Her father was a millwright by trade, and his political views were in accordance with those of the Republican party.

In both Huron and Wood counties Mr. Potter has served as school director, and in politics is identified with the Democratic party. He has won his way to the regard of the people with whom he has come in contact, having the respect and confidence of all, and is numbered among the self-made men of the locality, starting out in life entirely unaided by capital or influential friends, so that all he now possesses is due to his untiring energy and perseverance. He and his wife attend the Methodist Episcopal Church, and she holds membership with the Helping Hand and Foreign Missionary Societies, and for two years has been a teacher in the Sunday-school. She is a most estimable lady, winning the love of all by her kindly ways and deeds of charity.

OLIVER C. ALEXANDER, the owner of a good farm of eighty acres in Washington township, is one of the enterprising and progressive farmers of the locality. He is a native son of Wood county, born at Pemberville, New Year's Day, 1856, and his parents were Nelson and Mary (Huff) Alexander. When but six months old he lost his mother, and then went to live with his grandfather, William Huff, where he was reared to manhood, assisting in the work of the farm through the summers, while in the winters he

attended the district schools. For ten years he was employed as a farm hand, and for four years of that time pursued his studies during the winter season. He then, in February, 1882, purchased fifty-three acres of unimproved land, which he cleared, ditched and fenced, and erected thereon a good house, and set out a quantity of fruit. This place he disposed of in September, 1890, and bought his present property, which comprises eighty acres, on which he moved the following March. He now has an excellent farm, whose cultivated fields show his careful management, and attest his industrious and progressive spirit.

The lady who now bears the name of Mrs. Alexander was, in her maidenhood, Martha Bailey, a daughter of William and Mary (Cook) Bailey, who make their home in Plain township, Wood county, near the Carr school house. She was born February 1, 1861, and her marriage with our subject was celebrated on February 25, 1886, by which union one son has been born—Harry C., whose birth occurred November 11, 1890. Mr. Alexander uniformly votes the straight Republican ticket, but has all the business he can attend to without desiring to take upon himself the responsibilities of office. The family is one of prominence in the social world, having the esteem and friendship of all.

FREDERICK SOMMERS, a popular and enterprising man, is by nativity an Ohioan. He was born in Medina county, August 4, 1860, a son of Frederick and Rosetta (Groh) Sommers. His father was a native of Germany, and at the age of twenty-five entered the German army, serving seven years. During that time he participated in the war with Algeria, where he witnessed great suffering among the soldiers, who were tortured by the Arabs in every conceivable manner. Soon after his return he was married, and in 1854 emigrated to America, sailing from Havre, France, and reaching New York after a voyage of thirty-three days. For seven years they resided near Liverpool, Medina Co., Ohio, then came to Wood county. In 1862 the father enlisted at Perrysburg, for service in the Union army, in Company I, 111th O. V. I. During a long and tedious march he was overcome by the heat, and for some time was forced to remain in different hospitals. Later he returned home on a furlough, and then started south again. On being examined by a physician in Cincinnati, he was declared unfit for further service, and so received his discharge a month before the end of the war. Returning home, he resumed farming, and gave his forty

acres of land and \$600 for eighty acres in Liberty township. There he died September 13, 1877, aged fifty-four years. In his family were the following children—John, born May 2, 1854, now a practicing physician of North Baltimore; Jacob, born June 2, 1857, a farmer of Henry township; Christina, who was born January 21, 1859, married Thomas W. Knight, and died March 9, 1889; and Frederick, who completes the family.

Our subject was reared on the home farm, and has always carried on agricultural pursuits. He operates this place for his mother, who is still living. She was born May 6, 1831, in Wurtemberg, Germany, and is a daughter of Jacob and Fredericka (Reck) Groh. She is a member of the Disciples Church, and a most estimable lady. Our subject has upon his farm eight oil wells which add materially to his income. The place comprises eighty acres, and is now well improved. In politics he is a Democrat, and he is a gentleman of genuine worth, who has the respect of many friends.

GEORGE L. MEEK, an enterprising young farmer of Washington township, is a native of Wood county, born on June 6, 1862, and is one of a family of ten children, that graced the union of Charles and Mary (James) Meek, the former a native of Herefordshire, England. In order of birth the children are as follows: Henry, who was drowned at the age of four years; John, who died at the age of twenty-four; Mary, wife of Henry Boice, a farmer of Monroe county, Mich.; Annie Jane, who makes her home with our subject; Charlie, who is employed in Toledo, Ohio; Jennie, deceased wife of J. Bowers, of Washington township; Emeline and Edwin, twins, both of whom are now deceased; George L., of this sketch; and James Edward.

District School No. 1, of Washington township, afforded George L. Meek his educational privileges, which he attended during the winter months, while through the summer season he aided in the work on the home farm. At the age of fifteen years he commenced working for others, as a farm hand. To agricultural pursuits he has ever devoted his attention, and now operates his fine farm of forty acres, which is highly improved. He takes quite an active interest in public affairs, and his political support is given the Republican party.

In September, 1882, Mr. Meek led to the marriage altar Rhoda May Edwards, a lady of English parentage, whose father was drowned in the Atlantic ocean, while on his way to the New World. To this worthy couple have been

born five children: Bertie E., born September 21, 1883, and died at the age of eight years and fourteen days; Gertrude Hannah, born September 12, 1885; Clara Bell, born March 19, 1888; Laura Viola, born February 16, 1892; and Edwin O., born March 15, 1894.

HENRY HERSH, deceased, who during his lifetime was a pioneer agriculturist of Grand Rapids township, and a soldier in the Civil war, was born November 1, 1828, in Carroll county, Ohio, a son of John and Rebecca Hersh; his father had been for many years a leading farmer in that county. The district schools of his native county furnished Henry Hersh an elementary education, and he grew to manhood upon his father's farm with the usual training of a country youth. In 1854 he came to Wood county and purchased forty acres of land in Weston township, and cleared and improved it, planting an orchard, and putting up substantial buildings. A few years later he sold this and bought eighty acres near Grand Rapids, which he also cleared and transformed into a habitable and productive farm. He constructed the first cider-mill in the township, and made thousands of gallons of cider each year. In 1864 Mr. Hersh enlisted in Company I, 144th O. V. I. (Capt. J. McKee commanding), for the one-hundred-days' service, and served until the expiration of the term. He was disabled in the army, and died of typhoid fever, September 26, 1889. Not feeling strong enough to work his farm after his return from the army, he followed the carpenter's trade, building many of the homes of the neighborhood.

On April 14, 1853, Mr. Hersh was married in Holmes county to Miss Hannah Bell, a native of that county, born April 18, 1833, a daughter of Margaret and John Bell. They had nine children whose names with dates of birth are as follows: Margaret, June 12, 1854, married Jacob Gundy; Emily A., born March 20, 1857, died April 16, 1862; John A., August 23, 1859; George E., February 7, 1862, is a farmer of Grand Rapids township; Edward G., January 29, 1865, graduated at Middle Point, Ohio, and in the Cincinnati Medical College, being now a successful physician at McComb, Ohio; William H., October 12, 1868, received part of his education in Grand Rapids, and is a leading dentist at Piqua, Ohio, having prepared for his profession at the Chicago Dental College, and also at Cincinnati; Arthur B., January 13, 1872, graduated from the Veterinary College at Toronto, Canada, and is now a veterinary surgeon near Grand Rapids, Ohio; Delevan, June 11, 1875, farming on

the homestead; Doctor Franklin, January 29, 1878, is at Cleveland, Ohio.

In politics our subject was a Republican, and in local affairs his well-known ability and integrity gave his judgment great weight. He was school director for several years, and took deep interest in educational matters. He and his wife were prominent members of the U. B. Church. Mrs. Hersh still resides at the old homestead, which she manages with rare discretion, adding valuable improvements from time to time. A wise and loving mother, her chief care since her husband's death has been the education and settlement of her children, who by their success are bringing her abundant honors.

JOSEPH PERKINS, who is engaged in farming in Perrysburg township, was born in 1844, and was bound out for service, until twenty-one years of age, to Cornelius Lamb, of North Carolina. When a youth of eighteen he ran away, and entered the Union army, as a servant to the officers, being thus engaged from July, 1862, until February, 1865. In the latter month he entered the regular service, in which he continued until February, 1866, valiantly defending the Union.

On May 25, 1868, Mr. Perkins was united in marriage with Miss Mary Dent, a daughter of John and Sarah Jane (Grubbs) Dent, natives of Mt. Sterling, Montgomery Co., Ky. She was the eldest of thirteen children, and was born August 22, 1850, in Good Hope, Fayette Co., Ohio. Her parents at the time were engaged in aiding the "Underground railway" at that place, and were in this service until their daughter was seven years of age. Their "station" was located on the farm of John Parrott, one mile west of Good Hope. In 1857 they went to London, Ohio, whence they went to Canada, and after a short time removed to Detroit, Mich. In 1858 they took up their abode in Lucas county, Ohio, where the father died May 10, 1891. He met his death by violence at the hands of some one who had sold him liquor until he was drunk, and then threw him out of a second-story window, the fall breaking his neck.

After his marriage, Mr. Perkins came to Wood county, and purchased forty acres of land, whereon he has since made his home. He is a respected and well-to-do citizen, enterprising and industrious, and his success has come as the reward of his own labors. His family numbered twelve children, seven of whom are living, namely: Joseph Milton, born May 16, 1874; George Melvin, born March 3, 1880; Florence Evalena May, born June 28, 1882; Hettie Ale-

mida, born July 13, 1884; Frank Ellsworth K., born January 18, 1887; Harry Walter A. Wood, born July 9, 1891; and Frederick Arthur, born June 29, 1893.

The father of Joseph Perkins was born in Virginia, where he was a slave for fifty years, and went under the name of Joseph Williams, being in the service of a Mr. Williams. In 1879 he came to Ohio, to the home of his son, Joseph, in Wood county, and died January 1, 1894, in Sylva, Lucas Co., Ohio.

R. W. DAVIDSON, one of the native sons of Wood county, was born in Webster township, August 31, 1852, and now occupies a conspicuous place among those who are devoted to commercial pursuits. His parents were James and Mary (Williamson) Davidson. The former was born in Scotland August 23, 1818, and when sixteen years of age came to the United States with his father, Robert Davidson, who located in northwestern Ohio, where he died soon afterward, his death being occasioned by drinking cold water when intensely heated. James Davidson went to Jo Daviess county, Ill., where he operated the first enclosed threshing machine seen in that locality. During the gold excitement in California, he made an overland trip with oxen across the plains, and visited different parts of the West. He was married in Illinois in 1851, and came direct to Wood county, purchasing land near Scotch Ridge in Webster township, where he lived for sometime. Later he located near Bellville Ridge, near Dowling, Wood county, and about the close of the war purchased eighty acres of land in Section 20, Freedom township, to which he added from time to time, until the farm comprised 200 acres. There he lived until his death October 2, 1894. His wife passed away November 6, 1889, and both were buried in Scotch Ridge cemetery. In politics he was a staunch Republican, and both were prominent members of the United Presbyterian Church, in which he served as an elder, and contributed liberally to its support. He belonged that substantial and worthy class of farmers who are ever faithful to their duties of citizenship, and true to their friends and families. His children were R. W., of this sketch; Mary, who is living in New Rochester; Maggie, deceased; William, a farmer of Freedom township; Nettie, wife of W. S. Kennedy, of Mansfield, Ohio; James, a farmer of Freedom; and George, who died in infancy.

R. W. Davidson, whose name is found at the beginning of this review, was reared on a farm near his present home, and received the educa-

tional advantages afforded by the common schools. At the age of twenty-two he began life for himself as a farm hand. His father afterward purchased eighty acres of land in Center township, on which he made a payment of \$1,000, and gave the property to our subject on the condition that he was to pay off the indebtedness. At the time he left home, Mr. Davidson was married, and then began farming in Center township, where he lived until the fall of 1882. He did not, however, engage in farming, but hired this work done while he devoted his energies to carpentering, enjoying a liberal patronage along that line. In the fall of 1883, he began merchandising in New Rochester, and, though not experienced in this undertaking, his practical common sense, steady application and perseverance soon enabled him to conduct his operations with the ease of an old-time merchant. For the first year and a half he was associated with a partner, but since that time has been the sole owner of his store, which is now one of the most extensive and profitable country stores in Wood county. As a merchant he is thoroughly reliable, and has the confidence of all his patrons, which he values highly, and which has never been abused in the least degree. He erected his store building in New Rochester, also his residence, and in addition to these owns two others in New Rochester, and one in Bradner.

Mr. Davidson was married in Center township, October 22, 1873, when twenty-one years of age, to Miss Jessie Bandeen, daughter of William and Jane (Clark) Bandeen. Mr. Bandeen was born in Alford, Scotland, August 24, 1824, and died in Wood county, March 8, 1889; he was a stone mason by trade. His wife was born July 1, 1832, in Ireland, and they were married September 29, 1850, and were the parents of eight children—five boys and three girls.

Mr. and Mrs. Davidson hold membership in the Presbyterian Church, taking an active part in its progress and upbuilding, while Mr. Davidson is serving as treasurer of the Church, and as teacher in the Sunday-school. By his ballot he supports the Republican party; but his attention is largely given to his business interests, and his life demonstrates that success is not a matter of genius, but the legitimate outcome of resolute purpose, industry, and good management.

SAMUEL SHROYER, one of the worthy pioneers of Wood county, was born in Crawford county, Ohio, July 5, 1838, and is a son of Philip and Salinda (Fiddler) Shroyer, the former a native of Pike township, Stark Co., Ohio, and the latter

of Pennsylvania. The paternal grandfather, Leonard Shroyer, was also born in the Keystone State. After their marriage in Stark county, the parents removed to Crawford county, Ohio, but later returned to the former county. It was in 1848 that they arrived in Wood county, where the father purchased 100 acres of cheap land in Montgomery township; but, after two years' residence, learned of an \$800 mortgage against the place, which caused him to sell, thus losing two years' labor. His next property consisted of eighty acres in Portage township, and, on disposing of that tract, he bought forty acres in Section 3 of the same township, where he lived for many years. His last days, however, were spent in the village of Portage, where he died December 23, 1892, at the age of seventy-eight years. His widow still resides at that place. In religious belief they were both Dunkards, and he was a supporter of the Republican party.

Our subject is the oldest in their family of eleven children, the others being: Martha, now Mrs. Frank Bordner, of Portage; Eliza, who married Resin Mercer, and died in Bowling Green, Ohio; Mary, wife of William Philo, of Portage; Levi, a grocery merchant of Columbia, S. C.; Sarah, now Mrs. Caleb Mercer, of Portage township; Joseph, of Center township, Wood county; Lavina, who became the wife of Gustavus Cox, and died in Bowling Green; Salinda, now Mrs. Willard Finlay, of Bowling Green; Riley, of Portage; and Della, of Bowling Green, formerly Mrs. Stacy.

Being the eldest son, Samuel Shroyer was called upon to assist in the support of the family, so that he had a poor chance for securing an education in his youth. He endured all the hardships and privations of frontier life, their bread being mostly of corn, and their meat wild game, the father often killing a deer before breakfast. On account of the rude machinery of those days, farming was not an easy task, especially in an undeveloped country. Mr. Shroyer remained upon the home farm until his marriage, in 1861, which was celebrated in Portage township, Miss Catherine Scott becoming his wife. She was born in that township November 2, 1842, and is a daughter of James and Cynthia (Johnson) Scott, the former a native of Ashland county, and a farmer by occupation.

While peacefully pursuing the vocation of an agriculturist, the dark cloud of war, which had for sometime lowered over our beloved country, broke upon our people. Patriotic men from all the walks of life thronged to the front in response to the call of the general government to defend

our national life. Fired by a spirit of patriotism, Mr. Shroyer enlisted August 6, 1862, at Portage, in Company A, 100th O. V. I., under Capt. John A. Shannon. From their camp at Toledo, Ohio, the troops went to Covington, Ky. In their first engagement at Limestone Station, Tenn., our subject was captured by Stonewall Jackson's men, taken to Richmond, and confined in prison for eight months, after which he was sent to the parole camp at Columbus, Ohio. For five weeks he visited home, and then rejoined his regiment near Kenesaw Mountain, which he found in line of battle. Remaining with his command until mustered out at Greensboro, N. C., he was discharged at Cleveland, Ohio, July 1, 1865, with an honorable war record. On his return home, with the savings from his soldier's pay, and with the few dollars his wife had, Mr. Shroyer purchased ten acres of land in Section 3, Portage township, where he erected a house. To that tract he later added twelve acres, all of which he cleared, ditched and improved. In 1882 he sold out at a good price, and purchased seventy acres in Section 10, where he now lives. His good barn was built in 1889, and in 1893 he erected his pleasant dwelling.

To Mr. and Mrs. Shroyer have been born eleven children, namely: Della, now Mrs. John Underwood, of Center township, Wood county; Ida, wife of Thomas Eggleston, of Portage township; Amanda, wife of Henry Lein, of Portage; Olen, a farmer of Portage township; Alva, who resides in the village of Portage; Burley, at home; John, of Portage township; Earl, who died in infancy; and Arthur, Jessie and Oliver, all at home. Mr. Shroyer takes a great interest in the success of the Republican party, with which he casts his ballot, and is a member of Wiley Post, G. A. R., of Bowling Green. Pioneers like Mr. Shroyer endured many trials in those early days. Privations, hardships, lack of old friends and conveniences, could only be tolerated by faith in the "good time coming."

GEORGE E. MERCER, one of the most enterprising and successful business men of Bowling Green, and who has acquired a reputation for good judgment, skill and "push," which many older men might envy, is a native of Wood county, born March 18, 1862, on a farm in Liberty township.

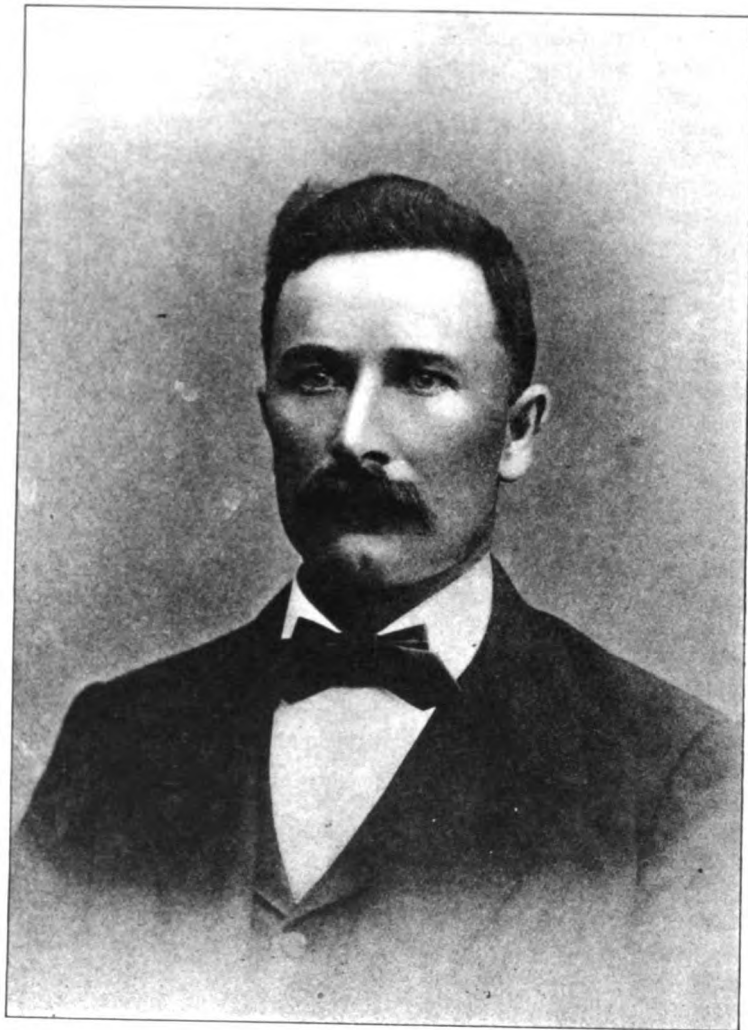
Caleb Mercer, grandfather of our subject, was born March 14, 1814, in Columbiana county, Ohio, a son of William Mercer, a native of Westmoreland county, Penn. The latter was married, in Columbiana county, to Charity Petit, who

was also of Pennsylvania birth, and twelve children were born to them—six sons: George William, John, Daniel, Caleb, Abraham and Charles—and six daughters: Martha, Mary Ann, Beula, Charity, Lucretia and Elizann. The father of these, who was by occupation a stonemason and farmer, in 1834 moved to Wood county, and entered land in Liberty township, where he passed the rest of his days, dying in 1838; his wife departed this life some years later in Columbiana county, while on a visit. In religious faith they were Quakers, and in his political associations Mr. Mercer was an Old-line Whig.

Caleb Mercer, son of William, assisted his father on the farm till he was twenty-one years old, and then worked out for one year at one hundred dollars per annum, with which sum, together with a similar amount given him by his father, he entered 160 acres of wild land in Portage township. Here he lived a couple of years, at the end of which time he sold this land and bought a 240-acre farm in Liberty township, which was also wild land, a road having to be cut through the woods in order to reach it. This property he improved and made a fine farm of, and twenty-one years later he moved to Delaware county, where, in Delaware township, he for three years conducted a grocery business, which he sold out at a profit. Proceeding now to Iowa, he, in that State, bought 320 acres of partly-improved land, where he made his home some twelve years, or until the death of his wife, in January, 1882, when he returned to Wood county, remarried, and settled in Bowling Green, where he has since resided.

His first marriage was in 1836, with Eliza Groves, who was born in 1816, in Pickaway county, Ohio, and by her he had seven children, as follows: Henry G., of Bowling Green; William H., of Nebraska; Matilda, deceased; Thomas and Enis F., both of South Dakota; and Charles and Louis, both deceased. For his second wife, Caleb Mercer married, on June 27, 1882, Mrs. Elvira Newton, who was born in 1832, in Knox county, Ohio, a daughter of John and Sarah (Sellers) Clutter, the father a native of Pennsylvania, the mother of Ohio. In religious faith Caleb Mercer is a member of the Disciples Church, in politics he is a Republican, and in his younger days he held prominent township offices.

Henry G. Mercer, eldest son of Caleb and Eliza (Groves) Mercer, was born in Liberty township, Wood county, Ohio, December 29, 1837, and remained at home, assisting in the farm work, until he was about twenty-one years old, when his



*Geo. E. Mercer.*





father presented him with a horse, and he hired out as a farm hand, so continuing up to his marriage. At that time his father gave him forty acres of wild land (a part of the home farm), which was all in the woods, and there Henry built a log house, wherein he and his young wife commenced the battle of life together. This 40-acre tract he improved, then, in course of time, he bought land adjoining, which he also cultivated. In 1888 he came to Bowling Green and rented the "American House," which he conducted some nine months, when he commenced contracting, in association with his son George E., for two years constructing stone roads. Impaired health, however, compelled him to abandon this line of business, and, selling his farm (some eighteen months after coming to Bowling Green), he, in October, 1895, embarked in his present prosperous grocery business in that city.

In August, 1861, Henry G. Mercer enlisted in Company G, 1st Ohio Light Artillery, attached to the army of the Cumberland, wherein he served three years, during which service he participated in the battles of Stone River, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Lookout Mountain, Franklin and Nashville, besides many skirmishes. He proved a faithful and valiant soldier, and was never absent from his command a single day, although at one time he suffered severely from the sting of a scorpion, which came near proving fatal to him.

On January 16, 1861, Henry G. Mercer was united in marriage with Miss Ruth Murphy, of Indiana, born in March, 1843, in Hamilton county, Ohio, daughter of George G. and Sarah (Jones) Murphy, natives of Virginia. To this union were born two children: One son, George E., the subject proper of this review; and one daughter, Amber F., who died at the age of fifteen years. Like his father, in politics and Church relationship, Henry G. is a Republican, and member of the Disciples Church.

George E. Mercer, whose name introduces this sketch, for several years attended the district schools of the neighborhood of his birthplace, later studying at the Weston High School, at the Normal School at Valparaiso, Ind., two terms, and at the Wesleyan College of Delaware, Ohio, three years. In the district schools of Wood county he taught three terms, then went west, and spent a year in Denver, Colo., and vicinity. He traveled extensively in the mountains, and one hunting expedition, which was especially memorable, lasted for thirty days. Returning to the old homestead, he was engaged in farming two years, and then opened a butcher

shop in Weston; but this proving uncongenial, he came to Bowling Green, and went into partnership in the contracting business with his father, Henry G. Mercer, and uncle, a wealthy contractor, under the firm name of Murphy & Mercer. Among their first enterprises were the paving of Main street, the construction of five miles of stone road at Toledo, Ohio, in the direction of Genoa, and four miles of stone road from Bowling Green northward. Mr. Mercer owns a fine limestone quarry just north of the city, and a few years ago he opened a stone-cutting establishment, to which he has given much time and attention, learning the business himself in all its details. This has proved to be a lucrative venture. He has lately added dealing in ice and coal to his various interests, and enjoys a good trade.

On February 28, 1885, Mr. Mercer was married to Miss Carrie L. Powers, who is also a native of Wood county, born March 28, 1859, and they have one child, George Graham, born February 17, 1886. Mr. Mercer is a Republican, takes an active and influential part in political work, and in the spring of 1895, was elected a member of the city council. The family of Mercers are widely and favorably known throughout the county, and enjoy the unqualified esteem and regard of all. Mrs. Mercer is a daughter of James and Mary (Downing) Powers, the former of whom, a native of Ireland, came to America about the year 1811, he being then some eleven years old. In 1834 he married, in New York, Mary Downing, a native of Yates county, N. Y., born February 8, 1816, and in 1854 they came to Ohio, settling in Milton township, Wood county. Here Mr. Powers bought a farm on which he and his wife passed the rest of their days, the father dying August 30, 1878, the mother on January 16, 1896. They were the parents of eight children, as follows: Mary J., of Denver, Colo., who married Col. John McDesmo, now deceased; Helen M. (Mrs. C. W. McDonald), now deceased; Andrew, who was a soldier in the Civil war, and died at Bowling Green, Ky., in 1863; James F., living in Toledo, Ohio; George A., a resident of Montana; Carrie L., Mrs. George E. Mercer; and John and Leslie, who both died young. Mr. and Mrs. Powers were consistent members of the Baptist Church, in politics he always supported the Democratic party, and by occupation he was a life-long and successful agriculturist.

F. H. PEINERT, one of the native sons of Wood county, who is now engaged in general farming in Washington township, is one of the

popular and enterprising young men of the community. His birth occurred in Middleton township on November 19, 1861, and he is a son of Frederick and Zilpha (Robinson) Peinert, the latter the daughter of Nelson Robinson. The father was born in Germany, but the mother is a native of New York.

The primary education of our subject was received in the common schools of Middleton and Washington townships, but this was later supplemented by two terms' attendance at the schools of Bowling Green and Weston. Farming has ever been his occupation, he having assisted his father in the operation of his land from an early age, and on attaining his majority worked for him for wages until twenty-five. In connection with his brother, he then rented 107 acres for one year. For the past nine years, however, he has been engaged in the cultivation of eighty acres of the old homestead, which he has greatly improved, making it one of the valuable farms of the neighborhood.

On February 20, 1889, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Peinert and Miss Mina F. Williams, a daughter of Daniel and Nettie (Longmore) Williams, and they have become the parents of one son—Floyd H., born September 12, 1891. Mrs. Peinert's mother was born in Seneca county, Ohio; her father, also, was born in this country. He is at present a bookkeeper in Merrill's seed house, in Toledo, Ohio, and in politics is an ardent Republican. Mr. and Mrs. Williams also have a son, Chester B., born October 8, 1866, who is engaged in farming in Middleton township, this county. He married Libbie Barnes, and they have three children—Merle, born March 27, 1889; Montis Myrtle, born May 10, 1890; and Olive Marie, born May 9, 1895. Mrs. Peinert's birth occurred on April 29, 1868.

Our subject and his wife attend the Baptist Church, while socially he is connected with the K. O. T. M., and she is a member of the L. O. T. M., at Haskins. His political support is unswervingly given the Republican party, of whose principles he is an earnest advocate, doing all in his power for the advancement of the party. The family hold a high position in the esteem and confidence of their fellow citizens, and make friends of all with whom they come in contact.

**FRED SAMSON**, a prominent business man of Luckey, and senior member of the firm of Samson & Holter, general merchants, has, since the fall of 1895, conducted his present store in a new building which he erected that year. It is a two-story brick, 22 x 80 feet, and there he carries a

full and complete assortment of general merchandise, for which he finds a ready sale.

The early home of our subject was in Troy township, where he was born on the farm of his parents, Edward and Mary (Whitker) Samson, in 1851. They were both natives of Hanover, Germany, and came to Troy township, where their marriage was celebrated. About 1838, Edward Samson accompanied his father, John F. Samson, to this locality, where the latter opened up a farm in the midst of the woods, and there died in 1852. The father of our subject also made farming his life occupation, and on his farm in Troy township, departed this life in 1893. His widow still survives him. Their family consisted of six children, who, in order of birth, are as follows: Fred, of this sketch; Mrs. Mary Rolf, of Pemberville; Mrs. Anna Hartman; William, of Toledo, Ohio; Mrs. Sophia Restemeyer, of Freedom township; and Mrs. Lena Swan, of the same township.

Fred Samson was reared like most farmer boys in a frontier region, receiving his education in the common schools of Troy township, and continued a member of his father's household until 1887, when he began the saloon business in Luckey, which he conducted for eight years, and then opened his present store. In Troy township, in 1878, Mr. Samson was united in marriage with Miss Eliza Laurmann, who was born there. Her parents, Fred and Eliza Laurmann, were natives of Germany, and at an early day located in Troy township, where their deaths occurred. To our subject and his estimable wife have been born five children: Mary, who clerks in her father's store; Lizzie; Eddie; William and Herman. The family is one of prominence in the community, and are faithful members of the Lutheran Church. In politics, Mr. Samson is an ardent Democrat, and has served as supervisor of Troy township. He belongs to one of the honored pioneer families of the county, and has watched with interest the marvelous changes that have taken place in this section during the past forty years.

**JOHN SHOUP.** The subject of this sketch was born in Section 1, Portage township, March 27, 1846, and is the son of Matthew and Catherine (Shinew) Shoup. Our subject first went to school in Sandusky county, and later in District No. 1, Portage township, his first teacher there being a Miss Lamson. He has since seen much improvement in these schools, and heartily endorses it. He worked on the farm, and his schooling was obtained during the winter months. He remained

at home until February, 1864, when he enlisted, at Toledo, in Co. E, 25th O. V. I., as a recruit, the regiment being home on veteran furlough. He joined it at Camp Chase, and went with it to Hilton Head, S. C., where it did guard duty until fall, at times making short foraging expeditions. In the latter part of October, Mr. Shoup was wounded, at Honey Hill, and was confined in the hospital at Hilton Head until the spring of 1865, when he went to Fort Schuyler, N. Y., and then to Camp Dennison, Ohio, where he was discharged in the fall of 1865.

Returning home, he worked there until his marriage, in November, 1873, to Miss Martha Van Voorhis, a native of Crawford county, and the daughter of William Van Voorhis. He had bought eighty acres of timber land, in Section 12, at a cost of \$800, part of which he paid down. After his marriage, he located in an old log cabin, on his father's farm, where he remained four years, and then removed to his own farm, and built a substantial brick house, where he brought and cared for his father, who was at that time quite old. In the fall of 1882 he moved to his present home, where he has since resided. To him and his wife have been born two children, Jesse A. and Verna, both of whom are at home. He now has 160 acres of good land, and is looked upon as one of the substantial farmers, and progressive, public-spirited citizens, of Portage township, besides being a shrewd business man. In politics he is a Republican, and an advisor and counsellor in his section. He is a member of Randall Post, G. A. R., at Freeport, and, with his wife, belongs to the Methodist Church.

Matthew Shoup, father of our subject, was born in Germany, and came to America when fifteen years old, being the first of his family to make the trip to the United States. He came to Wood county, and worked for Adam Phillips, then living on what is known as the "infirmary farm." He was married, in Wood county, to Catherine Shinew, and went to farming. Later he went to Montgomery township, thence to Scott township, Sandusky county, where he owned forty acres of land. Then he came to Section 1, Portage township, where he afterward lived. To Mr. and Mrs. Shoup were born four children: William, a member of Company D, 111th O. V. I., was wounded at Resaca, and died two weeks later; Mary married Jacob Showman, of Seneca county; John is our subject; Kate became the wife of Otis Wilcox, and died in Montgomery township.

Politically, Mr. Shoup was independent, but voted the Republican ticket most of the time,

and was elected trustee of Portage township several times. He died at the age of seventy-three, and his wife when fifty-seven years old. Both are buried in Portage township.

J. W. SMITH. Prominent among the representative citizens, and the respected and influential men, of Bloom township is found this gentleman. He was born in Logan county, Ohio, October 22, 1855, and is the eldest child of William and Margaret (Clanachan) Smith. He spent his boyhood and youth after the manner of farmers' sons, learning to plow, sow and reap, and in the winter season attended the public schools of the neighborhood. When quite small he was brought by his parents to Wood county, and he remained upon the home farm until the age of eighteen, when he went to Fostoria, Ohio, and learned the carpenter's trade with Israel Cramer, after which he worked as a journeyman for several years. Later he became a partner of Thomas G. Campbell in contract work, being associated with that gentleman for about two years, when he became connected with R. A. McKee for the same length of time. For a year after his marriage he made his home with his father-in-law, during which time he was preparing a home of his own on the forty-acre tract, where he still lives, and which is now a well-improved farm.

In Bloom township, on December 23, 1880, Mr. Smith was united in marriage with Miss Mary A. Cotant, who was born there September 20, 1861, the fourth child in the family of Charles Cotant. They have become the parents of two daughters and one son—Mabel A., born November 2, 1882; Ethel M., born September 20, 1889, and James F., born November 16, 1895.

On May 7, 1885, Mr. Smith joined Company H, 2d O. N. G., and seven days later was made corporal; on January 2, 1888, he was promoted to sergeant, and June 10, 1893, was commissioned sergeant-major. On January 12, 1894, he re-enlisted for five years as sergeant-major. He is well versed in military matters, and his command has often received high mention for its excellent training. He has won both a gold and a silver medal for good marksmanship. His first Presidential vote was cast for Rutherford B. Hayes, and since that time he has supported the Republican party, taking an active interest in its success and attending the county conventions as a delegate. He has efficiently served as trustee of his township, and in his Church relations he, his wife and his elder daughter are members

of the United Brethren denomination, in which he is serving as trustee of the Church and superintendent of the Sunday-school. A man of the strictest integrity, Mr. Smith enjoys the confidence of all, his word never being questioned. He is a skilled mechanic, and, besides engaging in farming and carpentering, he has also dealt extensively in slate for roofing purposes, at Bloomdale.

ABRAHAM WALKER, sexton and custodian of the Bowling Green cemetery, was born in Fayette county, Penn., January 15, 1821. He is the son of Thomas and Mary (Solenbarquer) Walker. The father of our subject was born on the Susquehanna river, in Lancaster county, Penn., and was a stone mason by trade. He died in Columbiana county, Ohio, near New Lisbon, at the age of sixty years. The mother died in Stark county, Ohio, when eighty years old. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The paternal grandfather was of Irish descent, and his mother's people were Pennsylvania Dutch, her grandfather, David Solenbarquer, having been born in Pennsylvania, and died in Fayette county, Ohio.

Abraham Walker, our subject, is one of eleven children, ten of whom grew to maturity: David, Thomas, Presley, Henry, Abraham, Joseph, Ann, Clarissa, Mary, and Isabella. Of these, Joseph and Clarissa, besides our subject, are alive, Joseph living in Stark county, Ohio, and Clarissa at Warren, Ohio. Mr. Walker's early life was spent in Columbiana county, on a farm. He was married March 1, 1845, to Miss Lloyd, who was born in New Jersey, August 31, 1824. They settled in Columbiana county, Ohio, for four years, and then came to Wood county, in the fall of 1847, and, after living at various places, finally located in Bowling Green, which is still his home. There was no sign of a town when he first came to what is now the prosperous town of Bowling Green. He had learned the trade of carpenter and joiner, at which he worked and farmed, alternately. That was in the days when the huge forests were being cleared away in Wood county, and black salts and potash were about the only cash commodities. He was engaged in making potash for fifteen years, and then became sexton in the Methodist Episcopal Church and the public school house for five or six years, finally accepting the position of sexton of the cemetery, which he has held for thirty-two years. He is a Republican, and has been a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church for thirty-five years. Mr. Walker is a strong, hale and hearty

man, and long has been the procession of youth and aged whom he has seen join the silent majority, sleeping their last sleep beneath the sod. Mrs. Walker, as well as her husband, has been spared in excellent health by the "grim reaper" to a ripe and happy old age. Both of their lives have been nobly spent, and stand as an excellent example to be followed by succeeding generations. To this couple have been born four children, as follows: Martha, who is the wife of Allan Cook, a soldier in the war of the Rebellion, and a citizen of Bowling Green. Jemima, who is the wife of Thomas Baker, a resident of Putnam county, Ohio; they have five sons, Nathan, Alva, William, Ira and Charles. Sarah died when thirty-one years old; she was the wife of Henry Dibert. Henry died when six weeks old.

The parents of Mrs. Walker were Floyd and Mary (Sparks) Lloyd. They were both natives of New Jersey, and died there when Mrs. Walker was a child.

JOHN WELLING, a leading agriculturist of Perrysburg township, is a native of same, born in Perrysburg township in 1855, and although his earlier years were spent upon a farm in Woodville township, Sandusky county, where he was educated, he returned in early manhood to settle at his birthplace. His grandfather Welling came from Hanover, Germany, accompanied by his family, and made his home in Sandusky county.

His son, Harmon Welling, our subject's father, then a young man, was married there to Miss Margaret Albert, who was also a native of Hanover, and afterward moved to Wood county, locating upon a farm in the eastern part of Perrysburg township, where he died in 1856, leaving two children—George, who resides in Perrysburg township, and the subject of this sketch. Mrs. Welling was married a second time, her husband being Samuel Schreiner, of Stony Ridge; her death occurred in 1861. Two children were born of the second marriage—Henry, a resident of Toledo; and Caroline, now Mrs. Emch, of Woodville township, Sandusky county.

Left an orphan at an early age, Mr. Welling was reared at the old home of the family in Sandusky county; but, in 1880, he came to his present farm, near Stony Ridge, where he built a comfortable and tasteful farm residence. He was married, in 1883, to Miss Sophia Warns, a daughter of Bomain and Catherine (Kane) Warns, who came from Germany in early life and settled in Perrysburg township, where they still reside. Four children were born of this union—Arthur, Edward, Lenora and Walter.

Mr. Welling and his wife are prominent members of the Lutheran Church at Stony Ridge, and have taken a leading part in various enterprises for the social and religious advancement of the community. As a farmer, Mr. Welling is progressive and enterprising, and his improvements are first-class—his barn, built in 1887, being a model structure, 40 x 62. He is a general farmer, but has given especial attention to stock raising. In his home farm there are fifty-seven and a half acres, but he owns also a farm of seventy-six acres in the same township. Politically he is a Democrat.

JOHN H. CHRISTELLER was born on the farm which is still his home, in Section 1, Portage township, March 20, 1856. His father, Christian Christeller, was a native of Switzerland, born in 1793, and when a boy came to the United States. In Columbiana county, Ohio, he wedded Miss Anna Morolof, whose birth also occurred in Switzerland, in 1816, and who, when seven years old, was brought by her parents to America. To them were born five children—Frederick, who died when forty years of age; Louisa and John, who died in infancy; Elizabeth, now Mrs. Amos Huffman, of Montgomery township, Wood county; and John H., of this review.

On coming to the New World the father was twenty-five cents in debt; but, with energy as his capital, he started out. He had learned the tanner's trade in Switzerland, and after his arrival here followed shoemaking, and also worked as a stone cutter on the Beaver & Ohio canal. He secured eighty acres in Section 1, Portage township, giving in exchange a gold watch and a small piece of town property he owned, but did not remove to this place for some years. He drove to Wood county, and began house-keeping in an old log house on his farm, near which the pioneer road was laid out; but later, when the section lines were established, the roads were changed and the house was found to be near the center of the farm. It was not the intention of Mr. Christeller to engage in farming when he first secured his land, but he later became attached to the business as his children grew up, and he continued to follow it during the remainder of his active life, though he still carried on shoemaking to some extent. On June 13, 1877, he passed away at the age of eighty-four years, six months and fifteen days, and his wife died in February, 1881, at the age of sixty-five years, being buried by the side of her husband in Rochester cemetery. They were members of the Lutheran Church, and in politics he was a stalwart Democrat. He was not over

five feet in height, but was a very industrious, energetic man, and was still well preserved for one of his age at the time of his death. He had increased his landed possessions, until at one time he owned 240 acres, all in Portage township.

The first school which John H. Christeller attended was taught by a Mr. Wollam, and the good practical education he secured was all obtained in the district schools of the neighborhood. His first ideas of farming were received on the land where he still practices them. On the division of the property, after the death of his father, when our subject was twenty-one, he received as his share the old homestead, on which a substantial brick residence had been started. This he completed, and his mother lived with him until her death.

In Portage township, on March 20, 1890, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Christeller and Miss Eliza Emslie, who was born in Ruggles township, Ashland Co., Ohio, August 20, 1866, and is the daughter of James and Elsie (Thom) Emslie, farming people. Previous to her marriage, Mrs. Christeller had engaged in teaching in both Ashland and Wood counties. Mr. Christeller owns 118 acres of excellent land, and gave to the Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church, the land on which their house of worship was erected, it being a part of his farm. He is now serving as one of its trustees, and his wife is also one of its faithful members. In politics he supports the men and measures of the Republican party, and takes a prominent part in local political affairs. Naturally he is a man of more than ordinary intelligence, is quite a reader, and keeps well informed on the leading topics and events of the day. In their hospitable home both himself and estimable wife delight to entertain their many friends.

JACOB HELFER, a retired farmer of Perry township, was born in Germany, July 27, 1824, and is the son of Peter Helfer.

Peter Helfer, who was a teamster in the old country, brought his wife and eight children to the United States, thirty-six days being passed on the ocean, during the most of which time the mother was ill. The glowing accounts of the resources of the New World had deceived Mr. and Mrs. Helfer, and they did not find the conditions in America as bright as they had anticipated. For three weeks after arriving in Stark county, Ohio, the family slept in a barn. Mr. Helfer then bought twenty acres of land, which was cleared and improved, and on which they lived for six years, at the end of that time trading

it for eighty acres in Loudon township, Seneca county, to which place the family moved. The land was unimproved, and full of timber and undergrowth. A log house, 20 x 28 feet in dimensions, was built to accommodate this large family of ten people, whose condition at that time was deplorable. The task of clearing the land was a laborious one, and the boys helped their father, working from early morning until late at night. The woods abounded in game and wild animals, and at one time, our subject, then but a boy, was driving the cows home, when he encountered sixteen wolves. His only protection was a little torch he carried; but with this he managed to keep the animals at bay until he reached home. Mr. Helfer lived on this farm until his death, which occurred when he was seventy-five years old; his wife was eighty-three years of age at the time of her demise. Their family consisted of fourteen children, eight of whom grew to maturity: Jacob, Philip, Peter, Michael, Elizabeth, William, Catherine, and Samuel. Mr. and Mrs. Helfer were members of the Lutheran Church.

Our subject, who was eight years old when he came to this country, attended school but a short time in Germany. He was reared as a farmer's boy, and worked at odd jobs on the farms in the neighborhood, turning over what money he earned to his parents, with whom he lived and helped to support until he was twenty-seven years old. In August, 1851, he was married in Loudon township, Seneca county, to Miss Catherine Long, a native of Germany, who came to the United States when eighteen years old. They went to house-keeping in Seneca county, on a tract of timber land, eighty acres in extent. Here, in a log house, 18 x 20 feet in size, and with an indebtedness of \$500, he began life in earnest; but he prospered, and for fifteen years lived in this log house. In March, 1877, he sold his eighty acres for \$6,000, and bought 160 acres in Section 23, Perry township, for which he paid \$12,000, and where he has since resided. To Mr. and Mrs. Helfer have been born children as follows: Daniel, a resident of Cleveland, Tenn.; Catherine, now Mrs. Henry King, of Liberty township, Seneca county; Jacob, Jr., living at home; John, who died when five years old; Henry, farming on the old homestead; Samuel, also living at home; and Mary, the wife of Jacob Luman, of Perry township. Mrs. Helfer departed this life November 17, 1893, and is buried in Fostoria.

In politics our subject is a Democrat; in religious faith he is a member of the Lutheran Church, in which he has held office. He is generous to the deserving, and a liberal contributor

to churches of all denominations. In 1884 he retired from active farm work. He has always been a hard worker, and, although not possessed of much education, has considerable practical knowledge, and is a shrewd business man. He is well-to-do, and is one of the substantial citizens of Perry-township.

LEVI TABERN, proprietor of seventy-two acres of land in Section 6, Portage township, and a gentleman of education and intelligence, who employed his earlier years as a teacher in the public schools, is now operating his farm in a highly successful manner. His father, James Tabern, was a native of Devonshire, England, born in 1816, and, when a young man, resolved to seek his fortune in the New World. Soon after his arrival he came to Wood county, buying land in Section 6, Portage township. In Bowling Green, in February, 1854, he was united in marriage with Miss Anna E. Jones, who was born in Greene county, N. Y., September 7, 1831, and is a daughter of Andrew and Phœbe (Bullis) Jones, who were Eastern people by birth, but in 1834 came to Wood county, becoming pioneers of Plain township. In the family were two children, the other daughter being Naomi, who died at the age of eighteen years. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Tabern were born four children: William, who was born March 5, 1855, and died October 23, 1861; Levi, of this sketch; Joseph, who was born February 19, 1859, and died August 19, 1878; and Phœbe M., who was born March 11, 1861, and is now Mrs. Wallace Strack, of Portage. The father operated his farm of 100 acres in Portage township until his death from consumption, in December, 1861; his remains were interred in Sargent cemetery. He was a member of the Methodist Church. The mother of our subject, who is a consistent member of the United Brethren Church, later married Noah Foltz, by whom she has two sons—Albert L., who was born April 22, 1868, and resides in Kansas; and Franklin P., who was born November 4, 1870, and is still with his mother.

The birth of Levi Tabern occurred December 9, 1856, on the farm where he still lives. His education was secured at the "little red school," west of the village of Portage, and, in the common schools of that place, fitted himself for teaching, which profession he took up in Bloom township, at the age of seventeen. For two years he was then a student in the Northwestern Ohio Normal School, at Ada, and, after leaving that institution, taught for seventeen years, while his vacations were spent in farm work.

On April 21, 1887, in Milton township, Wood county, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Tabern and Miss Louise Ries, a native of Townsend township, Huron Co., Ohio, and a daughter of Henry and Louise (Puder) Ries. They began their domestic life on the farm where he was born, and, in 1892, he erected their pleasant residence. The home is brightened by the presence of a little son—Glenard W., born August 20, 1890. The mother holds membership with the Methodist Church. Although not bound by party ties, Mr. Tabern usually votes the Republican ticket, is a man of more than ordinary ability, well posted on the current events of the times, and is an excellent citizen and prosperous farmer of Portage township.

JOHN D. WEAVER, an industrious and thrifty farmer, resides in Section 31, Lake township, where he has a good farm. His birth occurred in Franklin county, Penn., in 1842, and he is a son of George W. and Eliza (Davis) Weaver, also natives of Pennsylvania, where they were married, and whence in 1849 they took their family to Seneca county, Ohio. The journey was made with a two-horse team, and occupied six weeks. There the family remained until coming to Lake township, Wood county, in 1860, where the father purchased a tract of timber land, on which he erected a log house the same fall. His death occurred upon that farm in July, 1888, and the mother also closed her earthly career in the same township, in 1886, leaving behind them an honorable record of industry and honesty.

The parental household included fourteen children, nine of whom are still living. Our subject, who is the eldest, was followed by Mary Ann, wife of Samuel Wagoner, of Lake township; Mrs. Sarah Richards, of Gibsonburg, Ohio; Mrs. Margaret Kurfess, of Lake township; Eliza, who became the wife of Barnabus Wagoner, and died in Lake township, December 25, 1879; George; Martha, who died in Seneca county; Martin, a resident of Lucas county, Ohio; Maria, who died in Lake township, in 1860; Jessie D., who lives in that township; Mrs. Urilla Joseph, of Plain township, Wood county; George B., of Mungen, Ohio; Gilbert, of Melmore, Seneca county; and Harry E., who died in Lake township, in 1886.

John D. Weaver was about eight years of age when he arrived in Seneca county, where he attended the primitive schools of that day, and at the age of eighteen came with his parents to Lake township. Here he aided in clearing and cultivating the home farm, and has ever devoted

his time and attention to agricultural pursuits—besides general farming, being engaged in threshing for many years. He was one of the first to own a threshing machine in the county, which was run by six horses; but for the past fourteen years he has operated a steam thresher. Twenty-five acres of the old homestead are now in his possession, and he also owns fifteen acres additional, located in Section 31, Lake township.

In that township, Mr. Weaver was married in 1870, the lady of his choice being Miss Susan Baker, who was born in Stark county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Levi and Leah (Sherrick) Baker, natives of Pennsylvania and pioneers of that county; from which they removed to Crawford county, Ohio, and, in 1862, to Lake township, this county, where the father died in December, 1886. The mother, however, is still living, and resides upon the old homestead here. Seven of her ten children yet survive; they were as follows: Matilda, wife of George Wagoner, of Lake township; Susan, honored wife of our subject; Mrs. Mary Harr, of East Toledo, Ohio; Adaline, wife of Isaac Hufford, of Lake township; Elias, who died in that township at the age of nine years; Samuel, who resides on the home farm; Elmira, who died in 1879; Mrs. Cora Keller, of Lake township; Henry, who is married, and also lives on the old homestead; and Harvey, who is married, and resides at Stony Ridge, Ohio.

To Mr. and Mrs. Weaver have been born ten children, namely: Charley, who is married, and resides in Troy township, Wood county; Sydney, who is married, and lives in Lake township; Ezra, Cyrus, Eroy, Ida and Laura, all at home; Cora, who died in 1886, at the age of one year; Parm E., who died in March, 1892; and Clinton, who also died in the same month.

Mr. Weaver has witnessed much of the development and progress of Wood county, and has always taken an active interest in everything that will promote its welfare. His ballot is generally cast for the men and measures of the Democratic party, and he has acceptably served as a member of the school board.

JOHN C. MONKS, a retired farmer of Wood county, who, with his estimable wife, is now spending his later years in ease and comfort at his pleasant home in Bowling Green, is a native of England, where he was born at Redmile, in the Vale of Belvoir, March 8, 1833.

Thomas Monks, the father of our subject, was born in the same place as his son, and was a shoemaker by trade, also carrying on a boot and shoe store. He was of Irish descent, and



was a relative of the illustrious Gen. Monks, who helped place King Charles II on the throne. Thomas Monks was born in 1796, and died in May, 1886, when a little over ninety years old. He was a clerk of the Church of England in his parish for over forty years, and was highly esteemed in his community. His wife died at forty years of age, having been the mother of seven children: George, James, and Thomas, reside in England; William died in that country; John C. is our subject; Charles H. lives in England; Mary died in that country.

After the death of his mother, which took place when he was seven years old, the subject of this sketch attended school in his native place until 1852, when, a lad of eighteen, he emigrated to America, landing at New York City. He afterward came to Ohio where he worked for some time on a farm at Ridgeville, Lorain county, going from there to Olmstead, Cuyahoga county, where he was married November 24, 1859, to Miss Nancy Ann Fitch, a native of that county, born August 9, 1835. Here he carried on general stock farming, raising cattle, sheep, etc., until May, 1887, when he sold out and removed to Bowling Green, which has since been his home. One child was born to himself and wife. This son, F. T., whose birth took place November 13, 1863, was educated in the schools at Olmstead and at Berea College, and married Letta Burdick. His wife died some three years ago, leaving two children, Edna A., born November 29, 1888, and Charles Gilbert, born September 10, 1890.

Mr. Monks is one of the substantial citizens of Bowling Green, and has acquired a comfortable property through his own industry and good management. His family stands high in the regard of their large circle of friends and acquaintances, and they are always ready to assist in the furthering of any worthy enterprise. In politics Mr. Monks is a good Republican, although never taking a very active part in matters of the kind, further than to cast his vote for the men he considers most suitable for offices of public trust. Both he and his wife are consistent members of the Methodist Church, and take a leading part in its work.

B. F. GUNDER is one of the native sons of the county. He was born in Perry township, April 25, 1854, on the old family homestead of his parents, Isaac and Susanna (Heller) Gunder. The district schools of the neighborhood afforded him his educational privileges, and he had ample physical training upon the home farm, where he

remained until eighteen years of age. He then began earning his own livelihood, by work in the neighborhood, and, in 1888, desiring that his labors should more directly benefit himself, he rented a farm of 124 acres, in Perrysburg township, which he operated for four years. He then purchased fifty acres of land, on which he now resides, and also rents 100 acres, so that he is operating almost a quarter of a section. His farm is now a well-developed tract, and yields to him a golden tribute in return for the care and cultivation he bestows upon it.

On March 30, 1876, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Gunder and Miss Ella Williams, who was born in New York, July 25, 1856, and is a daughter of Josiah Williams, a carpenter and joiner. They had four children: Etta, born in March, 1877, now the wife of William Kanza-mire, a farmer of Middleton township; Cora, born in 1878; Hattie, born in 1881; and one who died in childhood.

In politics Mr. Gunder is an advocate of Republican principles, and, socially, he belongs to Fort Meigs Lodge No. 774, I. O. O. F., also the Rebekah Lodge; and Masonic Lodge No. 123; Knights of Pythias No. 524, all of Perrysburg. He has led an industrious and useful life, is a genial, whole-souled gentleman, popular with all his many friends.

S. S. DILLEY, M. D., a prominent physician of Pemberville, was born in Hancock county, Ohio, November 30, 1860.

Freedland Dilley, our subject's father, was born in Wilkesbarre, Penn., and in early life entered upon a theatrical career. When a young man, he came to Ohio, where he met and married Miss Arabella Baker, a native of Hancock county, where he established his home. Soon after his marriage the Civil war broke out, and he enlisted, but he died at Washington, D. C., of smallpox, while on his way to the front. His widow afterward married Solomon Frederick, and removed to Wood county, where he died in 1895; she is now residing in Jerry City, Wood county.

S. S. Dilley, our subject, her only child, obtained his early education mainly in the schools of Jerry City. His first money was earned by finishing boat oars; but later he learned the barber's trade, which he followed for some time. He began the study of medicine, with Dr. Bryant, ex-sheriff of Wood county, and after careful preparation he attended one term at the Medical College at Fort Wayne, Ind., and two terms at the Cincinnati Eclectic Medical Institute, from



*Squire S. Dilley, M.D.*



which he graduated in 1894. He at once located in Pemberville, where he has already acquired a good practice, his successful treatment of cases entrusted to him bringing an enviable professional standing, which is the best possible guarantee of his future. On September 13, 1881, he was married, in Jerry City, to Miss Hattie M. Yant, who died, leaving two children—Cleoa and Freedland B. His second wife, to whom he was married August 3, 1894, was Mrs. Mary Alexander, of Pemberville. She is one of ten children born to Henry and Margaret (Telemyer) Bimedick, born March 6, 1852, in Seneca county, Ohio; was educated in the English language, at New Rochester, and also in the German schools of Pemberville. Of her eight sisters, seven are yet living; her brother, Lewis, died June 12, 1896.

Politically, Dr. Dilley is a Republican; socially, he is a member of the F. & A. M., Lodge No. 112, of Bowling Green; of the I. O. O. F. of Pemberville; of the Foresters of America (of which he is the physician); of the Knights of the Maccabees, and the K. of P. of Jerry City; and of the Uniform Rank of K. of P., of Bowling Green. The Doctor is the medical examiner of the I. O. O. F. of Columbus, and also of the Foresters of America. He is a contributor to the New York medical journals, and other works of similar nature, principally on diseases of women and children.

M. B. SIMON, a leading farmer and stock-raiser, and one of the most popular citizens of Bloom township, was born in Wood county March 28, 1859, and is a son of Levi and Mary A. (Pfister) Simon. His early education was begun in Hopewell School, and among his first teachers was Miss Libby Fisher. He later entered Fostoria Academy, where for three years he pursued his studies, taking up Latin and German as well as the more common branches; he was a member of the male quartet there. Later he taught in District No. 1, Bloom township, being the first teacher in the present brick schoolhouse.

On September 14, 1887, in Washington township, Hancock Co., Ohio, Mr. Simon was united in marriage with Miss Florence Ringer, a native of that township, born November 1, 1864, and they have become the parents of three children—Eva Blanch, born October 3, 1888; Amy Mettallene, born September 28, 1890; and Edwin DeWitt, born July 21, 1894. After his marriage Mr. Simon located upon his present farm, only five acres of which at that time were under cultivation. In April, 1892, he began the dairy business in Bloomdale, being the first to establish an industry of that kind in that thriving village, and

has since given considerable attention to the same. He has also dealt in bee supplies, being well versed in bee culture, and thoroughly conversant with the business. In addition to general farming, he is an extensive stock raiser, breeding Chester-white hogs, which he has shipped to various States, and has some fine registered Holstein cattle upon his place.

Mr. Simon possesses a fine tenor voice, well cultivated, and has taught vocal music to some extent. He and his wife are members of the United Brethren Church, in which he serves as chorister, and is a member of the board of trustees, and he is a devout, earnest Christian; seldom do you find a man as conscientious, thoroughly upright and honest, and whose integrity is above question. He is a student of more than ordinary ability, and as a musician ranks high, many of the pieces used in the United Brethren song books being of his composition, both the music and words. His political support is given to the Republican party.

The parents of Mrs. Simon, George and Rachel (Scherer) Ringer, were both natives of Stark county, Ohio, the former born January 2, 1819, and the latter August 25, 1826. In that county they were reared and married, moving to Hancock county, Ohio, in 1849. Mr. Ringer's father had given him 160 acres of land, valued at \$300, still in its primitive condition, to which he later added another 160-acre tract; he afterward bought his son James forty acres. On his farm in Hancock county he lived until December, 1892, when he removed to Arcadia, Ohio, there dying on May 6, 1894, and his remains were interred in the cemetery at that place. In religious faith he was a Methodist, while in politics he was connected with the Republican party for many years, but later became a Prohibitionist. His wife still makes her home in Arcadia. Mrs. Simon is the youngest in their family of eight children—three sons and five daughters. Her primary education, received in the district schools, was supplemented by a three-years' course at Fostoria Academy, where she prepared herself for teaching, which profession she followed for several terms in Wood and Hancock counties, having charge of a Bloomdale school for two terms. Her brothers and sisters were as follows: Carlesta, wife of Samuel Myers, of Melmore, Seneca Co., Ohio; Elizabeth, who married Josiah Kimmel, and removed to Kansas, dying in Neosha county, that State; Frances, who died in Stark county, in infancy; Catherine, now Mrs. A. C. Powell, of Findlay, Ohio, who is a deaf mute, her infirmity having been caused by sick-

ness in childhood; James, a farmer of Washington township, Hancock county; Benjamin, who died at the age of two years; and Franklin, who was a mercantile clerk, and died in Lyon county, Kansas.

J. W. LAMBRIGHT, one of the prosperous agriculturists of Montgomery township, is a native of Jackson township, Seneca Co., Ohio, born May 12, 1859, and was but a child when his parents, Henry and Margaret (Johnson) Lambright, removed to Perry township, Wood county, where he was reared from childhood and educated in the district schools, which were greatly inferior to those of the present time. He is heartily in favor of the advancement of educational interests. As a farmer boy he was reared, having the benefit of his father's instruction along that line.

In Perry township, on November 8, 1883, Mr. Lambright was united in marriage with Miss Hattie Rainey, who was born in Seneca county, May 30, 1860, and is a daughter of John Rainey, who died when she was an infant. She then lived in the family of John W. Griffith, of Fostoria, Ohio, and was a young lady on coming to Perry township. Three children have been born to our subject and his wife—Chester H., born October 16, 1884; Minnie M., born April 3, 1887; and Venus, born July 24, 1896.

For eight years after his marriage Mr. Lambright conducted his father's farm, and then bought the John Baker farm in Section 36, Montgomery township, which comprises seventy-one acres of fine land, and he now cultivates with good success. In all his business dealings he is straightforward and reliable, and is numbered among the progressive farmers and valued citizens of the community. In politics he is a stanch Republican, only leaving that party to support nominees of minor township offices, as in his selection of incumbents for such positions, he is strictly non-partisan. Both he and his estimable wife are devoted and efficient members of the United Brethren Church.

GURDON PITCHER, a well-known resident of Haskins, was born in Lewis county, N. Y., December 20, 1833. His family is of Welsh origin, several generations removed. His paternal grandfather, Gurdon Pitcher, a prominent farmer in Massachusetts, died in the State of New York in 1845, during our subject's boyhood.

Lyman Pitcher, father of our subject, was born in Massachusetts in 1808, and in early manhood moved to New York State, where, in 1831,

he married Miss Edith Jones, who was born in Oneida county, N. Y., in 1814. He was for many years a contractor on public works there, but, in 1865, he came to Wood county, and bought a farm in Middleton township, which he cultivated until advancing age caused him to retire from active business, and he now resides with our subject. During his earlier years he was a Whig, and he became a Republican when the issues arose which caused the new division in party lines. He and his wife, who died in 1888, at the age of seventy-four, were faithful and consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and brought their family up in the same faith. Of their eight children five lived to adult age: Caroline, deceased, was twice married, first to F. Seager, second to W. H. Garrett; Gurdon; Gideon, a resident of Bowling Green; Sallie Anh, who resides in Bowling Green; and George, living in Haskins.

Mr. Pitcher acquired his education in a log school house in Lewis county, N. Y., and was early initiated into the occupation of farming. He was married, in 1856, at Redfield, Oswego Co., N. Y., to Miss Electa Williams, a native of Pennsylvania, born July 28, 1840. They have two children: Frankie married Charles Bernhisel, of Haskins, and has three children—Estella, Electa, and Henry; Charles is now his father's partner in business, and lives at home.

On October 2, 1861, Mr. Pitcher joined Company G, 59th N. Y. V. I., and served in the army of the Potomac, taking part in the battles of Richmond, Antietam, Fredericksburg, the second battle of Bull Run, and the desperate struggle at Gettysburg, where he was seriously wounded, necessitating his discharge in September, 1863, for disability. In the fall of 1864, he came to Middleton township, and engaged in agriculture, continuing until about six years ago, when he began teaming and contracting in the oil fields. An honest, industrious citizen, blessed with that rarest of qualities, hard common sense, he holds the respect and friendship of all who know him well. He belongs to the G. A. R., and the I. O. O. F.

DANIEL LOOMIS, a prosperous retired carpenter and builder of Bowling Green, was born in Springwater, Livingston Co., N. Y., August 14, 1825.

His paternal ancestry was English, but his father, David Loomis, was born in Connecticut. He went to New York State in early manhood, where he met and married Miss Celia Grover, and a few years later moved to Ohio, locating

first in Conneaut. Here his wife died at the age of fifty, and in 1832 he removed with his son to a farm in Huron county, where he died in 1836, when fifty-four years of age. He was a Democrat in politics, and an intelligent and original student of the problems of the day. In religious faith he was a Universalist.

Our subject spent four years in New York State during his boyhood, attending school for three years and spending the rest of the time as an apprentice to a cabinet maker. Becoming dissatisfied, he returned home and assisted his father until the latter's death. July 19, 1852, he was married to Miss Emaline Wyckoff, who was born in Canada, July 9, 1833, and they have three children. After his marriage Mr. Loomis remained for some time in Huron county, engaged in carpentering, and then moved to Enterprise, Ohio. In 1861 he came to Wood county, and lived near Portage for seven years, finally settling in Bowling Green. As a conscientious, industrious workman, he has met with the success which he deserves, and holds the confidence and respect of all who know him. The family are among the leading members in the M. E. Church, and take an interest in all the various lines of social and religious advancement. In politics Mr. Loomis is a Republican.

**AUGUSTUS SCHALLER.** The farming interests of Wood county are well represented by this gentleman, who is a progressive citizen of sterling worth and a self-made man who can justly attribute his success to his own efforts. A native of Switzerland, he was born on the 14th of January, 1849, and is a son of Benjamin and Rosanna (Hanning) Schaller, natives of the same country. With their family the parents crossed the Atlantic to America, and continued their journey across the continent until they arrived in Middleton township, Wood Co., Ohio, where they made a settlement.

Near the homestead our subject attended school when his labors were not needed in the development of the farm. He continued to give his father the benefit of his services until twenty-two years of age, when he started out in life for himself, renting a farm which he operated for a year. He then purchased 120 acres of timber land, and at once began the work of clearing the place. It was an arduous task; but he faithfully continued his labors until now the entire amount is under a high state of cultivation, has been made arable by tiling and ditching, a good barn has been erected at a cost of \$1,000, and other excellent improvements added.

On March 5, 1874, in Toledo, Ohio, Mr. Schaller united in marriage with Caroline Kohl, who was born in Cleveland, February 20, 1857, and is a daughter of Michael Kohl, a native of Germany, now farming in Perrysburg township. They have six children, their names and dates of birth being as follows: Alice, January 28, 1876; Albert A., May 30, 1878; John, April 23, 1882; Jennie, April 16, 1886; Nellie, October 8, 1888; and Rosie, March 26, 1891.

A Democrat in his political affiliations, Mr. Schaller has served as school director for six years, and as supervisor of roads for three terms, discharging his duties in a commendable manner. Socially, he is connected with the Knights of Pythias fraternity. In business dealing he is straightforward and honorable; in social life he is genial and pleasant.

**FRANCIS M. TWINING**, who carries on agricultural pursuits in Middleton township, was born near Findlay, Ohio, November 21, 1842, and is a representative of one of the pioneer families of the State. His father, Silas Twining, was born in Pennsylvania, and was a blacksmith by trade; but after his removal to Hancock county, he purchased 120 acres of land and there engaged in farming. He was married in that locality to Leatitia Harold, who was born in Pennsylvania, in 1817. The children of this union are: John, who died in 1848; Charles, deceased; Amos; Eli; Francis M.; Sarah, who died in childhood; and Alvin. The father of this family died in Findlay, Ohio, January 12, 1854, but the mother is now living with Amos Twining.

Mr. Twining, of this review, during his boyhood days attended school through the winter season, and in the summer months aided in the labors of the farm. He continued at home until 1865, when he came to Wood county, and worked by the month as a farm hand in Middleton township for a time. His first purchase of land comprised ten acres, which he cleared, and then engaged in market gardening, selling his produce in Bowling Green. He met with good success in that undertaking, which he continued until 1882, when he purchased twenty-five acres of land in Middleton township, south of Haskins, on which he now has five oil wells in active operation, carried on by a Toledo company. He has erected here a pleasant home at a cost of \$1,000, has also built good barns and outbuildings, and has a well-improved place.

Mr. Twining was married, April 8, 1866, to Annie Ager, a native of Carroll county, Ohio, and a daughter of Peter and Mary (Atchley) Ap-

ger, of Jackson township. They have five children—Mary, born April 29, 1868, now the wife of George Helger, a farmer; Elmer, an oil operator, who was born January 22, 1872, and married Louise Helzer; Jay, an oil operator, who was born March 2, 1877, and married Hulda Cummings, daughter of Clark Cummings, of Has-kins; Elizabeth and Lula, who died in childhood.

Mr. Twining and his wife are members of the Baptist Church, and take an active interest in its work and upbuilding. He exercises his right of franchise in support of the Republican party, and for nine years has efficiently served as school director. During the Civil war he manifested his loyalty to the Government by enlisting, but illness prevented his going to the front. He is a genial and affable man, kind and generous by nature, and has the confidence and goodwill of all with whom he has been brought in contact.

**JOSIAH KIGER**, deceased, was for several years a well-known and prominent agriculturist of Perry township. He was a native of Ohio, born in Fairfield county, February 9, 1823, and was a son of William Kiger, who lived and died in that county. In the family of twelve children Josiah was the fifth in order of birth, and was reared to agricultural pursuits. When a young man, he came to Perry township, Wood county, purchasing eighty acres of partially improved land, in Section 7, and immediately began its further development, making his home, in the meantime, with his sister, Mrs. John Bucher.

While attending a spelling school in Perry township, Mr. Kiger first met Eleanor W. Kelley, and the acquaintance thus formed ripened into love, and they were married on June 7, 1848, in Montgomery township, Wood county. She is a daughter of John A. and Rachel (Shawan) Kelly, and was born November 24, 1828. Three children blessed this union, all daughters: Nancy E., born June 2, 1854, became the wife of Daniel M. Yates, and died on October 17, 1888. Annie C., born September 27, 1857, received a common-school education, and for a time attended the normal school at Lebanon, Ohio, where she better prepared herself for teaching, which she began at the age of sixteen, and followed the profession for ten terms, with excellent success. Subsequently she completed a two-years' course of music at the Fostoria Academy, and later taught music. In Toledo, Ohio, on the 9th of December, 1886, she wedded J. J. Harley, and to them have been born three children—Harrison C., born August 19, 1888; Ella B., born January 30, 1890; and John Arthur, born March 25, 1892.

The youngest child of our subject was May E., who was born May 3, 1864, and died in infancy.

In a log house, built near the creek which flowed through his land, Mr. Kiger and his bride began their domestic life. Although it was an arduous task to develop the new land, he was young and full of hope, and soon converted the place into a valuable farm. In 1868, however, he removed to West Millgrove, where, for about three years, he engaged in merchandising, but at the end of that time returned to his farm, and continued his agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred August 7, 1872, from the accidental discharge of a gun. His remains were interred in West Millgrove cemetery. He was an earnest defender of Republican principles, and a man whose opinions were invariably held in respect. He cared nothing for political office, though he served for a time as trustee of Perry township. In early life he had served as deacon in the Congregational Church to which he belonged, but later became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, with which Mrs. Kiger is also connected. He left to his widow 160 acres of good land, which she leases, and since December, 1872, has made her home in West Millgrove, surrounded by her many friends.

**F. W. HEMINGER**, an energetic and successful farmer of Montgomery township, first opened his eyes to the light of day, August 2, 1853, upon the farm of his parents, Frederick and Maria (Wilard) Heminger, the place where he still makes his home, in Section 6. The father was born in Pennsylvania, and was the second in order of birth in the family of Andrew and Elizabeth (Yunkman) Heminger, though the elder to grow to maturity. When a young man he located in Portage county, Ohio, where he wedded Miss Maria Wilard, and it was in about 1839 that he came to Wood county. He purchased forty acres and entered fifty more in Section 6, Montgomery township. Upon the former tract a log-house stood, and three acres had been cleared, but the remainder was all in its wild state. Upon this farm the father died at the ripe old age of eighty-three years, and the mother passed away five years later. Both were buried at Pemberville. They were earnest members of the German Baptist Church, and commanded the respect of all who knew them. They belonged to that honored band of pioneers who opened up the county, though compelled to endure the hardships and privations of life on the frontier. Of their large family of thirteen children all but the eldest reached manhood and womanhood, and, after

their marriage, on two different occasions all ate at the same table.

Mr. Heminger, whose name introduces this record, received his primary education in the common district schools, and the knowledge thus gained was supplemented by study at Fostoria. Though competent to teach, he never followed that profession, and when a young man he worked for two years in Michigan and one in Illinois at farm labor. With his earnings he attended school, as previously stated. His parents becoming feeble, Mr. Heminger was prevailed upon to return home and assume the management of the farm, and by so doing shaped his future course. He was well fitted for other professions, and would undoubtedly have succeeded in any calling which he might have chosen. He purchased the home farm of ninety acres before his marriage, and made a home for his aged parents, who there died. His pleasant residence stands but a short distance west of the site of his father's first log cabin.

In 1882, in Montgomery township, Mr. Heminger married Miss Cinderella De France, a native of Wood county, and a daughter of David De France, who was killed at the battle of Stone River, during the Civil war. By this union two daughters were born—Mattie M. and Ida R., both of whom are at home; they also adopted a son, Frank B. The mother died in 1887, and was buried at Pemberville, Ohio. The lady who now shares the name and fortunes of our subject was in her maidenhood Miss Martha Bardz, a native of Germany, and a daughter of Hiram Bardz. Three children were born of the second marriage: Merrill V., who died in childhood; and Marven V. and Bertha M., yet living. The family now occupy a comfortable residence erected in 1889, upon the fine farm of ninety acres owned by Mr. Heminger, who is one of the most skillful and intelligent agriculturists of the community, and is a fine specimen of physical manhood. Genial and affable in manner, as a citizen he stands high, and is willing to aid deserving undertakings. By his ballot he supports the principles of the Republican party, and religiously both he and his wife are Methodists.

LORIN L. CASS is one of the most popular and highly esteemed residents of Liberty township, where he was born October 2, 1849, a son of Louis H. and Amanda M. (Loveland) Cass. His parents were married in Wayne county, Ohio, and the father engaged in the practice of medicine. Several years later he came to Wood county, and is now residing in Chicago, where he

has an extensive practice as a specialist. The members of the family are Minerva, wife of J. D. Edgar, of Ivesdale, Ill.; Louis O., who served in the 6th United States Cavalry, and died in Texas; Lorin L., of this sketch; Emma, of Chicago; Bayard T., of Chicago; Victor H., who went to Minnesota when nineteen years of age, where for three years he was agent for a cement company, and now owns a half interest in a gold mine in southern California; Earl, who died at the age of three years; and Florence N., at home.

The early educational privileges of our subject were supplemented by one year's attendance at the seminary in Findlay, Ohio, one year's study in Perrysburg, and a year and a half in the Ypsilanti Seminary. When in his twenty-first year he went to California, spending a year on the Pacific slope, and carefully viewing the country. Then returning home, he purchased at auction 160 acres of land in Section 17, Liberty township, and began farming.

Mr. Cass was married in Tontogany, August 13, 1879, to Florence L. Drain, and they began their domestic life on the farm which he had secured. In 1881 he removed with his family to Weston, where he established a dry-goods store, conducting the same until the spring of 1884, when he returned to the farm. After three years he again went to Weston, and in the spring of 1896 built a grain elevator, and is now in the grain business at that place. He has fourteen oil wells upon his land, and also owns a good house and lot in Weston. Owing to his well-directed, energetic efforts and capable management, he has prospered in his business undertakings, and is known as a thoroughly reliable and progressive business man.

Mr. and Mrs. Cass have one child, Lorin Earl, now twenty-three years of age, who was married, in the spring of 1895, to Anna Laney. The family is one of prominence in the community, and its members are held in high regard. On questions of national importance, Mr. Cass gives his political support to the Democratic party, but at local elections votes independently. He is known throughout the community as "Captain Cass," and in this neighborhood, where he has spent almost his entire life, his circle of friends is limited only by the circle of his acquaintances.

SAMUEL STILWELL, who is now living retired in Bloomdale, was born in Ross township, Jefferson Co., Ohio, May 4, 1836, is a son of Samuel and Nancy (Elliott) Stilwell. The father was a native of Maryland, and on going to Jeff-



son county, Ohio, when a young man, there married Miss Elliott, a daughter of Richard Elliott. In 1851, with his family of seven children, he removed to Hancock county, Ohio, driving the entire distance in a covered wagon. It was a long and tedious journey, requiring several days, and the family would cook their meals along the roadside. The father bought 120 acres of new land in what was known as "Wild Cat Thicket," Washington township, and which was thickly covered with timber and brush, and water covered almost a third of the area. It was an arduous task to clear and develop such land, and the members of the family were compelled to secure other work in order to earn enough to live on. The father died on this farm at the age of eighty-two, and his wife survived him only about six months, dying at the home of our subject in Wood county. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and they were buried at Arcadia, Hancock county. Mr. Stilwell cast his ballot with the Democratic party. The children of the family were Esther, now Mrs. Addison Beamer, of Paulding county, Ohio; Lewis, of the same county; Samuel; Abraham, of Perry township, Wood county; Harriet, who died in Hancock county; Nancy J., who also died in that county, while young; and Margaret, who became the wife of David Moore, and passed away in Hancock county.

The education of our subject was obtained in the common district schools of his day; but farm training was considered more essential than literary studies, so that his educational advantages were limited. He remained at home until his marriage, which happy event occurred November 4, 1858, in Findlay, Ohio, Miss Angeline Wiseman becoming his wife, and the ceremony being performed by Squire Byal. She was born in Washington township, Hancock county, November 4, 1841, and is a daughter of James G. and Elizabeth (Sommers) Wiseman, who removed from Augusta county, Va., to Washington township, being the third family to locate there.

For two years after his marriage, Mr. Stilwell remained upon his father's farm, and for the next fifteen years rented land, moving fourteen times during that period. He first became the owner of forty acres of land in Washington township, Hancock county, on which he resided for three years, and in 1877 bought seventy-two and a half acres in Section 30, Perry township, Wood county; although the place was mostly unimproved, he converted it into a good farm, and there made his home until December, 1891, when owing to failing health he was compelled to

give up agricultural pursuits. He now has a pleasant home on Garfield street, Bloomdale, where he expects to pass his remaining days in retirement, enjoying the fruits of his former toil. In January, 1894, he became a member of the firm of Miller & Stilwell, grocers, but disposed of his interest at the end of a year.

Two children were born to our subject and his wife: Edward R., of Bloomdale; and Albert F., a farmer of Perry township. They have an adopted son, Jesse M., whom they took at the age of three months. In July, 1877, Mr. Stilwell's right eye was injured, which resulted in the loss of it. He and his wife take an active part in the work of the Liberal United Brethren Church, of which he has been a trustee and superintendent of the Sunday-school. In politics he is a Democrat.

**RICHARD HOPPER.** This worthy citizen of Plain township, who departed this life November 15, 1889, was a native of England, his birth taking place in King's Lynn, County of Norfolk, August 12, 1814. His wife, who survives him, and whose maiden name was Jane Pruden, was born in Cambridgeshire, England, December 19, 1822, and their marriage took place in that country October 29, 1844. The young couple were very poor in this world's goods, their combined capital at the time of their marriage consisting of seventy-five cents. But they had youth, health, love and hope, and began their married life without fears of the future. They had worked for a living before that event, and both continued in service until they had saved enough to carry them to America—that land of promise to the youth of foreign countries. They came direct to Monroeville, Ohio, where Mr. Hopper secured a position in a distillery, and before long was able to buy a house and lot in that place. He subsequently became the owner of thirteen acres of land, which he sold for \$1,300, and in 1863 removed to Wood county. His first purchase here was forty acres of land in Pine township, for which he paid \$40 per acre, it being the first land sold at that price in this section of the county. It was excellent land, with good improvements, and proved to be a valuable piece of property. The present homestead was bought in 1870, and Mrs. Hopper now owns property to the extent of 128 acres of fine land on which are three oil wells.

Mr. Hopper was an industrious, thrifty and enterprising man, a Democrat in his political views, and, with his wife, a consistent member of the Congregational Church. His death was deeply

felt, not only by his friends and associates, but by the entire community, who appreciated his many good qualities. The children born to this worthy couple are as follows: Mary J., born May 26, 1848, in England, is the wife of William Wakefield, of Bowling Green; by a former marriage to William E. Wilson, she has two sons, Charles W. and Wilber E. William R., born May 3, 1851, married Rachel Coen, and has three children, George O., Perry C. and Jennie V. Lydia A., born August 2, 1861, is the wife of G. J. Thomas, and they reside with her mother on the home farm.

Mrs. Hopper's parents were Thomas and Mary (Carter) Pruden. Her father died when she was eight years old, and her mother when she was twenty-one. She has two brothers, Robert, living in England, and Samuel, a farmer in Wood county. Mrs. Hopper is a most estimable woman, and highly esteemed by all her acquaintances.

JOSEPH HAMPTON, who during his life was a resident of Plain township, was born in Ross county, Ohio, November 25, 1825, and died March 26, 1895. He was married November 16, 1847, to Miss Eliza J. Wilson, who was born in Mercer county, Penn., December 18, 1829, and after their marriage settled (in the fall of 1848) on the farm his widow now owns and occupies. Mr. Hampton was a carpenter by trade, and during the earlier years of his life followed that occupation. Ill health, however, compelled him to give up steady work, and he removed to the farm, where he carried on contracting until the infirmities of increasing age forced him to abandon all labor. He was a kind husband and father, a good neighbor and a loyal citizen. In politics he was a Democrat. He was a Christian, and a firm believer in the Bible.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hampton seven children were born, as follows: Warren W., born May 29, 1850, is postmaster at Dunbridge, Wood county; he married Miss Malinda Jackson, and they had five children—Maude, Bernice, James and Pearl, and Cora Viola, born July 23, 1890, died September 11, 1891. Cynthia, born November 5, 1851, is the wife of Adelbert Segar, and lives in Dunbridge, Ohio; they have seven children, namely: Electa (the wife of Joseph Kelly, and has two children—May and Everett), Joseph, Frank, Edna, Arthur, Lenora and Alva. Cassius A., born May 20, 1853, married Ella Perrin, and has three sons: Edgar, Percy and Donald; he is a merchant at Perrysburg, Ohio. John C., born June 26, 1856, is an engineer on the Baltimore

& Ohio railroad, and resides at Garrett, Ind.; he married Ada Budd, and they have two children, Wade and Mildred. Emma, born October 7, 1858, is the wife of J. D. Killyen, and they reside with her mother on the home farm. Adele, born June 15, 1860, married Ralph Shay, and died April 20, 1885. Manley B., born April 14, 1864, died July 10, 1875.

Mrs. E. J. Hampton, the widow of our subject, is a woman of superior intelligence and excellent business capacity. For several years she carried on a country store for the Grange, finally purchasing the stock, and is now operating it for herself on her farm. She has been very successful in her enterprises, and deserves the high esteem in which she is held by all who know her. Mrs. Hampton is the daughter of William and Rebecca (McDowell) Wilson. Her father was born May 3, 1802, near Mount Vernon, Ohio, but when a child his parents removed to Pennsylvania. He was then married, his wife being a native of Westmoreland county, that State, born May 30, 1812. Soon after their marriage they removed to Ohio in 1835, afterward returning to Pennsylvania to educate their children. They again came to Ohio and settled in Plain township, when there were only three houses where the city of Bowling Green now stands. The mother of Mrs. Hampton died August 26, 1851, and the father married a second time, and moved to Defiance county, Ohio, where he died near Hicksville, August 26, 1887. He was a carpenter by trade, and a member of Church. His parents were John and Mary (Cox) Wilson, the former of whom died in Iowa, and the latter in Wood county.

NOAH HAMILTON. Faithfulness to duty in all the relations of life has secured to this gentleman the high regard of those who know him, and has made him worthy of representation in the history of his adopted county. A son of Andrew and Christina (Bickle) Hamilton, he was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, April 14, 1851. His father was born in Hocking county, this State, July 10, 1823, and was there married, March 29, 1849, to Miss Bickle, whose birth occurred September 20, 1829. He was a gentleman of fine education, and considerable prominence. When a young man he learned the carpenter's trade during vacations. His parents, John and Hettie (Spears) Hamilton, were pioneers of Hocking county, and natives of Virginia. The parents of our subject located in Fairfield county, and for twenty years the father followed teaching. He was a prominent worker in the United Brethren

Church, and one of nature's noblemen. He died in Fairfield county, April 21, 1867, and his wife died August 8, 1864. They had nine children—Joseph, born December 17, 1849, living with Noah, who is the second in order of birth; Simon, born September 30, 1853, a carpenter of Liberty; Abram, born July 14, 1855, who died at the age of six years and three months; John, who was born October 6, 1856, and died at the age of four years and eleven months; Mary, born May 17, 1858, wife of Edward Calderwood, of Idaho; Phœbe, born April 30, 1860, now in Florida; James Monroe, who was born September 10, 1862, and died at the age of ten years; Ezra, born March 26, 1864, now in a factory in Indiana.

Noah Hamilton remained on the home farm until sixteen years of age, when his father died, and he started out to make his own way in the world, working as a farm hand for twelve years, and receiving from \$18 to \$28 per month. He was married in Clear Creek, Fairfield Co., Ohio, October 16, 1873, to Ann M. Vandemark, who was there born October 11, 1856, a daughter of Charles and Maria (Woodring) Vandemark, natives of Fairfield county. Our subject and his wife located at Clear Creek, where he farmed on shares, until coming to Wood county in the spring of 1882. Here he rented land until the fall of 1889, when he located on his present farm, which he had purchased in 1887. He erected his residence two years later, and now has a good start in life, all owing to his own industry and perseverance. Besides his own farm of seventeen acres, he cultivates 250 acres of rented land.

Three children grace the union of Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton—Rosa Rebecca, born March 14, 1878; Frank Russell, born October 26, 1880; and Lillie May, born December 1, 1884. Their eldest child, Elda, born July 17, 1874, died in infancy. Mr. Hamilton is a Democrat, and has served as supervisor.

JOHN W. STERLING is a self-made man of Wood county, whose success in life may be attributed alone to his enterprise and good management. These qualities have overcome the difficulties and obstacles in his path, and have brought to him a well-merited prosperity.

Mr. Sterling was born in St. Joseph county, Mich., December 12, 1855, and is a son of John A. Sterling. The family was founded in America by Jacob Sterling, the great-grandfather of our subject, a native of Ireland, who, on emigrating to America, located in Hancock county, Ohio, where he spent his remaining days. The grand-

father, George Sterling, was a soldier of the war of 1812. The father of our subject was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, March 2, 1832, and was a defender of the Union during the Civil war, enlisting August 5, 1861, in Company D, 92d O. V. I. He served until the close of the struggle, and was wounded at Chickamauga by a minie ball in the right knee; was at the siege of Atlanta, also in the celebrated march to the sea, and was a faithful defender of the old flag. By occupation he is a farmer. In Noble county, Ohio, in 1850, he married Miss Elizabeth Dolison, and then located on a rented farm in Noble county; but afterward removed with his family to Michigan, where he rented land until he had saved enough to purchase property. In the winter of 1866 he came to Wood county, and rented 160 acres of land in Henry township belonging to his brother. He afterward bought forty acres in Section 21, same township, built a log cabin, and there made his home until 1875, when he removed to Hammansburg, where he and his wife are still living. The members of their family were as follows: Rachel J., who died in Michigan; John W.; Sarah Elizabeth, deceased wife of Charles Johnson, of Henry township, Wood county; Nancy Ellen, who died in childhood; George F., of Hammansburg; James, of Woodville, Ohio; Sylvester, who died at the age of two; Charles, who is also living in Henry township; and Ernest True, at home.

In the district schools Mr. Sterling acquired his education, but the greater part of his training was that of farm labor. At the age of sixteen, he left home to earn his own living by work as a farm hand, and received for his services \$15 per month. He was thus employed until his marriage, which was celebrated in Hammansburg, October 7, 1875, the lady of his choice being Miss Amelia Elizabeth Ackerman, who was born in Henry township, on April 1, 1858. For two years they lived in Hammansburg, and then removed to their present home, which Mr. Sterling rented for three years, and then purchased. The place at first comprised eighty acres. To this he has added forty acres, and he also owns a valuable tract of eighty acres in Hancock county, Ohio. The entire place is fenced, he has a good bearing orchard of two and one-half acres, and, in 1888, he erected a commodious and comfortable dwelling, while all the other improvements of a model farm are found upon his place.

Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Sterling, their names and dates of birth being: Jennie Etta, November 27, 1876; Birtus E., August 29, 1880; Pearl, September 18, 1883;



JOHN W. STERLING.



MRS. AMELIA STERLING.



Frank, March 23, 1886; Joseph, March 19, 1888; and Merl, December 21, 1893. Mr. Sterling gives his political support to the Democracy, but has had neither time nor inclination for public office, preferring to devote his energies to his business dealings, in which he has met with signal success.

JOHN C. JOHNSTON, whose genial, pleasant manner has gained him many friends, and made him a popular citizen, was born in Meadville, Penn., September 15, 1855. His father, James S. Johnston, was born in the same place in 1816, and when a young man acquired a knowledge of carpentering, which he followed for a number of years in connection with farming. He married Rachel C. Wingate, who is still on the old homestead in the Keystone State. The father died in 1887. Their children were Emma, who died in Meadville; John C.; Ella, who married Frank Thatcher, of Meadville; William J., an oil man of Rudolph, Wood county; and George, who is living on the old homestead. The family was founded in America by the grandfather of our subject, Launcelot Johnston, who with his five brothers went from Ireland to England in the latter part of the eighteenth century, and after a few years crossed the Atlantic, locating first in Canada, where several of the brothers made permanent homes and acquired considerable property. Their descendants still live in that country, and are very wealthy. The grandfather of our subject and one brother came to the United States, the latter locating in New York, where he became a wealthy merchant. Launcelot Johnston took up his residence in Pennsylvania. While in Canada he had considerable property confiscated by the British government, on account of his sympathies with the United States.

Our subject received a good English education, and remained under the parental roof until twenty years of age, when he went to Clarion county, Penn. There he was employed in various ways in the oil fields, and eventually became a driller. He also worked in the oil fields of Allegany county, N. Y., and while there was married, in 1882, to Miss Ella Richmond, who was born in Saginaw county, Mich., in 1863. They began house-keeping in the little town of Obi, N. Y., and after five years removed to Lima, Ohio, where Mr. Johnston was connected with the oil trade for two years. He then removed to Decatur, Ill., but after nine months became a resident of Liberty township, Wood Co., Ohio. In January, 1888, he was appointed to fill the position of district superintendent for the Ohio

Oil Company, and is now acting in that capacity. He looks after their entire interests in this district, and in the discharge of his duties displays the utmost fidelity and trustworthiness.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Johnston was blessed with three children, but Lola died at the age of four years. The others are Earl and Forest. Mr. Johnston takes quite an active interest in political affairs, and is a staunch Democrat. Diligence and perseverance have won for him a comfortable competence, and his honorable career has secured him a place among Wood county's most respected citizens.

AARON P. TREADWELL, deceased, was one of the valued and leading citizens of Middleton township. He was born in Connecticut February 4, 1816, acquired his education in that State, and afterward followed the profession of school teaching. In 1850 he removed to Wood county, locating in Grand Rapids, where he taught school for five years, and in 1855 he removed to Hull Prairie, where he and T. Junkins entered 160 acres of land from the government, for which they paid seventy-five cents per acre. He won success in his business ventures, acquiring a comfortable competence. He traveled throughout the country, and wherever he went made friends, for he possessed a genial, kindly disposition that gained him the warm regard of all.

In 1855 Mr. Treadwell was united in marriage at Tontogany, Ohio, to Elizabeth Black, a sister of Capt. Black, of Bowling Green. The following named children were born to them—Thomas W., born June 5, 1856, died in June, 1857; Phœbe E., born August 10, 1858, died May 23, 1864; Mina B., born February 19, 1864, died January 16, 1892, the wife of George Mundis, of Kansas; Libbie T., born September 7, 1867; Arona P., born November 4, 1869, the wife of Forest McClung, of Plain township, married March 15, 1892, and on October 3, 1894, they became the parents of a daughter—Jessie.

Mr. Treadwell was a member of the Episcopal Church, in which he was confirmed in youth. He devoted many hours to the study of the Bible, and was interested in all that would benefit his fellowmen, being numbered among the valued members of the community. He died April 14, 1888, leaving a family and many friends to mourn his death. Mrs. Treadwell still resides on the old homestead, and is a most estimable lady. She is a member of the Methodist Church, and her daughter of the Baptist Church, and belongs to the Christian Endeavor Society. Mrs. Treadwell has long been a resident of the

county, and is a representative of one of the first families, her father having located in Washington township in 1832, when Wood county was a vast unbroken wilderness. She can relate many interesting incidents of pioneer life, when settlements were widely scattered, and the work of progress and civilization seemed scarcely begun.

WILLIAM A. FRIES is now carrying on agricultural pursuits in Bloom township, where almost his entire life has been passed. His birth occurred in Tiffin, Seneca Co., Ohio, February 11, 1859, and he is the second child and eldest son of Solomon and Louisa (Steckel) Fries. When still an infant he was brought by his parents to Bloom township, where he was reared to manhood in much the same manner as most farmer boys, though his educational privileges were better than the average. After attending District School No. 8, in the neighborhood, he entered the Fostoria Academy, where he pursued his studies for several terms. For fifteen winters he was then engaged in teaching, two in Perry township, but the remainder in Bloom township, where he also taught two summer terms. He lived upon the old homestead, where his first lessons in farming and business methods were secured, until 1884, since which time he has lived upon some of his father's lands.

On October 28, 1883, Mr. Fries led to the marriage altar Miss Hannah V. Blair, a native of Seneca county, Ohio, born near Bloomville, and a daughter of Jackson Blair. They have an interesting, intelligent family of four children—Harry A., Clyde C., Ruby M., and Maud O. For eight years Mr. Fries resided at Bloom Center; but, on April 3, 1894, he located upon part of the old Russell homestead, to the cultivation of which he now devotes his time. He is a wide-awake, progressive farmer, a close observer, and has benefited by his father's instruction and the example set by him. He has ever been a thorough student, and is one of the most intelligent and esteemed citizens of the locality. His political support is given to the Republican party, and he has served as assessor for one term. His wife, a most estimable lady, is a consistent member of the Christian Church.

PETER JUNK, who is numbered among the worthy German citizens that the Fatherland has furnished to Wood county, was born in Rhineland, government of Trier, Prussia, March 28, 1834, and is a son of Philip and Maria Katrina (Holstein) Junk. The father was a farmer and linen weaver, who served as a soldier in the war

in Luxemburg, and died in 1867, at the age of sixty-nine years. His wife passed away in 1855, at the age of fifty-five years. Their children are Joseph, Barbara, Emma and Katrina, all in Germany; Peter, of this sketch; Casper, of Germany; Margaret, who died at the age of twelve years; and Philip, who died at the age of seven.

Our subject attended the public schools until thirteen years of age, and at the age of fifteen learned the trade of linen weaving with his father, earning one mark per day. He followed that pursuit until twenty-eight years of age, when he turned his attention to farm work; but believing that he would have better opportunities in the New World, he determined to try his fortune here. On April 17, 1862, he sailed from Antwerp on the vessel, "Germany," which after a voyage of forty-seven days, dropped anchor in the harbor of New York. He came direct to Lorain county, where he spent two weeks with friends, and then went to Michigan, working in the copper mines of Houghton for a year.

Returning to Lorain county, Mr. Junk was then joined by the lady to whom he had become engaged in his native land, and they were married August 22, 1866. She bore the maiden name of Margaret Mahanen, and was born August 21, 1842. They removed to Wood county, where Mr. Junk purchased twenty-eight acres of wild land, building thereon a plank house. He afterward added twelve acres to this, and subsequently bought the twelve-acre tract on which his residence is now located. He sold the lumber, which he cut, to the railroad company, and in those early days had a hard time to make a start; but as time passed, he has prospered, and is now the possessor of a comfortable home.

In 1892 Mr. Junk was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died in the month of April, and was buried in the Catholic cemetery at Custar. Five children survive her: John, a farmer of Milton township; Joseph, at home; Mary, wife of Peter Berres, of Milton township; Annie and Katie, at home. The family are communicants of St. Louis' Catholic Church of Custar; and, in politics, Mr. Junk is a Democrat.

JOHN JOHNSTON was born in Section 9, Portage township, January 12, 1844, and is the son of James and Susannah (Durler) Johnston. Mr. Johnston spent his youth attending the district schools and working on the farm until July 25, 1862, when he enlisted at Portage, in Company A, 100th O. V. I., under Capt. John A. Shannon.

The regiment was ordered to Covington, Ky., where its first duty was performed. The first engagement was entered into between Lexington and Fort Sterling, and the first battle took place at Limestone, Tenn. Our subject was with his regiment all through the war, with the exception of ten days. He enlisted as a private, and was made a corporal at Knoxville, Tenn., September 5, 1864. He was confined ten days in the hospital at Lexington, Ky., with the measles, and was mustered out at Greensboro, N. C., June 20, 1865, and discharged at Cleveland, Ohio, July 2, 1865. After his discharge he came to Portage township, where he was married July 19, 1866, to Miss Mary M. Miller, who was born in Scipio township, Seneca county, October 18, 1847, the daughter of Amos B., and Nancy (Shaffner) Miller, her parents being from Pennsylvania.

Mr. Johnston located on forty acres of land in Section 9, and lived there until October, 1892, when he moved to Section 10, where he now lives and has 200 acres of land, 160 of which are cleared. The children of this couple are: Nancy A. is now Mrs. John Cox, of Milton township; Grant E. is a farmer in Portage township; Sherman M. resides at home; Mabel A. is also at home. Our subject has always been a Republican, being an ardent believer in "sound money and protection," and has served seven years as trustee of the township, and of which he has been clerk since April, 1894, also holding the office of clerk of the township board. He has been president of the school board, and was for eighteen years director in District No. 2, of Portage township. He is a member of Wiley Post No. 46, at Bowling Green, and was formerly commander of the G. A. R. Post at Portage. He and his wife are members of the United Brethren Church. Mr. Johnston is a well-known man, a respected citizen and a most successful farmer. He has a wide acquaintance, made while carrying out contracts in ditching throughout his section of the county. He has a family of which any man might be proud, and they all live happily on the home farm.

C. WILSON SOLETH, of Jerry City, one of the ablest and most successful young business men of Wood county, was born January 14, 1857, in Section 5, Bloom township, the son of Charles and Sarah (Miller) Solether. The family name is a synonym in this region for all that goes to make up good citizenship, and his own career does credit to their record.

Mr. Solether was reared upon a farm, and received thorough instruction in the ancient and

honorable occupation of agriculture, his attendance at the district school being often interrupted thereby. As he grew older his active and aspiring mind demanded a better opportunity for development, and he studied for some time in advanced schools in other places, spending three years in Oberlin. He began teaching in Bloom township for \$1.50 per day, and boarded at home, going five miles to his school, sweeping his school room and building his own fires. His work as a teacher in Bloom and Portage townships extended over seven years. In 1879 he spent his summer vacation in Kansas, working on farms. On December 22, 1882, he was married in Zanesville, to Miss Lizzie Weaver, daughter of Philip Weaver, a prominent farmer of Muskingum county. Mr. Solether expended all his savings in fitting up a home in Portage township, and for two years he conducted his father's farm there. He then bought eighty acres of timber land in that township, going heavily in debt for it. This he cleared, working in the woods in winter and farming his fields in summer. He also got out timber for others, and the opening of the oil business furnished him plenty of work in teaming, for some time. But the discovery of oil, upon his own land, soon gave him more profitable employment, and as his means increased he has enlarged his farm and now owns 324 acres in Bloom and Portage townships, not to be surpassed for agricultural purposes. He is progressive and far-sighted, putting into effect, successfully, the approved scientific methods of the day. He also owns six acres within the corporation limits of Jerry City, and since July, 1884, he has made his home there, adding many first-class improvements. Always a great reader, his range of information is unusually wide. Notwithstanding his success, he is very unassuming in manner, not suffering apparently from the "cerebral enlargement," which often follows so radical a change in circumstances. His home is a center of culture and refinement, and his five children, Earl K., Ralph B., Glenn E., Alta F. and Clyde, are enjoying excellent educational advantages. Mr. Solether has been a Republican from the time he cast his first vote for Garfield, to the present time. He is one of the leaders of the party in his locality, has been trustee of both Bloom and Portage townships, and a member of the board of education of Jerry City for nine years, serving the entire time as clerk. He is also, at present, the corporation treasurer of the town, and has been a delegate to several county conventions. He belongs to Lodge No. 602, I. O. O. F., at Jerry City.



SOLOMON SMITH, a worthy representative of the agricultural interests of Bloom township, is a native of Ohio, born September 13, 1829, son of John H. and Elizabeth (Keefer) Smith. His early life was uneventful, passed in the usual manner of farmer boys; but, in 1852, he left home, going overland to California in the spring of that year, and remained in the Golden State until the fall of 1855, when he returned by the Panama route.

On the first day of the year 1856, in Mifflin township, Richland Co., Ohio, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Smith and Miss Mary Zody, who was born in Bedford county, Penn., January 5, 1831, and was six years old when brought by her parents, Jacob and Catherine (Ebersole) Zody, to Richland county. Although his father was in comfortable circumstances he was unable to give our subject any assistance at that time. He operated the home farm until the spring of 1860, when he removed to Section 8, Bloom township, Wood county, locating upon the 160-acre tract which he and his brother Henry had bought the fall previous. He came by wagon, and, besides his own family, which consisted of his wife and three children, he was accompanied by his brother-in-law, David H. Wirick. Twenty-five acres of the land had been cleared, and a log house, 18 x 20 feet, erected, but he went earnestly to work to improve his place, and year after year saw more land under cultivation. He had gone in debt several hundred dollars, but as he was young, strong and active, it did not discourage him, and it was soon paid off.

To the marriage of our subject were born four children, as follows: Abraham Franklin, a physician, of Wawpecong, Ind.; George G. and Dora E., twins, the former of whom died in Oregon, and the latter of whom is now at home; and Iola E., wife of Isaac Loe, of Portage township, Wood county. Mr. Smith now owns 120 acres of fertile and productive land, to the cultivation of which he devoted his time until meeting with a very unfortunate accident on September 8, 1894, when, at Perrysburg, Ohio, he was run over by the cars, losing his left leg just below the knee, and a part of his right foot. In the fall of 1892, he had removed to that city, but he returned to his farm in the spring of 1895. The improvements upon the place all stand as monuments to his thrift and industry, and it has been transformed into one of the most valuable farms of the township. In 1887, Mr. Smith leased his farm to the Standard Oil Co., and there are now four wells in operation, producing about nineteen tanks of 180 barrels each per month; he receives

one-eighth of the oil. One gas well is also in operation. Politically our subject votes the straight Democratic ticket, but he is no office seeker, as his time has been wholly occupied by his business affairs. The family is one of prominence in the community, standing high in social circles, and Mrs. Smith is a consistent member of the Lutheran Church.

JOSEPH W. STIGER. Like many other residents of Wood county who have succeeded through their own diligence, energy and economy, the gentleman whose name stands at the beginning of this sketch started out in life with naught but an abundance of determination and indefatigable industry, and a strong and healthy constitution. In the spring of 1894 he entered into a partnership with C. H. Hoiles, forming the firm of Stiger & Hoiles, who are now successfully engaged in general carpenter work, also running a lumber yard and planing-mill.

Mr. Stiger was born near Bettsville, Sandusky Co., Ohio, January 1, 1863, son of Isaac and Phœbe (Goucher) Stiger, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter of Toledo, Ohio, of German descent. By trade the father was a carpenter. He was employed at that occupation at Fremont, Ohio, and Fort Wayne, Ind., and then returned to Bettsville, where he and his wife now make their home. While his parents were living at those places our subject attended the common schools, and thus acquired a fair education. As early as 1876 he began working at the carpenter's trade with his father, and became competent to perform almost any labor along that line. In the spring of 1881 he began work at his trade for the Nickel Plate railroad, building depots, and was soon promoted to foreman of a gang, holding that position until June of the same year. He was later with the C. J. & M. railroad, in Michigan. The following winter, however, was spent in Ohio, and in the spring of 1883 he went to Eaton Rapids, Mich., where he worked at his trade.

On March 31, 1884, Mr. Stiger was married, at Maple Grove, Ohio, the lady of his choice being Miss Ida B. Riley, who was born in Montgomery township, Wood county, March 25, 1867, and was educated in the district schools. She is the daughter of John and Sophrona (Ensminger) Riley, who now make their home in Prairie Depot; by occupation her father is a farmer. By her marriage she has become the mother of three children—Arlington A., born January 30, 1886; Vernie V., born November 9, 1891, and a daughter, born August 6, 1896. Mr. Stiger took

his bride to Eaton Rapids, working there for others until the spring of 1885, when he began contracting there. In 1888 he moved to Grand Rapids, Mich., where he was employed by the large real-estate firm of John B. White & Co., superintending the erection of their residences. On September 19, 1889, however, he returned to Prairie Depot, and worked for a short time in the factory of G. W. Hedge. He was then engaged in business alone until forming his present connection. He is one of the most skillful mechanics in the county, and an excellent workman, as many of the best homes and business blocks of Prairie Depot testify, and was engaged by the school board to superintend the erection of the elegant school building of that place, having charge of all the carpenter work. He stands high in the confidence of the people as a straightforward business man, and a most thorough and efficient mechanic.

In politics Mr. Stiger is a silver Democrat, and manifests considerable interest in the success of his party, though he has always refused to become a candidate for office. He is a member of the Masonic order, belonging to the lodge at Eaton Rapids, Mich., and was one of the founders of Petroleum Lodge No. 499, K. of P., of Prairie Depot. He now has a pleasant home at that place, which he built in the fall of 1893, and there he and his estimable wife delight to entertain their many friends.

**MARTIN LEMBRICH.** Among the sturdy and stalwart citizens of Portage township, whose place of birth was the far-away German Fatherland, and who, with the industry and thrift so natural to the people of their native land, are rapidly progressing toward that financial condition so much coveted by all, is the subject of this personal history. He was born in Bavaria, June 6, 1824, and is a son of Adam and Catherine (Dauterman) Lembrich, who were the parents of five children: Valentine, Martin, Catherine, Henry and Jacob. Both parents died in Germany, the father at the age of sixty, and the mother at fifty-five years.

According to the laws of his native land, our subject was provided with a good education, and had never left home even for a single night until he came to America in September, 1851. From London, England, he sailed on the vessel "Queen Victoria," which made the passage in thirty days, and, after landing at New York came at once to Wood county, where he arrived in October. At Cleveland, Ohio, his money gave out, and he had to borrow \$5 to bring him to his destination. He

was here employed at ditching, clearing and general farm work at fifty cents per day, and thus secured a start in the New World. Before his marriage, however, he was able to purchase forty acres of wild land in Section '8, Portage township.

In that township, in July, 1854, Mr. Lembrich wedded Miss Margaret Amos, a native of Germany, and a daughter of Michael Amos, who brought her to the United States when an infant. They became the parents of five children: Lewis, who lives in Portage township; George, who died in Liberty township, Wood county, at the age of thirty-one years; Caroline, who married James Taylor, and died in Bowling Green, Ohio; Frederick, at home; and Catherine, now Mrs. Nicholas Wisebaugh, of Portage township. The mother of this family died in September, 1868, and was laid to rest in Portage cemetery. In the following spring, Mr. Lembrich was united in marriage with Miss Margaret Durler, who was born in Portage township, October 5, 1844, and is a daughter of Jacob and Magdalene (Schruntz) Durler. By this marriage he has one daughter—Celesta M.

Mr. Lembrich has converted his timbered tract into one of the best farms of Portage township, making all of the improvements found thereon, and extending the boundaries of his place until it now comprises eighty acres of arable land. For the past five years, however, he has laid aside business cares, enjoying a well-earned rest. In his political views he coincides with the Democratic party, and in the discharge of his elective franchise votes for the candidates offered by that organization. Mrs. Lembrich is a consistent and sincere member of the Christian Union, belonging to Cloverdale Class.

**DAVID B. COTANT.** Among the leading and influential farmers of Bloom township, who thoroughly understand their business and pursue their chosen calling in a methodical and workmanlike manner, is the subject of this biography. He was born in Bloom township, April 13, 1852, and is a son of Charles and Rebecca (Taylor) Cotant. He was reared to rural life, receiving the usual education of such by attending "Hopewell school," District No. 7, and his first teacher was John K. Lasher.

Mr. Cotant was married in Hancock county, Ohio, on August 7, 1873, the lady of his choice being Miss Mary E. Wineland, whose birth occurred in Fayette county, Penn., June 27, 1852. Her parents, David and Catherine (Barnhart) Wineland, removed when she was about seven

years of age to Hancock county and there she had a very poor chance of attending school. By her marriage with our subject she has become the mother of three children—Clara A., wife of J. M. Stilwell, of Perry township, Wood county; Clinton J., who died in infancy; and Edna O., at home. In Perry township Mr. Cotant rented a farm for a few months, but in 1873, he located upon his present valuable farm, and in August of the following year began the construction of his comfortable dwelling. At the time of his arrival there were only three acres cleared, but year after year saw more land placed under the plow, and he has converted the tract into a highly-cultivated farm. He has always been an ardent supporter of the Republican party; is a stockholder in the Northwestern Fair Association of Fostoria, Ohio, and he and his wife are active members of the United Brethren Church, of which he is at present one of the trustees.

W. C. SMITH, though young in years, is one of the most energetic and enterprising agriculturists of Perry township. A native of the Buckeye State, he was born in Logan county, April 18, 1860, a son of William E. Smith, a prominent farmer of Wood county. He was but a child when brought by his parents to this county, where he was reared as most farmer boys and obtained his education in the district schools near his home. A month before he reached his majority he started out in life for himself, and for two summers before his marriage worked as a farm hand.

The lady who now bears the name of Mrs. Smith, was in her maidenhood Miss Ada Loucks, a daughter of Samuel and Susan (Fretts) Loucks, who came to Wood county in 1878, locating in Section 31, Perry township, where they still reside. The daughter was born in Westmoreland county, Penn., March 20, 1866, and in Perry township, on the 15th of June, 1882, became the wife of our subject. One daughter graces their union—Sylvia M., born April 1, 1890.

For two years after his marriage, Mr. Smith cultivated his father's farm in Perry township; but in the spring of 1884 he removed to Page county, Iowa, where he rented land until October, 1885, when he returned to Wood county and leased a house near the old homestead, which he again operated. That same fall, however, he purchased twenty-five acres of land in Bloom township, Wood county, on which he resided for three years, but now makes his home on his father's farm. He owns forty acres of excellent land in Perry township. For some time he engaged in ditching, by which business he gained a start in life.

Mr. Smith in giving close attention to his farming interests, has but little time to devote to political matters, but has studied politics sufficiently to determine that the principles of the Prohibition party more nearly coincide with his views than those of any other, especially on the liquor question, and accordingly gives it his uniform support, though he was formerly a Republican. He and his wife are earnest members of the United Brethren Church, in which he has served as a class leader, and has for several years taught in the Sunday-school.

A. W. NAFUS, a progressive and successful agriculturist of Grand Rapids township, was born September 24, 1842, in Wyandot county, Ohio. William Nafus, his father, was a native of England, born in 1774, came to America in 1781, and died about 1852. He settled upon a farm in Wyandot county, Ohio. He was twice married: for his first wife, he wedded Miss Salome Carpenter, who was born November 22, 1775, and died April 20, 1837. To this union were born five children. On July 24, 1838, he married for his second wife, Mrs. Mary Clabaugh, widow of Joseph Clabaugh, of McCutchenville, Ohio. Her maiden name was Mary Krause. To this union were born three children, all of whom are yet living: Nancy, born October 10, 1840, married Simon P. Starkey, of Green Springs, Ohio; A. W., our subject; Clarissa, born May 1, 1845, married A. C. Vine, of Wentworth, S. D. The mother of this family died in February, 1869, at McCutchenville, Ohio, at the age of sixty-three years. She was a kind and loving mother, and her death was deeply mourned by her children.

A. W. Nafus attended the district schools near his home and worked upon the farm until 1861, when he enlisted in Company D, 4th O. V. I., Col. Mason and Capt. George Weaver, commanding. From Camp Dennison, his regiment was sent to the front and took part in thirty-one battles, among them the engagements at Fair Oaks and Winchester. Mr. Nafus lost two toes, was wounded in the right groin, and for several months was confined to the hospital; but he returned to his regiment, and remained until he received an honorable discharge June 21, 1864, having been in the service three years, four months and twenty-one days. A year and a half at home enabled him to recover somewhat his former health, and at the end of that time he went to Iowa and found employment as a herdsman, remaining two years. On his return home he worked twenty years as a carpenter and joiner, but in 1889 he bought a farm of forty acres near

Grand Rapids, upon which he built a fine dwelling house and barns, and made other improvements. To this place he devoted the greater part of his time, working at his trade as opportunity offered.

On April 21, 1865, he was married to Miss Catherine Everhart, of Wyandot county, who was born May 17, 1847. To them have been born eight children: Manda L., June 6, 1866, married John Whitmore, in 1882, and has three children; Byron S., February 23, 1868; Alice and Albert (twins) March 8, 1871, the former married to Frank Philips, October 4, 1892, and has one child, and the latter works at the carpenter trade; George F., October 4, 1873, a mason at Custar, Ohio, married Mary E. Stocke, June 11, 1895 (she was born May 28, 1870), and has one child; Charles, born February 12, 1875; Howard, January 4, 1880; and Mabel May, October 12, 1887. After our subject was married he went to work at the carpenter's trade, and served an apprenticeship of seven years. He then started out to work for himself, as a contractor and builder, with a large force of men. He worked in Tiffin, and Kenton until the time of the "boom," when he went to Findlay. His industry supported the above mentioned family of eight children, and he is now well-fixed, enjoying the fruits of his former toil.

Mr. Nafus is a genial, industrious, honest citizen, and not the least amiable trait of his character is his uncomplaining of impaired health, a result of his devotion to the Union cause. He is highly esteemed wherever he is known, and takes an active part in all local affairs, serving at one time as township supervisor. In politics he is a Republican, and socially is a member of the G. A. R., Bond Post No. 24, and of the I. O. O. F., No. 494, of Adrian, Ohio. He and his wife are prominent members of the United Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids township, and their interest in any progressive measure is ready and sincere. Mr. Nafus has been a member of the township school board for two terms, and is at the present time president of the board. He has always taken an active interest in educational matters, and ever stands ready to aid his fellowmen in times of need, frequently discommoding himself to accommodate a friend.

WILLIAM SIMONS (deceased), who, after the labors of a long and useful life, passed his later years in ease and retirement in the village of West Millgrove, this county, was born in Genesee county, N. Y., January 31, 1814; and was one in a family of eight children, four sons

and four daughters, born to Hezekiah and Elizabeth (Weed) Simons. The father, who was a native of Massachusetts, was a farmer by occupation, and died in Genesee county, N. Y., being killed by a falling limb while chopping down a tree.

The educational advantages of our subject were very limited, and at the age of eleven years he left home, starting to make his own way in the world as a farm hand. When not yet twenty years of age he was married in his native county to Mary Bair, and with his wife came to Ohio in the early part of the "30s," locating in Jackson township, Seneca county. He had been cheated out of \$130 due him for labor by an unprincipled man, and on coming to this State had little more than the horse and wagon with which he made the trip. They left all their household goods, with the exception of a feather bed, in New York, and later he sent for them, but they were lost *en route*. With a capital of twelve shillings our subject began life in the Buckeye State. For a short time he made a temporary home with his brother-in-law, Samuel Bair, who had preceded him to this State, and later went in debt for forty acres of timber land, on which he built a cabin of round logs, which was his first home since he left the parental roof when only eleven years old. On account of the water, it was difficult to raise anything, and their first crops were corn and potatoes. Our subject struggled along, each year bettering his condition until he had paid for his land. Later he traded this for a better tract, and bought eighty acres in addition, for which he went in debt. On selling out after some years, he removed to Washington township, Hancock county, where he bought 100 acres. He met with an accident, however, breaking his shoulder by falling out of a wagon, which disabled him, and, as he had gone into debt for his land, he was afraid he could not pay for it, and so disposed of the property. He then came to Perry township, Wood county, where, in 1849, he purchased the fine farm of 166 acres owned by him at the time of his death.

His first wife died December 20, 1860, and was laid to rest in the cemetery at Fostoria. She was a Christian woman, and died happy. To them had been born the following children: Silas, the eldest son, enlisted August 12, 1861, in Company E, 49th O. V. I., and was killed at Pickett's Mills, Ga., May 27, 1864, while serving as first lieutenant of Company H, in the same regiment, to which company he was transferred June 18, 1863, being at that time made second lieutenant. On the 10th of March, 1864, he was

promoted to first lieutenant, and died as a gallant and brave officer. Elizabeth, the second child, is the wife of John Nobles, of Fostoria. Benjamin F. is a merchant of West Millgrove. Nancy is now Mrs. A. D. Stewart, of Toledo, Ohio. Martha died at the age of nineteen years. Sarah is the wife of William Robbins, of Jackson township, Seneca county. Amos died in Putnam county, Ohio, in 1894. For his second wife Mr. Simons wedded Martha J. Faylor, a native of Stark county, Ohio, and a daughter of John and Sarah (Pitchard) Faylor. Five children graced that union, only one of whom grew to maturity—Nellie M. The mother died October 2, 1894, and was buried at Fostoria. In her youth she united with the Presbyterian Church, but some ten years later became identified with the Methodist Church, of which she remained a consistent member until her death, which was a happy one. Her funeral was preached by Rev. Andrew Hayes. Our subject later married her sister, Mrs. Margaret McClelland, widow of A. J. McClelland, by whom she had four children: Clarence, who died at the age of four years; Arthur, a resident of Hillsdale county, Mich; and Ada and Ida, twins, the former now Mrs. Ulysses Jenkins, and the latter now Mrs. D. A. Tanner, both of Hillsdale county, Michigan.

In March, 1879, Mr. Simons removed to West Millgrove. For a short time when young he voted the Democratic ticket, but later supported the Republican party, and for nine successive years was school director. For over forty years he had been a faithful member of the Methodist Church, to which his widow also belongs. He was among the self-made men of the county, having accumulated all that he possessed by his own energy and thrift, and was also one of its most highly respected citizens. His death occurred April 6, 1896, and from the obituary notice the following is extracted: "William Simons, aged eighty-two years, two months and twenty-five days, died at his home in this place, of pneumonia, on the 6th inst., after a brief illness. Deceased was a retired farmer, well respected, one of the foremost members of the M. E. Church, and a good citizen. We laid the remains away to rest in the Fostoria cemetery till the general reunion."

GEORGE C. EMMERICH, one of the most successful oil operators in Wood county, and a thoroughly representative German-American citizen, progressive and prosperous, was born October 3, 1862, at Gittersdorf, Hessen-Cassel, Prussia, where his parents, Conrad and Anna

(Aple) Emmerich were born, were married, and passed their entire lives. In their family were seven children: Anna Catherine, wife of John Smith, by whom she has a son, Henry, now (1896) aged thirteen years (they make their home in Gittersdorf); Henry married, and carrying on farming at that place; Conrad, married, and following agricultural pursuits in Ottawa county, Ohio; George C. is next in order of birth; Gus is married, and farms in Washington township; Anna Lizzie is making her home with our subject; and Barbara is still a resident of Gittersdorf.

Our subject received his education at the common schools of his native place, was leader of a singing school there, and also drill master in the military department of the school. It was the wish of his parents that he should attend a higher school, graduate, and then become a teacher; but he preferred to come to America, and accordingly in 1878, when sixteen years old, he set sail from Bremen. After a voyage of some eleven days he landed at New York, whence he at once came to Wood county, arriving with just sixty-five cents in his pockets, twenty-five of which he found in New York City. After working as a farm laborer some seven years, he rented land for about four years, and in the fall of 1888 purchased thirty acres of good land of Henry Aple, to which in the following fall he added forty-six and one-half acres obtained from Clark Cummings. In 1892 he bought ten acres of George Kidd, and has since purchased 240 acres of D. R. Haylor—who was trustee for the Bowling Green Fence Co.—but all his farm land he rents. He has fourteen producing oil wells, seven of which he drills and operates himself, and he is developing many other wells. His land and wells are very valuable, and he derives therefrom a handsome income.

On April 9, 1885, Mr. Emmerich was married at the residence of Jacob Wenig, in Washington township, to the latter's daughter, Miss Dena M., and to them was born October 1, 1890, a son—Howard W. With his little family, on April 28, 1895, Mr. Emmerich set out for the Fatherland to visit the home and friends of his childhood, also the principal cities of Germany. After spending four enjoyable months, he returned to America. Public-spirited to a great degree, he takes an active interest in every measure calculated to benefit the community, using his right of franchise in support of the Republican party, and held the office of school director of Middleton township, one term. He attends the Evangelical Church of Tontogany, of the Sunday-school of which he was superintendent five years.



HOWARD W.

*Geo. C. Emmerich*

*Dena M. Emmerich*



Jacob Wenig, father of Mrs. Emmerich, was born August 25, 1833, in Gittersdorf, Hessen-Cassel, Prussia, and was one of the three children of Henry and Catherine (Ames) Wenig, the others being Martha, widow of Henry Opper, a farmer of Plain township, Wood county, and Katie, wife of Charlie Sales, of Huron, Erie Co., Ohio, by whom she has four children—John, Libbie, Charles and Lyda. Mr. Wenig received his education in Germany, where he worked in a factory, and at the age of twenty-two, in 1855, set out from Bremen on a sailing vessel for America, arriving at New York four weeks later. He located in Huron, Erie Co., Ohio, where for five years he was employed as a farm hand, and on April 5, 1861, he arrived in Wood county. His first location was in Middleton township, where he rented land for a year, and then purchased twelve acres, which he afterward sold, and then, removing to Plain township, rented land there for three years. In 1867, he purchased forty acres of his present farm in Washington township, to which he added twenty acres in 1871, and now has one of the most highly improved farms in his section of the county. His pleasant dwelling was erected at a cost of \$1,200, and his barn cost \$400 in addition.

On November 9, 1858, at Huron, Erie county, Mr. Wenig was married to Mary Bachstin, who was born in Ana, Hessen-Cassel, Prussia, May 18, 1840, and they have nine children; John; August; Charlie; Henry; Dena M., wife of Mr. Emmerich; Libbie, wife of Joe Reams, of Washington, by whom she has one child, born July 28, 1893, named Earl W.; Linda, wife of J. H. Good; George, a school teacher; and William J. The father, who is a Republican in politics, has been supervisor and school director, and is a worthy member of the Evangelical Church, of which he has served as trustee and been steward and class leader.

C. B. HEDGE is one of the steady-going young men and prosperous farmers of Montgomery township, where he was born October 11, 1866, in Section 17, at the home of his parents, George B. and Kate (Crawfoot) Hedge. His education was such as the district schools of the neighborhood afforded, his first teacher being Miss Mollie Smith, and he completed his literary studies at the age of nineteen years.

The boyhood days of Mr. Hedge were spent upon his father's farm, and when not in the schoolroom he assisted in its cultivation, and was also employed in his father's mill; but farming and teaming were his principal pursuits. He re-

mained a member of the parental household until his marriage, which important event in his life was celebrated October 4, 1888, in Bowling Green, Ohio, Miss Elsie Gobble, the daughter of Jacob and Margaret (Echelberger) Gobble, becoming his wife. Her mother is now the wife of George Amos, a prominent resident of this county. Three children have come to the union of our subject and his wife—Nora M., born September 21, 1891; Elva, born July 9, 1893; and Harry, born April 28, 1895. After his marriage Mr. Hedge located upon a portion of his father's farm, where he yet owns a house and an acre of ground. In March, 1892, he removed to his present residence, and is now engaged in operating his father's place, also devoting considerable time to teaming. He is a wide-awake, progressive young business man, public-spirited and enterprising, and no doubt a successful future awaits him. He is an excellent farmer, and just such a citizen as the name Hedge in Montgomery township suggests.

DANIEL GUYER, a veteran of the Civil war, and a valued citizen of this county, was born in Pennsylvania, August 14, 1829, and is a son of Gabriel and Elizabeth (Long) Guyer, also natives of the Keystone State. The father was a miller by trade, and followed that business in Pennsylvania until 1832, when he came with his family to Wood county, making the journey with ox-teams, and camping along the roadside by night. He purchased forty acres of land in Weston township, built a log house with a bark roof and floor, and at once began to clear and cultivate his land. His death occurred here in 1865, and his wife passed away three years later. They had a family of nine children—Gabriel, who was a soldier in the 111th O. V. I., and died in 1866; Susan, widow of George Adelman; Joseph, who served in the 144th O. V. I., and died in 1873; Polly, now deceased, who was the wife of Levi Bartell, and after his death became Mrs. Frankfurter; Daniel; John and Emanuel, both of Weston; and Washington, who is living in East Toledo.

Our subject was a child of two years when he came with his parents to Wood county, and was educated in the district schools of Weston township. When about twenty years of age he learned the trade of carpentering, which he followed until after the breaking out of the war. He purchased 160 acres of land in Weston township, which he sold in 1861. The following year he offered his services to the government as a defender of the Union, and joined Company I, 144th O. V. I., with which he continued until



after the cessation of hostilities. He was a faithful defender of the old flag and the cause it represented, and returned home with an honorable war record.

In 1865 Mr. Guyer resumed farming, purchasing eighty acres of land in Milton township, on which he built a log cabin. The work of improvement was at once begun, and has been steadily carried forward. He tilled and fenced the place, planted an orchard, and in 1885 erected a large dwelling. In the spring of 1892 he exchanged this property for his present farm of 120 acres in Section 6, Milton township, and in 1893 erected his residence.

Mr. Guyer was married in September, 1859, to Miss Emma Older, and to them have been born six children—Della now the wife of John McGill, of Milton township; Cora, wife of Emory Burson, of Milton township; Edward, who wedded Mary Baumgardner, and resides at the old homestead; Albert, who wedded Mary Beaverson, and lives in Milton township; Pearl, wife of D. C. Wolf; and Maud, wife of Thomas Pugh, of Weston, Ohio. Mr. Guyer has always been a warm friend of the cause of education, and while serving on the school board has been effective in its promotion. He belongs to the Evangelical Church, and, in his political views, is a Republican.

A. V. POWELL, the well-known undertaker at Bowling Green, is a native of the Buckeye State, born in Fairfield county, July 20, 1855.

His family is of Welsh origin, and the ancestors of the American branch settled in Pennsylvania at an early period. His grandfather, Peter Powell, was born there, and his father, George Powell, was born there in 1829. The latter married Miss Sarah Ann Beaty, also a native of that State, and a few years later came to Ohio with his family, locating first upon a farm in Fairfield county. His father accompanied him, and spent his last days in this State. In the spring of 1873, our subject's parents came to Wood county, traveling the entire distance by wagon, and driving their stock before them. They bought a farm in Liberty township, Wood county, where they made their home for nearly twenty years, and then retired to Bowling Green, where Mrs. Powell died April 27, 1892, at the age of seventy-four years, and her husband in 1893, aged seventy-three. They were faithful and devout members of the United Brethren Church. Of their large family of children six grew to adult age: John W., a resident of Bowling Green; Martha J., the wife of L. D. Smaltz, of Han-

cock county; Silas H., who occupies the old homestead; A. V., our subject; Chester L., who died July 6, 1893, at the age of thirty-seven, and Laura Belle, who married James Stafford, a farmer of Wood county.

Our subject attended the public schools of Fairfield county during his boyhood, and on coming to this county obtained a position as clerk in a store in Bowling Green, and later went to Findlay in the same capacity. He then entered into business for himself, making several experiments before settling down at his present novel and prosperous enterprise. He was for two years in the hardware business in Fostoria, Ohio, before coming back to Bowling Green, where he conducted first a grocery for two years, and then a restaurant, and, in 1889, opened a novelty five and ten cent store, which he has since sold, and is now engaged in the undertaking business, having the largest and best equipped establishment of the kind in Wood county.

He was married November 22, 1877, to Miss LaVandee Sargent, who was born in Wood county, April 6, 1859. They have had six children: Frank Sargent, Alice Lillian, John Avery, Gerald A., William McMann and Vivian. Politically Mr. Powell is a Republican, and he is among the most enterprising and public-spirited of the young men of the community. He is a member of the K. of P. and of the I. O. O. F., Green Encampment No. 626, and Canton Alpine No. 26, Uniform Rank, and of the Order of D. of R.

JACOB BOVIE, an enterprising farmer of Montgomery township, pleasantly located in Section 9, has identified himself with the representative and progressive citizens of Wood county. His birth occurred in that township on October 20, 1847, at the home of his parents, Adam and Magdalena (Friedinger) Bovie, natives of Germany, who came to America at the same time, and were married in this country, after which they located in Wood county, Ohio, where they spent the remainder of their days. The mother passed away July 6, 1877, and the father, who was born in 1811, died at a ripe old age in April, 1893. They were both buried at Prairie Depot, Ohio.

To this worthy couple were born eleven children, five sons and six daughters, and with the exception of Margaret, who was burned to death at the age of six months, when their dwelling was destroyed by fire, all lived to adult age. They were as follows: Magdalene married Andrew Zimmerman, and died in Montgomery township, in 1890; Caroline became the wife of An-

thony Hirscherberger, and died at Clyde, Ohio; Adam was a member of Company A, 144th O. V. I., during the Civil war, and died in prison at Salisbury, N. C.; Jacob is next in order of birth; Catherine became the wife of M. Swape, and died in Missouri; Margaret is now Mrs. Joseph Hess, of Fostoria, Ohio; Peter is a resident of Portage township, Wood county; David lives in Gratiot county, Mich., near Ithaca; Lavina is the wife of A. Swape, of Missouri; and George died at the age of five years.

As his parents were in limited circumstances, the educational privileges enjoyed by Jacob Bovie were rather limited, and he early began assisting in the labors of the farm, being a great help to his parents. In Fremont, Ohio, on November 1, 1876, he was united in marriage with Miss Lydia A. Girton, who was born near Bellevue, Ohio, January 19, 1856. Her parents, Asa and Elizabeth (Wales) Girton, located in Montgomery township, Wood county, in 1863, where the father died October 20, 1865, leaving his widow with five children, namely: Luther, now postmaster of Tromley, Ohio; Mary C., who wedded N. Wise, and died in Kansas, December 28, 1879; Lydia A., the honored wife of our subject; John W., a resident of Bloom township, Wood county; and Margaret, who died unmarried June 14, 1894. Another child, George, died at the age of five years, before his father's death. During his younger years Mr. Girton had taught school, but by trade he was a mechanic, and was employed as a spinner in a woolen-factory. His health was always poor, and he never accumulated much property. His widow married Charles J. Wickenheiser, who is now deceased, and she now makes her home in Bloom township. The education of Mrs. Bovie was mostly acquired under the instruction of her father, who taught his family at home, and she learned very rapidly. At the time of her marriage she was working as a domestic. Two children grace the union of our subject and his wife—Frederick Baldo, born September 29, 1877; and Randal R., born December 26, 1887.

Upon his marriage, Mr. Bovie located at Prairie Depot, where he owned a house and lot, and worked as a farm hand and laborer. On leaving that place he rented a farm for a year, after which he lived upon his father's farm until his removal to his present homestead in Section 9, where he had purchased forty acres of land on which was a rather dilapidated house, and he went in debt for the same. However, he has since paid off the indebtedness, and added twenty acres to the original tract, all of which is now

highly cultivated. He erected his present substantial and comfortable home in 1887, and has made many other useful and valuable improvements on the place. In politics he usually supports the principles and candidates of the Democratic party, but is not strictly bound by party ties.

MARTIN L. WALTERS is a native and resident of Weston township, born September 26, 1855. He comes of one of the pioneer families of the locality, his grandparents having settled here in an early day. They migrated to Ohio from Pennsylvania, and made their first location in Harrison county, thence after a few years' residence moving to Wood county. They were of Pennsylvania-Dutch lineage.

Jacob Walters, the father of our subject, was born June 20, 1828, in Harrison county, Ohio, and was three years of age when the family removed to Wood county. Here he was reared, and obtained his education, which included a thorough training in agricultural pursuits, to which he gave his principal time and attention during his entire life. During the Civil war he served one hundred days in the Union army. He died September 6, 1892, of cancer. In religious faith he was a Presbyterian, in political sentiment, a Republican. Jacob Walters married Catherine Huffman, and they became the parents of six children, namely: Sarah Ellen, Martin Luther, Louisa Alice, Lucina Ann, Emma Angeline, and a son who died in infancy.

On September 26, 1877, M. L. Walters was married to Miss Mary E. Long, who was born March 7, 1859, in Illinois. Their union has been blessed with three children: Rollie Jacob Daniel, born October 1, 1878; Bessie Ann Janet, born February 11, 1881; and Cora Belle, born July 23, 1883. Mrs. Walters is a member of the Methodist Church. Socially they belong to the Patrons of Husbandry.

Mrs. Sarepta (Hopkins) Long, the mother of Mrs. M. L. Walters, was born in Sandusky county, Ohio, from there removing in early life to Illinois, where she married Mr. Long. He was a native of Guernsey county, Ohio, was a Republican in politics, and a Methodist in religious connection. Mrs. Long died in 1875, a member of the Methodist Church. Her father was of Yankee descent; her mother was a Pennsylvanian, and a Methodist in religious faith. To D. M. and Sarepta (Hopkins) Long were born the following named children: Sarah B. (Mrs. Hunter); Mrs. M. L. Walters; S. L. Long; E. L. Long; Mrs. E. J. Callihan, who lives in

Toledo, and has one son, Daniel; Mrs. J. B. Stafford, who resides in Deshler, Wood county; Ida (Mrs. Brown), who lives at Waterville, and has two children—Gracie and Ethel; and J. D. Long, who is a resident of Findlay. The eldest son died when two years old, the youngest daughter when one year old.

L. K. SOULE. The present prosperous condition of Wood county is largely due to the class of men who came here during its earliest history. One of these, now a worthy representative of the agriculturists of Bloom township, was born near Buffalo, N. Y., May 11, 1837, a son of Lorenzo and Ann C. (Fink) Soule. They were natives of Germany, where they were married and their two eldest children were born. About 1832 the family crossed the Atlantic, and after a long voyage, landed at New York. For a time the father followed the trade of a wheelwright in the Empire State, later removed to Huron county, Ohio, and in the fall of 1843 came to Wood county, where he purchased forty acres of land in Section 1, Bloom township. Here was erected a log house, 18 x 20 feet, with puncheon floor and clapboard roof; but it was a happy home, as it was the first the family owned in the New World, and they moved into it before it was completed. It seemed that civilization had scarcely begun in this region, the land being mostly in its natural state, covered with a heavy growth of timber and very wet, and wild game could be had in abundance, while the family had to go as far as Fremont, Tiffin or Perrysburg, to mill. Here the father died at the age of seventy-four, while the mother passed away June 22, 1894, and they were buried in the Mennonite cemetery, in Perry township, Wood county. He was first a Whig and later a Republican; was an industrious, hard-working man; well versed in the Scriptures, and a consistent member of the Evangelical Church. In the family were the following children: Elizabeth, widow of John Walker, of Bloom township; Conrad C., who died in Jerry City; Bernard, of Fostoria; L. K., subject of this sketch; Ann, wife of John Faylor, of Henry township, Wood county; Martha, who died at the age of twenty years; Amelia, who became the wife of Leonard Harsh, and died on the old home farm; Harriet, who died at the age of eighteen years; Mary, widow of Jacob Mowry, of Risingsun, Ohio; and Sarah, who wedded Reuben Munday, and died in Fostoria, Ohio.

Not until he was fourteen years of age was L. K. Soule able to attend school, but he became an apt scholar, particularly good in mathematics, and

continued his studies during the winter months until twenty years of age, the remainder of the year being mostly passed in work upon the home farm. He later learned the carpenter's trade, at which he and his brother, Conrad, were employed for several years. In September, 1862, in Portage township, Wood county, Mr. Soule married Miss Caroline Graham, a daughter of William Graham, one of the pioneers of that locality. They began housekeeping with his brother Bernard, but about that time our subject purchased forty acres of timber land in Section 2, Bloom township. In less than a year, however, the wife died, passing away in July, 1863, and her remains were interred in the Mennonite cemetery, Perry township.

Mr. Soule took an honorable part in the Civil war, enlisting in October, 1864, at Toledo, Ohio, in Company K, 182nd O. V. I. The troops were ordered to Nashville, taking part in the second engagement at that place, and remained in that vicinity until the close of the war. Our subject received his discharge in July, 1865, but since June he had been ill in Cumberland Hospital, and was unable to leave until the following September. During his absence he had hired some of his land cleared, and on his return began the improvement of his farm, while he also worked for others on shares.

Mr. Soule was again married, in Portage township, in May, 1866, this time to Miss Matilda Hillard, a daughter of Daniel Hillard, and to them was born a son—Clarence G., a farmer of Bloom township. At the end of five years of married life Mrs. Soule died, and her remains were interred in the Mennonite cemetery, in Perry township. Our subject later wedded Mary O. Hopkins, of Liberty township, Wood county, by whom he had four children—Earl W., Cora E., Ira L. and Armen J. The last named was an infant when his mother died, and he was taken to the home of an aunt, with whom he still resides. The present wife of our subject was, in her maidenhood, Miss Melissa Phillips, of Center township, a daughter of Daniel Phillips.

From its primitive condition Mr. Soule has developed his farm of forty acres until it is now a valuable tract, supplied with good buildings which he himself erected. His first Presidential vote was cast for Abraham Lincoln, from which time he was a staunch Republican until 1890, but he now supports the Prohibition party, as it embodies his principles on the liquor question. For the long period of fifteen years he held the position of school director of District No. 1, for three years was justice of the peace, and for one year

assessor, always discharging his duties with promptness and fidelity. He and his estimable wife are active members of the United Brethren Church, in which he has been class-leader and superintendent of the Sunday-school, and he is at present secretary of the Quarterly Conference of his circuit.

J. B. BLAIR, a prosperous agriculturist of Bloom township, residing near Jerry City, is one of those farmers, who, by energetic work and business like management, refute the complaint that, "farming does not pay." He is systematic, prompt, and always willing to put his shoulder to the wheel, and has succeeded in gaining a competency in spite of a most discouraging beginning.

Mr. Blair was born August 10, 1854, in Blair's Valley, Washington Co., Md., which had been for several generations the home of his family, and took its name from them. Tradition has it that three brothers of this name came from England in the latter part of the eighteenth century. One settled near Dayton, Ohio, one was lost sight of, and the other settled in Blair's Valley. His son Andrew, our subject's grandfather, was a farmer there, and the father of twelve children—five boys and seven girls. Andrew J. Blair, our subject's father, born January 8, 1825, was the third youngest of this family, a brother and sister being younger than he, and as his father had only forty acres of land, he had but limited advantages in early life; he attended a subscription school only a few weeks, the public schools not being organized until he was too old to avail himself of the advantages offered by them. On October 30, 1848, he was married in Franklin county, Penn., to Miss Mary Sword, who was born March 17, 1827, in that locality, where her ancestors were pioneer settlers. Her father, Jacob Sword, owned a farm of fifty acres, and carried on the trade of wagon making. He married Catherine Tanner, and both lived to the age of sixty-seven years. They were consistent members of the Lutheran Church, and were highly respected by all who knew them.

At the time of his marriage, our subject's father was conducting the old homestead for his mother, the father having died some years before. He was a natural mechanic, and could work at almost any trade. During the war he bought land in Maryland, but times became hard and in April, 1864, he moved with his family to Ohio. Seneca county was their destination, but he found it difficult to make a living there, and came to Bloom township, where his wife's uncle,

Adam Baker, lived. He rented a farm and made a new start in life, engaging after a time in stone quarrying. In the spring of 1871 he bought eighty acres of land, with a log house and ten acres of clearing, going in debt for it. Had he lived he would in all probability have owned the farm in time, but on August 1, 1876, he was thrown by a half-broken colt, while returning home from Fostoria. The accident occurred at 2 P. M., and he lived only five hours. His remains were brought home the following day, and later interred in Weaver cemetery. He had been all his life an upright and honorable man, and while living in Seneca county he and his wife had made open profession of their faith, and united with the U. B. Church. The sad event made it necessary to dispose of the home, and his widow removed to Eagleville, where she has since resided. Ten children were born to this worthy couple: Joseph L., a resident of Eagleville; Emma J., who married Emmanuel Ziegler, of Bloom township; Catherine, Mrs. Frank Russell, of Hancock county; J. B., our subject; Jackson, a farmer near Monmouth, Ill.; Amanda, Mrs. Albert Brandeberry, of Bloom township; John, with the B. & O. R. R., at Syracuse, Ind.; David, who resides at Eagleville; Hannah, the wife of W. A. Friese, of Bloom township; and Flora, now Mrs. W. H. Mohr, of Bloom township.

J. B. Blair was but ten years old when his parents moved to Seneca county. He had attended school for a short time in his native State, and after the removal to Wood county he studied in Prof. Richard's select school at Republic. At the age of thirteen he began to work for farmers near by for wages during the summer, and to do chores in the winter for his board while attending school, and by the time he was twenty-one he had given to his parents \$500 in cash. He continued this work until 1874, when he went to Maryland and worked for a cousin in a drug store, intending to study medicine; but the cousin failed, leaving \$200 of his wages unpaid, and that plan was frustrated. He passed the teacher's examination in his native county (Washington county, Md.), but did not teach. On his way home he visited the Centennial. He returned to Wood county shortly after his father's death, and for some time worked at any labor which would bring him an honest penny. On February 9, 1879, he was married to Miss Almira Adams, a native of Bloom township, born November 4, 1857, a daughter of David and Lucinda (Henry) Adams. Mr. Blair had saved \$175 from his earnings, and his wife owned the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 4, in Bloom township,

with some incumbrance. They went to house-keeping on this farm, remaining there until 1883, when they disposed of it, and after a year spent on a rented farm, bought their present property of sixty-seven acres near Jerry City. This was in a very unsatisfactory condition at the time of the purchase, but is now one of the best farms in the vicinity. Mr. and Mrs. Blair have one child, Maude, born September 23, 1881, still at home.

In politics Mr. Blair is a Democrat, as was his father before him, but he reserves the privilege of voting for the best candidate in local affairs, and he never seeks office for himself. A jovial, good-hearted man, he has many friends, and the qualities of character which have enabled him to coin success from untoward circumstances command the respect of all who know him. He is a member of Lodge No. 602, I. O. O. F., of Jerry City.

DAVID DESHETLER is a native of Michigan. He was born in Monroe county, November 9, 1845, and is a son of Peter Deshetler, who was born in the vicinity of Detroit, Mich. The grandfather, Joseph Deshetler, came to the United States from Canada during the war of 1812, and took up arms against the British government. He afterward settled near Detroit, where he followed farming. He had married in Canada, and the following named were included among his children: John, Mary, Rorgele, Xavier, and Peter.

The last named was reared near Detroit, and afterward removed to Monroe county, Mich., where he wedded Mary Rabidne, a native of Michigan. About 1852 they came to Wood county, locating on a 160-acre tract of wild land in Liberty township. In 1869 the father sold that property and removed to East Toledo, Ohio, where the mother died. The father afterward married Mrs. Viola (Barber) Stone, and soon returned to Monroe county, Mich., where he bought a home and lived for a time. He later took up his residence in Blissfield, Mich., where he was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife. He then made his home with our subject until called to his final rest, January 7, 1888. To the parents of our subject were born the following named: Jane, who died in childhood; Mary Ann, wife of John Ducat, of Toledo, Ohio; Louis, who died in childhood; David; Christ, of East Toledo, Ohio; Peter, a farmer of Dundee, Mich.; Albert, who was drowned in 1872, at the age of twenty-eight; and Joseph, who has never been heard from since he left home, in 1875, and went to the West.

Mr. Deshetler, of this sketch, pursued his

education in the district schools of Liberty township, and through his boyhood days aided his father in the cultivation of the home farm. On starting out in life for himself, he located on five acres of land in Liberty township, to which he afterward added thirty acres. His first home was built of logs, into which he moved before the windows were put in; but, as time has passed, he has made excellent improvements upon his land, and, in 1891, erected a very pleasant and comfortable dwelling. He also has five oil wells, whereby his income is materially increased.

Mr. Deshetler was married in Liberty township, September 20, 1863, to Mary Roe, who was born in Monroe county, Mich., April 9, 1847. Their eldest son, Charles, born August 5, 1864, and now living in Liberty township, married Annie Gouger, and they have two children—Edith Elizabeth and Ralph A. Lenora Adelaide, born December 24, 1867, died at the age of sixteen years. Daniel Henry, born August 20, 1870, married Millie Ducat, and had one child, Alma Alvira; he was employed in a boiler house, which was destroyed by fire in January, 1894, at which time he was burned to death. Josephine Alma, born November 16, 1872; Louis Abraham, born October 13, 1875; and Clarence Samuel, born March 8, 1882, are at home.

In his political affiliations Mr. Deshetler is a Democrat, and served as supervisor for two years, while for three years he was school director. He belongs to St. Aloysius Catholic Church of Bowling Green, and is a man of sterling worth and strict integrity, whose public life and private career are alike above reproach.

MRS. AMELIA WILKINSON PERRIN, of Perrysburg, is one of the honored pioneers of Wood county, and one of the few survivors of that little band of settlers who made their home in the early days at the Foot of the Rapids. In spite of her eighty-six years, she retains all her mental faculties, and many and interesting are the reminiscences of the old times, which her memory preserves.

Jacob Wilkinson, her father, was born March 30, 1777, in Morristown, N. J.; her mother, Sallie Wightman, on April 14, 1784, in Connecticut. They were married, in 1803, in Warren, Herkimer Co., N. Y., and five years later, in the winter of 1808-9, moved to Cleveland, Ohio, traveling in sleighs over the snow. In 1811 they came to the Foot of the Rapids, on the Maumee river, and saw Hull's army cross that river on its way to Detroit. When news of his surrender to the British reached the settlers, they

for the most part fled in fear of the Indians; but as Mr. Wilkinson was away from home at the time, his family remained until his return. The only means of transportation left was an old row-boat, into which the little family was crowded, and Mr. Wilkinson started by way of the lake to Cleveland. He was well-known there, and when the news came that he and his family were on Lake Erie, in an open row-boat, at the mercy of the waves, the entire city was aroused. As the time drew near when they might be expected, crowds of people gathered upon the bluffs watching with glasses for the first sign of them, and when they were seen at last, boats were sent out to meet them, carrying wine and food. So overcome was Mr. Wilkinson with fatigue and anxiety, that he fainted in the first joy of his deliverance. He remained in Cleveland until the fall of 1815, engaged in ship building. Having constructed a stanch little craft of his own, the "Black Snake," he and several of his friends brought their families, making their landing in a bayou near Fort Meigs. Peace being restored, he made a permanent home here, and for many years was engaged in business, building bridges and wharves. In political affairs he took great interest, and was a Democrat in early life, later a Henry Clay Whig. He died March 1, 1834, his wife surviving him but a few years, dying November 26, 1839. They had ten children, a brief record of whom is as follows: Freeman, a ship builder, died in San Jacinto, Texas; Harvey, educated in Fredonia, was a merchant in New Albany, Ind., and died in New Orleans of yellow fever; James Merrill, was for some years a druggist at Grand Rapids, but later bought a farm in Fulton county, where he spent the remainder of his life; Amelia, born November 15, 1810, is the subject of this sketch; Samuel, born November 16, 1812, was a ship builder, and died in Brownsville, Texas, during the cholera epidemic; Emily D., born February 9, 1814, married Sylvester Johnson, of Perrysburg; William W., born April 29, 1816, was a sailor, and died at Antwerp, Ohio; Nancy L., born May 29, 1819, and died at the age of six months; Clara A., born January 28, 1820, was married October 11, 1850, to G. B. Warner, an architect, a native of Brownsville, N. Y. (he died in 1860 in La Salle, Ills., leaving three children: (1) George, a painter in Cass county, Mich., married to Susan Swinehart, of Elkhart, Ind., and had five children—Clara, Royal M., Lillian, George and Helen. (2) Ida, who married Edward Fisher, of Cass county, Mich., and has three children—Herbert, Merlin and Leland;

(5) Fred E., a resident of Michigan, married to Catherine Avery, of Goshen, Ind., and has four children—Grace, Hazel, Maude and Frederick. Mrs. Warner was married, the second time, in 1862, to Moses McKissick, of Toledo, who afterward removed to a farm in Cass county, Mich., where he died in 1894. One daughter was born of this marriage, Grace, now the wife of C. Rinehart, of Cass county, Michigan.

The subject of this sketch was married April 28, 1830, to Jonathan Perrin, who was born in Bedford, Penn., in 1804. He was a house-builder and contractor in Perrysburg, and a leading citizen of that place. He died May 18, 1876. Of their children six grew to maturity: (1) Theresa married Fred R. Miller, and had three children—William P., who died at Wichita, Kans., leaving one son, Willie; Ernest, a resident of Denver, Col., who married Mary Dodge, a daughter of Judge Dodge, of Bowling Green, and has two children—Hobart and Mary Dodge; and Shelley, of St. Joseph, Mo., superintendent of insurance in that State. (2) Helen P. is the widow of Hon. E. F. Bull, of Ottawa, Illinois, and has had three children—Lillian, the wife of S. W. Ruger (she has one child, Edward); Edward Bull, a law student, who was accidentally shot while hunting in Minnesota; and Follett W. Bull, an attorney at Chicago, Ill., who has one child, Helen Perkins. (3) William Henry, born September 4, 1835, was a merchant in the south, and a captain in the Confederate army; he died in New Orleans, leaving one daughter, Edna. (4) Mary, born June 17, 1838, married Samuel Price, a journalist and lawyer; both are now dead, leaving one child, Ethel. (5) Eugenia, born February 22, 1840, married Dr. J. W. Long, of Bryan, Ohio, and has one son, James W. (6) Wilkinson D., born May 17, 1842, enlisted in the 1st Ohio Artillery, and was killed at the battle of Cold Harbor.

Mrs. Perrin has for many years been a leader in the most exclusive circles of social life in Perrysburg, and although now less fond of society than of yore, she takes a generous and intelligent interest in all the movements of the day. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

CHARLES WILLIAM MILBOURN is a native of Wood county, born in Jerry City, July 11, 1855. He is a son of L. D. and Julia Ann (Rollins) Milbourn, who had four children, namely: David A., a boiler-maker of Barrington, Ohio; Rachel A., wife of Jack McCrory, of Bowling Green; Charles W.; and Sylvester, at home. Our subject began his education in the district schools of

Bloom township, but his privileges in that direction were meager, for his services were needed on the home farm. He assisted in its cultivation until he was eighteen years of age. His mother then died, and he started out in life for himself, working at any employment he could secure which would yield him an honest living. He was employed in a sawmill for three years, and when he had acquired a sufficient capital he purchased ten acres of land. He afterward bought forty acres near Bowling Green, and on this tract of land now has a nice home.

Mr. Milbourn was married in Bowling Green, January 14, 1883, to Miss Clara E. Baird, who was born in Wood county. In 1886 they located on the ten-acre tract of land in Liberty township. Mrs. Milbourn has proved to her husband a faithful companion and helpmeet. She was born in Eagleville, October 26, 1863, and was the seventh in order of birth in the family of eight children, whose parents were Sherman and Casia (Lacy) Baird. While Mr. Milbourn was attending to his business interests, his wife added largely to the family income by keeping boarders, having as high as thirty at one time. She continued this work until 1894. Mr. Milbourn cleared his land, and made many excellent improvements upon it, including the erection of a fine residence. He now has three oil wells upon the place, which are very productive and profitable. His honorable business career and straightforward dealing have won for him a handsome competence, and gained him the respect and good will of all, at the same time demonstrating that success can be achieved by determination and unflinching industry. He belongs to the Disciples Church, and in politics is a stalwart Republican.

D. W. REDDIN, M. D., who for the past ten years has been actively engaged in the practice of his profession at North Baltimore, is, though yet a young man, one of the best and most favorably known physicians of Wood county, and he has probably no equal of his age in northern Ohio.

A native of Ohio, he was born January 24, 1860, near Findlay, Hancock county. His father, Thomas Reddin, was born, in 1808, in Dartmouth, England, was a man of fine intellectual qualities, and also possessed artistic ability; he was employed to do the decorative painting on Girard College. However, he was a captain by occupation, and followed the high seas many years, visiting all the principal ports of the globe. His life was an adventurous one. Under Gen.

Sam. Houston he served with Texas in her struggle for independence, being in Col. Fanning's command, which surrendered to Santa Anna after the memorable battle of Goliad. The men were all marched out in line to be shot by the Mexicans, but Mr. Reddin and several others broke from the line and ran, and amid a shower of bullets made good their escape. The others were shot down by Santa Anna's orders. Mr. Reddin also served throughout the Mexican war. During the war of the Rebellion he was in the navy, taking up arms in the Union cause. In 1846 he was married, at Harrisburg, Penn., to Catherine Braucht, who was born April 16, 1828, in Halifax, Dauphin Co., Penn., and is still living, residing about six miles west of Findlay, Ohio. They subsequently went to New Orleans, where he enlisted in the Mexican war, and she then returned north, living at Gilboa, Ohio, during his absence. Immediately after his return he located on a farm in Hancock county, this State, where he died September 10, 1877. Mr. and Mrs. Reddin were the parents of seven children, namely: Thomas, who lives near McComb, Hancock county; Catherine (Mrs. W. A. Dorsey), deceased; Mary, who married Charles Guear, of Hancock county; Sophia, who married Rev. Tilman Jenkins, of Mosca, Colo.; D. W., our subject; Dr. Francis O., living at Hamler, Henry Co., Ohio; and John, who is a traveling salesman for a Chicago house. Mrs. Reddin's father, David Braucht, was a native of Pennsylvania, and married a Miss McCalister, of Scotch ancestry, who was a native of the same State. He served in the war of 1812, and his father in the Revolutionary war.

Our subject remained on his father's farm in Hancock county, attending the district school, until he was thirteen years old. Since that time he has been self-supporting, and the record of his life is one of steady perseverance and indomitable energy. For two years he attended the high school at Findlay, and at the age of fifteen he went to Iowa, where he worked during the summer months, and for two years attended Simpson College. For a time he was a student at the Valparaiso (Ind.) Normal School, thence going to the National Normal University at Lebanon, Ohio, where he remained one term. He now commenced reading medicine, pursuing his studies for a year and a half in the office of Dr. T. C. Ballard, of Findlay, and then entering the Medical Department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, from which he was graduated at the age of twenty-one years, in 1881. In order to further prepare himself for practice he



**D. W. REDDIN, M. D.**





spent the following year in the hospitals of New York and Philadelphia. By continued application to study his health had been somewhat impaired, and he now devoted a year to travel in the Western States, visiting many cities and points of interest, and returning to Findlay fully recuperated. After engaging in practice here for two years, the Doctor, in 1886, came to North Baltimore, in which city he has ever since made his home. He has built up a most extensive practice as a skillful physician and surgeon, and as a self-made and self-educated man he well deserves the success which has come to him, for, in his calling, success is attained only by years of arduous study and thorough preparation. The early obstacles in his path were overcome by steady application to his chosen line of work, and he has won the esteem of all who know him by his unflinching devotion to duty, and many admirable personal characteristics. Socially he affiliates with two fraternal organizations, the Masonic Order and the Knights of Pythias.

The Doctor was united in marriage, December 28, 1886, with Miss Ella Lochhead, of Keokuk, Iowa, who died January 7, 1888, her death being occasioned by the shock received at the time of the fire in North Baltimore. She was laid to rest in the Findlay cemetery, widely mourned by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. In this fire the Doctor's household goods, his valuable library and surgical instruments were completely destroyed. On June 14, 1893, he married Miss Eugenia Bachman, of Tiffin, Ohio, who was born March 21, 1870. Her parents, George W. and Eugenia (Beilharz) Bachman, were both born in Ohio, the father October 18, 1842, in Summit county, the mother May 18, 1845, in Tiffin. They were married in 1866, and spent their wedded life in Tiffin, where Mr. Bachman died in 1879. He was one of the most prominent men of the city in his day. In 1866 he graduated from Heidelberg College, Tiffin, was admitted to the bar in 1867, and engaged in the practice of law until his death. He was prosecuting attorney of Seneca county for two terms, held the office of mayor of Tiffin for the same length of time, and was president of the city board of education a number of years. Mrs. Bachman now makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. Reddin. Her other daughter, Mary L., is also a resident of North Baltimore. Her only son, George W., is a traveling salesman. Mrs. Reddin inherited the literary tastes of her parents. In 1888 she completed a course of study in the Tiffin High School, afterward attending Heidelberg College for a time. She then accepted the

position of principal of the High School at Oak Harbor, Ottawa county, which she ably filled for one year and a half, next entering the Fostoria High School as assistant principal, a much better position than the former, from a financial standpoint. She held this incumbency three years, or until her marriage to the Doctor. One son, born September 19, 1896, has blessed this union. They reside in a very fine home on Broadway, North Baltimore. Mrs. Reddin's maternal grandfather, Dr. C. C. Beilharz, was an early physician and dentist of Tiffin. His father, John J. Beilharz, was the first pastor of the German Lutheran Church of that city.

JOHN FARLEY (deceased) was a leading and influential citizen of Wood county, and a man of sterling worth, one who depended upon his own resources to secure him a competence. By his well-directed efforts and honorable dealing he not only gained a good property, but also won the high regard of those with whom he was brought in contact.

Mr. Farley was born in County Monaghan, Ireland, April 10, 1814, and completed his education by a college course. At the age of twenty-one years he bade adieu to his parents, friends and the scenes of his boyhood, and sailed, in 1835, for America. He first located in Cleveland, where he secured a situation as bookkeeper with the firm of Smith & Clary, general merchants. Later he engaged in sailing on the lakes for four years, in the capacity of purser, after which he returned to Ireland to visit his aged parents. Again coming to America, he spent another year in Cleveland, Ohio, in the employ of others, and then embarked in the grocery business in that city, which he carried on for ten years with good success. He also made judicious and profitable investments in real estate, erecting several houses and store buildings. He also served as chief of police in 1857. In 1861, in Cleveland, Ohio, he became connected with the tobacco trade, and in 1864 came to Wood county, locating in Middleton township, where he purchased 210 acres of land. He began the development of that property with characteristic energy, drained it with ditches and tiling, and erected thereon good buildings, which added to the value and attractive appearance of the place.

In September, 1841, in Cleveland, Mr. Farley married Annie M. Schwartz, who was born in Bavaria, Germany, in 1822, and came to this country in 1835. Twelve children graced this marriage—six sons and six daughters—of whom seven are living, namely: Mary, wife of George

Schiple, a farmer of Middleton township; Frederick, in the employ of the Standard Oil Company at Lima, Ohio; Catherine; ANDREW P., a farmer of Middleton township; Bernard, also a farmer; Annie R.; and Rosie B. Those who have passed away are John, Joseph, Frances and Maggie, who died in childhood; and Sarah, who died April 22, 1886. The parents and children all became members of the Catholic Church.

In politics Mr. Farley was a Democrat. He served as school director of Middleton township, and while in Cleveland was for nine years a member of the fire department. He was a man of culture and of broad general information, was special correspondent for several papers in Ireland, and while a resident of Cleveland was a mathematician and a writer of prose and poetry. An enterprising, progressive man, he was popular with all, and his friends were many. His death occurred December 26, 1883; his wife had passed away December 28, 1877.

ELIJAH WHITMORE, a worthy representative of the farming and fruit-growing interests of Ross township, was born on the banks of the Maumee, in Lucas county, Ohio, June 20, 1839, and is a son of Luther and Martha Melissa (Trask) Whitmore, in whose family were six children, the others being Warren, a resident of Lucas county; Lydia, deceased; Fidelia, wife of Robert Chamberlain, residing on the old homestead; Mary, wife of H. L. Wood, an agriculturist, of North Star, Mich., who served two terms in the State Legislature; and Chester Parnell, a mechanic, residing at home.

Luther Whitmore, the father of our subject, was born May 16, 1810, in the town of Millbury, Worcester Co., Mass., and in May, 1825, came to Wood county, passing through what is now Bowling Green, the county seat, and coming on to the Maumee river, at what is now Waterville. After that he settled in Perrysburg, and went to work for John Hollister, with whom he continued, most of the time, until about 1834, when he bought a piece of land containing 123 acres, at that time all in Wood county, but, since, the old Fulton line has cut off twenty-three acres which are now in Lucas county. Mr. Whitmore built his house near the river, also a dock on the river, and cut the timber off the land into cordwood, which he sold to steamboats then running to Detroit from Perrysburg. Luther Whitmore has lived on the same farm since 1836, a period of sixty years, is now eighty-six years old, but well and hearty, and is numbered among the early settlers and the pioneers of Wood county.

The early education of our subject was obtained in the district schools, and he continued under the parental roof until twenty-two years of age, when, on October 12, 1861, at Toledo, Ohio, he became a member of the 67th O. V. I., Tenth Army Corps, under Capt. H. G. Ford, and Col. A. C. Voris. He was first on duty in the Shenandoah Valley, was at the siege of Charleston, and in the battles of Winchester, Strasburg, Front Royal, Harrison's Landing, Malvern Hill, Franklin, Black Water, and Fort Wagner. From corporal he was promoted to second lieutenant October 2, 1862, and was wounded at Ft. Wagner, S. C., July 18, 1863, and resigned January 28, 1864, as, on account of physical disability from wounds received at Ft. Wagner, he was unable to march. Returning home, Mr. Whitmore worked on the farm until his marriage September 28, 1865, with Miss Mary B. Chamberlin, who was third in the order of birth in the family of seven children of James B. and Elizabeth S. (Barber) Chamberlin. The others were Samuel, who died at the age of three years; Robert, who married Delia Whitmore, sister of our subject, and resides in Lucas county; Elizabeth Dale, wife of Warren Whitmore, of Lucas county; Sarah, who died at the age of three years; James Dale, who was born in Pennsylvania, and died in Toledo, Ohio, at the age of twenty-three years; and Frank Wilson, who married Jennie Reid, of Crestline, Ohio, and resides on the old homestead. Mrs. Whitmore, as well as her parents, is a native of Pennsylvania. Three children bless the union of our subject and his wife, namely: (1) Herbert L., born July 2, 1866, is a conductor on the C. H. & D. railroad, and married Anna May Chapius, by whom he has two children—Marguerite, born November 12, 1893, and James Luther, born October 6, 1895. (2) James C., born February 3, 1869, is a farmer residing at home. (3) Alice Elizabeth, known as "Bessie," was born April 15, 1883.

After his marriage Mr. Whitmore came to Ross township, where he received sixty acres of land from his father, only five of which had been cleared; but he now has the entire amount under a high state of cultivation, and well-improved with good buildings, and it is also well-drained and fenced. For several years he has made a specialty of raising small fruits, which he finds to be a profitable source of income. Mrs. Whitmore is a consistent member of the Presbyterian Church, in the Fifth ward in Toledo, and formerly took an active part in both the Church and Sunday-school work; but owing to ill health, and the distance which she lives from church, she has

been unable to continue in the work. Socially, Mr. Whitmore is connected with Ford Post, No. 14, G. A. R., and the Gen. John W. Fuller Command, Union Veterans Union. For thirty years he has been a school director in either Perrysburg or Ross township, was trustee three terms, assessor two terms, and justice of the peace for nearly two years; but owing to his pressing business affairs, he gave up that office. He has never voted any other ticket but the Republican, and is one of the most earnest and faithful advocates of the principles of that party. Widely and favorably known, no man in Wood county has more friends, or is held in higher esteem, than Elijah Whitmore. [Since the above was written Mr. Whitmore has purchased a lot on the old homestead, on the bank of the Maumee river, in Lucas county, and built himself a beautiful cottage home, where he expects to live the rest of his days, with his wife and daughter. His two sons are carrying on the farm work at the farm in Ross township.

JOHN LOE, residing in Jerry City, is one of the county's self-made citizens, and, during his active life, gave his attention principally to agricultural pursuits. Our subject was born June 23, 1822, in New Jersey, third in the family of Robert and Catherine (Seldenrick) Loe. John Loe attended school up to the age of eleven years, after which he commenced to work, driving for his father, who was foreman at a coal dock, and had two horses and carts. When about fourteen years of age he came with his parents to Ohio, the family settling in Belmont county, and here he worked in a brick yard, which his father and brother William owned—William having thoroughly learned the business in Philadelphia. John lived with his parents until their removal to Wood county, Ohio, and during his residence there he engaged in various kinds of work, making several trips to Louisville on coal boats.

On July 3, 1848, he was married, at West Wheeling, Ohio, to Miss Mary J. Hurless, who was born in North township, Harrison Co., Ohio, daughter of Samuel and Susan (Snyder) Hurless. Mr. Loe rented a house, and, with what money he had, they were able to commence in a comfortable home. He worked for his brother William, who was a contractor, first as laborer, and, after two or three years, having picked up a knowledge of the brick-laying trade, he followed it, receiving one dollar and three shillings per day, and continuing thus for some years. He became the owner of a house and two lots in West Wheeling, but during a flood he was un-

fortunate enough to have his house and almost all the contents swept away, while he was absent trying to save the house of a neighbor, a widow. Renting the upper story of a brick house, he brought his family and remaining household goods in a skiff, and moved in through a second-story window. In the spring of 1858 Mr. Loe brought his family to Wood county, the journey being made by rail as far as Findlay, and from there by teams to Bloom township, where Mr. Loe had four years previously bargained with his father for seventy-seven acres of land lying in Section 5. Here they settled, living in a primitive log cabin, 20 x 24 feet in dimensions, with puncheon floor and wooden hinges on the door—a veritable pioneer home. Mr. Loe lost no time in commencing to clear the tract, and it was gradually transformed into a fertile farm, on which he made his home until 1891, when he removed to Jerry City. In addition to farming he was engaged, to some extent, in bricklaying; and, by untiring labor, he succeeded in acquiring a comfortable competence for his declining days. On April 1, 1891, he removed into Jerry City, and his comfortable home there is the finest in the place. He is a highly-respected citizen, and well deserves the rest which he is now enjoying.

To Mr. and Mrs. Loe were born children as follows: Samuel R., now of Lenawee, Mich.; William H., who died young; John A., who is a resident of Henry township; James C., who died in infancy; Sarah M., Mrs. Thomas Lewis, of Lenawee county, Mich.; Emma J., who was first married to Daniel Crow, and is now the wife of Michael Hunisecker, of Bloom township; David S., of Sandusky county, Ohio; Albert, who died in Bloom at the age of twenty-seven years; and Clara C., who died at the age of twenty-four years. The mother of these passed from earth March 3, 1866, and was buried in Sugar Grove cemetery, her remains being removed later to Jerry City cemetery, where they now rest. For his second wife Mr. Loe wedded a sister of his first wife, Lucinda Hurless, who was born in Harrison county, Ohio. There are no children by this marriage. The Loes are Protestants in religious faith. Politically Mr. Loe is a Republican.

HENRY FREYMAN has spent his entire life in Wood county, and has witnessed much of its growth and upbuilding, ever bearing his part in the work of progress. He was born in Henry township, July 8, 1842, and is a son of Peter Freyman, a native of Germany, who was born in 1806. In 1840 he came with his wife and three

children to America, landing at New York after a voyage of forty-eight days. He went directly to Morgan county, Ohio, and after a year came to Wood county, entering 120 acres of wild land from the government, in Henry township. He built a log cabin on the place, and at once began to improve the property, meeting with many hardships and difficulties in the early days, but eventually becoming the possessor of a comfortable home. He died in Williams county at the home of his son, and his wife passed away in 1873, at the home of her son, John, in Wood county. Their children were John, a farmer of Defiance county, Ohio; William, an agriculturist of Williams county, Ohio; Elizabeth, who died at the age of ten years; Henry, the subject of this sketch; Caroline, deceased wife of John Frederick, of North Baltimore, Ohio; and Catherine, deceased wife of Dillon Ames, of Seneca county, Ohio.

The school privileges which our subject received were extremely meager, but his training at farm work was ample, as he aided in the development of the old homestead. On December 26, 1867, in Henry township, he was united in marriage with Miss Margaret E. Smith, who was born January 1, 1843, in Richland county, Ohio, daughter of Henry J. and Catherine (Ernsberger) Smith. They lived upon a rented farm for two years, and then Mr. Freyman purchased his present place, which was at that time a wild tract of eighty acres. Their first home was a log cabin, which, in 1887, was replaced by a substantial and pleasant frame residence, erected at a cost of \$1,500. Mr. Freyman has tiled and fenced his farm, and now has a valuable and productive tract. The home has been blessed by two children, but Ira died in infancy. The daughter, Mary, is now the wife of Millard F. Leathers.

In politics, Mr. Freyman is a stalwart Democrat, and for two terms has served as township trustee, while for a number of years he has been school director, proving a capable and trustworthy official. Upon his farm he has developed twelve oil wells. He has been the architect of his own fortune, and has built wisely and well. His honorable, upright life, and his pleasant, genial manner has gained him a large circle of friends, and the confidence of all with whom he has been brought in contact.

W. H. BURDITT, a native of Ohio, born in Bay township, Ottawa county, September 12, 1844, is a son of Greenbury Burditt, who was born near St. Clairsville, Belmont Co., Ohio, May 1, 1818, and in 1855 came to Wood county,

locating in Washington township, where he purchased and improved eighty acres of land. He was married near Fremont, Sandusky county, to Maggie Bowlus, and they became the parents of three children: W. H.; and Lewis Hanson and George, who both died in the Civil war. The mother died in Ottawa county, Ohio, and the father afterward married Martha A. Gray, of Pennsylvania. They had eight children, namely: Maletha Ann, wife of Lawrence Long; Lucy Ann, wife of Zahm Stevens; Andrew; Martha Jane, wife of William Digby; Maggie, wife of Newton Petteys; Levi, who died in infancy; Sarah Jane, wife of L. S. Woodruff, a minister of the U. B. Church, and Greenbury, Jr. The mother died in the spring of 1894, and the father now makes his home with his son Andrew.

W. H. Burditt remained with his father, and assisted in the care of the home farm until twenty-eight years of age, when he purchased seventy acres of land, and began farming on his own account. At the age of nineteen he enlisted at Tontogany under Capt. Black; but, as his father was ill he remained at home, and in his place employed a substitute who later died in a Southern prison. He has always devoted his energies to farming, and now owns and operates 120 acres of land, which has been acquired through his own efforts, and throughout the community he is recognized as a progressive, wide-awake and industrious farmer.

Mr. Burditt was married in 1872 to Eldretta Gates, of Weston township, who was born in Danbury Conn., on Christmas Day, 1849. They lost their first child, Charlie, but three children, Claude B., Maudie May and Emma E., are yet at home. Our subject has served as school director several terms, and is a warm friend of the cause of education. In politics he is a stalwart Republican, unswerving in his support of the principles of that party.

JOSEPH BRILLHART, deceased, was one of the best known farmers of Washington township, this county, and was truly a self-made man, having acquired all that he possessed through his own industrious and persevering efforts, combined with sound judgment and good business ability. He was born in York county, Penn., on October 22, 1822, and was a son of John Brillhart, who was also a native of the Keystone State, and grew to manhood on his father's farm. On attaining his majority John Brillhart married Catherine Lowe, and they became the parents of eight children, namely: Jacob; Mary, deceased, who was known by the name of "Polly;" John, who was a

minister of the Dunkard Church, and is now deceased; Catherine, who has also passed away; Daniel, a resident of Ohio; Peter, a farmer of Henry county, Ohio; Joseph, of this sketch; and Joanas. After the father's death in Crawford county, the mother removed to Stark county, Ohio, where she departed this life at the age of seventy-five years.

Joseph Brillhart obtained his literary education in the common schools of Stark county, remaining at home until he had reached the age of twenty-six, when he went to Crawford county, Ohio, where for ten years he owned and operated a farm of eighty acres. On selling that property he came to Wood county, where he purchased 104 acres, which were still an unbroken wilderness, erecting thereon a log cabin. He immediately began the work of developing his land, making extensive improvements, and left one of the best equipped farms in the county.

In Stark county, Ohio, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Brillhart and Catherine Epley, and of their union the following children have been born—Benjamin, who is in delicate health, is a farmer by occupation; Rebecca, who died at the age of thirty years, was the wife of White McMann, of Otsego, Ohio; Amanda is the wife of George Mawer, of Grand Rapids township, Wood county; Hattie is the wife of George Stone; Calvin wedded a Miss Jeffers, and operates the homestead farm; and Frank is also a farmer.

For a number of terms Mr. Brillhart served as school director, and while a resident of Crawford county filled the office of supervisor. He was a staunch supporter of the Republican party, and took a deep interest in its success, and throughout the county was well and favorably known. His death occurred on the old homestead, July 30, 1896.

**SIMEON F. CROM** is a successful farmer and stock-raiser of Center township. His well-spent life silences the voice of criticism, and justly entitles him to the respect which is accorded him by his fellow citizens. He was born in Center township, Wood county, November 22, 1849. His father, Daniel Crom, was born and reared in Oxford county, Penn., spending his boyhood days on the parental homestead. He married Miss Barbara Oberdorf, also a native of Oxford county, and in 1820 started for Wood county, Ohio, making the entire journey with an ox-team. He located in what is known as Beaver Creek, and took up a tract of land which he cleared and then sold, later removing to Center township, where he entered from the government 160 acres of land.

One-half of this he cleared, and the remaining eighty he sold. Upon the part which he retained he erected a dwelling and barn, planted a five-acre orchard, and made other excellent improvements. For several years he served his township as trustee, as supervisor, and as school director. He died on the old homestead in 1864, and his wife passed away in Center township in 1890. They had the following children who reached mature years: John, who died while serving in the Civil war; Annie, wife of Aaron Phillips, of Bowling Green; Joseph, of Oklahoma; Mary, wife of Henry A. Olds; Aaron, a farmer in Portage township; Simeon F.; and Martha, wife of Levi Loomis, a farmer of Kansas.

Our subject acquired a district-school education, and worked on the home farm until his father's death, after which he supported his widowed mother. He began life on his own account on a farm of fifty-two acres, but has now 116, which he purchased and improved, erecting thereon a fine dwelling, good barns and outbuildings, at a cost of more than \$2,500. He also planted an orchard; has ditched and tiled the place, and now has one of the most desirable farms of the township, while the community recognize in him one of its progressive agriculturists.

Mr. Crom was married April 16, 1870, to Amayllis Humisson, daughter of Mrs. Gideon Underwood, of Center township. They have two children—Carleton, who was born March 26, 1873, was educated in the district schools and the high school of Fostoria, and now aids in the operation of the home farm. Alanson, born June 22, 1878, is also at home. Mr. Crom has always taken a deep interest in the welfare of his native county, and faithfully performs his duties of citizenship. In politics he is a staunch Republican, and socially is connected with the Odd Fellows Lodge of Bowling Green.

**JOHN HOOD**, an honored pioneer of Wood county, now residing in Perrysburg, was born in Portland Place, Edinburgh, Scotland, in May, 1825. He was the youngest of the sons of Henry and Elizabeth (Douglas) Hood, and is the only survivor of the family, the elder sons—James, George, Henry, William and Thomas, and a daughter, Jane—having, with their parents, passed to the unseen life many years ago.

In 1832 the father of our subject, a day laborer by occupation, emigrated with his family to America, and coming directly to Wood county, Ohio, settled upon wild land at Hull Prairie. At that time there were but two other settlers in Middleton township, and they had to endure in

full measure the isolation and hardships of frontier life. This they did with true pioneer spirit, and before Mr. Hood's parents died, they had been rewarded for their work by seeing their lands converted into valuable property. Educational facilities in that locality were poor, and his help being needed upon the farm, Mr. Hood never attended school; but his characteristic Scotch shrewdness has enabled him to acquire much information by observation. At the age of fifty-five, after a life of constant toil, he placed the management of his 143 acres at Hull Prairie in other hands, and retired to Perrysburg to enjoy his well-earned leisure. In 1891 he formed a matrimonial alliance with Miss Ella Tracy, by whose companionship his later years have been brightened. Mr. Hood is independent in politics, and in religious connection is a member of the Episcopal Church.

FREDERICK HELLVOIGT, prominent among the agriculturists of Plain township, is one of its most progressive and energetic of men, and from a humble beginning in life has accumulated a handsome property. He not only commenced without means, but was obliged to battle with the elements of a foreign soil and the customs of a strange country, as he is of German birth and parentage. He was born in Hanover, Germany, March 1, 1837, and is a son of Frederick and Augusta (Buck) Hellvoigt. While a soldier in the German army, the father fought in the battle of Waterloo, and he died in his native land in 1847. His widow came to America and died in Toledo, Ohio, in 1885. Frederick is the eldest of their three children, the others being Leontena, widow of Dedrich Smith, of Toledo; and Augusta, wife of John Fehlauer.

Our subject received his education in the schools of Germany, and worked upon a farm until 1857, in which year he came to America in a sailing vessel, landing, after a voyage of six weeks, at New York, whence he came direct to Ohio, arriving at Bowling Green on the 4th of July. His first work in Wood county was as a farm laborer, receiving \$12 per month, and attending school at intervals. He was thus employed for two years, when he married, and worked on his father-in-law's farm for a year, which he subsequently rented for the same length of time. In 1862 he moved to Middleton township, where he rented a farm for a year, and then leased another tract in the same township, which he operated some five years. On the expiration of that time he returned to Plain township and bought sixty acres from his father-in-

law. Later he disposed of that place, and purchased his present farm of sixty acres, which, by the exercise of industry, energy and perseverance, he has now brought to a condition of excellent cultivation. On September 24, 1860, he was united in marriage with Emma Brandes, who was born October 15, 1841, a daughter of Gottlieb Brandes, a farmer of Plain township, where the wedding was celebrated. To this union were born ten children, namely: Freddie, born in 1861, died in September, 1866, aged five years; Minnie, born May 29, 1862, married February 4, 1886, to William Hindly, a farmer of Plain township; August, born May 24, 1864; Charles, born September 24, 1866; Tena, born August 10, 1870; Fred, born May 23, 1872, married March 14, 1896, to Miss Jessie Conklin, of the same township; Emma, born November 22, 1875; Lottie and William (twins), born July 9, 1878, the latter of whom died March 2, 1884; and Edward, born November 21, 1883.

In religious faith Mr. Hellvoigt and his family are identified with the Congregational Church, and follow closely the teachings of that denomination. Politically he endorses the principles of the Republican party, which he supports with his ballot, and for three years served as supervisor of his township, also for the same length of time was school director. He has watched with lively interest the growth and development of the county, and has contributed largely to its reputation as one of the most desirable farming districts in the State.

CYRUS JOHNSTON. This highly respected gentleman of Wood county, is paying especial attention to the cultivation and improvement of his farm in Portage township. He was born July 28, 1853, in Section 9, the same township, in the home of his parents, James and Susanna Johnston. He grew to man's estate upon his father's farm, and as soon as old enough assisted in its cultivation until he was twenty-one, gaining a good practical knowledge of the business under the wise guidance of his father. He acquired his education in the district schools, and for one winter worked in a lumber camp in Michigan.

Mr. Johnston has been twice married. In Portage township, in March, 1877, he wedded Miss Nancy L. Miller, a native of Seneca county Ohio, by whom he had one son—Clarence E., at home. On her death, the wife was laid to rest in Portage cemetery. The lady who now shares the home and fortunes of our subject, was in her maidenhood Miss Julia Green, a native of Fulton county, Ohio. They have become the parents of

three children—Whitney R.; Alpha, who died in infancy; and Ethel M.

Mr. Johnston began housekeeping on the farm where he yet resides, and by his industrious and energetic efforts has converted his place into a highly cultivated tract. He is a keen, practical man, well gifted with mental and physical vigor. In politics he casts his vote for the candidates of the Republican party, and conscientiously performs his duties as a good citizen. He and his wife take an active interest in religious work, and are members of the United Brethren Church.

**SOLOMON SIMON** (deceased). Among the pioneer settlers of Bloom township, this gentleman proved himself especially worthy of notice in a work of this kind. He was one of the early men to locate within its borders, and, being possessed of a rare amount of energy, proved a most valued member of the young and rapidly growing community. His early home was in Boardman township, Mahoning Co.; Ohio, where his birth took place November 5, 1820. Abraham Simon, (father of our subject), and his brother Henry, were the two children born of the third marriage of Michael Simon, the founder of this numerous family in Mahoning county, from where the Wood county contingent has descended.

Abraham Simon was born in Washington county, Penn., whence at the age of seven years he was brought to Ohio, and always followed farming as a vocation, living upon one place from 1802 until his death. At North Lima, Columbiana Co., Ohio, he wedded Catherine Crouse, a daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Wilderson) Crouse, who were the parents of eight sons and three daughters, who grew to maturity. To Mr. and Mrs. Simon were born the following children: Solomon, of whom we write; Elizabeth, wife of Jacob Bailey; John, of Boardman township, Mahoning county; Michael, who lives on the old homestead in that township; Harriet, who married, first, Peter Monasmith (who died at Philadelphia, Penn., on his way home from the army), and later became the wife of George Cover; Martha, now Mrs. George Harnickle, of Mahoning county; Jacob, of Youngstown township, that county; Delilah, wife of Ralph Agnew, of Mahoning county; and Joshua, of Jackson township, Mahoning county. The father, who was formerly a Whig and later a Republican in politics, lived to be over seventy-eight years of age, while his wife was eighty-seven at the time of her death, and they were both buried in Boardman township.

Being the eldest son, Solomon Simon was

early obliged to assist in the work of the home farm, and never attended an English school an hour in his life, though he received some instruction in German. He was married in Boardman township, Mahoning county, on Christmas Day, 1842, the lady of his choice being Miss Catherine Gress, who was born in Northampton county, Penn., December 18, 1822, and is a daughter of George and Elizabeth (Philman) Gress. When she was ten years old she was brought to the Buckeye State by her parents, who located near Lisbon, but later went to Springfield township, Mahoning county, where the father died. The mother later removed to Boardman township, where Mrs. Simon was married. She also had very meager school privileges. Five children graced the union of our subject and his wife: Damer S., who was a soldier in the Union army, and died in Boardman township after his return from the war; J. L., a farmer of Bloom township, Wood county; Elnora, widow of Amos Phillips, of Jerry City, Ohio; Annie, now Mrs. Corvin Nestlerode, of Portage township, Wood county; and Reuben, of Oregon.

At the time of his marriage, Mr. Simon had no property; but his mother had come into possession of 100 acres of land in Bloom township, Wood county, which had belonged to her father. This she had the latter deed to our subject, provided he would improve the same. Therefore, in the spring of 1844, with his wife and oldest child, he started for this county in a covered wagon, being also accompanied by the family of Levi Simon. Our subject had been here several times previous, and in the fall of 1843 had sowed some wheat and built a rude log cabin, with no doors or windows, a quilt being hung up to keep out the wolves, while a fire was never built in the house from spring until fall, the cooking all being done by a large log outside. They were the first family to locate in Section 3, and they experienced all the difficulties and trials of life on the frontier, it requiring three or four days to go to mill at Perrysburg. On that farm Mr. Simon continued to reside until the latter part of the Civil war, when he removed to Jerry City, there owning a half-interest in a sawmill with Anthony Frederick. Two years later, however, he sold out and purchased 120 acres of land in Section 9, Bloom township, to which the latter added twelve acres. It continued to be his place of abode until the spring of 1892, when he removed to Jerry City, though still owning ninety-two acres of that farm. He died February 9, 1896.



Mr. Simon cast his first Presidential vote for William H. Harrison, the Whig candidate; but being a strong abolitionist he joined the Republican party on its formation, and with it continued to affiliate. For several years he held the offices of trustee, supervisor and school director, and by his fellow citizens was always held in the highest respect.

W. W. ROSENDALE, one of the wide-awake, progressive farmers of Perry township, was born June 28, 1863, in West Millgrove, Ohio, and is a son of Dr. Charles R. and Rebecca (Wade) Rosendale.

The early life of our subject was spent in his native town, where he attended the public schools and obtained what education he could in that way. His father owned large land interests, and as our subject was the eldest son, he was started in the real-estate business at an early age, and that occupation he follows at the present time. As work was plentiful, he remained at home, helping his father until his marriage, June 6, 1882, to Miss Irene Adams, who was born near Apple River, Ill., November 9, 1861, and who is the daughter of David and Phœbe (Vosburg) Adams. The Adams family were pioneers of Montgomery township, Wood county, as were also the Vosburgs. After his marriage Mr. Rosendale first located in West Millgrove for a few months, and on March 24, 1883, went to live on his present farm. He first lived in a log hut that stood a short distance north of his present home, and where he resided until the fall of 1884, when the new house was built and he moved into it. Mr. and Mrs. Rosendale have two children: Addie B., born September 27, 1883, is at home; and Linnie M., born July 11, 1885, also at home. Our subject owns over 343 acres in Perry township, which is more than any other man of his age has in the same township.

Politically, Mr. Rosendale is a Republican, but he has declined all candidacies, preferring to look after his property, which he does in a business-like manner. Socially, he is a charter member of Lodge No. 145, K. of P., in West Millgrove, and both he and his wife are members of the Congregational Church of the same place. Mr. Rosendale has always been one of the progressive, go-ahead farmers of Perry township, and although a young man has proved his ability as a business man and a successful agriculturist, and stands foremost among the leading farmers of Wood county. He is public-spirited, ever ready to promote any movement that will advance the interests of his community. In 1892

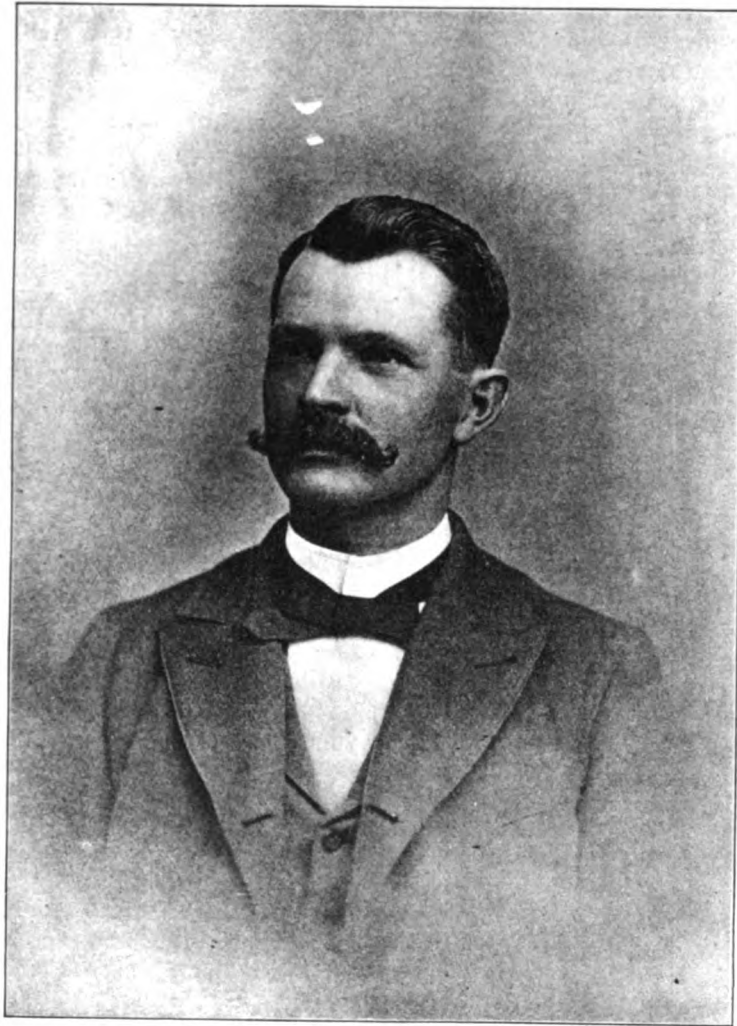
he embarked at New York for Europe on the "City of Paris," and made a tour through England, Scotland, Ireland and France, which lasted from August 3 until September 27. He visited the principal cities of those countries, and returned on the "Teutonic," which made the fastest voyage on record at that time. While Mr. Rosendale is the son of wealthy parents, he has preferred to assert his independence and branch out on his own account, relying on his own efforts to attain success. That he has accomplished this object is amply proven by his present comfortable position in life.

HENRY MOHR. Among the influential members of the farming community of Wood county is the gentleman whose name begins this sketch. He is entirely a self-made man in the truest sense of the word, having been the sole architect of his own fortunes, and has raised himself from a state of poverty to affluence, aided only by his own strong arms, indomitable energy and laudable ambition. His homestead lies in Bloom township, and is one of the most highly-cultivated in this portion of the county.

Mr. Mohr is the eldest of the five children of Charles and Elizabeth (Hilderbaddle) Mohr, natives of Pennsylvania, the others being Daniel, of Carey, Ohio; Amandus, who was a member of the 55th O. V. I., and died at the battle of Chancellorsville; Eliza, now Mrs. William Heninger, of Seneca county, Ohio; and Mary A., who was the wife of W. H. Ridgely, and died in Eagleville, Ohio. The parents became residents of Seneca county, in 1853, and there their deaths occurred.

Our subject was born in South Whitehall township, Lehigh Co., Penn., January 14, 1828, and in a district school, taught by a German teacher, received his education, which was quite limited. At the age of nineteen he began learning the carriage maker's trade, serving a two-and-a-half-years' apprenticeship, and, in 1851, started for Ohio, where he hoped to better his financial condition. With a companion he began the journey on foot, but when between Harrisburg and Reading, Penn., they gave out, and took a stage to Hollidaysburg, thence to Allegheny, Penn. For five months Mr. Mohr worked at his trade at Clarksville, Mercer Co., Penn., but secured only \$5 of his wages, with which amount he started for Tiffin, Ohio, walking most of the distance to Mansfield, thence proceeding over the first railroad in Ohio to Sandusky, and on by the Mad River railroad to Tiffin, where he was employed at his trade for about five years.

In the meantime Mr. Mohr had married, in



*H. W. Rosendale*



Lehigh county, Penn., Miss Catherina Schantz, who was born in that county, October 15, 1830, daughter of Philip Schantz, a farmer by occupation. They have become the parents of six children—Catherine, now Mrs. T. V. Pelton, of Bloom township; Mary A., wife of Dr. R. J. Simon, of Pemberville, Ohio; Alvin F., a farmer of Eagleville, Ohio; Emma, who became the wife of Augustus Kyle, and died at Pemberville; William H., a farmer of Bloom township; and Charles, who died in infancy. For nine years after his marriage Mr. Mohr carried on carriage making in connection with a partner; but in March, 1861, he removed to Eagleville, where he opened a wagon shop, which he conducted without intermission for six years. At the end of that time he purchased fifty-five acres at Eagleville, from John A. Bunnell, and engaged in farming as well as wagon making, keeping that arrangement up for about five years; from that time he gradually began to give more attention to his farming, retaining the shop, however, until 1893, at which time he sold the lot and building. His wife has ever proved to him a faithful companion and helpmeet, encouraging him in every way, and they have reared a family of which they may well be proud. They have two great-grandchildren—Ada and Goldie Schwartz. In religious faith they are Lutherans; in politics Mr. Mohr was formerly a Democrat, but since the year John C. Fremont ran for President he has been an ardent Republican. He has always declined to accept public office, but has, however, served as supervisor.

WILLIAM LYTLE, a gentleman of genuine worth and genial manner, whose friends in Middleton township, and in Wood county, are many, was born in Waterville, Lucas Co., Ohio, January 1, 1853. His father, John Lytle, was a native of the Emerald Isle, and, with his parents, came to the United States when a youth of sixteen, here following the occupation of farming. He still resides in Lucas county, where he owns and operates 124 acres of land. He married Sarah Cripliver, of German lineage, and they became parents of nine children, namely: Elizabeth, wife of Mr. Thompson, a farmer; William, of this sketch; James, an agriculturist of Lucas county; Mary, wife of Samuel Noward; Alice, wife of John Kutzley, a farmer of Lucas county; Glover; Matie; John, who died in childhood; and one who died in infancy.

Our subject attended school in Waterville, Lucas county, and was reared on the old family homestead. On attaining his majority he started

out in life for himself, and for three years was employed as a farm hand in the county of his birth. His first purchase of land was a tract of forty acres, which he operated for fifteen years, making excellent improvements thereon. Subsequently he purchased fifty acres of land in Middleton township—his present home—and in addition to this he operates sixty acres of rented land. The good buildings upon his place, the highly cultivated fields, and the many modern improvements all indicate the owner to be one of the progressive farmers of the community.

His pleasant home is shared by his wife and five children. He was married in Waterville, in 1876, to Mary Noward, who was born in 1851, and is a daughter of Joseph Noward, a farmer of Lucas county. Their children are George, Burton, Ross, Ivan, and Harvey. In politics Mr. Lytle is a Republican, and socially is connected with Waterville Lodge No. 155, I. O. O. F., while his religious connections are with the Methodist Episcopal Church.

JEREMIAH FOLTZ, a retired capitalist and oil operator, of North Baltimore, is a native of Hancock county, Ohio, born September 22, 1853. There he spent his boyhood days, attending the district schools and working on the farm.

Mr. Foltz was united in marriage, January 18, 1877, with Miss Alice L. Dustman, who was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, July 28, 1853. To this union was born one child, Carl C., on March 18, 1882. After his marriage Mr. Foltz settled in Hancock county, and took up farming, continuing that occupation for about five years, at the end of which time he moved to Henry township, Wood county, where he again took up farming until, in 1888, he came to North Baltimore and built his present fine residence. It is a large, roomy house, built in modern style, beautifully situated and surrounded by charming scenery. Mr. Foltz owns about 380 acres of land around North Baltimore, and is largely interested in the oil business, owning nine producing wells. He devotes his time to the care of his property, and to investing his money in paying enterprises. He holds a prominent place in society, and is looked upon as one of the town's leading and energetic citizens. Politically, he affiliates with the Democratic party.

Noah Foltz, father of our subject, was born December 27, 1817, in the Shenandoah Valley, Va. He was married in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1840, to Miss Mary Ann Heisey, whose birth took place in the Shenandoah Valley, Va., October 28, 1820. They settled in Hancock county, Ohio, after their marriage, where Mr. Foltz en-

tered land and located permanently, engaging in regular farming. He was a Democrat in politics, and in religious connection a member of the Christian Union Church. He died in 1890, at the advanced age of seventy-three years, and his wife passed away four years later. Twelve children were born to this couple, as follows: Amos, living in California; Margaret, wife of Aaron Burner, residing in California; Abraham, now in Hancock county; Peter, also living in Hancock county; Catharine, wife of Charles Green, who resides in North Baltimore; Mary E., married to J. G. Knepper, of Hancock county; Amanda, who married Jacob Fox (both herself and husband are dead, leaving two children, Amos and Marietta); Isaiah and Jeremiah, twins, the former living in Hancock county; W. Harvey, residing in Putnam county; Harrison W., in Indiana; and Albert, living in Hancock county.

The paternal grandfather, Wallace Foltz, was from Virginia, and came to Ohio when our subject's father was six years old. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church, and died in Fairfield county, Ohio. The original Foltz was a German by birth, and was among the emigrants who came to America during the Colonial days.

**MICHAEL BAUMGARDNER.** Among the progressive agriculturists of Milton township is numbered this gentleman, an intelligent and popular citizen, well deserving representation in the history of his adopted county. He was born in the village of Hogestown, between Carlisle and Harrisburg, Penn., April 18, 1830. His father, John Baumgardner, a shoemaker by trade, was born in Dauphin county, Penn., January 7, 1809. He there wedded Mary Ulrich, who was born in that county, January 9, 1809. They subsequently removed to Hogestown, where the father followed shoemaking. In 1860 he moved, with his family, to Seneca county, Ohio, locating on a forty-acre farm, where he lived for three years, then going to Wyandot county. He there purchased sixty acres of land, which he cultivated until 1877, when he removed to Henry county, Ohio, and bought 125 acres. His next home was in Fostoria, Ohio, where he purchased sixty acres; there his death occurred in 1871, while his wife survived until November 30, 1883. Their marriage, which was celebrated May 10, 1829, was blessed with the following children: Michael; Catherine, wife of Samuel Rife, of Circleville, Ohio; John, of McCutchenville, Ohio; Sarah, who was drowned in Sandusky river, at the age of fourteen; Samuel, who died at the age of eighteen; Mary Ann, now Mrs. Erton; and Susan, wife of William

Williams, of Fostoria, Ohio. The family is of German origin, and was founded in America by the grandfather of our subject, who located in Pennsylvania when a young man.

Michael Baumgardner was educated in his native State, and in Ohio learned the trade of shoemaking with his father, also the trade of harness-making, following those pursuits until twenty-one years of age. He acquired a good education in the schools of Pennsylvania and Ohio, has been an extensive reader, is a well-informed man, and an entertaining conversationalist.

Mr. Baumgardner was married in Wyandot county, Ohio, March 22, 1855, to Miss Elizabeth Corfman, who was born in that county, September 26, 1836, and is a daughter of Jacob and Mary (Beery) Corfman, natives of Fairfield county, Ohio. The parents had a family of nine children—Noah, now of Sycamore, Wyandot county; Henry, deceased; Sarah Ann, deceased wife of Tressley Walters; William, of Tiffin, Ohio; Mrs. Baumgardner; John and Daniel, both of Kansas; Mary Magdalene, wife of George Stolders, of Wyandot county; and Samuel, of Sycamore, Ohio. To our subject and his wife have been born eight children—William, born May 3, 1856, was married November 25, 1881, to Della Anthony, a resident of Milton; Daniel A., born May 19, 1858, was married March 9, 1886, to Mary Ash, and resides in Henry county; Samuel A., born September 17, 1860, is at home; Jacob A., born November 15, 1862, was married January 31, 1889, to Oliva Busson, and resides in Milton township; Simon G., born May 7, 1865, is in Florida; Mary C., born January 25, 1870, is the wife of Edward Guyer, of Milton township; Charles L., born July 11, 1873, is at home; and Carrie L., born January 14, 1877, was married May 29, 1895, to Elijah Everett. They are now living at the old homestead.

Mr. Baumgardner and his wife began their domestic life in Wyandot county, where the former purchased a farm of thirty-five acres after renting it for a short time. His first home was a plank house. He continued the improvement of this property until 1876, when he sold and came with his family to Wood county—their departure being a source of much regret to their many friends in Wyandot county. Here Mr. Baumgardner purchased eighty acres of wild land on which stood a log cabin, that in 1888 was replaced by a large and comfortable frame residence. He has made many excellent improvements upon his property, which is now one of the highly developed farms of the neighborhood. In politics he is a Democrat, and has served as

school director since coming to Wood county, but has never been a politician in the sense of office seeking. He holds membership with the Evangelical Church, and takes an active interest in its work.

RUDOLPH DANZ, the well-known proprietor of the bakery and confectionery store of Perrysburg, was born in Switzerland, March 6, 1846. His parents were Nicholas and Barbara (Bucher) Danz, the former of whom was a native of Switzerland, where he was born in 1805, and the mother in 1809. They were married in Switzerland, and followed the occupation of farmers. Mrs. Danz died in 1870, and Mr. Danz, in 1885. Both were members of the Reformed Church. The children of this couple numbered thirteen: Amelia, Nicholas, Elizabeth, Barbara, John, Benjamin, Annie, Helen, Jacob, Rudolph, Fred, Elizabeth, and Gottlieb. Three of them now live in America.

Rudolph grew up in Switzerland, and came to the United States in 1867, locating at Kenton, Hardin Co., Ohio, where he farmed for two years, and then learned the baker's trade. He went to Cleveland and worked two years, afterward coming to Perrysburg, and opening a store in 1872. He was married in 1873, to Miss Rosetta Matthews. These children were born to them: Mary E., Harry R., Julia O., Hellen R., Laura L., Lillie A. Mr. Danz is a member of the Evangelical Church, and of the National Union and the K. of P. He is a Republican in politics, and has served in the city council two years, and on the school board for three years. He is an active worker, a progressive citizen, and is highly respected by all who know him.

WILLIAM H. FAUSEY, a farmer and stock raiser of Center township, was born in Madison township, Sandusky Co., Ohio, September 24, 1846, and is descended from one of the Revolutionary heroes. His grandfather, Henry Fausey, was of German lineage, and valiantly aided the Colonies in their struggle for independence. The father, Henry Fausey, was born in Northumberland county, Penn., was reared on his father's farm, and throughout his life carried on agricultural pursuits. During his boyhood he removed to Fairfield county, Ohio, where for some years he aided in the operation of his father's farm, and then went with his parents to Sandusky county, locating in Madison township. He was one of the pioneers of that locality, and passed through all the experiences and hardships of frontier life. He secured a claim of 240 acres,

which he succeeded in clearing, and erected thereon a good dwelling, barns, and other necessary buildings, continuing the cultivation of that place through his remaining days. For a number of years he served as township trustee, also township treasurer, and manifested his loyalty to the cause of education through his efficient service for years as school director. He was married in Sandusky county, in 1842, to Rebecca Donalds. They had nine children—James, deceased; Rebecca, wife of Tobias Gains, of Michigan; Margaret E., deceased wife of Edward Kimberling, a farmer of Michigan; William H.; Amos F., an agriculturist of the Wolverine State; Lewis W., a traveling man living in Michigan; Adolphus E., who resides on the old family homestead; Louisa A., wife of Eli Endsley; and James Monroe, who died in infancy. The father died in Madison township, Sandusky county, in 1886, and the mother is there living at the age of seventy-two.

William H. Fausey acquired his education in the district schools, and worked on his father's farm until sixteen years of age, when he went to Fremont, and enlisted in the 3d Ohio Cavalry, which afterward proceeded to Nashville, Tenn. He participated in several engagements, and on one occasion had his left ear injured by an artillery ball. At another time, while riding through the mountains with his company, he was thrown from his horse, causing a fracture of several of his ribs, which still produces considerable suffering. He remained with his company until the close of the war, when, having been honorably discharged, he returned home, reaching Madison township, August 26, 1865.

Mr. Fausey continued work on his father's farm until 1868, when he purchased forty acres of land, which he improved by the erection of a home and other buildings, planting an orchard, etc. He made excellent improvements during his eleven years' residence there, and in 1879 sold this farm, removing to Center township, Wood county, where he rented 100 acres, and afterward purchased forty acres. He also purchased 164 acres of prairie land in Madison township, Sandusky county, and for six years personally engaged in its cultivation. Later he returned to Wood county, where he has since remained, devoting his attention exclusively to farming and feeding stock. His son now operates the farm in Sandusky county.

Mr. Fausey has been honored with some local offices, having served as assessor in Center township for one year, and as school director for several years, both in Wood and Sandusky counties. Socially he is connected with the

Grand Army of the Republic, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows; religiously, with the United Brethren Church; and politically with the Republican party. He was happily married in his native township, in 1867, to Mabel Endsley, who was born in 1849, a daughter of James Endsley, a farmer of Sandusky county. They have three children—Charles, who was born in 1868, and is farming in Sandusky county; Eldorado, wife of Dr. R. H. Gregory, of Iowa; and Goldie, at home.

WILLIAM HOOTON, one of the leading agriculturists of Washington township, was born in England, December 26, 1842, and is a son of Robert and Eliza (Digby) Hooton. Both parents were natives of the same land, the father's birth occurring in Yorkshire. The mother is a sister of Robert Digby, of Bowling Green, Wood county. Of their ten children, three have departed this life, one being drowned, another burned to death, and the third dying of scarlet fever. In order of birth the children are as follows: Robert; Mary Ann; William; John, deceased; James; Eliza; Sallie; John; Liza Ann, deceased; and Ruth, deceased. With the exception of our subject, those living are still residents of England. The parents also never left England; the mother has now passed away, but the father is still living.

It was on April 8, 1872, that William Hooton left the Old World, resolved to try his fortunes on this side of the Atlantic, where he believed better opportunities were afforded enterprising, industrious citizens. He took passage on the "Absyna" (which has since burned), going from Liverpool to New York. Since his arrival in this country farming has been his occupation. He first located on the Richard Digby farm, in Tontogany, where he remained for fifteen years, during which time he ditched and tilled the place, making it a valuable and productive farm. In the spring of 1888, however, he purchased forty-five acres of land in Washington township at \$40.00 per acre, to the cultivation and improvement of which he has since given his time and attention. Besides tiling and fencing his land, he has erected a good dwelling at a cost of \$1,000, and a substantial barn, and the neat and thrifty appearance of the place indicates his careful supervision and untiring industry. All that he now possesses has been acquired through his enterprising, persevering energies, aided and encouraged by a kind and faithful wife.

Before leaving England Mr. Hooton had wedded Mary Stillings, of Sowerby, Yorkshire,

and to him she has ever proved a true and devoted helpmeet. This worthy couple are active and consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Tontogany, while socially he is connected with Tontogany Lodge No. 451, F. & A. M. His political support is given the Republican party.

REV. JOHN BORN, pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, at Stony Ridge, was born on August 19, 1863, in Kreuznach on the Rhine, Germany, and is a son of R. and Anna (Eckart) Born, natives of the same place. The father, who was also a Lutheran minister, brought his family to the New World in 1864, locating at Rochester, Penn., where he had charge of a large congregation until 1875, when he became pastor of a church at Dayton, Ohio. He is now living retired at Detroit, Mich. He is the father of a family of seven children—E. A., a Lutheran minister of Tyrone, Penn.; John, of this review; Robert, who is also engaged in the work of the Lutheran ministry at Delphos, Ohio; William, who is attending college at Columbus, Ohio, preparing to enter upon the same grand work; Mrs. Katie Myers, of Monroe, Mich.; Mrs. Gertie Reiser, of Monroe county, Mich.; and Anna, who still lives with her parents in Detroit.

Our subject began his education in the schools of Rochester, Penn., continued his studies in the public schools of Dayton, Ohio, and then for two years was a student in Nazareth College, of that city. In 1885 he entered a theological seminary of St. Paul, Minn., where he graduated two years later, and was ordained at Stony Ridge in 1887, where he has since remained in charge. He also conducts services every other Sunday at Latchie, Wood county.

In 1888, at Dayton, Ohio, was solemnized the marriage of Rev. Born and Miss Elizabeth Ingling, a native of that city and a daughter of Rudolph and Hannah Ingling. Mr. and Mrs. Born have a little daughter, Margaret. Our subject is an earnest Christian gentleman, and in the nine years that he has had charge of St. John's congregation at Stony Ridge he has made many warm friends, not only among his parishioners, but also among members of other denominations. His entire time and energies are devoted to his calling, and he has proved a faithful worker in the Master's vineyard.

St. John's Lutheran Church, of Stony Ridge, was founded by Rev. E. Cronenwett, of Woodville, Sandusky Co., Ohio; but for the first few years services were held very irregularly as there was no church building. In 1872 the present

house of worship was erected at an approximate cost of \$2,500, and the parsonage, which was built about 1880, cost \$800. The pastors have been Revs. Buerkle, Sheips and George Wolf, who were in charge until 1887, and in July of that year Rev. Born assumed the pastorate. The Church has a membership of about 150, is in a thriving condition, and sustains a good strong Sunday-school where seventy children attend.

**ANDREW O. MINKS.** Among the reliable and substantial farmers of Bloom township, there can be found no one who stands higher in the public estimation than this gentleman. He is a native of Ohio, born in East Union township, Wayne county, July 16, 1856, and when he was only nine years of age his father, Michael Minks, died, leaving the widow with the care of eleven children. A daughter had died a few weeks previous to his death. They were in very limited circumstances, but the mother, who bore the maiden name of Susan Bavington, kept the children together for a couple of years, on the expiration of which time, however, they became scattered.

Andrew O. then began working for William O. Orr, a farmer living near Apple creek, Wayne county, Ohio, where he received \$3 per month, and was allowed to enter school during the winter term. For five years he remained with that gentleman, and at a later day was employed by him for two years. His school training was not very extensive, and he did not learn to write until he had become a young man. His first trip to Wood county was in January, 1876, when he accompanied his cousin, Henry Minks, who had been on a visit to Wayne county. Later he worked for Daniel Easley, an agriculturist of Cass township, Hancock Co., Ohio, and was also employed by others as a farm hand.

In Bloom township, in March, 1878, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Minks and Miss Lavina Barrington, a native of Delaware county, Ohio, but since the age of twelve years has made her home in this county. They have become the parents of three children—Marion W., born July 10, 1885; Alta M., born May 27, 1888; and Mildred, born January 2, 1891.

Mr. Minks was able to secure \$300, by keeping his mother-in-law, who was an invalid during the last twelve years of her life. He purchased thirty acres of land in Section 35, Bloom township, moving into the old log house which was in a dilapidated condition, the roof being particularly bad. He worked in a stave factory at Bairdstown for a time, in order to secure the

money with which to buy some shingles. He has since erected a comfortable home, and all the improvements upon the place stand as monuments to his thrift and industry. He began threshing in 1890, and now owns a half-interest in one of the best threshing outfits in the township, while there is none better in the entire county.

Although his family were Democrats, Mr. Minks has always supported the Republican party, attending elections regularly, but is not a politician in the sense of an office seeker. He was one of the main petitioners for the present Bairdstown road from Bloomdale, and by his efforts this now prominent thoroughfare was put through. Enjoying the confidence and esteem of the whole community, Mr. Minks may well be classed among the prominent citizens of Bloom township, in which high regard his wife also shares, and she is a faithful member of the Methodist Church.

**FRANK KLEEBERGER.** A well-developed farm in Middleton township tells to the passer-by of the thrift and enterprise of the owner, and inquiry would reveal that the owner of this desirable property is a young man, a native son of Middleton township, who was born November 28, 1865. His father, Matthew Kleeberger, was born in Bavaria, Germany, acquired a good education in the public schools, and when a young man crossed the briny deep to the New World, taking up his residence in Wood county, Ohio. He purchased fifty acres of land in Middleton township, covered with a dense forest growth; but he cleared away the trees, and transformed the tract into richly cultivated fields, which in return for his labor yielded to him a good income. He was married in Middleton township to Gertrude Keebley, and they became the parents of three children—Annie, wife of John Kever, a farmer of Middleton township; John a resident of Toledo; and Frank, with whom the mother makes her home. The father died March 22, 1885.

Mr. Kleeberger, of this sketch, became familiar with the common English branches of learning through his attendance at the district schools of the neighborhood. He worked upon the home farm from the age of twelve years until his father's death, when he assumed the management of the property, which he has since successfully conducted; at the same time he has cared for his mother. He is familiar with every part of farm work, both in principle and practice, and many of the improvements upon the place are the work of his hands. In his methods he



is progressive, and his efforts are crowned with prosperity. In politics he is a Democrat, is a member of the Catholic Church of Perrysburg, and is popular with all classes.

**ALVAH MARSHALL.** Among the pioneers of Wood county, who are noted for their eminent success in their chosen calling, is the gentleman whose name opens this sketch. He is one of the popular and representative citizens of Center township. His birth occurred in the State of New York, March 16, 1825, and he is a son of Henry Marshall, a native of Connecticut. In that State the father engaged in farming, but, when a young man, removed to New York, where he married Sarah Tucker, by whom he had five children, named as follows: David and Liddie, both deceased; Annie, wife of A. E. Wisener; Henry, deceased; and Alvah. For a number of years the father followed the vocation of farming in the Empire State, after which he removed with his family to Huron county, Ohio, where both he and his wife spent their remaining days.

Mr. Marshall, of this review, grew to manhood upon the farm, receiving his literary training in the common schools of Huron county. In 1845, in that county, he was joined in wedlock with Maria Jerome, and to them were born two children—Alta, who was born in 1847, and is the wife of George Emes, of Indiana, by whom she has a daughter, Katie, born March 7, 1881; and Jeremiah, who is now assisting in the operation of the home farm. It was in 1855 that Mr. Marshall left Huron county, coming to Wood county and buying forty acres of land in Plain township. This he cultivated for several years, when he disposed of the same, and purchased fifty-five acres in Center township. This was wild land, but by earnest persistent effort, he has transformed the place into a highly-cultivated tract, having cut away the timber, built fences, ditched and tiled the land, planted an orchard, and erected a fine dwelling, together with good barns and outbuildings. All that he now possesses is the fruit of his own honest toil, and he well deserves the success which has come to him. His political support is given the Republican party, and he is a good neighbor and stalwart friend.

**FREDERICK W. BRIDGES**, one of the energetic and wide-awake citizens of Wood county, was born in Haskins, March 5, 1868, and is still a resident of that town. He is descended from New England ancestry. His grandfather, Darius Bridges, was a native of Massachusetts, became a resident of

New York, and in 1834 took up his residence in Allen county, Ohio. Four years later he located in Perrysburg, Wood county, and in 1843 established his home on Hull Prairie, where his death occurred in 1850. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Hannah Mason, and was a native of Rhode Island, died in Perrysburg in 1838. They had a family of five children, four of whom grew to mature years: Caroline H., wife of G. Chase, of Hull Prairie; Nancy A., wife of Richard Carter, of Middleton township; Samuel F.; Orpha M., wife of John Shinaberry, now deceased; and Sarah A., who died at the age of a year and a half.

Samuel F. Bridges, the father of our subject, was born in Oneida county, N. Y., May 2, 1827, and in Perrysburg, Ohio, on March 18, 1861, was united in marriage with Miss Ann Vass, who was born in Scotland March 5, 1834, and was the daughter of Alexander Vass, who died in Perrysburg. At the time of their marriage the parents located on a farm on Hull Prairie. Previous to this time the father had worked at ship building, but now devoted his attention to agricultural pursuits and the carpenter trade, which he still follows in Haskins. In politics he is a Republican, and is a member of the Presbyterian Church. His wife died in Haskins October 3, 1894. In their family there were four children—Carrie A.; Darius A., who died in childhood; Frederick W.; and Jessie M.

Our subject was the third in order of birth. His boyhood days were passed upon his father's farm, and the instruction afforded in the common schools of Haskins constituted his educational privileges. For the past six years he has been employed in the oil fields, and has purchased an outfit for removing oil pipes, to which branch of the business he is now devoting his energies, deriving therefrom a good income. He is an industrious, energetic young man, possesses a genial disposition in which there is a strong vein of humor, is an entertaining companion, and therefore a popular gentleman.

**RICHARD MOONEY**, an enterprising and progressive agriculturist of Grand Rapids township, was born in Hancock county, November 1, 1843.

George Mooney, the father of our subject, was a native of Fairfield county, born in 1812, and was by occupation a farmer. In early manhood he moved to Hancock county, where he married Miss Eunice Wade, who was born in Hancock county, March 19, 1820. They had four children: John, a blacksmith at Findlay, Ohio; Richard, our subject; Belinda, the wife of John Jakeway,

of Hancock county, and Enoch B., a glass manufacturer at Findlay. Our subject's father was one of the most highly respected citizens of his community. He died in 1879, his wife surviving him sixteen years.

Richard Mooney's early education was obtained mainly in the excellent public schools of Findlay, and he learned all the practical details of farm work while assisting his father. For nine years he was engaged in manufacturing lime, and later he conducted a farm of eighty acres in his native county. He was married October 26, 1876, to Miss Almira Grabble, of Findlay, who was born in Licking county, Ohio, July 27, 1852. She was one of the eight children of Abraham Grabble, a well-known farmer and carpenter, and his wife, Susanna Bright. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Mooney, of whom the youngest died in infancy. The names of the others, with dates of birth, are as follows: June L., January 7, 1878; Guy G., October 13, 1880; Abraham R., April 3, 1883; John, August 11, 1885; Pearl M., July 3, 1893; and Carrie Blanche, October 23, 1896.

In 1887 Mr. Mooney came to Wood county, and bought forty acres of land four miles north of Weston, to which he has since added twenty more, and the entire sixty is now under cultivation. Thoroughly alert to the value of the best methods, Mr. Mooney has made extensive improvements on his estate, re-modeling the buildings and draining the land by the most approved plans. Genial in manner and possessing unusual intelligence, he is one of the leaders among the progressive element in the community.

**RUDOLPH J. HAHN.** Among the sturdy, energetic and successful farmers of Wood county, who thoroughly understand the vocation they follow, and are consequently enabled to carry on their calling with profit to themselves, is the subject of this sketch. He is actively engaged in agricultural pursuits in Section 35, Lake township, where he has a fine farm of eighty acres.

A native of Ashland county, Mr. Hahn first drew the breath of life on May 15, 1848. His father, Valentine Hahn, was born and reared in Bavaria, Germany, but at an early day became a resident of Ashland county, Ohio, where he wedded Magdalena Burg, a native of the same country, and to them were born Julia, a resident of Troy township, Wood county; Rudolph J., of this sketch; Lizzie, wife of G. B. Brim, of Lake township; Harmon, of Troy township; Theodore, at home; Mary and Laura, twins, the former now Mrs. G. W. Brown, and

the latter, Mrs. Andrews, of Lemoyne, Wood county; Mrs. Barbara Wagoner, of Toledo; and Katie, Albert, August, and Clara, all at home. From Ashland county the father brought his family to Perrysburg township, Wood county, where he opened up a farm, but later removed to Troy township, where he has since resided, and for some years served as trustee.

Our subject was but five years old when the family took up their residence in Troy township, where he was educated in the district schools, and in early life received a home training on the farm, which so well fitted him for the calling he now follows. However, during his youth, he learned the trade of carpenter, and was employed at that work for ten years in Troy and Lake townships. He purchased his present farm in 1877, and has since devoted his time and attention to its cultivation and improvement, erecting a good barn, 42 x 76 feet, and a comfortable and substantial residence.

In June, 1878, in Lake township, Mr. Hahn was married to Miss Mary Baumgardner, a native of Toledo, Ohio, and to them have been born a son, Victor, and a daughter who died at ten months. Mrs. Hahn's parents, Jacob and Magdalena Baumgardner, were natives of Wurtemberg, Germany, but came to America single, and were married at Toledo, where for some time the father engaged in blacksmithing. He later removed to Perrysburg township, where he died in 1894; but his wife is still living, and makes her home in this country.

Mr. Hahn votes the straight Democratic ticket, and for three years capably served as trustee of Lake township, where he enjoys, in a marked degree, the confidence and esteem of his neighbors. He has been prominently identified with the development of the county, and is public-spirited and progressive.

**CHARLES L. WINELAND,** a young and progressive agriculturist of Center township, was born July 5, 1863, in Washington township, Hancock Co., Ohio. David Wineland, his father, was a native of Pennsylvania, and a stone and brick mason by occupation. He came to Ohio, in 1854, when a young man, and bought forty acres of land in Hancock county, to which, in time, he added eighty more, improving and cultivating it until he made it one of the best farms of that vicinity. He was a soldier in the Civil war, in Company D, 72d O. V. I. On May 20, 1847, he was married to Miss Catherine Barnhart, who was born in Fayette county, Penn., July 3, 1828. They had thirteen children: John,

Frank, Mary, Susanna, David E., Lucinda, Ida, Joseph, Charles L. (our subject), William, Jacob, Turley, and Cora. David Wineland, our subject's father, died at Bloomdale, March 29, 1885, and his wife followed him May 5, 1894.

The subject of this sketch was educated in the district schools of his native county, and worked during his early years upon his father's farm. He came to Wood county when he was twenty-three years of age, and for some time worked as a farm laborer at small wages; but in 1889 he rented a farm of eighty acres in Center township which six years later he bought, and now operates it successfully. He was married in 1888, to Miss Sarah J. Brownheller, a native of Bloomdale, born December 26, 1870, the daughter of George Brownheller, a well-known citizen of that town. They have two children, Orpha E., born August 16, 1892, and Otta F., born August 6, 1894.

Mr. Wineland is a Prohibitionist in politics, and is one of the most active and influential of the younger men of his locality, taking great interest in all progressive movements. He and his wife are leading members of the Church of Christ, at Bowling Green.

JAMES A. YATES was born April 12, 1851, in Sycamore township, Wyandot Co., Ohio, and is the eighth son and eleventh child in the family of Thomas and Elizabeth (Craun) Yates.

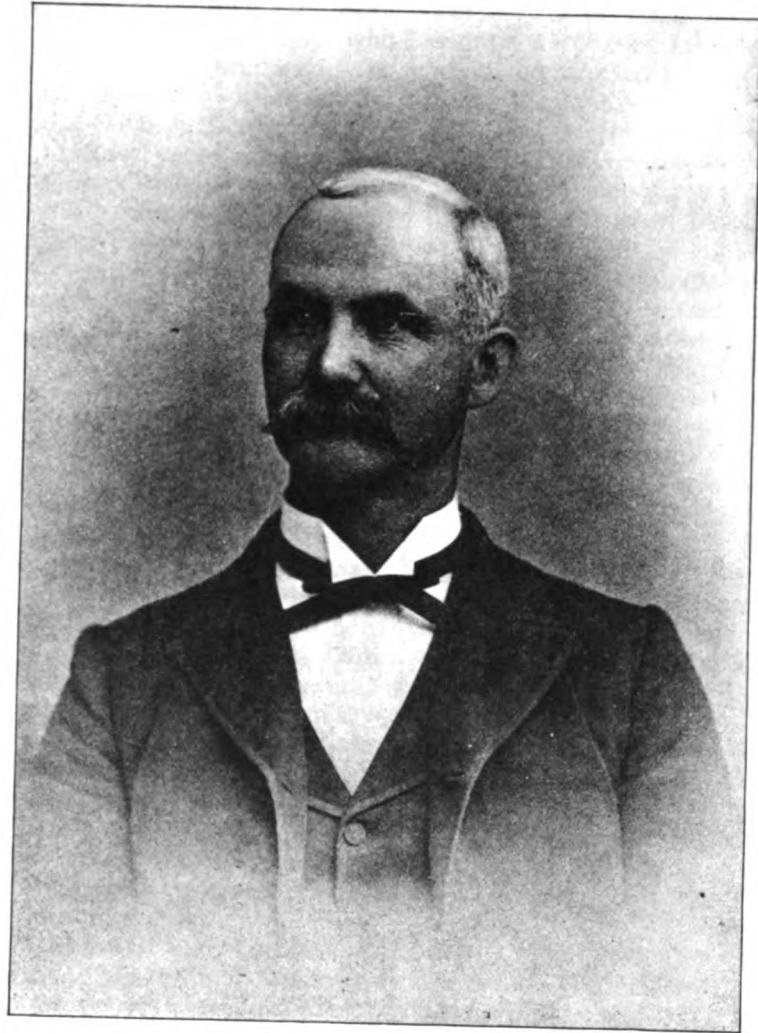
Our subject obtained his primary schooling in the district school of his native place, and when he was a boy of nine years, in the fall of 1860, his parents removed to Wood county, settling in Perry township. There the lad attended the school taught by Henry Williams and others, until he was sixteen years old, when he began teaching in Henry township, his salary being \$1.25 a day. He afterward attended a school of higher grade at Grand Rapids, Ohio, of which Prof. Wright was the principal, and completed his education at the Fostoria Normal School, then under the management of Prof. J. Fraise Richard. Thus equipped, he took up the profession of a teacher at the age of nineteen years, and for the succeeding sixteen years taught at various times in Henry, Bloom and Perry townships, at from \$1.50 to \$2.25 a day. He had, when younger, learned the carpenter's trade with his brother Henry, and during vacations worked at it in order to increase his earnings. Many of the younger people of the county can recall the days spent under Mr. Yates' tutelage, and the friends he made then have been constant in their attachment to him. He was popular as a teacher,

strict in his discipline, yet sympathetic, and unceasing in his efforts to promote the best interests of his pupils, and his example of the worth of intellectual attainments and of integrity in everyday-life was not thrown away upon them.

Mr. Yates was married in Perry township, April 24, 1879, to Miss Sarah E. Hall, who was born in Seneca county, Ohio, January 1, 1853. Her parents, Daniel and Mary (Kirk) Hall, were natives of Fairfield county, Ohio, the former of whom came to Wood county in 1855, locating in Section 7, Perry township, and died December 23, 1884, at West Millgrove, when sixty-six years of age. The mother died May 13, 1885, leaving three children, one child, William, having previously passed away. Those living are Martha, now Mrs. L. L. Yates; Mrs. James A. Yates, and Franklin, who resides at West Millgrove. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Yates are Mertie E., born September 9, 1880, and Edna P., born August 12, 1884. Mr. Yates' first location after his marriage was in Section 7, in Perry township, he afterward removing to his present farm on the Northwest Quarter of Section 8, where he owns 160 acres. Since his removal to this place he has devoted himself exclusively to farming, in which he has been very successful. He has an excellent piece of property, and has bestowed much care on its improvement and cultivation.

Until 1895 Mr. Yates was in sympathy with the Republican party, but his great abhorrence of the liquor traffic, with all its attendant evils, has induced him to transfer his allegiance to the cause of Prohibition, which he believes to be the only remedy for this curse of the country. He is enthusiastic on the subject, and exerts all his influence in behalf of temperance and sobriety. He has never been an office-seeker, and has refused all tenders of a nomination to any public position; but he is a loyal citizen, one who has the good of his community at heart, and is always ready to assist in any enterprise looking to its welfare. Mr. Yates is a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he is at present a trustee, and was for six years superintendent of the Sunday-school. He is also the president of the township board of education. He is a well-read man, posted on all topics of the day, and a genial, companionable gentleman.

HENRY ROTHENBUHLER, a prominent young agriculturist of Webster township, is a son of one of the pioneer farmers, John W. Rothenbuhler, and was born in Webster township, August 28, 1860. His education was obtained in the schools



*J. A. Yates.*



of his district, and until the age of twenty-five he remained at home assisting his father.

He was married June 16, 1885, in Ann Arbor, Mich., to Miss Sophia Helena Rothenbuhler, who was born May 23, 1864, the daughter of Christopher and Mary Rothenbuhler, of Troy township. They have one son, George H., born January 23, 1886, a bright, intelligent boy, who is already taking a high rank as a student. After his marriage Mr. Rothenbuhler settled upon a farm of twenty acres, which he improved and sold, buying a tract of forty acres near Luckey. Here his industry and frugality have brought him prosperity, of which his handsome residence and modern farm buildings give pleasing evidence.

Politically he is a Republican, and he and his wife are leading members of the Evangelical Church at Luckey.

**THOMAS KNEALE CRAINE.** There is probably no man in Lake township wider or more favorably known than Mr. Craine, who came to this section of the country in the pioneer days, and is recognized as one of the important factors in its progress and development. A native of the Isle of Man, he was born March 10, 1825, at the home of his parents, James and Isabel (Kneale) Craine. His father, who was also born on the Isle of Man, was constable for many years at Dollybeg, where he made his home until his death, which occurred when he was aged seventy-eight years. His wife was about seventy-two years of age when she was called from this life, and they were both faithful members of the Church of England. In their family were the following children: John, who died on the Isle of Man; Mary, who became the wife of John Lewin, and died on the same island; Catherine, widow of W. Kinney, and Isabel, widow of Richard Cowley, both still residing on the Isle of Man; Ann, wife of Ned Kewley, of Galva, Ill.; James, of Cleveland, Ohio; Thomas K., subject of this review; Elizabeth, wife of John Kneen, of O'Brien county, Iowa; and William, deceased.

In his native land our subject was reared and educated, there learning the stone-mason's and plasterer's trades; but when still a young man, believing that in America he could more easily secure a competence, he took ship, and after a voyage of three weeks and one day landed at New York. This was in 1850; but in 1893 when he made a visit to his old home, he was only eight days in crossing, while on the return trip, which was made on the largest vessel on the ocean, it required but five days and twelve hours. On his first arrival in the New World, Mr.

Craine located at Buffalo, N. Y., where he remained for a year, during which time he was employed on a stone church, and then went to Cleveland, Ohio, where two years were spent in learning brick laying, at which he then worked in that city for six years. He then removed to Toledo, Ohio, and in Lake township, Wood county, purchased his present farm in 1859, on which he erected a log cabin. On January 1, 1860, his family, which then consisted of his wife and two children, located upon the farm, while he still continued to work at his trade in Toledo until about 1873; but since that time he has devoted most of his time to the cultivation and improvement of his land, though at various places in the community he has subsequently been employed on odd jobs. In Cleveland he had earned the money with which to buy his place, and after paying for it had \$20 remaining. He was fortunate in securing a tract of land of remarkable fertility, which, in its present high state of cultivation, yields in abundance the choice products of northwestern Ohio.

In Cleveland, Ohio, August 14, 1855, Mr. Craine was married to Miss Jane Cowles, who was born on the Isle of Man, December 12, 1833; but June 15, 1889, he was called upon to mourn the loss of her who had for almost thirty-four years been his faithful companion and helpmeet. To this union came the following children: (1) Mary Jane, born July 7, 1856, is the wife of B. M. Crandall, of Lake township, by whom she has four children—Thomas, Ethel, Gray and Bernice. (2) William James, born September 16, 1858, is a merchant of Mermill, Ohio. (3) Florence O., born June 16, 1860, married Charles Coy, of Ross township, Wood county, and has one son—Aaron. (4) Charles J., born September 19, 1861, wedded Maggie Rideout, by whom he has twin boys—Thomas and Isaac. (5) Alice O., born February 17, 1863, died March 12, 1877. (6) Kneale Henry, born December 9, 1864, died December 24, following. (7) Henry K., born November 3, 1865, is a merchant of Mermill, and by his marriage with Nellie Bacon has one child—Opal. (8) Isabel C., born December 16, 1866, is the wife of Charles Webb, and has two daughters—Mildred and Rachel. (9) Richard C., born March 30, 1868, died January 7, 1895. (10) Clara L., born May 1, 1870, is the wife of George Blandin, of Lake township. Edward J., born April 3, 1872; and Alma B., born November 3, 1873, are both at home. In politics Mr. Craine was formerly a Republican, but is now a Prohibitionist, and an earnest and strong advocate of any legislation

or method that will suppress the liquor traffic. He holds membership with the Episcopal Church. He is an intelligent, well-read man, and has one of the best libraries to be found in the locality, while his pleasant, genial manner has won him many warm friends throughout the community.

WILLIAM MARION MERCER is a well-known representative of one of the old established families of Wood county—his parents, Abraham and Harriet (Rice) Mercer, having located here at an early day. He was born in Liberty township, June 15, 1852, and, as soon as he had arrived at a suitable age, entered the district schools of the neighborhood, where he acquired an unusually good English education, for the time, his natural abilities leading him to make the most of every opportunity offered him. He was reared in the usual manner of farm lads, and aided his father in the cultivation of the old homestead until he went to a home of his own. At the time of his marriage his father gave him forty acres of land—his present property—and he now has seven oil wells upon the place, producing four hundred barrels per day, from which he derives the excellent income of about \$50 per day. In 1872 he erected thereon a good residence, and now has a pleasant home and a valuable property.

In 1872, in Liberty township, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Mercer and Miss Susan E. Donzy, who was born in Liberty township December 6, 1853, a daughter of Peter Frederick and Catherine E. Donzy. Their union has been blessed with a family of four children, one of whom died in infancy. The others are Dana Otto, Clement Artus and Benjamin Elwood. The parents are members of the Disciples Church, of Rudolph, and take an active part in its work and upbuilding. Mr. Mercer is a very important factor in public affairs, gives a hearty support to all interests calculated to benefit the community at large, and has served as school clerk and school director for three years. He is an industrious, energetic worker, a man of rare judgment and good sense, and to-day stands among the leading farmers of Liberty township.

ROBERT W. McMAHAN, treasurer of Wood county, and a prominent business man of Bowling Green, was born in Jeromeville, Ashland county, Ohio, October 9, 1842.

John McMahan, his grandfather, was born October 21, 1769, in Ireland. He was a weaver by trade, and, coming to America in early manhood, he followed that business for many years, and died in Jeromeville, May 14, 1844. He

married Miss Margaret Hargrove, a native of England, who was born July 11, 1778, and died September 18, 1838. She came to this country with her parents, John and Sarah Hargrove, in 1784, from Newry, Ireland, and settled in Somerset county, Md., where Mrs. Hargrove died, November 6, 1817, at the age of sixty-seven. Mr. Hargrove died in Jeromeville, December 26, 1825.

Robert McMahan, our subject's father, was born in Westmoreland county, Penn., January 5, 1808, and was married in Danville, Ohio, February 23, 1839, to Miss Emily A. Whitney, a native of Tunbridge, Vt., born February 5, 1810. Her father, Thomas Whitney, was born in Tolland county, Conn., in 1790, was married at Tunbridge, to Miss Fannie Jennings, and some years later moved to Danville, where he settled permanently. Robert McMahan was a merchant, and engaged in business in several towns in this State, among them Loudonville, Jeromeville, Ashland and Crestline, before coming, in 1861, to Wood county, where he located at Portage, and was engaged in farming and mercantile pursuits until his death, which occurred August 12, 1886. His wife died in February, 1890. They were devout Presbyterians, and preserved the strict principles of their Covenanter ancestors.

Our subject received a good common-school education, and at the age of nineteen came to Wood county. He worked on a farm some ten years, and then went into the grocery business, gradually enlarging his store to include general merchandise. Subsequently he became a hardware merchant of Bowling Green. After some five or six years he sold out and engaged in the lime business at Portage, and two years later, in 1888, he organized the Snow Flake Lime Co., of which he became president. His well-known integrity, good judgment, and executive ability have made him a leader in the Republican party in his locality. He has served as coroner of the county, and in November, 1895, was elected to the office of county treasurer. In 1884 he was chosen a delegate to the Republican National Convention. Socially he is prominent, being a member of the K. of P., of the I. O. O. F. and Encampment, and is a Royal Arch Mason. He is identified with the Royal Arcanum, and with the order of Maccabees. Whitney Lodge I. O. O. F. was organized by his father and himself many years ago.

Our subject was married June 15, 1869, to Miss Kate Osborne, a native of Wood county, and whose death occurred December 2, 1872.

CLARENCE JENNINGS McMAHAN, the only child

of this union, was born July 19, 1870, and was educated in the schools of Portage and at Oberlin College. After one year in the employ of the T. & O. C. R. R., as agent at Portage, he became secretary and treasurer of the Snow Flake Lime Co., which position he has since filled satisfactorily. He is also secretary and treasurer of the Ohio Lime Co., with offices at Toledo, in the Chamber of Commerce building, and is recognized as one of the best of the young business men of the county. He is a young man of high moral principals, and an active worker in Church work.

FRANKFOTHER BROS., dealers in buggies, carriages, and wagons, and manufacturers of wagons, are known as one of the most enterprising firms in Wood county, and, indeed, in their section of the State. The firm is composed of W. S. and O. D. Frankfother.

Their parents, David and Mary (Boozer) Frankfother, were both born in Columbiana county, Ohio, and were married in Bloom township, Wood county. David Frankfother learned the carpenter's trade in early life; but having met with a painful accident, he was obliged to go on crutches for life, his right knee being permanently injured. After marriage he settled at Bloom Center, where his father, Frederick Frankfother, also lived, and father and son made the first furniture for the latter's house, doing all the work by hand. Frederick Frankfother was an all-around mechanic, wheelwright, gunsmith, carpenter, etc. After a few years David Frankfother removed his family to a forty-acre farm in Montgomery township, and built a shop on it, following his trade as much as possible. Here he passed the remainder of his life, dying in 1878, respected and esteemed by all who knew him. Eight children were born to him and his wife, of whom W. S. was born September 12, 1853, in Bloom Center; Thomas, who was a blacksmith by trade, died in 1893, in Montgomery township; Lafayette died in infancy; Charles, who is a building mover by trade, lives in Portage township; Orville D. is junior member of the firm of Frankfother Bros.; Margaret E. died young; Eli is a wagon maker of Jerry City; Rosetta died young. The father, though handicapped by his crippled condition, supported his family in comfort, and never made a single effort to accumulate a fortune by depriving them of any comforts. As it was, he became well-to-do, having a good business in his line in Montgomery township, and he also owned a half-interest in a wagon shop at Jerry City, from which sources he derived a very fair income. He was a kind and

generous father, a good husband, and a useful, progressive citizen of the community in which he made his home, favoring advancement in every line. In politics he was a Democrat, and though an ardent party man, was not a politician, giving no time to such matters. His remains now rest in the Mennonite cemetery, in Perry township. Mrs. Frankfother lived on the farm until her second marriage, when she removed to Sandusky county, and she now has a comfortable home in Jerry City. She is an earnest member of the Methodist Protestant Church, to which Mr. Frankfother also belonged.

W. S. FRANKFOTHER enjoyed the advantages of the district schools in his youth, but he was never over fond of study, preferring to spend his time in mechanical work, and he was always delighted to work with his father in the wagon shop. He acquired thus a knowledge of wagon making in early manhood; but when eighteen years of age he commenced to work for Adam Graham, a farmer, with whom he continued for some time. During the "seventies," when the Baltimore & Ohio railroad was being built through Wood county, he was employed at grading and other work connected therewith, and finally drifted to North Baltimore, where he found employment in a shingle-mill, and acquired an interest in the business. This he traded for a wagon shop in North Baltimore, which he conducted for about one year, in 1876 coming to Jerry City, where he was given charge of his farther's interest in the wagon shop established by Hunsicker & Beck. At that time his father had a half-interest in the business, the other half being owned by Mr. Hunsicker and our subject's brother, Thomas. After a time Thomas retired, and, in 1882, W. S. bought the interest of his father's estate, his brother Orville D. purchasing Mr. Hunsicker's share, and since that time the firm has been Frankfother Bros. W. S. Frankfother is a thorough mechanic, and makes a specialty of wood-working, having full charge of that branch of the business. When the brothers took possession the business was simply for the manufacture of wagons, and they have not only enlarged this department until their wagons have a wide reputation throughout this section of the State, but have also engaged in dealing in buggies and carriages, handling many different makes of vehicles. They built up an extensive business by fair, honest dealing, and their patronage comes from miles around; their success is well merited, for they are hard-working men, respected by all who come in contact with them, either in business or social circles, for their industry and integrity.



They are energetic citizens of the town in which they make their home, wide-awake to every thing that will advance the interests of the section in which they have lived all their lives. W. S. Frankfother was married in Bloom township, in September, 1876, to Miss Ann Sherwood, daughter of Benjamin Sherwood, a farmer, and children as follows have blessed their union: Rosella (Mrs. Hiram Tyson, of Bloom township), and Aaron D., Chester A., Lena and Gail, all four at home. Mr. Frankfother is a Democrat in politics, is active in public affairs, and served as a member of the city council. He and his wife belong to the Radical U. B. Church.

ORVILLE D. FRANKFOTHER was born in 1859, in Montgomery township, Wood county, received his primary education in the district schools, and, later, attended a select school in Jerry City, taught by Edward Hubbard, who was a most excellent instructor. Mr. Frankfother learned readily, and, having fitted himself to teach, he followed that profession, in 1881 teaching in Thrush District, Henry township. In November, 1882, he came to Jerry City, and, as above stated, purchased an interest in the wagon business, which he and his brother have since conducted. Like his brother he keeps well abreast of the times, and has won the confidence of all his associates; he does not give his attention to any department in particular, doing everything that comes to his hand. Since 1890 he has served as city marshal, but he is not an office seeker, and, beyond casting his vote for the Democratic party, gives little attention to politics. In July, 1889, he was married, in Tiffin, Ohio, to Miss Cora E. Sell, and they have had one child, Lila M.

D. L. SOULE. The history of Wood county would be incomplete without mention of our subject and the family to which he belongs. He was born in Portage township, February 5, 1851, and is a son of John E. and Rachel (Burgess) Soule. The father, a native of Germany, came to America when a young man with his brother Lorenzo, and was married in Huron county, Ohio, whence he came to Wood county. In Portage township he purchased forty acres of land which he afterward sold, removing then to Webster township. His first wife died in Huron county, and his second wife still survives him. The children of the first union are Silas W., who died in January, 1892; D. L.; and John E., a farmer of Michigan.

Mr. Soule, of this sketch, was a child of seven years at the time of his father's death, and

then lived with different farmers of the neighborhood. He resided with Mr. Henry of Portage township, until seventeen years of age, and during that time worked on the farm through the summer and attended school through the winter. He afterward worked for other farmers, receiving from \$13 to \$20 per month. By hard study in the evenings he qualified himself for teaching, and on attaining his majority embarked in that profession. He afterward rented land which he operated for about five years.

As a companion and helpmeet on life's journey, Mr. Soule chose Hannah E. Jones, and their marriage was celebrated in Liberty, October 15, 1878. She was born near Richland Center, Wis., March 1, 1852, a daughter of Gideon and Nancy (McMahon) Jones. The father was a native of Huron county, Ohio, and when a young man removed to Liberty township, Wood county, where he was married. He afterward took his family to Richland Center, Wis., where he carried on farming and rail splitting. In the '50s he engaged in prospecting for gold at Pikes Peak. When the war broke out he returned to Toledo, Ohio, and enlisted in the United States army as a private. He was killed at Honey Hill, and was buried on the field of battle. His widow, who had removed to Liberty township, Wood county, died January 13, 1895. They had but two children—Lewis, of Liberty township; and Mrs. Soule.

For two years after his marriage our subject operated a rented farm, and then purchased forty acres of his present farm. He afterward bought a residence and ten acres of land that in the summer of 1895 he exchanged for a house and three lots in Omaha, Neb. He has five oil wells upon his farm, and his wife also has a like number on forty acres of land which she owns in Liberty township. In politics he is a Prohibitionist. Both Mr. and Mrs. Soule are members of the Disciples Church, and in social circles they hold an enviable position.

WILLIAM L. ROSS. Among the many estimable citizens of Weston township, none is more highly respected or better beloved than the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch, who is one of the wealthy farmers of that township.

Joseph W. Ross, the father of our subject, was born in Pennsylvania in 1820, and when a young man came west, settling first in Holmes county, Ohio, and later going to Freeport, Ill., where he bought forty acres of land on which he made his home for seven years. He then returned to Ohio, and, coming to Wood county,

located in what is now Grand Rapids township. At various times he purchased 120 acres of land, of which he retained eighty, and resided thereon the remainder of his life. He was married, February 16, 1843, to Miss Mary Barton, and three children were born to them: Margaret, who married Samuel Brown, and is now deceased; William L.; and Eulalia, who became the wife of Daniel Pugh (both are deceased). Mr. Ross died June 24, 1883, his wife surviving him until June 2, 1893.

William L. Ross was born August 19, 1846, in Holmes county, Ohio, and was educated in the district schools of Beaver Creek. He remained at home, assisting his father upon the farm, until he was twenty-three years old, when he was united in marriage with Miss Louisa Heyman. After his marriage Mr. Ross bought eighty acres of land in Weston township, which he has brought under fine cultivation, and on which he has erected one of the most palatial homes of Wood county. His wife also owns forty acres of improved land in the corporation of Weston, making in all 120 acres, which Mr. Ross operates. Six children have blessed the union of this estimable couple, viz.: Nellie B., born April 26, 1872; Maud M., born October 28, 1874; Charles K., born in June, 1876, farming on his father's place; Ralph R., born September 10, 1880; May M., born September 25, 1882; and Ethel Rose, born June 22, 1884. Mr. Ross at one time taught school, and has been a school director for fifteen years, and also clerk of the school board. He is a Republican in politics, and a member and elder of the United Presbyterian Church, while his wife belongs to the United Brethren Church. Mr. Ross has always been a total abstainer never having used intoxicating liquors or tobacco, and owes his present prosperity to strict economy and close attention to business. He is a man of fine character, genial disposition, social temperament, and is greatly beloved in the home circle, as well as by a large number of friends in all classes of society. His example is one which the young men of to-day would do well to follow, if they desired to secure the same results, and become not only prosperous, but worthy and respected citizens.

E. R. RISSER, who for years has been a substantial farmer and one of the best-known and most popular citizens of Perry township, was born in Ashland, Ohio, June 11, 1846, son of Christian and Magdaline (Echelberger) Risser.

Christian Risser was a native of Germany, born in May, 1812. When only seventeen years

old he came to the United States, landing at New York City and going thence to Buffalo, and later to Cleveland. From the latter city he walked to Ashland, Ohio, his feet being blistered by the long journey. By trade he was a shoemaker, and he worked at his calling a number of years in Ashland. After some years, by his help and influence, two of his brothers, Jacob and Henry, came to this country with their families, settling in Ashland. Mr. Risser was married in Ashland to Miss Mary Risser, who, although of the same name, was no relative. She bore him three children: Abraham, who grew to manhood, was a shoemaker by trade, and died in West Millgrove; Daniel, who died in infancy; and Christian A., a leading shoe merchant of Findlay, Ohio. After the death of the mother of these children Mr. Risser married Magdaline Echelberger, who was born in Germany, near his own birthplace. To this union two children were born: Mary, now Mrs. Moses Legron, of Perry, and our subject.

In the spring of 1848 Mr. Risser traded his house and lot in Ashland for 160 acres of land in Section 35, in Portage township, Wood county, and removing into the place set up a shoemaker's shop, employing three men and securing custom from all around the vicinity. In those early days living was somewhat different from the present. The farmers had plenty of corn bread, but very little bread made from wheat, and for six months at a time would have no "white" bread in the house. Maple syrup and sugar were made in large quantities, and were a staple article of trade. One year a doctor's bill of \$40 was paid (Dr. Ranger's, of West Millgrove), all in these products. Game was plentiful, and the settlers could not complain of lack of provisions, but malaria and fever and ague were prevalent, and many of the comforts of older communities were lacking. After five years' residence on this place Mr. Risser traded his oxen and cows for property at West Millgrove, which he bought from Osman Divers. Later he purchased corner property in that village, and worked at his trade until his removal to Section 10, Perry township, where he owned 160 acres of land. He had at this time given up doing much active work, but set up his work-bench at home, and continued to do shoemaking for his family and his near neighbors. His death took place in February, 1886, his wife having passed away November 30, 1884. Both are interred at West Millgrove.

Christian Risser was a generous, easy-going, benevolent man; anybody could obtain help from him by relating a story of misfortune, and he was

frequently imposed upon by people who knew of this trait of his character. After his death over \$2,000 were found on his books which had never been collected from his debtors. He never sued any one, and was never sued himself. He began life a poor boy, but by constant industry and economy became quite well-to-do. He died from general failure of his powers. He was a Democrat in his political belief, but was not a partisan, and took no active part in public affairs. He was very fond of his home, and was always to be found there when not at work. Quiet in his manners, he was yet decided in his opinions, and of high principles, and was greatly respected by all who knew him. Both he and his wife were members of the Mennonite Church.

E. R. Risser, the subject proper of this sketch, received a limited education in the district schools of West Millgrove, which were much inferior to those of the present day. When a lad he worked around the country for different farmers, his first employer being John Jelison, who paid him one cent a day and his dinner. As soon as he was old enough his father gave him twenty acres of land, which he worked for himself. He remained at home with his parents until his marriage, October 23, 1866, to Miss Matilda Kelso, who was born in Lexington, Richland Co., Ohio, August 8, 1846. Her parents were Samuel and Anna (Miller) Kelso, the former born in Cumberland county, Penn., December 23, 1823. He was married in Richland county, November 4, 1845, and had a family of twelve children, of whom Mrs. Risser was the eldest. Mr. Kelso was a Lutheran minister, but was preaching in the Congregational Church at West Millgrove at the time of his daughter's marriage.

For a short time after his marriage Mr. Risser lived at West Millgrove, and, in the spring of 1867, removed to a farm of twenty acres belonging to his father, in Section 8, Perry township. Here he remained one year, and in February, 1868, settled on his farm, which is in Section 10, in the same township. This place he rented from his father until January, 1885, when he purchased it, and has spent much hard labor on the property, greatly improving it in many ways. He met with success financially, and became one of the substantial and progressive agriculturists of the township. On January 4, 1896, Mr. Risser purchased a property in the village of Millgrove, remodeled the residence into a very comfortable and attractive home, and moved into it, leaving the farm in the hands of his son, Albert C.

The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Risser are as follows: Wilbur H. (died September 6, 1886);

Clara M., the wife of Harry Vosburg, of Bloom township, to whom has been born one child—Claud H.; Flora E. (died February 11, 1884); Charles E., a carpenter by trade; Albert C., a farmer in Perry township; Mary A. (died April 29, 1890); Howard H. (died March 17, 1882); and Bertha A.

Mr. Risser is a Republican in his political views, but looks more to the fitness of a man who is a candidate for public office than to his party affiliation. He has served eight years as trustee of Perry township, and is regarded as a good man in every respect. He and his wife are members of the Congregational Church at West Millgrove, in which he has been a deacon for many years.

J. M. LAWRENCE, the leading blacksmith and iron-worker of Prairie Depot, has the oldest established institution of the kind in the place, where he is recognized as one of the most enterprising and progressive business men. A native of Pennsylvania, he was born at Terre Hill, Lancaster county, February 18, 1853, and was the oldest child of George and Mary (Newpher) Lawrence, the former of Spanish extraction, and the latter of German lineage. He was reared by his maternal grandmother, who, though kind to him, had not the means at her disposal to give him an education. He attended the common schools for a short time, but only before the age when he was old enough to learn well and rapidly.

As he was not under the strict discipline of parents, Mr. Lawrence became well posted in worldly knowledge at an early age, and when sixteen years old he concluded he would see more of the world than what was visible from that portion of his native State. He left home against the will of those to whom he owed allegiance, and without money or clothes, save those he wore, he came to Cleveland, Ohio, where he was fortunate enough to find a friend in Capt. Brigham, of the steambarge "Esterbrook," who gave the boy a position on that vessel, which plied between Cleveland and Bay City, Mich., in the lumber trade. For four seasons he was thus engaged, and later was for some time wheelman on the "Birkland," of Toledo. Like many sailors, he made money, but spent it with equal rapidity. On leaving the lakes, Mr. Lawrence went to West Millgrove, Wood county, where his stepfather, Amos Wean, and mother were then living, and there began to learn his trade under the direction of R. L. Knapp, of whom he later became a partner. After six years spent at that place, he

in 1878 came to Prairie Depot, which at that time had no blacksmith, and took the shop vacated by the death of Charles Brooke, where he has since continued. He enjoys to-day one of the best businesses of the kind in the county, and is a skilled and thorough workman. Like many young men, who have developed into our best citizens, he has sown his wild oats, and is now one of the most straightfoward and reliable business men of the community.

At West Millgrove was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Lawrence and Miss Nettie Phillips, a native of Iowa, and a daughter of J. R. Phillips, and to them have been born two children: Avis M., and Frank N. In his political views, our subject affiliates with the Republican party, in the success of which he takes quite an interest, and has served as a member of the Prairie Depot council. Socially, he is connected with the Odd Fellows Society, of that place, and his wife is a member of the Disciples Church. They now occupy a pleasant home which he erected in 1890, and he has also built a substantial blacksmith shop.

JAMES R. REDFERN, of Bloomdale, a leading business man and agriculturist of Bloom township, is a worthy representative of one of the oldest pioneer families. He is a son of Joseph and Ann (Phillips) Redfern, and was born October 7, 1847, in the township where he now resides. He attended the Hopewell school during boyhood, that being his only opportunity for an education, and his limitations in this respect make him an earnest advocate of better schools at the present time. Machinery was but little used in his early days, and a farmer's boy found plenty to do. His four elder brothers went to the army in the first years of the Civil war, and his father was taken ill with typhoid fever, leaving him, a lad of fifteen, to conduct the farm, a task which he accomplished with rare discretion, the overwork, however, affecting his health permanently. He made several efforts to enter the army himself, but was rejected on account of his youth. After the war closed he learned the carpenter's trade with Thomas Campbell, and followed it for seven years, when he bought 120 acres of land in Bloom township, going in debt for \$4,000. He evidently solved the problem of making farming pay, as the returns soon cleared his obligations, his profits in one year amounting to \$1,100 net.

On December 13, 1877, Mr. Redfern was married in New Hampton, Iowa, to Miss Jennie Schoonover, a native of Dubuque county, Iowa,

and the daughter of R. B. Schoonover. The two families had been on terms of friendship for many years. The young couple began house-keeping on the farm February 7, 1878, remaining there until December 2, 1891, when Mr. Redfern moved to Bloomdale, his failing health making a change of occupation necessary. He had bought a lot on the corner of Main and Mulberry streets, and, in the spring of 1891, began dealing in agricultural implements. In 1895 James Rosendale became associated with the business, which is now carried on under the name of Rosendale & Redfern. Mr. Redfern still retains the ownership of his farm and fine country residence, in addition to his town property. He is also a stockholder in the Bloomdale Creamery. In politics he is a Republican, and his shrewd judgment has often been devoted to the service of the community in various official positions. He was township trustee for nine years, personal property assessor for two terms, and real-estate assessor in 1890, serving under appointment by the county officials. Since coming to Bloomdale he has decided to take an active part in public life, lending his influence in quieter ways for the success of beneficial movements. Socially, he is a member of the I. O. O. F., No. 406, and a charter member of the K. of P., No. 24, both of Bloomdale.

J. T. BEVER, of the firm of Marshall & Bever, grocers, was born in Seneca county, Ohio, October 8, 1851. His parents were Joseph and Elizabeth (Knouse) Bever, the former of whom was born in Virginia, near New Market, in 1814, and is still living at his home in Fostoria, Ohio. He was reared in Seneca county, and entered the ministry of the United Brethren Church, remaining in active service for over half a century. His wife was born in Pennsylvania in 1814, and lived to be eighty-one years of age, dying in Seneca county. To this couple were born eight children, as follows: Henry is a carpenter in Tiffin, and was a captain in the 55th O. V. I.; Jerome died when young; Alson lives in Marion, Ohio; Loretta died when two years old; Delanzo is a contractor in Tiffin; Lucius is a farmer at Kenton; J. T., subject of this sketch; and Milton, attorney at law in Fostoria.

Jacob Bever, grandfather of our subject, was a pioneer settler in Seneca county, where his death occurred. He and his wife were the parents of the following children: Solomon, a farmer in Seneca county, is eighty-four years old; Jonas lived in Iowa, and died at the age of eighty years; Susan married P. Michael; and Joseph.

Our subject's boyhood was spent in Seneca county, and when nineteen years old he learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked first in Tiffin, then in Fostoria, and finally came to Bowling Green in 1885, and occupied himself as a contractor and builder. He then went into the undertaking business, which he left to become a member of the present grocery firm. In 1875 he was married to Miss Katie Rigby, who was born in Wood county, January 27, 1857. They had five children—Myrtle, Tempy, Mina, Ruth and Remington. The first born died when three years old. Mr. Bever is a member of the United Brethren Church, and of the I. O. O. F.

**WILLIAM BROWN**, one of the oldest pioneers of Weston township, and a prominent stock-raiser and veterinary surgeon, was born in Weston, September 23, 1833. He received his early education in the district school of Beaver Creek, later taking a course in the Cleveland Veterinary School, from which he was graduated in 1851. He settled on 120 acres of land in Weston township, improved it, and began farming and practicing veterinary surgery. He erected one of the finest dwelling houses in the township at a cost of \$5,000, together with barns, outhouses, etc. About 1880 Mr. Brown began the raising of fine blooded stock, his first venture being the purchase of a stallion in Kentucky, since which time he has bred and raised a splendid lot of trotting, running, and draft horses. In order to give his stock proper training, he built a half-mile track on the place, where he does his speeding.

On September 23, 1859, our subject was married to Miss Julia Ann Bassett, a daughter of Smith Bassett, a prominent farmer of Washington township, where she was born May 23, 1839. Seven children have been born to them: Ellwood, a farmer, living in Waterville; Lucy, the wife of Samuel Oswald, a lumber merchant of Weston; Elmer, a farmer; Lawrence P., an operator in a lumber-mill; Holly, residing in Weston; and Frank and Earl, who died young. In politics Mr. Brown is a Republican, and in religious faith is a member of the Presbyterian Church. He is of a genial, affable nature, and has a host of friends.

Alexander Brown, his father, was born in Perry county, Ohio, and followed the occupation of a farmer and veterinary surgeon. In Perry county he was married to Miss Anna North, and twelve children were born to them, those living being: Sarah, the wife of S. Condit, a farmer in Oregon; William, the subject of this sketch; Newton, a farmer in Henry county; Samuel, a

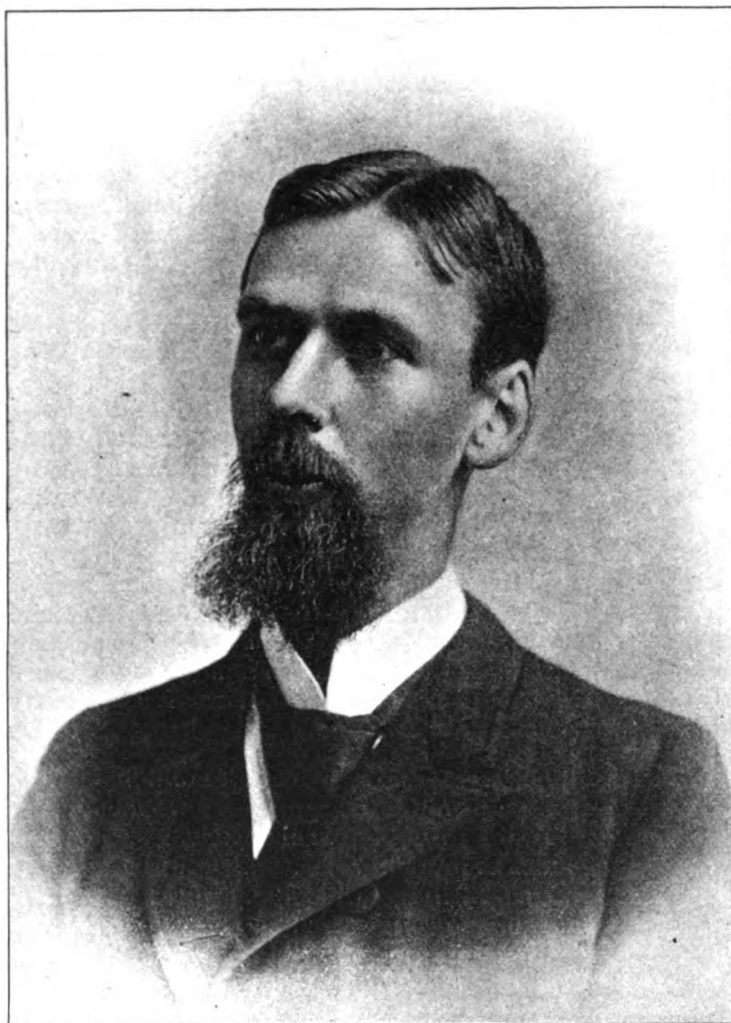
farmer in Washington county; Maggie, who married Elliot Warner, and they live in East Toledo. The deceased are: Caroline, who was the wife of John McKee; James; Morgan, who died in the army; Jane, who was the wife of John McClain; Anna, who was the wife of Leroy Rowland; and Joseph and Polly, who died in infancy.

**J. M. GRAU, M. D.** In the life of this gentleman, a leading physician of Jerry City, is found one of the most notable instances of well-deserved success. Starting in life with no capital but his worthy ambitions, and the pluck, energy and mental ability to fulfill them, he has steadily made his way forward upon his merits, and already takes a high rank in his chosen profession.

He is a native of Ohio, born September 19, 1864, in Mayfield township, Cuyahoga county, one of the four children of Frederick and Rosena (Reiter) Grau, of Germany. They removed to Geauga county when our subject was ten years old, and still reside there. Up to the age of fifteen Dr. Grau attended the district schools near his home, and he then went to work upon neighboring farms, saving his earnings for the education which he desired. At nineteen he entered Geauga Seminary, at Chester, and studied there as he could for three years, teaching in the meantime. He began reading medicine with Dr. W. I. Lyman, of Chester Cross Roads, Geauga county, and in September, 1889, entered Western Reserve College, Cleveland, and later studied at the University of Vermont. His professional studies were completed in Starling Medical College, Columbus, where he was graduated March 3, 1892. In July of that year he came to Jerry City and "hung out his shingle," and, although he was among strangers, with no influence to smooth his path before him, his fine abilities, through training, and high personal character won him friends from the outset, and he has established a good practice. His success in the past, won, as it has been, by his own efforts, forms the best promise for the future.

The Doctor was married, October 16, 1895, to Miss Irene B. Covert, of Chester, Geauga county, who was educated in Geauga Seminary. In politics he is independent, voting according to his own judgment.

**JACKSON SWEEBE**, a well-known agriculturist of Liberty township, was born in Huntingdonshire, England, in 1832, a son of Joseph and Ann (Paine) Sweebe. His father, who was a groom, had charge of the hunting horses of a



*John M. Graw.*



wealthy man in England, for a number of years. He afterward worked as a laborer, and passed his entire life in his native land. The children of the family are Charlotte and Samuel, both deceased; Jackson, subject of this sketch; and Joseph, Sarah and Samuel, all three living in England.

Our subject attended the common schools and aided his father during his boyhood. At the age of eighteen he entered the employ of a Lincolnshire farmer, with whom he remained for one year and seven months, receiving eleven pounds per year, until his marriage, when his wages were raised to fifteen pounds. He was married at Dummitton, in Lincolnshire, England, in 1856, to Miss Sarah Andrews, and the following year they sailed from Liverpool on the trading vessel "Rachel," landing, after a voyage of thirty-five days, at New York. On July 4, they started for Albany, where Mr. Sweebe worked by the month as a farm hand, and then went to Canada, locating fourteen miles from Toronto, where he remained until the fall of 1865. He then visited Huron county, Ohio, on a prospecting tour, and, having decided on a location, sent for his family. Here, for some four years, he worked as a farm hand, after which he rented a farm four years, and, in the fall of 1873, he came to Wood county, living in various places before purchasing his present home, which comprises forty acres of land in Liberty township.

In Huron county, in 1869, Mrs. Sweebe died, the mother of the following family: (1) Jackson E., born in Canada, November 27, 1858, was reared on a farm, and was married in Monroeville, Ohio, January 13, 1881, to Mary Young, who was born in Huron county, July 5, 1862, daughter of Philip and Julia Young, natives of Germany; children as follows have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Jackson E. Sweebe—Amos, Clarence, Samuel and Louise. (2) Harriet, born in Canada, was married, in 1876, to William Carpenter, of Huron county, and they live in Oklahoma, Kans.; their children are named as follows: Samuel, Joseph, Mabel, Grace, and one unnamed. (3) Joseph, born in Canada, was married in 1885 to Sarah Hock, of Liberty township, where they now have their home; the children born to them are named respectively: William, Clayton, Emma, Louise, Verne and Herman. (4) Herbert L., born in Canada, has a sketch elsewhere in this volume. (5) Elizabeth, born in Huron county, Ohio, was married, in 1890, to George Limbert, of Erie county, Ohio, where they now live, and have two sons. (6) William, born in Huron county, Ohio, was married to Bertha Poland,

and they now live in Liberty township; they have one son, named Lloyd. The father of this interesting family is a progressive, wide-awake citizen, devoted to the welfare of the community, and, during his long residence in Wood county, has made many warm friends.

PAUL J. BROWN, one of the leading oil producers of Wood county, and the owner of a fine farm in Plain township, was born in Otsego county, N. Y., June 5, 1837. [The family history is given in the sketch of George M. Brown elsewhere].

Our subject remained in his native place until the age of fifteen, when he set out by the overland route for California, helping to drive thither 300 head of cattle. He crossed the Missouri river where Omaha now stands, and could have bought the entire tract "for a song." From Omaha he walked to Sacramento City, a distance of 2,360 miles, and, after his arrival, he worked for some time in the gold mines, after which he kept books in a lumber yard, later again engaging in the search of gold, digging in the middle fork of the American river. After three years spent on the coast, he came home by the Nicaragua route, reaching the old homestead in the fall before the removal of the family to Wood county. Hither he accompanied his parents, and soon after his arrival found employment on the North Western railroad, in the engineering corps, where he worked nearly a year. Returning to this county, he bought land in Plain township, and settled down to farming. In the course of time he became interested in the oil industry, and he is one of the founders of the Brown Oil Company.

On August 28, 1862, Mr. Brown enlisted in Company D, 111th O. V. I., Col. John R. Bond commanding the regiment, and Capt. John E. McGowan, the company, which regiment was attached to the army of the Tennessee. Our subject participated in several battles and skirmishes, among the most important being those of Perryville, Knoxville and Loudon. At Perryville one of his eyes was injured by the concussion of a shell; and, while in the mountains of east Tennessee, he was taken prisoner, but succeeded in effecting his escape, after being in the enemy's hands some fifteen minutes. He was promoted to sergeant, and was honorably discharged in 1864. On March 4, 1865, he was married to Miss Martha Brown, a native of Perry county, Ohio, born July 8, 1839, a daughter of Isaac and Cassandra (Rhinehart) Brown, the former of whom was a son of Mathew Brown, who was



born in Ireland, and, coming to this country, first settled in Virginia. Mrs. Cassandra (Rhinehart) Brown was a native of Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Simon Rhinehart, a very early settler in Perry county, Ohio, coming there with the army in 1812, and participating in the battle of Fort Meigs. Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Brown had a family of nine children: Six sons—Simon R., Tood, Robert, Ethan, Jesse and Oliver—and three daughters, Martha (Mrs. Paul J. Brown), Ida and Lucia. To our subject and wife have come four children: (1) Cora, born July 23, 1867, married John McMillen, and has two children—Esther and Mary; (2) Laura is at home with her parents; (3) Fannie married Charles Diehl; and (4) Jay B., is a student at Dennison College. Mr. Brown is one of the substantial men of Wood county, holding in an unusual degree the esteem and confidence of the community. Socially he is a member of the F. & A. M., Blue Lodge, while in politics he is a Democrat.

J. D. HATHAWAY, a wide-awake and prominent citizen of Montgomery township, is one of the most successful general farmers and horse breeders of Wood county, where almost his entire life has been passed. Philip Hathaway, his paternal grandfather, was born September 11, 1789, in Massachusetts, and in that State he was married May 22, 1818, to Diadamia Hathaway, whose birth also occurred there, on September 24, 1797. Learning carpentering, he later worked at that trade in New Orleans, but in the spring of 1835 brought his family to Rollersville, Ohio, near which place he owned a farm of 160 acres, covered with a heavy growth of timber, and there carried on farming until his death, which occurred September 9, 1844. His wife survived him four years, dying September 16, 1848, and both were laid to rest in the Bradner cemetery.

In their family were the following children: Philip, Jr., born July 12, 1820, was drowned July 22, 1830. Philo W., born May 9, 1822, died while on a visit to Portland, Ore., and was buried at Fostoria, Ohio. G. D., the father of our subject, was next in order of birth. Eunice W., born March 24, 1831, is the widow of John Eaton, of Philadelphia, Penn. Philip D., born July 30, 1833, died in Massachusetts while studying law, in December, 1851. Ann E., born June 22, 1838, is now Mrs. Marshall Rice, of Erie county, Ohio.

G. D. Hathaway was born at Freetown, Mass., March 27, 1827, but when quite young was brought to Ohio, where his boyhood was passed amidst pioneer scenes on a farm, and

he secured his education in the primitive district schools. In Freedom township, Wood county, March 21, 1852, he led to the marriage altar Miss Harriet Kelly, who was born February 22, 1832, in Salem township, Columbiana Co., Ohio, and is the daughter of John C. and Caroline (Smith) Kelly, the former a native of New Jersey, and the latter of Pennsylvania, born near Wilkesbarre. From Columbiana county she was taken by her parents to Sandusky county, Ohio, locating near Rollersville; but about 1836 removed to Section 36, Freedom township, Wood county, where her father died at the age of seventy-six years, and her mother at the age of seventy-four. In their family of twelve children, seven sons and five daughters, Mrs. Hathaway was the eldest daughter and second child. After his marriage the father of our subject rented a farm in Scott township, Sandusky county, for a short time, and there later owned seventy-two and a half acres which had belonged to his father. Disposing of that place he purchased forty acres in the same township, to which he added until at the time of his death he had 100 acres. In June, 1890, he removed to Bradner, where he built an excellent home, in which his last days were spent. He died January 7, 1895, and was buried in Bradner cemetery. He was always a Democrat in politics, served as trustee of Scott township, and was a faithful member of the Disciples Church. His wife, who still survives him, is also a member of the same church, and at her pleasant home in Bradner is surrounded by many warm friends. Her husband left a valuable property, and she is now in comfortable circumstances.

Mr. Hathaway, whose name introduces this sketch, is the only child of G. D. and Harriet (Kelly) Hathaway, and was born October 14, 1853, in Section 1, Montgomery township, Wood county, where his parents lived for a short time. On reaching a sufficient age he entered the "Fractional school," his first teacher being Celestia Smith, and he early became familiar with agricultural pursuits.

On December 27, 1872, Mr. Hathaway was united in marriage with Miss Lucy Hartman, who was born May 16, 1854, and is the daughter of William and Esther (Buchtel) Hartman, the wedding ceremony being performed in Section 12, Montgomery township. They have become the parents of the following children, all still living: Lee, William, Glenn, Maggie, Alfred, John, Clifton, Orville, Jay and Goldie.

Mr. Hathaway began housekeeping upon a rented farm in Scott township, Sandusky county,

where he resided for two years, and then moved to an adjoining farm of 100 acres, but in Madison township, of the same county, on which he built a log house, where the following three years were passed. He next made a temporary home with his father while his present dwelling was being erected. In 1877 he received from his father forty acres in Section 1, Montgomery township, a few acres of which had been cleared, but no buildings stood upon the place, so that all that are now there found have been put up by him. Since 1888 he has given considerable attention to breeding blooded trotting stock, starting with a Morgan mare, and now has some excellent stock, some of which are of the Wilkes breed. He is a great admirer of good horses, of which he is an excellent judge, and is one of the prominent breeders of the community, which business is the result of an intense desire for high-bred animals. On political questions, Mr. Hathaway regularly votes the Democratic ticket.

HERBERT L. SWEEBE, an industrious and progressive young farmer of Liberty township, is a native of Canada, born in Toronto, Province of Ontario, June 4, 1866. He is a son of Jackson Sweebe, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume.

Our subject spent his school days in Huron county, completing his education at the age of eighteen. He afterward worked on the stock farm of Amos Stover for six years. In 1887 he was married in Liberty township, Wood county, to Almira M. Smith, who was born in Richland county, Ohio, in 1870. For four years they lived on the Stover farm, of which for the last year Mr. Sweebe had sole management. In the winter of 1891 he purchased twenty acres of land of his father, erected thereon a good residence, and has since carried on farming and teaming. To Mr. and Mrs. Sweebe were born four children: Willis J., born March 26, 1889; Sarah Merl and Leah Pearl (twins), born August 22, 1891, the former now deceased; and Lester, born February 22, 1894. In politics Mr. Sweebe was formerly a Republican, but is now a supporter of the Peoples party. In religious faith he is identified with the United Brethren Church.

ADAM BLESSING, one of the representative German-American citizens of Montgomery township, was born eighteen miles northeast of Heidelberg, Germany, June 21, 1821, and is a son of Benedict and Eva D. (Hildebisel) Blessing. The father was a general millwright, was quite well-to-do, owning a saw and grist mill in the Father-

land, as well as several acres of land, all of which he sold, but unscrupulous dealers caused him to lose the entire proceeds. In his family were six children: Emma, who was married and died in Germany; Catherine, who there married Adam Graber, and after coming to the United States, died in Montgomery township, Wood Co., Ohio; another daughter, who was married and died in Germany; George, of Wood county; Adam, of this sketch; and Andrew, who was drowned by a freshet in Germany, at the age of eleven years. In 1847 the parents crossed the Atlantic, and in Ashland county, Ohio, the mother spent her remaining days, but the father died in Montgomery township, Wood county.

In Germany, our subject attended the district schools during his boyhood, and learned the trade of a millwright. At the age of twenty-three years he was married, and in 1845 he and his family sailed from Amsterdam for the New World, arriving in New York after a long voyage of forty-nine days, whence they came to Wayne county, Ohio, by way of the Hudson river and Erie canal to Buffalo, N. Y., by lake to Cleveland, Ohio, and by canal to Fulton. Going to Marshallville, Wayne county, he there secured work in a sawmill and among the farmers, for five years. In the meantime George Blessing, the brother of our subject, had come from Germany, and the two bought a mill property in Copley township, Summit Co., Ohio, which they greatly improved. After conducting the mill for some time they sold out in 1855, and came to Rising-sun, Wood county, where they purchased ten acres of land, on which a frame sawmill had been erected. Fitting out the mill with the machinery which they had brought from Summit, they continued to operate it in partnership until 1864, when our subject sold out and worked as an employe in a sawmill. Soon afterward he bought the north one-half of the southeast quarter of Section 36, Montgomery township, which was then covered with timber. The first home of the family, a log house, 18 x 24 feet, was supplanted by a frame residence, but as that was later destroyed by fire, he is now occupying the third house built upon the farm. In 1880, in connection with his son George, he erected a sawmill in Jackson township, Seneca county, Ohio, which they still operate; his present farm comprises eighty acres of valuable land, and he also owns a lot in Risingsun.

Seven children came to bless the union of our subject and his estimable wife, namely: Maggie, wife of Frank Crowell, who is living with her parents; Catherine, wife of Conrad Shefler, of

Risingsun; Eve, wife of G. Bartley, of the same place; John, who died in infancy; George, of Jackson township, Seneca county; Fred, who died in childhood; and William, of Montgomery township.

In his political affiliations, Mr. Blessing has ever been a staunch Democrat, and has held the office of supervisor. On starting out in life in the United States, his capital consisted of but five dollars, and his success is due to persistent labor and indefatigable energy, backed by a determination to succeed. He has never shirked work, being as industrious as his nationality would suggest, but is still a well-preserved man, of jovial disposition, a great joker and an excellent conversationalist. He is widely and favorably known, and is held in the highest esteem by all. His worthy wife is a member of the liberal United Brethren Church.

**GEORGE CHALLEN.** The present prosperous condition of Plain township is largely due to the class of men to which our subject belongs. He comes from the "tight little island" across the sea, his birth having occurred in Sussex, England, June 18, 1854, and when but an infant was brought to this country by his parents, William and Mary (Evans) Challen, also natives of England. They arrived in the New World in 1857, and the father began farming in Plain township, Wood county. In the family were eleven children, as follows: Jane, deceased wife of Thomas Mitchell, of Plain township; Henry J., who followed farming, but is now deceased; Elizabeth, wife of Isaac Parkson; Charlotte, wife of Robert Barber; Mary, wife of Thomas Aldrich; William, a farmer of Jackson township, Wood county; Annie, widow of Isaac Borland; Charles, also a farmer of Jackson township; Harriet, widow of George Green; George, subject of this sketch; and John. The mother of this family died in Plain township, in 1882, and the father made his home with his son John until his death, September 20, 1896.

The district schools of Bowling Green furnished George Challen his educational privileges, and in the labors of the home farm he aided until he reached mature years, when for a year he rented a farm of 120 acres. In connection with his brothers he then went to Jackson township, where they bought 160 acres, but, later, he sold his interest to his partners and came to Plain township, where he purchased eighty acres. He immediately commenced the improvement of his land, which is now in an admirable state of cultivation, and it has become a very valuable piece

of property, owing to his careful tillage and the neat buildings he has erected. At Tontogany, January 20, 1882, he was married to Miss Jennie Kitchen, a daughter of Philip Kitchen, of Plain township, and one child graces their union: Wallace W., born August 23, 1883. Our subject does not care to take an active part in politics, but always casts his vote with the Republican party, and has served for nine years as school director, being clerk of the board for a part of the time. He and his wife are held in the highest respect for their genuine integrity of character, and their attractive home is the abode of hospitality.

**WILLIAM T. LE GALLEY**, a prominent agriculturist of Plain township, was born May 13, 1845, in Peru township, Huron county, Ohio.

His father, William Le Galley, Sr., came to Wood county in 1856 and located in Plain township, where our subject attended the district schools and worked upon his father's farm during his boyhood. On reaching his majority he received from his father thirty-two acres of unimproved land, which he has cleared and brought to a fine state of cultivation, making ditches, planting an orchard, and erecting substantial buildings. In 1864 he enlisted for 100 days in Company C, 144th O. V. I., under Col. Hunt and Capt. Kitchen, and went by way of Columbus and Baltimore to the front. He remained with his regiment until the expiration of his term, and on receiving his discharge, September 2, 1864, returned to his peaceful occupation of farming. In 1869 he was married to Miss Celia A. Jewell, a daughter of the late John Jewell, a leading citizen of Plain township. They have had two children: Maude, born in 1873, died in infancy, and Grace, born in 1878, now attending school.

Mr. Le Galley is a brother of John H. and Myron Le Galley, prominent residents of this county, whose biographies appear elsewhere, and the family holds a high standing in the community. Our subject and his wife are active members of the Baptist Church, and take part in various lines of philanthropic and religious work. In politics Mr. Le Galley is a Democrat; socially he is a member of the G. A. R.

**JOHN H. HANNA.** Among the leading citizens of Wood county, whose genuine worth well entitles them to representation in the history of this locality is our subject, a self-made man, who owes his success in life to his own efforts, and who is highly esteemed by many friends.

Mr. Hanna was born in Fairfield county, Ohio,

January 17, 1859. His great-grandfather, John Hanna, was a native of Ireland, and became the founder of the family in America, locating in Maryland, subsequently taking up his residence in Fairfield county, Ohio, and becoming one of its first pioneers. The father of our subject, Harrison Hanna, was born in that county, and is a farmer by occupation. He wedded Miss Mary Miller, and some years later removed from Fairfield to Hancock county, there locating on a farm in Portage township. In 1883 he purchased a forty-acre farm in Jackson township, Wood county, where he has since lived. To Mr. and Mrs. Hanna have been born the following named children: Ellsworth, a farmer of Jackson township; Mrs. Annetta Entz, of Fairley, Ohio; Mrs. Ida Rader, of McComb, Ohio; Mrs. Jemima Wright, of Jackson township, Wood county; Harvey, a farmer of Jackson township; Carrie, a successful school teacher of Nebraska; Edwin, at home; and John H. The mother of this family died in 1882.

Our subject attended the district schools of his native county, and for two terms pursued his studies in Van Buren, Ohio. He remained under the parental roof until nineteen years of age, when he began to earn his own livelihood by working as a farm hand, and was thus employed for two years. He is an earnest, energetic, wide-awake business man, and, whatever he undertakes, carries forward to successful completion.

In September, 1879, in Cass township, Hancock Co., Ohio, Mr. Hanna was united in marriage with Miss Sarah A. Albertson, a native of that county. Four children were born to them: Myron Edwin, at home; Wilbur A., who died at the age of thirteen; Elsie E. and Harry Berchord, who are under the parental roof.

Mr. and Mrs. Hanna began their domestic life upon a rented farm in Hancock county, and, in the spring of 1891, came to Wood county, he having previously purchased eighty acres of land in Jackson township. Soon afterward he added to this another eighty acres, and now owns 160 acres of rich and arable land, the greater part of which is under a high state of cultivation, and yields to the owner a good return for his labor. On leaving Hancock county, he sold his farm in Cass township, and his property in Findlay and Arcadia. At the time of his marriage his cash capital consisted of not more than \$5; but he has steadily worked his way upward, overcoming the difficulties and obstacles in his path, and has risen to a place among the substantial citizens of this locality. The Republican party claims his support. He is now serving as school director,

and as township trustee, having been elected in the spring of 1894 to the latter office for three years. While living in Hancock county, he also served as township trustee. He holds membership with the Methodist Church, and his honorable, upright life is in harmony with his professions.

RUDOLPH KINDERVATER, a well-known and highly respected farmer of Perrysburg township, was born in Hestia, Germany, January 27, 1843. His parents were Henry and Augusta (Schultz) Kindervater, both of whom were natives of Hestia, the former being born there in 1800 and the latter in 1814. They came to America in 1852, and settled in Perrysburg on a farm, where the father died in 1863 and the mother in 1881. Their children were: Harmon, Henry, Rudolph, Augusta and Frederick.

Rudolph came with his parents to the United States, grew to manhood in Perrysburg, and was educated in the public schools. On December 6, 1867, he was married, and six children were born to him, as follows: Emma became the wife of John Jacobs, of Perrysburg township, and they have two children—Clifford and Carlin; Frederick married Miss Ella Ward, and they also have two children—Melone and Paul; and Ida, Agnes, Caroline and Lucy. The daughters of Mr. Kindervater are remarkable for their beauty, as well as for their intelligence.

PETER KLAG, who owns and operates a good farm conveniently situated in Middleton township, is one of the native sons of Germany. He was born in Bavaria, May 31, 1836, and is one of a family of ten children born to Valentine and Elizabeth (Sunckle) Klag. His father came to this country in 1862, and died in Norwalk, Ohio, in 1872, while his wife passed away in 1883.

Our subject acquired his education in Germany, and worked on his father's farm until eighteen years of age, when in 1853 he came to this country, making the voyage across the Atlantic in a sailing vessel, which reached New York harbor after a forty-two days' voyage. He located in Williamsburg (now Brooklyn), N. Y., where he remained some four years, working as a common laborer. In 1857 he came west to Ohio, settling in Norwalk, Huron county, and for three years was employed on a farm. In 1862 he came to Wood county, purchasing forty acres of land in Middleton township. It was covered with timber, but in the midst of the forest he erected a log cabin, and at once began to clear the property, continuing this work until the entire

place was under the plow. In 1870 the cabin home was replaced by a substantial frame residence, good barns have also been built, the place has been divided into fields of convenient size by well-kept fences, the latest improved machinery has been purchased, and to-day the farm is a valuable and desirable one.

In 1864, in Toledo, Ohio, Mr. Klag was united in marriage with Johanna Hassalselle, who was born in Germany in 1841, and two children were born to them: Johanna, wife of Albert Raatz, a farmer of Perrysburg township; and Mary, wife of Lewis Schaller, who is operating the Klag home-stead. The mother of this family is now deceased. The history of a self-made man is interesting and encouraging, as it demonstrates what can be accomplished by perseverance, industry and well-directed efforts. By the exercise of these qualities Mr. Klag has steadily worked his way upward, and as the result of his labors is to-day in comfortable circumstances. He is a member of the Lutheran Church, and in political faith is a Democrat.

JONATHAN DUHAMEL, a prosperous agriculturist of Perrysburg township, was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, in 1832, a son of Henry and Margaret (Johnson) Duhamel, who were born and reared in Maryland, and where they were married. In 1820 they came to Ohio, and made their home in Guernsey county. In May, 1851, Mr. Duhamel removed to Perrysburg township, Wood county, where he purchased land and improved it. Six children were born to them, as follows: Amos was a soldier in the Civil war, and died in Wisconsin; Benjamin is yet living; James, who was also a soldier, died in Indiana in 1882; Jonathan is our subject; the other children died in infancy. The mother of this family died in Guernsey county, Ohio, in 1836, and the father, for his second wife, wedded Miss May Arnold. She died in Wood county in 1886, leaving seven children, all of whom except one are living, but we have record of only three: Maria lives in Perrysburg; William in Cygnet; Daniel is deceased; Fred lives in Dunbridge. The father of Henry Duhamel was born in 1765, and died in Wood county in 1862.

Our subject was educated in the district schools of his native county, also at Belmont Academy, Tuscarawas county, and was nearly twenty years old when the family came to Wood county. Some two years later he purchased unimproved land in Perrysburg township, which he cleared and cultivated. In 1861 he was married, in Middleton township, to Miss Eunice M.

Connor, who was born in Genesee county, N. Y., and of this union six children were born, namely: Adella (now Mrs. Henline), who resides in Freeport, Ohio; Elizabeth (Mrs. McPherson), of Dunbridge; and James, Grant, George and Grace, all at home. In 1862 Mr. Duhamel enlisted in Company D, 111th O. V. I. for three years, or during the war. They were assigned to the Department of Ohio and Tennessee, and he served the most of the time on detached duty. In July, 1865, he was honorably discharged at Indianapolis, and returned home to engage in the peaceful pursuits of farm life. Since that time Mr. Duhamel has given his attention to the cultivation of his land, and has prospered in the business. He is a Republican, but has never taken any active interest in politics beyond using his influence in the selection of good men for office. He is public-spirited, ever ready to assist in any enterprise looking to the welfare of the community, and was the first man to petition for a ditch law in Perrysburg township. Mr. Duhamel is a member of Wolford Post No. 51, G. A. R., at Perrysburg, in which he has held office at various times. He is highly respected by all who know him.

J. B. MILLER, a real-estate dealer of Bowling Green, was born in Knox county, Ohio, August 18, 1855, where he attended school and worked on a farm until eighteen years old, when he learned the plasterer's trade, at which he worked in Knox county for five or six years, then going to Ashland county for a period of six years, and thence to Bowling Green, where he arrived in 1888. Here he worked at his trade, made contracts for plastering, and assisted in building many of the public and private houses in the city. He continued in this line of business until March, 1894, when he entered the real-estate business, and was employed by Mr. Rudolph. He possesses property in Bowling Green, and has bought and sold a great deal since he has resided here.

Mr. Miller was married, in 1886, to Miss Ella Brown, who was born in 1857, in Knox county, and died October 11, 1891. Two children were born of this union, Mary M., and one who died in infancy. Mr. Miller is a Republican in politics, and socially is a member of the I. O. O. F. and of the Methodist Church.

The paternal great-grandfather, John Miller, came from Ireland to America and settled in Pennsylvania. He was employed in the Custom House at Philadelphia for some time. His son Jonathan, our subject's grandfather, was born in

Pennsylvania, and was a farmer by occupation. He settled for a time in Columbiana county, when our subject's father was three or four years old, moving from there to Knox county, where he died. His wife died in Carroll county, Ohio. They had four children: Charles, Hiram, John, and Jonathan. John, the father of our subject, was born in Montgomery county, Penn. He was married in Knox county, Ohio, to Sarah Burtette, who was born in Coshoccon county, Ohio, in 1825, and is still living with our subject in Bowling Green. She was formerly an English Lutheran in her religious belief, but is now a member of the Methodist Church. To Mr. and Mrs. Miller were born five children, as follows: Cinderella, who married John Beam, and lives in Bucyrus, Ohio; J. B., our subject; Alice, who married Henry Garns, and lives in Wooster, Ohio; Myra J. is single, and lives with our subject; and a child, who died in infancy. Mr. Miller is one of the energetic citizens of Bowling Green, and possesses the respect and esteem of all who come in contact with him.

A. F. CHASE, who occupies a foremost place in the ranks of Middleton township's leading and influential farmers, was born in Perrysburg township, March 7, 1849. His father, Gulusha Chase, was born in Vermont, where he attended school and worked on his father's farm. When a young man he came to Ohio, locating in Perrysburg township, Wood county, where he rented a farm of 200 acres, continuing its cultivation until 1856. He then removed to Middleton township, and purchased an eighty-acre tract of land near Hull Prairie, which he transformed into well-developed fields. He married Caroline Bridges, a native of Perrysburg, Wood county, and to them were born six children, five of whom died in early life, our subject being the only survivor. Mrs. Chase passed away in 1857, and the father afterward married Miss Cuning, of Middleton township. He served as trustee of Middleton township for one term, as school director two years, and gave a liberal support to all measures calculated to advance the general welfare. His death occurred in April, 1891.

Our subject acquired his education in a log school house furnished in primitive style, and early began earning his living by working on the farm of Richard Carter, with whom he remained for a number of years. He afterward returned to his father's home at Rudolph, and subsequently aided him in clearing up the family homestead in Middleton township, which since his father's death had come into his possession; a

comfortable dwelling has been erected, a good barn has been built, many rods of tiling have been laid, and the work of cultivation and improvement has been carried forward until the farm is one of the best in Middleton township, and the owner is regarded as one of the leading agriculturists.

In 1870, in Middleton township, Mr. Chase was joined in wedlock with Mary Copley, who was born in that township in 1851, and they had three children: Andrew, who was born September 17, 1871, and operates the home farm; Bertha, who died in infancy; and Bertha (2), who was born in 1877, and is now attending school. The parents are members of the Hood Presbyterian Church, and in politics, Mr. Chase is a Democrat. Socially, he is connected with Camp No. 387, K. O. T. M., Haskins, and Roche-de-Bœuf Lodge, No. 530, I. O. O. F., while he and his wife belong to the Order of Rebekah. His many excellencies of character and his genuine worth, combined with a genial, social manner, have won him many warm friends.

THOMAS DAVIS has witnessed much of the development and upbuilding of Jackson township, has seen its wild and unimproved lands transformed into good farms and homes, and takes just pride in the progress and advancement that have here been achieved. The community recognized in him a valued citizen, one who has always borne his part in the work of improvement. He is also a self-made man, who well merits the success he has achieved, as it is a reward of his earnest and persistent labor.

Mr. Davis was born in Wales, November 10, 1827, and is a son of John and Mary (Morgan) Davis, also natives of that land. There were eight children in the family—Elizabeth, who died in Wales; Thomas; William, who came to America when a young man, locating in Medina county, Ohio, and after his marriage removing to Highhill, Mo., where his death occurred; James, who came to this country with his brother William, and in 1861 entered the army, since which time no news has been received of him; Nancy, who was married, and died in Wales; Joseph, who came to America, served as a soldier in the Civil war, and died in Kansas; Charles, who came to this country with his brother Joseph, and located in Medina county, where he is now a prosperous farmer; George, who was married, and died in Wales.

Our subject began his education in his native land, and after coming to America attended night school. He worked on a farm in Wales for \$50

per year until 1846, when, at the age of nineteen years, he came to America, believing that he could thereby better his financial condition. On the 18th of April, the vessel "Leodes" sailed from Newport with Mr. Davis on board. After a voyage of seven weeks he landed in Boston, and by way of the lakes went to Milwaukee, Wis., and on to Janesville, that State. There he spent his last quarter for breakfast, after buying a ticket to Cleveland. Near the latter city he secured employment at sheep-shearing, and afterward worked as a farm hand in Cuyahoga county for more than a year.

Mr. Davis was married August 27, 1851, to Miss Adelia Atherton, who was born on a farm near Burlington, Vt. When she was three years old her parents, Marvin and Sarah (Hill) Atherton, removed with their family to Cuyahoga county, Ohio, and afterward went to Medina county, where the parents spent their last days. On his marriage, Mr. Davis purchased sixty acres of land in Lorain county, Ohio, which he operated for six years, and then engaged in teaming for three years. In the fall of 1864 he came to Wood county and bought forty acres of land, to which he afterward added another forty acres. His farm is situated in Section 2, Jackson township, and he has now a highly improved place. The comfortable frame residence which replaced the log cabin is typical of all the improvements upon the farm, and the owner is accounted one of the progressive agriculturists of the community.

To Mr. and Mrs. Davis were born these children—Matilda, wife of David Hemminger, of Jackson township; Mary Ann, wife of Finley Oberdorf, of Bowling Green; Charles, at home; Mrs. Dora Pyatt, of Sioux City, Iowa; Marcia, wife of Henry Blythe, of Jackson township; Louisa, who was married, and died in Jackson township; and Lizzie, who died at the age of nine years.

In his political views, Mr. Davis was formerly a Whig, and cast his first Presidential vote for General Scott, but now gives his political support to the Republican party. He has been clerk of the school, director and township supervisor, discharging his duties in a capable manner. He belongs to the United Brethren Church, and his life may be termed a successful one, not only when viewed from the standpoint of finance, but when judged from the standard of all that is honorable and straightforward.

ADAM GROSS, a well-known young agriculturist of Webster township, Wood county, residing near Dunbridge, is a native of Baden, Germany,

born February 21, 1865, a son of John A. and Elizabeth Gross. He was one of a family of four children: Catherine, Armenia, Adam (our subject) and Jacob. Both parents died in Germany, the mother in 1884, the father eight years later. Mr. Gross received his early education in the excellent schools of his native place, and lived at home until the age of twenty-three, when he came to this country, locating first near Maumee, Ohio, where he worked as a laborer for two years. In 1890 he came to Webster township, and bought eighty acres of land, which his industry has made a fine property. He was married in Maumee, February 18, 1888, to Miss Elizabeth Coller, a daughter of Jacob and Margerite (Gonseller) Coller. She was born November 30, 1860, one of a family of fourteen children. Mr. and Mrs. Gross have had four children: Jacob, born January 11, 1892; Albert, born September 10, 1894; and two who died in infancy.

Mr. Gross takes an intelligent and active interest in all the questions which affect the welfare of his adopted country. In politics he is a Democrat, and he and his wife are prominent members of the Lutheran Church.

F. C. ROSENDALE, one of the pushing, wide-awake, prosperous young men of Wood county, was born in West Millgrove, this county, May 6, 1867, son of Dr. Charles and Rebecca (Wade) Rosendale.

Our subject attended the district schools of his native town, and this training was supplemented by two terms of study at the more advanced school at Fostoria, Ohio. He was reared in the little village where he was born, and, as his parents were well-to-do, he had but few cares as a boy. Being somewhat given to adventure, he spent some time in the West, where he took up various pursuits. Returning to Ohio, he was married, at Bowling Green, on March 27, 1889, to Clara Brubaker, a native of Bloom township, who was born February 1, 1866. She is the daughter of Philip and Sarah A. (Lee) Brubaker, who occupy a farm in Bloom township. To Mr. and Mrs. Rosendale have been born four children, their names and dates of birth being as follows: Charity A., January 6, 1890; Charles P., June 19, 1891; Grace, February 26, 1893; Sadie M., February 17, 1896. In the spring of 1889, Mr. Rosendale located on his present farm in Section 17, Portage township, where he has 307 acres of land. In the same year he paid a visit to England and its principal cities, and also went to the Paris Exposition. In 1892 he began to operate in oil in Portage township, securing



*Fred. G. Rosendale*





some good wells, and has been quite fortunate in his ventures, being at present one of the best known operators in the above mentioned township. Although a young man, he has a plentiful supply of this world's goods. He is an admirer of fine horses, and owns some fast animals. In politics he is a Democrat, but he only takes a voting interest in the elections. He is of a genial disposition, and has a host of friends.

N. S. HATFIELD, M. D. This leading citizen and popular physician was born in Perry township, January 5, 1855, the second son of John S. and Johanna (Bonnell) Hatfield.

The father, John S., was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, November 5, 1820, and was the son of William Hatfield, whose wife died when John S. was a mere child. The latter in his boyhood was put to learn cabinet making in Williamsburg, Ohio, which trade he succeeded in mastering in a comparatively short time, and in a few years was able to purchase his employer's business, which he carried on successfully for some years. He was married in March, 1840, in Hamilton county, to Miss Caroline McMillen, who bore him three children: Sarah J. (now Mrs. Joseph French), of St. Joseph, Mo.; Lorenzo D., who died in Bloomdale, Ohio; and Elizabeth, who died at the age of twenty-one years.

John S. Hatfield was an honest, industrious man, but was overtaken by misfortune; his wife became very ill, and the trouble and expense caused by this affliction, with other reverses of fortune, greatly reduced his finances, and he was compelled to give up his furniture factory. Later he carried on a grocery store at Williamsburg, Ohio. About 1846 or 1847 he came to Wood county, and had to practically begin life over again, all his property having been swept away. For three years thereafter he was associated with his brother, Nathan Hatfield, in farming and in a chair factory, at the end of which time he bought land in Section 28, Perry township, and began farming on his own account, continuing in that occupation until his death, December 23, 1893. For his second wife he married, in Perry township, February, 1848, Johanna Bonnell, who was born May 17, 1826, in Greene county, Penn., a daughter of John and Deborah (Alexander) Bonnell, who came to Ashland county, Ohio, in an early day. Her father at one time resided in Perry township, but returned to Ashland county, where he died. Of this union there were eleven children, namely: Job, born in December, 1848, died in infancy; Theodore J., born in May, 1850, is a farmer in Perry township; Mary

C., born October 12, 1851, lives on the home farm; Eunice E., born in January, 1853, is now Mrs. C. M. Hollopeter, of Fostoria; Nathan S. is our subject; Louisa V., born October 16, 1857, died when six years old; Clark A., born in February, 1860, lives in Fostoria; Charles B., born December 2, 1861, is a physician in Millgrove; William, born January 6, 1864, died when eight years old; Vierna, born in October, 1865, married C. C. Adams, of Montgomery township, Wood county; and Susannah, born in November, 1867, is the wife of F. E. England, of Fostoria. The mother of these children died October 1, 1886, and is interred in the cemetery at Center, Perry township. She was a member of the Methodist Church, and was a most estimable woman. John Hatfield was a well-built man, and in his younger days was a famous wrestler, never finding his superior in this art. He received only a limited education, but was a good business man, and in his later years again found himself in easy circumstances, owning at the time of his death 140 acres of good land, on which he had erected excellent buildings and made other improvements. Politically he was a Democrat, and held various township offices.

N. S. Hatfield, the subject of this sketch, was reared on his father's farm. Before he was five years old, which was the minimum age at which pupils could enter the schools, he entered District School No. 6, in Perry township, his teacher being James Chilcote. But little attention was paid to the small lad at first; yet when he attained to the dignity of five years he spoke to his teacher and demanded that he should receive more care from him. He learned easily and rapidly, his only trouble being that his schooling was so often interrupted by the necessity of attending to his duties on the farm. As early as the age of fifteen he fostered the idea of becoming a medical student, and used every opportunity to lay the foundation of a good education. When he was seventeen years old he entered the Union Schools at Fostoria, under the tuition of Prof. Hartley, and later attended the Normal School at Fostoria, at that time taught by Prof. J. Fraise Richard. At the age of twenty-one he began reading medicine under Dr. C. R. Rosendale, of West Millgrove, and, in 1876, he entered the medical department of Wooster University, at Cleveland, Ohio. His second course of lectures there was interrupted by illness which compelled him to go to Texas, where he spent the greater part of a year recuperating, in the meanwhile reading medicine. He completed his course in the University above

mentioned, and was graduated therefrom February 21, 1879, and began the practice of his profession the following April at West Millgrove.

In October, 1879, Dr. Hatfield was married to Miss Ora, daughter of Abraham and Lydia Foster, of Montgomery township. She bore him one child, Charles S., born June 29, 1882, who is at home with his father. On February 15, 1885, the mother died, her remains being interred in Millgrove cemetery. On May 5, 1887, Dr. Hatfield was united in marriage, in Bloom township, with Mrs. Albert Loe, who was the mother of one child by her first husband. This son, Wade D., was born April 20, 1882, and is at home with his mother. Mrs. Hatfield, whose maiden name was Louzila Shanabarger, was born in Bloom township, December 28, 1859, a daughter of Jefferson and Lydia (McCrorry) Shanabarger. The mother died when the daughter was only three years old, the father passing away two years later, and the child was taken by her aunt, Mrs. Reason Whitacre, who lived near Cygnet, in Bloom township, and in her family was reared to womanhood. She had one brother, Reason L., who died when ten years of age. Mr. Shanabarger was born in Mansfield, Ohio, in 1842. About the breaking out of the war of the Rebellion, he joined Company D, 111th O. V. I., and was appointed corporal, and then became sergeant. While home on a furlough in 1863, he was kicked by a horse, from the effects of which he died the same night, leaving the two children above mentioned.

Dr. Hatfield has practiced medicine continuously since 1879, and has been very successful both professionally and financially. He and his wife own 310 acres of land in Perry township. They now reside in Bowling Green. He is a very pleasant, agreeable gentleman, exceedingly popular in the community, and enjoys the respect of a large circle of friends. Politically he is a Democrat, but no partisan, in local elections casting his vote for the best man. He has served as councilman. Socially he belongs to the I. O. O. F. at Prairie Depot, and is a charter member of the K. of P. at West Millgrove. Mrs. Hatfield is a member of the Disciples Church, and shares with her husband in the esteem of their fellow citizens.

LEE N. BARNES, a popular citizen of Jackson township, having many friends in the community, is a native of Ohio. He was born in Rochester, May 25, 1866, and is a son of Orrin W. and Mahala (Anderson) Barnes. At the time of their marriage they located in Rochester, and several

years later removed to Toledo, where for a long period the father served as lumber inspector for the firm of Skidmore & Co. His death occurred about 1880, and his wife passed away in Toledo, in 1872. They had several children, namely: Edna, wife of E. Merles, of New London, Ohio; May; Lee N.; and George and Wade, both of whom died in childhood.

Lee N. Barnes attended school in Toledo, and acquired a fair education. At the age of eleven he began work in the pump factory of Skidmore & Co., in Toledo, where he remained about two years. He then secured work in a box factory in that city, and subsequently spent two years as a farm hand near Rochester, Ohio. His next place of residence was Wood county, where he cleared and improved eighty acres of wild land that had been purchased by himself and father.

In 1889, in Jackson township, Mr. Barnes was united in marriage with Miss Rebecca Stimmel, and then located on his land, erecting there a good frame residence, and making other extensive improvements. In January, 1891, he came to Hoytville and purchased a restaurant and bakery. He conducted this business for a year, and then began dealing in liquors, carrying on a retail trade. He is a genial, social gentleman, and has many friends. He traded forty acres of his land for his town property, but still owns the remaining forty acres. In politics he is a stalwart Democrat, and is now serving his second term as councilman. All that he possesses, he has made through his own efforts.

W. R. SWERLEIN is the owner of one of the richly improved farms of Milton township. His home, a commodious and substantial brick residence, stands in the midst of forty acres of rich land, and the neat and thrifty appearance of the place indicates the owner to be a man of progressive methods.

Mr. Swerlein was born in Wyandot county, Ohio, September 20, 1848. His father, John Swerlein, was a shoemaker by trade, and came from Germany to Baltimore, Md., in 1839. After nine weeks he went to Mexico, Ohio, near Tiffin, and in the latter place was married in 1841 to Theresa Klitch. Purchasing a farm of 155 acres near Mexico, he there carried on agricultural pursuits until his death in August, 1893. His widow is still living on the old homestead.

Our subject attended the district schools until eighteen years of age, and through the summer months worked on his father's farm. He afterward bought twenty-five acres of land which he operated five years, when he sold out and came

to Wood county. Here he purchased eighty acres which he later sold, and bought another tract of forty acres. Subsequently he became owner of his present farm of forty acres. He carries on farming on scientific principles, and is also a progressive, enterprising stock-raiser.

On February 11, 1875, Mr. Swerlein was married to Esther J. Bare, who was born December 7, 1856, a daughter of Ephraim and Ann (Goodman) Bare, natives of New York. She was one of three children, the others being Edward, who resides on the old homestead; and Emma, wife of Thomas Faust, of Pennsylvania. To Mr. and Mrs. Swerlein have been born five children—Ella M., November 1, 1876; William M., July 17, 1880; Ethel B., February 3, 1889; Delpha Etta, October 17, 1890; and John C., October 13, 1894. The parents are members of the Evangelical Church. In politics, Mr. Swerlein is a Democrat. In personal appearance he is a fine looking man, while in manner he is genial and courteous, and all who know him have for him high regard.

**LOUIS J. BOWERS.** Of those who devote their energies to agricultural pursuits in Middleton township, none are more worthy of representation in this volume than our subject, who is ever found true to all relations of life, and is a popular and highly-esteemed citizen. He was born March 7, 1863, in the township which is still his home. His father, Peter Bowers, was a native of Lorraine, France (now in Germany), and when fourteen years of age crossed the Atlantic to America, locating in Maryland. Some time afterward he removed to Tiffin, Ohio, and engaged in stage driving for several years. Subsequently he went to Indiana, where he devoted his energies to farming, and next came to Wood county, Ohio, locating in Middleton township, where he purchased eighty acres of timber land. He has not only cleared and improved this, but has added to it 100 acres, which is under a high state of cultivation, and in the midst of the well-tilled fields stands a good residence, and barns. He was married in Tiffin, Ohio, to Annie Rhyman, and they had fifteen children: Charles, George, Elizabeth (wife of Thomas Wright), Henry and Jacob (both deceased), Mary, Caroline (deceased), Catherine (wife of C. Stewart, of New York City), Margaret, Rosie (deceased), John (who operates the homestead farm), Louis J.; and three who died in infancy. The father died in 1886, and the mother in 1891. They were members of the Catholic Church, and he was a Democrat in politics.

Our subject was educated in the district schools, and attended college for one year. He worked on the old homestead until he had reached his majority, and then purchased twenty acres of land, to which he has since added sixty acres. His farm is now all under cultivation, and waving fields of grain, good buildings, and well-kept fences indicate the careful supervision and enterprise of the owner.

Mr. Bowers was married in November, 1887, to Clara Grover, daughter of the late George Grover, of Center township, and six children graced their union, but the two youngest (twins) died in infancy; the others are William, born in 1888; Clyde in 1890; Edward in 1892; and George in 1894. Politically, Mr. Bowers is a Democrat; socially, he is connected with the Knights of the Maccabees. He is a popular citizen, having many friends, and all who know him esteem him highly.

**MRS. MARY FITZGERALD GUIDER**, of Bowling Green, Wood county, is a descendant of a family which has long been famous in the history of Ireland. Lord Edward Fitzgerald, whose name is familiar to every student, was one of her ancestors, and the genealogical record contains the names of other eminent men, including bishops and other ecclesiastics noted for learning and piety.

Her father, James Fitzgerald, was a freeholder in County Tipperary, Ireland, where our subject was born. He had ten children: Thomas died in Dunkirk, N. Y.; John was for many years a resident of Wood county, and died in Perrysburg; James died in Bowling Green, in June, 1894, at the age of ninety-six; Patrick died in Perrysburg; Anastasia, who was greatly beloved for her saintly character, died at Waterville, aged sixty; William died in Ireland; Pierce was a devoted student, and was remarkable for his mental attainments; Michael is deceased; Peter is a freeholder in Ireland; and Mary, Mrs. Guider. The Fitzgerald brothers were highly respected residents of Wood county, with which they were identified for many years.

The subject of this sketch, formerly Miss Mary Fitzgerald, was married in Ireland to John Guider, and lived there upon a freehold until after his death. About ten years ago she came to Wood county, bringing her three children, in order to be with her brothers, for whom she cared during the remainder of their lives. Possessing abundant means, she has acquired a large tract of land in the "Oil Belt," upon which operations are being conducted, and she also owns a

pleasant home on Wallace street, Bowling Green, where a refined circle of friends and acquaintances enjoys a charming hospitality. Two of Mrs. Guider's children are at home with her: James, who is noted as an athlete, and Percy, a young man of twenty-four, of fine culture and intelligence. Mary, a charming young lady, was married April 21, 1896, to Patrick Hubbard, and has a fine home in Toledo. Mrs. Guider possesses an unusual range of information, and in her cheery home one may well forget for a time the prosaic side of life.

SIDNEY McMASTER is a representative of one of Ohio's pioneer families, and was born in Greenfield township, Huron county, August 10, 1839, his parents being Levi and Charity (Newberry) McMaster. His education was acquired in the district schools near his home, and on the old home farm he was reared to manhood, early becoming familiar with the labors of field and meadow. He continued under the parental roof until he had attained his majority, and then began farming on his own account on rented land in Huron county. He enlisted at Mansfield, Ohio, February 2, 1865, in Company G, 191st O. V. I., and served until the war closed.

Mr. McMaster was married in his native township, December 25, 1866, to Miss Roena McKelvey, who was born in Huron county, April 9, 1846. They began their domestic life in that locality, and there remained until December, 1874, when they came to Wood county, where Mr. McMaster purchased forty acres of partially-improved land—his present farm. This is under a high state of cultivation, and its neat and thrifty appearance indicates his careful supervision. The home is blessed by the presence of two children: Jay, born July 8, 1871; and Della, born March 22, 1883.

Our subject is a staunch Republican, and for many years has efficiently served as supervisor. He and his wife are highly-esteemed people, and their hospitable home is a favorite resort with a large circle of friends.

MYRON LE GALLEY, a prosperous farmer and well-known educator, of Wood county, residing in Plain township, was born in Huron county, Ohio, January 23, 1837, and is a son of William and Abigail (Terry) Le Galley.

The father of our subject was born in Massachusetts in 1812, and was one of the pioneer settlers of Huron county, whither he came at an early day. He there learned the trade of a tanner and currier, which he followed in the village

of Peru, in that county, until 1856, when he removed to Wood county, where he is still living, active and vigorous in spite of his advanced age. His wife was born in 1819, and grew to womanhood in Huron county, Ohio. The children of this worthy couple were six in number, of whom one died in infancy. The others are the subject of this sketch; John H.; William T., who lives in Plain township; Silia, living at home; Charles residing in Wood county; and Fannie, deceased.

Myron Le Galley was nineteen years old when his parents removed to Wood county. He had finished his education at Norwalk, Ohio, and in 1858 was married to Miss Margaret Jewell, who was born in Pennsylvania April 21, 1839. The young couple settled on the farm on which they still reside, and for ten years Mr. Le Galley taught in the district schools of the county, and for one term at Haskins. In this vocation he was very successful, being a man of fine mental ability, well informed in all branches of literature, and of genial, kindly manners. His family are all readers and students, and progressive in their views. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Le Galley: (1) John W., born August 1, 1860, finished his schooling in Toledo, and also taught school for one term; he married Miss Eva Smith, born June 24, 1866, and they have two children: Harry B. and Marguerite. (2) Frank, born September 25, 1871, is single, and has a farm of sixty-three acres, on which are three oil wells. Mr. Le Galley has five oil wells on his farm, from which he derives a good income. For thirty years he has been a member of the Masonic order, and belongs to Tontogany Lodge No. 451.

CHRIS. A. HOFFMANN, one of the young, active and enterprising merchants of Perrysburg, where he enjoys the esteem and confidence of the community, is a native of Wood county, born in Perrysburg, August 27, 1861. He is a son of George Hoffmann, of whom a sketch appears elsewhere in this volume.

Our subject, at the age of eighteen years, began traveling for J. C. Sharp, of Delavan, Wis., selling agricultural implements, and for some ten years traveled through the States of Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Iowa and Missouri. After this experience he returned to Wood county, where for two years he was employed in farming, then moved to Perrysburg, and became engaged in his present business.

Mr. Hoffmann was married in Perrysburg to Miss Louisa Armbruster, whose birth occurred in Troy township, August 12, 1865, and to the marriage were born Anna who died at the age of

eight years, and Elmer H. Our subject is a member of the K. of P. society at Perrysburg, and is identified with the Order of Elks, of Toledo. As intimated in the beginning Mr. Hoffmann is one of the wide-awake and public-spirited men of Perrysburg.

**G. W. SUTTON.** This popular and energetic citizen of Bowling Green, where he is an extensive dealer in ice, coal and beer, was born in Oneida county, N. Y., October 2, 1853. He is the son of D. C. and Judith (Winston) Sutton. The father was a native of Albany, N. Y., where he was married, afterward removing to Oneida county, where he died about 1875, when forty-seven years old. He was a grocer by occupation. The mother removed west after the death of her husband, and died in Chicago in 1893, at the age of eighty-seven years. Her father, David Winston, lived to be 102 years old, and had his second eyesight and second growth of hair.

The subject of this sketch ran away from home when twelve years old, and followed the water for sixteen years, sailing on the Hudson and Long Island Sound. He was licensed as captain, engineer and pilot, and for some time ran his own vessel, the "City of Detroit." He had grown quite prosperous, but he lost everything through speculation, and when he came west was obliged to begin life anew commercially. During his life as sailor he learned the trade of a ship carpenter and caulker, which he followed some four or five years, after which he traveled throughout the Western States, finally purchasing land and other property in and near Red Cloud, Neb., which he still owns.

During one of his Western trips Mr. Sutton heard of the discovery of oil and the rapid development of the oil field in Wood county, this State, and after investigating the matter decided to locate in Bowling Green, which he did in 1888, opening up a business here in which he has made a success. For the first two years of his residence here he was engaged in the manufacture of brick in company with Amos Freese. He put up the first icehouse ever built in Bowling Green, and has made various other improvements which have added materially to the growth and benefit of the city. He has dealt in real estate to some extent, and all the property he now owns has been acquired by energetic and well-directed industry. His business is prosperous and steadily growing, and he now gives employment to four men and three teams.

Mr. Sutton was married in January, 1888, in Lexington, Ky., to Miss Ollie Berry, who was born

in that city in 1862. Two children have blessed their union, Ellen and Royce. Their beautiful residence was erected in 1889. In politics Mr. Sutton is a Democrat, and socially he is a K. of P. He is a wide-awake, enterprising business man, foremost in all matters relating to the public interests, and is esteemed by all classes of people.

**WILLIAM COOKSON** is a Western man by birth and interests, and in Wood county has a wide acquaintance, while his many friends hold him in high regard. He was born in Orange, Ohio, November 25, 1862, and is a son of Milo and Idress (Williams) Cookson, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter of Virginia. Their marriage was celebrated in Hancock county, and subsequently they located in Orange, Ohio, whence they afterward removed to Clare, Clare Co., Mich., where they are living at the present time. The father is a farmer by occupation. The children are—Mary, wife of Eli Stockwell, of Liberty township; Elizabeth, wife of James Coulter, of Clare county, Mich.; William; Nancy, wife of Thurston Ross, of Portage township; Jacob, a farmer of Clare county, Mich.; and Eliza, wife of J. Lowers, of the same county.

Our subject was reared to manhood in the place of his nativity, and in the public schools acquired a good education. On the removal of the family to Michigan, he purchased a farm of forty acres in Clare county, which he still owns. In 1887 he came to Wood county, and for eight years was in the employ of his brother-in-law, Eli Stockwell, in a sawmill. He afterward rented ten acres of land from Mr. Stockwell, on which he erected a good home. He now has an interest in the Independent Oil Co., and his own industry and resolute purpose have brought to him a comfortable competence.

Mr. Cookson was married in Liberty township, January 11, 1888, to Alta Harris, by whom he has two children—Eli, born February 5, 1890; and Myrtie, born February 25, 1891. He is a member of the United Brethren Church; in politics he is a Democrat.

**T. J. CHILCOTE**, one of the leading and prosperous young business men of Wood county, who is engaged as a furniture dealer and undertaker in Prairie Depot, was born in Section 11, Montgomery township, this county, February 3, 1869, and is the son of James and Rose (Stewart) Chilcote.

His father, whose birth occurred at Risdon, now Fostoria, Ohio, August 8, 1835, was the

eldest son and child of Joseph and Elizabeth (Jones) Chilcote, and, after completing a course in the common schools near his home, he attended a school at Republic, Ohio, taught by Professor Schuyler. At the age of seventeen years he began teaching, his first school being in the Flack district, in Seneca county, Ohio, and he followed that profession continuously until his marriage. It was in 1859 that Mr. Chilcote wedded Rose Stewart, a daughter of Thomas D. Stewart, who was born in 1804, in Lycoming county, Penn., and in that State married Frances Riddell, whose death occurred in February, 1843. They had four children, namely: Mary S., now Mrs. Abram Hyter, of Bradner; Rose E., mother of our subject, now Mrs. G. H. Caldwell, of Republic; Frank R., of the Stewart Hardware Company of Fostoria, Ohio, who enlisted as a private of Company H, 49th O. V. I., during the Civil war, and, when hostilities had ceased, returned home as captain of Company A, of the same regiment, receiving his commission soon after the battle of Nashville, in December, 1864; A. D., ex-county clerk of Wood county, who is now located at Toledo, Ohio; and J. M., a physician of Fremont, Ohio. For his second wife Mr. Stewart chose Miss Henrietta Bernard, and they had four children: John T., of St. Paul, Minn.; W. D., a physician of Toledo; C. H., a groceryman of Fostoria; and C. E., a physician of Hicksville, Ohio. The family was one of the most illustrious in Wood county. In the spring of 1838 Mr. Stewart had removed to Clinton township, Seneca Co., Ohio, and in 1854 located in Perry township, Wood county, where he died on March 12, 1875, and was buried at Fostoria.

After the marriage of the parents of our subject they located upon a rented farm in Perry township, where they were living when the Civil war broke out. On August 15, 1862, the father enlisted in Company I, 111th O. V. I., was promoted to first sergeant September 4 of the same year; on November 26, following, was made second lieutenant, but December 7, 1863, resigned his commission. On his return from the army he located in what is now Bradner, Ohio, where he conducted a sawmill up to the time of his death, which occurred December 10, 1869, and his remains were interred at Center, Perry township. Politically, he was always a staunch Republican, casting his first vote for John C. Fremont, and, at the age of twenty-eight years, served as justice of the peace. An earnest Christian, he held membership with the Methodist Episcopal Church, with which he was also officially connected, and, socially, joined the Masonic

order at Fostoria. He was a large man, being five feet ten inches in height, and weighing two hundred pounds.

The parental household included five children, namely: P. V., a telegraph operator, stationed at Air Line Junction, Ohio; Frank P., of Lewistown, Idaho, who is secretary of a mining company; Minnie M., who was the wife of A. A. Brownsberger, and died at Lime City, Ohio; Lilly B., now a teacher of Fostoria, Ohio; and T. J., of this review.

The last named was but an infant when his father died, and his mother later married G. H. Caldwell, formerly of Bradner, Ohio, who was a well-to-do and substantial citizen. His step-father lived in different portions of the county, but the youth of our subject was mostly passed in the vicinity of Perrysburg, and his primary education was obtained in the district schools. For three months he later pursued his studies at Maumee, Ohio. At the age of seventeen years he entered the mercantile trade as a clerk for A. Williams of Perrysburg, by whom he was employed for six years and three months, at first receiving only \$3 per week, out of which he paid \$2 for board, but even out of such small wages managed to save some money. Mr. Chilcote was next in the employ of Sanborn & Co., at Toledo, Ohio; but at the end of two months he was taken ill, and on his recovery returned home to recuperate, spending the summer at Republic, Seneca county, where his step-father had removed in the spring of 1893, and where his mother is still living. The following August, Mr. Chilcote purchased the business of R. S. Clegg & Son, furniture dealers and undertakers of Prairie Depot, and there he has since successfully engaged in business. Besides his store building he also owns a good home at that place.

At Perrysburg, on September 6, 1893, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Chilcote and Miss Lottie L. Clegg, daughter of R. S. and Mary (Janney) Clegg. They are both earnest workers and faithful members of the Methodist Church, in which our subject is serving as secretary and a member of the board of trustees. He is a Republican in politics, and socially is a member of Odd Fellows Lodge No. 646, and Petroleum Lodge No. 499, K. of P., both of Prairie Depot.

HIRAM OSTERHOUT, deceased, was a farmer of Weston, Ohio, born in Ontario county, N. Y., December 6, 1816. He is the son of George and Catherine Osterhout, the former of whom was a farmer, and was born in New York State. He died in Huron county, Ohio, at the age of

seventy-four, and his wife when fifty years old, also in Huron county. He was a Democrat. To this couple were born six children, as follows: Mary Ann, who married in New York State; Hiram, our subject; Electa, who married Wilson Dwight, of Huron county; Henry, who died in Wood county; Charles, who lives at Hull Prairie; and John, who died near Chicago, Illinois.

Our subject remained in New York until sixteen years old, when he came with his parents to Huron county. In 1852 he went to California, spending one hundred and eighty days on the road. He spent five years there, hunting gold, of which he found a goodly quantity, and then returned home *via* Nicaragua. He stopped a few days in Erie county, and in the same year, 1857, bought his present farm and was married to Miss Mary Jane Heath, who was born in Huron county, near Monroeville, in March, 1823. They at once settled in the home where the widow yet resides, and by honesty, industry and thrift, accumulated money, and became independent. The huge maple trees standing in front of their residence were planted by Mr. Osterhout when he first went to live there. He was a member of the Disciples Church. Before the war he was a Whig, but joined the Republican party after its formation. He passed to his final rest August 26, 1896, mourned by a wide circle of friends.

H. C. PITTENGER is a noble type of the citizen soldier, equally true to his country on the battlefield, or in the peaceful surroundings of his home, and his family may well feel proud of his honorable and manly record. He is now one of the prominent and representative men of Prairie Depot, where he has made his home since December, 1891.

Mr. Pittenger was born in Seneca county, Ohio, August 15, 1844, and is a son of John and Catherine Pittenger, both of whom were of German extraction, and were married in Seneca county. The father was a native of Maryland, and accompanied his father, John Pittenger, to Tiffin, Ohio, where the latter was one of the pioneer merchants. Our subject is the oldest in the family of six children, the others being Robert, who now makes his home in Texas; Charles, of Seneca county; Jesse, of Texas; Sarah, wife of Rev. Kelser, a Methodist minister; and William, who died when a young man. The parents still reside upon the home farm in Clinton township, Seneca county, which the father purchased many years ago, and has since continued to operate. He is a large man, six feet in

height, and during his younger days was quite strong. His political support is given the Republican party.

The education of our subject was obtained in the common country schools of his boyhood, he first attending at an old log school house, which was supplied with very primitive furniture. He early became inured to the arduous labors that fall to the lot of the pioneer farmers, and assisted his father in clearing the land and developing a farm, remaining under the parental roof until he joined the boys in blue during the Rebellion.

On August 18, 1862, Mr. Pittenger joined Company I, 101st O. V. I., under Capt. N. M. Barnes, and was mustered in at Monroeville, whence he was sent to Cincinnati, and went into camp at Covington, Ky. His first engagement was at Crab Orchard, Ky., after which he was detailed to drive a team in a supply train belonging to the army of the Cumberland. After the battle of Chattanooga, he rejoined his regiment at Bridgeport, Tenn., and was with Sherman until August 2, 1864. At about 6 P. M., of that day, when on a skirmish line within sight of Atlanta, he received a bullet in the left shoulder, and was sent to the field hospital. He was later in the hospital on Lookout Mountain, where he was given a furlough in November. At the end of twenty days he returned to his regiment at Nashville, Tenn., and remained with the command until the close of the war, being discharged at Cleveland, Ohio, in June, 1865, after about three years of faithful and arduous service. On the day of his return home he began plowing corn, and aided in the farm work until his marriage.

On March 3, 1868, Mr. Pittenger was joined in wedlock with Miss Rose Watson, who was born in Seneca county, March 4, 1846, and is a daughter of James Watson, one of the early settlers of Pleasant township, that county. To this worthy couple have been born four children—Asenith, now Mrs. E. W. Hovis, of Prairie Depot; Maud, wife of I. B. Newcomer, of the same place; Catherine, now Mrs. Frank Castle, also of Prairie Depot; and Frank K., at home.

After his marriage, Mr. Pittenger operated the "Watson homestead," which he rented until 1870, when he purchased forty acres of land in Section 10, Montgomery township, Wood county, where he continued to make his home until his removal to Prairie Depot. He votes the straight Republican ticket, and for six years has been a member of the school board. Socially he is connected with the Odd Fellows Society and the Knights of Pythias fraternity, at Prairie De-



pot. Both himself and excellent wife are members of the Christian Church, in which they take great interest, and in their daily life show themselves to be sincere Christians.

CALEB H. OPPERMAN, one of the progressive young farmers of Wood county, and superintendent of the Air Line Oil Co., was born in Washington township, Wood county, January 21, 1865, and is a son of Henry Francis Oppermann, a native of Germany. When a young man his father came to this county, where he purchased forty acres of land, which he cleared and cultivated; but later sold the same and bought eighty acres, to which he subsequently added forty acres, erecting thereon a good dwelling. On February 19, 1857, he wedded Rebecca North, who was born on the old homestead where our subject now resides. Politically, he was formerly a Democrat, later becoming a Republican, and served his fellow citizens in the office of supervisor. His death occurred December 13, 1876, that of his wife on January 4, 1892.

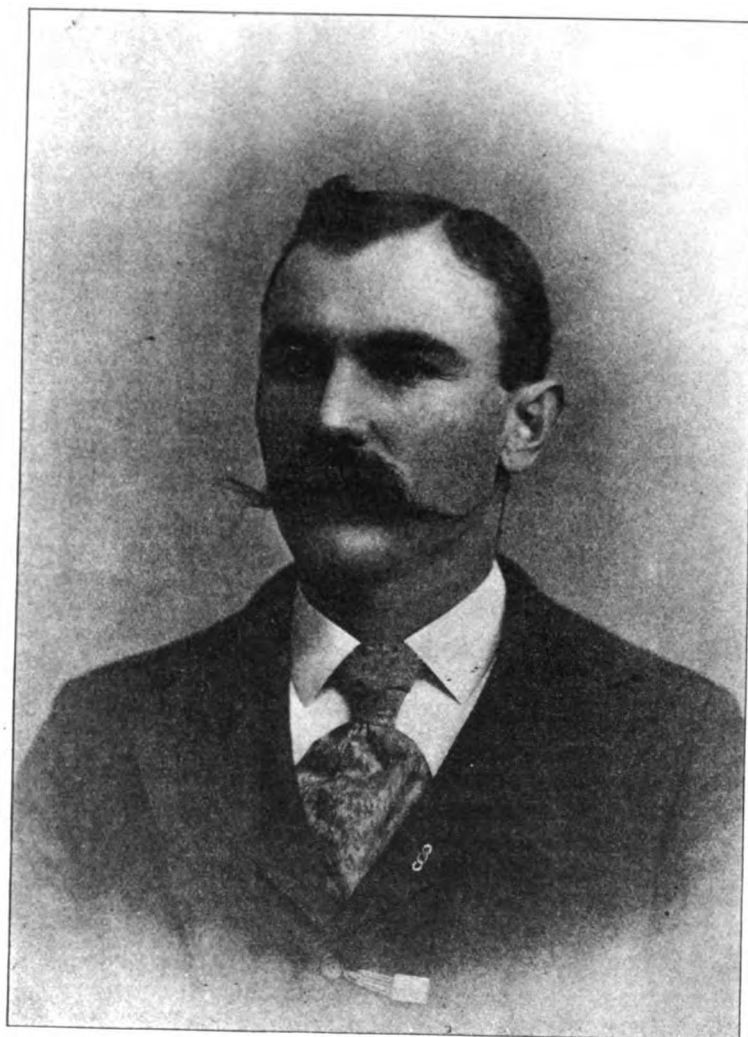
Our subject is their only child. In the district schools of the neighborhood of his place of birth, he acquired his education, and afterward, for one season, worked in a brick and tile yard at Tontogany; but at the age of nineteen he took entire charge of the farm, which he has since successfully conducted, making many good improvements on the place, including the erection of substantial barns and outbuildings. In March, 1896, he organized the C. H. Oppermann Oil Co., of which he was president, and in August, of the same year, it was reorganized as the Air Line Oil Co., he being one of the directors and superintendent, or manager, of same.

On July 17, 1884, Mr. Oppermann was united in marriage with Orra Ketchum, who was born December 25, 1868, a daughter of Edward Ketchum, a carpenter, of Tontogany. Her father, who is a native of New York, was born January 23, 1841, and on January 20, 1867, he wedded Caroline Kuder. To them were born two children: Mrs. Oppermann and her twin sister, Clara. The mother died December 10, 1869; the father is now an inmate of the Soldiers' Home at Santa Monica, Cal.; during the Civil war he enlisted at Tontogany in Company C, 67th O. V. I., and bravely aided in defense of the Union. To our subject and his wife have come seven children: Sherwood Gerald, born January 13, 1885, now deceased; Bernard H., born November 19, 1885; Helen, born March 18, 1887; Neil Kuder, born June 17, 1888, now deceased; Arthur, born February 5, 1890; and twins who died in infancy.

Since the age of ten years Mr. Oppermann has been dependent upon his own efforts, and he is a typical self-made man. He was ever a dutiful son, supporting his widowed mother, who for the last seven years of her life was an invalid. He uses his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Republican party, has been school director for three years, and for two years was supervisor. He is a consistent and faithful member of the Presbyterian Church, belongs to Tontogany Lodge No. 755, I. O. O. F., in which he has always taken an active part, filling all the chairs, and in which he is now past grand.

CALEB NORTH, maternal grandfather of Caleb H. Oppermann, was born March 18, 1789, in Somerset county, Penn., but nothing is known of his parentage. He had one brother named John, and records show that they were both "baptized at Unity church, Perry county, Ohio, June 17, 1820"; records also mention that John "died in Hocking county, Ohio, July 16, 1874." In 1829, Caleb North came to Ohio and settled on the farm whereon Caleb H. Oppermann now lives, in Washington township, Wood county. Here he followed agricultural pursuits, in connection with his trade, that of tanner, and being very handy at any thing he undertook, also did something at other trades, such as making boots and shoes, harness, etc., for the early settlers round about his farm. During the war of 1812, he was a commissioned officer, and Mr. Oppermann has in his possession the sword worn by him. Mr. North also had charge of the ferry at Brandywine Creek, Penn., during the war, and was in the government service in transporting troops, besides having charge of the United States mail, in delivering it over to the ferry. When, in 1864, Gov. Tod called for volunteers to defend the State against the threatened invasion of Morgan, Mr. North, at the age of seventy-five years, was among the first to shoulder his rifle and offer his services, as a member of the "Squirrel Hunters," to defend the State against the invasion; he proceeded to Cincinnati where he remained in camp and on picket duty until the command was ordered home. Two of his sons also served in that struggle—Caleb, Jr., as a member of Company C, N. Y. Art. (he was killed by a Confederate sharpshooter in front of Petersburg, Va., October 24, 1864), and Samuel L., who served but a short time, however.

On April 12, 1813, our subject was married in Pennsylvania to Miss Sarah Black, who was born January 18, 1794, in Perry county, Ohio, and eight children were born to them, their names



*C. H. Opperman.*



and dates of birth being as follows: Asbury, March 6, 1814; Amelia, November 24, 1816; Caleb, November 9, 1819; John, March 25, 1822; Joseph, February 17, 1825; Samuel L., June 3, 1827; Mary Catherine, January 20, 1830, and Rebecca, November 2, 1834. The mother of these died November 22, 1865. Mr. North passed from earth January 28, 1875, at the residence of his son-in-law, Henry Oppermann, in Washington township, Wood county. In his political preferences he was a stanch Democrat, and a prominent adherent of the party. For over fifty years he was a worthy and exemplary member of the Presbyterian Church. On coming to Wood county he united with the Plain Church, in which he continued until the organization of the Church at Tontogany, when he identified himself with that Society, and contributed liberally of his means toward the erecting of the church at that place. He was a man of strong constitution, great energy, and of remarkably temperate habits. In his death the family lost a kind and affectionate father, and the community an exemplary citizen and Christian friend.

ROBERT J. HULL, who is a prosperous merchant tailor in Bowling Green, was born in British Columbia, March 20, 1868, and is the son of Harry and Elizabeth (Old) Hull. His father was born in London, England, and early in life emigrated to America, locating in British Columbia, in Canada, where he followed his trade of a saddler, and later became a dealer in furs. He lived for a time in Victoria, and died in Ontario, Canada. His wife was of Irish descent, and was born in, or near, Montreal, Canada, at which place she still resides. This worthy couple were the parents of seven children, of whom the following grew to maturity: William, Harry, Robert, Ellen, and Nettie.

Our subject spent the first twelve years of his life in British Columbia, then he went to Winnipeg and later to Montreal. He learned the trade of a tailor, and for some years traveled throughout the country, working at different places, coming to the United States in 1887, and locating in Buffalo, N. Y. From there he went to Rochester, N. Y., then to Batavia, N. Y., and for a time was in Pennsylvania, Illinois and at the city of Duluth, Minn., finally coming to Bowling Green in 1889. He was a journeyman until April, 1893, when he opened his present shop and began business as a merchant tailor. He carries a full line of clothes and trimmings, having about \$4,000 worth of stock. He employs eleven people, and may well be called a hustler,

as he does all his own cutting, travels through the oil fields soliciting work, and is a most liberal advertiser. His work is of the highest grade, and he well deserves the liberal patronage which is bestowed upon him. Mr. Hull is a most energetic, enterprising man, and is very popular in the community. He is unmarried. Politically he is a Republican, and socially belongs to the K. of P., and I. O. O. F.

JAMES H. WENSEL, an energetic and progressive farmer of Montgomery township, has spent his entire life in Ohio, his birth having occurred December 27, 1860, in Venice township, Seneca county. His father, John Wensel, was born near Hesse Cassel, Germany, May 3, 1821, and was the son of Conrad Wensel, who by days' labor supported his family, consisting of thirteen children, only four of whom grew to adult age, namely: John, George, Catharine and Gertrude.

On the completion of his education, the father of our subject engaged in tending stock in his native country, his father also having been a herdsman; but in 1846, with a few dollars in his pocket, a part of which he had earned, and the remainder what his parents could spare, he bade farewell to the friends and scenes of his youth, starting for America, where he understood better chances were afforded a poor boy, such as he was. He left Bremen on the sailing vessel, "Mary Ann," which reached the shores of the United States seven weeks later, and he started at once for Columbiana county, Ohio. On arriving at Pittsburg, Penn., his money became exhausted, but he was kindly helped by a friend. He earned his first money in America upon a farm in Columbiana county, eight miles north of New Lisbon. After spending a few months there, he in September, 1846, located in Bloom township, Seneca county, where he worked as a farm hand for two years for Jacob Hossler.

In that county, on June 23, 1853, Mr. Wensel was united in marriage with Miss Nancy Grimes, who was born in Columbiana county, April 16, 1832, and was the daughter of Joseph Grimes, a farmer, who removed from Stark county, Ohio, to Seneca county. The following children graced this union—Mary E., born January 11, 1854, is now Mrs. Matthew Burton, of Liberty township, Wood county; Joseph W., born March 11, 1855, died September 6, 1856; Ira M., born October 11, 1857, is an agriculturist of Webster township, Wood county; Sophia A., born October 22, 1859, died February 27, 1860; Christina I., twin sister of Sophia, is the wife of John Roush, of Luckey, Ohio; James H. is the

next in order of birth; Sarah E., born July 20, 1863, is now Mrs. Finando Hastings, of Montgomery township; and Nancy, born August 7, 1865, died in infancy.

At the time of his marriage the father owned 200 acres of land one mile north of Eagleville, in Bloom township, Wood county, and on this land had the first home he could call his own, since leaving Germany. The place was a wet, swampy tract, and after a short residence there he returned to Seneca county, where he rented land until 1862, when he bought a farm in Venice township, that county. On that place he resided until April, 1871, when he came to Montgomery township, Wood county, locating upon one hundred acres which he had purchased in Section 6. The improvements were few and rude, the dwellings built of logs, and the land was but partially cleared. To its development and cultivation he has since devoted his time and attention up to December, 1895, at that time laying aside active business cares. He has lived to accumulate a handsome competence, reared a large family, and he is the architect of his own fortune. In all his efforts he was ably assisted by his good wife, who died January 22, 1883, and was buried at Pemberville, Ohio. He erected all the buildings upon his farm, which now ranks among the best in the locality. In politics he is an ardent Democrat.

Upon the home farm, James H. Wensel was reared to the thrifty habits characteristic of the German people, early receiving instruction in the duties that fall to the lot of the agriculturist, and, under the able guidance of his father, has become a thorough and skillful farmer. His literary training was obtained in the district schools. He has always remained under the parental roof, now having the entire management of the farm, and for some time has been the main spoke in the wheel. His father, however, still resides with him.

In Montgomery township, on November 8, 1883, Mr. Wensel was joined in wedlock with Miss Elizabeth Braden, of Morrow county, Ohio, where she was born December 25, 1862, the daughter of George and Rebecca (Wirebaugh) Braden. Five children were born to them—Rolley, born January 6, 1885; Irvin, who died in infancy; Grace, born June 8, 1888; Myrtle, born August 27, 1890; and Mary A., born February 27, 1892. The mother is a consistent member of the Methodist Church. Politically, Mr. Wensel affiliates with the Democracy, but has never aspired to public office, preferring to give his time and attention to his business interests.

H. A. KIEL. This republican government finds its best justification in the fact that the overcrowded population of the Old World can here seek homes, and, starting out on equal footing, secure the success which most abilities and diligence can obtain. Mr. Kiel is one of the adopted sons of America. He was born in Hanover, Germany, December 26, 1844, and is a son of Frederick and Mary (Benpoff) Kiel, also natives of Germany. In 1853 the father brought his family to America in a sailing vessel, which weighed anchor at Bremen, and after a voyage of more than four weeks reached the harbor of New York. He came direct to Wood county, and purchased eighty acres of wild land near Pemberville, on which he built a small log house, there making his home until his death, which occurred in the spring of 1859. His wife has since married again, and still lives in Pemberville. Mr. Kiel was a soldier in the German army, and throughout life made farming his occupation. His children were: Henry A.; William, who died at the age of forty-three; Fred, a railroad watchman; and Herman, a grocer, of Weston, Ohio. By her second marriage the mother had two children—Edward, who is living on the old homestead, and John.

Our subject attended school for two years in his native land, and subsequently attended the district schools of Freedom township. His vacation months during that time were spent at farm labor. At the age of sixteen he secured a clerkship in the general store of Ira Banks, with whom he remained for two years, and then, in 1864, entered the army, as a member of Company C, 144th O. V. I. He joined the regiment near Baltimore, and continued at the front for one hundred days. On his return north he went to Toledo, where he worked in a sash factory for about a year, and then embarked in the grocery business in Weston, which he successfully carried on for a number of years. During that time he was associated with two partners, his brother being in the store with him from 1879 until 1884. He then sold his store and stock to his brother, and in 1886 he embarked in the gristmill business in Tontogany, although he continued his residence in Weston. For four years he followed that pursuit, and then located on his present farm, since which time he has devoted his entire energies to agricultural pursuits. He first purchased forty acres of land in 1877, but now owns 150 acres.

Mr. Kiel was married, August 2, 1866, to Miss W. Hartman, who was born in Troy township, Wood county, April 19, 1845, a daughter of Frederick and Mary (Selecott) Hartman. In

politics our subject is a Democrat, is deeply interested in the success of his party, and has held a number of minor offices; also served as county commissioner for two years. His life has been well and worthily spent, and has secured him the esteem of those with whom he has been brought in contact.

ISAIAH T. BRUNER, a thorough and skillful farmer, and a business man of more than ordinary capacity, is a representative of the agricultural interests of Center township. There he is recognized as an important factor in preserving the reputation of the township as one of the best developed sections in Wood county. He is a native of the Keystone State, born in Perry county, August 10, 1847. His father, Jacob Bruner, was born in Pennsylvania, of German descent, and in the district schools of Perry county obtained his education. He there married Miss Hattie Murphy, by whom he had three children—Owen, a farmer of Minnesota; Isaiah T., of this sketch; and John, a farmer of Pennsylvania. The mother died in 1849, after which Mr. Bruner was again married, his second union being with Miss Mary Owens, and they became the parents of four children, namely: Zraha, an agriculturist of Wisconsin; Annie, wife of William Smith, a contractor and builder of Pennsylvania; Franklin, a railroad man; and Charles, who still makes his home in Perry county, Penn. The father passed away in 1879, and his second wife died in 1887.

The common schools of Perry county afforded our subject his educational privileges, and under the parental roof he grew to manhood, assisting his father in the operation of his land. He then rented a farm for several years, after which he removed to Ohio, locating in Henry township, Wood county, where he bought eighty acres, which he cultivated until 1887. At that time he came to Center township, here purchasing eighty acres of land, a part of the tract owned by the late William Perrin, and to its improvement he has since devoted his attention, so that it is now one of the finest farms in his section.

In 1871, in Perry county, Penn., Mr. Bruner led to the marriage altar Miss Sarah Ebersole, a daughter of Samuel Ebersole, of that State, and they have become the parents of four children—Mary, who is the wife of C. Jones, an oil operator of Henry township, and has one child—Robert; Odessa, who was born in 1889; Jessie, born in 1881; and Samuel, born in 1874, who died in 1877.

Mr. Bruner is a thorough Republican in his political views, and adheres closely to party lines

at times of election, while his religious belief is that of the United Brethren Church. His success in life has been the result of honest, persistent effort, in the line of honorable and manly dealing. His aims have always been to attain to the best, and he has carried forward to successful completion whatever he has undertaken. In his pleasant home he is surrounded by a happy and contented family, who have the respect and confidence of all who know them.

GEORGE BRANDEBERRY. The subject of this sketch comes of a family of pioneers. The son of James and Jane (Bates) Brandeberry, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume, he was born in Section 10, Perry township, August 3, 1855, and attended the common schools of District 8, in Perry. Since his boyhood he has seen the schools greatly improved, and heartily endorses the movement in that direction. He also attended Heidelberg College at Tiffin for a short time.

Mr. Brandeberry, when but a boy, selected farming as a vocation in life, and under the tutelage of his father he received excellent training. His first ideas in this work were obtained on the farm where he now lives. On December 21, 1876, he was married in Perry township to Miss Lavina Baker, who was born in Scott township, Sandusky county, November 26, 1859, the parents of whom were Martin and Mary (Wise) Baker, both natives of Hancock county. The parents of Mary Wise were Benjamin and Lydia, who came from Pennsylvania. Mrs. Brandeberry was the only daughter among four children, the others being William, Amos and Emmanuel.

After his marriage our subject located on the home farm, in an old house which has since been torn down, and he and his father worked in partnership until 1891, when our subject became owner of a portion of his present farm, and later bought the rest of his present home, consisting of 160 acres of as good land as there is in the county, 123 acres of which is cleared. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Brandeberry: Howard, who died in infancy; and Lee, Jennie, and Guy, who are still living at home. Our subject was a Republican until 1892, when he joined the Prohibition party. He and his wife have been members of the Methodist Church for eighteen years, fourteen of which he has been a class leader, and for three years he has been superintendent of the Sunday-school. He also belongs to the Odd Fellows at West Millgrove. Mr. Brandeberry is above the average man in intelligence, and is well read, being a liberal

patron of newspapers and periodicals that contain good, instructive matter. He is prosperous, a hard worker, a good manager and a thorough farmer.

**ELIJAH HUBER.** Among the young men of Portage township who have selected agriculture as their vocation in life, and who, judging from present indications, are bound to realize their most sanguine anticipations, is the subject of this biographical notice, who is residing on Section 12, where he has seventy acres of valuable farming land. He was born in the same section, February 10, 1873, and is the youngest son of John U. and Clarissa (Foster) Huber.

The education of our subject was such as the district schools of the neighborhood afforded, his first teacher being David VanVoorhis. He was but a child when his father died, and remained upon the home farm until nineteen years of age. After a year then spent in the Eastern States, he returned to Portage township, where he has since made his home. At Bowling Green, on July 7, 1893, was celebrated his marriage with Miss Henrietta Cox, who was born in Portage township, May 30, 1877, and is the daughter of William and Elizabeth (Hemming) Cox. They now have two children: John W., born December 30, 1894; and Charles J., born March 21, 1896.

For a short time after his marriage, Mr. Huber lived upon his father-in-law's farm, whence he removed to his present place, where he has erected all the buildings there found. Although young, he is rapidly growing into the esteem and respect of his neighbors, and bids fair, in the near future, to assume a prominent and influential position in the community. In his political views he coincides with the platform formulated by the Democratic party.

**GEORGE HOFFMANN,** the well-known proprietor of the oldest meat market in Perrysburg, was born February 4, 1836, in Bavaria. His parents, George Frederick and Margaret (Scheets) Hoffmann, were also born there, the father in 1811, and the mother in 1810. They came to this country in 1852, with their family of eight children, locating in Perrysburg township, where they both died of cholera (as did also two of the children—John and Elizabeth) two years later.

Mr. Hoffmann, the eldest son, then a boy of eighteen, buried them all without assistance, the neighbors fearing contagion. This sad duty performed, he took up the task of supporting the younger children, hiring out to work on a farm by the month, and under his kindly care the

remainder of the family grew to maturity. John George married Catherine Cornelius, of Perrysburg, and is a prominent business man of the same place; Barbara married Adam Hazel, of Perrysburg; Christina married Alex. Christ, of Toledo; Margaret is the wife of George Huber, of Toledo; and Mary married William Nopper, of the same city.

After working nearly five years for his first employer, our subject entered the employ of another, of whom he purchased a small piece of land. In 1858 he was married to Miss Elizabeth F. Cornelius, a native of Perrysburg, born January 3, 1841. Fifteen children were born of this union: George W. married Victoria Schellinger, of Perrysburg; Christopher A. married Louisa Armbruster, of the same place; Elizabeth M. married Casper Brandhuber, of the same place; Ella A. married William L. Stebel, of Liverpool; Henry married Mary C. Armbruster, of Perrysburg; Godfred, Valentine, Victoria, John and Joe are at home. John, Michael, Daniel, Mary and Anna died in childhood.

Mr. Hoffmann and his bride of sixteen endured many privations during the first years of their married life, but their mutual affections sustained them. He continued to work as a farm laborer until 1861, when he came to Perrysburg, and opened the meat market which he has ever since conducted. His sterling qualities of character have won him the respect and esteem of a wide circle of acquaintances, and he is a notable example among the self-made men of the community. He is a Democrat politically, and is a devout adherent of the Roman Catholic Church.

**SABASTIN SHIPLE** (deceased) was born in Bavaria, Germany, November 1, 1807, and acquired his education in the public schools. He afterward worked in a brewery for eleven years, and in 1840 he came to America, hoping to benefit his financial condition in the New World. He made his first location in Toledo, Ohio, where he worked for a year as a laborer, and in 1842 he came to Wood county, locating in Middleton township, where for a short time he was employed as a farm hand. He then purchased 120 acres of land, covered largely with timber and water. In order to make this cultivable he tiled it, and then transformed it into rich fields. He cleared forty acres, erected a good home and barn, and carried on the work of improvement until he had a well-developed farm.

In 1847 Mr. Shiple was united in marriage, in Middleton township, with Margaret Getz, who was born in Germany in 1822. They became

the parents of five children: John, who is engaged in farming; Joseph, an agriculturist of Middleton township; Katie, wife of John Schwint; George A., of whom special mention will presently be made, and one that died in infancy. The father of this family was called to his final rest June 28, 1893. He was a Democrat in politics, and a faithful member of the Catholic Church, while his many excellencies of character made him a favorite with many friends who gave him high regard.

GEORGE A. SHIPLE has spent his entire life in Middleton township, and is one of the wide-awake and representative young farmers of the community. He was born on the old homestead, September 29, 1863, and acquired his preliminary education in the district school near his home, but later attended the Catholic school at Perrysburg, where he pursued his studies for a year and a half. He early became familiar with all the duties of farm life, and has always carried on agricultural pursuits. He is to-day operating sixty-two acres of well-cultivated land, and cares for and supports his widowed mother, who is now in her seventy-third year. He possesses excellent business ability, is honorable in all his dealings, and is meeting with success in his well-directed undertakings. He gives his political support to the Democratic party, and has held the office of supervisor for one term. He is a member of and supports the Catholic Church of Perrysburg; also belongs to the Altar Society. He is scrupulously faithful to every duty and every trust reposed in him, and his genial, social manner has gained him many friends.

W. E. DOWLING, an industrious and enterprising agriculturist of Wood county, is one of the leading residents of Montgomery township, in Section 29; he was born September 4, 1864. His father, William Dowling, was a native of Marion county, Ohio, born at Latimerville, on August 5, 1833, and was a son of Jackson and Betsey (Arbuckle) Dowling. After the death of the latter, the grandfather of our subject married Eunice Biggs, a widow. His death occurred at Mt. Vernon, Ohio.

William Dowling, the father, was a son of poor parents, and received only such educational advantages as the district schools afforded during his younger years. During his youth, while not in school, he was employed in his father's store or upon his small farm. By teaching he secured money with which to pay his tuition at Hiram College, which he attended while James A. Garfield was also a student there, but his college

course was interrupted at intervals when he was compelled to teach.

At Osceola, Marion county, in May, 1854, Mr. Dowling wedded Miss Mary S. Chapman, who was born at Montville, Medina Co., Ohio, December 26, 1830, and was a daughter of George and Lois (Bates) Chapman, the former a native of New York. Their first home was a humble log cabin, with a dry-goods box for a table, and a sugar trough was used for a cradle, in which the oldest child, Rosa, was rocked. The father taught school during the winter sessions in order to support his family, and in the midst of all the trials and difficulties of those early days, he suffered a severe attack of typhoid fever. During the early part of his married life he lived for one year in Indiana, to which State he moved in a covered wagon. It was in 1860 that Mr. Dowling first came to Wood county, where he purchased eighty acres in Section 32, Montgomery township, where he lived for two years, when he sold at a profit, and purchased 140 acres in Sections 28 and 29. To this he soon added another thirty-acre tract, but there was no house upon the farm, and the family had to live in rented quarters for a time. He later bought forty acres in Section 29, which contained a house, into which they moved. From time to time he extended the boundaries of his land, until at the time of his death he had 380 acres of excellent land, all in Montgomery township.

At the age of seventeen years, Mr. Dowling became a member of the Disciples Church, and a few years later began preaching for that denomination, his first sermon being delivered in 1854. In following that calling he was interrupted at different times by his efforts to secure a home for his family. His first charge was at Freeport, Ohio, and later he preached at various places throughout Wood county. In April, 1871, he was called to Kenton, Ohio, where he had charge of a Church for nine years, and for the following seven years was thus employed in Marion county, after which he returned to Kenton, for eighteen months. His last charge was at Bowling Green, Ohio, which he was compelled to leave in August, 1889, on account of failing health. He never recovered, but died at the sanitarium at Mt. Vernon, Ohio, on March 7, 1890. His loving wife remained at his side, and after his death made her home with her children, until she too passed away, July 29, 1893. She was a conscientious Christian woman, and had engaged in teaching during her younger days. Both parents were buried at Freeport. The father was a self-made man in the truest sense of the word, was



ever prominent in Church work, and was one of the ablest pastors of the Disciples Church. In politics he regularly supported the Republican party.

Mr. Dowling, whose name introduces this record, is the fifth in order of birth in a family of seven children, the others being Rosa A., wife of William Williamson, a commission merchant of Buffalo, N. Y.; Hattie F., now Mrs. J. L. Williamson, of Freeport, Ohio; Flora O., wife of Rev. G. T. Camp, a minister of the Disciples Church at Council Grove, Kans.; Frank M., who is a minister of the same Church, and is now located at Pomona, Cal.; Alla M., wife of Rev. Charles M. Kreidler, who is pastor of the Disciples Church at Lansingburg, N. Y.; and Clarence E., a farmer of Montgomery township, Wood county.

During his boyhood, our subject attended the schools of Kenton and Marion, Ohio, during the residence of his parents at those places. He might have received a more advanced education, for which he had an opportunity, but he then lacked the desire for further study, and began work upon his father's farm as an employe, and later rented land from his father.

On September 10, 1885, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Dowling and Miss Ella A. Carhart, a native of Marion county, Ohio, and a daughter of George W. and Anna E. (Merchant) Carhart. She is a graduate of the Marion schools, and by her marriage has become the mother of one child—Florence I., born April 16, 1890. This young couple began house-keeping upon the farm which is still their home, and have lived there continuously, with the exception of a year and a half spent at Kenton, Ohio. In politics, Mr. Dowling is a staunch Republican, always voting for the men and measures of that party, and he and his wife are earnest and consistent members of the Disciples Church at Freeport. He is numbered among the best citizens of the township, and is destined to be one of its most prosperous and enterprising farmers.

JAMES DINDORE has been prominently identified with the agricultural interests of Wood county for almost a quarter of a century, and now owns eighty acres of rich land in Perry township. His childhood's home was in Hocking township, Fairfield Co., Ohio, where his birth took place April 6, 1854, and he is a son of George and Sarah (Hoffein) Dindore. His father, who was also a native of that county, died when our subject was only ten years old, leaving the widow with seven children, of whom James was the fourth in order

of birth. Three children had died before the father passed away. By occupation he was a farmer, and left a good farm of sixty acres, so the family were comfortably situated. The opportunities of our subject for securing an education were rather limited, as his services were needed upon the farm, and the districts schools of those days were not of a very high grade.

The first twenty-one years of his life Mr. Dindore spent on the farm where his birth occurred, and in 1875 he came to Bloom township, Wood county, securing work as a farm hand with Philip Brubaker. The following winter, however, was spent in his native county, and in the summer of 1876 he worked for Orrin Stearns, in Perry township. He always gave the best of satisfaction, and his employers were always willing to hire him a second time.

Mr. Dindore was married in Perry township, on May 18, 1879, to Miss Ella Bosler, who was born there December 2, 1854, and is a daughter of Tobias and Catherine (Slatterbeck) Bosler. They have become the parents of three children—Cora, who was born June 8, 1880, and died July 8, following; Clarence L., born April 4, 1882; and Charles F., born January 23, 1884.

After his marriage Mr. Dindore operated two rented farms before purchasing property, his first land being forty acres in Section 17, Perry township, to which he removed early in 1884. He had paid \$200 cash for the place, only five acres of which were cleared, and the buildings consisted of a log house and a small frame stable. While clearing his place he operated land for neighboring farmers. As his land was still in its primitive condition, it was a case of pioneer life in the midst of civilization, as the buildings were very crude; no draining had been done, and all of the surroundings were exceedingly wild. The timber has now been cut from sixty acres, the fields have been tilled, a good barn 40x60 feet was built in 1893, and two years later a comfortable, cozy house was completed.

Politically, Mr. Dindore is a reliable Republican, one of the leading members of that party in Perry township; in 1892 he was elected a trustee, in which position he is yet serving, and is a member of the West Millgrove school board, in which special district he resides. Socially, he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Freeport.

H. HAIR, a representative farmer of Middleton township, was born in Sandusky county, Ohio, December 2, 1849. His father, Thomas Hair, was a native of Pennsylvania, whence

when a young man he came to Ohio, settling in Sandusky county, where he operated a forty-acre farm. He married Miss Esther Fisher, and they became the parents of six children, four of whom died in childhood; the surviving members of the family are our subject and Mary, the latter being now the wife of Stephen Collin, of Clyde, Sandusky county. The parents are both deceased. Our subject acquired his education in the district schools of his native county, and worked upon his father's farm until he had attained the age of twenty-three years, subsequently spending two and one-half years in a sawmill in Sandusky county. In 1874 he came to Wood county, locating in Middleton township, where, with the money he had acquired through his own labors, he purchased forty acres of land which he has improved until it is now under a high state of cultivation, and yields to him a good return for his labor. In 1874 he was united in marriage with Elizabeth Collier, of Sandusky county, and two children graced this marriage: Stella, born February 25, 1875, now the wife of John Smith, a farmer of Middleton township (they have one child), and Della, who died when two years old. In his political views Mr. Hair is a staunch Prohibitionist. He belongs to the Radical United Brethren Church, takes a very active part in Church work, and is now serving as trustee and class leader. He is a man of progress and enterprise, a public-spirited citizen, giving a hearty support to everything calculated to promote the educational, social and moral welfare of the community.

**MARSHAL DUCAT**, a wealthy retired agriculturist residing in Bowling Green, was born July 8, 1843, on the boundary line between Ohio and Michigan, the State line running through his father's house. He is a descendant of an old French family, early settlers in Michigan.

His grandfather Ducat was a soldier in the war of 1812, stationed at Detroit, and our subject's father, then an infant, was taken to that post at the time of Hull's surrender. Mr. Ducat's grandmother drew a pension up to the time of her death, on account of her husband's military service. Her death occurred May 5, 1862.

Our subject's father, Joseph Ducat, was born in Michigan in 1807. He married Victoria Jacob, and settled on a farm in Wood county, where, except for a residence of seven years in Ottawa county, he remained until his death in 1872. He had twelve children: Joseph, a farmer in Wood county; Exea, a prominent resident of Bowling Green; Alexander, a soldier during the Civil-war,

who died in 1866; Julius and John, both farmers in Wood county; Gilbert, a retired farmer living in Bowling Green; Isadore, residing in East Toledo; Marshal, our subject; Frank, a farmer in Wood county; Victoria, who died at the age of six, and two others who died in infancy.

Marshal Ducat, our subject, grew to manhood on his father's farm, and in 1867 married Miss Ella Mominee; two children blessed this union: Jackson, born March 10, 1868, and Elmer, born April 5, 1877, both of whom received an excellent education in the high school at Bowling Green. After his marriage Mr. Ducat settled upon a fine farm in Liberty township, where he remained until 1888, when he retired from active business, and came to Bowling Green to reside. He owns, at present, sixty acres of land, with four oil wells. In politics he is a Democrat, and, although never an active politician, he is a ready and generous supporter of all public movements which meet his approval.

**A. J. CONKLIN**, a progressive farmer of Middleton township, has spent his entire life in Ohio, having been born in Huron county, November 20, 1846, and is a son of James Conklin, a retired farmer and prominent citizen of Weston. He enjoyed the educational privileges afforded by the district schools near his home, and through the summer months he aided in the cultivation of his father's farm until twenty-four years of age. He then started out in life for himself, and secured employment as a farm hand in Perrysburg township. When, through his own labors, he had acquired sufficient capital, he came to Middleton township, and purchased eighty acres of land near Roachton, which he cleared and otherwise improved until the whole became one of the fine farms of the locality. It is now quite complete in its appointments. On the place is a pleasant residence which was erected at a cost of \$2,000; also a barn, granary, the latest improved machinery and the other accessories of a model farm of the nineteenth century.

In 1871 Mr. Conklin was united in marriage, in Perrysburg township, with Miss Mary Wallace, daughter of D. W. Wallace, a retired farmer of Perrysburg, and they have one son, who was born in 1871, was educated in the common schools, and now resides at home, operating the homestead. Our subject has served as school director for four years, and the cause of education finds in him a warm friend. He has been a valued citizen of the community, taking an active part in promoting all interests calculated to benefit his township and county. He is now num-

bered among the substantial citizens of the community, and owes his position solely to his own efforts.

**MARK SELF.** This prosperous farmer of Plain township was born in Wiltshire, England, May 9, 1832, and is a son of Isaac and Christine (Taylor) Self, both also natives of Wiltshire, where they died, the former at the age of seventy-six years, and the latter when sixty-seven years old. They were the parents of nine children: Rebecca, Liva, Lott, Jane, Ann, Mark, Abel (now living in Huron county, Ohio), Amanda, and Sarah.

Our subject, who was a laborer in England, came to America in 1870. He first located in Huron county, Ohio, removing in 1880 to Wood county, where he purchased his present farm at \$50 per acre. He now owns 130 acres of well-improved and valuable land, and is looked upon as one of the leading farmers in Plain township. During the few years he has been in Wood county, he has made an independent fortune, all the result of untiring industry and excellent management. He is progressive in his ideas, attends studiously to his business, and is honorable in all his methods of dealing with his fellow men. He has been twice married, his first wife dying in England before his emigration to this country. By this union he had three children: Arthur, who is married and has one child (he resides in Bowling Green); Frank, unmarried, and living with his father; and William, living in Toledo, Ohio. Mr. Self's second marriage occurred in this country.

**HENRY R. ROETHER, M. D.,** a prominent physician and surgeon of Perrysburg, is one of the able young sons of Wood county who are achieving success in business, political and professional life on their "native heath."

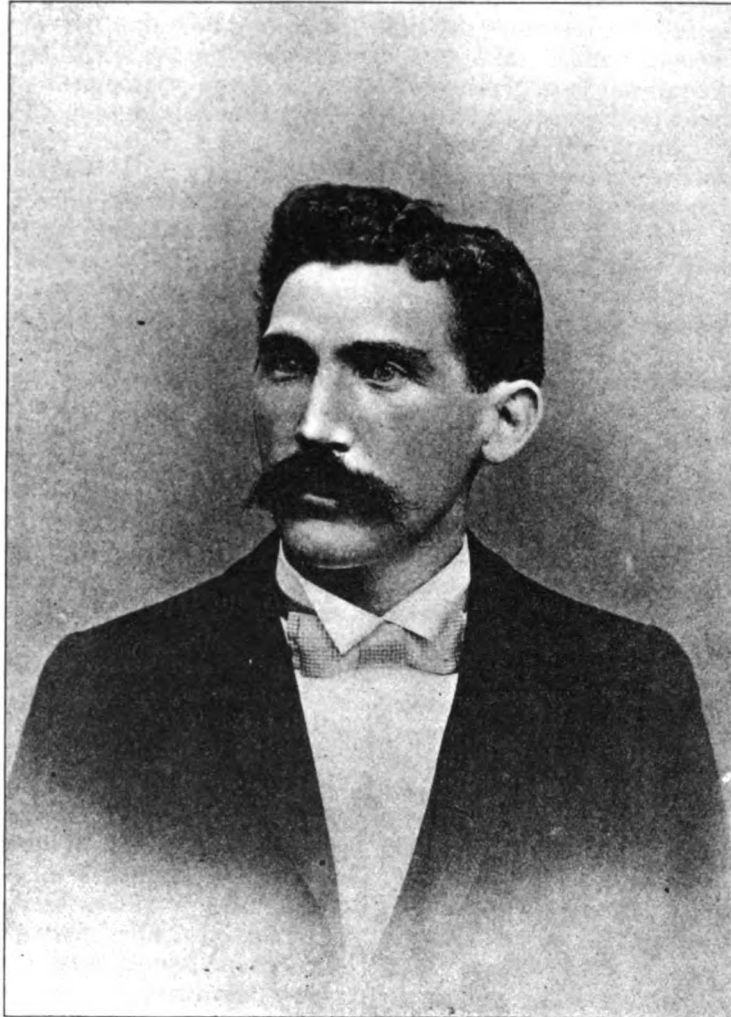
Born in Perrysburg, March 7, 1867, he is a son of Burkhardt and Catherine (Hahn) Roether, highly respected Germans who settled in Perrysburg in the "fourties." Our subject was educated in the public schools of Perrysburg, graduating, in 1886, in the Latin, German and English courses, having declined the valedictory of his class. He then commenced teaching school, which he continued in for five years, meanwhile pursuing his studies privately, and acquiring mental discipline as well as information. In the fall of 1888 he entered the Medical Department of the University of Michigan, and graduated in 1893. Through the recommendation of the College Dean, he secured the position of assistant-surgeon for the Aragon mines, at Norway, Mich., under Dr. C.

D'A. Wright. For six months during the absence of the latter Dr. Roether had sole charge, and later was offered a half interest, as partner, by Dr. Wright, but declined, being desirous of building up an independent practice at home. Returning to Perrysburg, he established himself among his own people, where he has made a steady advance, and is already recognized as one of the leaders in his profession. His thorough intellectual training makes him a valued member of the best society, and he is especially noted as a German scholar, speaking that language as fluently as English. His popularity is not confined to any particular class, however, as he is an active member of the Democratic party, and in the spring of 1895 was elected treasurer of Perrysburg township, which responsible position he is now holding.

The Doctor was married October 7, 1893, to Miss Laura Ewing, a descendant of one of the oldest families of Wood county. He is a typical self-made man, and the architect of his own position in life, he having earned the means necessary to carry him through his medical studies by teaching school and hustling between times.

**BURKHARDT MICHAEL ROETHER.** Of the honest, hard-working alien-born citizens, who have made Wood county their New-World home, none occupies a more prominent place than Mr. Roether, who was born in Baden, Germany, August 30, 1824. His parents, Thomas and Barbara (Dorlf) Roether, spent their entire lives in that country, where the father, who was a cabinet maker by trade, died at the age of eighty-two years; the latter passing away at the age of sixty-five. In their family were five children: Thomas, Burkhardt M., Magdalena, Barbara and Julia, three of whom are still living: Burkhardt M., Barbara (now Mrs. Thomas Keller), of Perrysburg township; and Julia, who still makes her home in Germany.

Mr. Roether, whose name introduces this sketch, was educated in the schools of his native land, and when twenty-two years of age he crossed the Atlantic to America. He had previously learned the trade of cabinet maker, at which he worked in Baltimore, Md., Washington, D. C., and Philadelphia, Penn., before coming to Wood county, where he located at Perrysburg, and has there since followed carpentering and cabinet making. In 1850 he married Miss Catherine Hahn, who was born in Germany in 1827, and they became the parents of eleven children, three of whom died young, and eight are yet living: Thomas, an engineer; Christ, a mechanic; Cath-



*H. R. Pothier, M.D.*



erine, wife of F. Brown, of Toledo; Adolph, a sailor; Henry R., a prominent physician and surgeon of Perrysburg; Anna, a teacher; George, an engineer; and Julia, also a school teacher. The mother of these children was called to her final rest March 30, 1891. A good and sincere Christian, Mr. Roether is a faithful member of the Lutheran Church; in politics is a staunch supporter of the principles of the Democratic party, and he enjoys the esteem and regard of the entire community.

**JAMES RANEY.** Among the leading and enterprising agriculturists of Plain township, whose names are scattered through the pages of this volume, none are more worthy of mention than the gentleman whose name introduces this brief biographical notice. He was born in Loudon township, Seneca Co., Ohio, March 19, 1848, and is a son of Robert and Sarah (Piper) Raney. The former was a native of Ohio, where he was educated and followed the occupation of a farmer, and in Seneca county he was married. In his family were ten children, as follows: John, deceased; Sarah; Edward, a farmer of Kansas; Isaac, also a farmer; Sylvania, deceased; Robert, a farmer of Williams county, Ohio; Jackson, deceased; James, our subject; Albert, who follows farming; and Eunice, wife of Henry Wininger. The father died on the old homestead, in 1864; the mother is now making her home in Fostoria, Ohio.

Our subject was reared in his native township, where he was educated in the district schools, and assisted in the labors of the fields upon the home farm until he reached man's estate. Later for two years he was employed as a farm hand, after which he rented a farm, which he operated some six years. At the expiration of that period he came to Plain township, Wood county, where he bought forty acres of land, part of which he cleared, and built a dwelling-house at a cost of \$1,000; also erected barns and outhouses, planted an orchard, made other general improvements, and availed himself of first-class farm machinery, and all the other improved methods employed by the successful agriculturist. To-day he cultivates upward of eighty acres of land, and, in addition to general farming, he also engages in drilling wells, which adds considerably to his income. Among his neighbors and the citizens of the township at large, he is considered a man whose word is as good as his bond.

On October 3, 1872, in Seneca county, Mr. Raney was married to Miss Elizabeth Wininger, who was born February 12, 1847, and is a daughter

of Adam Wininger, a farmer of Seneca county, and eight children bless this union, their names and dates of birth being as follows: Nettie, March 12, 1874; Delbert, February 11, 1875; Lottie, December 10, 1877; Elmer, September 2, 1878; Elizabeth S., April 19, 1880; Roy, May 10, 1882; Josiah, August 10, 1884; and Oran, February 17, 1888. Mr. Raney always gives his support to the principles of the Republican party, for several years has been school director, and has also acted as clerk of the board. The family is one of prominence in the community, and adhere to the faith of the Congregational Church.

**LAWRENCE LONG.** Among the young men of Wood county who have selected agriculture as their vocation in life, and who, judging from present indications, are bound to realize their most sanguine anticipations, is the subject of this biographical notice, and the owner of a good farm of forty acres in Washington township. He was born March 4, 1867, and in the usual manner of farmer lads, spent the days of his boyhood and youth, receiving his primary education in the schools of the neighborhood of his father's home in Washington township. Later, he entered a business college at Fostoria, and after his graduation at that school taught penmanship for some five years. He then took up farming, operating the old Burditt farm for two years, but previous to this time he had worked as a farm hand by the month for about seven years. He is now the possessor of a fine farm, which yields to him a golden tribute in return for his care and cultivation, and all the improvements found thereon testify to his industrious habits, sound judgment and good business ability.

On February 28, 1890, Mr. Long was united in marriage with Miss Maetha Burditt, a daughter of Greenburg Burditt, Sr., and to them have been born two children, namely: Howard M., born October 4, 1890; and Flora Belle, who was born November 30, 1892, and died at the age of one year and eight months. Mr. Long and his estimable wife attend the Christian Union Church, and at their hospitable home their many friends always find a hearty welcome. Public-spirited to a high degree, he takes a great interest in all measures calculated to benefit the community, or to accrue to the good of society in general.

**H. L. KRAMER,** a progressive and enterprising farmer of Plain township, was born in Hancock county, Ohio, September 5, 1866, and is a son of Levi and Margaret (Beatty) Kramer, mention of whom is made in the sketch of J. L. Kramer.

Our subject pursued his studies in the schools of Bowling Green and Fostoria, Ohio, graduating at the high schools of the latter place. On completing his education he assumed the management of the home farm, which he still continues, having one of the best improved places of the township. There his father's death occurred in 1888, but his mother still finds a pleasant home with him, surrounded by the care and loving attention of her son and his estimable wife. On April 30, 1891, Mr. Kramer was united in marriage with Miss Irene Ensininger, who was born January 17, 1873, a daughter of Allen Ensininger, a prominent farmer of Portage township, Wood county, and by this union there are two children—Bertha, born March 4, 1892, and Russell, born April 17, 1893.

In his political views, Mr. Kramer coincides with the Republican party, but has no aspirations for the onerous duties and vexations of political preferment. As a leading and influential citizen, he takes great interest in the success of the tickets placed in the field by that party, and not only votes himself, but strives, to the utmost of his power, to induce others to see the question in the right light. For three years, however, he has served as school director. He is highly respected and esteemed by the entire population of the township, and is looked up to as a man truly honorable and upright in all things, and as one whom they can depend upon as a friend.

**R. B. CHILCOTE.** Among the well-known and leading farmers of Perry township, whose names are scattered through the pages of this volume, none is more worthy of mention than the gentleman whose name introduces this brief biographical notice. Here his entire life has been passed, his birth having occurred in Section 22, Perry township, February 16, 1841, and he is a son of Samuel M. and Susanna (Hatfield) Chilcote. Like most farmer boys his education was such as the district schools afforded, and, being the oldest son, his labors were required in the fields of the home farm as soon as he was large enough to handle a plow.

On October 2, 1872, at Bowling Green, Ohio, Mr. Chilcote was married to Miss Euphemia J. Mercer, who was born in Portage township, Wood county, September 18, 1846, and is a daughter of William and Margaret (Ikert) Mercer, members of the well-known pioneer family of that section. Her primary education was supplemented by a course in the Tiffin Union School, and she later became a teacher of recognized ability. This worthy couple have no

children of their own, but have given a home to Homer M. Johnston from the time he was four years old. Mr. Chilcote lived on the home farm in Perry township, until 1880, but at that time he located upon his present farm in Section 16, of the same township. Physically, he has never been very strong, and, while a farmer, has always carried on that business moderately. Prompted by a spirit of patriotism, he resolved to offer his services to the government during the Civil war, and enlisted in August, 1861, as a member of Company E, 49th O. V. I.; but while at Camp Nevin, Ky., he was discharged the following November on account of disability. He, however, again enlisted May 2, 1864, in Company E, 144th O. V. I., and served with the command until discharged in August, 1864, doing guard duty much of the time at Wilmington, Delaware.

Our subject and wife are members of the M. E. Church, of which Mr. Chilcote is a trustee. He is a good citizen and highly respected, being a descendant of one of Perry's oldest and leading families. At one time he was identified with the G. A. R., being a member of Yates Post at West Millgrove.

**EZRA HITE**, proprietor of a good farm pleasantly located in Washington township, ranks among the self-made men of that section, who, from modest beginnings, have worked their way upward. He has had very little time to spend in idleness, is a man of sound judgment and intelligence, and is well worthy of representation in a work of this kind.

Mr. Hite was born April 10, 1857, to John and Phoebe (Hudson) Hite, both natives of Virginia, the father born February 11, 1818, and the mother on February 18, 1822. The former was of German descent, while his wife was of Irish lineage, and by their marriage they became the parents of ten children: Martin K. and Martha, both deceased; David, a resident of Weston; Samuel and Lewis, both deceased; Abraham, a carpenter of Fremont, Ohio; Jane, who died while young; Ezra, subject of this sketch; Perry, deceased; and one that died in infancy. The father died January 12, 1865, at the age of forty-six years, eleven months, and two days; his wife passed away March 5, 1891, at the age of sixty-nine years and fifteen days.

Our subject received his education in the district schools of Sandusky county, Ohio, where his paternal grandfather had located with his twenty-three children, nine of whom are still living. There Ezra Hite remained until he had

reached the age of twenty-two years, when, on September 24, 1879, he married Miss Ella Phœbe Lyberger, by whom he has two children: Otto Monroe, born June 24, 1885; and John Wesley, born June 12, 1891. By trade Mr. Hite is a mason, which occupation he followed for twelve years, but most of his attention has been devoted to agricultural pursuits. In April, 1882, he arrived in Wood county, here purchasing forty acres of land in Section 11, Washington township, half of which he has since drained and tiled, transforming it into a productive tract. Although a stalwart Democrat, he has taken no very active part in political matters, preferring to give his time and attention to his business affairs. For one year he served as school director, and at one time ran for trustee, but lost the election by seven votes, as the township was two-thirds Republican. He takes quite an active interest in the I. O. O. F., belonging to Tontogany Lodge No. 755, of which he is at present noble grand, and has also been trustee and vice-grand. His religious connection is with the Christian Union Battle Church, in the work of which he is earnestly devoted.

J. B. HAZLETT is a native of Butler county, Penn., born August 30, 1862, the son of John and Mary (Sedgwick) Hazlett. His father was born in Pennsylvania, in 1817, that being also the State in which his mother's birth occurred. She died at the age of about thirty-eight years, leaving our subject, who was a small child. His father at one time was a successful farmer, and on the discovery of the oil fields in Pennsylvania, he became and was an extensive oil operator for twenty years; he then sold his interests in the oil fields, and retired to his farm, where he is still living. Our subject had four sisters, all of whom are deceased. To the union of his father's second marriage were born four sons and four daughters.

The subject of our sketch lived in Butler county until he was six years old, and was then taken to Venango county, Penn., where for two terms he attended school. At the early age of thirteen he became a pumper in the oil fields, and ever since has been in the business, thoroughly understanding it in all its details, having filled every possible capacity. After becoming the possessor of the necessary tools, he became a contractor, and filled many orders for well drilling.

In 1888, after years of experience and varying fortunes in the oil fields, he came to Wood county, and soon became known as one of the best and most competent oil men in the country.

His first venture for himself in the business was in 1892, but his first drilling was a disaster to his finances; eighty dry holes were the result of his hard labor, leaving him deeply in debt, and nothing left but his knowledge of the business and the confidence reposed in him by his friends. In his darkest hour of need he found men who proved true friends, and placed means in his hands which enabled him to recuperate and resume his business, which, since those dark days, has brought him in a fortune. He became a member of the firms of Black, Reese & Hazlett; Black, Hazlett & McClune; Hazlett, Lynch & Co.; Hazlett, McDonald & Co.; Black & Hazlett, and Schanker, Hazlett & Co. He is at present interested in about ninety wells, and ranks amongst the few who stand at the head as successful oil producers in Wood county fields.

After he was thirteen years old he started out in the world for himself, but, with no education, by observation and determination to succeed in life, he has by honesty and perseverance become a successful man. He married Miss Lou Lynch, of Bowling Green, Ohio, by whom he has one son, Harry. Politically, he is a Republican, and, socially, a member of the K. of P. and F. and A. M.

O. P. DRAKE, a loyal defender of the Union during the Rebellion, and a prominent and representative citizen of Bloom township, of which he is a native, was born May 11, 1840, a son of William and Susan (Cupp) Drake. His paternal grandfather, John Drake, was a native of Newport, England, and when a young man came to the United States, where he married a Miss Messmore, of Maryland. In their family of eight children—seven sons and one daughter—William was the next to the youngest.

William Drake was born near Columbus, Ohio, and in that locality married Susan Cupp, who was born there. About 1838 they located in Section 25, Bloom township, Wood county, where the father died at the age of sixty-seven, the mother two years later, and they were laid to rest in Weaver cemetery. Although a strong Democrat up to the time of the outbreak of the Civil war, William Drake then became a stalwart Republican. In the family were five children, as follows: John, who was a member of the 111th O. V. I., died at Hazel Green, Ky., September 9, 1863; our subject is next in order of birth; Hulda is the wife of Reuben Delancy, of Bloom Center; Harriet is the wife of Elzy Morrow, of Henry township, Wood county; and Joseph, who was also a member of Company B, 111th O. V. I., was captured November 16, 1863, near Lenoir,



Tenn., paroled November 20, 1864, and discharged June 27, 1865; he now makes his home at Eagleville, Wood county.

The subject proper of this review had but little chance of securing an education, and was unable to attend school at all until nine years of age, when he entered District School No. 8, which stood back in the woods, on the old Jacob Leathers farm, his first teacher being James M. Bronson. In the winter season he would pursue his studies, but the summer months were devoted to the labors on the home farm, where he remained until his enlistment. On the President's first call for 100,000 volunteers, Mr. Drake joined the 21st O. V. I., at Eagleville, April 6, 1861, the enrolling officer being George Foreman, and was assigned to Company A. After remaining about ten days at Camp Dennison, near Cincinnati, the troops were sent to Louisville, Ky., and at Ivory Mountain participated in their first engagement. Our subject continued with his regiment, taking part in every battle up to July 22, 1864, when he was wounded at Atlanta, Ga., while on the skirmish line at 8 A. M. They had been ordered to lie down, and the ball penetrated twenty-four thicknesses of his blanket before it struck the left side of his head. This necessitated his going to the field hospital at Atlanta, much against his will, where on his arrival he was placed on duty. He watched his chances to get away, preferring to be on duty with his regiment if he was fit for service. One evening after dusk, he jumped on a supply train, and, after an absence of two weeks, rejoined his regiment. The hospital authorities sent for him, but the colonel refused to give him up. In December, 1864, he re-enlisted as a veteran, receiving a thirty-days' furlough, and again joined the troops at Atlanta, whence he went with Sherman on the celebrated march to the sea. He participated in the grand review at Washington, D. C., and was discharged at Louisville, Ky., July 25, 1865, at the end of a long and honorable military career.

From his \$13 a month wages, Mr. Drake had managed to save \$500, and in the fall of 1865 he bought forty acres of land in Section 22, Bloom township, from Squire John Russell, it being the farm where he still makes his home. It was then covered with timber and very stony, while not a building or a fence was to be seen, and not even a road led to the place. With the aid of his family, all but five acres have been placed under the plow, and the comfortable residence is surrounded with neat and substantial outbuildings.

In October, 1865, in Bloom township, Mr. Drake was united in marriage with Miss Mary J.

Boley, who was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, November 5, 1849, and is a daughter of David and Lovina (Moyer) Boley, who located in Bloom township when Mrs. Drake was but a child. Besides his farming operations, the father also carried on a blacksmith shop at Eagleville, and after the death of his wife in the fall of 1887, he removed to Indiana, where his death occurred at the age of sixty-seven. To our subject and his wife have been born the following children: Carrie H., now Mrs. George Henry, of Bloom township; Addis S., at home; Jackson, who works in an oil refinery at North Baltimore; Susan L., wife of Michael Glowe, of Perry township, Wood county; David F., a farmer; Zenobia V., at home; Gertrude and Gracie M., both of whom died in infancy; and Nellie J., and George A., both at home. Until 1893, Mr. Drake had always supported the Republican party, but is now a Prohibitionist, while socially he holds membership with Urie Post No. 110, G. A. R., of Bloomdale. He was a brave soldier, fearless in the discharge of his duty, and as a civilian he is classed among the honest, upright citizens of the community.

M. SNYDER, a prosperous and intelligent farmer, living in Section 1, Montgomery township, was born February 2, 1854, in Crane township, Wyandot Co., Ohio, and traces his ancestry back to Henry and Margaret (Irey) Snyder, who came to America from Germany, and were the parents of nine children. In 1836 they located in Wayne county, Ohio, where the wife died, but the husband passed his last days in Indiana.

Jesse Snyder, a son of Henry and Margaret (Irey) Snyder, was the grandfather of our subject. He was born in Chester county, Penn., September 17, 1799, emigrated by wagons to Wayne county, Ohio, about 1830 or '31, and in 1843 removed to Wyandot county, where he was numbered among the wealthiest farmers and most liberal contributors to Church work. He wedded Sarah Mills, who was born in Chester county, Penn., in 1798, and died in 1874. His death occurred in Wyandot county, Ohio, on the 19th of January, 1890.

Stephen Snyder, the father of our subject, was the oldest son and second child in a family of twelve children. He was also a native of Pennsylvania, born May 16, 1826, and during his boyhood received only a common country school education. In Wyandot county was celebrated his marriage with Miss Emily McCurdy, who was born in Wayne county, Ohio, January 26, 1831, and is the daughter of Francis McCurdy, a miller by oc-

cupation. The parents located near Upper Sandusky, where the father engaged in agricultural pursuits, and at his death, which occurred October 5, 1875, his body was laid to rest in Wyandot county. Although a staunch Republican, he supported the man whom he considered best qualified to fill the position. At his death he left a widow, now residing in Bradner, Ohio, and four sons — Frank, of Montgomery township; Jesse, a farmer, who died in Van Wert county, Ohio, at the age of forty-two years; the subject of this review; and Henry, of Bradner. The two daughters, Sarah and Cecelia, died in childhood.

Our subject obtained his education in the district schools, but the schools during his younger days were not as good as at the present time. He continued to assist in the work on the home farm until his marriage, which important event in his life occurred in Wyandot county, February 4, 1875, Miss Anna Young becoming his wife. She was born at Shanesville, Tuscarawas Co., Ohio, October 5, 1855, and is the daughter of Michael and Lucinda (Everhart) Young, whom she accompanied to Wyandot county when only five years of age. Her father, who was a bricklayer by trade, died on February 4, 1876, but her mother is still living, and makes her home at Bucyrus, Ohio. Mrs. Snyder is the fourth daughter and fifth child in their family of eight children. By her marriage with our subject she has become the mother of five children — Jesse A., born December 21, 1875; Henry L., born September 3, 1880; Charles E., born January 24, 1883; one son, who died in infancy; and Rhoda, born July 2, 1888. Those living are still with their parents.

Upon his marriage, Mr. Snyder located upon his father-in-law's farm in Wyandot county, where he remained a short time, but on the death of his father removed to the old homestead, which he rented for two years. It comprised eighty acres, of which he then purchased one-half, but in August, 1886, he sold out and bought eighty acres in Section 28, Henry township, Wood county. Although twenty acres had been cleared, there had been but little tiling and ditching done. After one year spent upon that place — from the spring of 1892 until 1893 — he located upon his present eighty-acre farm in Section 1, Montgomery township, which he had purchased in 1890, and now has one of the most highly-cultivated and well-improved tracts in the locality, consisting of 160 acres of excellent land. The family is one held in the highest esteem by all, and the sons are good, steady-going young men, of whom their parents may be justly proud. In politics,

Mr. Snyder is a strong advocate of the principles promulgated by the Republican party, and socially is connected with the Odd Fellows' Lodge at Bradner, Ohio, while his wife is a member of the Methodist Protestant Church. He is a shrewd business man, an excellent manager, and is now numbered among the substantial and representative farmers of Montgomery township.

A. VAN BLARCUM, one of the most public-spirited and progressive citizens of Jerry City, is of Holland descent, and was born in Cayuga county, N. Y., September 10, 1831, a son of John and Laura (Powers) Van Blarcum. He is the eldest in their family of thirteen children, five of whom died in infancy, the others being as follows: (7) Adelia is the wife of Charles May, of New York City. (8) George H. was one of the brave "boys in blue" during the Rebellion, enlisting August 6, 1862, in Company D, 111th O. V. I., of which he was appointed first lieutenant, and March 3, 1864, was made captain, in the action at Stony Mountain he was wounded in October, 1864, and received an honorable discharge on the 2d of February, following; he has since served as treasurer of Wood county. (9) Celestia is the widow of B. R. Taber, formerly of Bowling Green, Ohio. (10) Helen is now Mrs. James McPherson, of that city. (11) Samuel, of Chicago Junction, Ohio, has for twenty-five years been a conductor on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad. (12) Harriet is the wife of George Bosworth, bookkeeper for the Pullman Car Company, and they make their home in Pullman, Ill. (13) Abbie is the wife of James Taft, of Dennison, Ohio, master mechanic on the P. C. C. & St. L. railroad.

In September, 1833, the family arrived in Toledo, Ohio, when it was but a hamlet, having made the trip by lake from Buffalo, N. Y. They located first in Port Lawrence township, Lucas Co., Ohio., but later the father lost all his property by purchasing land in Oregon township, that county, of which the title was imperfect. Afterward he was landlord of the "Washington House" of Maumee City, after which he located on a farm near Waterville, and then kept the "Columbia House" in that city. Early in the "forties" he started for Seaport, Portage township, Wood county, but while *en route* he learned of the destruction by fire of the hotel he intended to conduct, so returned to Waterville. Later he became owner of two boats on the Wabash & Erie canal, plying between Toledo, Ohio, and Lafayette, Ind., one of which he traded to Ephraim Simmons for the "Simmons House," in the village of Portage, Wood county. There

he also carried on general merchandising, and became owner of a farm in Liberty township, near that village. He also took a contract for grading the main line of the D. & M. railroad between Custar and Weston, this county. On disposing of his interest in Portage, he carried on the "Drury House," in Tontogany, for a time; later, in East Toledo, he kept the "East Side House," and at Eaton Rapids, Mich., conducted the "Eaton Rapids House." From there he went to Indiana, where he engaged in the livery business, which, later, he carried on at Kensington, Ill. In that city he was taken ill, and our subject brought him back to Bowling Green, Ohio, where he died at the age of eighty-four years. His wife had also reached that age at the time of her death, and their remains were both interred in the cemetery of that city. In religious faith they were Methodists, and in politics he was a staunch Republican.

Our subject received a common-school education, and remained at home until he attained his majority. For a short time he worked as a farm hand; for three seasons went as cook on Lake Erie, and later engaged in the same occupation with his father while the latter was contracting. He afterward entered the store of John McCrory, of Portage, where he remained nearly a year, and then began merchandising on his own account with the small capital of \$30; but on the 4th of July, 1848, during the celebration at Portage, he cleared \$130 by selling lemonade, etc. This gave him a start, and for twenty-six years he successfully conducted a general merchandising business at that place, at the end of which time he traded his store for a farm on the Portage pike, which he operated for three years. On August 22, 1854, in Miltonville, Wood county, he was married to Electa Downs, a native of this county, and daughter of Samuel Downs. After her death, which occurred in Portage township, he removed to Freeport, Ohio, where he conducted a store until May, 1876, at which time he went to Jerry City, there buying out the stock of goods of Israel Nestlerode. For eight years he continued business at that place, when he went to Bairdstown, where for a year he was employed as clerk by Ogden & Keene, whom, later, he bought out. He afterward removed his stock of goods to Jerry City, where he carried on business until December, 1894. In the meantime he was again married, his second union being with Miss Maggie Stewart. His present wife bore the maiden name of Miss Mary Beach. She is a native of Byesville, Guernsey Co., Ohio, and at the time of her marriage, which was cele-

brated in Napoleon, Ohio, February 7, 1889, she was serving as chief templar of the Juvenile Temple of the Independent Order of Good Templars of Ohio. She is a lady of unusual literary attainments, finely educated, and a lecturer of ability. By her marriage she has become the mother of one son—Alfred, born November 20, 1893. By his second marriage our subject has one child—Leavy, born November 23, 1887.

At present Mr. Van Blarcum gives his attention to his farm of forty acres, and also carries on a hotel in Jerry City. He is an industrious, energetic man, never idle, and takes great interest in everything tending to promote the welfare or aid in the advancement of the community. He has always been a stalwart Republican; for fourteen years served as postmaster at Portage, which office he declined to accept in Jerry City, where he is now serving as a member of the city council and on the school board. Socially he is a member of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to Blue Lodge No. 112, F. & A. M.; and the Chapter, No. 58, R. A. M., of Findlay, Ohio; he also holds membership with Vitus Lodge No. 612, I. O. O. F., of Jerry City.

CLARENCE E. DOWLING, an intelligent and progressive young agriculturist of Montgomery township, residing in Section 29, was born March 11, 1874, at Kenton, Ohio, and is the youngest child of Rev. William and Mary S. (Chapman) Dowling. He comes from one of the most illustrious families of Wood county, its members having attained to positions of prominence in their various walks of life.

The primary education of our subject was obtained in the schools of Kenton, and, on the removal of his parents to Marion, Ohio, he entered the schools of that place; but later again pursued his studies at Kenton, as the family had returned to that city. When about eighteen years of age he became a student in the college at Bethany, W. Va., where his brother, F. M., was then professor of Latin, and remained there for almost three terms. On leaving college, Mr. Dowling came to the farm on which he still lives, it comprising a tract of fifty acres located in Sections 28 and 29, Montgomery township, and he has erected thereon a pleasant dwelling.

On December 30, 1894, Mr. Dowling was united in marriage with Miss Estella Dicken, who was born in Section 29, Montgomery township, December 26, 1871, and is the youngest daughter of Adam and Elizabeth (Stahl) Dicken. As our subject is a young man of correct habits, and of upright, moral character, an honorable career

lies before him in his chosen calling, and he has already met with success in his undertakings. He holds membership with the Disciples Church, and, politically, is a stanch Republican.

**LEWIS P. RISSER.** Among the citizens of Perry township who are of German birth is the gentleman of whom this narrative is written, and in his native land he learned the traits of economy and frugality, which have been the source of his present competency. Many of the best citizens of Wood county are his countrymen, and they almost invariably merit and receive the esteem and respect of the community in the same degree that he does. His birth occurred July 22, 1838, a son of Henry and Elizabeth Risser, whose other children were as follows: Catherine, who makes her home in Bloom township, Wood county; Jacob, a farmer of Elkhart county, Ind., though by trade he is a shoemaker; Elizabeth, now Mrs. H. P. Pletcher, of the same county; Henry, who died in that county; Bartholomew and Christian, both of whom make their homes in Elkhart county, Ind.; Mary, wife of George Milner, of Bloom township, Wood county; and Martha, who died in Ashland county, Ohio, in infancy.

In May, 1845, Henry Risser started with his family for the New World, and after a long voyage of two months, they landed in New York. One son was born at sea. By the Erie canal they went to Buffalo, N. Y., thence by lake to Cleveland, Ohio, and by team to Ashland county, where the father had a brother living. For four years they lived in that county, but in the spring of 1849, they located on the eighty-acre tract now owned by our subject in Section 6, Perry township. It seemed then that the work of civilization had scarcely begun in this region, the land was mostly covered with a dense forest, wild game was to be found, including turkeys and deer. Everything that was raised on the farm was taken to Perrysburg, where they could only receive merchandise in exchange. Only eighteen acres of the land had been cleared and after renting the place for six years the father purchased it, the price being \$600, a part of which was paid by the five sons, who worked away from home in order to secure it. After residing there for several years, the father sold the place to our subject, and removed to Elkhart county, Ind., where he died when nearly eighty-four years of age. In politics he was a Democrat. His wife passed away in Perry township, and was buried in the Mennonite cemetery.

Lewis P. Risser for one winter attended school in Germany, and completed his education in the

district schools of this country, but his studies were often interrupted as his labors were needed in the fields. At the age of twenty-one he began learning the carpenter's trade under George Lenhart, and followed that vocation for some years. At the time of his marriage he had only \$30 on interest, and operated rented land in both Montgomery and Perry townships, then located on the home farm, but later went to Bloom township, where he first owned property. On selling out there he purchased the old homestead of his father for \$4,000, and to its cultivation he has since devoted his attention.

On June 6, 1867, in Perry township was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Risser and Miss Hester Bresler, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, April 5, 1839, a daughter of John and Hester (Nestlerode) Bresler. She received a common-school education, and, while on a visit to her brother Philip, in Perry township, met and married our subject. They have become the parents of three children—Susie, born May 30, 1868; Tobias C., born December 30, 1869; and William E., born May 20, 1871.

Mr. Risser votes in support of the men and measures of the Democratic party, and for seven consecutive years filled the office of supervisor. In religious belief, both he and his wife are Protestant Methodists, attending the service of Bloom Chapel, of which he is serving as trustee. He declined the office of class leader, and resigned that of steward. In all his labors he has been ably seconded and assisted by his wife, who has proved to him a faithful and devoted helpmeet.

**ASAHEL PHILO**, one of the honored pioneer settlers of Webster township, was born July 2, 1832, of ancestry who originally came from France, settling in New York State. There our subject's father, Hurlbut Philo, was born, and thence moved to Pennsylvania, where he engaged in farming. He was there married to Miss Anna Patrick (a lady of English descent), who was born in Connecticut. They had nine children, two of whom died in infancy, the others being: David; Elizabeth, the widow of Thorn S. Castle; Fitch, deceased; Daniel; Susanna, the wife of William Gray; Asahel; and William, who was killed in a railway accident while on the way to join the army. In 1856, the family came to Wood county, locating in Webster township, where our subject's mother died in 1865. His father survived her eighteen years, and died in 1883 in Milton township.

Our subject received his early education in Pennsylvania, and worked upon his father's farm

until his majority, when he moved to Erie county, Ohio, and found similar employment; then rented a farm in Huron county, and in 1854 he moved to Weston, Wood county. Six years later he bought a tract of land in Webster township, entirely covered with woods and water. After redeeming this he sold it, and then improved an eighty-acre tract in the same way. On disposing of this, he bought 120 acres near Scotch Ridge, which he still owns, devoting it chiefly to stock raising. Beginning at the foot of the ladder, he has made his way by hard work, and has succeeded in every enterprise with which he has been identified. He holds stock in a creamery, and an elevator, and is president of the Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Co., of which he is also solicitor.

Mr. Philo was married in Sandusky county, Ohio, to Miss Elizabeth Marks, and six children were born to them: Annie Jane, the wife of John E. Muir; Caroline H., the wife of Charles McDonald; Albert D.; Berdella, and Ralph, who are still at home, and Mary, deceased. Mrs. Philo, who is a lady of fine abilities and great force of character, is an active member of the W. C. T. U. and the Woman's Missionary Association. The family are all members of the U. B. Church, and ready supporters of every worthy movement. Mr. Philo has been a school director for a number of years, and he was elected justice of the peace on the Prohibition ticket. He belongs to the I. O. G. T., and to the Grange, in which he was at one time Grand Master.

WESLEY H. EWING, one of the prosperous and influential farmers of Plain township, is a native of Wood county, born November 25, 1850, in Perrysburg township, a son of Anthony and Adelaide (Harple) Ewing.

His father was the first white child born near Wolfe Rapids, Wood county, and was a boy at the time of the war of 1812. Early in life he was a sailor on the great lakes, but he subsequently became a farmer. He lived awhile in Lucas county, afterward locating near Perrysburg, Wood county; he died in Lucas county aged seventy-eight years. Politically he was an Old-line Whig. He was twice married, his first wife being Miss Rebecca Loop, by whom he had three children: Henry, Sarah and Samuel. To his second union eight children were born, namely: Wesley H., the subject of this sketch; Bethiah, who married Zack Jenson, and lives in Michigan; Anthony, residing in Norwalk, Huron Co., Ohio; Joseph, living in Texas; Julia, the wife of Samuel Jenson, living in Michigan; Esther,

the wife of George Pierson, living in Saginaw, Mich., and Tunis and Charles, both of whom reside in Michigan. The mother of this family is still living, and has her home in Michigan.

Our subject remained with his parents until March 2, 1870, when he married Miss Rhoda Kittles, who was born in Lucas county, Ohio, September 1, 1854. For one year after his marriage he lived in Michigan, thence returning to Lucas county, where he remained ten years. In 1880 he took up his residence in Wood county, settling on a farm of forty acres near Bowling Green, to which he has added till he has 160 acres. His place is fortunately situated in the oil field of the county, and he has sixteen good oil wells on it, from which he derives a handsome income. He is a good business man, also a successful farmer, and is considered one of the leading men of his community. In politics he affiliates with the Republican party, is no office-seeker, but has served as school director. He is a member of Centennial Lodge No. 626, I. O. O. F., of Bowling Green. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Ewing: Allen (who is married to Nora Knauss, and has one child—Roscoe), James, Arthur, Mabel, Myrtle, Blanche, and Raymond E. The family is highly esteemed, and holds a prominent place in society. The fine residence they now occupy was built in 1893.

Mrs. Ewing's parents, Dewitt and Elena (Proper) Kittles, were natives of New York, where they were married. They came to Ohio about 1850, and here he engaged in farming, also carrying on the trades of shoemaker and carpenter. They had seven children: Sarah, wife of H. Driver, a farmer living near Toledo; James, Tunis and Dewitt, all three of whom are farmers near Toledo; Jane, who died at the age of nine years; Nicholas, deceased in infancy, and Mrs. Ewing. The father died in 1860, the mother in March, 1891.

EUGENE GRANT LATHROP, one of the worthy representatives of agricultural interests in Wood county, was born in Auburn, Kans., January 25, 1863, and is a son of George D. and Columbia A. (Hover) Lathrop, the former a native of New York, the latter of Ohio. They were married, and for some years resided in Bellefontaine, Ohio, then removed to Milwaukee, Wis., where for six years the father was bookkeeper for a hardware company. He then took his family to Kansas for the sole purpose of voting to make it a free State, and lived on a farm there until 1863, when he returned to Ohio. He lived in Auglaize county, on the site



*W H Ewing*



*Mrs W H Ewing*



of Fort Amanda, which was built during the war of 1812, and there resided until his death, in 1887. His widow is yet living on the homestead. They had nine children—Georgiana, who died at the age of five; California, who was born in Ohio, in 1849, while her father was in the State of that name prospecting for gold; Rodney, who died in infancy; Harry, a station agent at Browntown, Wis.; Charles Sumner, who is living on the old homestead with his mother; Grace, wife of J. W. Black, of Fort Amanda, Ohio; Eugene Grant; William U., a merchant; and Clarence L., at home.

Our subject is descended from Samuel Lathrop, one of the twenty men who founded the town of Norwich, Conn. He came to this country from England in the latter part of the 17th century, and the mother of our subject was also descended from one of the founders of that town.

Mr. Lathrop, of this review, acquired a good education, and successfully followed school teaching for about eleven terms. In 1883 he purchased twenty acres of land in Auglaise county, and has since carried on farming. He was married in Weston, Ohio, October 12, 1887, to Laura D. Lathrop, who was born in Liberty township, a daughter of Adoniram Judson and Isadore E. (Delano) Lathrop. They located on a 160-acre tract of land owned by Mrs. Lathrop, of this review, which had been secured by her grandfather, who received a patent from Gen. Jackson. Four children graced their union—George D., Charles S., and Hope, at home; and Frank, who died in infancy.

Mr. Lathrop is a Republican in politics, and served as supervisor for one term, but has never sought or desired political preferment, his time being devoted to his farm work, in which he is meeting with good success. Mrs. Lathrop is a member of the Presbyterian Church.

HORACE MERCER is one of the enterprising and progressive agriculturists of Liberty township, and a well-spent life has won for him the confidence and high regard of many friends. He was born in Liberty township, October 18, 1841, and is a son of George and Jane (Montgomery) Mercer, natives of Pennsylvania. The father was a lifelong farmer, and was married in his native State, where he operated a tract of land for some years. He is numbered among the pioneers of Wood county, where he secured sixty-eight acres of wild land, building thereon a log cabin, and turning his attention to the development of a farm. His wife died in 1854, after which he was married to Elizabeth Moore. She

passed away, and he subsequently wedded Mary Brown. His death occurred in 1890. The children of the first union were David, who died in Liberty township; Mary Ann, widow of James McCrory, and a resident of Liberty; Mrs. Isabel Wolf, who died in Pennsylvania; William, of Portage township; John, of Waterville, Ohio; George, of Liberty township; Reason and Daniel, who died in Liberty township; Samuel, of Bowling Green; Horace; Caleb, of Liberty township; and Jane, wife of Peter Durey.

Our subject received his education in the common schools, and early became familiar with the labors of the home farm. Prompted by a spirit of patriotism, he enlisted in his country's service August 13, 1862, as a member of Company D, 111th O. V. I., and with his command went almost immediately to the front. He participated in many important engagements, went through the entire Atlanta campaign, and was honorably discharged July 17, 1865, at Salisbury, N. C. At Cleveland, Ohio, he was mustered out and returned home with the consciousness of having faithfully defended his country in her hour of peril.

On the 3d of July, 1862, Mr. Mercer was united in marriage with Phœbe A. Whitacre, a native of Bloom township, and a daughter of Reason and Mary (McCrory) Whitacre. They located on their present farm, Mr. Mercer having inherited eighty acres from his father. He has built a good residence here and made many excellent improvements, and now has one of the most desirable farms of the community. The home has been blessed with nine children—Milton; Samuel A., a farmer of Liberty township; Mary, wife of Frank Cook, of Jackson township; Daniel D.; Clarence; Rose, wife of Fred Whitaker, of Liberty township; Jefferson; Frank; and George.

Mr. and Mrs. Mercer belong to the Disciples Church; in politics he is a stalwart Republican, and is serving as township trustee. Extensive reading has made him a well-informed man, and in all the relations of life he has been found true and faithful to his duty, manifesting the same loyalty which characterized his career as a soldier.

JOHN ROTHENBUHLER, a well-known agriculturist, residing near Luckey, was born in Webster township, April 11, 1856. His father, John W. Rothenbuhler, is a native of Berne, Switzerland, whence he came to this country in 1849, locating in Webster township on 200 acres of land which he still cultivates. He built a saw-



mill on his farm, which he operated for over twenty years. In 1855 he married Mrs. Barbara Ryder, the widow of John Ryder, and seven children were born of this union, of whom our subject is the eldest. The others are: Fred, Henry, Gottlieb, Sophia (now Mrs. Emil Christian), and Emma (the wife of West Eggleston). The youngest child died in infancy. Both parents are devout members of the Evangelical Church.

Our subject attended the district schools of his neighborhood during boyhood, and at an early age began to make himself useful in his father's sawmill. At the age of twenty-three he bought twenty acres of land, to which he has added until he now has sixty-five acres of fine land under cultivation. He is mainly engaged in dairying. He was married, April 20, 1880, to Miss Mary Ann Burkholder, who was born August 27, 1862, a daughter of Christopher and Katie (Kassamon) Burkholder, both natives of Germany. Three children were born this marriage: William, May 27, 1881; Joseph, July 28, 1883, and Lena, July 18, 1886. In politics, Mr. Rothenbuhler is a Republican, and he and his wife are both members of the Evangelical Church. Their industry and economy make them well-worthy of the success to which they have attained, and they stand high in the esteem of a large circle of friends.

PETER D. CURRAN has been a welcome guest in the home of Mr. Rothenbuhler for the past sixteen years. He is a native of Stark county, Ohio, born March 15, 1836. His father, James B. Curran, was born in Pennsylvania, and in early manhood moved to Zanesville, Ohio, where he married Miss Elizabeth Dugan. Their later years were spent in Peru, Ind. Six children were born to them: John S., Caroline, Thomas, Hannah, Peter, and Harriet. Mr. Curran's educational advantages were limited, as he was obliged to make his own way from the age of eleven, but he has gained a wide range of information by private study. At the first call to arms in the Civil war he enlisted in Company B, 12th O. V. I. (Capt. Albert Galloway and Col. John W. Lowe commanding). He took part in the battles of Scary Creek, Antietam, South Mountain, Lynchburg, New Burnbridge, among others, and was discharged in 1863. He soon re-enlisted, this time in Company K, 23rd O. V. I., and during the engagement at Winchester he was captured and confined in Libby prison, where he remained until 1865, when he was discharged by order of the War department. After his return to the North, he worked for fourteen years on the C. C. C. & I. R. R., at Versailles, Ohio, and

then moved to Toledo, where he worked some years. He then came to Luckey, and has since resided with Mr. Rothenbuhler.

GEORGE TYSON, one of the enterprising and prosperous agriculturists of Perry township, was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, October 8, 1829, and is a son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Landis) Tyson, natives of Pennsylvania, the former born in Montgomery county, July 11, 1792, and the latter April 11, 1795. After their marriage in the Keystone State, they removed to Knox township, Columbiana Co., Ohio, in 1825, and on the 2nd of September, 1847, brought their family to Wood county, where the father had previously purchased eighty acres of land in Section 36, Portage township. Wild game was quite plentiful at that time, and our subject once caught a deer with his hands which had been chased by the dogs. In the family were six children: David, who died in Michigan; Maria, who became the wife of Isaac Hunisecker, and died Portage township; Henry, of Wayne county, Ohio; Barbara, widow of John Echelberger, of Bloom township, Wood county; Isaac, of Elkhart county, Ind., and George. The father was a weaver by trade, and in early days supported his family by his loom. On coming to Wood county he was quite poor, but became the owner of 100 acres of good land. Politically he was a Whig, and religiously was a member of the Mennonite Church, being one of the organizers of that denomination in Perry township. His death occurred in Portage township, March 17, 1874, and his wife passed away in Bloom township, September 14, 1875, and they were buried in the Mennonite cemetery of Perry township.

The education of George Tyson was obtained in Columbiana county, having to walk a distance of two miles to the log school house, with its slab seats, and writing desk made of slabs supported by pins driven into the wall. The school was conducted on the subscription plan, and he was allowed to attend the three winter months during which time he made good progress, so at the age of fourteen he was as far advanced in his studies as the other members of the family, and was taken from school. At the age of eighteen he came to Wood county, the family coming with others, and made the journey in five days. Work was plentiful in the new country, corn being their best crop as the land was then too wet for wheat. The father had allowed his sons to leave home at the age of eighteen years; but as our subject remained with him he was given forty acres of timber land in Section 36, Portage

township, a part of the original purchase, and after his marriage resided there, working his father's land on the shares during the summer, while in the winter he cleared his own place. In April, 1871, he located on eighty acres of his present farm in section 20, Perry township, to which he has since added until he now has 127 acres of arable land. In 1881 he erected his pleasant brick residence, and he has met with a well-deserved success in his calling. His well-ordered farm, with its carefully cultivated fields, its neat buildings, and all their surroundings, denote the skillful management, industry, and well-directed labors of the owner.

Mr. Tyson was married in Tiffin, Ohio, October 9, 1851, to Miss Frances Snyder, who was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, January 19, 1833, a daughter of George Snyder, who at an early day located in Bloom township, near Bloomdale, Wood county. Their family consisted of four daughters—Sarah A., now Mrs. S. E. Brandeberry, of Perry township; Margaret E., now Mrs. David Shue, of Michigan; Lucy J., now Mrs. Allen Brandeberry, of Perry township; and Rachel, who died in infancy.

Since the dissolution of the Whig party, Mr. Tyson has been a Democrat in politics. In 1858 he united with the German Baptist Church, the following year was ordained as a local minister, and still later was advanced for faithfulness to a higher grade of ministry, having full power to solemnize marriages and baptize converts. In 1891, however, he voluntarily retired on account of his age, but still retains his license. He has traveled over the country considerably, often filling pulpits twenty miles distant, and has ever been a faithful and conscientious worker in his Master's vineyard.

AMOS TRIBBLE has for about sixty years been a resident of Wood county, and is therefore numbered among the honored pioneer settlers who have witnessed almost its entire development, watching the transformation of the wild lands into beautiful homes and farms, the growth of hamlets and villages, and the onward march of progress. He is a worthy representative of the agricultural interests, and is now farming in Middleton township. Born in Clermont county, Ohio, April 10, 1820, he is a son of Cornelius Tribble, a native of South Carolina, who served in the war of 1812. He married Sarah Steven, and they became the parents of seven children, of whom five are living, namely: Ann, widow of William Brecker; Allison, a farmer of Clermont county; Amos; Cynthia, wife of B. Johnson; and

Alphos. The parents both died in Clermont county, Ohio.

Our subject attended school in Clermont county until 1836, at which time he came to Wood county. Subsequently he purchased eighty acres of land in Middleton township, which he cleared, afterward adding thereto twenty acres. The land was swampy, so in order to make it cultivable he was obliged to drain it. He had to endure the hardships of pioneer life, and the difficulties occasioned by limited circumstances in those early days; but as time passed he secured a comfortable competence, erected a residence at a cost of \$1,200, and now has an excellent farm. In 1840 he was married in, Clermont county to Margaret, daughter of Absalom Higby, and they became the parents of six children: Julia, wife of H. N. Rush; L. P., treasurer of Middleton township; Lizzie, wife of Eli Chapman; Charles, a farmer, who married Ella Snyder, and has one son—Fred; and Helen and Annie, who both died in childhood. The mother of the family passed away November 1, 1892. Mr. Tribble is a Republican in politics, has been called to public office by his fellow townsmen, and has served as supervisor and trustee for three terms. He was a faithful Christian, a thoroughly reliable and trustworthy man, and his life has been an honorable, upright one, which has made him a respected and valued citizen of the community in which he has so long resided.

CHRISTIAN HAGER was born May 27, 1818, in Washington county, Md., and is a son of Christian and Rachel (Hamil) Hager. The latter was a native of Maryland, but the former was a native of Berks county, Penn., and was a weaver by trade. Soon after their marriage Mr. Hager and his wife removed from Maryland to Franklin county, Penn., and there spent their remaining days, the father following weaving. He served as a soldier in the war of 1812. There were born to them four children—Harriet, deceased wife of John Hayfrick; Christian; Hattie, twin sister of our subject, was drowned when a child; and John, who served in the Mexican war, was heard from only once after its close, and is supposed to be dead.

Our subject was reared on a farm, and received a limited education in the district schools. At the age of eleven he began work in Franklin county, Penn., as a farm hand for his board and clothes, and later worked for another farmer for \$3 per month and board. His father received his wages until after he had attained his majority, and he then supported his parents until their

deaths. On the 31st of December, 1846, in Franklin county, Penn., he wedded Mary Snyder, a native of that State, and in the spring of 1847 traveled by wagon to Seneca county, Ohio. There he worked at making rails for fifty cents per day and board. After a time he purchased three acres of land near Tiffin, Ohio, for \$330, and subsequently sold it for \$450. He next rented a farm in Bloom township, Seneca county, where he remained for seven years, and then came to Wood county, operating a rented farm for one season. In 1870 he bought eighty acres in Jackson township, which he at once began to clear and improve, and has since transformed it into a fine farm.

On this homestead Mrs. Hager died in May, 1890. Their children were as follows: Samantha A., now the wife of W. Valentine, of Seneca county, Ohio; Mary E., widow of George Gillett, of Seneca county; Daniel Francis, a farmer of Seneca county; George W., Jeremiah and Christian, who died in childhood; Katie, wife of Dr. Wadsworth, of Hoytville; Luther, a farmer of Jackson township; Jesse, a merchant of Hoytville; William, a machine agent of Jackson township; Virginia Belle, who was born August 4, 1869, and was married in Findlay, Ohio, November 7, 1886, to David Peter Bryan, who was born in Hancock county, July 26, 1860, and educated in the district school and the Ada Normal School, of Ada, Ohio. Mr. Bryan is a farmer by occupation, and he and his wife have three children—Carl C., who died in childhood; Watson Henry and Jessie H. The youngest member of the Hager family is Hattie, wife of George T. Beahm, of Findlay, Ohio.

Mr. Hager, of this sketch, is a staunch Democrat, and a member of the Christian Church. He has attained success in business through his own well directed efforts, and is a highly-esteemed citizen.

W. T. FARMER, an energetic young agriculturist of Portage township, was born December 26, 1872, in Millbury, Lake township, Wood county, son of Edwin and Charlotte (Tyrrell) Farmer, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume.

Our subject was a small boy when his parents came to Center township, and there he received his education, attending the district school of the neighborhood. He worked at home the greater part of the time, and lived with his parents until his marriage, when he removed to his present farm, which he had purchased shortly before, buying the west half of the southwest quarter of Sec-

tion 34, a part of the Jonas Hainpshire farm, in Portage township. Mr. Farmer erected a new house and barn, and is one of the prosperous agriculturists of his neighborhood, progressive in every way.

On December 20, 1894, he was married, in Toledo, Ohio, to Miss Ella Conklin, a native of Pennsylvania, daughter of James Conklin. Mr. Farmer is prospering, and is destined to become one of the substantial citizens of his neighborhood. In politics he is a staunch Republican.

G. SCHWECHHEIMER. Industry, economy, and good judgment are still at a premium in the business world, and the subject of this sketch, who arrived in Bowling Green, Wood county, only fourteen years ago, without means, and possessing no knowledge of the English language, furnishes an instance in proof. He was born in Baden, Germany, November 2, 1863, the son of Jacob Schwechheimer.

His ancestors were respected residents of that vicinity, and a full account of the family is given in the biography of a half brother of our subject, Christoph Lehmann, a well-known business man of Bowling Green. At the age of eighteen our subject left his old home, where he had enjoyed the opportunities for education given in the excellent public schools, and in 1881, immediately after his arrival, went to work for Mr. Lehmann in his meat market. For eight years he remained there, learning our language, making acquaintances, the details of the business, and saving his money, and, when he opened a market of his own in 1889, he had so won the esteem of the community, that from the start he had a large patronage. He butchers his own meat, buying by the car load in Chicago, or from farmers in the vicinity, as occasion offers. He also runs a packing house, and cures hams, and pork of all grades, butchering for this line of work from five to seven hundred hogs per year. There are few business men in any locality who have more well wishers than has this young adopted citizen of Bowling Green.

In 1891 he was married to Miss Amelia Kaufman, who was born in 1868, near Marietta, Ohio. They have one son, Frank. Politically our subject is a Democrat, and he and his wife are members of the Lutheran Church.

JOHN REYNOLDS, one of the self-made men of Montgomery township, whose early home was on the other side of the Atlantic, commenced life without other capital than his strong hands and resolute will, and has attained to a fine position,

socially and financially, among his fellow citizens. His homestead, one of the most noticeable in the township, embraces a fertile tract of land under thorough cultivation, and is finely located in Section 18. Both as a business man and a citizen the proprietor stands well among the men of his township and vicinity, as having materially assisted in the development of the county.

Mr. Reynolds was born in County Derry, Ireland, in 1841, and is the son of John Reynolds, a farmer of that country, where he is still living at the age of eighty-eight years. The mother of our subject bore the maiden name of Eliza Carr, and was a most loving wife and kind and indulgent mother to her large family of eleven children, who, in order of birth, are as follows: John, of this review; James, a merchant of Coleraine, Ireland; Hugh, a farmer of Portage township, Wood county; Nancy, widow of Robert Hutton; William, of Ireland; Sarah, who is also living in that county; Robert and Matthew, both of Ireland; Mary J. and Eliza, twins, the former now Mrs. Robert McCarty, and the latter Mrs. John W. Boyd, of County Antrim, Ireland. Most of the family still make their home on the Emerald Isle, where they are well-to-do and prosperous.

Our subject received his education in the county of his nativity. A school-mate of his, Robert Caskie, had come to the United States and was employed in the slate quarries of eastern Pennsylvania. This friend sent Mr. Reynolds a ticket in 1866, and the promise of work if he would come to America. Bidding adieu to home and friends, he left County Derry, and on the "Columbia" sailed for the New World, and, after a stormy voyage of seventeen days, he landed at Castle Garden, at 10 A. M. on Christmas Day, 1867. He went at once to Slatington, Penn., where he was employed in the slate quarries for ten years.

At that place Mr. Reynolds wedded Miss Josephine Fletcher, a native of Germany, who had been brought to the United States when a child of two years, and they became the parents of five children—James, who died at the age of three years; Sarah, who died in infancy; William, who also died in infancy; and John and Hugh, both at home. The mother departed this life in Wood county, in March, 1882. It was in the spring of 1875 that Mr. Reynolds had brought his family to this county, where he had two brothers, Hugh and Robert, farmers of Portage township, and there he purchased twenty acres of land, going in debt for part of the amount required. In Wood county our subject was again

married, his second union being with Miss Margaret McKaig, who was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, November 8, 1852, and is the daughter of Robert and Eliza (Reynolds) McKaig, natives of County Derry, Ireland. Six children have been born of this union—Robert; William J.; Sadie and Willie, twins; and Charles and George, twins. All are living with the exception of George.

Upon his farm, in Portage township, Mr. Reynolds resided until 1893, when he removed to his present place, which comprises 165 acres of valuable land. While employed in the slate quarries of Pennsylvania, he suffered from a broken thigh, and a stiff knee resulted. Though handicapped in this way to some extent, he has ever been a hard worker, and it renders his accumulations that much more creditable. He is just such a citizen as his nativity suggests, honest, progressive and upright, and is one of the representative farmers of the community, where he makes his home. Religiously he is a Methodist Protestant, in which Church he has served as trustee, and politically he has always been an earnest Republican.

W. R. CAROTHERS. A popular and well-known citizen of Wood county, was born in Beaver county, Penn., January 24, 1815, and is a son of Andrew and Jane (Fitzsimmons) Carothers. Both were natives of the Keystone State, and the former was born in 1783. At the age of nineteen he went to the South, and was engaged in teaching school among the planters in different States for seven years. Then returning home he was married, and in 1809 located in Ohio township, Beaver county, where he purchased 100 acres of land, and carried on farming for a period of years, at the same time he conducted a hotel and taught school for ten years. Later he was employed at school teaching in various places in Columbiana and Crawford counties, Ohio, following that pursuit until seventy-five years of age. His death occurred in 1878, and his wife died in Morrow county, Ohio, about 1873. The first two children of the family died in early childhood, and the others are W. R.; Eliza Jane, wife of Andrew Morrison, of Tuscarawas county, Ohio; Reason Dawson, of Washington county, Ohio; Jonathan, who died at the age of twenty-two; Dr. James Henderson, of Martinez, Cal.; Samuel, who died young; and Dr. John, who died in California.

Mr. Carothers, of this sketch, was educated by his father, and at the age of twelve years began work as a farm hand, receiving only \$2 per month and his board. He was thus employed

until eighteen years of age, when he began the brick-mason's trade, and at the age of twenty-one he commenced school teaching in Crawford county, Ohio, following that vocation through fourteen consecutive winter seasons, being employed at brick laying in the summer. He built the first brick building in Galion, Ohio, and worked on the infirmary in Crawford county, and the Union school house in Bucyrus, Ohio.

In May, 1836, Mr. Carothers was married in Crawford county, to Madgalena Heiffer, who was born in Pennsylvania, in 1813, and was of German lineage, her father having immigrated to America from Germany, at the age of twelve years. In 1852 our subject came with his family to Wood county, and purchased 200 acres of land in Liberty township, this including the eighty-acre farm on which he yet resides. He has since carried on agricultural pursuits, although he has devoted some attention to other interests. In 1876 he went to Beaver county with his brother, where he engaged in brick laying, drilling wells and setting boilers. In the summer of 1877 he went to Columbia county, Penn., where he was engaged in the construction of the Letonia Iron Works. He is, however, numbered among the leading and substantial farmers of Wood county, and the success he has achieved is due entirely to his own efforts.

To Mr. Carothers and wife were born: Franklin, who died at the age of twenty-four; Eliza Jane, wife of W. H. Richardson, of Bowling Green; Matilda, wife of Montgomery Loomis, of Ashley, Mich.; Sarah, who died at the age of seventeen; William Forbes, who died at the age of thirty-three; and Emma, who became the wife of Hiram Woodworth, and died in Cleveland, Ohio. After the death of the mother of this family, Mr. Carothers married Elizabeth C. Weaver, and they have one son, Reason Dawson.

Our subject has considerable local note as a composer of comic songs, and his rendition of the same is worthy of a professional. In politics he is a Democrat. Though a member of no Church, he has always been a close Bible student. He is also familiar with many of the standard works of literature. He is a man of scholarly tastes and broad general information, and his sterling worth has gained him the friendship of many.

**BERNARD INDLEKOFER**, the able and popular postmaster at Weston, was born in Norwalk, Huron Co., Ohio, May 5, 1856. His parents were both natives of Germany, and his father, Nicholas Indlekofer, came to America in 1853,

his mother, Rosalia (Kramer), a year later. They were married in Cincinnati, and settled in Norwalk, where the father died in February, 1885, at the age of fifty-nine, and where the mother still resides. Three children were born of this union: Bernard, Mary and Rosa.

Our subject, when fourteen years old, left home to learn cabinet making at Bellevue, Ohio. He followed his trade for some time in Decatur, Ind., and then returned to Norwalk, where he worked in the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern carshops for about eight years. In 1880 he came to Weston, and opened an establishment of his own. So well did he gain and hold the confidence of the community that, in 1885, he was appointed postmaster under Cleveland. Three years and six months later he was relieved on account of his strong Democratic proclivities; but he was given a position in the railway mail service between Cleveland and Syracuse, which he held until another change of administration. Returning to Weston, he opened a restaurant and grocery, which he conducted until re-appointed postmaster, July 1, 1893. He is an influential political worker, and is prominent among the business men of Weston. In 1893 he built the handsome brick block in which the post office is now located.

On October 1, 1879, Mr. Indlekofer was married to Miss Catherine Cook, who was born at Weston, June 24, 1858. To this union were born four children, namely: Rosa, John and Maggie, who are living at home; and Carl, the second child, who died when an infant. Mr. Indlekofer and his family are leading members of the Roman Catholic Church.

**HON. NATHAN HATFIELD**, a leading agriculturist of Perry township, and one of the best of the able men who have represented Wood county in the State Legislature, was born February 28, 1813, in St. Clair township, Belmont Co., Ohio, the son of William and Nancy (McMahan) Hatfield.

"Uncle Nate" is a self-made man, and his well-known kindness of heart may be the result of that fellow feeling for the less fortunate, which only those can know who have at some time felt the pressure of poverty. His father, a native of New York State, was at one time a wealthy merchant in Wheeling, W. Va.; but he lost his fortune in 1820, through becoming a surety to the extent of \$90,000, for parties who failed to meet their obligations. His property was sufficient to meet the liability under ordinary circumstances; but a forced sale caused a sacrifice of values, which

left him penniless. He might have saved something from the wreck by certain manipulations; but he was too proud to attempt them. His brother, Capt. Nathan Hatfield, a veteran of the war of 1812, for whom our subject was named, was then living in Cincinnati, and he furnished means for the family to move to Hamilton county, and make a new home there. The journey was accomplished on a flat-boat, which floated down the Ohio. Soon after their arrival our subject's mother, who had previously been healthy and robust, died from the effects of the humiliation and anxiety, which she had undergone, leaving ten children, who were scattered among strangers, to make their way in the world. Nathan was but seven years old, and his childhood knew many hard experiences, which he bravely endured. His father married again, and by that union had four sons. He died at the age of sixty-five, at the home of our subject, where his last years were made comfortable by the tender care of his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Hatfield.

Young Hatfield availed himself of such opportunities for schooling as his time and locality afforded, and a bright intellect helped him to obtain a good education. He is now an earnest advocate of better schools, by which any child, no matter what the position of his parents may be, can, if he will, secure a thorough intellectual training. He is a lover of horses, and his first business venture was the purchase of a colt for \$5.00, which he had saved, a few cents at a time. His employer allowed him free pasture, and, by careful attention, the colt was brought into good condition and traded for a larger animal, which the young speculator sold later for \$50.00. With this sum he bought a good horse in Kentucky, of Bertrand stock. During the cholera epidemic of 1832, Mr. Hatfield, then nineteen years old, rode this horse to Richland county to escape the disease, and there he began to work at plastering and bricklaying for a brother-in-law, James Worley, with whom he worked on the first brick house built in Findlay—the residence of William Taylor, a merchant there. At that time Findlay was a fort. While on his way there from Richland county he learned of the cheap lands in Wood county, and he bargained for forty acres in Section 33, Perry township, for which he traded his latest acquisition in horse flesh, a vicious horse given him in exchange for his Kentucky-bred animal. This land he visited in 1833; but he did not at that time occupy it, preferring to continue his trade in Orange township, Richland county.

In 1834 our subject was married to Miss Sarah McHarry, a native of Ireland, who had come to

America in childhood with her parents. Three children were born of this union: Jane A., who married John McMahan, and died in Perry township; Nancy, who died when a child; and Louisa, residing at Fostoria, who was first married to Amos Norris, who was killed at Millgrove, in 1863, by the explosion of a cannon, and she subsequently wedded Walter McMahan, now also deceased. The mother of this family died in August, 1844, and her remains now rest in the cemetery at Fostoria.

On February 9, 1845, Mr. Hatfield married Miss Angeline McMahan, an old acquaintance, who was a native of Hamilton county, born November 16, 1813. Their wedding trip was the journey from her home to Wood county, made partly by stage and partly over the Mad River railroad, the first railroad constructed in Ohio. They have seven children: William, a resident of Hancock county; Andrew, of Fostoria; Emma, now Mrs. James Brandeberry, of Pemberville, Wood county; P. J., who lives in Perry township; Angeline, the wife of Frederick Fruit, of Seneca county; Job, who resides at Portland, Ore.; and Sarah, Mrs. Myron Fletcher, of Perry township. Mrs. Hatfield is a woman of remarkable intelligence and sagacity, and her husband does not hesitate to avow, with manly pride in her abilities, that her help has been an important factor in his success. She possesses unusual vitality also, and, at the age of eighty-three, is hale and hearty, with scarcely a trace of gray in her hair. She was a daughter of Andrew McMahan, an ensign in the American army during the war of 1812, who was wounded while on the ramparts of Fort Meigs during the battle there. After the battle he was placed on a horse, and managed to make his way to his home in Cincinnati, where he lived many years, following the cabinet-maker's trade.

Mr. Hatfield is well preserved for his years, and has never worn spectacles. Mr. and Mrs. Hatfield celebrated their golden wedding February 9, 1895, and their relatives and friends took advantage of the happy event to demonstrate the affection in which this worthy couple is held wherever they are known. They are both members of the M. E. Church, in which Mr. Hatfield was a class leader for a quarter of a century, and his donations to that Church and to other religious causes amount to a fortune. Indeed, "Uncle Nate's" generosity and hospitality are proverbial, and no needy and deserving person has ever sought relief from him in vain. His home has been for years a haven of rest to the weary traveler, and never has any charge been made.

Mr. Hatfield came to Wood county to reside in 1836, locating upon his little forty-acre tract, where he built a log house, and followed farming, working as opportunity came at his trade, this business sometimes taking him as far west as Fort Wayne. As he would get money to spare, he would go on foot through the woods to the land office and buy land, at \$1.25 per acre, and in this way he added to his holdings until he owned at one time 1,000 acres, and he now owns nearly 700. Honor and fairness have characterized his every transaction, no matter how small, and his integrity is never questioned. His landed estate forms but a part of his possessions, as he owns fine business property in Fostoria and North Baltimore. It is not often that a poor boy attains such worldly success, and still less frequently do we see nobility of character and goodness of heart left untouched by the long struggle with worldly necessities.

In politics Mr. Hatfield is a Democrat, as was his father before him, and although he never aspired to political office, his ability, public spirit and popularity among all classes has made him a leader in the party in this region. Quite without effort on his part, he was elected to the Legislature in 1874, and the entire community took part in a grand barbecue at his home in honor of the joyous occasion. The celebration was of the genuine old-fashioned kind, with food in unlimited quantities, speech-making, bands of music, dancing, and games and diversions of all sorts; but the best part of the affair was the sincere and unaffected rejoicing of all over the elevation of their honored neighbor.

WILLIAM WAUGH, senior member of the well-known mercantile firm of William Waugh & Co., of Tontogany, is a native of Wood county, having been born in Webster township, June 28, 1858.

His parents, James and Margaret (Forester) Waugh, were both born in Scotland in 1824, the father in January, the mother April 19, and in childhood they came to America, their respective families locating in the same neighborhood in Wood county. The first years of their married life were spent in Freedom township, near Pemberville; but in 1850 they removed to a farm on the corner of Webster township, where our subject's father built a large sawmill, which he operated successfully for many years. He was a Republican in his later years, and was one of the leading men of the locality. He and his wife were active and faithful members of the Presbyterian Church at Scotch Ridge, and their children

adhere to the same faith. His early death, in 1862, cut short a life of great activity and usefulness; Mrs. Waugh survived him many years, dying August 15, 1891. Nine children were born to them, of whom five lived to adult age; Ellen (deceased) was formerly the wife of B. Russell; and Margaret (who married C. W. Russell), James and Thomas, are all living on the old homestead; and our subject, who is the youngest in the family.

William Waugh, during his boyhood, attended the district school near his home, also the graded schools of Portage. He then taught for ten winters with great success. On March 18, 1879, he married Miss Maggie Dauterman, who was born October 2, 1860, in Portage township, Wood county, where her parents, Jacob and Catherine (Amos) Dauterman, were prominent residents. Three children were born to this union: Mabel I., born November 16, 1881; Ralph D., born October 16, 1884; and Harold W., born January 17, 1893, in Denver, Colo. Mr. Waugh bought the old Dauterman homestead, and until 1886 was engaged in farming in summer, and teaching in winter. He taught, in all, ten winters, three winters in his own district. Thinking, however, that a mercantile life would be more congenial, he, in 1885, opened a general store at Dunbridge; but sold it in the fall of 1889, and went into the grocery business at Bowling Green. His health failing, he again sold out and spent two years in the West, chiefly for his health, and on his return built a business block in Tontogany, and established his present general store, which, since June 30, 1894, has been a leading enterprise in that thriving town. Politically Mr. Waugh is a Republican, but is no office seeker, though he is the present efficient township treasurer. In 1887, he united with the I. O. O. F., Lodge No. 626, Bowling Green, and in 1894 was transferred to Tontogany Lodge No. 755. He is somewhat interested in the oil industry in Wood county, being among the first to develop the field about Tontogany.

LEWIS NEWCOMER, one of Prairie Depot's substantial business men, was born near Freeburg, Stark Co., Ohio, March 26, 1846, and is the son of Adam and Margaret (Bender) Newcomer, both of whom were from Pennsylvania.

Our subject attended school until seventeen years of age, when, work being plenty on his father's farm, he was employed there until he was twenty-four years old. On November 12, 1868, he was married to Miss Margaret Boucher, daughter of Jesse Boucher, and a native of Seneca county, where she was born January 22, 1849.



*Wm. W. W. W.  
Toboggan Ohio*



*Maggie W. W.*





and where she taught six terms in the public schools. In 1870 Mr. Newcomer moved to Montgomery township, and, with his brother, Levi, bought 125 acres of land in Section 18. He lived in this township four years, and then rented a farm in Hancock county for one year, and later occupied another farm of 120 acres that he had previously bought, remaining there three years. Then, as the parties to whom he had sold his farm in Montgomery township could not pay for it, he returned to Section 18, and lived there until October, 1887, when he moved to Prairie Depot, broken down in health and obliged to quit farming. In June, 1888, he engaged in the hardware business with S. J. Dern, and after two years this firm sold out to the Buckeye Supply Co., and for the following eighteen months our subject retired. In January, 1892, he bought out the Buckeye Supply Co., which is now known by the firm name of L. Newcomer & Co. Our subject owns the business block in which his store is situated, and besides has some of the best business property in Prairie Depot.

To Mr. and Mrs. Newcomer have been born these children: Irwin B., who is in business with his father, married Miss Maud Pittenger, and they have one child, Fern. Bertha L. is now Mrs. John Carr, of Bradner, Ohio, and has two children, Lewis R. and Clair. Mr. Newcomer is a Democrat, but is not bound by party ties, as he selects the man according to his ability, regardless of his politics. Our subject and his family were for fifteen years members of the German Baptist Church, and gave liberally to its cause, and Mr. Newcomer gave an acre of ground toward a site for a new church in Hancock county. For the past fourteen years he has been an invalid, suffering from rheumatism, which necessitated his going into mercantile business. He has a comfortable competency, and is one of Prairie Depot's most respected citizens. His good wife has been of great help to him, and has stood nobly by him in his hours of trial.

Adam Newcomer, father of our subject, was born in Pennsylvania, and, in 1851, moved to Biglick township, Hancock county, making the journey in a farm wagon. He was in poor circumstances financially, and took his farm of 160 acres when it was in a pretty rough condition, uncultivated and containing only a log cabin. It was there that Mrs. Newcomer died at the age of sixty years. Mr. Newcomer is alive and hearty at nearly seventy-five years of age. He has been a successful man, and has a good competency. To him and his wife were born the following children: Levi, living in Hancock

county; Diana, now Mrs. Samuel Thomas, of Hancock county; Lewis, our subject; Sylvanus, a resident of Michigan; Lydia, the wife of Henry Bowers, of Findlay; Samuel, residing in Hancock county; Margetta, wife of William Shubert, of Hancock county; and John, of Kansas City.

JERRY BORDNER was born in Stark county, Ohio, June 26, 1835, and is a son of Jacob and Liddy (Guess) Bordner, the former a native of Harrisburg, Penn., the latter of Stark county, Ohio, where they were married. Subsequently they removed to Crawford county, in the same State, and, about 1850, located on a farm of 125 acres in Liberty township, Wood county. There the mother's death occurred, and the father afterward was again married, his second union being with Catherine Shutt, who still lives in Liberty township. His death occurred on the old homestead farm in May, 1879. To Mr. Bordner's first marriage were born the following children: Lavina; Washington, who died in childhood; Jerry; Catherine, who died at the age of seventeen; and Hiram. The children of the second marriage, were: Joseph, a farmer of Liberty township; Isaac, who follows farming in Henry county, Ohio; John, of Freeport, Ohio; Frank, of Portage, Ohio; and Hettie, who died in childhood.

Jerry Bordner, the subject of this review, was educated in the public schools of his locality. He was reared on a farm, but to some extent has followed carpentering. During the Civil war the country numbered him among its loyal defenders, having enlisted at Bowling Green, August 29, 1861, in Company C, 21st O. V. I. He participated in the battles of Ivy Mountain and Chickamauga, in which latter engagement out of his company of forty-eight men, who went into battle in the morning, only thirteen responded to roll-call at night, and a corporal of that company was the only one of the officers (either commissioned or non-commissioned), of the regiment that escaped uninjured; but at the battle of Jonesboro, this corporal was literally cut to pieces by a shell. At the battle of Stone River our subject received a slight flesh wound in the right cheek, and in the spring of 1862, he returned home on a thirty-days' furlough. Rejoining his regiment at Huntsville, Ala., at the expiration of his term, he was honorably discharged September 18, 1864. He then began work on a farm, which he continued for some time.

Mr. Bordner was married in Liberty township, September 19, 1869, to Miss Bina Hull, who was born in Summit county, Ohio, November 23, 1845. Her parents were Joel and Polly

(Huxly) Hull, the former a native of Massachusetts and the latter of Ohio. Mr. Hull died in Liberty township, in April, 1891; but his widow is still living. In their family were the following children: Bina, Mrs. Bordner; William; Electa, wife of George Jackson, of Lorain county, Ohio; Sarah, wife of Arthur Harrison, of Bowling Green; Sylvester, twin brother of Sarah, of Liberty township; and Alonzo and Lorenzo, twins, now living in Milton Center. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Bordner have come ten children: Adella, born July 13, 1870, now the wife of Daniel Levers, of Liberty township; Blanche, born November 8, 1871; George, born November 16, 1873; Belle, born December 5, 1876; Earl, born September 8, 1877, and died July 6, 1878; Maggie M., born May 27, 1879; Maud M., born November 9, 1881; Nellie, born October 6, 1883; Roy, born April 3, 1886; and Frank, born February 23, 1888, died March 8, 1891.

Mr. Bordner is the owner of a good farm of eighty acres, highly cultivated and well improved, and he owes his financial success in life entirely to his own well-directed efforts and good business ability. In politics he is an active worker in the ranks of the Republican party. He has served as school director for many years, and the cause of education finds in him a warm friend.

OSWALD BROTHERS, the well-known proprietors of the planing-mill and lumber-yard at Weston, are natives of Ashland county, Ohio, sons of Levi Oswald, who was born in 1818, in Berks county, Penn. Their mother, Catherine Zeither, is a native of the city of Worms, Germany, and came in early life to Wayne county, Ohio, where the two were married. The father died there in 1878; the mother survives him, and resides with her sons in Weston. Their five children are: J. W., Carrie, George W., and the two subjects of this sketch—Jacob M., born January 5, 1852, and S. C., born July 31, 1859.

Both of these young and thrifty business men came at an early age to the vicinity of Weston, and, after obtaining a good elementary English education, they each engaged in the employment which was, for the time being, most convenient. For a while they worked with their father in Weston, shipping hardwood timber, and in 1880-81 they purchased their present business, then being carried on in a limited and indifferent manner. They set to work to make it a success, and increased their stock, put up a new building, and bought machinery of the most approved sort for manufacturing all kinds of building material.

This they have made the most prosperous and beneficent industry in Weston, and the hum of its machinery is welcome music to the ears of workmen to whom they furnish constant employment. As citizens, the Oswald Brothers are counted among the most substantial and public spirited, every local improvement receiving from them due support.

JACOB M. was married to Miss Sarah Shively, a native of Hancock county, born in April, 1853, and they have one child living: Lee Thomas; their daughter, Maude, died at the age of sixteen. He belongs also to the Lumberman's National society the "Hoo Hoos," or the "Concatenated Order of the Black Cat."

S. C. OSWALD was married October 4, 1882, to Miss Lucy M. Brown, who was born May 1, 1860, in Weston township. Both brothers are staunch Democrats, and leading members of the Presbyterian Church, and of the fraternal order of Odd Fellows, and the Knights of Pythias.

WALTER OSTRANDER, who is living in Section 20, Montgomery township, is successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits on a valuable farm of seventy-seven acres. He has spent much of his life about horses, giving him a chance to study and learn them, and this association and knowledge has developed in him an ability that classes him among the prominent handlers of horses in northwestern Ohio. He is probably as good a judge of that animal as any man in Wood county, and many have benefited by his advice and counsel. He has trained many excellent horses, and his skill as a driver has often been witnessed.

Mr. Ostrander was born June 15, 1845, in Montgomery township, where his father, John Ostrander, a native of New York, was one of the pioneer settlers. The mother of our subject bore the maiden name of Sarah Burk, and by her marriage she had four children: Hiram, who makes his home in Iowa; Harriet, who became the wife of James Carter, and died in Montgomery township; Matilda, who first married Franklin Diver, and after his death wedded Philip Wammes, of Fostoria, Ohio; and Walter, who completes the family. The father's death occurred in 1845, and his widow now lives with her son in Iowa.

Like many boys, our subject did not manifest much interest in his studies, and consequently his education was not as thorough as it might have been. As he was only an infant when his father died, he remained with his mother (who kept her family together) until his enlistment for

service in the Union army during the Rebellion. On August 15, 1862, at Perrysburg, Ohio, he joined Company I, 111th O. V. I., as a private, and while stationed at Covington Heights, Ky., was detailed as teamster. He was later made orderly to Gen. I. R. Sherwood, and served in that capacity until the close of the war, when he was honorably discharged July 15, 1865. Returning to Wood county, he began threshing with his brother-in-law, Franklin Diver, which business he followed for nine years during the summer season, while in the winter he was employed in the woods.

On October 27, 1866, in Freedom township, Wood county, Mr. Ostrander was united in marriage with Miss Eliza M. Morgan, who was born in Montgomery township, February 12, 1847, and is the daughter of Griswold and Rhoda (Shuman) Morgan. After Mrs. Ostrander had completed her education in the common schools of the county, she engaged in teaching for one term. The following children have been born of this union: Sanford, of Prairie Depot, Ohio; Ulysses G., a farmer of Montgomery township; Walter, Mabel M., John, Irvin and Edward, all at home; and two sons who died in infancy.

After his marriage, Mr. Ostrander located at what is now Grand Rapids, Wood county, where he conducted a hotel; but a few weeks of that business satisfied him, and he returned to Montgomery township, where he lived until his removal to Waterford, N. Y. He engaged in dealing in horses at that place for four years, but has since made his home in Montgomery township, living upon his present farm since 1893. He is a wide-awake, progressive citizen who has made many friends in this community, and is well and favorably known throughout the county. Politically, he has ever been a strong supporter of the Republican party, and socially is a prominent member of the Grand Army Post, at Prairie Depot.

**ASA BAIRD**, a retired farmer of Perry township, was born in Bloom township, September 7, 1835, the son of Ora A. and Rebecca (Randalls) Baird. Ora A. was the son of Charles Baird, and was born April 1, 1804, in Bethlehem township, Berkshire Co., Mass. He came to Wayne county, Ohio, with his parents in the early part of the century, and was married in Mohican township, Ashland Co., to Rebecca Randalls. She was born August 9, 1808, in Spafford township, Onondaga Co., N. Y. Ora A. Baird was one of the earliest settlers in Bloom township, Wood county, to which he came in the summer of 1834, loca-

ting in Section 26. He camped under a black walnut tree until a three-sided shanty was built in the midst of a dense forest. This was one of the pioneer settlements in Bloom, as data in the historical part of this work will show. The father lived with his family on this farm, which he cleared and improved, until April, 1864, when he removed to Section 17, Perry township, where he died December 29, 1870, his wife surviving him until October 2, 1890. Both are buried in Perry Center cemetery.

Mr. Baird was a great sufferer from a peculiar disease, the first results of which were seen after he had fallen asleep one day, in the fall of 1862, while sitting in an arm-chair. He had thrown his right leg over the arm of the chair, and the circulation of the blood being impeded, started a peculiar growth called anasium, which crippled him for the remainder of his life. His foot finally came off at the ankle joint, and, for some years previous to his death, he wore an artificial limb. He was naturally a stout, robust man, full of energy, rather quiet in his manner, but of a quick temper. He was always a farmer, and at one time was also engaged in the threshing-machine business. He was originally a Whig, later a Republican, and was one of the early office holders in Bloom township. He was a poor man when he came to Wood county, but, by industry and good management, acquired a comfortable fortune. To him and his wife came the following children: Milton B., born July 30, 1828, died May 5, 1833; Louisa L., born June 27, 1830, died May 10, 1833; Irving (twin of Louisa) is living in Michigan; Lydia A., born January 21, 1833, is the wife of John F. Dunn, of Perry township; Asa is our subject; Lecta L., born July 20, 1839, married Charles Richard, and, later wedded S. Griffith (she died in Attica, Ohio); Hannah, born Sept. 28, 1841, married Washington Cupp, and died in Perry township; Randall, born October 2, 1846, lives in Perry township; Ora, Jr., born April 20, 1848, died April 11, 1869.

Asa Baird was reared upon a farm, and had but few advantages for an education, the schools of that early day being very poor in comparison to those of our time, and the children of the pioneer had but little leisure to give to books, so much was there for them to do in clearing off brush, chopping wood and otherwise assisting their parents to make a home. He remained with his father until his marriage, January 1, 1851, in Perry township, to Martha J., daughter of Samuel Spittler, who was born in Ashland county, Ohio, October 25, 1837. She bore him two

children: Charles I., born April 11, 1857, and now living in Eaton county, Mich.; and John M., born March 19, 1859, who died June 18, 1887. The mother died February 8, 1862, and was interred in the cemetery at Perry Center.

In August, 1862, Mr. Baird enlisted in Company B, 111th O. V. I., under Capt. T. C. Norris, in defense of the Union, and was mustered in at Toledo, September 6, following. The regiment was sent to Kentucky, where they remained some time and took part in the expedition which captured Morgan. It was during this exciting chase that Mr. Baird became overheated and was taken ill in August, 1863, being left at Lebanon, Ky., while his regiment moved on to Knoxville. The hospital being full, he was cared for with some fifty others in a church, which was arranged for their reception. After recovering his health he was for some eight months detailed as a guard in a government clothing store, rejoining his regiment in time to take part in the battle of Kennesaw Mountain, which was the first fight in which he was engaged. In July, 1864, he was detailed to support a battery at Atlanta, and was compelled to lie for several hours in a trench, from which exposure he contracted rheumatism. However, he remained with his command and participated in every fight thereafter except the one at Fort Anderson, N. C., when he was one of nine men sent to look after the officers' baggage. He was mustered out June 27, 1865, at Salisbury, N. C., and was discharged at Cleveland, Ohio.

The war being over, Mr. Baird, with the proud satisfaction of having served his country well and faithfully in her time of need, returned to the peaceful pursuits of farm life, taking up his residence with his father, who had care of his two little motherless sons, and who had in the meantime removed to Perry township. On October 18, 1865, our subject was again married, the lady of his choice being Mrs. Polly Leslie, the widow of Conrad Leslie, who was a member of Company B, 111th O. V. I., and who perished in the horrible stockade prison at Andersonville, March 18, 1864. Mrs. Baird's maiden name was Fry, her parents being George and Julia A. (Iler) Fry. She was born August 17, 1837, in Holmes county, Ohio. By her marriage with Mr. Leslie she became the mother of one son, Levi, who was born December 3, 1858, and who was cared for until manhood by our subject. He now resides at Jerry City, Ohio.

To Mr. and Mrs. Baird six children have been born, as follows: George F., born August 16, 1866, lives in West Millgrove; Elnora, born August 6, 1868, married George Pelton, and

lives at West Millgrove; Isaac W., born May 29, 1872, is at home; Clara E., born August 17, 1876, is now Mrs. Ford Campbell, of Bloomdale, Ohio; Eva M., born September 4, 1881; and Edna, born July 14, 1885, are at home with their parents. For one year after his return from the army, Mr. Baird resided in Bloom township, but with that exception has always lived on his present farm, which was the old homestead, and comprises 78 acres. For the past two years he has done no active work, and only oversees his property. He was at one time a member of Urie Post, G. A. R., at Bloomdale, but on account of ill health, was obliged to give up attending its meetings. He has always been a staunch Republican, but has never cared to hold public office. He is highly respected as a loyal citizen and good neighbor.

JOHN J. SHINEW, a resident of Center township, is well esteemed as a man of industry and enterprise. He comes from the beautiful land of the Alps, his birth having occurred in Switzerland, January 9, 1831. His father, Francis Shinew, was also born in that country, brought his family to the New World in 1834, making a location in Columbiana county, Ohio, where he carried on agricultural pursuits for a time. Later he removed to Portage township, Wood county, where he took up eighty acres of land, which he operated until his death in 1844. His wife long survived him, dying on the old homestead in 1875.

Our subject received his education in the district schools of Portage township, but as at that time they were very primitive, his training in that respect was rather limited. From early youth he worked upon his father's farm, until the latter's death, when he was left to provide for himself. He found employment on a farm where he worked for eighteen cents per day during the summer months, the winter season being spent in cutting wood at eighteen cents per cord. He also engaged in fishing on the lakes to some extent, and worked at any thing by which he could earn an honest dollar.

At the breaking out of the Civil war Mr. Shinew enlisted in Company C, 144th O. V. I., under Col. Miller and Capt. Ketcham. He was one of the 100-day men, and during his service suffered much from exposure, and the effects of which he has never fully recovered. He remained at his post of duty until honorably discharged in September, 1865. On his return home, Mr. Shinew began the development of his farm of eighty acres, which he had previously purchased,

and has since added forty acres to the original tract; so that he now has a good farm of 120 acres of some of the best land in his county. His efforts upon his farm have been eminently successful, and he has rapidly progressed toward an ample competency.

In October, 1850, Mr. Shinew married Susie Phillips, daughter of Adam Phillips, a farmer of Center township, and to them were born four children, three of whom still survive, namely: Salina, wife of Henry Drumbheller, a farmer of Kansas; Lewis, a farmer of Center township, who married Maggie Stacy, and has six children; and William, a telegraph operator in the West. The mother of these died in 1861, and in 1863, for his second wife, Mr. Shinew married Catherine Dauterman, daughter of J. Dauterman, of Portage township. One child graces this marriage: John D., a farmer, who married Mary Zimmerman, by whom he has three children.

Mr. Shinew filled the office of trustee of the township three years, and was supervisor five years. His industry in pursuit of his own business, and his spotless private life, have placed him in the highest estimation of the community in which he lives. In his political affiliations he entirely coincides with the doctrines and platforms of the Republican party, and in the exercise of his elective franchise he supports the candidates of that organization. In religious faith he is a member of the United Brethren Church.

ELI STOCKWELL, a prosperous farmer of Liberty township, was born May 20, 1856, in Benton, Hancock Co., Ohio, son of George and Nancy (Fisher) Stockwell. The father was born in New York in 1805, and the mother was a native of Ohio. Soon after their marriage they settled near Benton, where the mother died in 1860, but the father survived until 1876, passing away in Hancock county. For his second wife he chose Rebecca Harris. The children of the first marriage were Nicholas, of Liberty township; Minerva, wife of W. G. Conkey, of Liberty township; Libby, who died in infancy; and Mrs. Margaret M. Farington, of Salem, Oregon.

The school privileges which our subject enjoyed were limited; but through his own efforts he has become a well-informed man. He was reared a farmer lad, and remained at home most of the time until his marriage. That important event in his life was celebrated in Findlay, December 30, 1876, Miss Mary S. Cookson becoming his wife. They located on a farm in Hancock county, residing there until the spring of 1881, when they came to Wood county, set-

ting in Liberty township, where Mr. Stockwell purchased eighty acres of land. In the fall of that year he erected a sawmill, which he operated seven years. In 1887 and 1888 he drilled three oil wells on his farm, afterward selling the wells and also the sawmill. In 1890 he purchased eighty acres more in the same township, where he has erected a handsome and substantial residence, and he has a very desirable home. Since 1890 he has helped to drill nine wells in Liberty township, and seven in Portage township, and in 1895 and 1896 he drilled three in Middleton township.

To Mr. and Mrs. Stockwell have come five children: Albert E., born November 8, 1877; Amandus, born October 6, 1879; Ross B., born July 25, 1881; Sarah Ellen, born April 6, 1884; and George Edward, born April 24, 1893. The family is widely and favorably known in this locality, and in social circles they occupy an enviable position. In politics Mr. Stockwell is a Republican, and for three years he held the office of school director. In religious connection he is a most active member of the United Brethren Church of Liberty township, and has acted as class-leader for four years in South Liberty and Mt. Zion Churches. Mr. Stockwell united with the Church at the age of eighteen years, and has since been an active worker in the cause of the Master. However, he was never immersed, having no vices, neither using alcohol or tobacco in any form. His entire family are members of the U. B. Church. He is a popular citizen, devoted to the best interests of the community in which he makes his home.

WILLIAM HECKART, a leading lumber dealer and sawmill operator of Bradner, is one of the representative citizens. The architect of his own fortune, his life has been one of steady and close attention to business, while he has, at the same time, given practical support to helpful public movements, and taken an intelligent interest in the questions of the day.

He was born in Crawford county, Ohio, September 29, 1851, the son of Peter and Elah (Heller) Heckart, who were both natives of Pennsylvania and descendants of German ancestry. In 1862 they moved to Jackson township, Seneca county, where his father bought a farm of 210 acres—a fine property. Later he moved his family to Scott township, Sandusky county, and was successfully engaged in the sawmill business near Risingsun, until his death, being for some time a partner of Joseph Blackford, the well-known lumberman. His wife survives him,

and, although she owns a good home, she spends most of her time among her children.

Mr. Heckart was one of nine children—six boys and three girls—and until the age of seventeen spent his life after the fashion of the average farmer's boy. German was the language spoken in the family, and when he was eight years old he knew but little of any other, and while attending school then, and even later, he was often referred to as "Little Dutchman" by schoolmates who were more familiar with English. His "first day in school" was at Leesville, Crawford county; the district schools there, and at the new home, furnished his only opportunity for an education. For about four years he worked in his father's sawmill, learning the details of the business in which he has since been so successful, and in the spring of 1872 began farming on his own account at the homestead—his father giving him the few months' time remaining before his majority.

In December, 1874, in Montgomery township, Wood county, he was united in matrimony with Miss Anna E. Walters, daughter of Emanuel and Eliza (Gould) Walters, and took his bride to the old home, where they remained until 1881, when he moved to Montgomery township. Soon after he joined his father's old partner, Joseph Blackford, in the sawmill business, which he bought out three years afterward. A few years later he purchased a large tract of timber land in Section 36, Freedom township, and moved his business there while it was being cleared. He made fine improvements upon the place during his stay, and still owns a forty-acre farm there. In September, 1893, he removed his machinery to Bradner, where he had bought a lot and erected commodious buildings for carrying on his work on an extensive scale. A planing machine and other machinery were added to the outfit, enabling him to manufacture all kinds of lumber. His thorough acquaintance with the best methods of work, together with his general business ability and invariable fairness in dealing with the public, have brought him a large and profitable trade, which keeps from six to twelve men men employed to fill orders.

He has built a beautiful home in Bradner, probably the finest in the place. He and his wife are leading members of the Evangelical Church, and he gives liberally to that and other worthy causes. Of their three children, the eldest, Nora O., married F. A. Bryan, of Bradner; and Mollie R. and Jessie are at home. While he is a staunch Republican and a regular voter, he has never aspired to office, his business

requiring his attention; but in all that constitutes good citizenship he has not at any time been found wanting.

THOMAS A. ROSENDALE, an enterprising merchant, and the popular postmaster of Ted, in Bloom township, was born in Bloom township, Wood county, January 9, 1867, and is a son of Thomas and Sarah (Noecker) Rosendale. The father's birth occurred in Grafton, Lorain Co., Ohio, in 1846, and though very young he enlisted in the Union army January 1, 1864, joining Company E, 49th O. V. I. At the close of that terrible struggle, he was discharged at Camp Chase, Ohio, by order of the War Department, June 19, 1865. In Richland county, Ohio, in 1866, he was united in marriage with Miss Noecker, who had formerly lived in this county. At Eagleville, the father worked until his death, which occurred in February, 1867, a short time after the birth of our subject, and his remains were interred in Bloom Chapel cemetery. In politics he was a Republican. His widow later became the wife of George W. Urie, and died in Bloom township.

Our subject was their only child, and after the death of the father, was taken to the home of his maternal grandfather, Benjamin Noecker, who lived one mile east of Shenandoah, in Richland county. There he remained for eleven years, during which time he attended the district schools, and then went to live with Isaac G. Noecker, near Ganges, in the same county. He made his home with that gentleman until he reached his majority, but in the meantime they removed to Crawford county, Ohio. At the age of twenty-one, he began work as a farm hand, in which he continued three seasons, when, in the fall of 1890, he went to Toledo, Ohio, there attending the Tri-State College. During the following January, however, he entered the employ of Briggs & Leibus, of that city, as clerk, gaining his first experience in his present line of business. At the end of a few months he came to Eagleville, where he began clerking for his uncle, E. J. Rosendale, and January 1, 1893, bought out his employer, since which time he has conducted his business very successfully, winning a liberal patronage by his honorable dealings and the courteous treatment of his customers. In Perry township, Wood county, he was married October 6, 1892, to Miss Adda Bailey, of Eagleville, a daughter of William Bailey. They take an active part in religious work, belonging to the Christian Church, in which Mr. Rosendale now holds office. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 278, of Bloomdale, and in

politics is a stalwart Democrat. In 1893 he was appointed postmaster of Ted, and is acceptably filling that position.

J. H. BURNETT, M. D., a leading physician of Risingsun, is one of the practical, energetic sons of the Buckeye State, who have made their way to the front in the face of all obstacles.

He is descended from pioneer stock, Elisha Burnett, his grandfather, having located with his family in Jackson township, Wyandot county, when that region was a wilderness, through which they had to cut out their road before them. His second son and child, Samuel Burnett, our subject's father, was born in New York State, and was but a boy at the time of this removal; but the hard toil of his early days did not deter him from taking up a farm in the woods for himself in early manhood. He was married, in Wyandot county, to Miss Sarah Tilbury, a native of Ohio, and daughter of David Tilbury; and they made their home in a log cabin some distance from a road, along which but few travelers passed. During their first years there he could not make a living, and worked as he could for others in Marion county, adjoining, taking his pay often in eatables, which he would carry home on his back. Potatoes were their staple article of food, and for days they would subsist almost entirely upon them; their corn was ground in a handmill. He was active, strong and hardy, and, from genuine public spirit, chopped out a great deal of roadway in his vicinity. His later years have been blessed with prosperity, his farm now comprising over 300 acres of good land. Our subject's grandparents made their home with him, the grandfather living in good health to the age of ninety-nine years, and dying then from the effects of an accident, his hip being broken by a fall upon the ice as he was walking about the farm.

In 1894 the Doctor's parents moved to Forest, Ohio, where they are now living in retirement, Mr. Burnett being seventy-six years of age. They have lived to enjoy their golden wedding, and to see their seven living children established in life near them. Nine children were born to them: Emma J., Mrs. Joseph Dye, of Forest; Eliza, Mrs. Alonzo Yant, also of Forest; William, a farmer in Hardin county, Ohio; J. H., our subject; Benjamin, a resident of Hardin county; Samuel, who died at twenty-three; Ella, Mrs. Henry Rothrock, of Ada, Ohio; Elisha, who died in childhood; and Joseph, who lives in Forest. In addition to this large family, they gave a home to eleven others—the children of two deceased brothers, and three grandchildren, who

are now living with them. Mrs. Burnett is exceedingly well-preserved, and does her own housework, as she has always done. She is a member of the Methodist Church. Kind and charitable to everyone, this worthy couple have won the respect and esteem of all who know them, and Mr. Burnett has been a prime mover in many helpful enterprises. In early years he was a Whig, and later a Republican, and his interest in party success has always been keen. He served creditably as a justice of the peace for some years.

Dr. Burnett was born near Forest, February 3, 1856, and attended the district schools of the locality until he was fourteen years old, when he entered the High School at Forest. In his sixteenth year he entered the North Western Ohio Normal School at Ada, and at seventeen years was competent to teach. His first school was one where two others had failed, and he prevailed upon to try it. His success was complete and established his reputation as a teacher, which was sustained by eight terms of good work in Hancock and Hardin counties. From his youth he had entertained the idea of studying medicine, and he began his course in Forest with Dr. Lillibridge and Dr. Gammel. In February, 1879, he became a student in the Eclectic Medical College of Cincinnati, Ohio, and was graduated in June, 1881, standing third in a class of twenty-six. His expenses were borne by himself, his savings covered them in part, and for the rest he accepted assistance from his father on condition that the money should be returned with interest, as he was too proud to rest under any obligation. In August, 1881, he began his professional work in Risingsun, where he was then an entire stranger, and he has established a lucrative and constantly increasing practice.

On April 22, 1877, he was united in marriage with Miss Amanda Park, the daughter of George Park, a well-to-do farmer of Hancock county. She died May 5, 1891, and her remains were laid to rest in Hardin county, Ohio. Of her two children one son, Ernest, born December 9, 1884, survives her. A daughter, Ila, died in infancy. On May 12, 1892, the Doctor married his present wife, Miss Lizzie Bowe, the daughter of George Bowe, a leading citizen of Scott township, Sandusky county.

In addition to Dr. Burnett's extensive practice he has valuable oil interests, being a member of the prosperous firm of Day, Winchell & Burnett, and he has already acquired a handsome competence. A staunch Republican, he has been active in local politics, serving on the school



board, and for eight consecutive years on the village council. He belongs to the order of Mac-cabees and the I. O. O. F.

JOHN G. GROH. The rich lands of Wood county have been transformed into fine farms which would do credit to any section of the country, and a valuable tract of land in Liberty township is owned by the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch. The excellent improvements upon his place are all the work of his own hands, and he is justly ranked among the leading agriculturists of the community.

Mr. Groh was born in Medina county, Ohio, September 3, 1865, and is a son of John Groh, a native of Germany, who was reared to manhood in the Fatherland, and there married Miss Christina Plapp. When a young man he learned the weaver's trade, but did not follow it, devoting his energies to the milling business. He served as a soldier in the German army. In 1850 he came with his wife to America, landing at New Orleans, whence he made his way to Cleveland, and thence to Medina county. After a few years Mr. Groh moved to Lorain county, where he purchased and farmed thirty acres of land. Later he came to Wood county, and bought 110 acres in Liberty township—the farm on which our subject now resides. The father died in 1867; the mother is still living on the homestead. An earnest, energetic man, it was his endeavor to secure a comfortable home for his family. In politics he was a Democrat. The record of the family, numbering twelve children, is as follows: One died in Germany; Mary is the wife of Henry Hemminger, of Midland county, Mich.; John G. is the next younger; Louisa married Nelson Auler, and died in Wood county; Carrie is at home; Catherine is the wife of William Spieth, of Liberty township; Ellen is deceased; Anna, twin sister of Ellen, is the wife of Alpheus Kiser, of Fostoria, Ohio; Liddy is the wife of John McCrory, of Liberty township; the others died in early life.

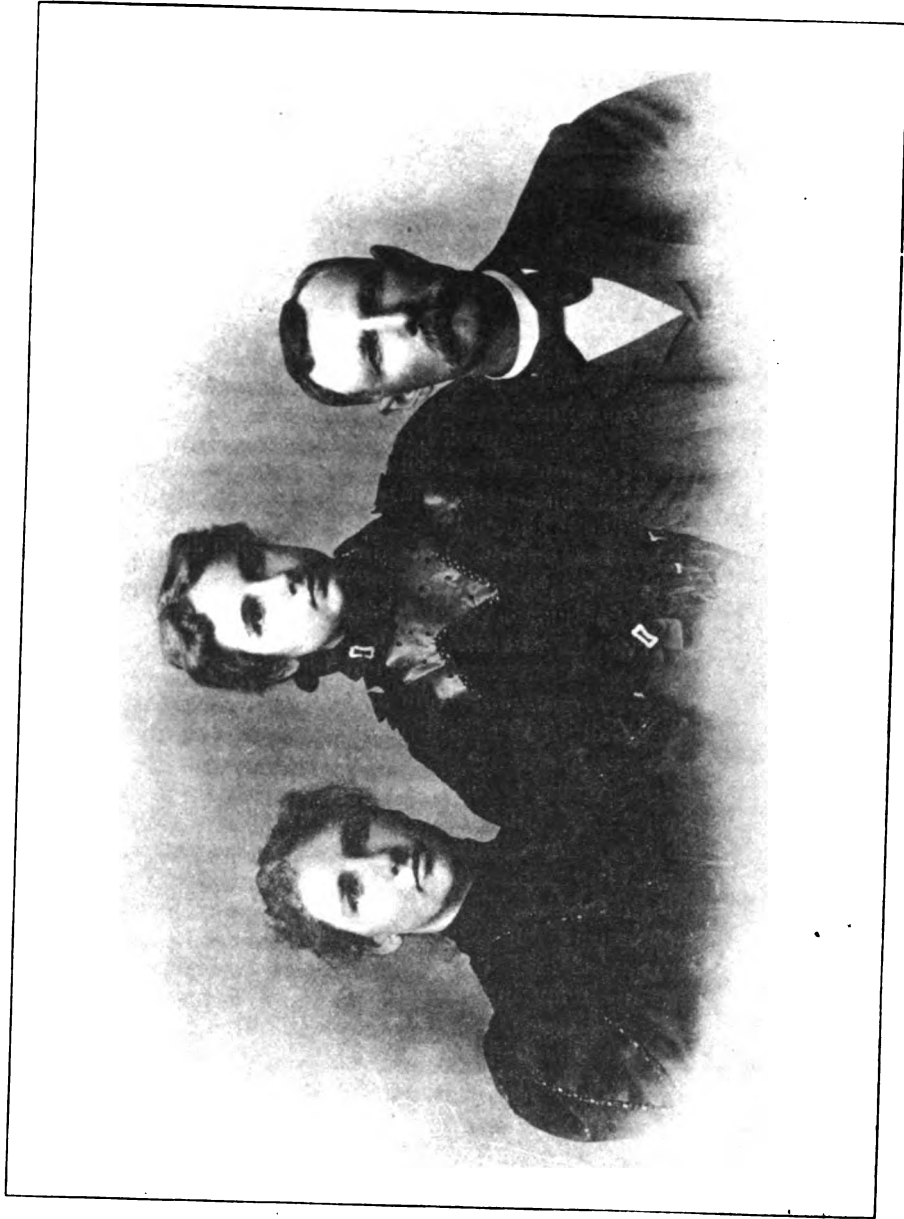
Our subject attended school in Medina and Lorain counties, and completed his education in the district schools of Liberty township. His privileges and opportunities, however, in youth, were limited, for at the age of twelve years he was left fatherless, and being the only son, the greater part of the farm work devolved upon him. He not only cared for the home farm, but added to the family income by working in the woods, and by hauling lumber to Findlay, and staves to Perrysburg. In accordance with his father's will, he received half of the home farm, and has al-

ways lived thereon. On January 27, 1896, Mr. Groh became sole owner of the old homestead, buying out the heirs; the farm comprised ninety acres.

Mr. Groh was married in Liberty township, September 14, 1879, to Miss Amy C. Knight, who was born in Sandusky, Ohio, January 31, 1862. They began their domestic life in an old log cabin on the home farm. Their marriage has been blessed with one daughter, Millie Alma, born August 24, 1880. Mr. Groh has made all the improvements on his land, and in September, 1888, he erected a fine residence. He also has upon his place five oil wells. Though he has led an active and useful life, Mr. Groh has found time to devote to Church interests. He is an active worker in the Church of Christ, in which he has held office since its organization, having been deacon, treasurer and trustee, and secretary and superintendent for a number of years. In politics he was formerly a Democrat, but is now a Prohibitionist.

J. W. BRANDEBERRY, an extensive stock raiser and farmer of Perry township, was born in Section 23, in that township, September 29, 1855, and is a son of Isaac Brandeberry, who is a native of Richland (now Ashland) county, where he was born near the village of Orange, September 2, 1820. His parents were Philip and Catharine (Zimmerman) Brandeberry.

Isaac was yet in his "teens" when his parents settled in Perry township, and he had but a limited education, attending school only three months. He, however, supplemented what little knowledge he obtained at school, by studying at home, which he did in the evenings by the light of the fire from the large fireplaces, in which was burned hickory bark. He was especially good in mathematics, which branch of study he taught his children. He was also a good speller and a good penman. He often attended spelling contests in other districts, and very seldom was his superior found. On July 4, 1844, he was married, in Perry township, to Miss Nancy Fish, who was born near Georgetown, Columbiana county, April 24, 1826. She was a daughter of John and Sarah (Kouser) Fish, who came to Perry and settled in Section 14. Her father was one of the earliest settlers in the township. Mr. and Mrs. Brandeberry went to housekeeping on the home place, where our subject now lives, and where they resided until early in the "seventies," when he moved on to the McCutchenville pike, and built a brick house there. He died November 18, 1886, and his wife January 26, 1887. Both are buried in Fostoria. Their children are



*J. S. Grob Wife and Daughter Alma*



as follows: Sarah A., born April 25, 1846, now the widow of Orrin Stearns, of Perry township [see sketch elsewhere]; Jane, born August 25, 1848, married William Werner, of Perry township; James, born December 18, 1850, lives in Pemberville, Ohio; Minerva, born February 11, 1853, is the wife of George Bucher, of Hicksville, Ohio; J. W. is our subject; Charles W., of whom a sketch appears elsewhere; Frank E., born January 6, 1864, is a farmer of Perry township; Louella, born June 14, 1871, is now Mrs. Homer Cochard, of Perry township.

Philip Brandeberry gave to each of his sons eighty acres of timber land. Isaac's part was in Section 23, which he at once started to clear and improve, and built on it a cabin. He added to his land until he at one time had over 1,000 acres. He gave to each of his boys 120 acres, and \$2,000 to each of his daughters upon their marriage. Of these 1,000 acres not more than eighty acres have passed out of the family, as he either gave or sold to his children. He worked at various trades, being at different times a stone mason, thresher, well-digger, etc., the latter being the first trade he followed. Later he took up that of a stone mason, and laid the foundations for many of the older business blocks in Fostoria, among them being the Foster Block. He was a very conscientious and systematic man, a hard worker, and carried on farming in connection with his other work. His wife was a great help to him, as she was economical, and a good manager. He was of domestic habits, and was only absent from home when his business demanded his presence elsewhere. He was well known as a good citizen, mechanic, and farmer.

The subject of our sketch attended school in District No. 1, Perry township, and received a good education for those days. Reared as a farmer's boy, he spent his youth, except a few months at different times, on the home place. He was married in Seneca township, Seneca county, November 9, 1882, to Miss Flora Adelsperger, who was born in that township July 29, 1861. She is the daughter of John and Mary A. (Albert) Adelsperger, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter of Maryland. They were married in Seneca county, and had thirteen children, all of whom, except one, Anna N., grew to maturity and married. The father was a farmer, and died at the age of sixty-five years. The mother still lives, at the good old age of sixty-eight years.

In 1880, our subject located on the farm where he now lives, and which he owns. He bought it on time, and from its proceeds paid all

expenses, and in 1886 paid off all the indebtedness. He has other land in Perry township, amounting in all to 215 acres. The record of his children is as follows: Pearl A., born July 6, 1884; Ada, born July 25, 1886; and Fred W., born November 25, 1894. Politically, Mr. Brandeberry is a Republican, and has served as trustee and supervisor of Perry township, and for five years was on the board of education, and favors good schools, regardless of expense. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Church, in which he is at present one of the trustees, at Fostoria. He is an extensive dealer in stock, of which he is a good judge, is a shrewd dealer, and one of the pushing business men of the township. He is one of the foremost farmers of Perry township, up to date in every branch of the work, and is well known throughout the county, as his extensive dealings have given him a wide acquaintance.

MATTHEW GILLESPIE, a well-known retired agriculturist, residing in Weston, Wood county, was born in Scotland on the river Clyde, July 24, 1810. His parents, Benjamin and Rebecca (English) Gillespie, were born in Ireland, but moved after their marriage to our subject's birthplace, where his father worked in a copper mine until he was killed by the caving in of the mine. The four children of this union were Ellen, who married and remained in Scotland; William John, who came to America in 1848, and died at Sidney, Ohio, at the age of eighty-four; Matthew, our subject; and Benjamin, who is deceased.

Our subject came to America in 1836, spending forty days on the water. For three years he stayed in Rochester, N. Y., and then settled, as a pioneer, on land at Sidney, Ohio, where he lived twenty years following farming, tanning, and shoemaking for a livelihood. During this time he brought his mother to his home, where she died at the age of seventy-five. In 1852 he was married to Miss Jane Jordan, who was born in 1825, in County Fermanagh, Ireland, where her ancestors on both sides had been residents for generations. Her parents, Andrew and Catherine Jordan, crossed the Atlantic when she was twelve years old, and, after a short stay in Lower Canada, came to Logan county, Ohio, where they spent their remaining years. They were members of the Episcopal Church. Mrs. Gillespie was one of eight children: Charles, who died in Logan county, at seventy; John, who died in childhood; Robert, who died in California; William H., who died at the old home in Logan county; Jane (Mrs. Gillespie); Mary (now Mrs.

Ernberg), of Bellefontaine, Ohio; Rebecca (now Mrs. Collins), of the same town; and Joseph, who resides in Toledo.

Seven years after his marriage, Mr. Gillespie brought his family to Weston, where he followed his trade of boot and shoe making until modern factories drove him out of business. He then became a farmer, and, although the active work has been for some years delegated to younger hands, he still retains his farm of forty acres. He also owns some property on the main street of Weston. A brief record of his eight children is as follows: Mary E. married J. Brown, of Illinois, and has five children—William, Edward, James, Paul and John; Sarah is deceased; Emma is the wife of James Church, of Toledo, and has three children—Herbert, Orville and Raymond; Francis lives in Tontogany, and is married; Charles died at the age of seven years; James died when eighteen months old; and two (twins) died in childhood. Matthew Gillespie and his wife have been spared to a ripe old age. Both belong to an honest, frugal, hardy race of people. They are members of the Presbyterian Church, and Mr. Gillespie is a close student of the Bible. Although bowed down with age, there is within him such spiritual force and vitality, that to see him in some moment of moral enthusiasm, and listen to the poetic grandeur of his speech, is to realize ones ideal of the prophets and patriarchs of olden time.

GEORGE BOETSCH, a prominent business man of Perrysburg, was born in Baden, Germany, October 10, 1844. His parents, George and Johanna (Meyer) Boetsch, were both natives of Baden, where the father died, and the mother, a lady of great force of character, came to America with her five children, of whom our subject was the eldest; Agnes entered a convent in New York State, where she is now a teacher, known as Sister Agnes; Caroline is housekeeper for Father Bowers, of Fremont, Ohio; Theresa is a Sister of Charity in Glandorf, Putnam county; Mary entered a convent at Buffalo, N. Y., and died there.

For five years after her arrival Mrs. Boetsch lived at Tiffin, Ohio, with her little family, and then came to Perrysburg, where our subject soon engaged in the grocery business, his mother keeping house for him. She died in 1888 at the age of sixty-eight. In 1864 Mr. Boetsch married Miss Catherine Nellis, who was born in Maumee, October 13, 1844. Four sons were born of this union: George H., born June 8, 1865, who married Miss Mary Hirtzfelt, and has one child—

Catherine; Seraphina, born in 1867; Frederick, born in 1869; and Charles, in 1872. Mr. Boetsch continued in the grocery business until 1878, when he bought a farm which he cultivated five years. In 1883 he bought the Perrysburg and Fort Meigs Mill, which he still owns and operates; five years later he opened a meat market, which he also conducts. He is a man of fine qualities of character and handsome physique, possesses much culture and information, and enjoys in a marked degree the esteem of the community. In 1893 he was elected justice of the peace, and still holds that office. He is a Democrat in politics, and in religious faith is a member of the Roman Catholic Church.

S. L. SARGENT, one of the highly respected residents of Jerry City, is a native of southern Ohio, born August 9, 1824, son of John and Agnes (Linn) Sargent, a brief sketch of whom appears in that of W. A. Sargent.

During his youth our subject attended the district schools of his day, to some extent; but his father owned a large tract of land, 560 acres, and there was plenty for the boy to do at home, so he assisted his father up to the time of his marriage. He then settled upon part of the home farm in Liberty township, and followed agricultural pursuits on his own account for twenty years, since which time he has devoted himself to other pursuits. On leaving the farm he removed to North Baltimore, conducting the "Baltimore House" there until 1883, when he settled in Jerry City, and has made his home here ever since. He at first engaged in teaming here, later embarking in the livery business, and for the past ten years he has carried the mail from Tromley Station to Jerry City. In his younger days he was an active citizen, taking a lively interest in public affairs, and he held several local offices of trust, serving as trustee of Liberty township for years, and also as clerk. He was the first Republican coroner of Wood county, after which it is hardly necessary to say that he is a staunch supporter of that party, though prior to its formation he was a Democrat.

Mr. Sargent was first united in marriage with Miss Hannah Jones, by whom he had children as follows: Josephine (now Mrs. John Anderson), of Liberty; Agnes (now Mrs. Lewis Myers), of Bloom township; John L., who died at the age of nine years; Horace G., who died when seventeen years old; Eurina, who died in infancy; Hattie, who became the wife of Jack Ireland, and died in Bowling Green; and Asher, of Portage. Mrs. Hannah Sargent died in Liberty township, and

was buried in Sargent cemetery, and subsequently Mr. Sargent married Mrs. Barbara J. (Myers) Clark, and four children have come to this union: Maggie, Clara and Daisy, living, and John, who died in infancy. Mr. Sargent was brought up in the Methodist faith, and Mrs. Sargent is a member of that Church. They are both highly respected in the community in which they make their home.

FRANK H. CRAWFORD, postmaster at Bairdstown, is one of the representative citizens of that village. Born in Williamsport, Penn., February 22, 1868, he is the son of F. W. and Catherine M. (Martin) Crawford, the latter of whom was a native of Reading, Penn. In the family were five children: George B., of Bairdstown; Robert L., a railroad man of Grand Rapids, Mich.; Grant G., of North Baltimore, Ohio; Frank H., subject of this sketch; and Florence, who lives with her mother in North Baltimore. By trade the father was a painter and paper hanger. During the Rebellion he served as a member of Company K, 45th Penn. V. I. In the fall of 1871, he removed with his family to Republic, Ohio, where he worked at his trade until May, 1877, when he came to Bairdstown; and, with the few hundred dollars he had accumulated by industry and good management, he erected a building for hotel purposes, known as the "Crawford House." In its construction he exhausted his means, and it became necessary to mortgage it, which soon would have been paid off had it not been for his untimely death July 9, 1878. His remains were interred in Bloom Chapel cemetery. Afterward the building was sold, from which the widow could obtain nothing, and she then conducted the old "Baird House" for six years. She is now carrying on a boarding house in North Baltimore.

Frank H. Crawford was but a small child when his parents removed to Republic, at which place his elementary education was received, and he was only nine years old on his arrival in Bairdstown, where he continued his studies in the district schools. As a boy he could be found around the village, doing chores and odd jobs for the merchants and business men, always prompt and reliable. In 1880 he entered the store of Austin Van Blarcum, as clerk, and when sixteen months later that gentleman removed to Jerry City, Wood county, he accompanied him; but, as his mother wanted him nearer home, he returned to Bairdstown. He has since been with the firm of Briggs & Jones, except when in 1892-93, he was in the employ of Benschoter's Insurance

Agency, Bowling Green. On August 1, 1886, in that city, he married Miss Effie Kistler, of Bairdstown, a daughter of Levi Kistler, the well-known contractor and builder, and they are now the parents of five children: Eva, Georgia, Francis H., Ruth and Pauline.

Mr. Crawford generally votes the Democratic ticket in municipal and county matters, but is not strictly partisan. In 1892, when only twenty-four years of age, he was elected mayor of Bairdstown; has been a member of the city council, and on December 31, 1893, was appointed postmaster, in which position he is now capably serving. In 1891 he was elected member of the school board, and was a strong advocate of a special district for the village, which movement he championed against most bitter opposition from leading and much older men of the township. His cause was successful, and the wisdom of it has been fully demonstrated in later years. In 1893 he joined the I. O. O. F. Lodge, No. 406, Bloomdale; in religious faith he is a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of Bairdstown, serving as trustee since its organization in 1890, was a member of the building committee, and has always been superintendent of the Sunday-school. Mr. Crawford stands high among the better class of people, and is a young man of strict integrity and upright character.

ORRIN GRAHAM, one of Montgomery township's most prosperous young farmers, was there born in Section 32, October 14, 1867. His education was acquired in the common schools of the southern part of his native township, and in the northern part of Perry township. When quite young he became familiar with agricultural pursuits, and as his father ranked among the most successful farmers of the community, his instruction was invaluable to our subject. He remained under the parental roof until he had attained his majority, and then began working for others.

At the age of twenty-two years, Mr. Graham married Miss Alpha Baird, of Perry township, a daughter of David Baird, and to them have been born a daughter—Edna. The young couple began their domestic life upon a farm in Section 32, Montgomery township, from which they later removed to Section 5, Perry township; but in 1893 came to their present home in Section 31, Montgomery township. Mr. Graham owns 120 acres of excellent farming land in Perry township, which accumulation for one of his age is quite out of the ordinary. He is industrious and

enterprising, in fact few men of his years have performed the labor he has done, and still does. Health is all that is necessary for him to rank in a short time among the leading and extensive farmers of his township. He is straightforward and honorable in all his dealings, gaining the confidence of those with whom he comes in contact. He takes considerable interest in political affairs, always giving his earnest support to the Democratic party.

W. L. KETCHAM, the present treasurer of Perry township, and one of its most prosperous and substantial farmers, is a representative of the third generation of that name in the township, his grandfather, William B. Ketcham, being one of the pioneer settlers there. The family is of English descent, and tradition tells of three brothers who came to America in the Colonial days, one of whom settled in New Jersey, where for generations his descendants lived, and from which branch the Ketchams of Wood county trace their genealogy.

Our subject was born January 6, 1867, and is a son of George L. Ketcham, who was the son of William B., son of John, whose father's name was James. The latter, who was the great-great-grandfather of W. L., was born in New Jersey, March 26, 1753, and was married in 1779 to Miss Rhoda Osborn, who was born October 12, 1758. The children of this couple were Joshua, Lewis, Hannah, John, Phœbe, James, Nathaniel, Charlotte, Samuel, Nathaniel (2), Job and Abigail. The father died March 18, 1820, and the mother May 9, 1847.

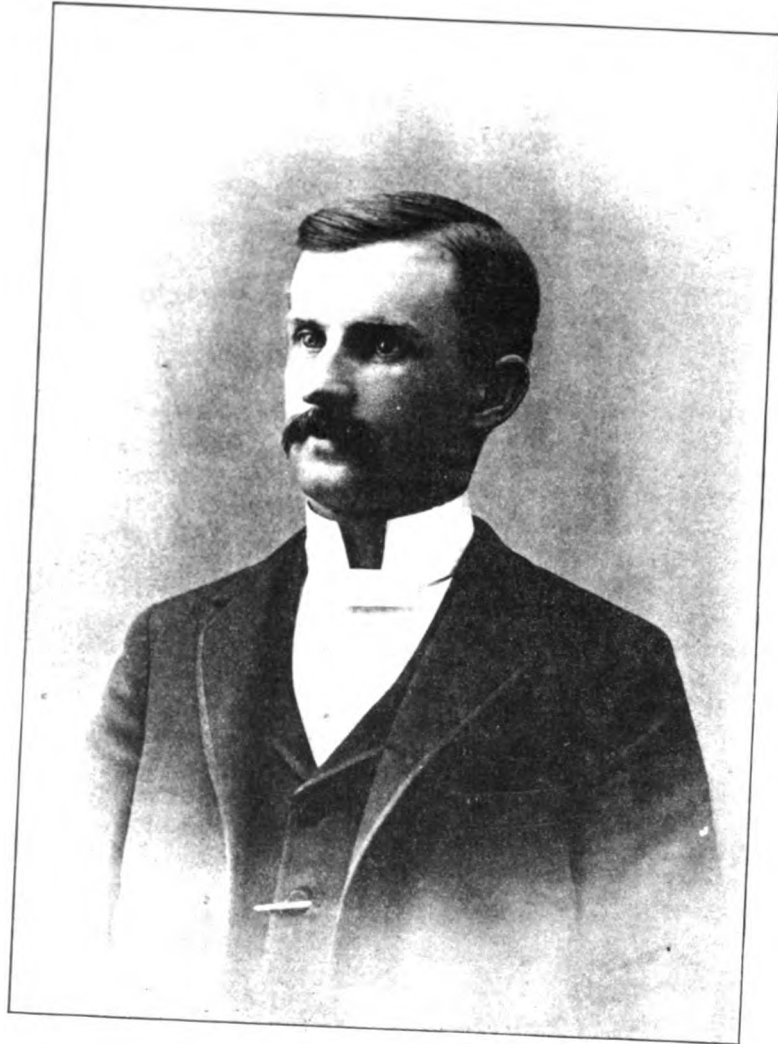
John Ketcham, great-grandfather of our subject, was born in New Jersey, April 3, 1786, and was married February 15, 1812, to Miss Johanna Burnett, who was born in that State, April 15, 1792. The parents were William and Anna (Dodd) Burnett, the former of whom was born April 2, 1758, and the latter August 21, 1765. The father died February 4, 1807, and the mother June 28, 1818. Their children were named Caleb S., Mary, Johanna, Elizabeth G., Justus A., Sally and John F. The children of John and Johanna Ketcham were nine in number, William B., grandfather of our subject, being the first in order of birth. John Ketcham died November 17, 1858, his wife surviving him until April, 1893, when she departed this life at the advanced age of 101 years.

William B. Ketcham was born in New Jersey, December 3, 1812, where he was married to Nancy Osborn. In 1841, with his wife and only child, George L., he came to Wood county, set-

tling on a piece of partially-improved land near West Millgrove. Before coming to Ohio he had learned the trade of blacksmith and wagon-maker, but he followed it very little after taking up farming. The land mentioned was in Section 9, Perry township, and comprised the farm now owned by our subject. William B. was one of the early pioneer in that locality, and by industry and careful management he became one of the wealthy farmers of the township. He was a self-made man, of excellent judgment, a shrewd financier, and at his death left an estate valued at several thousand dollars.

George L. Ketcham, the father of our subject, was born May 1, 1838, was reared on his father's farm, and had a common-school education. On July 3, 1861, he was married to Miss Rosalie Leonard, who was born November 13, 1838, in Windsor, Richland Co., Ohio, daughter of Seneca and Sarah A. (Foote) Leonard, the former a native of Massachusetts, the latter of New York, who came to West Millgrove in 1859, and are still living there, highly respected citizens. Four children were born to George L. Ketcham and his wife: The first born, a son, died in infancy; William L., our subject, comes next; Gertrude, born May 1, 1874, and Richard B., born August 9, 1876, are living with their parents. Mr. Ketcham previous to 1883 was engaged in the mercantile business at West Millgrove and also operated a sawmill. In the year mentioned he became a traveling salesman for a Toledo wholesale house, which occupation he still follows, making his home in West Millgrove. He is a staunch Republican, a Mason, and both he and his wife are members of the Congregational Church. He is a wide-awake, jovial man, well known throughout the township, and one of its most prominent citizens.

W. L. Ketcham, the subject of this sketch, received his early schooling at West Millgrove, and when nineteen years old taught school one term at Center, Perry township. When he was twenty-one he took a business course at the Fostoria Academy. When a boy he spent most of his time with his grandfather on the farm on which he now resides, a short distance from West Millgrove, where his parents live. Here he gained his knowledge of farming, and after his marriage began housekeeping on the farm, which is now owned by him, his brother Richard B., and his sister Gertrude. His marriage took place in West Branch, Cedar Co., Iowa, August 16, 1894, when he was united to Miss Alice Dubell, who was born May 2, 1868, in Johnson county, Iowa, and is a daughter of A. R. and Olive



*A. L. Ketchum*





(Baldwin) Dubell. One child has come to them, Lois C., who was born September 4, 1895.

Mr. Ketcham is a stanch Republican; in the spring of 1894 he was elected treasurer of Perry township, and was re-elected in 1895, being the youngest incumbent ever to hold that office. That he has performed his duties to the satisfaction of the public is shown by his retention in the office. He looks after more land than any other farmer of his age in the township, and means to understand thoroughly the art of agriculture. He exhibits excellent judgment and business ability, and is among the leading farmers of his community. He possesses the esteem and confidence of the people, and has a wide circle of friends. Mr. and Mrs. Ketcham are members of the First Congregational Church at West Millgrove, and are ever ready to assist in all worthy enterprises.

JAMES D. RALSTON, one of the oldest of the surviving pioneers of Wood county, was born in Armstrong county, Penn., June 4, 1822.

His father, Joseph Ralston, was born in Ireland in 1799, and was brought by his parents to this country in 1801. They settled in Armstrong county, Penn., where he grew to manhood and, in 1820, was married to his first wife, Miss Jane McCormick, a native of the same county, born in 1801. He was a carpenter and joiner by trade; but in 1834 he moved to Wood county, and took up 180 acres of timber land, which he cleared and cultivated. He became a leader in his locality, and was a justice of the peace, trustee, and school director for many years. By his first marriage he had ten children: James D., the subject of this sketch; Rebecca; John and Ann, twins; Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, Sarah, Alfred and Alicia. Our subject's mother died in 1852, and his father married again. The second wife also died, but left no children. Mr. Ralston married for his third wife, Mrs. Stacy. He died in 1887, followed a few years later by his widow.

James D. Ralston was twelve years old when he came to Wood county, and his education was mainly obtained in the log school houses of Center township. He worked upon his father's farm until he was twenty-one, and can recall the time when that locality was literally a howling wilderness. He was a noted hunter in his youth, and spent days and nights in the forest hunting wolves, deer, bears, and other wild animals. After he reached his majority he took up one hundred acres of land in Plain township, near what is now known as Union Hill, and after making improvements, he sold it and bought fifty acres in the

same vicinity, which he also improved and sold. He then moved to Center township, renting for a time, and then he bought his present property in Center township, near Bowling Green.

In 1843, he was married to Miss Ellen McGinnis, who was born in 1826, the daughter of David McGinnis, one of the earliest settlers of Plain township. Five children were born to them: Dallon, 1845, was a soldier in the Civil war, and died in hospital from wounds received in battle; Harriet, 1848, died at the age of twenty-four; Elizabeth J., 1850, married Samuel Bradbrook, of Perrysburg; John, 1859, an able and energetic young farmer, married Sarah Perrin, a daughter of the late William Perrin, a leading farmer of Center township, and is now managing the homestead; Viola, 1864, resides with her parents.

For more than half a century Mr. and Mrs. Ralston have shared their joys and sorrows, and they are now passing their declining years at their old home, reaping the fruits of their past labors. Mr. Ralston is one of the best known men of the community, and his influence has been widely recognized. He has at times taken an active interest in public affairs, especially in educational movements, and has been school director for several years. He and his family are prominent members of the U. B. Church. In politics he is a Democrat.

AUGUST FLECHTNER, one of the extensive farmers of Perry township, is a good example of what industry, thrift and ambition can accomplish. Coming to this country, an unsophisticated German lad of nineteen, with no money, and only his strong, willing hands as a means of support, he is to-day the owner of a large tract of valuable land, and a man of wealth and influence.

His birth occurred in Bavaria, Germany, August 11, 1853, and he is the eldest of five children of John P. and Johanna (Knopf) Flechtner. His father was a butcher by trade, and also a cattle buyer and a brewer, was well-to-do and was prospering in his business during August's boyhood. The latter obtained a good education, and was in his youth quite well read in the French language, of which he made a special study. An unexpected reverse in his father's fortunes resulted in his financial ruin, and brought all the young man's plans for the future to an abrupt termination. He saw the necessity for immediate action on his part, as a three-years' service in the German army would be imposed upon him shortly, and he felt that his native land was no place in which to seek his fortune. He had learned the butcher's

trade with his father, and determined to discover what the New World had in store for him. Accordingly, on June 22, 1872, in company with his brother George, he sailed from Bremen in a vessel named for that city, "Bremen," and after a voyage of eleven days landed in New York. His destination was Boston, where he had acquaintances, and hoped to find employment. But after four months spent in that city, during which time he only made enough to pay his board, he came to Fostoria, where he had a cousin in the butcher business. He arrived in Fostoria in the fall of 1872, and hired out, working at his trade. After spending a year and a half in that city, he went to Tiffin, where he remained a year, and then to Peru, Ind., living there eleven months. During this time he had been working on wages, and had saved \$500, with which he returned to Fostoria, and in the fall of 1876, with his brother George as a partner, he opened a meat market in an old frame building, where the First National Bank now stands. In this business, which he carried on for several years, was laid the foundation of his future success.

On May 19, 1877, Mr. Flechtner was married, in Fostoria, to Miss Catherine, daughter of Peter and Catherine (Miller) Ecker. She was born in Washington township, Hancock county, December 25, 1853, and was educated in the district schools. Of the children born of this union—Charles, Pearl, Orrin, Nellie, Moses, Celia, Blanche and Tillie, are all living except Tillie, who died when four years old. In 1890 the family removed to their elegant home in Section 36, Perry township, where Mr. Flechtner has sixty-one acres of very valuable land, and here their friends are welcomed with true German hospitality.

The first property in which our subject held an interest was two lots in Fostoria, himself and brother each having a half-interest. These lots were traded for six acres of land in Jackson township, Seneca county, on which they built a slaughter-house. He now owns, in addition to the home place, 196 acres of excellent land, which is known as the "Old Ash farm," in Perry township, and which cost \$15,000. This is one of the finest farms in Wood county. Mr. Flechtner also owns eighty-five acres elsewhere, making in all over 342 acres of valuable property in the vicinity of Fostoria, all acquired by his own industry and economy.

Our subject is the most extensive stockman in Wood county. His large landed property furnishes an abundance of grain and hay, and instead of marketing these products he feeds many

head of stock; while thus converting the productions of his farm into money he also greatly increases the fertility of the soil, one feature of successful farming which many overlook.

Mr. Flechtner is a Democrat, but takes no active part in politics. He is a member of the Lutheran Church, as is his family, with the exception of his wife, who belongs to the Reformed Church. He is yet in the prime of life, and one of the most industrious, active men to be found in the county, and is highly esteemed by every one. His parents, who came to this country some years ago, make their home in Fostoria.

HEZEKIAH S. KIGER is a representative of one of Ohio's pioneer families. He was born October 18, 1830, in the town of Lancaster, Fairfield county, a son of William and Christina (Walduck) Kiger, who were natives of Germany. The father was a lifelong farmer. He left his native land when a mere boy, and his wife crossed the Atlantic at the age of eight years. They were married in Ohio, and located in Fairfield county, where, in Lancaster township, Mr. Kiger owned 340 acres of land, making his home thereon until his death. The children of his family were: Louis, who died at the age of fifteen; Henry, of Fairfield county; Margaret, deceased wife of John Bucher, of Millgrove, Wood county; Jeremiah, who died in Millgrove; William, who died in Fairfield county; Josiah, who died in Millgrove; Mary, deceased wife of Harvey Harris; Elizabeth, wife of George Rigby; Jesse, of Lancaster, Ohio; Hezekiah S.; Susanna, wife of Silas Williamson, of Fairfield county; and Amos, also of Fairfield county.

Our subject acquired his education in the public schools near his home, and assisted in the cultivation of his father's farm until his marriage, which was celebrated in Fairfield county, November 27, 1860, Miss Samantha Jane Hunter becoming his wife. She was born in January, 1831. Their union was blessed with three children, viz.: Charles, who died in his twentieth year; William, who died in infancy; and Effie Belle, wife of Otto Myers, of Liberty township, by whom she has one child, Bessie. Mrs. Kiger is a daughter of Thomas R. and Abigail (Brumfield) Hunter. Her father was born in Hocking township, Fairfield county, April 27, 1801, and was the second male child born in that township. His father, James Hunter, a native of Philadelphia, married Margaret Reese, and followed school teaching in Ohio. Their son, Thomas, began to learn the blacksmith's trade, but was obliged to abandon this, on account of a disabled arm, and turned

his attention to the operation of 160 acres of land, which his father gave him. He died May 11, 1882, and his wife, who was born in October, 1805, departed this life April 13, 1882. Their children were Amanda P., wife of Benjamin Franklin, of Boone county, Iowa; Margaret, who died September 1, 1854, at the age of twenty-four; Mrs. Kiger; James, who died at the age of six years; Hannah, wife of William Cochran; Solomon, who is living on the old homestead; Joseph and Mary, twins, both of whom died at the age of five years; John Wesley, who died in infancy; and Ann Maria, who died in childhood.

For a few years after their marriage our subject and his wife lived in Fairfield county, where Mr. Kiger owned 125 acres of land, that he inherited from his father. At length he sold this, and, in 1872, came to Wood county, purchasing eighty acres of land in Liberty township, of which thirty acres had been plowed. The improvements were very poor, but he has transformed this into a fine farm that to-day is a monument to his thrift and enterprise. Although his life has been a busy one, he always finds time to faithfully perform his duties of citizenship, and efficiently served as school director for six years. He takes quite an active part in politics, is well informed on the issues of the day, and is a staunch Republican.

JOHN MYERS, a well-known farmer and manufacturer, of Webster township, was born in Franklin county, Penn., October 13, 1826. His father, Adam Myers, a day laborer, was born in Lancaster county, Penn., and married Miss Elizabeth Guipe, a native of the same State. They had ten children: Catherine, deceased; Elizabeth, deceased; Fanny, the wife of John Heckman, of Franklin county, Penn.; Sarah, deceased; Mary, the wife of John Walters, of Pennsylvania; Nicholas, a farmer of Illinois; John, our subject; Adam, who died in the army; and two deceased in infancy.

John Myers attended the district school during boyhood, and at an early age learned the trade of a mechanic, becoming an expert carpenter and joiner. For some years he was engaged in building houses and bridges on contract, and in the fall of 1852 he came to Wood county, where he purchased eighty acres of land in Webster township. He resided there until 1880 when he removed to another farm of 120 acres near Scotch Ridge, which he has improved, erecting a handsome residence and other buildings. Here he has a tile and brick factory and a sawmill and employs a number of men. He is the inventor

and patentee of a wire-fence machine, which he also manufactures.

He was married in Pennsylvania in 1848 to Miss Malinda Whitmore, who died in 1875 leaving no children. Mr. Myers is a Republican in politics, but does not take an active share in party work. He is a man of fine and upright character, and a member of the U. B. Church, and was one of the founders and builders of the church at Scotch Ridge. His success in life is due to his industry and foresight, as he began his business career with but \$50 in his pocket.

MARION GOODELL, a well-known agriculturist of Webster township, residing near Luckey, was born in Townsend township, Huron Co., Ohio, July 1, 1844. His grandparents, David and Electa (Melliman) Goodell, were natives of New York State. They had three children, among whom was Cyrenus Goodell, our subject's father, who came from New York when a young man and settled upon a farm in Huron county. He married Miss Lucretia Studley, and reared a family of five children, a sixth dying in early infancy. Orrin is a farmer in Troy township; Marion is the subject of this sketch; Electa Jane married Henry Sternaman; John is a blacksmith at Dunbridge; and Albert. In 1857 our subject's father came to Wood county, and took up eighty acres of land in Troy township, adding to it afterward until he owned 320 acres, on which he erected a sawmill, the first in the township. He was one of the leading men of his locality, a Republican in politics, and a member of the M. E. Church. He died at Bowling Green, March 11, 1885, his wife surviving him until August 11, 1894.

Our subject shared the family fortunes in his youth, undergoing all the experiences of frontier life. When the war broke out he enlisted in Company K, 111th O. V. I. (Capt. D. W. H. Day commanding), and participated in thirty-two hard-fought battles, among them the engagements at Stone River, Resaca, Lost Mountain, Kenesaw Mountain, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Cedar Rapids, Stone Mountain, Alatoona, Fort Anderson, and Raleigh. In June, 1865, he was mustered out, and, returning to the old homestead, he remained there until he was twenty-five years old. He then bought eighty acres of land in Troy township; but, in 1882, he sold this and moved to Michigan, where he engaged in the meat business. Returning to this county, he purchased his present property, an eighty-acre farm in Webster township, upon which he has made many improvements. Beginning life poor, he has made his well-deserved success by indus-

try and good management. On November 2, 1870, he married Miss Malinda Dennis, a daughter of Franklin and Sarah (Smith) Dennis, of Troy township, and they have six children: Albert, Richard, Jessie, Roxcene, Kitty, and one whose name is not given. In politics Mr. Goodell is a Republican, and in all local movements is an interested and helpful worker. He has been school director in his district, and he is a member of the G. A. R. Post, No. 690.

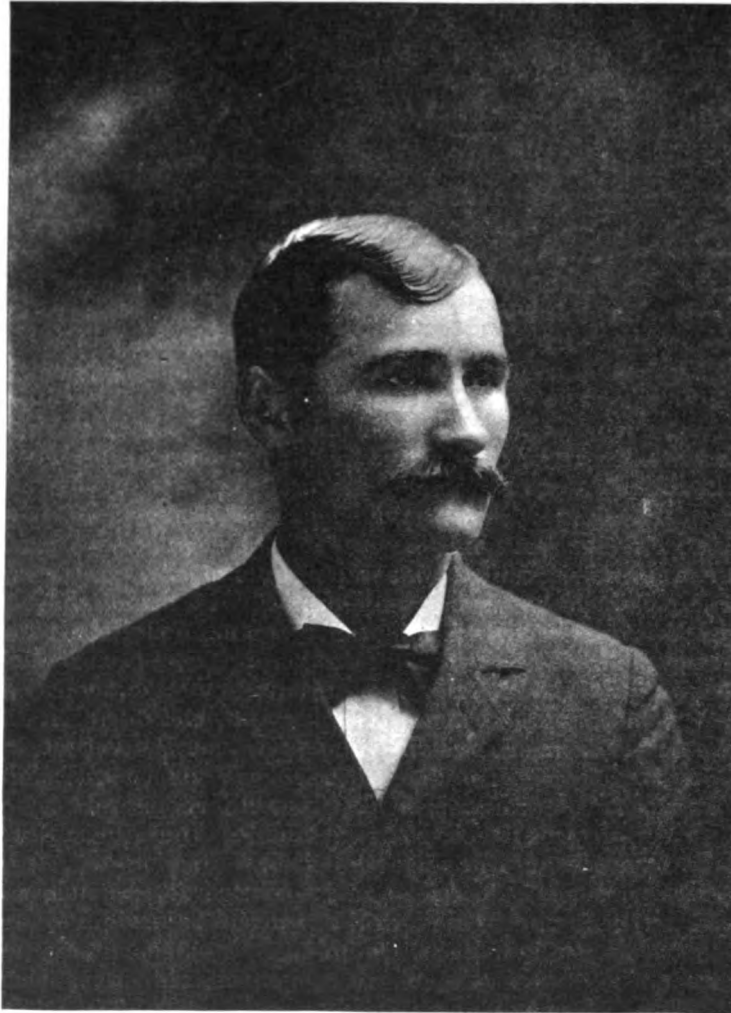
**H. L. COE.** Almost the entire life of our subject has been passed in Perry township, where he now owns a fine farm of forty acres in Section 13. Comparitively young in years, and having commenced life with but little, his financial position is ample evidence of the manner in which he has employed his time, and the good judgment of which he is the fortunate possessor. He has one of the best appointed homesteads in the township, and, on account of his strict integrity and high character, is numbered among its valued citizens.

His birth occurred March 2, 1862, in Section 13, Perry township, a son of David E. and Margaret (Hyter) Coe. After completing a course in the District School, No. 5, of Maple Grove, he finished his education in the academy of Fostoria, which he attended for six months. In the summer of 1883, he went west, with a party of young men from his neighborhood, visiting Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Colorado, and during his stay was employed at sheep-shearing and at working as a farm hand, and in a nursery. Most of his time, however, was passed on the home farm, until his marriage, which occurred March 22, 1888, in Perry township, when he wedded Miss Ida Wells, who was born in Franklin county, Penn., May 12, 1864, a daughter of Elden and Susan (Gossard) Wells, who came to Wood county in the spring of 1865. For a time Mr. Coe made his home with his father, but in the spring of 1889, he located upon his present farm, which he and his brother, Walter, had purchased in the fall of 1887, though our subject is now the sole owner. His land is well tilled and cultivated, and the home has been brightened by the presence of a little daughter, born December 4, 1892, Velma by name.

Mr. Coe takes quite an interest in political affairs, always casting his ballot with the Republican party, and desires to see good men placed in office, but, for himself, cares nothing for political honors. He and his wife are members in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and are earnest Christian workers.

**F. J. SCHRIBER,** a dealer in agricultural implements at Moline, is numbered among the honorable business men of Wood county, and since the fall of 1894 has efficiently served as one of the infirmary directors, succeeding John Isch. He was born, in 1861, in Oregon township, Lucas Co., Ohio, and is the son of Gilbert and Mary Ann (Arn) Schriber, the former a native of Württemberg, Germany, and the latter of Pennsylvania. About 1853, the father located in Oregon township, where his marriage was celebrated, and where he opened up a farm, on which his wife died in 1865, leaving two children: F. J., subject of this narrative; and Mary Ann, now the wife of Mr. Linchshy, of Detroit, Mich. The father was again married, his second union being with Louise Henry, and to them were born three children: Mrs. Amelia Gross, of Lake township, this county; William, a resident of Oregon township, Lucas county; and Lilly, also of Oregon township. Upon the old homestead in Lucas county the mother of this family is still living, but the father's death occurred there in 1876.

Reared to manhood in Lucas county, our subject received his education in the schools of Oregon township and East Toledo, and on leaving the parental roof, in 1878, he engaged in building railroads until coming to Lake township, Wood county, in 1882, when he resumed agricultural pursuits, and he still owns a good farm of forty acres in that township. He began merchandising in 1886 at Moline, buying out H. J. Rudolph, and establishing the firm of Schriber & Co., which continued to do business for four years. On disposing of that stock, in 1890, he entered his present business, now dealing in all kinds of farm implements, for which he finds a ready sale. From 1886 to 1890, he also served as postmaster and station agent at Moline. In Lake township, in 1883, Mr. Schriber married Elizabeth Gross, who was born, in 1864, in Lucas county, Ohio, where her parents, Emanuel and Anna E. Gross, natives of Germany, had removed at an early day. Her father died in Lake township in 1888; the widowed mother now makes her home in Toledo. In his political views, Mr. Schriber coincides with the Republican party, but has no aspirations for the onerous duties and vexations of political preferment, though for four terms he served as assessor of Lake township. Socially, he is connected with Corn City Lodge No. 734, I. O. O. F., of East Toledo. He is highly respected and esteemed by the entire population of the county, and looked up to as a man truly honorable and upright in all things, and one whom they can depend on as a friend.



**F. J. SCHRIBER.**



JOHN R. LUNDY, a leading agriculturist of Center township, is a native of the same, having first seen the light on the farm he now owns, June 2, 1845.

Henry Lundy, father of our subject, was born October 15, 1811, at Greenwood, Columbiana Co., Penn., of Quaker parents, whose ancestors for several generations lived and died in this country. When Henry was but a child his father died, leaving a widow and two children in comfortable circumstances. In the spring of 1834 Henry Lundy passed through Ohio on horseback, traveling along primitive roads cut through the dense forest, and, on his arrival in Indiana, he bought a farm of 160 acres of government land in Elkhart county. In the fall of the same year he came to Ohio on foot, journeying by way of Michigan, and, having relatives in Wood county he came here, purchasing, along with Mr. Munn, 200 acres of land (just west of where now stands the infirmary), built thereon a log cabin, and made it their home. In those early days they had to go to Perrysburg to trade, and sometimes, in dry seasons, to Blissfield, or Monroe, Mich., to mill. In 1836 Mr. Lundy sold his Indiana farm, and bought Mr. Munn's share of the Ohio one.

On April 18, 1839, Mr. Lundy was married, in Wood county, to Miss Margaret Smith, who was born October 17, 1817, in Massillon, Ohio, and the young couple then went to housekeeping in the log house on the farm, experiencing all the inconveniences and vicissitudes incident to pioneer days. Here they jogged along the highway of life till about 1848, when they moved into the stone house built by them, and here they lived till 1886, in which year they moved into Bowling Green, where Mrs. Lundy died in 1890. Mr. Lundy then made his home with his daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Boughton, passing the rest of his days there; he died February 22, 1894, aged eighty years. To this honored couple were born seven children, as follows: James, a resident of Clay county, Iowa, who was a soldier for over four years in the Civil war, serving in Company C, 21st O. V. I.; Charles, who was also a soldier in the same company for three years, and was murdered in Bowling Green, July 3, 1869; Elizabeth, the wife of Sanford Boughton, of Bowling Green; John R., our subject; Mary, who died at the age of four years; Lettice, the wife of Henry Wade, of Clay county, Iowa; and Alice, who married Frank Reid, of Bowling Green.

In his political preferences Henry Lundy was originally a Democrat, casting his first Presidential vote for Van Buren, and continued on that

ticket till the Republican party was organized in 1854. In his day he was one of the most prominent pioneers of Wood county, and served in various offices of honor and trust. As one of the first members of the county infirmary board, he did much to place that institution upon a successful basis. He also served for many years as trustee and clerk of Center township. When the little Bowling Green & Tontogany railroad was built, he was one of the foremost workers and contributors, backing the project with his own credit, and serving as one of the directors of the company. In religious faith he was liberal, though reared a Quaker, and contributed to all the Churches of his vicinity, identifying himself, however, with the Methodists.

John R. Lundy, the subject proper of these lines, grew to manhood in Center township, and in 1864 followed the patriotic example of his elder brothers by offering his services to the government, enlisting in Company C, 144th O. V. I. His regiment was assigned to the Eastern department; but happily the war closed four months later, and he returned to the homestead, where he has since resided. Part of the farm he owns in fee simple, and conducts the remainder in the interest of all the heirs, whom he is now buying out as occasion offers. In 1876 he was married to Miss Eleanor Kridler, who was born in Seneca county, Ohio, December 24, 1850, and five children have been born to them: Fred, Frank, Florence, and Charles, all at home, and Ralph, who died at four years of age.

Mr. Lundy takes a justifiable pride in the record of his family, to which his own upright and industrious life, and superior personal characteristics, have added new honors. Politically, he is a Republican, is one of the active promoters of progressive movements in his vicinity, and has been township trustee for fifteen consecutive years. Socially, he belongs to the G. A. R. and also the I. O. O. F., Centennial Lodge No. 626, of Bowling Green.

J. H. CRANE, the genial and efficient postmaster of Bowling Green, was born in Medina, Ohio, December 25, 1852.

His father, Patrick Crane, a native of County Sligo, Ireland, came to America at the age of twenty-five, and located at Medina, where he was employed some years in a foundry and machine shop. He was married there to Miss Bridget Finney, also a native of the Emerald Isle, and in 1856 they moved to a farm near Six Points, Wood county, where his wife died, at the age of thirty-five years; his last years were spent



in Bowling Green, he dying in 1893. They were the parents of three children: J. H., our subject; Ella, married to William Austin, of Wood county; and James, unmarried, living in Bowling Green.

Our subject commenced his business career as a clerk in a dry-goods store in Bowling Green, about a quarter of a century ago, and until his appointment to his present position of postmaster of Bowling Green, January 1, 1894, he was continuously engaged in that vocation for three different firms. The same trustworthiness and courteous manner, which have made him popular as a salesman, have been equally valuable in the position of postmaster, which he fills to the entire satisfaction of the community. He was married in 1878 to Miss Melissa Valentine, who was born in Findlay, Ohio, in October, 1854, and they have had six children: Coren, Ralph, Lester, Hazel, Lela, and one at this writing a babe. Although he resides in a community which is strongly Republican, Mr. Crane has been a consistent Democrat all his life. Socially, he is a member of the I. O. O. F. and of K. O. T. M.

**MADISON ADAMS.** Among the young and energetic farmers of Perry township, as well as those who have been successful, and whose efforts through life thus far, through their own perseverance, have borne able recompense, is the subject of this personal history. He is a native of Wood county, born in Section 2, Bloom township, December 22, 1863, and is the youngest child of David and Lucinda (Henry) Adams. After pursuing his studies sometime in the district schools, he entered Jerry City Academy, when Prof. Hubbard was at its head, and there remained for three years,

Until nineteen years of age Mr. Adams spent his time in the usual manner of farmer boys, but at that time went to Fostoria, and learned telegraphy in the office of the C. H. V. & T. railroad, after which he acted as night operator for six months at that place. Disliking the work, however, he returned home, where he remained for some months, and then entered the oar factory at Jerry City, Ohio. The next five years were spent as a pumper for the Ohio Oil Company in and around Jerry City.

Mr. Adams was married December 21, 1884, to Ella Gobble, a daughter of Jacob Gobble, and to them have been born three children—Clyde, Verna S. and Harold M. Our subject began his domestic life upon a farm in Section 2, Bloom township, but later removed to Jerry City, and in March, 1894, located in Section 25, Perry

township, where, in partnership with his brother George, he owns and operates ninety-eight and a half acres of rich and arable land. He is very fond of horses, and a good judge of those animals. His political affiliations are with the Democratic party, and he is a worthy representative of an honored pioneer family of this county. Public-spirited and enterprising, he does all in his power for the advancement of the community, and is an excellent specimen of the genial, hospitable people who are born and reared in the Buckeye State.

**ELISHA HELM** was born in Liberty township, Crawford county, March 13, 1831, and is a son of John Helm, who was reared in Somerset county, Penn., where he was married to Miss Susan Courts. They moved to Crawford county, and located there sometime between 1820 and 1825, in a clearing in the woods, in which there was an abundance of game, and where Indians were frequently seen on their hunting expeditions. Mr. and Mrs. Helm had nine children—five sons and four daughters. The parents were farmers all their lives, and had a good farm of 120 acres. He died in Crawford county at the age of seventy-two years, his wife passing away sometime later at the same age.

Our subject, who was the youngest of the sons, was reared to the duties of a farmer's boy, living at home until he was twenty years old, when he worked out as a farm hand, receiving from eight to ten dollars a month. In 1858 he was married, in Crawford county, to Miss Margaret Ullis, who was born in Stark county, Ohio, in 1834, a daughter of William Ullis, a farmer of that county. Our subject had at this time bought eighty acres of land in Section 3, Portage township, Wood county, and for three years after his marriage worked on the home farm in Crawford county. In the spring of 1861 they moved to Wood county and located on the land he had bought, the money with which he paid for it being what he had saved from his earnings. An old house stood on the land, of which about six or seven acres were cleared. He improved and cultivated the remainder of it, and has lived there ever since. Mr. and Mrs. Helm had the following children: Gerome, who died at the age of eighteen years; Marion and Monroe, both farmers in Portage township; two sons (twins) died in infancy. Mr. Helm is a Republican, and a regular attendant at elections. He formerly took great pleasure in hunting, and has killed large quantities of game in his section of the county. He is an excellent shot with the rifle, and has achieved fame that is more than local;

has won first place at many shooting matches, and has used the same rifle for over forty years. Mr. Helm is a self-made man and a hard worker, in spite of which he is to-day well preserved, hale and hearty, and he has a large number of friends.

J. C. HARTMAN, one of the active, prominent and intelligent citizens of Montgomery township, is now engaged in farming in Section 12, where his birth occurred December 29, 1848. His father, William Hartman, was a native of what was then Union county, Penn., but is now Snyder county, and as early as 1833 accompanied his parents, George and Barbara (Fry) Hartman, to Scott township, Sandusky Co., Ohio, being the seventh family there to locate. There the grandparents died at ripe old ages.

William Hartman was married to Miss Esther Buchtel, a native of Stark county, Ohio, and a daughter of Henry Buchtel, after which he located near Prairie Depot upon a farm that he had rented of his father-in-law. They began their domestic life in a small log house, supplied with the rudest of furniture. The first land which the father purchased consisted of eighty acres in Section 12, Montgomery township, paying \$750 for the same. He secured the place in 1847, and the dwelling at that time was a log house situated on a small ridge, south of the present home of our subject. Not over fifteen acres had been cleared; but to its improvement and cultivation he devoted his time until his death, which occurred at the age of sixty-seven years. His wife died at the age of sixty-one, and both were buried in the Bradner cemetery. Religiously they were members of the Evangelical Church. The father was short in stature, but quite fleshy. He had some difficulty in paying for his land, having to trade a horse in order to make the last payment; but at the time of his death he owned 120 acres of fine land. He was a Democrat in politics up to 1863, when he voted the Republican ticket, and ever afterward supported that party.

The family of William Hartman and wife included the following children: Caroline, now Mrs. Cornelius Bierly, of Montgomery township; Elnora, who died in infancy; Louellen, wife of Henry Hassenplug, of Fulton county, Ind.; J. C., of this review; a daughter, who died in infancy; Lucinda, now Mrs. Frank Fairbanks, of Montgomery township; Annie, now Mrs. James Hathaway, of the same township; Alfred W., of Bradner, Ohio; and George H., of the same place.

On beginning his education our subject started to the "Old Prospect" school, located on

the present site of Bradner, his first teacher being Addison Lansdale, and out of school hours he assisted in the work on the home farm until reaching man's estate. On January 14, 1872, was solemnized his marriage with Miss Mary E. Earl, who was born at West Millgrove, Wood county, August 14, 1853, and is the daughter of Azariah and Maria (Bonanitz) Earl, the former born in Columbiana county, Ohio, November 19, 1825, and the latter in Stark county, December 21, 1826. Her mother was eleven years old when brought by her parents to Wood county, locating in Montgomery township, but they later went to Sandusky county, where they continued to reside. Mr. Earl followed his trade of blacksmithing at West Millgrove, Tontogany, Prairie Depot, and Bradner, Wood county, dying at the latter place, February 3, 1879. His widow has again married, and now lives at Bradner. Mrs. Hartman is one of a family of six children, the others being Charlotte M., wife of Charles Abels, of Sandusky county; Jasper W., of Toledo, Ohio; and Newton, Hannah and Rosa Belle, who all died in childhood.

Mr. Hartman began housekeeping upon the old homestead, where he worked for his father; but in 1876 bought forty acres of land in Section 10, Montgomery township, on which was a log house and a small log stable. There he lived for eight years, when he traded the land for a share in the home farm. In connection with Cornelius Bierly he purchased the interest of the other heirs, and then divided the property, each receiving sixty acres. Upon our subject's place are all the farm buildings, and its excellent condition shows him to be a systematic, energetic and skillful agriculturist.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hartman—Zada M., wife of Frank McCreary, of Bradner; Esther N., wife of Daniel Green, of Sandusky county; Nora D., wife of W. H. Ream, also of Bradner; and Bert W. and Jessie G., at home. Mr. Hartman has been a staunch Republican since casting his first vote, and served for three terms as a member of the Bradner school board. Being quite a reader, he is a well-informed man, and belongs to the best class of citizens in Wood county.

JOHN F. HAGEMEYER, who occupies a conspicuous place among the progressive citizens and leading agriculturists of Wood county, was born in Pemberville, January 21, 1849. His father, Henry Hagemeyer, was a native of Prussia, and was there married. While coming to this country, the first child in the family died on board the

vessel. Mr. Hagemeyer located in Troy township, Wood Co., at a very early day, and worked for C. H. Kohring, a pioneer of the locality. Thus he earned the money to buy forty acres of land in Section 10, Freedom township, now within the corporation limits of Pemberville. He built the first house on this tract, a log cabin, 16x20 feet, and it was in this place that our subject was born. The mother died January 22, 1849, and was buried in Switzer Church cemetery. She had four children, of whom, Henry died in Cleveland, Ohio, and William, in Freedom township, so that our subject is the only one now living. The father afterward married Catharine Witker, a native of Germany, and the children of this marriage were Mary, who died in infancy; Fred, of Chicago; Mary, wife of Ernest Klous, of Pemberville; John, of Center township; August, of Toledo, Ohio, who was left a mute by scarlet fever when a child, but is now a skilled cabinet maker; and Edward, also of Toledo.

The father of this family cleared and improved his forty acres of land, and, as the village of Pemberville began to grow, he sold several small tracts. Afterward, he bought eighty acres in Section 3, Freedom township, and greatly improved that property, but continued to reside on his first purchase until his death, which occurred in November, 1885. He was buried in Fish Ridge cemetery. His widow is now living in Pemberville. In politics he was a Democrat, and in religious belief was a Lutheran, serving for many years as elder of his Church. He contributed liberally to its support, and was generous with his children, caring not to accumulate great wealth, while his honesty was above question.

The subject proper of this review was less than a week old at the time of his mother's death, and was reared in the family of Casper H. Kohring. He attended the German schools between the ages of seven and fourteen years, and by reading and study has become an excellent English scholar. He is deeply interested in the cause of education, and for eight years served as a member of the school board of Pemberville, during which time he labored earnestly for progress in that direction. He was reared as a farmer boy, and had a good home in the family of Mr. Kohring until eighteen years of age when he began to earn his own livelihood by operating a threshing machine. On attaining his majority he formed a partnership with his brother William, and purchased a thresher. Success attended their efforts, and the following year he was enabled to purchase sixty acres of land in Troy township, which he partly cleared and then sold. In the

spring of 1871 he bought eighty acres of land in Section 4, Freedom township, and at once began the arduous task of clearing away the timber and developing it into rich fields. For two years thereafter he continued to operate his threshing machine, but since that time he has given his entire attention to farming. In 1888 he erected his present commodious residence, and all the other buildings upon the farm stand as monuments to his enterprise. Having sold twenty acres of land, he still owns sixty acres, fifty of which are under a high state of cultivation.

Mr. Hagemeyer was married December 19, 1872, in Webster township, Wood county, to Mary P. Muir, who was born in that township, April 10, 1848, a daughter of James and Marion (Dunipace) Muir. Their children are Henry J., Alice, Bessie R., William and Nelson E. F. Mr. Hagemeyer takes a deep interest in political affairs, and is an adherent of the Democracy. He was elected and served for eight years as assessor, holding that office for six successive years, and to those who know him it is needless to say that his duties were discharged with the utmost fidelity and promptness. He is a member of the Lutheran Church, in which he has served as trustee, and his wife belongs to the United Presbyterian Church. A wide-awake, progressive citizen, he is active in the support of all enterprises that pertain to the welfare of the community, and it is to such citizens that Wood county owes her present prosperity and progress.

ELIAS FREDERICK, SR. The pioneers of the great State of Ohio, men who, by their hard labor, privations and sacrifices, were the factors in her growth and progress, are each year becoming fewer; old age is creeping upon those who are left, and it is indeed a privilege to meet one of these veterans, and to hear from his own lips stories of those early days, when he, with others, made the history of this prosperous commonwealth. Among those early settlers may be found the subject of this sketch, who was born in York county, Penn., January 5, 1822. His father, Andrew Frederick, was a native of Germany, and came to this country when a young man, locating in Pennsylvania. He afterward removed to Wayne county, Ohio, where he bought a farm on which he resided the remainder of his life, dying in 1835. He married Miss Elizabeth Wellman, and seven children were born to them: George, Jacob, Andrew, Elias, Henry, Adam, and Elizabeth.

Our subject spent his early days in Pennsylvania. His opportunities to obtain an education

were very limited, as when he was twelve years old his father died, and he was obliged to go to work for a living. He learned the trade of a carpenter and joiner, which he followed for twenty-four years, in the meantime carrying on farming in Seneca county, Ohio. He then removed to Wood county, settling in Bloom township, where he bought eighty acres of land. In 1887 he came to Wood county, and purchased 120 acres of land, known as the Pratt farm, on which he still resides. In March, 1845, he married Miss Mary Price, who was born June 20, 1825, in Bucks county, Penn., and to this union seven children have come as follows: John, born January 4, 1846, died in 1871; Jonas, born May 7, 1848, is a farmer in Weston township; Elias, Jr., born November 28, 1853, assists his father upon the home farm; Harriet, born August 18, 1855, died in September, 1862; Sarah E., born July 27, 1856, is the wife of John Lowe; Elizabeth, born April 4, 1862, married Otto Ruchty; Martha, born July 27, 1864, is the wife of G. F. Snider.

Mr. Frederick is a Republican in politics, and has been a school director, and also supervisor of Jackson township, both of which offices he held for one year. He is widely and favorably known throughout the county, and has set an example for the rising generation, of sobriety, honesty, industry, and strict attention to his business. He is a Christian man, who shows forth his belief in his daily life, and his purse is always open to the needs of the poor, while the sorrowing and discouraged are ever sure of his helpful sympathy. He has seen much of the hard side of life, but now in his old age, with his estimable wife, is enjoying the fruits of his labor.

ORREN W. FOSTER, an industrious and thrifty farmer of Wood county, resides in Section 12, Troy township, where his birth occurred, November 25, 1847. His father, D. D. Foster, was born in Cuyahoga county, Ohio, in 1813, and was a son of Daniel Foster, one of four brothers, natives of Scotland, who, on coming to the United States, located at Cleveland, Ohio. The grandfather was reared to manhood in his native land, and, about 1807, arrived in Cuyahoga county, where he dealt with the Indian traders. His last days, however, were passed in Troy township, Wood county, where he died in 1850; his wife had departed this life in Cuyahoga county, in 1815.

In the county of his nativity the boyhood and youth of D. D. Foster were spent, and, about 1840, he became a resident of Troy township, where two years later he purchased a tract of 160

acres of timber land, in Section 12. He at once began the improvement of his place, erecting a log cabin, and, later, set out a good orchard. In 1846, in Sandusky county, Ohio, he was united in marriage with Henrietta Plumb, a native of Otsego county, N. Y., and a daughter of Jared and Emeline (Hawkins) Plumb, both of whom were born in New York, and, in 1835, located in Woodville township, Sandusky county, where Mr. Plumb secured a tract of 160 acres. He located in the midst of a dense forest, which contained wild game of all varieties, and Indians were far more numerous in the locality than the white settlers. On that farm he died, in 1864. His widow resides in Shelton, Buffalo Co., Neb., now aged eighty-nine years.

After their marriage the parents of our subject began their domestic life upon the farm where he now resides. The father operated a threshing machine in connection with his farm duties, and became both widely and favorably known throughout the community. In early life he was a Whig, but later joined the Republican party, and served as overseer of highways, also as tax collector of his township for several years. His death occurred in August, 1875, on the old home farm, where his excellent wife also died, September 10, 1893. Our subject is the eldest in their family of seven children, and was followed by D. D., Jr., who resides with him; Mrs. Olive Otis, of Trenton, Hitchcock Co., Neb.; Mrs. Alvaretta Kleuter, of Columbus Grove, Putnam Co., Ohio; George F., who also makes his home with our subject; Lincoln Hamlin, who lives in Troy township; and Lucinda, who died on the home farm in April, 1886.

Orren W. Foster was reared in the usual manner of farmer boys, aiding in the labors of the field, and securing such an education as the district schools of the neighborhood afforded in those days. With the exception of a short time spent as conductor on a street car in Toledo, Ohio, his entire life has been devoted to agricultural pursuits, and he and his brother, D. D., now own and operate the old homestead of eighty acres, which is under a high state of cultivation. He has also engaged to some extent in threshing. In 1879, in Defiance county, Ohio, he married Miss Caroline Hanna, who was born there to Hezekiah and Mary (Borman) Hanna, the former a native of Fairfield county, the latter of Franklin county, Ohio, in the former of which they were married. At an early day her parents located in what was then Williams county, but is now Defiance county, Ohio, where the father cleared and developed a tract of wild land,

on which he died in 1874. Later his wife came to Troy township, Wood county, where she passed away in 1892. Their household included six children: Rhoda Jane, wife of G. W. Strawser, of Steuben county, Ind.; Mrs. Mary E. Matthews, of Webb, Wood county; Daniel, a resident of Steuben county, Ind., who enlisted in Defiance county, in 1862, as a member of Company D, 48th O. V. I., and served until May, 1866; Caroline, honored wife of our subject; Orlando, of Steuben county, Ind.; and John, who makes his home at Pleasant Lake, Steuben county, Indiana.

Mr. Foster brought his bride to his home in Troy township, and as they have no children of their own, they have adopted a daughter, Maud, at this writing aged seventeen. He has assisted in the construction of roads through his section of the county, and otherwise materially aided in advancing its welfare. His vote is cast with the Republican party, and he has efficiently served as a member of the board of education. Socially he belongs to the Knights of Honor Lodge, at Stony Ridge. He and his worthy wife are sincere and earnest Christians, members of the United Brethren Church of Lemoyne, Wood county, of which he has served as trustee and treasurer, and of which he is now Sunday-school superintendent. Mrs. Foster was for twenty-three terms a successful teacher in Defiance county.

J. H. KUHLMAN, an energetic young farmer of Portage township, is a native of Wood county, born September 25, 1868, in Freedom township, about a mile and a half northwest of Pemberville, and was reared to manhood about a mile and a half south of that city. The birth of his father, Fred W. Kuhlman, occurred in West Kilver, Herford, Prussia, November 2, 1833, and in Germany he wedded Anna M. Nolte, a native of that country born May 25, 1832. In July, 1867, they started for the New World, accompanied by their two children—Kate and Mary. In the Fatherland Mr. Kuhlman had always worked as a common laborer, so that on his arrival here he had no capital, and his first home in the county was a small house which he rented of Casper Buschman, a large land owner. J. H. Nolte, a maternal uncle of our subject, had come to the United States before the Rebellion, and during that war was drafted on two different occasions, each time hiring a substitute. He also earned the money which brought Mr. Kuhlman and his family from New York City to Toledo, Ohio. They were seven weeks in cross-

ing the ocean, and on landing were without means to carry them farther on their journey.

After remaining a short time in Toledo, the father then engaged work as a farm hand near Pemberville, but later removed his family to Freedom township, where he rented land. In 1887 he purchased fifty acres of land in Section 2, Portage township, the place on which our subject now resides. There the father passed away May 1, 1894, and was laid by the side of his wife in Rochester cemetery. Her death had occurred March 5, 1893. They were highly respected people, and members of the Lutheran Church. The family consisted of the following children: Kate, a dressmaker, of Toledo, Ohio; Mary, who died in childhood; J. H., whose name opens this sketch; Anna at home; and Henry and Frederick H., who died in infancy.

Our subject was educated in both the English and German languages, and has remained upon the home farm during his entire life, with the exception of two years spent in Toledo, Ohio. Since his father's death he has had charge of the homestead, and, besides general farming, devotes considerable attention to stock raising, in which he is meeting with excellent success. He has prospered in his undertakings, and is destined to become one of the substantial farmers of Portage township, as well as one of the leading and representative citizens. His political support is usually given the Democratic party, though he is not bound by party ties, and in 1895 he was elected assessor of his township.

W. M. WICKHAM is president of the Champion Oil Company, which was established in 1894, and began operations in Freedom township, Wood county, near the Sandusky county line, where they have opened up two wells that are still flowing. Five men compose the company, S. P. Hathaway being secretary-treasurer. On coming to Wood county, in June, 1893, our subject located at Luckey, where he served as agent for the Toledo & Ohio Central railroad, and also dealt quite extensively in grain and stock. Previous to this time he had been employed by the same road for three years at McCutchenville, Wyandot Co., Ohio.

Mr. Wickham is a native of Ohio, born in Crawford county, in 1858, and is a son of Willard and Phoebe (Pennington) Wickham, the former a native of New York, the latter of Virginia. In 1836, the father had located in Crawford county, where he was married, and where he still resides, a widower, his wife having

died there in 1889. Seven of their ten children are still living, namely: G. W., of Crawford county, who there enlisted in 1861 in the 123rd O. V. I., and, after a three-years' service, he became a veteran of the same company and regiment; Mrs. Maggie Hoffman, of Crawford county; M. W., who belonged to the one-hundred-days' service during the Rebellion, and now makes his home in Crawford county; Anson, of Bucyrus, Ohio; Mrs. Mary Banks, of Crawford county; W. H., a physician and surgeon of Sycamore, Wyandot Co., Ohio; and W. M.

After attending the schools of Crawford county, our subject took a scientific course in the Otterbein University, at Westerville, Ohio, where he was graduated in June, 1883, and then began teaching in his native county. He was afterward employed in the graded schools of Melmore, Seneca county, and Deunquat, Wyandot county, being for about fifteen years a teacher in those three counties. For a time he then studied law at Bucyrus, Ohio, but as his health began to fail, he secured a position as traveling salesman in Indiana, Illinois and Ohio. Not liking that business, however, he learned telegraphy at Sycamore, Ohio, in the office of the Toledo & Ohio Central railroad, by which he was employed until coming to Luckey, in June, 1893. In 1895, in his native county, he was married to Miss Florence Biggs, who was born in Wyandot county, and is a daughter of John and Emily (Longwell) Biggs, the former a native of Maryland, and the latter of New Jersey, but in this State they were married, and became early settlers of Wyandot county. The father died in Traverse City, Mich., in 1895, at the age of seventy-two years, and there his widow still resides. In 1883, Mr. Wickham served as class president at Westerville, Ohio, and has ever taken an active interest in educational matters. Socially, he holds membership with Blendon Lodge, F. and A. M.

SILAS POWELL, a worthy representative of the agricultural interests of Henry township, was born March 6, 1857, in Eagle township, Hancock Co., Ohio. His father, Ben Powell, was a native of Pennsylvania, whence when a child of four years he was brought to Ohio, and was reared and educated in Eagle township, Hancock county. He is now living on a farm of eighty acres there. His father, Daniel Powell, had entered a large tract of land from the government, and when his son Ben grew to manhood gave him the eighty-acre tract. The latter was married in Hancock county, to Mary Jane England, a

native of Fairfield county, Ohio. They had children as follows: Lewis, a farmer of Hancock county; Mary Jane, at home; Martin, who died in 1892; Sarah Ellen, wife of Jacob Crossley, of Hancock county; Charles, who died in 1894; Amanda, wife of Thomas Fox, of Hancock county; Idella, wife of Roy Nepper, of Hancock county; and Silas.

The subject of this sketch was educated in the district schools near his home, and was reared as a farmer, but has followed both blacksmithing and carpentering, having learned both pursuits without aid. At the time of his marriage he located on a farm in his native county, which he operated until coming to Wood county in November, 1885. Having sold his other property he here bought eighty acres of land in Section 31, Henry township, of which all but ten acres was covered with timber. At the present time there are only eight acres unimproved. He has tiled and fenced the place, planted a good orchard, erected a comfortable home, and now has one of the finely-developed farms of Wood county.

In Hancock county, Mr. Powell was joined in wedlock, December 26, 1882, with Miss Clara Loy, who was born in Eagle township, Hancock county, August 17, 1862. Three children grace this union: Melvin Ray, Cora and Hazel. Mr. Powell is a Democrat, and takes an active part in political affairs. He is now serving as trustee, to which position he was elected in the spring of 1893; socially, he is connected with the Knights of Pythias, of Hoytville. He is well known throughout the locality, where his many excellencies of character, and his sterling worth, have gained for him high regard.

ISAAC ZIMMERMAN. Many of the leading citizens of this county have served their country during the dark days of the Rebellion, making a record honorable and glorious. One of these brave "boys" is now a farmer of Portage township, and is highly respected as a representative of one of the pioneer families of Wood county. He was born in Webster township, December 25, 1843, and is a son of William and Isabel (Householder) Zimmerman, the former a native of Virginia, and the latter of Ohio. From Pennsylvania the father came to the Buckeye State, becoming an early settler of Webster township, Wood county, but he and his wife have both passed away.

Until his enlistment in the Union army, Isaac Zimmerman remained under the parental roof, securing his education in the district schools of Webster township, and by one term's attendance

at a select school taught by Alfred Kelley. On July 10, 1863, he became a member of Company L, 2nd O. H. A., and from Camp Dennison went to Cleveland, Ohio, where he was assigned to his regiment. The first active engagement in which he participated was at Strawberry Plains, and from that time he remained with his command continuously until the close of hostilities. He was discharged at Nashville, Tenn., August 23, 1865, after which he returned to Wood county, and began business for himself as a farm hand. In September, 1868, in Webster township, Mr. Zimmerman was married to Miss Hulda Tefft, who was born in Bloom township, Wood county, April 1, 1848, one of the family of eight children—four sons and four daughters—born to William and Jane (Baird) Tefft. Her father owned and operated a sawmill in this county. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Zimmerman: Cora, who became the wife of J. E. Shinew, and died in Center township, Wood county; a daughter who died in infancy; and Asher and Charles, both at home.

For a time Mr. Zimmerman rented land in his native township, and then purchased fifty acres of timberland in Section 9, Center township, the improvements consisting of only log buildings. Although he secured the land on easy terms, it required considerable effort to meet the payments, as the land was all wild. He later owned another farm in Center township, in Section 34; but in 1890 he removed to his present place, which constitutes fifty-nine acres of rich and arable land in Section 6, Portage township. He has made many improvements upon the farm, and is numbered among the well-to-do farmers and best citizens of the community. He has always led an honest, honorable life, is ever ready to extend a helping hand to the needy, and is held in deservedly high repute by all in the township. Until 1884 he was a Republican in politics, but now is a strong supporter of the Peoples party. With Wiley Post G. A. R., of Bowling Green, Ohio, he holds membership.

FRED J. MATZINGER, a prominent lumber dealer of Perrysburg, enjoys the distinction of being the youngest man now conducting an independent business of any magnitude there. He is a native of that town, born October 5, 1872.

Our subject's father, the late Joseph Matzinger, came from Switzerland at the age of twenty-two, and after making an extensive prospecting tour settled in Perrysburg, where he opened a furniture factory, which he carried on until his death, in 1873. He was a devout Methodist in

religious faith, and in politics he was a staunch Democrat, never failing to show an intelligent interest in all matters affecting the welfare of his adopted country. He married Miss Amelia Eberly, a native of Perrysburg, who survives him, with their only child, our subject. Fred J. Matzinger received an excellent education in his early youth, supplementing his studies in the public school with a course at Cleary College, Ypsilanti, Mich., where he was graduated in 1889. He then obtained employment at Jackson, Mich., in a sash, door and blind factory, and familiarized himself with the lumber business in general. On January 22, 1894, he established himself in business in his native town, opening a lumber yard, where he has already developed an extensive trade. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity; in politics is a Republican, and is one of the leaders among the young men of the community, his early demonstrated ability and energy giving him influence unusual for one of his years.

ELIAS HANELY is one of the most genial and wholesouled men of Wood county, and in Section 34, Lake township, has built up a fine homestead. His tastes have always inclined him to agricultural pursuits, and he has been quite successful in his life work. A native of Lancaster county, Penn., he was born September 30, 1817, at the home of his parents, Michael and Susanna (Stoner) Hanely, who were born in the same county, the former in 1793, and the latter in 1795. There they were reared and married, and in 1830 brought their family to Stark county, Ohio, where the father opened up a farm in the midst of the wilderness, on which he died in 1865. The mother's death occurred in Defiance county, Ohio, in 1884. Our subject was the eldest in their family; of the others, we have record of the following: Moses, who, for many years resided in Richland county, Ohio, where he died in 1893; John, who died in Stark county, in 1861; Jonas, a resident of Troy township, Wood county; and Andrew, who makes his home in Defiance county.

When thirteen years of age, Elias Hanely accompanied his parents to Ohio, and, in Stark county, completed his education, which was begun in Pennsylvania. There he remained until 1846, the year of his arrival in Wood county, locating in Lake township, when the nearest market was at Perrysburg, and purchased 160 acres of wild land covered with dense forest. He battled bravely for a number of years with the elements of a new soil, and, looking upon



*Fred J. Matzinger*





his possession to-day, it is hardly necessary to state that he has made good use of his time, and been remarkably fortunate. The land has been brought under a high state of cultivation, and yields rich harvests in abundance. In Ashland county, Ohio, in 1844, Mr. Hanely was married to Miss Susanna Shriner, a native of Stark county, where her parents, John and Mary (Hoover) Shriner, located in 1829. They were born in Pennsylvania, and passed their last days in Ashland county, this State. The home to which our subject brought his wife in this county was a log house; but there they passed many happy days. For forty-seven years they traveled life's journey together, sharing in its joys and sorrows, adversity and prosperity; but in June, 1891, the loving wife was called to her final home. Of their union were born the following children: (1) Mary Ann is the wife of Joseph Crago, of Lake township; (2) Samuel married Elizabeth Myers, by whom he has eleven children—William, Albert, Libbie, Laura, Elias, Bertha, Pearl, Mary, Walter, Herman and Stella; (3) Andrew wedded Caroline Crago, and they have five children—Roland, Grover, Bessie, Eddie and Chester; (4) Fiana is the wife of Samuel Baker, of Lake township, and they have one child now living—Alice; (5) John, also a resident of Lake township, married Sabine Schwemley, and to them have been born three children—Dora, Clarence, and Frances.

For over half a century Mr. Hanely has been a resident of Wood county, during which time he has watched with interest the wonderful changes that have taken place, and assisted materially in its development. He is now, probably, the oldest settler in Lake township, where he has gained many warm friends, and all respect and honor him for his sterling worth. In religious faith he is a member of the Lutheran Church of Stony Ridge. He has been supervisor, and for several terms has served as trustee of the township, and, in politics, he votes independently.

WILLIAM CARIS, a representative, self-made farmer, of Portage township, is an Ohioan by birth, having first seen the light January 17, 1829, in Brown township, Carroll county.

The parents of our subject, John and Susannah (Baughman) Caris, were both from Northumberland county, Penn., and in pioneer days migrated to Ohio, where they passed the remainder of their useful lives. In 1849 they settled in Liberty township, Crawford county, where the father purchased 120 acres of partially-im-

proved land, and he died on that farm at the age of seventy-five years, Mrs. Caris living to the advanced age of ninety-five. They had a family of ten children, William being the second youngest. During his youth he attended the primitive log schools then in vogue, with their rude benches and other simple appliances, and he approves heartily of the numerous improvements that have been made in the public-school system. He was thoroughly trained to agriculture on the home farm, and lived with his parents up to the age of thirty-three years. In 1850 he was married, in Crawford county, Ohio, to Miss Catherine Heckard, and ten years later removed to Portage township, Wood county, on land which he had bought and paid for two years previously. The farm consisted of eighty acres of swampy ground lying in Section 34, the nearest road on the east at that time being two and one-half miles distant, and, on the west, three miles distant. He cut the first road to his farm, which was then all in the woods, and he was obliged to cut away enough trees to make room for his dwelling, a plank house. It took three yoke of oxen to haul their household goods from Jerry City. Mr. Caris at once set to work to improve this land, and he has drained it and brought it to a high state of cultivation, working incessantly to convert the place into a comfortable property. He has erected every building that stands on the place, and has reason to be proud of its thrifty appearance and general air of neatness and prosperity. In spite of the many years of hard labor which he has devoted to farming, Mr. Caris is a well-preserved man, and he has won the esteem of all by his industry and uprightness.

To William and Catherine Caris were born children as follows: Eliza (Mrs. Christ Aumaugher), of Portage township; Elizabeth (Mrs. William Dusler), of Liberty township; Oliver, who died at the age of six years; Daniel, who died at the age of twenty-three years; Susan (Mrs. John Tippit), of Portage; Philip, of Portage township; and Jane (Mrs. Lincoln Wickard), of Jerry City. The mother of these was called to her long home February 19, 1894, and for his second wife Mr. Caris wedded Mrs. Sarah (Faylor) Soule, widow of C. C. Soule; she is a native of Richland county, Ohio, daughter of John and Sarah (Pritchard) Faylor, who came to Wood county when she was only a child. Our subject is a Republican in political sentiment. He has been an active man in his community, and has served faithfully as trustee and supervisor of his township, for over twenty-five years as school director of District No. 6, and for a number of

years as clerk of the district. In religious connection he is a member of the Liberal U. B. Church.

H. E. LEEDY. Among the agriculturists of Wood county who are numbered among Ohio's native sons is this gentleman, whose birth occurred in Knox county, August 21, 1848, his parents being Jacob and Susanna (Bostater) Leedy. His father was a native of Bedford county, Penn., and during his boyhood accompanied his parents to Knox county, where the grandfather, Abraham Leedy, purchased land, and had, at the time of his death, 800 acres of very rich land. Jacob Leedy succeeded his father on this place, and there lived until removing to Hancock county, Ohio, in the early '50s. He purchased 120 acres of land six miles from Fostoria, and later added seventy-five acres, which he continued to cultivate until his death, October 20, 1872. His widow is now living with her children. The family record is as follows: Aaron, who died in infancy; Ezra, who married Alice Need, and is living on the old homestead; H. E.; Lavinia, who became the wife of George Ruch, and died at West Independence, Ohio; Mary, wife of Abraham Bowers, of West Independence; Elijah, who wedded Mary Crocker, and is living on the old homestead in Hancock county, and Byron, who married Ella Bowers, and makes his home in Independence, Ohio.

Mr. Leedy, of this review, was a child of seven summers when he went with his parents to Hancock county. There he attended school until he had attained his majority, after which he worked on his father's farm until his marriage. On the 13th of June, 1872, in Seneca county, Ohio, Mr. Leedy was joined in wedlock with Mary J. Lawhead, who was born in that county July 28, 1851, and is a daughter of James W. and Catherine (Diebley) Lawhead, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Canton, Ohio. They were married in Hancock county, and afterward removed to Seneca county, where the father purchased 120 acres of land, also 120 acres near Freeport, Ohio. His death occurred about the year 1888, and that of his wife July 21, 1891. The former had one son by a first marriage—William. The children of the second marriage were Ella, Lewis and Elmer.

Mr. and Mrs. Leedy began their domestic life on a rented farm, and in the spring of 1874 removed to Seneca county, where they also rented land until the fall of 1878. In February, 1879, they emigrated to Missouri, and rented a farm of 120 acres in Vernon county, where they

remained until October following, when they returned to Ohio. Mrs. Leedy and her children accomplished the journey by rail, while Mr. Leedy drove across the country, reaching Independence, Ohio, on the 5th of November, 1879. He there rented a house until the following spring, when he purchased his present farm of 160 acres in Liberty township, Wood county, removing his family to this place April 12, 1880. He has since carried on agricultural pursuits, and is a substantial farmer.

Mr. and Mrs. Leedy have three children—Clara, born September 16, 1873; May, born October 9, 1881; and Verda Cleo, born July 2, 1891. The parents are active workers and faithful members of the German Baptist Church. In politics, Mr. Leedy is a Democrat. He has served as township trustee for nine years, and assessor for one term, discharging his duties with credit to himself and satisfaction to all concerned.

SAMUEL SHOOK, a worthy and honored representative of the early pioneers of Wood county, is a true type of the energetic, hardy, and courageous men who actively assisted in the development of this region. Deer and other wild game had not yet fled before the advancing steps of civilization, and most of the land was still in its primitive condition. In the transformation that has taken place, he has born an important part, and is now numbered among the prominent farmers of Troy township, residing at Stony Ridge.

Born in Franklin county, Penn., in 1831, our subject is a son of John and Sarah (Koon) Shook, also natives of that county where the father carried on farming. In 1855 they came to Troy township, Wood county, where the father died about 1868, and his excellent wife in 1873. Their family consisted of these children: Joseph, who arrived in Troy township about 1850, was a merchant of Stony Ridge, where he died in 1892; Mrs. Ann Stoner died in that township in 1880; Catherine is the deceased wife of James McCutchen, Sr.; Mrs. Polly File has also passed away; Samuel is next in order of birth; Martin is a merchant of Stony Ridge; John, a resident of Lake township, Wood county, enlisted in Troy township during the Civil war, and served until its close; and Mrs. Fannie Newcomb makes her home in Seneca county, Ohio.

Our subject received the benefits of a common-school education in his native county, and was otherwise fitted for the battle of life. In 1848 he left Pennsylvania for Mansfield, Richland Co., Ohio, where he remained for a year, at the expiration of which time he located in Stony Ridge,

Wood county. For about ten years he was there engaged at his trades of plastering and brick laying, and from 1872 until 1882 conducted the "Empire House." He then erected a two-story brick store building, where for some eleven years he carried on the grocery business, but now devotes his entire time and attention to the cultivation and improvement of his fine farm in Troy township.

At Sylvania, Mich., in 1850, Mr. Shook married Miss Clarissa Smith, a native of Perrysburg, Wood county, and a daughter of Joshua and Huldah (Alger) Smith, the former born in Kingston, R. I., October 19, 1789, but reared in New York, and the latter born June 17, 1792, at Albany, N. Y., where they were married October 29, 1812. About February, 1817, the parents removed to Bellefontaine, Ohio, where they resided until coming to Perrysburg in 1830. In connection with the manufacture of brick, the father also followed farming in Wood county, and in 1835 became one of the first settlers of Stony Ridge, where he died August 16, 1858. There his wife also spent her last days, dying in January, 1879. In their family were seven children: Lucy, now Mrs. Julius Blum, of Perrysburg, Ohio; Maria, who died in New York, February 10, 1817, when a young girl; John Lee, who died of cholera at Stony Ridge, in 1854; Joshua V., who makes his home in Stony Ridge; Jacob, who died at Lemoyne, Wood county, January 1, 1865; Elizabeth, who became the wife of DeWitt Van Camp, and died at Stony Ridge in 1885; and Clarissa, wife of our subject. Two children blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Shook: Amos C., who wedded Frances Marsh, by whom he has four children—Agnes, Jennie, Ruby, and Lee, and resides at Stony Ridge; and Emeline, wife of Noah Bean, of Stony Ridge, by whom she has three children—George C., Della and Ethel.

Though not an active politician, Mr. Shook votes with the Democratic party as his sentiments and beliefs dictate, and has served two years both as trustee and assessor of his township, and as postmaster of Stony Ridge. He and his estimable wife are members in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and are greatly esteemed in their community, as representing the best type of its moral and social element.

**WILLIAM S. BRYANT.** Two qualities which are absolutely essential to success are industry and energy, and these our subject possesses in a high degree. Thus he has worked his way upward until to-day he is numbered among the

substantial farmers and respected citizens of Wood county. He was born in Findlay township, Hancock county, October 18, 1857, and is a son of George W. Bryant, a native of New York, who in his boyhood accompanied his parents to Hancock county. In Richland county, Ohio, he married Isabel Kemp, and located in Findlay. During the Civil war he enlisted in the 21st O. V. I., and afterward joined the 5th Ohio Regiment. He died in the service at Louisville, Ky., of an attack of smallpox. To Mr. and Mrs. Bryant were born three children: Sarah Jane, wife of J. H. Lamb, of Henry township; George W., a farmer of Hardin county, Ohio; and William S. The mother is still living in Toledo, Ohio.

Our subject attended the public schools of Findlay until fourteen years of age, when he started out to make his own way in the world. He there learned the trade of carriage painting, which he followed some fourteen years, when, with the capital he had acquired through his own industry and frugality, he bought an interest in the business. A year later, however, he sold out, removing to Marseilles, Wyandot Co., Ohio, where he carried on a paint shop for two years. Failing health then necessitating his retirement from that business, he came to Henry township, Wood county, where he purchased forty acres of timber land that he has since transformed into a comfortable home. He afterward purchased sixty acres additional, but now owns eighty acres, all under a high state of cultivation and improved with the accessories and conveniences of a model farm.

On October 3, 1881, in Henry township, Mr. Bryant married Miss Mary Helbrick, who was born in Lancaster county, Penn., November 1, 1856, and they have four children: Gracie, born June 17, 1882; Scott Le Roy, born April 22, 1884; William, born November 6, 1888, and died January 14, 1889; and Ruth Jane, born September 6, 1890. Mr. Bryant is a stalwart Republican, and has served as school director for six years and supervisor for three years, but has by no means been an office seeker. He holds membership with the United Brethren Church.

W. M. AMOS is one of the leading and influential business men of Portage, carrying on a first-class meat market there. He is an enterprising and progressive citizen, and his pleasant and genial manner has won him a large circle of friends, while his honorable dealing has secured him a liberable patronage.

Mr. Amos is numbered among the native sons

of Wood county, his birth having occurred in Portage township, April 25, 1861. He is one of ten children whose parents were Michael and Theresa (Brackey) Amos. This family numbers Michael and Philip, both of whom carry on agricultural pursuits in Portage township; John and Katie, twins, who died in childhood; Anthony, a farmer of Center township; W. M.; Charles, who carries on agricultural pursuits in Portage township; Mary, wife of Manuel Helm, of Portage township; and a son and daughter who died before the recollection of our subject.

W. M. Amos acquired his education in the district schools near his home, and was reared as a farmer boy, remaining under the parental roof and giving to his father the benefit of his services until he had attained his majority. He then assumed the management of the old home place, which he operated for nine years. His father also gave him forty acres of land in Portage township, which he afterward traded for another forty acres in the same township, paying \$1,000 additional. His second farm he afterward exchanged for a tract of similar size in Portage township, and on selling this he bought eighty acres of improved land in Center township. He continued to operate all these different farms in connection with the improvement of the old homestead. In 1893, however, he sold his farming land, and purchased a meat market in Portage, where he has since carried on business. During the first year he was associated in partnership with Will Johnson, but, buying out his interest, has since been alone. He has a well-conducted establishment. He is a man of excellent business and executive ability, and carries forward to completion whatever he undertakes. Perseverance and energy are his chief characteristics, and have brought to him a very comfortable competence.

Mr. Amos was married in Portage township, Wood county, March 14, 1886, the lady of his choice being Miss Mima Ulis, who was born in Crawford county, Ohio, November 27, 1868, and is a daughter of Samuel and Susan (Helm) Ulis. Five children graced this union, but Clyde and Samuel, the eldest and youngest, have passed away. Those still at home are Jesse, Paul and Oscar.

A. L. POLLARD, an influential citizen of Portage township, is a native of Pennsylvania, born May 3, 1856, in Lawrence county, son of Abner and Anna (Wymer) Pollard. The family came to Perry township, Wood county, when our subject was about nine years old, and, in about 1871, settled in Portage township, at Six Points, where

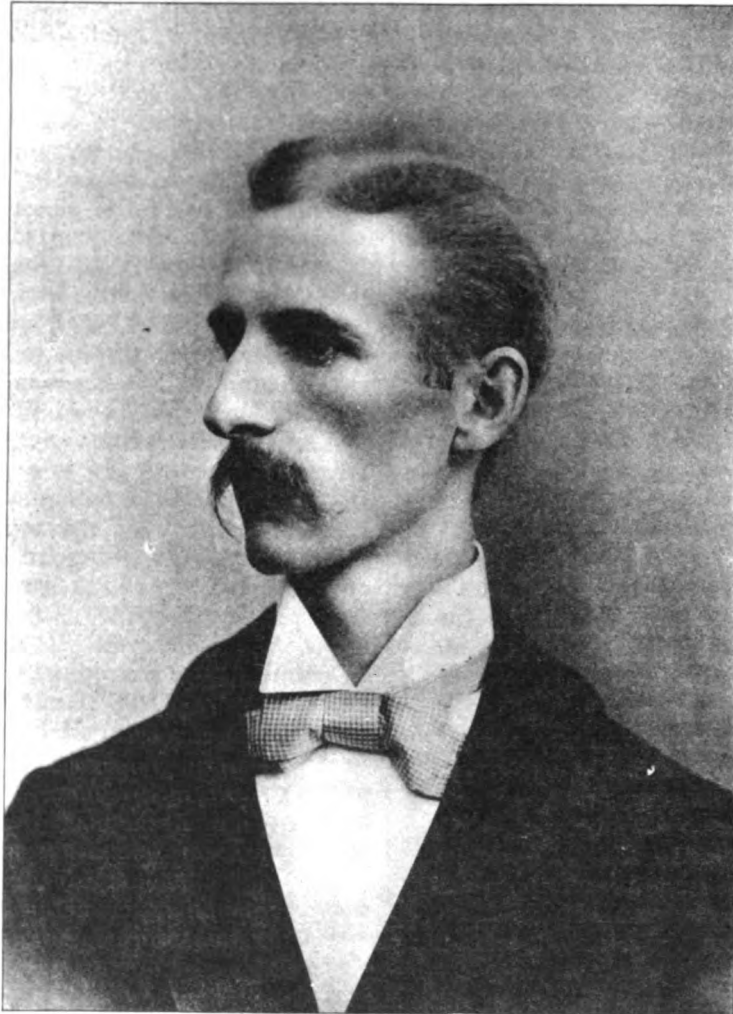
the mother died, and the father still makes his home. Of their family A. L. Pollard was the fifth in order of birth, and the eldest son.

During his boyhood Mr. Pollard attended the district schools of the home neighborhood, and also received a thorough training in agriculture, which he has followed more or less all his life. When he came to Six Points this region was still a wilderness, and the site of his present store was then in the midst of a forest. He remained at home until his marriage, at that time locating on eighty acres of land at Six Points, later removing to Jerry City, in Portage township, and finally settling on his present place, which consists of thirty-six acres of good land at Six Points. In July, 1889, he established the mercantile business which he has ever since conducted with well-deserved success, and during his business career he has won the confidence and respect of all with whom he has come in contact for fair dealing and honest methods. He is a self-made man in the true sense of the word, the comfortable property and home which he now possesses having all been acquired by his own efforts.

In March, 1880, Mr. Pollard was married to Miss Abbie Bisbee, daughter of Joseph Bisbee, and she died and was buried in Mount Zion cemetery. For his second wife our subject wedded Miss Hannah Brand, who was born in Seneca county, Ohio, daughter of Michael Brand, and six children have come to this union, as follows: Arthur L., Lucy M., Raymond, Luther (who died in infancy), Bessie, and Zella. Mr. Pollard is a life-long Republican, and, though he takes an interest in public affairs, he is not active except in school matters, being a warm friend of educational progress in every way; he has been school director in District No. 8 for some time. Socially he is a member of the K. O. T. M., Excelsior Tent, at Prairie Depot, and he affiliated with the Grangers during their existence. On May 1, 1892, lightning struck Mr. Pollard's barn, and destroyed \$1,500 worth of property, on which there was no insurance whatever, seven horses, a large amount of grain, and a number of farming implements being consumed.

ALFRED R. WILLIAMS, of Perrysburg, one of the most enterprising and successful young business men of Wood county, was born September 5, 1868, at Perrysburg.

His father, the late Alfred G. Williams, was one of the prominent men of the county in his day, and a leading operator in the oil fields. His mother, formerly Miss Mary Cranker, is a descendant of one of the pioneer families, and has long



*A. R. Williams*



held an important place in all the social and philanthropic movements of the community. Our subject enjoyed excellent educational opportunities in his youth, his training in the public schools of Perrysburg being supplemented by study at Baldwin University, at Berea, Ohio. After leaving school he became shipping clerk for Davis Bros., of Toledo; later with Chapman & Sargent, with whom he was serving when his father died, October 17, 1892. He was then appointed administrator of the latter's estate, also the estate of Margaret Cranker, his maternal grandmother, both of which responsibilities he has managed with credit to himself and the satisfaction of all concerned. His father was one of the first operators in the Cygnet oil field, and the family interests now extend from that locality to Bradner, including over forty wells. Apart from this interest, our subject is operating some twenty wells, also in Wood county, in company with other oil men, and in all his speculations he displays great sagacity and shrewdness. In February, 1895, he was appointed assignee for the O'Connor Oil Company, of Wood county.

On June 28, 1892, Mr. Williams was married to Miss Clara Chappuies, who was born in Stryker, Ohio, January 1, 1869. Two children have blessed this union: Alfred R., born March 6, 1893, and Elbert J., born March 7, 1895. Mr. Williams is a Republican; is a member of the F. & A. M. and the I. O. O. F, and he and his wife are esteemed highly for their superior personal qualities. They are leaders in the best element of Perrysburg society, taking an active and influential part in the varied work of the M. E. Church, and in all worthy local movements.

ERASMUS CHAMBERS, an extensive landowner and prosperous farmer of Portage township, is a native of Ohio, born August 9, 1814, in Jefferson county, son of William and Catherine (Barrick) Chambers.

William Chambers' father was a native of England, and came to this country in young manhood. He was the owner of a plantation and a number of slaves, and was quite wealthy. William became a farmer, and settled in Ohio in pioneer days, dying in Crawford (now Wyandot) county, Ohio, in 1838, when about sixty years old. Mrs. Chambers died there December 20, 1848. There were nine children in their family—seven sons and two daughters—all of whom lived to good old ages, and, though our subject was considered the delicate one of the family, he has survived them all. During his youth he received but two weeks' schooling, for the coun-

try in which his parents had settled was sparsely settled at that early day, and the settlers were for the most part French, who did not give liberally to the support of the schools. They were then living in the vicinity of Louisville, Stark county. After his father's death Mr. Chambers lived with his widowed mother up to the time of her decease. In 1850, he was united in marriage, in Wyandot county, with Miss Martha Mansfield, who died in that county in 1852, leaving one child, Clara, who is now the wife of Sylvanus Newcomer, of Gratiot county, Mich. For some time after his wife's death our subject lived in Logan county, this State, and in 1869 he came to Wood county, settling in Montgomery township, where he lived until March, 1872, since which time he has had his home in Portage township, on his present farm, which lies in Section 36. Here he has acquired a comfortable property, for which he has worked hard, and is now the owner of 215 acres of good land, besides which his wife owns eighty acres. With the exception of twelve years during which he was engaged in mercantile pursuits, he has devoted himself almost exclusively to farming, and now, in his later years, surrounded by all the comforts of life, he has no reason to regret his choice. His vitality is remarkable, and in spite of his four score years he is still an active man. When Mr. Chambers came to Wood county much of the land was still in its primitive condition, wet and swampy, and he thought at that time that "Mud" county would be a far more appropriate name.

On March 13, 1870, our subject was married to Mrs. Maria Lane, widow of William Lane, and daughter of David and Margaret (Henry) Tyson, who came to Wood county in 1847, locating in Portage township, where she has since lived; she was born November 24, 1840, in Stark county, Ohio. To this union have come children as follows: Eli P., born January 28, 1871; John F., born September 21, 1872; William H., born August 20, 1874; David S., born September 1, 1876, and died in infancy; Urias A., born May 22, 1878; and Emma M., born December 19, 1880. Mrs. Chambers in religious connection is a member of the Dunkard Church. During his early manhood Mr. Chambers was an Old-line Whig, and he voted for William Henry Harrison; since the organization of the Republican party he has been one of its staunch supporters.

R. C. SANTMYER is a popular citizen of Liberty township, whose genuine worth has won him the good will and respect of many friends. Sen-



eca county, Ohio, numbers him among her native sons, his birth occurring there October 27, 1854. His father, Christopher Santmyer, was born in Virginia, and, having attained his majority, married Susan Updike, also a native of that State. Four years later they removed to Seneca county, Ohio, where the father followed farming, also carried on blacksmithing and shoe making. In 1861 in Delaware, Ohio, he enlisted in the Union army and served until the close of the war, and participated in many important battles. He afterward went to Saginaw, Mich., where he continued for a number of years, then returned to Seneca county. He is still a resident of Ohio. Their children were John, a farmer of Hancock county, Ohio; Robert, a farmer of Bloom township; R. C., our subject; David H., of Wayne county, Ohio; and Mrs. Jane Vogelsson.

R. C. Santmyer was about eleven years of age when he came to Wood county with his mother, who purchased five acres of land in Bloom township, and there resided until her death. He attended the district schools and followed farming during his boyhood, earning his own livelihood from the time he was eight years of age. He was married March 12, 1882, to Miss Annie Walker, a native of Bloom township, and a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Soles) Walker. They at once located on the farm of sixty acres which Mr. Santmyer had previously purchased. He is now living in the oldest dwelling in Wood county, it having stood for sixty-three years. Many were the hardships and difficulties they encountered in the early days, for Mrs. Santmyer suffered much from ill health; but as time has passed our subject has prospered. He has now tiled and fenced his place, planted a good orchard, and has a well-improved farm. There are five oil wells upon his land, and he adds to his income by acting as district agent for the Solid Comfort Plow Company.

Mr. and Mrs. Santmyer have had a family of three children: Carrie Emma, born April 12, 1883; Harley J., born August 29, 1886, and died July 8, 1887; and Sylvia Jane, born August 26, 1890. Our subject was formerly an advocate of Republican principles, but is now identified with the People's party. He has served for five years as supervisor, discharging his duties with a promptness and fidelity that have won him high commendation.

FRANK WAGONER, a general merchant of Stony Ridge, was born in Lake township, Wood county, January 13, 1864, and is a son of B. and Elizabeth (Weaver) Wagoner. The father's

birth occurred in Troy township, but he was reared and married in Lake township, where his wife died in 1879. In their family of seven children only two are now living: Frank, and Mrs. Nettie Korn, of Stony Ridge.

In the common schools of his native township our subject obtained his education, and at the age of fifteen went to Fort Scott, Kans., where he was employed for nine months, after which he proceeded to White City and Parsons, same State, and then again went to Fort Scott. Returning to Ohio, he attended the academy at Fostoria for a year, and on leaving that institution, again journeyed westward, this time going as far as Seattle, Wash., where he remained three months. On his return he located at Toledo, Ohio, where for nine months he was employed, and then obtained a situation in the store which he now owns. In 1890 he began business here, and now carries a large line of groceries, crockery, boots, shoes—in fact, everything found in a first-class general store. He owns a two-story frame building, 24 x 60 feet, with two additional rooms, one 12 x 60 feet, and the other 16 x 36 feet. He well deserves the liberal trade that is accorded him, and is meeting with a well-merited success.

Mr. Wagoner was married at Stony Ridge, in 1892, to Miss Mary Reifert, who died in January, 1895, leaving one child: Chester McKinley. In politics, our subject endorses the principles and policy of the Republican party, in the success of which he takes an active interest; socially, he is identified with Fort Meigs Lodge No. 774, I. O. O. F., and the Knights of Honor.

THOMAS J. PUGH. Among the merchants and business men of Weston none is better known than the subject of this sketch. Born in Henry county, Ohio; November 13, 1871, he came to Wood county with his parents when but one year old. His education was acquired in the district school, and he afterward worked on his father's farm until reaching his majority, after which he farmed for one year on his own account. Moving into Weston he embarked in the grocery business, which rapidly increased to such an extent that he found it necessary to have assistance. He, therefore, became associated with Mr. A. N. Pauff, under the firm name of Pugh & Pauff. They deal only in first-class groceries, their stock is well kept up, and they cater to the best class of people in Weston.

In April, 1893, Mr. Pugh was united in marriage with Miss Maud Guyer, daughter of Daniel Guyer, and they have one child, Sylvia. Our sub-

ject is a member of the K. of P. and the Knights of the Maccabees. In politics he is neutral. He is an enterprising, progressive young man, and possesses great business tact and ability, which has been fully demonstrated by the manner in which he has overcome all obstacles and built up an enviable trade. He is genial, affable and courteous by nature, and his integrity and honesty have been the means by which he has gained the confidence of all who have any business dealings with him.

ABRAHAM MERCER, whose well-spent life has won him the regard of all, is numbered among the progressive, enterprising citizens who give a hearty endorsement and active support to all enterprises calculated to prove of public benefit. He was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, July 8, 1820, and is a son of William and Charity (Pettit) Mercer. The father was born in Lancaster county, Penn., and at various times followed the trades of cooper, miller and mason. In his native county he married Miss Pettit, who was there born July 7, 1781. After several years they removed to a farm on the banks of the Susquehanna river, and later went to Columbiana county, Ohio, where Mr. Mercer carried on farming to some extent, but mostly followed the mason's trade. In the fall of 1834 he brought his family to Wood county, and secured 160 acres of land in Liberty township, on which he erected a log house, 16 x 20 feet. Two years later he built a frame residence, and there made his home until his death. His widow afterward returned to Pennsylvania; but while visiting in Columbiana county, she died at the home of her son Daniel, February 9, 1855. The children of this marriage were: Martha (deceased) was the wife of Andrew Pettit; George, who died in Liberty township, at the age of eighty-seven; William, who died in Portage township, at the age of forty-three; Mary Ann, who became the wife of Enos Monehan, and died in Pennsylvania; Daniel, who died near Georgetown, Columbiana county; Beulah (deceased) was the wife of William Pike, of Iowa; Caleb, of Bowling Green, Ohio; Charity (deceased); Lucretia (deceased) was the wife of Henry Groves, of Liberty township; Abraham; Elesana, who died at the age of two years; and Charles, who lives in Bowling Green.

Our subject received somewhat limited educational privileges for the nearest school house was three miles distant; but through reading, experience, and observation he has become a well-informed man. To farm work he devoted his energies until his marriage, which was celebrated

in Liberty township, January 8, 1840, Miss Harriet Elizabeth Rice becoming his wife. Born in Cattaraugus county, N. Y., April 13, 1820, she was a daughter of Calvin and Electa (Allen) Rice, natives of the Empire State, and with her parents came to Wood county in 1835, her father and mother both dying in Liberty township.

In 1846 Mr. Mercer removed with his family to the farm which his father first purchased, taking eighty acres. He cleared the place, erected a good residence, and there carried on agricultural pursuits until about January, 1887, when he disposed of that property and removed to another farm. His wife died January 31, 1887, and the old home was therefore broken up. Of their marriage were born seven children—Charity Electa, wife of Alex Lashuay, of Bowling Green; James C., of Denver, Wood county; Charlie Allen, of Liberty township; Porterfield, of Liberty township; Wm. Marion, of Liberty township; Clinton B., of Mt. Pleasant, Isabella Co., Mich.; and Harriet Isadore, wife of Francis McIntire, of Liberty township. For a year after the death of his wife, Mr. Mercer lived with his son-in-law, and then wedded Mrs. Mary A. Bacon, widow of Warren H. Bacon. In politics he is a stalwart Prohibitionist, and served as township treasurer for one year, while for many years he has been clerk of the school board, and a director. He holds membership with the Disciples Church, and his life has been well spent. He is numbered among Wood county's honored pioneers, has witnessed much of its growth and upbuilding, and is a public-spirited, progressive citizen.

CHRISTIAN EISENMENGER. Among the well-to-do farmers and landowners in Wood county, there are a number of Germans, and our subject is a representative, thrifty and shrewd type of this class, who have everywhere been noted for their industry and sterling worth.

Mr. Eisenmenger was born in the Grand Duchy of Baden, Germany, October 6, 1839, son of Andrew and Catherine Eisenmenger; the former of whom was a saddler by trade, and also followed farming, owning twenty acres of land in Germany. In June, 1854, the family consisting of parents and four children, sailed from Antwerp on the vessel "David Hoadley," and as there were large numbers crossing the ocean that year, passage was at a premium, so they were obliged to pay a high price. When they were only a few days out, however, the vessel struck a rock, and, being in poor condition, was obliged to turn back, reaching Southampton in eight days. Four weeks were required wherein to

make repairs, and after the second start they were thirty-five days in reaching New York City. They at once started west, journeying by rail to Buffalo, N. Y., then by lake vessel to Cleveland, Ohio, thence to Sandusky, and from there by rail and team to their destination, Bloomville, Seneca Co., Ohio. Mr. Eisenmenger had sold his property in Germany, and now had a little over \$500 to commence life in the New World with, which he proposed to invest in land. But property was high in Seneca county, so in about six weeks they came to Wood county, arriving here in October, and he purchased sixty acres of land lying in Sections 27 and 34, Portage township, which was then almost in its primitive condition, only the higher portions of the land being cleared. A log cabin and barn were the only buildings that adorned the place, and the family began life here in true pioneer style, living in the midst of a forest where game abounded and civilization had as yet made little impression. They also suffered the hardships which settlers in such a country must undergo, and in addition to the ordinary inconveniences and privations of life in an unsettled region, the fever and ague caused by the swampiness of the land impaired their health, and rendered them almost unfit for work. But, nevertheless, they carried on the work of clearing until a fine farm had been made out of the wilderness, and the family were installed in a comfortable home. From the age of forty-five until his death, Mr. Eisenmenger had poor health, and he passed from earth in December, 1861, after a lingering illness. Mrs. Eisenmenger survived until March, 1881, and both are buried in the Mennonite cemetery; they were members of the Evangelical Protestant Church. Mr. Eisenmenger opposed slavery, but took no part in politics, the constant wrangling over public affairs in those days destroying any inclination he might have had for such matters. There were four children in his family, viz.: Catherine, now the widow of John Hachtel, of St. Joseph county, Ind.; Henry, who died in Portage township, in 1865; Christian; and Christopher, who lives in St. Joseph county, Ind. (he served over three years in the Civil war, as a member of Company F, 72nd O. V. I.).

Our subject attended the schools of the Fatherland, and received the greater part of his education there, for he only had two weeks' schooling after he came to this country. However, he learned to read and write English in that short time, his teacher being Orin Hays, who taught the "Red School" in District No. 7, Portage township. He was reared to farming on

the pioneer farm of his parents, and has been on the home place all his life. After his father's death his older brother came home, conducting the farm until his decease, in 1865, after which our subject and his brother Henry carried on the work. The latter, however, soon left home, and since that time Mr. Eisenmenger has been in charge of the place alone, buying out the others after his mother's death. He has added to the place until it now comprises 170 acres of fertile, productive land, from which, by good management and systematic care, he derives a good income. He is as good a business man as he is a farmer; but in all his dealings he has gained an enviable reputation for honesty and fairness, and there is no more highly respected citizen in the township.

On May 10, 1868, Mr. Eisenmenger was married, in Portage township, to Miss Catherine Hardman, a native of Stark county, Ohio, who was born about 1835, daughter of George Hardman, a native of Pennsylvania. Our subject and wife are both members of the German Baptist Church, in which he is an active worker, at present serving as trustee. Formerly he was a Democrat in politics, but he usually votes for the candidate whom he thinks best fitted for office without regard to party lines.

G. F. PEABODY, M. D., one of the leading physicians and surgeons of Wood county, and a registered pharmacist, has since January, 1892, engaged in practice at Luckey. On his arrival he also bought a building and a stock of drugs, conducting business along that line until his place was destroyed by fire in July, 1893, after which, in company with L. H. Rolfes, he erected a two-story brick building. In this new store he carries a full and complete line of drugs, and he also engages in the practice of his profession.

The Doctor was born in Mulliken, Eaton Co., Mich., February 12, 1867, and is a son of Sylvanus and Jane E. (Compton) Peabody, also natives of Michigan. At an early day the grandfather, William Peabody, Sr., entered a tract of government land in Eaton county, on a part of which now stands the village of Mulliken. Later our subject's father settled on this land, and, in connection with his agricultural pursuits, he now engages in the real-estate business. Our subject is the fourth in order of birth in the family of six children, the others being William, of Ionia county, Mich.; Elbert, of Eaton county, Mich.; Hiram, a farmer of Mulliken, Eaton county; Fred, chief clerk of and a stockholder in the Valley City Milling Co., of Grand Rapids, Mich.; and Charles,



HAZEL F.

*G. F. Peabody*



*G. F. Peabody M.D.*



who is attending Medical College in Toledo, Ohio.

The elementary education of the Doctor was acquired in the common schools of his native county, and he completed the literary course in Portland (Mich.) High School; was a matriculate of the Michigan College of Medicine in 1888, after which he entered Toledo Medical College, where he was graduated in the class of 1890. He began practice in Sunfield, Eaton county, where he remained until coming to Luckey in 1892. Here he has secured a large and lucrative practice, has been very successful in his treatment, and has had four small-pox cases, in which he triumphed over that dread disease. He was registered a pharmacist by examination, in 1893.

At Toledo, Ohio, February 2, 1892, Dr. Peabody was married to Miss Katie H. Dachsteiner, a native of Fort Wayne, Ind., and a daughter of John W. and Caroline (Kersting) Dachsteiner, who were born in Germany, and now make their home in Toledo, where the father is foreman of the upholstering department of the Wabash car shops. To the Doctor and his wife was born October 29, 1892, a daughter, named Hazel F.

Dr. Peabody uses his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Democratic party, was appointed postmaster at Luckey, July 1, 1893, but after two years he resigned in favor of the present incumbent. For two years he has served as health officer of Webster township. In his social relations he is connected with Freedom Lodge No. 723, I. O. O. F. He owns fifty-two acres of land, one-half mile south of Luckey, which he rents.

Mrs. Peabody was born December 23, 1866, at Fort Wayne, Ind., and was educated at the Broadway High School, and at the Davis Business College, in the same city. She is a member of the German Lutheran Church at Luckey.

DAVID F. BIEHLER is numbered among the enterprising business men of Hammansburg, where he is engaged in general merchandising, and the community numbers him among its representative citizens. He was born in Maryland, October 1, 1852, son of Andrew Biehler, a native of Germany, who in that country married Miss Catherine Wetley. Some years later, with his wife and two children, he sailed to America from France, landing in New York. For a short time he made his home in Maryland, and then removed to Tiffin, Seneca Co., Ohio, where, later, he purchased forty acres of land and devoted his time and energies to agricultural pursuits. His death occurred April 27, 1876, in Tiffin, and his

wife died April 2, 1895. Their children were: Nicholas, of Cincinnati, Ohio; Kate, who became the wife of Andrew Schrothe, and died at her home in Cincinnati; Henry, a farmer of Seneca county; Louisa, wife of John Schrothe, of Cincinnati; David F.; and Caroline, wife of Scott Wagner, of Tiffin, Ohio.

Our subject began his education in the public schools of Seneca county, and obtained a fair knowledge of English. He also early became familiar with the duties of farm life, and gave the benefit of his services to his father until his marriage, which was celebrated in Tiffin, Ohio, January 26, 1876, the lady of his choice being Miss Anna Margaret Hoke, a native of Seneca county, born February 8, 1857. They began their domestic life on a rented farm in that county, where they lived twelve years, when, in 1888, they removed to Wood county, and purchased eighty acres of partially improved land in Henry township. This place has undergone a great transformation since it came into the possession of Mr. Biehler. He has made many excellent improvements upon it, laid many rods of tiling, fenced the place, set out a good orchard, erected a large barn and other necessary out-buildings, and now has nine oil wells upon the place. In October, 1893, he established his general store in Hammansburg, which he has since successfully conducted. He is a wide-awake and enterprising business man, fully abreast with the times, and has won a well-merited success. Mr. and Mrs. Biehler have had a family of ten children, four of whom, including twins, died in infancy; the others, May, Augustus, Edna, Allie, Howard and Lloyd, are all at home. The parents are consistent members of the German Reformed Church, and in politics Mr. Biehler is an active worker in the ranks of the Democratic party, and has served as constable for four years.

WESLEY LEATHERS, president of the People's Bank at McComb, Hancock Co., Ohio, and a leading and progressive citizen, is a native of the State, having been born in Bloom township, Wood county, August 27, 1844, son of Jacob and Mary (Ewing) Leathers.

Jacob Leathers, father of our subject, was born, in 1811, in Bald Eagle Valley, Center Co., Penn., and when a young lad came to Ohio with his parents, who first located in Fairfield county, later moving to Wayne county. Here Jacob married Miss Mary Ewing, who was born, in 1811, in Pennsylvania. In the fall of 1832 he and his brother John came on foot several miles through the forest to Bloom township, Wood

county, each entering land, Jacob in Section 34, John in Section 33, and in the following spring they moved to the farm. Here they lived in Indian huts until a log house could be erected, and our subject's mother assisted in sawing the logs for their first home. At that time there were but few other families in the township, although they were fortunate in having some neighbors near by. Game was plentiful—deer, turkeys and bears in abundance—and the larders of the settlers were well provided at all times with venison. Here the brothers and their families encountered all the obstacles presented by the frowning haunts of wild animals, and here they experienced all the hardships incident to clearing up homes in the wilderness, their labors, however, being repaid in course of time with comfortable homes, smiling fields of grain and well-stocked barns. On their respective farms Jacob and John Leathers passed the rest of their busy lives, Jacob dying January 6, 1879, his wife on May 11, 1877, and John passing away March 12, 1851, aged forty-five years, his wife Eliza on July 10, 1855, at the age of forty-seven. They were all pioneer members of the Methodist Church in Bloom township.

The children born to Jacob and Mary (Ewing) Leathers were as follows: William (the first white child born in Bloom township), who met with a tragic death in a gristmill at Eagleville, Ohio (his widow now lives in Bloomdale, Ohio); Elizabeth A., who died unmarried, May 14, 1870; John, who was a member of Company H, 149th Regiment O. V. I., and died December 20, 1863, at Knoxville, Tenn.; Wesley, the subject proper of these lines; Lavina (now Mrs. George Franks), residing at Baltimore, Ohio; and Benton, of Hammansburg, Wood county. The father of this family was an extensive land owner, at the time of his death possessing several hundred acres; was in all his undertakings, especially in agriculture, a highly successful man, ranking among the leading citizens of the township, where, as will be seen, he passed the best years of his life. He was a Whig and Republican consecutively, exhibiting considerable interest in the success of his party, although not an active politician.

Wesley Leathers, whose name introduces this sketch, was reared after the manner of farmer boys of his day, receiving his education at the old log house known as the "Leathers School," which stood on the home farm, and is now known as "District School No. 8, Bloom Township." To this primitive seminary of learning our subject used, in winter time, to take his

"shining morning face" through the intricacies of the then dense woods, many a day almost impassable, owing to the depth of the snow. Prior to his marriage, he passed the greater part of his time at home, assisting in the labors of the farm, the comparative monotony of which was broken by a three-months' service in the army during the war of the Rebellion. In May, 1864, he went to the front as a member of Company E, 144th Regiment O. V. I., which was sent to Wilmington, Del., where our subject passed the greater part of his term of service, in the government stables; he was discharged in August, 1864, and returned home.

On August 23, 1862, in Cass township, Hancock Co., Ohio, he married Miss Minerva C. Dustman, a native of Mahoning county, Ohio, and daughter of Josiah and Sarah (Gress) Dustman. For several years they made their home in the old log cabin on his father's farm, where he followed agricultural pursuits. In September, 1890, Mr. Leathers commenced interesting himself in the banking business, and in the fall of 1890, he moved from Wood county to McComb, Hancock county, where he established the People's Bank of McComb, of which he has been president ever since.

To Mr. and Mrs. Leathers have been born children as follows: Hester, now the wife of E. S. Crawford, of McComb, Ohio; John J. and Benton W., farmers of Bloom township, Wood county; Edward, a merchant of McComb, Ohio; Lula, at home; Pearl, who died young; Ervin, a clerk in McComb; and Ellis and Anna, both at home. Mr. Leathers is the owner of 320 acres of very valuable land in Bloom township, including the first pre-emptions made by his father, over sixty years ago. He is a successful business man, shrewd, careful, and thoroughly conservative, as is evidenced by the flourishing condition of the monetary institution which he in a large degree controls, not to speak of his own phenomenal success. He is also prominently identified with the Palmer Oil Company. In his political preferences he is a staunch supporter of the Republican party, and in social life he is recognized as a representative self-made man, enjoying, along with his family, the respect and esteem of a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.

JULIUS DUCAT, deceased, had many excellencies of character, which gained him the high regard of friends and neighbors. He was born in Michigan, near the Ohio line, in 1834, and is a son of Joseph and Victoria (Jacob) Ducat. When a youth of sixteen he came with his parents to

Wood county, the father settling upon an eighty-acre farm in Plain township, which he afterward sold, removing to Liberty township. Later he became a resident of Ottawa county, Ohio, where his wife died. With his children he returned to Liberty township, and purchased twenty acres of land, on which the town of Ducat now stands, named in his honor.

Our subject early became familiar with all the arduous duties of developing wild land, and, owing to the very limited circumstances of his parents, he received no school privileges, for he had to aid in the work on the farm. He worked by the month as a farm hand for \$15, and has often worked for forty cents per day. Thus from humble surroundings he rose, and for his success he deserved great credit.

Mr. Ducat was married, in 1863, to Victoria Ganger, and to them were born four children—Daniel L., of Rudolph, Ohio; Exea, a farmer of Milton township; John, an agriculturist of Liberty township; and one who died in infancy. The mother died in 1870, and the following year Mr. Ducat was joined in wedlock, in Toledo, Ohio, with Elizabeth Minnow. They also had four children—Alec and Samuel, both of Liberty; Adolph, at home; and one who died in infancy.

At the time of his first marriage, Mr. Ducat located on a ten-acre tract of land in Liberty township, which he had previously purchased. This he later sold and bought twenty acres, which was afterward disposed of, and his capital was invested in twenty acres owned by him at the time of his death. This property, however, he had doubled in extent, making forty acres of rich land. There are five oil wells on the farm, one of which is the largest ever struck in the county, it being known as the big Ducat well. It was sold, the first time, by Clarence Potter for \$10,000, and a short time afterward for \$14,000. In the fall of 1888, Mr. Ducat erected the present residence and hospitable home, which is the resort of many friends. In politics he was a Democrat, and was an active member of the Roman Catholic Church, of Bowling Green. His death occurred September 12, 1895.

**BENTON W. LEATHERS.** To farming and stock-raising this gentleman devotes his energies, and his capable business methods are winning him prosperity. The record of his life will undoubtedly prove of interest to his friends in this county, who are many. He was born in Bloom township, June 1, 1868, on the old Leathers homestead, the third child and second son of Wesley and Minerva (Dustman) Leathers. He attended

school in District No. 8, his first teacher being Leona Taylor; also pursued his studies in Bairdstown, while his parents were living at that place. He has always made farming his life-work, and now has charge of a part of the old homestead, operating 160 acres of land, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation. He also engages in stock dealing in connection with his brother, John J. He is a prosperous young farmer of excellent business ability, and is meeting with success in his undertakings.

On March 3, 1888, Mr. Leathers was united in marriage, in Eagleville, to Miss Olive L. Emerson, who was born January 28, 1870, in Bloom township, the eldest daughter of E. P. and Catherine (Smalley) Leathers. They have three children, Bessie E., born September 12, 1889; Park E., born January 28, 1892; and Naomi, born February 1, 1894. Mr. Leathers gives his political support to the Republican party, and has served as school director in his district. He is a member of Bloomdale Lodge, Knights of Pythias, and his wife is a charter member of Jewel Temple, Rathbone Sisters, of Bloomdale. She belongs to the Christian Church of Eagleville.

**ROBERT DIGBY, JR.** The subject of this notice is certainly entitled to be considered not only one of the enterprising farmers of Washington township, but one of its respected and honored citizens, and a man of more than ordinary ability. He was born in Erie county, Ohio, August 15, 1856, and is a son of Robert and Eliza (Ray) Digby. The father's birth occurred in England, October 2, 1828, and he crossed the Atlantic to the United States in 1851, first locating in New York State.

Our subject spent his boyhood mostly in attendance at the district schools of Washington township, and aiding in the duties of the home farm. He remained under the parental roof until he had attained his majority, when he started out in life for himself, for eleven years renting a part of the land belonging to his father. He then purchased forty acres across the road from his present place, which he improved and cultivated some four years, at the expiration of which time he bought the eighty acres which comprises his present fine farm. He has tiled and drained his place, ten acres of which he has cleared, built barns, erected a windmill which cost \$100, and bored a well at a cost of \$60. For his land he paid \$72 per acre. On February 22, 1881, he was married to Miss Susan Shoaff, a daughter of Reuben Shoaff, and they have two children, Elmer, born May 8, 1882; and Bertie, born October 8, 1885. Our subject is a staunch



and reliable member of the Republican party, and he and his family attend Washington Chapel of the United Brethren denomination.

S. C. REARICK has been a resident of Jerry City for a number of years, and is one of the most useful, progressive citizens of that place. He is a native of Lewistown, Mifflin Co., Penn., born April 20, 1853, son of Oliver P. Rearick, who was born May 10, 1830, and was married, in Laurelton, Union Co., Penn., to Martha Corl, born July 16, 1833. Mr. Rearick was a weaver, and followed that trade up to the breaking out of the Civil war, when he became a member of Company E, 53rd P. V. I., and he died August 8, 1862, at David's Island, of fever. He left five children—three sons and two daughters.

Our subject was but a boy at the time of his father's death, and from that time until he was fourteen years old, lived and worked with his uncle, George Schnure, who was a tanner near Laurelton. He then entered the Soldiers' Orphans School, at McAllisterville, Penn., which his brothers and sisters also entered at the proper ages, Thomas, George and Katy Rearick being three of the first six pupils at that school. Before entering this institution S. C. Rearick had but limited educational privileges, but during the time he remained there he acquired a good practical training. When sixteen years of age he left the school and commenced life for himself, engaging in farm labor in White Deer township, Union Co., Penn., receiving \$8 per month. Soon afterward he began to learn harness making in Lewisburg, Penn., serving an apprenticeship of three years, during which he received his board and \$25 per year for two years, and \$45 and board the third year. He was now a full-fledged tradesman, and in July, 1873, he came to Fremont, Ohio, and engaged to work for William Schroeder, a harness maker. He earned the money for the trip by working on the railroad, receiving \$1.85 per day, and he followed his trade in Fremont two years, when he was compelled to abandon it on account of ill health. Having no other trade, he worked at wood chopping for farmers in the vicinity of Fremont until the winter of 1875, when he went to Bloomville, Seneca county, and hired out to Robert Reed, a distant relative, for whom he did farm work two years. In 1878 he commenced work with J. D. Wilsey & Son, of Bloomville, who were engaged in the manufacture of boat oars, and with them he continued some twelve years, removing with them to Jerry City, and remaining with them until their removal to Savannah, Ga. He received flatter-

ing inducements to accompany them thither, but declined, and he has since found employment in the oil business, having for over four years been pumper for the Standard Oil Company.

In the fall of 1879 Mr. Rearick's mother and sister, Katy, came to Bloomville, Ohio, to live with him, and later removed with him to Jerry City, where the mother passed away March 29, 1890; she was laid to rest in Jerry City cemetery. They made a most comfortable, pleasant home here, which Mr. Rearick and his sister still occupy. He is one of Jerry City's most active men, and has served his fellow citizens in several town offices, having been city councilman one term, and street commissioner one term, and he is at present a member of the board of education, of which body he is treasurer. He is a Republican in political sentiment, but is not bound by party lines, supporting the best men irrespective of party, and is a friend of the Prohibition cause. In religious connection he is a Methodist, and an active worker in the Church, in which he has been class-leader, trustee and steward, still serving in the last named office. He has been superintendent of the Sabbath-school for the past seven years. Mr. Rearick is an intelligent, wide-awake member of the community, taking an interest in all measures which he considers beneficial to the general welfare. He has won an honorable position for himself among his fellow townsmen, and is comfortably situated in life as a result of continuous hard work.

W. J. JEWELL, an energetic young business man of Tontogany, was born November 12, 1861, on a farm in Plain township, where his parents still reside. His father, Samuel Jewell, was a native of Virginia, and came to Wood county in early times, and married Miss Louisa Johnson.

The subject of this sketch received an elementary education in the old Hampton school house in his neighborhood, and was early trained by his parents to those habits of industry which have proven the basis of his success in life. In 1887 he was married to Miss Phœbe Gross, who was born in Indiana, January 2, 1861, and they have two children: Guy and Beatrice. After his marriage Mr. Jewell settled on a farm in Plain township, which he cultivated until 1890, with the exception of a few years during which he was engaged in pumping oil. Having the income from forty acres of land, and four good oil wells, he retired from business and came to Tontogany to reside. But, belonging to that class of men who cannot exist in idleness, he soon determined to engage in business; accordingly, on April 15,

1895, he opened a meat market, where his energy and ability have a profitable field of action. If his past gives any reliable promise of his future, Mr. Jewell will some time rank among the leading business men of the county. He is interested in every movement tending to the general welfare, and is a prominent member of the Plain Congregational Church.

FRED SWARTZ, a prominent and influential farmer of Lake township, located on his present farm in 1867, at that time purchasing sixty-seven acres of timber land, to which he has since added and now has a fine tract of 143 acres under a high state of cultivation. He is a man of great energy and perseverance, and has effected many improvements upon his farm since taking possession, including the erecting of a good frame residence in 1876. He was at once recognized as a valued addition to the community, a man possessing excellent judgment, and giving support and encouragement to those enterprises calculated for the general welfare.

Mr. Swartz is a native of Medina county, Ohio, born in Liverpool township, January 10, 1841, and is a son of Frederick and Fredericka (Henning) Swartz, whose births occurred in Germany. They were married in Medina county, where the father engaged in farming, and in 1855 removed to Troy township, Wood county, where his death occurred in 1886, and his wife died two years later. To them were born eight children: Fred, subject of this review; Jacob, who enlisted in the same company and same regiment at the same place as our subject, and died at Bowling Green, Ky., November 30, 1862; John, a resident of Perrysburg township, Wood county; Lucien, who makes his home in the same township; Andrew, of Webster township, Wood county; Mrs. Carrie Puse, who died in Perrysburg township, in 1875; Mrs. Kate Frantz, of Troy township; and Mrs. Christine Puse, of Perrysburg township.

Our subject spent his boyhood in Medina county, where he attended the common schools, and in 1855 accompanied his parents to Troy township, where he made his home until locating upon his present farm. His entire life was devoted to agricultural pursuits, and he has been very successful in his chosen calling. In 1862, at Stony Ridge, in Troy township, Mr. Swartz joined Company K, 111th O. V. I., for three years' service and was mustered into service at Toledo, where he was assigned to the 23d Army Corps, under Gen. Sherman. At the battle of Resaca he was wounded by a shell, and was taken

to the field hospital, from which he was sent to Nashville, and later to Camp Dennison Hospital at Cincinnati, Ohio, where he received an honorable discharge in 1865, and returned to his home. In Liverpool township, Medina county, in 1865, Mr. Swartz married Miss Louise Nollenberger, a native of that county, of which her father was one of the early pioneers; he died in Medina county, and his wife in Wood county, about 1883. Nine children have been born of the union of our subject and his wife, namely: William, who is married and resides in Lucas county, Ohio; Fred, a resident of the same county; Frank, of Toledo, Ohio; Isaac; George; John; Albert; Arthur; and Katie.

Mr. Swartz votes the straight Republican ticket, and takes an active interest in politics, but cares nothing for public office. He is prominently identified with J. B. Wolford Post No. 153, G. A. R., of Perrysburg. Both he and his estimable wife are consistent members of the Lutheran Church, are foremost in all good works, and are highly respected in the community. They have witnessed the many changes that have taken place in the county since their arrival, and give their support to all interests for the public welfare and advancement.

JOHN MARSHALL was born in Salem township, Columbiana Co., Ohio, June 16, 1831, and is a son of Joseph and Mary (Sterling) Marshall, both natives of Mercer county, Ohio. The father, who was a farmer and teamster by occupation, enlisted in the war of 1812, but was never called out to active service. From his native county he removed to Columbiana county, where he made his home until 1854, when he took up his residence in Mount Blanchard, Hancock Co., Ohio. There he died in the spring of 1856, at the age of fifty-eight years. His wife survived him twenty-one years, passing away at the advanced age of eighty-six. Their children were: Joseph, who is living with our subject; Thomas, who served in the 186th O. V. I., and died at the age of sixty-two; Michael, who died at the same age; Elisha, who died at the age of twenty-five; John; Firmon, who died in Delaware, Iowa, at the age of forty-eight; and Mary E., who died at the age of seven years.

On the old home farm John Marshall was reared, and, at the age of eighteen, he began learning the wagon-maker's trade at Franklin Square, Columbiana Co., Ohio, following that pursuit in connection with farming. While in Columbiana county he built the largest team wagon that was ever made in this State. The

rear wheels stood six feet high, the front wheels four feet, and twenty-two barrels of flour could be laid in the bottom of the bed. Our subject was a young man of twenty-three when he went with his parents to Hancock county. He remained at home until after the death of his father, supporting the family from his meager wages, which amounted to about fifty cents per day. In Orange township, Hancock county, October 19, 1856, Mr. Marshall married Martha Castor, then living in Delaware township, Hancock county, but a native of Columbiana county, born October 8, 1830. Her parents were John and Jane (Sterling) Castor. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall located in Delaware township, Hancock county, where they lived until 1861, removing then to Wyandot county, Ohio. In 1864 our subject enlisted in Company I, 175th O. V. I., and participated in the hotly-contested battle of Franklin, where the regiment lost 106 men. He was then in all the engagements until after the battle of Nashville, and was honorably discharged at Camp Dennison, Ohio, in July, 1865.

Mr. Marshall then continued his residence in Wyandot county until 1873, when he purchased and located on 120 acres of partially-improved land in Henry township, Wood county. Afterward he sold forty acres, and, later, the remaining amount; then, in 1881, purchased sixty-four acres in Hammansburg, where he has since resided. On this tract he has erected five residences, and also owns three houses and lots in North Baltimore. In his business undertakings he has prospered, owing to his enterprise, indomitable perseverance and sound judgment, until today a well-deserved success is his. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Marshall was blessed with three children, two of whom — Louisa Demaris and Emma Jane — are deceased; the surviving daughter is Isa Milda, wife of Artemus Apple, of Henry township. In politics Mr. Marshall is a Republican, and has served as assessor for one year, while for about five years he has been township trustee. He has always been faithful to the duties of both public and private life, and his sterling integrity and many excellent traits of character have won him high esteem.

**HENRY MITTER.** Germany has sent many substantial citizens to this country, and a number of them, settling in farming communities, have become well-to-do men, their native thrift and industry causing them to succeed where others would fail. Our subject was born in the Fatherland January 30, 1828, in Baden, son of Andrew Mitter, who was a farmer in fair circumstances,

and had a family of seven children, as follows: Henry, whose name introduces this sketch; Andrew, a millwright, of Holgate, Ohio; Lena (widow of John Armbruster), also of Holgate; Rosa (Mrs. Jacob Armbruster), of Bryan, Ohio; Joseph, of Fremont, Ohio; Mary, Mrs. Fred Benner, of Ottawa county, Ohio; and Fred, who enlisted in the 72nd O. V. I., served his term of service, received an honorable discharge, and boarded a boat to return home, after which nothing was ever heard of him. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Mitter came to America at the same time our subject emigrated, settling in Sandusky county, Ohio, where they died.

Our subject received a good education in his native language, but he has acquired all his knowledge of English by practical experience. His father being a farmer, he was reared to agricultural pursuits, but after his younger brothers became old enough to help at home he commenced to work in a distillery, continuing at that work for four years in Germany. When twenty-five years of age he was married, in his native country, to Miss Rosa Baysinger, and two children were born to them there: Rosa, now the wife of Samuel Lifter, of Napoleon, Ohio, and Robert, a farmer of Sandusky county, Ohio. In May, 1859, the family sailed from Bremen, Germany, and, after a voyage of thirty-four days, landed in this country, coming directly to Fremont, Sandusky Co., Ohio, where friends of theirs were living. A tract of land, comprising eighty acres, was purchased, for which they paid \$1,800, although only a small potato patch of four acres had been cleared, and the rest was still new. In the fall of 1882, our subject came to Six Points, Wood county, where he has since resided, for the last couple of years living retired from active labor. In his early life he was a very robust man, and he worked hard, but he never kept any comforts from his family to accumulate money or property. Since their arrival in this country children have been added to the family circle as follows: Charles F., who lives at home; Emma (now Mrs. John C. Michael), of Portage township; George, at home; Mary E.; and Andrew, at home. There were others who died young. Mr. and Mrs. Mitter are members of the Lutheran Church, and are highly respected in the community. Mr. Mitter is a Democrat in politics.

**J. A. McCrory,** a well-known, leading citizen of Cygnet, and a representative of one of the pioneer families of Wood county, was born in Liberty township, February 17, 1861. His father, James McCrory, was a native of Pennsyl-

vania, and came to Wood county, with his father, Samuel McCrory, locating in Henry township, where he was reared to manhood. Here, for his second wife, he wedded Mary A. Mercer, and they became the parents of the following children who grew to adult age: William P., Samuel J., Jennie, our subject, Mary A., Horace A. and Albert O. The mother is now a widow, her husband having died in October, 1885. By both marriages Mr. McCrory became the father of fourteen children. Through most of his life he followed farming; but for a time was engaged in merchandising in the village of Portage. He was five feet, eight inches in height, heavy set, but rheumatism seized him in later years, and he died at the age of fifty-seven, his remains being interred in Mercer cemetery, Liberty township. In politics he was a Democrat, and besides other positions he held the office of justice of the peace, was well-read on legal matters, though entirely a self-educated man, had a good knowledge of the Scriptures, and could argue a question very ably. For the last three years of his life he was a total abstainer, though he had always been used to drinking, his father having been a tavern keeper, and always kept liquor in his home.

Our subject attended the district schools of Liberty township, and remained under the parental roof until seventeen years of age, when he began teaming, and he also operated rented land for a time. Later, he was employed as a barber in McComb, Bowling Green and Jerry City, Ohio; but when the oil boom struck Wood county, he again took up teaming, removing to Cygnet in June, 1889. He owned several teams, and hired many more, and continued operations along that line until 1890, when he began the livery business, in connection with which he also carried on a barber shop for a short time; but in June, 1891, a fire destroyed his barn, on which there was no insurance. On March 10, 1894, he was again burned out, but the following summer he built his present barn, 50 x 100 feet, and a shed, 16 x 50 feet, the largest establishments of the kind in the county. His well-conducted livery business has grown to extensive proportions, and he also handles buggies and harness. On January 31, 1886, in Portage, he married Miss Mary C. Myers, a native of Henry township, and daughter of Abraham Myers, a farmer. Two children bless this union—Maud F., and Claude O.

Mr. McCrory takes an active part in political affairs, voting with the Democratic party, but has always declined office, with the exception of three years when he served as deputy marshal. He is a charter member of Knights of Pythias Lodge

No. 384, of Cygnet, and was connected with the Grange during its existence. Public-spirited to a great degree, he takes a commendable interest in everything tending to the advancement and welfare of his town and county, being foremost in the support of any improvements.

JOHN L. LOVEL. To a student of human nature there is nothing of greater interest than to examine into the life and character of a self-made man, who, realizing that success is not a matter of family connections, or the result of fortunate circumstances, steadily, and persistently works his way upward, and uses the obstacles which he meets in his career as stepping stones to something higher. To this class belongs Mr. Lovel, and with pleasure we present to our readers his life record.

Born in Wheatfield township, Niagara Co., N. Y., September 8, 1828, he is a son of James and Annie (Meeker) Lovel, both natives of the Empire State, the mother having been born in Tioga county. The father was a farmer by occupation, and also took contracts to get out ship timber. He served in the war of 1812, and afterward located within nine miles of Niagara Falls, where he lived for about twenty years. He then removed to Hancock county, Ohio, purchasing eighty acres of land in Pleasant township, where he carried on agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred in 1846, at the age of sixty years. His wife died at North Baltimore, Wood county, in 1882, at the age of ninety-two years. In their family were the following named children—Joseph, a carpenter of McComb, Ohio; Simeon, who died of cholera in Cincinnati, in 1855; Mary Ann, widow of Jacob Grubb, of North Baltimore, Ohio; Diana Adelia, widow of John Pickens, who died in the Union army, during the Civil war; Harrison, who died in childhood; John L., of this sketch, and William J., who went to Illinois in 1877, and still resides there.

Our subject received only such educational privileges as the district schools afforded. In his youth he learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed for several years, and also worked in a sawmill owned by his brother. He was fourteen years of age, when, with the family, he located in Hancock county, Ohio. He had aided in driving the teams and stock from the old home in New York, and then gave his assistance to his father in the development and improvement of the farm. At the age of twenty he left home and, in company with his brother, Joseph, embarked in the sawmill business in Pleasant township, Hancock county, carrying on operations along

that line for about seven years, when he sold his interest and turned his attention to farming. He purchased land in the same township, and continued its cultivation until after the breaking out of the Civil war.

In 1861 Mr. Lovel responded to the country's call for troops, and followed the ensign of Company H, 21st O. V. I. He remained with that command for about seventeen months, and then re-enlisted, in the 39th O. V. I., with which he continued until the close of the war. He was captured by the enemy in South Carolina, while on the March to the Sea, but on a rainy night succeeded in making his escape, and again reached the Union lines. He participated in many a hotly-contested battle, and made for himself an honorable war record. When the war was over, he was mustered out at Louisville, and returned to his old home in Hancock county.

After a short time, however, Mr. Lovel removed to Paulding county, Ohio, and later to Michigan, where he purchased a tract of pine land for \$2.50 per acre. A year later he sold it for \$12 per acre, and subsequently resided for a short period in Paulding county, Ohio. His next home was in Whiteside county, Ill. There he rented a farm until 1884, when he returned to the Buckeye State and purchased a tile and brick factory, and also sixty acres of land. He now does an extensive business in the manufacture of tile and brick, being associated in this enterprise with his son, C. D. He has cleared all of his land, and now has a profitable and highly improved farm, as well as one of the leading and paying industries of Wood county.

About 1852 Mr. Lovel was united in marriage with Mrs. Almira Brooks, who died in Blanchard township, Putnam Co., Ohio. They had six children—William, who resides in Illinois; Mrs. Margaret Hipkins, of Putnam county; Amarilla, wife of Elias Agner, of Putnam county; Calvin D., at home; Ellsworth, a merchant of McComb, Ohio; and James, who is living in Leipsic, Putnam county. For his second wife, Mr. Lovel chose Isabel Woodcock, widow of Ben Beal, who was killed in the war. Of the second union there is one daughter, Isabel. In politics, Mr. Lovel is a stalwart Republican, and he is one of the esteemed citizens of the community.

ELMER E. STEARNS, a well-known and popular educator of Wood county, where he is also employed in the oil business, makes his home in Bays. He is a native of this county, his birth having occurred in Perry township, November 20, 1862. His paternal grandparents were Jus-

tus and Sarah A. (Davis) Stearns. The former, who was born in Pennsylvania, on coming to Ohio, located in Richland county, and the year 1833 witnessed his arrival in Montgomery township, Wood county. For a time, in later years, he kept a tavern at West Millgrove; but his last days were passed at Bowling Green, where his death occurred September 8, 1888.

John Stearns, the father of our subject, was born in Montgomery township, July 6, 1839, was reared in that and Perry townships, and in Crawford county, Ohio, wedded Elizabeth Myers, a native of that county. After two years' residence in Perry township the parents removed to Plain township, but now make their home in Bowling Green. They reared four sons, of whom our subject is the eldest, the others being: William S., who is married and resides in Liberty township; Charles, who is married and lives in Milton township, Wood county; and Frank J., who is also married and operates the old homestead farm in Plain township.

In the latter township Elmer E. Stearns passed the days of his boyhood and youth, being educated in its schools and at Weston. He completed his scholastic training in Wooster, Ohio, after which he began teaching, being first employed in Plain township in 1884. He has also taught in Milton township; but for the past three years he has followed that profession in Liberty township to the entire satisfaction of all concerned.

In 1886, in Plain township, Mr. Stearns was united in marriage with Miss Naomi C. Buvinger, who was born in Dayton, Ohio, and is a daughter of William and Hattie (Goodenough) Buvinger, natives of England, who, on coming to Ohio, located in Huron county, whence they came to Wood county, and now make their home at Bowling Green. To our subject and his wife has been born a daughter—Flora B. Mrs. Stearns is now engaged in teaching at Bays, which profession she has followed for the past ten years in Wood county. Both she and her husband are numbered among the progressive and capable educators of the county, and, being themselves excellent scholars, have the power of imparting their knowledge to others.

On political questions, Mr. Stearns affiliates with the Republican party; socially, he belongs to Weston Lodge No. 81, I. O. O. F., while both he and his wife are identified with the Daughters of Rebekah, and religiously, hold membership with the Disciples Church, at Bowling Green. They are earnest Christian people, and take a prominent part in everything that will promote the

moral and educational, as well as the material, welfare of the county.

GEORGE EITING was born in Wittenberg, Germany, September 30, 1846, and is the only child of George and Maria (Bender) Eiting, also natives of that locality. The father was born in 1815, and was a farmer by occupation. When young he also learned the trade of soap-making. His death occurred in his native land, in 1871, and his wife passed away in 1873.

Our subject attended school between the ages of six and fourteen years, and then assisted his father on the farm until twenty-three years of age, when he joined the Germany army, and participated in the battle of Villers, with the Ninth Battery of Artillery, in the war between France and Germany. His army service lasted five months. At his native place, in November, 1871, Mr. Eiting married Miss Barbara Kimmick, who was born in Wittenberg, May 3, 1844. They lived on the old homestead until September, 1880, and then with their four children sailed for America, taking passage on the steamer "Rhine," at Bremen. Twelve days later they landed at New York, and came direct to Wood county. Mr. Eiting brought with him \$3,000, and in Henry township purchased eighty acres of land, which he at once began to clear and improve. This was no easy task, but as time passed he tilled his land, has transformed it into rich and fertile fields, and now has a very valuable and productive place. He is therefore ranked among the leading and substantial farmers of the community. His political support is given the Democracy, while in religious faith he is a Lutheran. To him and his wife have been born seven children, namely: George, who works in the oil fields; Mary, wife of Jacob Blocher, of North Baltimore, Ohio; Jacob, who works in the oil fields; and Barbara, William, Clara, and Charles, all at home.

DANIEL L. KUNKLER. Among the influential and prominent citizens of Bloom township, who are indebted for their present prosperous condition to their own industry and energy, and who have raised themselves in the world from a state of comparative penury to that of ease and comfort, is the gentleman of whom this sketch is written. He is a native of Ohio, born in Biglick township, Hancock county, June 5, 1852.

His father, Louis Kunkler, was a native of Nassau, Germany, and when nine years of age was brought by his father, Daniel Kunkler, to the United States, locating in Pennsylvania,

where they remained about a year. Their next home was near McCutchenville, Wyandot Co., Ohio, where they remained two years, when they located on a forty-acre tract of land in Big Spring township, Seneca Co., Ohio, becoming early settlers of that locality. In Biglick township, Hancock county, Louis Kunkler wedded Miss Arabel Baker, who was born on Walnut creek, Fairfield Co., Ohio, April 5, 1827, and was a daughter of Jacob and Susana (Bright) Baker. Three children graced this union: Lucinda, born January 25, 1848, is the wife of W. K. Frederick, of Jerry City, Ohio; Susan, born July 19, 1850, became the wife of Charles Frederick, and on his death married J. A. Bailey, of Bloom township; Daniel L. being the youngest. The father died October 19, 1852, at the age of twenty-nine years, and was buried at McCutchenville, Ohio. In politics he was a Democrat. The widow was left with the three children, the eldest being not yet five years old. She afterward became the wife of Freed Dille, by whom she had one son, Squire S., now a physician of Pemberville, Ohio; she makes her home with our subject, and is sixty-nine years old.

At the age of seven Daniel L. Kunkler went to live with his paternal grandfather, with whom he remained until sixteen years of age, attending the schools of the neighborhood in Big Spring township, Seneca county, as the opportunity afforded. On the death of his wife, in 1869, at the age of eighty-two years, the grandfather disposed of his property in that county, and went to live with members of his family in Steuben county, Ind., where he died in the fall of the same year, at the age of eighty-four. Our subject was thus thrown upon his own resources, and, in order to gain a livelihood, worked for farmers until the age of twenty-one, when he learned the carpenter's trade under the direction of Levi Kistler, of Bairdstown, Wood county, with whom he remained for five years. In Bloom township, March 25, 1877, he was married, by Squire W. S. Richard, to Lucy A. Bailey, who was born June 11, 1858, a daughter of Jacob Bailey, a farmer of that locality. They became the parents of two children: Ervy, born January 19, 1878; and Edna B., born June 6, 1888. The son is an excellent, intelligent young man, and when only fifteen years old passed the required examination to obtain a teacher's certificate, but, as he was too young to teach, it was two years later before he had charge of a school. The mother was called to her final rest October 26, 1894, and was buried in Baird cemetery, Bloom township.

For one year after his marriage, Mr. Kunkler continued to follow his trade at Bairdstown, and then went to Jerry City, where he was employed at the same occupation, or at anything by which he could gain an honest dollar. In the former place he had owned a house and lot, which he traded for eleven acres near Jerry City, giving \$400, and this property he later sold for \$1000. During his two-years' residence in that place, he also worked in the stove factory. In June, 1882, he purchased forty acres in Section 22, Bloom township, going in debt \$800 for the same, and to that farm removed the following March. An old log house and stable stood upon the place, and his stock consisted of one hog and one cow; but he at once entered upon the cultivation of his land, erected a comfortable home and substantial barn, and has now one of the best improved places of the vicinity. He is progressive in his methods, and deserves great credit for the success he has achieved. In political opinions he sides with the Democrats, and has been elected school director, constable, and trustee (three years) in a Republican township, which speaks well for his ability and popularity; socially, he has been a member of the I. O. O. F. since January, 1874, belonging to Vitus Lodge No. 602, I. O. O. F., of Jerry City, of which he is a charter member.

J. A. BAILEY, an honored farmer of Bloom township, is the eldest son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Simon) Bailey, and was born in Bloom Center, February 28, 1849. His boyhood and youth he passed in the manner of most farmer boys, attending the district schools through the winter, while in summer he worked on the home farm. At the age of twenty-two years he was married in Bloom township to Susan Frederick, a native of Seneca county, Ohio, and a daughter of Anthony and Rhoda Frederick. He then located upon a part of the old homestead, which he operated some five years. There his wife died August 5, 1875, and her remains were interred in Weaver cemetery, Bloom township. She left four children: Florence, now Mrs. Charles Wirick, of Bloom township; Clarissa, wife of Gideon Dennis, of the same township; and Savilla and Drusilla (twins), the former of whom died at the age of six months, the latter now making her home with her grandfather, Frederick, at Bloom Center.

After the death of his wife, Mr. Bailey broke up housekeeping, and for some time made his home with his parents, during which period he traveled extensively over Iowa, Illinois and Mis-

souri. When a young man of eighteen he had visited Whiteside county, Ill., and also some localities in Iowa. On April 17, 1884, he was again married, this time to Mrs. Susan Frederick, widow of Charles Frederick, and daughter of Lewis Kunkler. Her birth occurred in Hancock county, Ohio, July 19, 1850, and, her father having died when she was about two years old, she became an inmate of her grandfather's (Daniel Kunkler's) home. She remained with him until sixteen years of age when she came to Wood county, where she worked out as a domestic, though she considered her home was with her mother, then the wife of Solomon Frederick, of Bloom township. Two children have been born to our subject and his wife: Hollis H., born September 22, 1885; and Frank, born February 17, 1891.

After his second marriage, Mr. Bailey lived for two years at Bloom Center, during which time he operated his father's farm; but in February, 1886, he removed to Section 3, Bloom township, where he purchased thirty-five acres, and has built thereon a comfortable home, otherwise making many good improvements. Politically, Mr. Bailey was for several years a Democrat, but is not at present bound by party ties, reserving the privilege of selecting his candidate, regardless of party affiliations. In 1893 he was elected, on the Democratic ticket, trustee of Bloom township; also served as school director of District No. 2 for several years, and has been supervisor of his district. He now holds membership with Vitus Lodge No. 602, I. O. O. F., of Jerry City, though he formerly belonged to Bloom Lodge No. 406, of Bloomdale. An honest, hard-working man, his upright life has won the confidence of all with whom he has come in contact.

JAMES F. LONG, a successful farmer and enterprising citizen of Portage township, was born in Ashland county, Ohio, August 17, 1845, and is the son of James and Matilda (Markeley) Long.

James Long, Sr., was born near Philadelphia. His father (also named James) was a native of Ireland, and came to Wayne county, Ohio, at an early period, dying there and leaving his family, consisting of ten children, comfortably situated. The father of our subject was the eldest child. He attended school only three months, but obtained a fair education by studying at home. In Ashland county, he married Miss Matilda Markeley, a native of that county, and a daughter of Peter Markeley, an early pioneer. After his marriage Mr. Long went to farming on a small place in Ashland county. He had left

home when fifteen years old, incurring the displeasure of his father, who left him out of his will. About 1856 Mr. and Mrs. Long moved to Holmes township, Crawford county, on a farm of twenty acres. His wife died in 1858, and for his second wife he wedded Miss Sophia Shaeffer, who still lives in Sandusky county. Mr. Long died in Holmes township, at the age of fifty-six years. The children born to Mr. Long by his first wife were: Lavina, who married (1) Levi Helm, and (2) Peter Reed, and died in Portage township; Joseph died when seven years old; John is a farmer in Center township; Sarah J. is now Mrs. Noah Helm, of Liberty township; James F. is our subject. The children by Mr. Long's second wife, who lived to maturity, were: Susan, who married and died in Wyandot county; Delilah, now Mrs. John Kryder, of Wyandot county; Nancy married Abram Feil, of Sandusky county; Philip lives in Sandusky county, as does also William. Mr. Long was a Democrat, and took great interest in the success of his party. He did not aspire to office, but held some minor positions. The mother of our subject is buried in Wayne county.

Our subject attended the Ashland Academy at Ashland, Ohio, which was at that time an old pioneer school. He began going there when but four and a half years old, and attended regularly until eleven, when his parents moved to Crawford county, and his career at school was suddenly closed, as he never went again. He worked at home for his parents until his enlistment, August 12, 1862, in Company L, 10th O. V. C., at Mansfield. The company went to Cleveland, where the organization was completed, and it was then sent south to Murfreesboro, Tenn., its first engagement being at Snow Hill. Mr. Long participated in all of the engagements with his regiment until he received a wound, March 10, 1865, at "Kilpatrick's Surprise," or Solomon's Grove, N. C., when he was sent to the Wilmington Hospital, and, after a few days, was taken down Cape Fear river to Smithland, where he remained until July 3, 1865, coming at that time to Cleveland, where he arrived about the time the rest of his regiment was discharged, August 10, 1865.

Mr. Long went to Crawford county, and worked at chopping wood, he and his brother cutting 2,450 cords of four-foot wood in four winters. In October, 1865, he bought eighty acres of timber land in Center township, paying on it \$300, which he had saved from his army pay. In Crawford county he worked until the fall of 1869, when he came to Wood county and

made some improvements on his land there, afterward selling it, and buying forty acres in Section 3, Portage township, in the spring of 1871. This was all timber land but one and one-half acres, and he at once began improving it. On October 10, 1871, he was married, in Bowling Green, to Miss Frances J. Underwood, who was born in Liberty township, a daughter of William Underwood. She was a teacher, and taught nine terms in the district schools. This union resulted in five children: Elmer J., Aiden, Estelle, James F., Jr., and Iona, all of whom are at home. Mrs. Long died September 15, 1891, and was buried in the Portage cemetery. Mr. Long's second wife was Mrs. Henry Rees, whose maiden name was Cludey. In 1892 Mr. Long erected a good, substantial residence, where he and his family are now living.

Although his father was a Democrat, and he lives in a Democratic neighborhood, Mr. Long is a staunch Republican, and has always been a hard worker for the success of his party, but never asked for office. He is an extensive reader and observer, has a retentive memory, and is well posted on all the issues of the day. He is a man of natural intelligence, a shrewd business man, and is regarded as one of the representative farmers of Portage township.

D. J. SHOEMAKER is the genial and popular proprietor of a leading grocery store in Dowling, and belongs to that class of energetic, wide-awake business men to whom a community owes its prosperity and advancement. He was born in Findlay, Ohio, June 20, 1851. His father, Henry Shoemaker, was a native of Virginia, and, on leaving the Old Dominion, took up his residence in Fairfield county, Ohio, where he purchased 160 acres of land, there making his home until 1864, when he sold and removed to Perrysburg township, buying a farm of 240 acres, which he cultivated until his death. He was married in Fairfield county, to Cynthia Roberts, and they became the parents of eleven children: George, a farmer of southern Kansas, now serving as county commissioner; Mary, wife of Alex. Beard; Uritta, wife of David Beard; Susan, wife of Melvin Parker; D. J.; Wallace; Byron; Tissie, wife of Myron Shannon; Owen, who died while repulsing a Rebel charge during the Rebellion; and two who died in childhood. The mother of this family is now living with our subject.

The subject proper of this review was reared on a farm, and for a number of years carried on agricultural pursuits. He then engaged in contracting and building for sixteen years, and after-



ward purchased fifty acres of land in Perrysburg township, and, later, eighty acres. On selling that property, he bought 120 acres near Deshler, which he still owns and operates. In 1888, he embarked in the grocery trade, and now has a well-appointed establishment, while from the public he receives a liberal patronage. On February 23, 1873, Mr. Shoemaker was united in marriage with Mary Miekle, who was born in Scotland, in 1851, a daughter of John Miekle, of Scotch Ridge, Ohio, and three children graced their union: Wilbur; Ober; and Johnnie (deceased). The parents are active members of and prominent workers in the Methodist Episcopal Church. In politics, Mr. Shoemaker is a stalwart Republican, and for a number of years has served as school director; socially, he is connected with Freedom Lodge No. 723, I. O. O. F., of Pemberville. His success is an indication of persistent effort, earnest application, and capable management, and he holds high rank in business circles.

**AMOS COY.** The representatives of the farming and fruit-growing interests of Ross township acknowledge this gentleman as one of the most important factors who aided in bringing his section of the county to its present enviable condition. He was born in Ross township, in 1859, and is a son of George and Rebecca (Packer) Coy. His father was a native of Oxfordshire, England, and at the age of fourteen was brought by his father, Ezra Coy, to the United States. They first located in Stark county, Ohio, but in the '30s" became residents of Ross township, Wood county, where Ezra Coy died. In that township, the son was married, and located upon the farm in Section 31, where our subject now resides. There his death occurred in March, 1893, and his wife who had long preceded him to the other world, died in 1874. Four children were born to them: Mrs. Ann Blondin, of Oregon township, Lucas Co., Ohio; Mrs. Ellen Cowles, of Lake township, Wood county; Alice, wife of Henry Rideout, of Ross township; and Amos, of this sketch. The early life of Mr. Coy was spent after the manner of most farmer's sons, in a comparatively uneventful manner, during which he attended the common schools, and made himself useful around the homestead as his years increased. He now owns a good sixty-acre farm, highly cultivated and improved, on which he is successfully engaged in general farming and fruit-growing.

In 1887, in Lucas county, Ohio, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Coy and Miss Emma

Wright, who was born in Ross township, this county, where her father, James Wright, had located at an early day, but is now engaged in gardening at East Toledo. Two children grace this union—George and Alma.

To give proper care to his business interests, absorbs the greater portion of his time, but as a public-spirited citizen, he pauses between his pressing duties to interest himself in the welfare of his native county, and assists, as opportunity offers, in the enterprises tending to its development and progress. He votes the straight Democratic ticket, but has steadily declined to become an office-seeker, being convinced that he can serve the interests of the public fully as well by sustaining the principles of the party, and allowing other men to enjoy the offices.

**FREDRICK AMOS**, a retired pioneer farmer of Portage township, was born February 8, 1831, in Bavaria, Germany, and is a son of Michael Amos. The family, which consisted of parents and seven children—Michael, Catherine, Adam, George, Fredrick, Margaret and Jacob, the two latter being twins—sailed from Le Havre De Grace, France, in 1837, for America, securing passage on a three-masted ship. The voyage was a rough one and many storms were encountered, during one of which, the lightning ran down the mainmast, killing three sailors, and just missing three kegs of powder. Ninety days were spent on the ocean before they reached New York. The parents and the family came west to New Lisbon, Ohio, by way of the Hudson river and railroad to Buffalo, thence by lake to Cleveland, there taking wagons. The family remained in New Lisbon six months, during which time the father went to Wood county and bought eighty acres of land in Section 1, Portage township, and then returned for his wife and children. In February, 1838, they drove from New Lisbon to Wood county, having the use of an ox-team part of the way. Three-quarters of an acre had been cleared, and a small shanty, 12 x 15 feet, had been erected, which was their first home in the wilderness. To add to their other troubles Mr. Amos died in August, 1838, and his wife was left with seven children, a stranger in a strange land. The nearest neighbor lived one-half mile distant, and the next nearest, five miles. Mrs. Amos was without money and, although the children helped all they could, they were too young to be of much use. They were obliged to trade the clothes brought from Germany for provisions, and nettles were cooked for greens. Besides all this, the children suffered from ague. After a few

years of varying fortune the crops began to thrive, but suffered much from the ravages of wild animals.

Fredrick, our subject, was thirteen years old before he was able to attend school, and then for only a few months. He remained at home until twenty-one years old, at which time he started out for himself. In May, 1858, he was married in Portage township, to Miss Martha Mercer, a native of that town, and a daughter of William Mercer, one of its pioneers. Their children were as follows: Samantha E. (now Mrs. Isaac Shinew), of Portage township; Caroline, now the wife of Exel Phillips, of Webster township; Earl D., who died in infancy; Seymour and Seymourse (twins), the former of whom is a farmer of Henry county, the latter dying when two years old; Fredrick, deceased in infancy; Adelbert, at home; Lucy, married to Edward Pugh, of Milton township; and Clara B., now the wife of Lewis Shinew, of Portage township. Our subject took for his second wife Mrs. Martha J. Kring, widow of Peter Kring. At the time of his marriage, Mr. Amos had fifty acres of land, on which his mother lived with him for four years. In March, 1874, he came to Portage township, and lived for two years in Portage village. He bought eighty acres of land in Section 9, and in 1893 built him a good, comfortable home. He is a Democrat, but does not seek office, preferring to look after his own business. He has had a rather rough time of it, and has been unfortunate in many ways; but he has overcome his bad luck, and is to-day a successful farmer, and a respected citizen of the township. His present wife is a most estimable woman, and an excellent helpmate. He is a member of the F. & A. M., at Bowling Green, and is retired from active life.

CHARLES G. WIRICK. Among the young men of Wood county who have selected agriculture as their vocation in life, and judging from present indications are bound to succeed in their chosen calling, is the subject of this biographical notice, who is a resident of Bloom township. He was born January 22, 1870, on the farm which is still his home, and is a son of David and Mary A. (Smith) Wirick. His mother died during his infancy, and he was then taken to the home of his uncle, Solomon Smith, where he remained a year; but, with the exception of that period, he remained with his father up to the time of his marriage. His education was obtained in District School No. 3, his first teacher being Della Drane.

On September 7, 1892, Mr. Wirick was

united in marriage with Miss Florence Bailey, a native of Bloom Center, Wood county, and a daughter of John A. Bailey. The household is brightened by the presence of a little son—Squire D., born November 18, 1893. After his marriage, Mr. Wirick located on his uncle's (Solomon Smith) farm, which he operated until the spring of 1893, since when he has owned and cultivated the old homestead, in Section 8, Bloom township, which comprises eighty acres of as fine land as can be found in the county. He also engages in teaming in the oil fields, keeping several horses for that purpose. In politics he is independent, voting for the man, not the party. Although young in years, he is one of the representative men of his township, occupying a high place in the estimation of his fellow citizens, and is an energetic straightforward business man, enjoying the confidence of all with whom he comes in contact.

CHARLES H. COY. Among the progressive and enterprising farmers of Wood county there are very few who are the peers of the subject of this biographical sketch. His residence is situated in Section 32, Ross township, where he is engaged principally in general farming. His birth occurred in that township September 16, 1854, and he is the son of Charles and Mercy (Gardner) Coy. The father, who was a native of Oxfordshire, England, came to America at an early day, and became a resident of Perrysburg, Wood county. Here he married, and upon a farm in Ross township made his home. Six of his seven children grew to adult age, namely: Mrs. Mary Eggleston, of Ross township; Mrs. Caroline Dixon, of West Toledo, Ohio; Louisa, wife of Isaac Rideout, of Ross township; Addis, who became the wife of Fred Wachter, and died in Ross township; Charles H., subject of this sketch; and William O., who is living on the home farm. For many years the father served as trustee of Ross township, and there died in 1883, while his wife departed this life in December, 1893.

The subject of this biographical notice received his education in the district schools of Ross township, then called Perrysburg township, and was reared upon a farm. In his early manhood he commenced agricultural pursuits for himself, and has always been engaged in farming and gardening, owning 137 $\frac{3}{4}$  acres in the home farm, and eleven acres just outside the city limits of Toledo. His land is all highly cultivated and improved, and he erected thereon substantial farm buildings. On January 1, 1876, in Ross township, was celebrated the marriage of Mr.

Coy and Miss Carrie Wales, a native of that township, and a daughter of Oscar and Sophronia (Horton) Wales, who were born in New York, but were among the early settlers of Wood county. The father now makes his home in Fulton county, Ohio, but the mother is deceased. To our subject and his wife were born six children: Addie; Fannie; Carrie, who died in 1886; Charley, who died in 1890; Raymond and Mars. The mother of these children was called to her final rest in 1890, and, in 1893, Mr. Coy was again married, his second union being with Florence Crane, who was born in Lake township, Wood county, where her father, Thomas K. Crane, still makes his home. One child graces this union, Aaron Edward. Politically Mr. Coy is an adherent to the principles of Jeffersonian Democracy, and although not an office seeker has been trustee of Ross township since 1893. He is an intelligent, industrious and energetic citizen, who takes a very prominent place in the community where he lives, and socially is connected with Maumee Lodge No. 515, I. O. O. F. Both he and his estimable wife preserve the warmest esteem of the entire neighborhood for their many admirable virtues, and for their genial manners.

C. C. FULLER is one of the energetic and industrious farmers of Wood county, who, since 1865, has resided in Section 32, Liberty township, where his father purchased a fifty-acre wooded tract, and moved thereon a frame house, which was hauled from Scott township, Sandusky Co., Ohio. He is a native of Maine, born in 1849, and is descended from worthy New England ancestry. His paternal grandfather spent his entire life in the Pine Tree State; but his maternal grandparents, Charles and Catherine (Brooks) Richardson, who were also born in Maine, emigrated to Sandusky county, Ohio, whence they come to Wood county in 1865; but their last days were passed in Isabella county, Mich., where the grandfather died at the age of ninety years, and the grandmother in 1895, at the age of eighty-nine.

The births of the parents of our subject, William and Polly (Richardson) Fuller, occurred in Maine, on the Kennebec river, where they were reared and married, and on coming westward, in 1851, they first located in Cuyahoga county, Ohio. At the expiration of two years, however, they removed to Scott township, Sandusky county, locating on a small farm, where they made their home until coming to Liberty township in 1865. In that county the father had followed

the carpenter's trade, and after his arrival here continued to follow that occupation. The family dwelling was located about forty rods south of the present residence of our subject. The parents are now living at Weston. To them were born eight children—C. C., of this sketch; Sarah Melissa, a widow lady now residing in Weston; Seth, who died in Scott township, Sandusky county, in 1863; Rosella, who died in Liberty township, in 1869; Miles, who is married and lives in Isabella county, Mich.; and Mrs. Elmira Morrison, Mrs. Mary Nie, and Flora, who all make their homes in Weston.

C. C. Fuller was only two years old when brought by his parents to the Buckeye State, and in the schools of Scott township, Sandusky county, he acquired a fair education. At the age of sixteen he accompanied the family to Liberty township, Wood county, and has since been numbered among its most progressive and enterprising citizens. He still resides upon the old homestead, which indicates by its neat and thrifty appearance to be under the supervision of a careful and painstaking owner.

In 1868, in Liberty township, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Fuller and Miss Elizabeth Crocker, a native of England, and a daughter of Richard and Betsy (Reynolds) Crocker, who was born in Devonshire, England, and in 1852 with their family came to Canada, whence they removed to Crawford county, Ohio, and in 1858, to Wood county, locating upon a farm in Liberty township four years later. There the father died in 1893, but his widow still makes her home on that place. Mrs. Fuller is the oldest of eight children, and is followed by Mrs. Ann Schaaf, of Attica, Ohio; Sam, a resident of Wingston, this county; George, of Liberty township; Mrs. Mary Leedy, who makes her home in West Independence, Hancock Co., Ohio; William, of Liberty township; Mrs. Emma Inman, of Jackson township, Wood county; and Clara. Five children grace the union of our subject and wife, and they also lost one in infancy. In order of birth they are as follows: Mrs. Ida William; Mrs. Myrta Alspaugh, of Liberty township; Anna, who died at the age of fifteen months, in 1876; William; Frank; and Ada.

In his political affiliations Mr. Fuller is a pronounced Democrat, always supporting that party with his ballot, and at present is serving as constable and postmaster at Wingston. He belongs to the Knights of the Maccabees, No. 858, and religiously is a member of the United Brethren Church at Wingston. For over thirty years he has made his home in Wood county, taking an

active interest in its welfare, and doing all in his power to promote and elevate its interests, and with pleasure has noted the wonderful changes that have taken place within its borders.

**ROBERT YOUNGS.** The record of a life is seldom marked by startling events, and the reader who seeks subject matter of thrilling interest seldom turns to biography, except he who would learn lessons to aid him in his own pilgrimage, and can oftentimes find them in the record of the men who improve their opportunities from day to day and faithfully discharge each duty as it comes. Such a man is the subject of this review. He was born April 27, 1849, near the town of King's Lynn, County of Norfolk, England, a son of Robert and Grace (Barber) Youngs, natives of the same county. The father was a farmer by occupation. He sailed from Liverpool on the vessel "Manhattan" with his wife and family, and, after a voyage of eight weeks, landed at New York, whence he came direct to Huron county, Ohio. He located on a rented farm, and, in the spring of 1864, came to Liberty township, Wood county, where he purchased twenty-three acres of wild land on which stood a log cabin. He afterward added forty acres to the original purchase. His death occurred July 21, 1885, and that of his wife on July 23, 1889. Their children were as follows: John, who served as a private in the 10th O. V. C., and died from the effects of a wound in the right leg received at the battle of Resaca; Sarah, wife of Lije Russell, died in Lucas county, Ohio; William is an inmate of the Toledo hospital; Lizzie is the wife of Henry Sautter, of Plain township; Robert is our subject, and James died on the passage to America.

Our subject began his education in his native land, and continued his studies in the schools of Huron and Wood counties. He was reared on his father's farm, and remained at home until his marriage, which occurred in Weston township, the lady of his choice being Miss Sarah, daughter of James and Harriet (Hughes) Ellis. They have five children—Grace, Caroline, Robert J., Walter, and William J.

Upon their marriage, Mr. Youngs and his wife located on the old family homestead, where they have since resided, the former devoting his time and energies to agricultural pursuits. He votes with the Republican party, and takes a deep interest in its success and growth. Socially he is connected with the Lodge of Odd Fellows at Weston. His honest, industrious life has made him well liked, and he has in this community many warm personal friends.

**G. S. MEEKER**, a popular citizen, and the genial postmaster at Stony Ridge, was born on June 9, 1845, in Plain township, a son of H. S. and Eliza A. (Harris) Meeker, also residents of that township.

Our subject began his education in the common schools near his home, afterward pursuing his studies at Center, and then taking a course at Tontogany under Prof. Kelley. Subsequently he engaged in teaching school for several years, and was a capable educator. He also worked on his father's farm until 1870, when he learned the carpenter's and joiner's trade, which he has since followed. In 1883 he took up his residence in Sugar Ridge, and established the first mercantile store in the town. He was one of the first to petition for a post office, and when this was secured he gave it the name of Sugar Ridge. He was also the first postmaster, and to-day occupies that position with credit to himself and satisfaction to the public. His business interests are well conducted, and in all his dealings he is honorable, upright and trustworthy.

In 1866 Mr. Meeker was united in marriage with Miss Mary C. Longmore, of Seneca county, Ohio, and five children grace this union: Minnie, wife of S. Hunter; Nettie, wife of George Schell, of Putnam county, Ohio; Mertie; Lee; and Maud, wife of Charles Duhamel. His fellow townsmen, appreciating his worth and ability, have frequently called on Mr. Meeker to serve in public office. For two years he was assessor; for a number of years was supervisor; also school director, and he discharged his duties with promptness and fidelity. He was a member of the Grange, of which he served as grand master; has been master workman in the Knights of Labor, and is a member of the Knights of Pythias fraternity, the Independent Order of Red Men, and the I. O. O. F. In his political affiliations he is a Democrat, and in his Church relations he is a Methodist. He is a wide-awake, progressive citizen, and has been an important and valued factor of the community in which he makes his home. Three different times he enlisted during the Civil war, but owing to various causes, chiefly on account of his youth, he was not accepted.

**N. G. BERKLEY**, a leading agriculturist of Liberty township, was born in Lyman, N. H., December 9, 1825. His father, Robert Berkley, was a native of Scotland, and during his boyhood was brought to America. The grandfather, Robert Berkley, Sr., was born in Scotland, April 15, 1756. He married Rhoda Way, who was

born in Sharon, Conn., August 21, 1759. Their children were as follows: Rhoda, born March 17, 1780; William, born January 5, 1783; Anna, January 8, 1785; Elizabeth, October 10, 1788; Irena, July 10, 1790; Cyrus, July 5, 1792; Hannah, November 1, 1795; Robert, September 1, 1798, and Sarah, September 19, 1801.

The parents of our subject were married in New Hampshire, September 17, 1820, and their children were seven in number, the names and dates of birth being as follows: Britain W., August 9, 1821, Arthur, January 25, 1823; Ladora, February 28, 1824; Nelson G., December 9, 1825; Oscar F., January 28, 1830; Ladora (2) A., January 24, 1836, and Thirzah J., September 24, 1839.

When a young man the father learned the shoemaker's trade, and later operated a large tannery at Lisbon, N. H. About 1836 he sold his business and removed with his family to Redfern, N. Y., where he operated a glass-factory, sawmill and gristmill for five years. He then erected a large sawmill four miles from Redfern, on the river, purchased timber land and floated the trees down the river to the mill. He there carried on business until his death, which occurred October 18, 1853. He was then living with his second wife, his first wife having died many years previous.

In his boyhood Nelson G. Berkley began making boxes to be used in his father's glass factory, and became quite proficient also in work in the saw and grist mill. He continued in his father's employ until coming to Ohio, in August, 1850. On November 21, 1849, he was married, in New York, to Mary Ann Bigelow, Rev. R. Westcott officiating. He brought his wife to Ohio, traveling the entire distance of one thousand miles with two horses, a light wagon and a buggy. He settled in Medina county, and for about three years had charge of different sawmills. He also traded horses, and engaged in breaking colts, and in teaming. In the spring of 1853 he came to Wood county, living in Webster township, and again for three years engaged in the sawmill business. He afterward returned with his wife and family to New York, living in Clinton county, his health demanding the change. There he ran on the river and worked in sawmills, but after two years he went to Neenah, Wis., where he was first employed at the carpenter's trade, then went with twenty-two men up the Little Yellow river for the winter. They traveled through the snow in unbroken forests and across trackless prairies, and experienced many hardships and difficulties incident to life in an undeveloped region. During

the summer, Mr. Berkley was employed in a sawmill, rafting the lumber down the river.

The following fall, he returned to New York, and then came with his family to Wood county, where for three years he rented a farm. He then purchased his present home of 106 acres in Liberty township, on which he has made many excellent improvements, transforming it into a fine farm. Here he again experienced many difficulties and hardships; but resolute purpose and unfaltering energy at length triumphed over these. In politics he is a Republican. On May 15, 1883, our subject's wife died, and two and a half years later he wedded Mary A. Landes. The children of the first marriage were Van Rensselaer, who was born in Medina county, Ohio, September 7, 1850, and died February 23, 1851; Helen Virginia, who was born in Medina county, March 25, 1852, and is now the wife of George Sykes, of Michigan; Ladora Imogene, born in Wood county, April 5, 1855 (deceased), formerly the wife of Samuel Wood; Mary Frances, born in Saranac, N. Y., May 20, 1857, wife of John Wolf, of Ohio; Robert Nelson, born in Clinton county, N. Y., March 9, 1860, and died June 18, 1864; Susan Ellen, born in Wood county, October 10, 1862, wife of Jacob Hawk; Ernest Elmer, who was born in Wood county, February 9, 1865, and is now in Henry township; and Elizabeth Alta, born in Liberty township, October 19, 1867, now the wife of Samuel Smith.

CONRAD BEIL, a farmer in Washington township; post office, Haskins, Ohio.

J. C. FREEMAN, a prominent and highly respected citizen of Tontogany, was born at Weston, Ohio, to May 17, 1865, to J. H. and Caroline (Hollis) Freeman, the former a native of Pennsylvania, of German descent, and a farmer by occupation, the latter of Vermont, born of English parentage. Our subject is the second in a family of three children, the eldest being Laura, wife of George W. Harmon, foreman of the Artificial Gas Works, of Toledo, Ohio, where they reside; to them have been born six children: Aloh, Leona, Guy, Adon, one whose name is not given, and one who died in infancy. The youngest in the family is William B., who is agent for the C. H. & D. railroad, at Bowling Green; he wedded Ettie Ellsworth, of Weston.

J. C. Freeman remained on the home farm, in Washington township, until he reached the age of eighteen years, aiding his father in the cultivation of the fields, and attending the district school of Maple Grove. He later pursued his

studies in a school at Burton, Ohio, working in the store of Dr. F. A. Krill on Saturdays and in the evenings. It was his intention to take up the study of medicine with that gentleman, and finally go in partnership with him. The Doctor had made his home with our subject's father from infancy, and, feeling a deep interest in John, wished to show his gratitude by paying his expenses in securing a medical education. In the meantime, however, a school of telegraphy was opened at Burton, and Mr. Freeman was appointed assistant superintendent. There he remained for about three months, when he returned home, and later came to Tontogany, with the firm determination of making railroading his occupation. During the year and a half of his stay there, he was obliged to work at cutting corn, or at anything which he could find to do, in order to obtain money to meet his necessary expenses. At length, Mr. Freeman was appointed night operator at Johnson, six miles north of Dayton, Ohio, by the C., H. & D. Railroad Company, where he remained for a little over a month. It seemed to our subject that it was the loneliest place on earth, and great was his delight, one night, when the dispatcher called him up, and asked him if he would accept the agency at Tontogany, and if he thought he could hold the position. It was such a surprise that Mr. Freeman could hardly answer, but at last he managed to accept, and since September 5, 1887, he has been located there. He now has charge of the United States Express Company's business at that place, is ticket and freight agent, and also has the account of all freight passing over the T. B. G. & U. B. division of the road. Formerly he had charge of all the telegraphing, but has since been given a night and day assistant. His long retention in this service indicates his faithful performance of duty, and the strict attention he gives to his employers' interests.

On December 23, 1888, Mr. Freeman was united in marriage with Miss Frances L. Wright, who was born August 18, 1869, a daughter of David Wright, who was formerly a leading citizen of Tontogany, and a veteran of the Civil war. Two children have been born to this union—Howard M., January 30, 1890; and Nadine H., November 30, 1893.

Almost the entire life of Mr. Freeman has been passed in Wood county, and those who have known him longest are numbered among his staunchest friends. In politics he is an ardent Republican; but, aside from using his right of franchise, he has no time to devote to political

measures. Socially, he is a third-degree Master Mason, belonging to Tontogany Lodge No. 451, F. & A. M., while in religious faith he and his wife are worthy members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

HENRY FREYMAN was born near Zanesville, Muskingum Co., Ohio, in 1853, and is a son of John E. and Mary Jane (McLain) Freyman. The father was born in Germany in 1818, and when a young man learned the miller's trade. Coming to America, he located in Muskingum county, where he was married, and then took up his residence on a farm. In 1856 he removed with his family to Wood county, and purchased 160 acres of prairie land in Liberty township, to which he afterward added twenty-five acres which was in Portage township, and made his home on the farm until his death, which occurred in 1878. The mother of our subject had died many years previous, and the father afterward married Mrs. Nancy Walters. The children by the first marriage were: Catherine, who died in infancy; Sarah Jane, wife of G. W. Simons; Peter, who was killed at the battle of Bentonville, during the Civil war; John, who died at the age of thirty-five; Caroline, wife of William Kenny, of Bowling Green; George W., of Portage township; Clarissa, wife of Matthew Munn, of Plain township; Henry; William, of Portage; and Perry, deceased.

Our subject attended the district schools of Liberty township, and spent two winters in school in Coles county, Ill. He remained at home until going west in 1870, at the age of seventeen years. He was ambitious and had a great desire to see the country, and, though he had little money, he resolutely started out and made his way to the home of his uncle in Coles county. In the spring he sought employment as a farm hand, and received \$20 per month and his board. He rented a farm in 1876, which he operated until December, of that year, when he returned home, accompanied by his brother William, who had joined him in Coles county in 1874, with a team of mules and a covered wagon. Our subject was very successful while in the West, and after his return he aided in the cultivation of the old homestead until his father's death, when the property was equally divided among the heirs, he receiving twenty-five acres which he afterward traded with his brother for land in Section 12, on which the old homestead now stands. He has thirty-seven and a half acres all cleared and highly cultivated.

Mr. Freyman was married in Plain township in 1879, to Miss Minnie Bruber, and to the marriage were born three sons—Carl, George and

Howard Henry. In politics our subject is a Republican. He is a member of the United Brethren Church.

GABRIEL ASH is one of the substantial agriculturists of Milton township, and the success he has achieved has come as the result of his own industry, capable management, and resolute purpose. He was born in Seneca county, Ohio, October 14, 1838, and is a son of Jacob and Sarah (Putnam) Ash. In the family were the following children: Gabriel, Elizabeth, Susan, Franklin, David (deceased), Josiah, Mary, Monroe (deceased), Harriet and Henry. By a second marriage the father also has one child, Jesse.

The school privileges which our subject received, were quite limited, for his services were needed in the development and cultivation of the home farm. He gave his father the benefit of his services until he had attained his majority, when he started out in life for himself, working as a farm hand for \$10 per month. It was thus that he got his start, for with his large family of children, the father could give them little assistance. Our subject was employed for eight months in Seneca county, and then came to Wood county. He was married in Hancock county, December 6, 1860, to Miss Hannah Miller, who was born in Marion county, Ohio, in March, 1839. They then located on a forty-acre farm in Milton township, which Mr. Ash had previously purchased, and for twenty-six years he made his home upon that farm, transforming it into richly cultivated fields, and making many excellent improvements upon the place. On the expiration of that period he returned to Hancock county, and for two years operated a farm belonging to his brother-in-law. In the spring of 1891 he removed to his present home, having exchanged the 120 acres of land which he formerly owned, for this property. He now has one of the fine farms of Milton township, whereon are good barns and a comfortable residence, that are surrounded by waving fields of grain.

To Mr. and Mrs. Ash have been born two children: Sarah, who is engaged in the millinery business in Weston; and Mary, wife of Daniel Baumgartner, of Henry county, Ohio. The mother of these died in 1881, and, for his second wife, Mr. Ash wedded Eleanor Niebel, who was born in Wyandot county, Ohio, October 16, 1850.

On questions of national importance, Mr. Ash is a supporter of the Republican party, but at local elections, where no issue is involved, he votes for the man whom he thinks best qualified for office, without regard to party affiliations.

He has never sought or desired office, preferring to devote his time and energies exclusively to his business interests. He is an active member of the Evangelical Church, and Mrs. Ash also takes quite a prominent part in Church work. In connection with general farming, Mr. Ash has for the past twenty-six years, been interested in the breeding of fine horses, and at the present time is the owner of two first-class animals, both imported from Belgium—"Sultan," a splendid draft horse, and "Weddell," a fine road horse. Since a mere lad our subject has been a fancier and a lover of fine stock, and much credit is due him for the interest he has shown in this direction.

JOHN P. BATTLES, a farmer and justice of the peace of Plain township; post office, Bowling Green, Ohio.

J. A. BOWERS, a wide-awake and progressive young farmer of Middleton township, was born in this county November 21, 1860. He is a son of Peter Bowers, who was a well-known citizen of Wood county, and of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. Our subject attended school in Haskins, and is a well-informed man who keeps posted on political questions and all current events. He now operates 120 acres of the old homestead, which farm is under a high state of cultivation, indicating his thorough care. Energetic and industrious, he has well-tilled fields which yield to him a golden tribute. His home is presided over by his sister. His entire time and attention are given to his business interests, and he has never taken any active part in public affairs. He exercises his right of franchise in support of the Democratic party, and socially is connected with Roche-de-boeuf Lodge No. 532, I. O. O. F.

J. M. FORD was born in Erie county, Ohio, May 5, 1859.

The Ford family is of English origin. His father, William Ford, was born in Devonshire, England, in 1834, the son of William Ford, who came to America with his family in 1849, and made his home in Erie county, during the remainder of his life. William Ford, Jr., our subject's father, grew to manhood in Erie county, and was there married to Miss Rebecca Gillespie, who was born in 1840 in Pennsylvania, and came with her parents to Wood county. Her father was a Scotchman by birth. In 1872 our subject's father moved to Bowling Green, where he died January 17, 1892; his widow still survives

him. Five of their children lived to adult age: J. M., Mary M., Benjamin, Nettie, and Cora.

J. M. Ford having come to Bowling Green during his boyhood, his education was mainly acquired in the public schools there. For a few years after completing his studies he experimented in various employments, doing whatever he found remunerative; but he was faithful and industrious in all his undertakings, and for such young men there is always a chance to rise. In the course of time he managed to become the owner of a meat market, which became one of the best in Bowling Green, and commanded an extensive trade. He has also purchased real estate in the city at different times, which proved to be a good investment. He married Miss Ida E. Yonker, one of Bowling Green's attractive daughters, born in 1863, and has two children: William M. and J. M., Jr. In politics Mr. Ford is a Republican; socially he is a member of the Knights of Pythias.

**BENNETT J. GERDES**, a prominent young agriculturist of Webster township, residing near Dowling, was born in Hanover, Germany, January 13, 1860.

His father, Robert J. Gerdes, was also a native of Hanover, and was there married to Miss Hannah Seigler, by whom he had ten children: John; Bennett J., our subject; Garrett; Joe; Emmett; Lizzie; Annie; Henry; and two who died in early infancy. The mother of these is now deceased. The father came to Wood county with his family, in 1871, and settled upon land in Perrysburg township. Here, at the age of sixteen, Bennett J. Gerdes undertook the task of making his own way. For three and a half years he worked on a farm at \$16 a month, and by close economy managed to buy a small farm, which he has enlarged until he now possesses one hundred acres of the best farming land in the county.

Mr. Gerdes was married in 1886, to Miss Katie Warns, who was born in 1867, a daughter of John Warns, a well-known citizen of Perrysburg. One child was born to this union, but died in infancy. Intelligent and genial, Mr. Gerdes takes an influential and active part in all local movements, and he is a member of the F. & A. M., Phoenix Lodge, No. 123, of Perrysburg, and of the I. O. O. F., Freedom Lodge, of Pemberville.

**GILIEN HEMINGER**. The subject of this narrative was one of the early pioneers of Montgomery township, where he still resides, and has contributed his full quota toward its development

and progress, having cleared about 300 acres. A farmer by occupation, he still operates a fine tract of land, comprising 119 acres, in Section 5, where he has made his home for over twenty years, and is now ranked, socially and financially, among the leading men of the township. He was born March 27, 1825, in Stark county, Ohio, and is the son of Andrew and Elizabeth (Yunkman) Heminger, natives of Pennsylvania, where they were married. At the beginning of the war of 1812 they located in Stark county, near Bolivar, and when our subject was about six years of age removed to Suffield township, Portage Co., Ohio, where the father died at the age of fifty-eight years. He was a Democrat in politics, and in religious faith both were members of the Presbyterian Church. The mother died at the home of our subject in Montgomery township, at the age of seventy-four years.

In the family were eleven children: Ali, who died when young, in Pennsylvania; Frederick, who died in Montgomery township; Daniel, who died in Henry township; Henry, who died in Montgomery township; Elizabeth, who married Michael Smith, and died in the same township; Rosan, who married Andrew Heminger, and died at White Pigeon Prairie, Ind.; Rebecca, who died at the age of fourteen years; Susan, who married Daniel Phillips, and died in Portage township, Wood county; Gilien, subject of this review; Mary, who married Chris Dutler, and died in Williams county, Ohio; and Adam, who died in Portage township.

The education of our subject was such as the district schools of the time afforded, and he early became familiar with agricultural pursuits. When a boy of about fifteen years his widowed mother, with her four children yet at home—Gilien, Susan, Mary and Adam—came to Section 7, Montgomery township, where she had purchased a forty-acre timbered tract. Selling the small house which she owned in Portage county, with two ox-teams she had the household effects hauled to this county, and after the expenses were paid was left with but little capital. Our subject became the main support of his mother, working as a hired hand upon farms in the neighborhood. On December 12, 1847, in Montgomery township, Mr. Heminger was married to Miss Sarah Willard, who was born in Stark county, February 17, 1820, and is the daughter of Jacob and Margaret (Kiser) Willard. Her father, who was a native of Germany, came to America when ten years old, but her mother was born in Stark county, Ohio, and was the daughter of one of the earliest settlers of that county—Jacob Kiser,



who there located several years prior to the beginning of the nineteenth century. Mrs. Heminger is the sixth child in a family of seven--two sons and five daughters--and as her mother died when she was quite young, she came with her sister Maria (wife of Frederick Heminger) to Wood county, in 1840, with whom she made her home until her marriage.

Mr. Heminger began his domestic life upon the farm which his mother had purchased, and later bought out the interest of the other heirs. He owned several different tracts before buying his present farm, in Section 5. Five sons were born to himself and wife, four of whom are engaged in agricultural pursuits: Frank M., of Sandusky county; Emanuel and Daniel, of Montgomery township; and Oliver P., at home; Joshua, the youngest of the family, is a postal telegraph operator. Since casting his first vote, Mr. Heminger has always been a stalwart Democrat, and in religious belief his wife is a member of the German Baptist Church. As early settlers, they well deserve an honored place among those noble old pioneers, the greater part of whose lives has been spent in Wood county, and no couple throughout the entire community are held in higher regard or are more universally loved and respected.

THOMAS M. CARR, a retired farmer of Liberty township; post office, Portage, Ohio.

FRANCIS MAGINNIS (deceased) was a native of West Virginia, born November 3, 1819, and a son of Daniel Maginnis, a native of the Emerald Isle. When a child of thirteen he accompanied his parents on their removal to this county, the family locating in Plain township, where he worked on his father's farm until his marriage, and early became familiar with the duties of farm life.

In Plain township, April 15, 1847, Mr. Maginnis was joined in wedlock with Miss Mary Meeker, who was born in Butler county, Ohio, August 12, 1828. They became the parents of eleven children: (1) James W., the eldest, born June 30, 1851, is a railroad contractor; he married Arvilla Mingus, who was born December 25, 1872, in Huron county, and they have three children. (2) Fannie, born October 27, 1854, became the wife of John Muldowney, a railroad conductor, and died in May, 1881. (3) Sarah C., born September 29, 1856, is the wife of Charles Persto, of Toledo. (4) Mahlon M. was born October 11, 1857. (5) Mary A., born November 20, 1859, is the wife of W. H. Smith, of Toledo, Ohio. (6) Margaret A., born May 8,

1862, is the wife of John Manly. (7) Annie M., born May 24, 1864, died in childhood. (8) Francis, born September 28, 1866, is a railroad engineer. (9) Charles, born August 8, 1868, died in 1870. (10) Harry O., born October 29, 1871, operates the homestead farm. (11) Sela, born January 26, 1875, is the wife of A. B. Chalender.

Having carried on farming for a number of years in Plain township, Mr. Maginnis, in 1881, removed to Middleton township, where he purchased eighty acres of land that he afterward greatly improved by erecting thereon barns and other buildings. He was numbered among the early settlers of Plain township, and had to contend with the trials and hardships of pioneer life; but he was industrious and energetic, and overcame these by continued application and effort. By energy and enterprise he worked his way upward from humble surroundings to a position of affluence, and, by his honorable and straightforward dealings, won the confidence and respect of all. His life was one well worthy of emulation, and those who knew him had for him sincere regard. After a painful illness he passed away March 30, 1887, surrounded by a loving wife and family, and mourned by many friends. He had served as assessor of his township for a number of years, and was also trustee, discharging his duties in a very creditable and satisfactory manner. In politics he was a supporter of Democratic principles, and was a consistent and faithful member of the Presbyterian Church.

Since her husband's death Mrs. Maginnis has conducted the farm, with the aid of her sons. She is one of the pioneer ladies of the community, was to her husband a faithful companion and helpmeet, and in this volume the family is well-deserving of representation.

IRA B. HORNER, a farmer in Weston township; post office, Weston, Ohio.

GEORGE WHITMILL, deceased, who during his lifetime was a leading and influential farmer residing in Section 31, Ross township, located upon his farm December 31, 1863. It then comprised a tract of eighty acres of wooded land, upon which he built a story-and-a-half house, 16 x 26 feet, with two Ls, one 18 x 20 feet, and the other 12 x 20. In September, 1887, this home was destroyed by fire. Our subject was a native of England, born in Oxfordshire, in 1845, the son of George and Mary (Savory) Whitmill, natives of the same county, the former born in April, 1813, the latter on April 3, 1814. Their

marriage was celebrated May 10, 1838, and in 1854 they emigrated to America. After residing in Washington township, Lucas county, for some time, they became residents of Ross township, this county, and upon his farm here the father died May 8, 1881; the mother passed away September 15, 1893. In their family were six children—George, born March 18, 1839, died in England in 1840; Emanuel, born May 14, 1841, died in England, in January, 1842; Alfred, born November 11, 1842, died in Ross township, in August, 1868; George, of this sketch; Maria, born in August, 1848, died in Ross township, October 25, 1868; and Frederick, born September 27, 1852, died in England in 1853.

George Whitmill was nine years of age when he left his native land, sailing from London, and after a voyage of six weeks, the vessel dropped anchor in the harbor of New York. His first home in this country was near Toledo, Ohio, where he attended school, and during his younger years he engaged in gardening. He continued always to follow agricultural pursuits, which he thoroughly understood.

In what was then Perrysburg township, but is now Ross township, on December 24, 1866, Mr. Whitmill led to the marriage altar Miss Josephine H. Christopher, who was born in Norway, and was a daughter of Christian and Elizabeth Christopher also natives of that land. On coming to the New World they located at Ypsilanti, Mich., where the father worked as a carpenter and there died. His wife passed away at Saginaw, Mich., in 1893. The death of Mrs. Whitmill occurred September 14, 1875. By her marriage to our subject she became the mother of three children—Florence A., born October 5, 1867, is the wife of F. L. Steen, of Cummings, Lake township, Wood county; Mary M., born May 5, 1870, died May 17, 1871; and Clarence F., born May 1, 1875, died September 1, following. In Lucas county, Mr. Whitmill was again married March 10, 1877, his second union being with Rose Munday, a native of England, where her parents, William and Elizabeth (Stofford) Munday, were also born, but now make their home in Oregon township, Lucas county. Two children graced the second union—William, born March 25, 1879; and Edna, born September 26, 1887.

Upon his forty-acre farm in Ross township, Mr. Whitmill engaged in general farming, until his death. He assisted in organizing the township, and there cast his first vote. He affiliated with the Republican party, for two terms served as treasurer of the township, and had also been

constable. He was ever an earnest worker in the interests of the community in which he lived, and occupied a very prominent place in the opinion of his neighbors.

D. J. CARGO, ticket and freight agent of the T. & O. C. railroad; address No. 309 Madison street, Toledo, Ohio.

JOHN SHIPLE, a farmer of Middleton township, was born August 25, 1855, in the county which is still his home, and is a son of Sabastin Shiple, sketch of whom appears in that of G. A. Shiple. He attended the public schools of Middleton township, and worked upon his father's farm through the days of his boyhood and youth, thus becoming familiar with agricultural pursuits in all departments. In 1880, he removed from the old homestead to the farm, which comprises forty acres of good land, on which have been made excellent improvements; it has been tiled and drained, and on it has been erected a substantial barn for the care of stock—the work of development and cultivation having been carried forward until it is now one of the finest farms in Middleton township.

Mr. Shiple was married in Middleton township, in 1880, to Barbara Dreps, a daughter of Joseph Dreps, who died November 2, 1895. Four children now grace their union, namely; Clara, Minnie, Bernard and Bertie. In his political views Mr. Shiple is a stalwart Democrat, and his religious connection is with the Catholic Church. He is an enterprising and progressive farmer, genial in disposition, and in the community in which he has so long made his home, has many warm friends.

H. W. LE GALLEY, D. D. S., who is one of the leading dentists of Wood county, and a highly esteemed resident of Bowling Green, was born near that city, August 20, 1862. He is the son of A. H. and Mary S. (White) Le Galley.

The grandfather of our subject, William LeGalley, came to Wood county, from Huron county, Ohio, in 1853, and purchased 220 acres of land in Plain township, which is now one of the principal gas and oil fields in the county, and where he is still living at a good old age, having been born in 1815. His parents were of French extraction, and died near Sandusky City when William was quite young. He was apprenticed to the tanner's trade with a man by the name of Terry, whose daughter, Maria, he afterward married. They had six children, namely: Fannie, who died in childhood; Myron, a farmer near

Bowling Green; J. H., the father of our subject; William T., residing near Bowling Green; Celia, who lives with her parents; and Charles, who is still at home.

The father of our subject was born in 1838, and was seventeen years of age when his father came to this county. He was married to Mary White, who was born in Erie county, Ohio, in 1841, and settled at once on a farm in Plain township, where the family have lived ever since. He has three oil wells on his farm, which is adjoining that of his father, and from which he derives a good income. He is a stanch Democrat, an ardent temperance man, and a member of the Baptist Church. The paternal family consists of three sons: Henry W.; Marion E.; and Myron E., who is in the Dental College at Indianapolis, Ind. These sons are of the same political and religious belief as their father, and are worthy representatives of the good old stock from which they sprang.

Dr. Le Galley has spent his entire life in his native town, where he attended the public schools; he began the study of dentistry in 1885, and, after obtaining his diploma, located in Bowling Green in the month of July, 1887. He is a self-made man, and has become an expert dental surgeon. He looks after the care and comfort of his patients by making all operations painless, as near as it is possible to do so. He is the first dentist in the county to make use of "Cataphoric Appliance" (an electric current) for the painless filling of teeth. There are hundreds of people throughout Wood county who testify to the merits of the Doctor's professional ability, and as being thoroughly up to date in his methods of work. His wife is a valued assistant in the operating room, and is becoming an apt worker in the gold crown and bridge work department of the office. They are very popular, not only with their patients, but with the public generally, and hold a high position socially.

The Doctor and his esteemed family, consisting of his wife, and their charming daughter, Alma, take an active part in Church and Sunday-school work in the Baptist Church, and give liberally of their means to the maintenance of organizations that are founded upon the idea of the uplifting of humanity, and they have a host of friends among the people of the county. Fraternally, the Doctor is a member of the Knights of Pythias.

C. A. COOPER, who ranks among the energetic, self-made young farmers of Portage township, was born June 17, 1861, in Jackson town-

ship, Hancock Co., Ohio, son of Henry and Rachel (Wolfgale) Cooper. The father was born in Pennsylvania, and came to Fairfield county, Ohio, with his parents, who subsequently returned to Pennsylvania. Henry removed to Hancock county, entering land in Jackson township, where he passed the remainder of his days, dying when our subject was fourteen years old. He was twice married, and had fifteen children, our subject being born to the second union; his widowed mother makes her home in Van Wert county, Ohio.

Our subject attended the district schools of his day, and was reared to farming life. He started in life with no capital but willing hands and a determination to succeed, and by industry and careful management he has acquired a comfortable property. On April 1, 1887, he came to Portage township, Wood county, buying the sixty-acre farm in Section 25 which he now owns and lives upon, and which he had placed under a good state of cultivation. Though obliged to go in debt for this land, he is now in independent circumstances, and is known as one of the substantial men of his neighborhood. He is everywhere respected for his integrity and many sterling qualities, as well as his ability as an agriculturist. On January 13, 1887, he was married, in Wyandot county, Ohio, to Miss Della Riter, who was born in that county June 19, 1865, daughter of Jacob Riter, a well-to-do German farmer. Two children have blessed this union: Bessie, born March 4, 1888, and Theodore, born May 19, 1893. Mr. Cooper is a stanch Republican in political faith, and is interested in the success of his party, though not active in party affairs.

ORRIN GOODELL is numbered among the enterprising and thorough-going farmers of Troy township, residing in Section 28, where he has now made his home for over forty years, during which time he has aided in the growth and development of his locality. He is a native of Huron county, Ohio, born in Townsend township, in 1844, and is a son of Cyrenius and Lucretia (Studley) Goodell, both of whom were born in New York. When a boy the former accompanied his father, David Goodell, to Huron county, and there the grandfather worked at his trade of a shoemaker at an early day, and also opened up a farm. In Huron county the parents of our subject were married, and in 1855 they brought their family to Troy township, Wood county, where the father purchased the farm of a Mr. Phillips, on which Orrin now resides. His death occurred near Bowling Green, Ohio, in

1883, and his wife passed away near Dunbridge, Ohio, in August, 1894. In political sentiment he was a strong Republican, and became one of the prominent early settlers of Troy township. Our subject is the eldest in the family of five children, and was followed by Marion, a resident of Webster township, Wood county; Jane, wife of Henry Sternaman, of Middleton township, this county; John, who makes his home in Dunbridge, Ohio; and Albert, of Bowling Green. The paternal grandfather spent his last days in Huron county, his widow then making her home with her children; she passed away in Richland county, Ohio.

The education of Orrin Goodell was begun in Huron county, but at the age of eleven years he was brought to Troy township, where he completed his literary training. He early began to assist in the work on the home farm, and has since devoted his attention to agricultural pursuits with good success. He owns the old homestead, comprising sixty-seven acres of valuable land, pleasantly situated, and adjoining the village of Luckey. In the development and progress of the county he has taken an active part, and by his sagacity and foresight, while contributing to the welfare of his native State, he has been enabled to accumulate a comfortable competence. He takes quite an interest in political affairs, and casts his ballot with the Republican party. In June, 1865, in Troy township, he married Miss Celestia Williamson, a native of that township, and a daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Sternaman) Williamson. Her father was born in New York, whence he removed to eastern Ohio, later coming to Wood county, but his last days were passed in Iowa, where he died. His wife was called from this earth while in Webster township, Wood county, in 1853. Three children grace the union of our subject and his wife: Sanford married Miss Helen Banks, a native of Webster township, who before her marriage was engaged in teaching in Wood county; Cyrenius is still with his parents; and Myrt is attending school.

CONRAD SHEFLER, a retired farmer of Montgomery township; post office, Risingsun, Ohio.

J. W. FRY, a thorough-going, energetic farmer of Portage township, is a native of Ohio, born January 16, 1855, in Mahoning county, a son of Jonas and Elizabeth (Greenawalt) Fry, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere.

During his boyhood, our subject attended school at Bloom Center, Delilah Bailey being his

teacher. He was trained to agriculture on the home farm, where he remained with his parents the greater part of the time until his marriage. Previously he had purchased forty acres of land in Bloom township, but never lived on it, and shortly after his marriage he sold it, and rented a farm in Perry township for six years. On November 29, 1887, he removed to the farm of 160 acres in Section 36, Portage township, which he still occupies, and which he has since given all his time and attention to, improving it in many ways. In 1892, he erected a fine barn, 40 x 70 feet in dimensions, and remodelled his residence, and he now has a most comfortable home, of which he may well be proud, his fine property having been all acquired by his own efforts. He has been very successful, and his prosperity is well deserved, being the result of industry and careful management.

On October 23, 1881, Mr. Fry was united in marriage, in Bairdstown, Ohio, with Charlotte E. Graham, who was born June 9, 1858, daughter of Adam Graham, of Montgomery, Wood county, and six children were born to them, as follows: Bert Clyde, who lives at home; Frankie F., who died in infancy; Minnie E., a very bright child, who died when four years old; Lottie Hazel; Flora G., who died in infancy, and John H. Mrs. Fry was called from earth April 5, 1894, dying very suddenly, and was buried in Millgrove cemetery. Mr. Fry is a Democrat, but gives no time to politics beyond going to the polls and casting his vote, preferring to devote himself entirely to his business affairs.

J. H. WHITKER, one of the best-known and most prosperous farmers in Weston township, was born in Freedom township, Wood county, November 7, 1845. His parents, Ernest and Elizabeth (Bullmar) Whitker, were natives of Holland, where they were married, and later they came to the United States. To their union eight children were born, of whom the following record is given: Caroline is the wife of Fred Tickets, a member of the sanitary police force at Toledo, Ohio; John H. is our subject; Fred is a manufacturer in Toledo; Mary is now Mrs. Delmar, of Toledo; William, resides in Freedom township; Ed. is a partner with his brother Fred, in Toledo; Lizzie died in youth; Lizzie (2nd) is the wife of William Brewer, a jeweler, in Toledo. The father owned a farm of eighty acres, which he cultivated, and was also engaged in teaching. He died of cholera, and his wife took the school, which she taught for some years. She died when seventy-two years of

age. William, the brother of our subject, cleared up the farm which his father owned, and is now the possessor of it.

Our subject, after the death of his father, made his home with an uncle until he was fifteen years old, when he went to Toledo to work in the grocery store of another uncle. He remained there for three years, and then worked on the Wabash railroad for a year and a half. The Civil war breaking out about this time, his patriotic impulses led him to offer his services to his country, and he enlisted in the 14th O. V. I., under Col. Steedman, later becoming a member of Company G, 130th O. V. I., enlisting at Toledo. His regiment was attached to the 10th Army Corps, and he participated in all the battles in which it was engaged. He was honorably discharged at Toledo in the fall of 1864. After returning to the peaceful pursuits of life, Mr. Whitker was for some time engaged in the tobacco business in Toledo, and in 1866 became associated with Mr. Keel, shortly afterward buying out the interest of that gentleman, and carrying on the business himself for about two years. He then sold out, and, in connection with A. J. Richard, bought a sawmill, which he operated for two years. He then took up the construction of railroads, building nine miles of the Pennsylvania, nine miles of the Baltimore & Ohio, seven miles of the Nickel Plate, and also some of the Coldwater railway. He also took some extensive ditch contracts in Wood county, building most of the Weston cut-off, and having an \$18,000-contract on the Jackson cut-off. In 1887 Mr. Whitker removed to Weston township, and purchased the farm of eighty acres on which he now resides. On this he has made extensive and valuable improvements in the way of building, ditching, draining, etc. In the fall of 1891 he suffered a severe loss by fire, his barn and a large amount of grain, stock and machinery being destroyed, valued at \$3,000, on which he had no insurance.

On January 2, 1866, Mr. Whitker was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Matzinger, a native of Switzerland, and nine children have blessed their union, their names and dates of birth being as follows: F. E., born November 2, 1867, is a member of the firm of Bankey & Whitker, the leading grocery men of Bowling Green, and of the county; L. E., who was born March 11, 1868, is a prominent teacher of music; John W., born June 28, 1870, is in the hardware business in Toledo; Maggie C., born April 3, 1872; Mary A., born February 3, 1874; Mertie A., born September 18, 1877, died when twelve years old; Henry, born December 25, 1880;

Anna May, born September 5, 1882; and Alice A., born April 30, 1887. In politics, Mr. Whitker was formerly a Democrat, but is now a Populist, and was nominated for the office of county commissioner on that ticket. He is a consistent member of the Presbyterian Church. He has held the offices of secretary and treasurer, and master of the Grange, of which he is a member, and also commander of Neibling Post, G. A. R., at Weston. A genial, courteous man, he owes all he possesses to his own industry, energy and perseverance, and is highly esteemed by all who know him.

W. H. DENNIS, a farmer residing in Liberty township; post office, Weston, Ohio.

HENRY P. MEYER is one of the progressive and enterprising business men of Wood county, and, for some time, has been prominently connected with the development and progress of his locality, and from a humble position has worked his way steadily upward until he now ranks among the substantial citizens of the community. He was born in Soltau, Hanover, Prussia, September 23, 1854, and is a son of Henry Meyer, a farmer by occupation, who, in June, 1871, died in the village of Hensen, where he had spent his entire life. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Anna Bartols, died there in 1868. The eldest of their children was a farmer, and died at the age of thirty-eight; Christian is a farmer of Henry county, Ohio; Frederick died in Findlay, Ohio, in 1891; William is a farmer of Paulding county, Ohio; and Henry P. is our subject.

Our subject attended school in his native land until fourteen years of age, and out of school hours engaged in work to provide for his own support. His first occupation was tending geese, afterward working as a cowboy, and, later, as a shepherd. After leaving school he was employed as a shepherd for \$14 per year, his board and a suit of homespun clothes. He learned the trade of knitting when a mere boy, and has always led an industrious life. He determined to save enough money to reach America, but as he was old enough to enter the German army, he did not dare let his plans be known. For eight months prior to sailing he worked on a railroad; then sold the thirteen sheep which he had managed to acquire, and with his earnings had altogether some \$84. His brother drew the money for him from the bank, at which time his trunk was packed and all preparations made for the journey. On foot he traveled to Soltau June 8, 1873, and took a train for Bremen. After some

delay, he finally sailed on the steamer "City of Bremen," which carried 1,700 passengers, and on the 3rd of July, reached New York. Arriving at Findlay, Ohio, he had remaining a cash capital of \$11. From there he went to Van Buren, Hancock county, where for eight years and four months he was employed as a hand on the Huntington farm in Allen township. He worked almost day and night, and within three months saved \$100. On January 13, 1875, he made his first purchase of land, comprising forty acres, to which he added another forty acres in 1876. In the winter of 1877 he left his work in Hancock county, and came to his farm, where he sawed logs, living in a dilapidated shanty. The winter was one of untold hardships, but he made considerable progress toward clearing his land, on which he made a permanent location in the spring of 1881.

In October, 1882, in North Baltimore, Mr. Meyer married Clara L. Carr, who was born in Hancock county, in 1857. Their children are Jennie A., Frank Elmer, Orma Mary, Ivan Emmet and Edwin. At the time of their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Meyer located on the farm where they have since resided. He now owns 160 acres, and his wife eighty acres, and they have considerable property in Findlay. He has developed a stone quarry on his farm, has built a limekiln there, and has become interested in the lumber business. In the fall of 1890 he erected a substantial and commodious residence upon his place. He certainly deserves great credit for his success in life, and his prosperity is justly merited. In politics he is a Democrat, and has served as school director.

G. W. HILL, deceased, late assessor of the First ward, of Bowling Green, and general agent in this county for the Globe Building & Loan Association, of Columbus, Ohio, was born in Stark county, Ohio, May 11, 1834.

His grandfather, William Hill, came from England over a hundred years ago, and was killed during the war of 1812. His father, William Hill, was born in Virginia in 1790, and came to Milton Center, Wood county, in 1835, where he located on government land. He was twice married, and by the first marriage was born one child, David, now deceased. For his second wife he married Miss Mary Fox, who was born January 2, 1794. He died in 1852, and she survived him twenty-four years. Eleven children were born of this union: Michael, William and John died in childhood; Susannah (deceased) was formerly the wife of Stewart Wilcox;

James W., and Matthew are also deceased; Eliza is the wife of Robert Stewart, of Bowling Green; Thomas is deceased; G. W. is our subject; Joseph B. is deceased; and D. H. is a resident of Milton Center.

Our subject was educated in the public schools of Wood county, and, after spending some years of his early manhood in teaching, engaged in a mercantile enterprise at Milton Center. Later he was station agent there, until his appointment as county commissioner. He served three years in that office, then was elected a justice of the peace, and he held that office for fifteen years. He had desired to enter the ministry ever since his conversion, at eighteen years of age, when he united with the Christian Church. While making his livelihood in various business enterprises, he had devoted his spare time to his preparatory studies, and, in 1855, he was ordained, and began his pastoral labors. His chief work during his years of service was done in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan, although he preached at times in other States. After several years of faithful and devoted service, he returned to Wood county, and for seven years was clerk in the office of the probate judge, doing some local preaching in the meantime. After this he again engaged in preaching until January, 1895, when he was appointed general agent for the Globe Building & Loan Association, and was also elected assessor. He was married, in 1852, to Miss Delilah E. Booker, who was born in Richland county, December 15, 1833, and to them were born three children: Almeda, the wife of George H. McCarty; Panola E., who lives at home; and Lillie May, the wife of Charles R. Stewart, of Bowling Green. Politically, Mr. Hill was a Republican; socially, he was a member of the K. of P., and the F. & A. M.

JOHN F. MYERS, at this writing (1895) serving as one of the trustees of Troy township, resides in Section 16, on the farm where his birth occurred in 1858. His parents, Christopher and Anna Barbara (Kuss) Myers, were both natives of Germany, the former born in Baiern, and the latter in the Kingdom of Saxony. In his native land the father was reared and educated, and on coming to this country first located in Medina county, Ohio, where he was married. About 1854 he came to Wood county, entering forty acres of wild land from the government. When he located upon his place there were no improvements upon it; and he began its cultivation with a borrowed team, having first cut away the timber which thickly covered the farm. There his

death occurred in 1885, that of his widow in 1895. In religious belief they were Lutherans, and his political support was given the Democratic party. To them was born a family of four children, three of whom are still living, namely: Mrs. Barbara Bueschen, of Toledo, Ohio; John F., subject of this review; and Mrs. Katie Kohn, of Troy township; the one deceased was a twin brother of our subject.

The entire life of John F. Myers has been passed upon the farm which is still his home, and in the common schools of Troy township he received his education. He has always engaged in farming, and now owns the old homestead. He has watched with interest the many changes that have taken place in the county, and contributed his share to the work of general improvement. In 1888, in Perrysburg, Wood county, he was married to Christina Wiechman, a native of this county, and a daughter of John Wiechman, of Troy township, and three children now grace their union: Freddie, Edith and Eunice. In July, 1894, our subject was elected trustee on the Democratic ticket, with which political party he has ever been identified, and has also served as school director. Thoroughly honest, upright and reliable, he is highly honored and respected by the entire community.

**WILLIAM W. HUNTER**, a prominent agriculturist of Weston, was born in Plain township, Wood Co., Ohio, January 22, 1851, a son of Philander and Phidelia (Johnson) Hunter, the former of whom was born in New England, and came to Wood county, settling near Bowling Green. His death occurred in 1851, when he was but thirty-five years old. Politically, he was a Whig. Mrs. Hunter was born in Hocking county, Ohio, and died in Milton Center, at the age of seventy-nine years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hunter were members of the United Brethren Church. Three children were born to them: Almira, deceased wife of Calvin Porter; Nathan, who died in Weston township; and our subject. Mrs. Hunter again married, her second husband being A. E. Sheets, by whom she had three children: Esther, who married Levi Lott, and with her husband resides in the South; Addie, who died while young, and David, who died at Milton Center. The paternal grandfather, Isaac Hunter, came from New York State, and the grandmother's people from New Hampshire. They died near Bowling Green.

Our subject grew up near Bowling Green, where he was married December 20, 1876, to Miss Sarah B. Long, whose birth took place No-

vember 7, 1858. They have three children: Maud, born July 28, 1878; Mabel, born March 22, 1881; William, born November 14, 1883. After his marriage, Mr. Hunter settled on his farm near Weston, which comprises sixty acres, and on which he does general farming. Politically, he is a Republican; socially, he is a member of the I. O. O. F., the Encampment, and of the Daughters of Rebekah.

**JACOB ECKERT**, a farmer in Portage township; post office, Mermill, Ohio.

**SAMUEL ULIS**. Among the prominent and enterprising farmers of Portage township, there is perhaps none that is looked upon with more respect than Samuel Ulis. Stark county, Ohio, was the place of his birth, which event took place June 15, 1831, eight miles south of Canton. His father, William Ulis, was from Pennsylvania, followed the vocation of a farmer, and died in Stark county, Ohio. At the age of fourteen, our subject accompanied his widowed mother (who bore the maiden name of Martha Schroyer) to Crawford county, Ohio, locating in Liberty township, which at that time contained but few settlers. In Stark county, in later years, the mother wedded Philip Yent, and her death occurred in Wood county when past the age of sixty years.

Like most farmer boys of those early days, Mr. Ulis secured his education in the old-time schools near his home, and at the age of nineteen, started out to fight life's battle unaided. When twenty-four years of age he was united in marriage with Miss Susanna Helm, who was born in Crawford county, in 1839, and is a daughter of John Helm. Five children have been born to this union, namely: William, a farmer of Portage township; Grant, at home; Fretta, an agriculturist, of Henry township, Wood county; Jemima, now Mrs. William Amos, of Portage township; and Pert, a farmer of the same township. By industry and economy, Mr. Ulis had saved enough money so that, at the time of his marriage, he owned seventy-five acres of land in Section 2, Portage township, a part of his present farm, which now comprises 115 acres of valuable land. However, he made his home in Crawford county until 1869, but since that time has resided in Portage township, Wood county. He has taken his farm from the timber, and all the improvements seen thereon stand as monuments to his thrift and industry. He started out in life with nothing but his own indomitable energy, and his accumulation of this

world's goods is attributable to his good judgment and capable management. He was baptized in the Lutheran Church, and in politics he is a Republican.

J. G. RALSTON, a prominent agriculturist of Center township, residing near Bowling Green, was born in Armstrong county, Penn., April 19, 1832. He is a son of Joseph Ralston, one of the pioneer settlers of Wood county, and a brother of James D. Ralston, whose biography is given elsewhere.

Our subject was only two years of age when his parents came to the county. During boyhood he attended the winter terms of school in a log house belonging to William Meeker, and worked upon his father's farm. He was married March 25, 1854, at the age of twenty-one, to Miss Louisa Walker, who was born May 18, 1834, the daughter of Samuel Walker, a well-known farmer of Center township. He continued to work at the homestead until he bought forty acres of land in the same neighborhood, where he built a log cabin and made many improvements. He sold this farm after a few years and bought property in Bowling Green, where he built a home. In 1867 he took charge of sixty acres of land in Plain township, belonging to his father, and in 1870 he sold out his interest and rented another farm, which he kept for ten years. Since that time he has conducted the Walker homestead, in Center township, managing it upon progressive and successful plans.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralston are leading members of the M. E. Church, and the latter is an active worker in the Home Missionary Society. Mr. Ralston being an Odd Fellow (Centennial Lodge No. 626), both belong to the Rebekah Lodge No. 382, of Bowling Green. They have three children: Ella, born February 22, 1858, married Dr. C. S. St. John; Charles, born November 10, 1860, a bridge builder by occupation, married Miss Viola Eaton; and William, born August 9, 1866, married Miss Anna Klatt, and lives in Bowling Green. In politics Mr. Ralston is a Democrat, and, although he does not seek office, his personal influence is felt in local affairs in the support of any movement for the public good.

E. D. WINFIELD is a practicing dentist at Perrysburg, Wood Co., Ohio.

CLINTON FAY, a prominent retired agriculturist of Bowling Green, was born in Erie county, Ohio, September 20, 1834.

His grandparents, Jonathan Fay and wife,

came from Vermont to Ohio in 1832, and were among the hardy band of pioneers who settled in the wilderness in Wood county, and prepared the way for the civilization of to-day. They had three sons, Addison, Wooster, of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Hollis, who died in Bowling Green, at about the age of fifty-eight. Mr. Fay's grandmother possessed exceptional strength and endurance, and on one occasion walked from Perrysburg to Bowling Green through the woods in one night. Both she and her husband died, and are buried in the county.

Our subject's father, Addison Fay, was born in Vermont, in 1809, and died in Wood county, January 27, 1892. His wife, Matilda Crow, also a native of Vermont, was born in 1810, and died in 1864. In 1833, shortly after their marriage, they came to Ohio, and, after spending some years in farming, in Erie and Huron counties, they finally settled upon a tract of 200 acres in Plain township, Wood county. They were among the leading members of the Presbyterian Church in that locality, where our subject's father was also prominent in many public movements, and gave support to the principles of the Republican party. Mr. Fay is the elder of two children; his sister, Ruth, who married Jacob Daly, now lives with our subject; she had three children: (1) Mary, who married Dr. Jacob Kendal, of Bowling Green, and has two children—Harry and Maggie; (2) Elizabeth (unmarried), and (3) Aletha, the wife of Frank Hall, of Wood county; they have two sons, Ralph and Raymond C.

Mr. Fay's educational advantages were limited in early life to an irregular attendance in the district schools, his time being mainly employed in clearing land and preparing the virgin soil for the production of marketable crops. However, he made the most of his opportunities, and, having the mental activity and grasp of the typical Yankee, he has gathered a valuable store of general information on all the topics of the day. He has been from the first an ardent Republican, and, in 1864, he enlisted in Company C, 144th O. V. I., for the 100-days' service, and served until the close of the war, being sent to Washington, Baltimore, Chambersburg and other points. He was married, in 1868, to Miss Leah Pugh, a lady of unusual gifts of mind and heart, who was born in Perry county, Ohio, October 23, 1835. They settled upon a farm near Bowling Green, where they spent many happy years of quiet usefulness. A true helpmeet, Mrs. Fay shared her husband's ambitions, and assisted him to realize them, and to enjoy, up to the time of her death, the fruits



of his labors. After her death, Mr. Fay removed to Bowling Green, of which he has seen the entire growth, its handsome buildings and busy streets now occupying land which in his boyhood was his favorite hunting ground.

SAMUEL C. DIMICK is the proprietor of one of the most noticeable homesteads in Center township. His residence is a handsome and substantial building, flanked by a good barn and the various other outbuildings required by the progressive agriculturist. As a tiller of the soil he is thorough and skillful, and has been uniformly fortunate in his investments. He comes from sturdy New England stock, and was born in Lyme, N. H., on June 23, 1835.

His father, Chester Dimick, was also there born July 6, 1802, and was a son of Samuel Dimick, a native of Dorchester, Mass. The latter aided the Colonies in their struggle for independence, and was married in the Bay State to Abigail Cook, who was born August 12, 1767, and was a daughter of Samuel Cook, of Vermont, who was also one of the heroes of the Revolution. This worthy couple passed their last days in Lyme, N. H., and to them were born twenty-one children.

On attaining man's estate, Chester Dimick followed the occupation of farming. On January 5, 1834, in Lyme, he married Mary Flint, who was born May 8, 1813, and was a daughter of Samuel Flint, of New Hampshire. Six children blessed this union: Samuel C., of this sketch; Charles N., who was born March 1, 1837, and was accidentally shot in Center township, Wood county, November 5, 1878; Chester E., born February 20, 1839; Liddie A. (deceased), born March 15, 1841; Francis B. (deceased), born February 2, 1844; and Mary F. (deceased), born October 16, 1846. The mother died on May 18, 1861, and Mr. Dimick was again married March 1, 1865, his second union being with Sophia, widow of Jonathan Conant. She passed away in November, 1875. For his third wife, he wedded, July 4, 1876, Nancy Franklin, who is still living. The father was accidentally poisoned by eating ivy root, and died March 4, 1877.

We now come to the personal history of our subject, who, after attending the district schools of Lyme, entered the high school of Orford, N. H., where he completed his education. After working on his father's farm for a time, he removed to Wisconsin, where he was in the lumber business for a year, and, on the expiration of that time, went to southern Minnesota, where for a year and a half he had charge of a government

farm on the Indian reservation. He then returned to New Hampshire, buying the old homestead, which he operated for seven years, and also engaged in the hardware business, which he later sold out. On again coming west, he located at Toledo, Ohio, where he was engaged in the manufacture of cans for four years, when he disposed of that business. In 1875, we find him a resident of Center township, Wood county, where he purchased 120 acres of the old Williams farm, and has here since made his home. He has one of the best orchards in the township, and his excellent farm has been brought under a high state of cultivation by industry and good management, with its attendant hard labor.

Mr. Dimick was married at Lyme, N. H., in 1860, to Mary Marshall, who was born in 1835, and they became the parents of two children, the younger of whom, Burton C., born November 4, 1869, died in July, 1889; MARSHALL C., born December 13, 1867, was educated at Toledo and Bowling Green, and now has a half-interest in the homestead farm, to the cultivation and improvement of which he now devotes his energies. He is a young man of good address, genial and industrious, and is one of the most enterprising and progressive farmers of Center township.

The father of Mrs. Dimick, Micaiah Marshall, was born at Lyme, N. H., and by occupation was a farmer. On June 30, 1811, he married Charlotte Kimball, by whom he had four children: Polly, born June 8, 1812; Francis, born August 5, 1813; Chauncy, born July 20, 1814; and Charlotte, born December 16, 1815. The mother of this family died in March, 1816. For his second wife, Mr. Marshall wedded Martha Suthard, December 25, 1817. Her birth occurred on February 12, 1798. By this union were born twelve children, as follows: B. S., born September 24, 1818, died February 12, 1839; Martha P., born September 17, 1820, died December 10, 1890; Anson S., born December 3, 1823, was accidentally shot July 4, 1874; David E., born February 4, 1825, died February 16, 1852; C. S., born March 22, 1827, died December 30, 1856; Elizabeth K., born March 16, 1829, died September 26, 1845; George C., born January 28, 1831, died December 27, 1883; Harriet E., born May 6, 1833, died December 19, 1860; Mary, born January 10, 1835, is the wife of our subject; Sarah T., born February 15, 1837, died July 9, 1849; Luena L., born July 6, 1841, died April 29, 1863; and Jane E., born August 10, 1845, died March 26, 1879. The wife and mother passed away on December 9, 1865, and Mr. Marshall later wedded Eliza K. Russ, who was

born August 16, 1807. He departed this life May 6, 1891, and his last wife died December 18, 1893.

Mr. and Mrs. Dimick are social, entertaining people, good conversationalists, and their hospitable home is ever open for the reception of their many friends. They are active and consistent members of the Presbyterian Church, in which he has been elder for many years, and, in accordance with his views on the temperance question, casts his vote with the Prohibition party. Mrs. Dimick is now in feeble health, having received a stroke of paralysis, from the effects of which she suffers much. Our subject has practically-laid aside business cares, the management of the farm being almost entirely given over to his son.

JOHN M. GOODRICK, a jeweler and tonsorial artist of Prairie Depot, is one of the enterprising, progressive business men of that live little city. He was born January 2, 1862, in Canton, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., and is a son of Dr. Nelson W. and Loraine (Leonard) Goodrick. His paternal grandparents, Isaac and Clementia Goodrick, were natives of England, and in their family were four children: Harriet, who married, and is now deceased; Nelson W., the next in order of birth; Fanny, who died young; and Isaac, who became a member of the 16th N. Y. V. I. during the Civil war, later re-enlisted in the 42nd N. Y. V. I., and was accidentally shot at a landing.

The birth of Dr. Nelson W. Goodrick occurred at Fairfax, Vt., June 9, 1836, and when quite small his mother died. After obtaining a good literary education in the common schools he learned the tanner's trade, which he followed until he entered the Physio-Medical College, at Cincinnati, Ohio, and, in 1867, he engaged in the practice of his profession. On February 28, 1861, he married Loraine Leonard, by whom he had three children: John Maitland, Adelbert, and Lester Nelson, two of whom died in infancy. When our subject was quite small the parents removed to Defiance, Ohio, but soon after went to Maumee, where the mother's death occurred, February 27, 1865. For his second wife the Doctor, in 1869, wedded Miss Fanny Conner, a native of Orange county, N. Y., born July 20, 1847, a daughter of James F. and Elizabeth (Graham) Conner, who came to Ohio when Mrs. Goodrick was a mere girl. Four children were born of this second union: Alice (now Mrs. Lyman McDowell), of Prairie Depot; Joel, at home; Nellie, who died at the age of four years; and

Cora, at home. Until 1870 the father continued to reside at Maumee, when he came to Prairie Depot, where he practiced successfully until his death, September 7, 1883. He had fought his way through life unaided, and gained the confidence and good will of all with whom he came in contact. His political support was given the Republican party. Since his death the widow has continued to reside at Prairie Depot, where she has a comfortable home, and is held in the highest respect.

J. M. Goodrick was but an infant when brought to Ohio, and here he received his education in the common schools. Though his opportunities in that direction were good, like many other boys, he did not take advantage of them. At the age of ten years he sustained injuries which affected his spine, producing lateral curvature, and physically rendered him a partial cripple. When sixteen he left home, working at different places until 1885, when he began learning the barber's trade at Prairie Depot under Charles Simmons, and when he had mastered the same, he began business in that line for himself at the same place. He now owns a fine residence located on West Main street, together with his place of business, which he occupies, situated on a lot 22x90 feet, in the business center of Prairie Depot; and to his tonsorial business he, in 1893, added a complete line of jewelry. His place and its equipments are such as would do credit to a much larger town than Prairie Depot. In March, 1887, at that place Mr. Goodrick was married to Miss Rebecca K. Feltman, daughter of Philip Feltman, and to them has been born one child, Mabel M. Our subject takes an active interest in the success of the Republican party, which he always supports by his ballot, but cares nothing for political preferment, desiring to devote his time and attention to his business affairs, in which he has been quite successful, and he is numbered among the progressive and wide-awake business men of Prairie Depot. He is strictly a self-made man, though when twenty-one years of age he received some capital from his mother's estate; but like many young men lost the money in bad bargains, so his present accumulations are in no way the outgrowth of that inheritance. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., belonging to the subordinate lodge at Prairie Depot, and the Encampment at Toledo, Ohio; is also a member of the Knights of Pythias at Prairie Depot.

FRANK POWELL, a retired farmer of Perrysburg township; post office, Perrysburg, Ohio.

LEWIS WHITMAN, a leading and highly respected citizen of West Millgrove, was born November 8, 1843, in Montgomery township, this county. His father, William H. Whitman, was a native of New York State, born March 21, 1819, from where, when he was a child, his parents, Samuel and Elizabeth (Hay) Whitman, who were born in Vermont, moved to Onondaga county, N. Y., for many years making their home in the village of Camillus, then removing to Illinois, where they remained a short time, and then came to Wood county, where they passed the rest of their days. The father died in Montgomery township, living to be over eighty-one years of age, the mother in West Millgrove at the age of nearly ninety years, and they are both buried at Prairie Depot. They were the parents of eight children, as follows: Clarissa E. married Elias Frink, and died in the State of Washington; Julia married Seth Newcomb, and died in New York; William H. comes next in the order of birth; Mary J. and Eliza B. both died in childhood; Lewis died in Andersonville prison, having been taken prisoner by the Confederates during the Civil war, while serving in an Illinois regiment; Eliza married Alonzo Dingman, and died in Michigan; Luther died in Perry township, Wood county.

William H. Whitman received a fairly liberal education at the schools of the neighborhood of his boyhood home, and was reared to manhood on a farm. On February 8, 1844, he was married in Onondaga county, N. Y., to Miss Eunice Tyrrel, who was born in New York, May 5, 1824, daughter of William and Love (Huff) Tyrrel, and in the following August the young couple came to Wood county. Mr. Whitman had previously visited here twice, and purchased eighty acres of land in Section 26, Montgomery township, where he built his first home—a round-log cabin, with clapboard roof and puncheon floor. To this honored pioneer couple were born children as follows: Lewis, whose name introduces this sketch; Theodore, who served in Company H, 49th O. V. I., in the war of the Rebellion, was thrice wounded, was captured by the Confederates, and lay for six weeks in Libby prison (he died in Risingsun, Ohio); Nathan, a resident of Hardin county, Iowa; Emily (now Mrs. Cyrus Baldwin), of West Millgrove, Ohio; Electa, who died when nearly nineteen years of age; Adeline, deceased in childhood; Frederick, of San Bernardino county, Cal.; George, who died young; Edwin, living in Prairie Depot, Ohio; James, a farmer in Montgomery township, and two daughters that died in infancy. The father

of this family is a life-time agriculturist, and has ever since lived where he had first settled, redeeming a fine farm from the primeval forest. On February 8, 1894, he and his wife celebrated their golden wedding, on which occasion a most pleasant reunion was held, all the children who were at home being present. In politics, Mr. Whitman has always been a stanch Republican, but never an office seeker, and he cast his first Presidential vote for W. H. Harrison. He and his amiable life partner are not identified with any Church; but they lead good Christian lives, and are honored and respected by all. They have numerous descendants, including five great-grandchildren. Mrs. Whitman's father, for some time prior to his marriage, taught school in Montgomery township, Wood county, then returned to New York State, married, and in 1843 settled in Wood county.

Lewis Whitman received as good an education in his boyhood as could be secured in his day and locality, which was much interrupted by his work on the farm, where, being the eldest son and child, he had to devote much of his time. When he had entered his "teens" he commenced learning carpentry with Henry Fuller, and after a couple of seasons took up the trade for his own account, at which he was working at the time of his enlistment, August 15, 1861, in Company H, 49th O. V. I., Capt. O. B. Hays, which regiment went from Camp Dennison to the South. At the time of the battle of Shiloh our subject was doing detached duty at division headquarters, and after the engagement at Perryville, he rejoined his regiment and participated in all the battles and skirmishes in which it was engaged, up to February, 1864, when he came home on furlough. Re-enlisting in the same company and regiment, at Cleveland, Tenn., he was in every fight thereafter in which the 49th took part, till he was wounded, in front of Atlanta, Ga., July 24, 1864. He was then sent to the field hospital, later to Nashville, where he secured a furlough to visit his home; returned after a short time to Nashville, thence was sent to Keokuk, Iowa, where he remained until the latter part of May, 1865, when, being refused a discharge from the army, he rejoined his regiment at Nashville. From there he was sent to Texas, where, at Victoria, he was discharged November 25, 1865, and returned home, arriving January 1, 1866, after an absence (less the furloughs mentioned above) of four years and four and one-half months.

While on one of his furloughs, Mr. Whitman was married, October 11, 1864, in Perry township, to Miss Mary R. Ford, a native of Medina

county, Ohio, daughter of Albert and Rebecca Ford. On his return from the war he and his young wife lived with her parents, while a home was being prepared on an eighty-acre tract of wild land Mr. Whitman had bought, in Section 12, Perry township. In 1867 he went to Ottawa county, Ohio, and in the village of Martin was employed in a sawmill. Returning to Perry township, he re-commenced farming, and working at whatever he could find to do. In 1870 he traded his farm for an interest in a sawmill at West Millgrove, Wood county, but in June, 1871, the mill was burned down; in the winter of 1871-72 it was rebuilt by Whitman, Ketcham & Swope, Mr. Whitman later becoming sole owner, as he is at the present time.

Our subject's first wife died June 20, 1878, and was buried at West Millgrove. She was the mother of four children: William A., who died at the age of eighteen years; and Charles A., Chester O., and Roland M., all three deceased in infancy. In 1879 Mr. Whitman married Miss Sarah E. Buckingham, of Perry township, daughter of James and Elizabeth Buckingham; she passed away May 13, 1892, the mother of three children: Milton M., Willis A., and Norman L., all yet at home. In 1893 our subject was married at Granville, Licking Co., Ohio, to Elizabeth Thomas, and one child—Sarah E., has blessed this union.

In addition to his sawmill, Mr. Whitman owns eighty acres of land in Bloom township, a flouring-mill in West Millgrove, as well other town property. Socially, he is a charter member of Yates Post No. 50, G. A. R., and at the present time is a member of Conley Post No. 476, at Millgrove. In his political preferences he is a straight Republican, and between the years 1880 and 1895 he served as a justice of the peace. He is in all respects a thorough business man, shrewd, cautious and conservative, self-made in every respect, one who by his own individual efforts has climbed the ladder of success, rung by rung, until he has reached the goal of a well-earned prosperity.

HORACE A. ELDER, who now devotes his energies to farming, in Center township, was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, March 1, 1855, a son of Asa and Eliza (Cessna) Elder. The father was a native of Bedford county, Penn., and, removing to Ohio about 1853, located in Mahoning county, where he died in 1855. The mother removed with his family to Seneca county, in 1869, and in 1871 came to Wood county, now making her home in Bloomdale. She is a member of

the German Reformed Church, and has been to her children a most faithful and devoted mother. In the family were seven children—Sarah, a resident of Bloomdale, and the widow of J. Dickins, who died in Seneca county; Emma, who became the wife of E. Ash, and died in Seneca county; Curtis, a farmer of Defiance county, Ohio; William, a resident of Fostoria, Ohio; Jonathan, who is living in Henry county, Ohio; Mary, who died in childhood; and Horace A.

Our subject remained in Seneca county until sixteen years of age, and then came to Wood county, where he attended the district schools, and aided in the labors of the home farm. At the age of twenty-four he married Viola Ferl, who was born in Wood county, April 10, 1855. They have seven children—Floyd, Wanda, Cash, Ward, Helen and Merl, all living, and Clinton, the second child, who died at the age of six years.

In 1871, Mr. Elder purchased a farm in Bloom township, where for twenty-three years he successfully carried on agricultural pursuits. System in his methods of work, close application to business, energy and determined effort, have brought to him success, and in 1894 he sold his farm in Bloom township, and purchased a valuable tract of land adjoining the city limits of the county seat, where he is now living in a pleasant home.

B. SOULE, who, since November, 1892, has made his home in Fostoria, Seneca Co., Ohio, but whose life has almost entirely been passed in Wood county, was born near Buffalo, N. Y., August 1, 1835. When a small child he was taken to Erie county, Ohio, by his parents, Lorenzo and Anna C. (Fink) Soule, both natives of Germany, who but a short time remained in Erie county, and then located in Bloom township, this county. Our subject was nearly eleven years of age before he was able to attend school, and as his aid was needed in operating the home farm, his education was necessarily quite meager. At the age of twenty he began learning the carpenter's trade, which he followed for a few years.

On July 4, 1858, Mr. Soule was married in Portage township, Wood county, to Miss Mary Graham. Her birth occurred in Ashland county, Ohio, on May 8, 1832, and she was quite young when she was brought to Wood county by her parents, William and Elizabeth (Lefler) Graham, pioneers of Montgomery township. At the time of his marriage our subject had only enough money to start to house-keeping with on his father-in-law's farm in Portage township. The first land he owned was in Bloom township, but previously he had an interest in a sawmill in the

southwest corner of Montgomery township, being in partnership with Henry Tyson. With the profits made in that business, Mr. Soule purchased eighty acres of timber land in Section 2, Bloom township, at once beginning its improvement and cultivation, and there made his home for about eighteen years, when he removed to his father-in-law's place, in Portage township, as that gentleman was getting old and required some care. After residing there for two years, he next operated the John Baird farm, in Bloom township, for the same length of time. The following three years were spent in West Millgrove, where he was ill most of the time. He then removed to his farm of 100 acres in Section 10, Perry township, residing there until going to Fostoria, where he owns a pleasant home, and expects to spend the remainder of his days in ease and retirement, enjoying a well-earned rest. In religious belief he and his wife are Methodist Episcopal, and, while in West Millgrove, he served as trustee of the Church there. His political support is given the Republican party, and he is an estimable citizen, and an honorable, upright man.

REV. RICHARD M. CULVER, a minister of the M. E. Church; post office, Bowling Green, Ohio.

ISADORE FASTNACHT, an industrious and successful agriculturist of Middleton township, was born in Wittenberg, Germany, August 22, 1846, and is a son of Joseph (a carpenter and joiner) and Mary Fastnacht, who had a family of three children, Isadore being the only survivor. The parents have both passed away.

In the common schools near his home our subject acquired his education, and afterward worked at the trade of carpenter and joiner with his father for five years; but advancement was slow in his native land, and wages meagre. This led him to seek a home beyond the Atlantic, and in 1869 he bade adieu to the friends and scenes of his boyhood, and set sail for New York. On reaching this country, he made his way to Erie county, Ohio, where he remained three months, and then removed to Sandusky county, and there resided some six years, working as a farm hand and carpenter. On the expiration of that period he came to Wood county, and took up his residence in Middleton township, where he purchased a farm of forty acres, partly improved; the remainder he cleared, transforming it into richly cultivated fields, and built thereon a good residence and commodious barns. Such is the home he has made for himself entirely through his own efforts,

and his life in its enterprising progressiveness is well worthy of emulation.

In 1873 Mr. Fastnacht was married in Sandusky county to Miss Aggie Demphly, a native of Baden, Germany, and six children were born to them, one of whom died in infancy, William and John dying in early childhood; the others are Emma, of Bowling Green; Mary, wife of John Pfeifer, a harness-maker, of Bowling Green; and Joseph, at present attending school. In religious faith, our subject is a Roman Catholic; in his political views, he is a Democrat, and has served as supervisor one term.

GEORGE M. GROVER (deceased), who was for many years previous to his death a prominent and successful agriculturist of Center township, was born in Green Spring, Ohio, January 15, 1839. He was a son of Aaron and Mary A. (Davis) Grover, both of whom were natives of New York State.

He received his early education in the district schools of Delaware county, Ohio, where he learned the blacksmith's trade, which he followed there for some time. Later he moved to Illinois, and remained until 1865, when he came to Wood county and located in Plain township, continuing his business of blacksmithing, and engaging also in farming. In the following year he sold out and moved to Center township, purchasing forty acres of unimproved land near Sugar Ridge. This he cleared and made into a fine farm with a good orchard, substantial farm buildings, and the handsomest dwelling house in that neighborhood. He was married in Illinois, in 1860, to Miss Sarah A. Williams, who was born in Rush, October 14, 1841. Ten children were born of this union, of whom, two, Laura and Charles, died in childhood, and two (twins) died in infancy.

The names of the six surviving children, with dates of birth, are as follows: William, January 21, 1863, a farmer in Center township, married Ellen Stoller, and has two children; John S., March 20, 1865, now conducts the homestead; Clara, July 17, 1869, married Louis Bowers, a farmer; Hilda, August 11, 1871, married Henry Layman; Florence, January 5, 1874, married Frank Meaker; and Albert, September 13, 1876, is at home.

Mr. Grover was kind and loving in the domestic circle, and was a generous supporter of every movement which promised to benefit the public. His death shortened a life which seemed destined to accomplish much for the advancement of the community. He was one of the most active workers in the Grange, while it was in existence,

and was an influential member of the Republican ranks, serving as school director for several terms, and for a number of years as township supervisor, giving to his public duties the same energy and care which distinguished the management of his private affairs.

WILLIAM WITZLER, farmer, Perrysburg township; post office, Perrysburg, Ohio.

JOHN STACY, deceased, was one of the most popular citizens of Center township, his genial, kindly manner winning him many friends, while his well-spent life enabled him to retain their high regard. Prosperity attended his efforts, and the community recognized him as one of its valued residents. He was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, November 5, 1813, and is a son of Thomas and Mary (Bonner) Stacy, both natives of Virginia. The district schools afforded him his educational privileges, and in his native county he learned the trade of a carpenter and joiner, which he followed for a period of several years. He afterward engaged, with good success, in contracting and building on his own account.

In December, 1840, Mr. Stacy married Malinda Underwood, daughter of William Underwood, and a sister of Gideon Underwood, the wedding being celebrated in Pennsylvania, just across the Ohio line. Thirteen children blessed this union—Laura J., who was born January 26, 1842, now the wife of John Shanks, a farmer of Center township, by whom she has five children; John N., born March 9, 1843, a resident of Bowling Green; Mary A., born May 10, 1844, the deceased wife of Wright Stacy, who has also passed away; William S., born February 9, 1845, a mechanic of Bowling Green; Charlotte A., who was born November 23, 1847, and died in 1857; Charles S., who was born October 9, 1849, and is engaged in the manufacture of lumber in Center township; Thomas W., who was born September 29, 1851, and died in 1856; Sylvia, who was born November 23, 1853, and died in 1872; Martha E., who was born October 7, 1855, and died in 1857; Albert L., born February 23, 1857, farms the old homestead; Elsie M., who was born August 11, 1859, is the wife of George Bufford, a farmer of Michigan; Carrie L., who was born December 6, 1861, is the wife of John Sullivan, of Center township; Sherman G., born December 5, 1865, is a resident of Frankton, Indiana.

In 1861, Mr. Stacy came with his family to Wood county, and purchased eighty acres of partially-cleared land in Center township, which was operated by his sons, while he carried on con-

tracting and building at Bowling Green. He erected a fine residence, and good barns and out-buildings upon his farm, tiled and ditched the place, planted an orchard, and made there an excellent home, where his wife still resides. For a number of years he served as school director, and always took a deep interest in the cause of education and other movements calculated to benefit the community. In politics he was a Republican. His was an upright, noble Christian life, and he left to his family the priceless heritage of a good name. Mrs. Stacy, now at the age of seventy-two years, is still living on the old homestead in the midst of her children and grand-children, who do all in their power to make her declining years happy.

ISAAC GROFF, one of the most prominent of the wealthy agriculturists of Grand Rapids township, Wood county, was born in Lancaster county, Penn., November 27, 1818. He was one of the nine children of Michael and Elizabeth (Cowhick) Groff, and he is now the only survivor of the family. He worked upon his father's farm during boyhood, and attended the neighboring district schools. At the age of sixteen he began to learn the milling business, which he followed for twenty-two years. In 1865 he sold his interests there and came to Wood county, and located in Grand Rapids, renting and operating the flourmill in Henry county on the Maumee, owned by Mr. Purdy, which he conducted for twelve years. In 1868 he bought 100 acres of farming land in Grand Rapids township, a portion of which was cleared. He soon brought the entire tract under cultivation, ditching and tiling, and building a frame dwelling house and barns. While this is quite satisfactory as a farm, it was too far from Grand Rapids to be a congenial residence, hence Mr. Groff bought ten acres more, near the town, and built a handsome brick dwelling house at a cost of \$2,700, where he now resides. His other improvements on the smaller tract are of a high class, and his home is one of the finest in the neighborhood.

Mr. Groff has been twice married, first in 1840, at Columbus, Ohio, to Miss Margaret Campbell, by whom he had six children: Mary, who lives at home; Edward, deceased; Michael, a farmer in Henry county; Margaret, deceased, formerly the wife of William Rhoades; Martha, deceased, formerly the wife of William Shoemaker; and Isaac, who is in the employ of the Columbus Bridge Co. Mrs. Groff died in 1856 at Columbus. In 1865 our subject married, for his second wife, Miss Eliza Mains, a native of

Pennsylvania. No children were born to this union. Mr. Groff is a Republican in politics and has always been a leader in local affairs. He is well-known and highly esteemed in the town of Grand Rapids, as well as in the rural districts, and was at one time a member of the city council.

HENRY LUCAS is a well-known resident of Perrysburg, Wood county, Ohio.

JOHN A. STEVENS, a highly respected agriculturist of Grand Rapids township, was born in Huron county, Ohio, in Bloom (now Erie) township, May 3, 1822. William K. Stevens, a native of New York State, married Miss Catherine Saddler, and had seven children, of whom our subject was the first.

John A. Stevens had an adventurous life in his youth. He began when only seven years old to make his own way in the world, and at an early age went west and became a cowboy, his schooling being limited to a few years' attendance at the district schools near his birth place. However his native abilities have served him well, and he has gathered a wide range of practical information on all the topics of the day. When eighteen years of age he began working as a farm hand, and in 1853 he came to Wood county and entered forty acres of land, which he improved and sold two years later at an advance. He afterward bought and sold land several times in the same way, sixteen acres near Weston, and forty-one in Plain township; but finally he settled upon his present farm of forty acres near Weston, which he keeps in a fine state of cultivation, and has beautified with commodious and well-planned buildings. He was married, in 1849, in Sherman township, Huron county, to Miss Ether Linda Heath, and has had nine children, as recorded in the sketch of Zahn Stevens, elsewhere.

Mr. Stevens holds an influential position in his community, won by his sterling qualities of character. He was school director in Weston township for two years, and in Plain township for the same length of time, and has been supervisor of Weston township. He is a member of the Christian Church, and in politics is a Republican.

S. L. IRWIN, the junior member of the well-known firm of W. B. Ladd & Co., of Tontogany, was born September 27, 1843, in West Toronto, York Co., Canada, where his paternal ancestors had lived for several generations. His parents were both born there, his father, E. G. Irwin, in 1810, and his mother, Mary (Crown), two years

later. Her father was born in New Jersey, and served in the war of 1812. Mr. Irwin was the third of six children: (1) John C. is a traveling salesman for a flour manufacturer, and lives in Chicago; (2) Henry L. died in Texas; (3) S. L., is our subject; (4) William W. is an engineer at Eric, Penn; (5) Hattie P. married R. J. Conader, of Toronto; (6) M. R. lives at Fort Scott, Kansas. Mr. Irwin's parents were consistent followers of the Christian faith. On March 4, 1863, his mother died, and on May 6, of the same year, his father passed away, and the family, unbroken up to that time, was soon widely scattered.

In 1864 our subject came to Maumee City, Lucas county, and after working for a few months at the tinner's trade, he enlisted in Company K, 185th O. V. I., at the last call for one-year men, serving in Kentucky until discharged in October, 1865. Returning to Maumee he resumed his business there, and in 1870 moved to Weston, and followed the same line of work at intervals until 1883. He visited Florida on a prospecting tour, but, quickly recognizing the superior advantages of Wood county, he came back, and in 1883 entered into partnership with W. B. Ladd, forming the firm of W. B. Ladd & Co., in their present business of general hardware in Tontogany. Its management devolves upon Mr. Irwin at present, and it is to his good judgment and energy that its success is mainly due.

He was married at Maumee City, in 1866, to Miss Ida M. Clark, who was born there, August 15, 1848. They have three children: Lulu B., Hattie and F. W. Mr. Irwin is one of the prominent and progressive citizens of the community, and is a member of the G. A. R., Walter Wood Post No. 14, and of the F. & A. M., Crystal Chapter No. 157 Bowling Green, Blue Lodge No. 451 of Tontogany, and the Commandery of Toledo.

F. M. CARTER is a farmer in Middleton township; post office, Hull Prairie, Ohio.

DAVID ADAMS (deceased) was the father of a large family that claim Montgomery township as their pioneer home, being founded here in the early "thirties," so that for over sixty years it has been prominently identified with the history of the locality. Previous to David's location here, his brother Asa had become a resident of Montgomery township.

David Adams was born in Beaver county, Penn., in 1784, and was the son of David Adams, Sr., who was descended from New England stock.

From Pennsylvania, the son served in the war of 1812, and there he married Sarah McKibben, by whom he had the following children, all born in the Keystone State with the exception of the youngest: Julia A., who was married in Pennsylvania to Henry Rhodes, died in Portage county, Ohio; Agnes is the widow of William Miller, and makes her home in Mercer county, Penn.; Amanda became the wife of Frederick Klitz, and died in Montgomery township, Wood county; Margaret was married in this State to William Henry, now of Mahoning county, Ohio; David died near Jerry City, Ohio; Harvey also died near that city; Joseph died in Montgomery township in 1849; James died in Jerry City; Hugh Mc. died in Montgomery township; Sarah J., who became the wife of Benjamin Burket, died in Kansas; John M. and Asa are twins, the former a resident of Montgomery township, and the latter of Freeport, Ohio; Mary wedded Andrew Wanders, who was killed at the battle of Shiloh during the Rebellion, after which she married Abel Manchester, and died in Missouri; and Susan is now Mrs. William Cowden, living near Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

In his native State Mr. Adams was a farmer and distiller, the latter business being then quite popular, and in 1833 he came to Wood county, where he purchased 160 acres of land in Montgomery township, from a man at Bucyrus, Ohio. The following spring, with sons—David, Harvey and Joseph—he came by team to this county, where he left the boys and returned to Pennsylvania. They were to put in such crops as they could with a team of oxen. In November, 1834, he brought the remainder of the family to Montgomery township, locating on the southwest quarter of Section 20, their first home being a log house. In 1837 he built the old gristmill in Section 20, Portage township, on the Portage river, which, the following year, was put in operation, and people would come from miles around to have their grist ground. He was a man of comfortable means in Pennsylvania, and entered much land in Wood county, giving to each of his sons eighty acres or its equivalent.

Though not large in stature, Mr. Adams was a muscular man, and very robust. His educational privileges were only ordinary, but he was a man of natural intellectual ability and became well-informed by reading and observation. He had begun the study of law, and often tried cases for the justice of the peace, his counsel often being sought by the early settlers of Wood county. In politics, Mr. Adams usually supported the Democracy, but was not bound by party ties; various official positions in the township and

county were offered him, but he always declined, as he cared nothing for the honors or emoluments of public office. Being an excellent conversationalist, he could easily entertain a crowd of people, and he was wide and favorably known throughout the county. His death occurred upon the old homestead farm in Section 20, Montgomery township, in June, 1859, and his body was laid to rest by the side of his wife, who had died a few years previous, in West Millgrove cemetery. They were consistent members of the Presbyterian Church.

R. H. RALSTON, furniture dealer and undertaker, in Milton Center, Wood Co., Ohio.

S. J. McCrory, a retired farmer, and a highly respected resident of Bowling Green, was born in Liberty township, January 17, 1851, and is the son of James and Mary Ann (Mercer) McCrory.

James McCrory was born in Wayne county, Ohio, in 1821, and when a boy came with his parents to Wood county. He followed farming the greater part of his life, although he was engaged for a short period in merchandising in Portage. He was a Democrat and a member of the Christian Church. He died October 19, 1885. Mr. McCrory was first married to Miss Nancy Sechelor, who died after the birth of one child, Hannah, now the wife of William Robinson, of Liberty township.

The mother of our subject was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, the daughter of George and Jane (Montgomery) Mercer, and is still living at her old home in Liberty township. By her marriage with Mr. McCrory she became the mother of thirteen children, of whom seven grew to maturity; William Paul, deceased; S. J., the subject of this sketch; Jennie, wife of J. Ferguson, living in Wood county; James A., living at Cygnet, this county; Mary Ann, residing with her mother; Horace, living in Milton township; and Albert, who makes his home with his mother.

S. J. McCrory was reared upon a farm in his native township, and is a model type of the man who, with limited advantages in the way of schooling or of money, has, by persistent application, acquired a knowledge of books as well as of men, and who to-day is well-posted on current literature and matters of general interest. After his marriage, Mr. McCrory settled upon a farm in Liberty township, and devoted himself to the cultivation and improvement of his land with an energy which soon produced the desired effect. He has become recognized as a farmer of more



than ordinary intelligence and progressive ideas. In 1890, Mr. McCrory retired from active business, and, since that time, has made his home in Bowling Green, where he is looked upon as one of its most valued citizens.

Mr. McCrory was married to Miss Rachel Milbourn, whose birth took place in Bloom township, February 16, 1854. Three children have been born to them: Bertha, who died when two years and nine months old; Alda, born May 27, 1884, and Charles, born February 17, 1887. Our subject is in sympathy with the principles of the Prohibition party, but in local elections cares more for the qualifications of the candidate than for mere party considerations, and votes accordingly. He is a consistent member of the Christian Church, and is liberal to all worthy causes. Fraternally, he belongs to the I. O. O. F., and in all relations of life, bears his part as an honest man, a good neighbor and worthy citizen.

JOSEPH ENGESSER was born in Baden, Germany, March 11, 1844, and his parents, John and Maria Ann Engesser, were also natives of Baden, but the great-grandfather of our subject was a native of France. By trade, John Engesser was a miller, and also followed farming. His death occurred in his native land, February 26, 1875, while his wife survived him a few years. To them were born the following children—Johann, who was drowned in a river one stormy night; Anna and Theresa, in Germany; Joseph, of this sketch; Mary and Katrina, in Germany; and George who came to America in 1870. He went to Kansas but died twenty-six days after reaching his destination.

Joseph Engesser attended school in his native land until fourteen years of age when he began to learn the trade of a miller and baker in Treburg, serving a two-years-and-a-half apprenticeship and paying \$50 for the instruction he received. During that time he had to arise at one o'clock in the morning and work until quite late at night, for he attended evening school. His apprenticeship being ended, he went to Austria, to Bavaria, to Tyrol, Switzerland, and to Alsace, working in these various places, his ability enabling him to command the highest wages. On April 3, 1870, he sailed from Bremen on the steamer "Taain", which reached New York harbor on the 15th of April. He was accompanied by a friend. From New York he went to Cincinnati, and had just money enough to pay one week's board for himself and friend. He soon, however, obtained work in a bakery, where he continued until the fall, when he went to Wapa-

koneta, Ohio, where for three years he worked at the miller's trade. He next went to Auglaize county, and in the summer of 1874 he came to Wood county, establishing a feed-mill in Custar, which he operated for a year. He then purchased the hotel, which was in poor condition, but he has made many excellent improvements, and is now conducting the "Washington Hotel", an establishment that is first-class in every particular.

Returning to Wapakoneta, Mr. Engesser was married November 26, 1874, to Magdalena Wieser, who was born in Auglaize county, October 15, 1855. They at once came to Custar, and on May 1, 1875, opened the hotel. To them have been born the following children—Josephine, August 13, 1875; Anna Wilhelmina, December 27, 1876; Clara Maria, November 1, 1878; Franz J., September 30, 1881; Elizabeth, May 4, 1884; Magdalena, February 26, 1887; Theresa Gertrude, May 30, 1890; Vernika Julia, August 2, 1893; and Mary K., April 6, 1895. The first named died September 6, 1876, but the others are all living.

Mr. Engesser is a staunch Democrat, and is a member of St. Louis' Catholic Church. In the spring of 1894, he returned to his native land, where he spent several months visiting his sisters and friends, and then returned home content to reside in America.

JOHN EAKEN, who has taken quite a prominent part in public affairs in Jackson township, was born in Medina county, Ohio, June 6, 1846, and is a son of George Clark Eaken, a native of Pennsylvania. The mother bore the maiden name of Sarah Lance, and was a native of Wayne county, Ohio. Soon after their marriage they removed to Medina county, where the father owned and operated a farm until his death, which occurred in 1860. His wife passed away the previous year. Their children were Elizabeth, who died at the age of two years; George, a farmer, of Medina county, Ohio; Abraham, also a farmer there; Mrs. Sarah Jane Albert; Isabel, of Medina county; Hannah, wife of Conrad Eckerly, who died in Michigan; John; Mary, wife of Duat Hickoks, of Massillon, Ohio.

Mr. Eaken, of this sketch, acquired a fair education in the public schools, and at the time of his father's death, started out in life for himself, being then fourteen years of age. The following year he became a brakeman on the N. Y. P. & O. railroad, and in a wreck he sustained severe injuries, which prevented him from working for six months. He afterward was employed as a farm hand for a year, and then enlisted with the

hundred-day men in Company D, 79th O. V. I., and, after reaching Washington, was assigned to the heavy artillery. After the war he again worked as a farm hand.

On October 10, 1867, in La Fayette, Ohio, Mr. Eaken married Susan Catherine Hollowell, and a year later came to Wood county, where several years previous he had purchased forty acres of land in Jackson township. This he at once began to clear and improve, making it his home for eleven years, and clearing it of all indebtedness; but through going security for another, he lost all his property. He afterward bought forty acres, which he farmed for a year, then sold, and purchased eighty acres. While living there his wife died. Eight children were born of that marriage—Luella, wife of Dora Ellinwood, of Hoytville; Ida May, wife of S. D. Leatherman, of Hoytville; William C.; Edward Dwight, who died at the age of five years; Harley; Minnie Maud, and Finney Tot, twins; and Mertie Ann. For his second wife, Mr. Eaken married Catherine A. Mills, widow of John Kiger, by whom she had six children, four yet living. By the second marriage have been born five children—Mary Catherine Lillie Alverna, at home; Jennie, who died of diphtheria at the age of seven; Johnnie Guy, who died at the age of sixteen months; Roy, who died in infancy; and Flora.

At the time of his second marriage, Mr. Eaken traded forty acres of his farm for a building that stood on the site of his present home, but which was burned in 1889. He has since erected there a good residence and store room. Before the fire he carried on a grocery store for a year and a half, and then rented his store room, while he went on the road for six months, selling sewing machines. Returning to Hoytville, he then embarked in the saloon business, which he has since successfully carried on. He also owns forty acres of land, which he farms. In politics he is a strong Republican, and for many years has served as township clerk. For eight years he was constable, has also been school director, and supervisor, and has continually held office since locating in the county.

ASHER SARGENT, a resident of Liberty township; post office, Portage, Ohio.

ZAHM STEVENS. The salient points in the life of this intelligent and enterprising farmer, who, besides general farming, is also engaged in stock dealing in Washington township, are as follows: He was born in Sherman township, Hu-

ron Co., Ohio, August 24, 1853, and is a son of John A. and Ether Linda (Heath) Stevens. The father was born in the same county, and was a son of William K. Stevens, of German descent. There the parents were married, and in their family were nine children, as follows: Daniel, deceased; John E., the present mayor of Grand Rapids, Ohio; Amelia, wife of E. Gill; Zahm; Almina, deceased wife of William Potes; Prudence, deceased; Roxy Ann, wife of Jeff Dots; Mary Elizabeth, wife of Abner Gill; and Emma Jane, wife of John Curtis Ames.

In the district schools of Wood county, Mr. Stevens, of this review, pursued his literary studies, he having coming to this county with his parents in October, 1855. He grew to manhood upon the home farm, aiding in the work of the fields, and there remained until his marriage. That important event occurred on December 15, 1873, the lady of his choice being Lucy Ann Burditt, a daughter of Greenbury Burditt, and a sister of Andrew. She was born May 6, 1852. By her marriage she has become the mother of four children—Rosa, who was born July 20, 1875, and died September 10, 1876; Ether Linda, who was born September 18, 1877, and is now the wife of Florus Thompson, who assists in the operation of the Stevens farm; Caroline Eldora, who was born February 22, 1882, and is at home; and William K., who was born September 8, 1887, and died in infancy.

After his marriage Mr. Stevens worked for others for about four years, on the expiration of which time he removed to the farm where he now resides, renting the land from his father-in-law, for two years. He then purchased the place, which comprises forty acres of fine arable land, most of which he has cleared, drained and tiled, and erected thereon a good residence at a cost of \$1,000. The land is very productive, he having raised thirty bushels of wheat to the acre the past year. He also deals quite extensively in stock and sheep, finding it a profitable employment. For nine years he has been serving his fellow townsmen as school director, and has been president of the board of education for eight years. The Republican party receives his earnest support, and all interests calculated to benefit the community receive his substantial aid. He attends the Disciples Church.

JACOB ASH, whose well-spent life has won him the esteem of young and old, rich and poor, is now, at the age of seventy-nine years, living at his pleasant home in Milton township amid many warm friends who have for him the greatest

regard. He was born in Somerset county, Penn., October 8, 1817, and is a son of David and Elizabeth (Zimmerman) Ash. The father was born (it is supposed) in Cumberland county, Penn., in 1792, and was a farmer by occupation. When a young man he moved to Somerset county, where he married Miss Zimmerman, a native of New York. They lived in that county until 1834, and then removed with their family to Stark county, Ohio, locating on a fifty-acre farm. In 1842 Mr. Ash, with his wife and five children, came out to De Kalb county, Ind., where his death occurred in 1875; his wife had passed away ten years previous. In their family were the following children: Sallie, deceased wife of Jacob Miller; Katie, who was twice married, and is now deceased; Josiah, a retired farmer of Ashland county; Jacob; Betsy, wife of John Meiser, of De Kalb county, Ind.; Mary, wife of Hugh Maxwell, of De Kalb county; David, deceased; Aaron, of De Kalb county; and Henry, who died in Kansas.

Our subject was educated in subscription schools in his native State, and at the age of seventeen came with his parents to Ohio. He was reared on a farm, and has throughout life carried on agricultural pursuits. In Stark county, in November, 1837, he married Sallie Putnam, a native of that county, born in 1819. They removed to Seneca county, Ohio, locating on a partially-improved farm of eighty acres; but after two years returned to Stark county. They lived for a similar period in Sugar Creek township, and then came, with their family, to Wood county, making the journey with two horses and a wagon. Mr. Ash was given eighty acres of land by his father-in-law. It was then wild land, and he at once began to clear and improve it. He erected a log cabin with the assistance of his neighbors, and as time passed kept improving the dwellings upon his place. In 1886 he erected his present commodious residence, and is to-day the owner of a highly-improved and well-cultivated farm.

In 1870 Mrs. Ash died, and her remains were buried in Weston cemetery. Their children were as follows: Gabriel; Elizabeth, wife of Jo Stan-show, of Weston township; Susan, wife of Abraham Reams, of Milton township; Franklin, a farmer of Milton township; David, who died in boyhood; Mary, wife of Samuel Hoover, of Lima, Ohio; Henry, who died in childhood; Josiah, a minister in Nebraska; Monroe, who died at the age of nineteen; and Hattie, wife of Otto Sockman, of Knox county, Ohio. Two years after the death of his first wife, Mr. Ash married Sarah Miller, who was born in Marion county, Ohio,

August 27, 1841, a daughter of Jacob and Mary (Drosen) Miller, natives of Ohio. Her father, who was a farmer, became a resident of Marion county at an early day, and in his family were five children: Isaac, of Morrow county, Ohio; Rebecca, wife of John Powell, of Findlay, Ohio; Eli, deceased; Hannah, deceased wife of Gabriel Ash; and Sarah. To our subject and his wife have been born two children: Jesse, at home; and Irena, who died at the age of eight months.

In politics Mr. Ash is a Prohibitionist, and has served as school director and supervisor for many years, also as township trustee. He has taken quite a prominent part in religious work, and he and his wife are faithful members of the Evangelical Church.

OSCAR LYON, a farmer; post office, Waterville, Lucas county, Ohio.

ANTON DIEFENTHALER. Among the enterprising and substantial farmers of Lake township, there is probably none more widely or favorably known than this gentleman. He comes from across the sea, his birth having occurred in Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany, in 1840, and is a son of Philip and Susan (Young) Diefenthaler, who were also natives of that duchy, and in 1857, accompanied by their family, they sailed from Havre, France. At the end of a long and tedious voyage of thirty-one days they landed safely at New York, whence they came to Lake township, Wood county, where the father purchased eighty acres of timber land, and on that farm the parents spent their remaining days. In their family were three children—Mrs. Christina Burch, of Lake township; Jacob and Anton. The mother was twice married, her first husband being Philip Kahler, who died in the Fatherland, and to them were born four children—Philip, who located in Lake township as early as 1842, and died in Toledo, Ohio; John, who arrived in that township in 1852, and there died in 1895; Mrs. Barbara Young, of Toledo; and Mrs. Mary Young, of Ottawa county, Ohio.

In the public schools of his native land our subject acquired his education, and was seventeen years of age at the time of his arrival in Lake township, where he has since engaged in farming, now owning a fine farm of eighty acres in Section 1. At Toledo, Ohio, in 1865, he enlisted in Company B, 189th O. V. I., for one year, or until the close of the war, and participated in the engagements at Huntsville and Brownsboro. After hostilities had ceased, he was honorably discharged at Columbus, Ohio, in 1865, and re-

turned to his home. In Lake township, in 1866, he was married to Miss Caroline Shafer, a daughter of Louis and ——— (Kolb) Shafer, also natives of Germany, and on coming to the United States first located in Ottawa county, Ohio. They are both now deceased. Eight children have been born to our subject and his estimable wife—six sons and two daughters—namely: John, Philip, Henry, Charley, Louie, Rudolph, Mary, and Christina.

Mr. Diefenthaler uses his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Republican party; socially, he affiliates with Douglas Post, G. A. R., at Millbury, Wood county, and in religious sentiment he is a Protestant. No one is more interested in the development and progress of Wood county than is our subject, who gives his support to all worthy enterprises, and is justly entitled to a position among the representative citizens of Lake township.

JOHN TAYLOR is a farmer in Middleton township; post office, Hull Prairie, Ohio.

PHILIP WETZEL, a well-known cigar manufacturer of Perrysburg, was born November 11, 1858, in Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany, where his ancestors, both paternal and maternal, had their home for generations. Jacob Wetzel, his father, was born January 13, 1836, and his mother, Catherine Artz, on December 18 of the same year. They were married November 10, 1857, and five years later came to Perrysburg, where the father carried on his trade of merchant tailor until 1879, when he began the manufacturing of cigars in partnership with our subject, his eldest son. In 1892 he retired from business, and with his wife is enjoying well-earned leisure at his home in Perrysburg. A brief record of their six children is as follows: Philip is our subject; Mary married James Kinnear, of Morrison, Mich.; Willie died at the age of eight months; Katie is the wife of Rev. E. H. Jamison, of Kingston, Tenn.; Charles died aged five years; Amelia lives with her parents.

Perrysburg having been our subject's home since childhood, his education was obtained in her excellent public schools, and the early friendships then formed, and the admirable business training acquired with his father, have smoothed the way to success in later years. His present factory, opened in September, 1894, is already a prosperous enterprise. In 1891 Mr. Wetzel was married to Miss Ethel Baird, a native of Perrysburg, born December 28, 1869, and they have one child, Dorcas. Politically our subject is a

Democrat, and he is one of the most influential and popular workers in local affairs. In 1883 he was elected clerk of Perrysburg township, by a majority of 222, and has held the office for three terms. The second time his majority was 245, and so well did his performance of his duties satisfy the public that at the last election he had no opposition. He is now serving his sixth consecutive year. A staunch supporter of the rights of the workingman, he belongs to the Cigarmakers National Union, and he is also a member of the I. O. O. F., holding the office of district deputy grand master.

ISAAC CHARLTON, an honorable and well-to-do farmer of Center township, is a native of Sugar Creek township, Stark Co., Ohio, and made his appearance on the stage of life April 26, 1823. The birth of his father, John Charlton, occurred in Pennsylvania, where he followed farming, but when a young man removed to Stark county, Ohio, where he operated a farm of sixty acres. In 1855 he came to Wood county and purchased sixty acres in Center township, where both he and his wife died, and they were laid to rest in the cemetery of Bowling Green. In Stark county he had wedded Polly Augusteen, a native of Columbiana county, Ohio, and our subject was the younger of their two children, the other being Fanny, who was born in 1818, and became the wife of Charles Elliott, but is now deceased.

In the uneventful manner of most farmer boys, Isaac Charlton spent the days of his childhood and youth, acquiring the rudiments of his education in the district schools of Stark and Wood counties, and gave the benefit of his labors to his father in clearing and operating the home farm. He is numbered among the pioneers of the county, having arrived here in 1855, when few roads had been laid out, and most of the land was still in its primitive condition. He aided in the transformation that has taken place since that time, working hard in clearing the land, digging up the stumps, draining the land, etc. His first purchase made him the possessor of sixty acres of partially-improved land in Center township, and after operating it for several years he sold out and purchased the forty-acre tract which is still his home. The many improvements seen thereon are the work of his hands, and the land now constitutes one of the most highly cultivated farms in the neighborhood.

In Stark county, in 1847, Mr. Charlton was united in marriage with Christiana Ebersole, who

was born there March 24, 1825, and to them have been born nine children, namely: Caroline, wife of Jacob Snider, of Plain township, Wood county; Frances, at home; John, a farmer of Huron county, Ohio; Euria, a farmer of Plain township; Sarah, at home; Marion, an agriculturist of Center township; Emma, wife of Herbert Underwood; Maggie, wife of Simeon George, a farmer of Center township; and Charles, who was born March 24, 1868, and assists in the operation of the homestead farm.

On starting out in life, Mr. Charlton had no capital, but by energy and economy has become possessed of a handsome property. A good orchard is one of the features of his place, his residence and barns are neat, and everything that surrounds him evinces the thrift and care of the owner. His political views are in accordance with those of the Republican party, and he always uses his ballot in support of its men and measures.

FRANK JOSETT, foreman of the machine shops of the Hardy Machine Company, at North Baltimore, Ohio.

WILLIAM SAVORY, who is widely and favorably known in Wood county, was born in the city of Toledo, September 15, 1859, and is of English lineage. His father, James Savory, was born in Oxfordshire, England, where he followed the various callings of a butcher, shoemaker and baker in the county of his nativity. In 1854 he crossed the Atlantic to the New World, and took up his residence in Toledo, Ohio, where, for several years, he worked at market gardening. Coming to Wood county, he here purchased twenty acres of timber land, which he improved for two years, when he sold, and bought eighty-

five acres, all of which he placed under a high state of cultivation, continuing its operation until 1890, when he retired to private life. For three years he had his residence in Perrysburg, and then removed to East Toledo, where he now makes his home. He was married in England, to Esther Tiffin, and they became the parents of four children: Thomas, a carpenter and joiner; Mary, wife of Charles Taylor, a farmer of Lucas county, Ohio; William, the subject of this sketch; and Charles, who was killed near the homestead, in 1887, by the bursting of a gun. The father of this family served as trustee in Middleton township for six years, and gave his political support to the Republican party. His wife died in Perrysburg, in 1893.

Our subject was educated in Wallbridge, Lucas Co., Ohio, and in Middleton township, and worked on his father's farm from boyhood till early manhood, when he started out to make his own way in the world. For two years he followed the carpenter's trade, and was then for four years engaged in the wholesale butchering business. He then returned to the old homestead, and has since conducted the farm. He now cultivates 125 acres, upon which he has made excellent improvements, and in addition operates a threshing machine during the harvest season. His business is well managed, and is a prosperous one. In 1887, in Maumee, Ohio, he married Miss Maggie Collier, who was born in Perrysburg, in 1860, and they have five children: Chace, James, Catherine ("Katie"), Edward and Elmer. In politics Mr. Savory is a stalwart Republican, but prefers to give his attention to his business interests rather than to politics. He is a genial, whole-souled gentleman, of a benevolent, kindly disposition, and makes friends wherever he goes.



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