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BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIRS OF
WELLS COUNTY INDIANA

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BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIRS

OF

WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA

EMERACING

A COMPREHENSIVE COMPENDIUM OF LOCAL BIOGRAPHY—MEMOIRS OF REPRESENTATIVE
MEN AND WOMEN OF THE COUNTY WHOSE WORKS OF MERIT
HAVE MADE THEIR NAMES IMPERISHABLE,

AND

SPECIAL ARTICLES PREPARED BY HON. HUGH DOUGHERTY, EVAN T. CHALFANT,
P. A. ALLEN, MRS. D. T. SMITH, HON. JOSEPH S. DAILEY,
GEORGE E. FULTON, M. D., AND THOMAS STURGIS, D. D. S.

ILLUSTRATED

1903

B. F. BOWEN, PUBLISHER
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PREFACE.

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IN PLACING the Biographical Memoirs of Wells County before the citizens, the publisher can conscientiously claim that he has carried out in full every promise made in the prospectus. He points with pride to the elegance of the binding of the volume, and to the beauty of its typography, to the superiority of the paper on which the work is printed, and to the truthfulness depicted by its portraits and the high class of art in which they are finished. Every biographical sketch has been submitted for correction and approval to the person for whom it was written, and therefore any error of fact, if there be any, is due solely to the person for whom the sketch was prepared.

The several special articles from the pens of well known citizens of the county cannot fail but be of unusual interest, the writers touching upon those phases of the county's history with which they are most familiar. The publisher would here avail himself of the opportunity to thank the citizens of Wells county for the uniform kindness with which they have regarded this undertaking, and for their many services rendered in assisting in the gaining of necessary information. Confident that our efforts to please will fully meet with the approbation of the public, we are,

Respectfully,

B. F. BOWEN, Publisher.

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INTRODUCTORY.

"Progress—man's distinctive mark alone,
Not God's and not the beasts,
God is; they are:
Man partly is and partly hopes to be."

—*Browning.*

Out of the depths of his mature wisdom Carlyle wrote: "History is the essence of innumerable biographies." Further than this what propriety can there be for advancing reasons for the compilation of such a work as the one at hand? Wells county, Indiana, has sustained within its confines men who have been prominent in the history of the state and nation from the early territorial epoch. The annals teem with the records of strong and noble manhood and gracious womanhood, and, as Sumner said, "The true grandeur of nations is in those qualities which constitute the true greatness of the individual." The final causes which shape the fortunes of individual men and the destinies of states are often the same. They are usually remote and obscure; their influence wholly unexpected until declared by results. When they inspire men to the exercise of courage, self-denial, enterprise and industry, and call into play the higher moral elements; lead men to risk all upon conviction, faith,—such causes lead to the planting of great states, great nations, great peoples. That nation is greatest which produces the greatest and most manly men, and the intrinsic safety depends not so much upon methods and measures as upon that true manhood from whose deep sources all that is precious and permanent in life must at last proceed. Such results may not consciously be contemplated by the individuals instrumental in the production of a great nation. Pursuing each his personal good by exalted means, they work this out as a logical result. They have wrought along the lines of the greatest good.

Ceaselessly to and fro flies the deft shuttle that weaves the web of human destiny, and into the vast mosaic fabric enter the individuality, the effort, the accomplishment of each man, be his station that most lowly or one of majesty, pomp and power. Within the textile folds may be traced the line of

each individuality, be it the one that lends the beautiful sheen of honest worth and honest endeavor, or one that, dark and zigzag, finds its way through warp and woof, marring the composite beauty by its blackened threads, ever in evidence of a shadowed and unprolific life. Into the great aggregate each individuality is merged, and yet the essence of each is never lost, be the angle of its influence wide-spreading and grateful or narrow and baneful. In his efforts he who essays biography finds much of profit and much of alluring fascination when he would follow out, in even a cursory way, the tracings of a life history, seeking to find the keynote of each respective personality. These efforts and their resulting transmission can not fail of value in an objective way, for in each case may the lesson of life be coned, "line upon line; precept upon precept."

Whether the elements of success in life are innate attributes of the individual or whether they are quickened by a process of circumstantial development it is impossible to clearly determine. Yet the study of a successful life is none the less profitable and interesting by reason of the existence of this same uncertainty. So much in excess of those of successes are the records of failures and semi-failures, that one is constrained to attempt an analysis in either case and to determine the method of causation in an approximate way. The march of improvement and progress is accelerated day by day, and each successive moment seems to demand of men a broader intelligence and a greater discernment than did the preceding. Successful men must be live men in this glorious twentieth century, and the lessons of biography may be far reaching to an extent not superficially evident. A man's reputation is the property of the world. The laws of nature have forbidden isolation. Every human being either submits to the controlling influence of others or, as a master, wields a power for good or evil on the masses of mankind. There can be no impropriety in justly scanning the acts of any man as they affect his public, social and business relations. If he be honest and successful in his chosen field of endeavor, investigation will brighten his fame and point the path along which others may follow with like success. Not alone are those worthy of biographic honors who have moved along the loftier planes of action, but to an equal extent are those deserving who are of the rank and file of the world's workers, for they are not less the conservators of public prosperity and material advancement.

Longfellow wrote, "We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing, while others judge us by what we have already done." If this golden sentence of the New England bard were uniformly appreciated, many a man who is now looking down with haughty stare upon the noble toilers on land and sea, sneering at the omission of the aspirate, the cut of his neighbor's coat or the humbleness of his dwelling, would be voluntarily doing penance in sackcloth and ashes, at the end of which he would handle a spade or, with pen in hand, burn the midnight oil in his study, in the effort to widen the bounds of liberty or to accelerate the material and spiritual progress of his race. The humble and lowly often stand representative of the truest nobility of character, the deepest patriotism and the most exalted purpose, and through all the gradations of life recognition should be had of the true values, and then should full appreciation be manifested.

In this compilation, which touches upon the lives and deeds of those who have been the founders and builders of Wells county, the editorial staff, as well as the publishers, have fully realized the magnitude of the work set before them. Within these pages will be found a brief resume of the generic history of the county, together with valuable and interesting articles by special contributors who are numbered among the representative citizens of the county, but the more specific province of the work is that of biography, and in the collation of the material for the same there has been a constant aim to use a wise discrimination in regard to the selection of subjects and yet to exclude none worthy of representation within its pages. Those who have been prominent factors in the public, social and industrial affairs of the county in the past have been accorded due recognition in so far as it has been possible to secure the requisite data. Names worthy of perpetuation have in several instances been omitted, either on account of the apathetic interest of those concerned or the inability to secure the information demanded. Yet, in both the contemporary narrative and in the memoirs of those who have passed on to "that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns," it is believed that there has been such utilization of material as to more than fulfill all stipulations and promises made at the inception of the enterprise.

In the compilation recourse has been had to divers authorities, including various histories and historical collections, and implying an almost endless array of papers and documents, public, private, social and ecclesiastical. That

so much matter could be gathered from so many original sources and then sifted and assimilated for the production of a single work without incurring a modicum of errors and inaccuracies, would be too much to expect of any corps of writers, no matter how able they might be as statisticians or skilled as compilers of such works. It is, nevertheless, believed that there will be found no inaccuracies of so serious a nature as to impair the historical value of the volume, and it is further believed that the results will supply the demand which called forth the efforts of the publishers and the editorial corps.

To other and specific works has been left the task of touching in detail and with due expansiveness the generic history of the county, for the assigned function of this compilation is aside from this and is definite in its scope, so that an exhaustive recapitulation would be incompatible and, in view of the prescribed limitations, impossible. However, the incidental references made to those who have been the important actors in the public and civic history of this favored section of the great commonwealth of Indiana will serve to indicate the generic phases and will shadow forth much to those who can "read between the lines." In conclusion we can not do better than to quote another of Carlyle's terse aphorisms: "There is no heroic poem in the world but is at bottom a biogaphy,—the life of man."

PART I.

HISTORICAL RESUME.

Out of the depths of his mature wisdom Carlyle wrote: "History is the essence of innumerable biographies," and though the province of this publication is distinctively that of offering generic history from this specific basis which the great philosopher so clearly apprehended, yet there can be no doubt of the incidental value, in the connection, of a brief review of the genesis and rise of this favored section of the state of Indiana, and such an epitome is offered in the appending paragraphs.

As to the relative location and the topography of the county it is needless to enter into much of detail. It is situate slightly below the forty-first parallel of north latitude, is about eighty-five degrees west of the prime meridian of Greenwich, and eight degrees to the west of the federal capital, the meridian time being thus twenty minutes in advance of the standard, so far as practical purposes are concerned. The northern part of Indiana is a portion of that great section formerly submerged by the inland seas of which the Great Lakes are the remaining vestiges, and

its geological integrity is characterized by what has been technically designated as the drift,—the deposition of material by the action of the waters which formerly swept over its surface. In this particular section the tendency of the strata dip is principally westward, but in Adams and Wells counties the drift was to the northward, with an average of eight feet to the mile in the dip. The county lies next east of Grant and Huntington counties, and is of the fourth tier south of the line of the state of Michigan, while it extends north and south a distance of twenty-four miles, with its south boundary twenty miles in width and its north fourteen miles, Jackson township jutting out to the west on the southern border and causing the irregularity of contour, which is somewhat in the form of a reversed L. Within the borders of the county are comprised nine organic townships, or nine whole and three half congressional townships, the aggregate area of the county being three hundred and seventy-two square miles. As to the nature of the strata underlying the surface it may be said

that in drilling at Bluffton, the county capital, to a depth of twelve hundred feet, the drift was indicated to a depth of twelve feet, and below this lay in turn, and in varying depths, the following strata: Water limestone, Niagara limestone, crystal limestone, Clinton group, shale, slate and Trenton group. Though the constituency of the subsoil is in the main gravelly, excellent brick clay is found in many localities, and good limestone along the river courses and near the surface, with occasional outcroppings, this product being well adapted for industrial uses. A terminal moraine is found to the south of the Maumee valley, this being the summit of the watershed between the Ohio river and Lake Erie, and the elevation is nearly three hundred and fifty feet above the surface of the lake mentioned, while the boulder clay is here of greater thickness than in any other point in Indiana; in Wells county are shown many superficial evidences of the glacial drift. The accumulations of sand and gravel are, geologically, of comparatively recent deposition, while underlying is a thick stratum of excellent clay, of well maintained integrity, and this constitutes the basis of the magnificent agricultural resources of this section.

As to the superficial character of the county, it is in the main gently undulating, and the elevation is sufficiently above the level of the water courses to render effective drainage possible, so that practically there is but a minimum portion of land which can not be reclaimed for cultivation. Within the borders of the county are found only two lakes, and these are of insignificant dimensions. The largest water course traversing the county is the Wabash river, the second in size is St. Mary's, and the third is

Salamonie, while other streams which are also of value in connection with drainage and the promotion of fertility of soil are Rock, Six-Mile and Eight-Mile creeks. The native timber of the county was originally very dense, and the following deciduous varieties were those most in evidence, as they are at the present time: White, burr and black oak, white elm, basswood, ash of two or three varieties, beech, hickory, yellow poplar, walnut and sugar maple. The most prolific of the native fruits is the blackberry, which has been most abundant in its wild state. White clover and blue grass have spontaneously covered the greater portion of the land in the county. As to the fauna of the county it may be said that in the early days the Virginia deer were plentiful, black bear were found in limited numbers, panthers were occasionally seen, as were also two varieties of wild cats; wolves were common. All these have been swept away by the onward march of civilization, while of the smaller animals seen in the earlier epoch only a few species remain to recall the days when this section was a veritable wilderness, in which only the Indian, in his motley garb, disputed dominion with the beasts of the forest and field.

As to the early settlement of Wells county, it should be stated in every historical compilation that the first white man to make permanent location here was Dr. Joseph Knox, who also was the first to settle at any point between Fort Recovery and Huntington. In 1829 he took up his abode on the southeast quarter of section 18, Lancaster township, and within a brief interval he was here joined by his sons-in-law, Vantrees and Warner, who also took up land. The three families remained until

1832, when they became panic-stricken by the rumors concerning the Black Hawk war and all fled from the county. In 1831 came the brothers Allen and Isaac Norcross, who settled near the river below Bluffton, but they also returned eastward during the Indian excitement of the following year, though the former of the two eventually came again to his pioneer farm, and he died in this county, in 1879, having been an eccentric character. Jacob Miller settled in Rock Creek township in 1832, and soon afterward Henry Miller located in that vicinity, both passing the remainder of their lives here. From this time forward the tide of immigration began to pour in, and it is gratifying to note that within the county still remain a number of those sterling pioneers who took up their abode here prior to 1840, while of those who came later there are, as a matter of course, a larger percentage. In the biographical department of this work will be found specific mention of many of these, so that further consideration is not demanded at this juncture.

The first merchant in the county was Bowen Hale, whose primitive little store was located on a farm near the present village of Murray, in which place, in 1837, Jesse Gerhard erected the first mill in the county. The first white child born in the county was Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Miller, the date of her nativity being 1835, while the first white child born in what is now the city of Bluffton was William Bluffton Miller, son of Michael Miller, this being an event occurring June 4, 1839. The first mill at Bluffton was erected in the early forties by Robert B. Turner. Robert Simison and Rebecca Davis, in February, 1837, initiated the nuptial history of the

county, being the first couple married within its environs, there being at the time no one in the county authorized to perform the marriage ceremony, so that an importation of a justice of the peace became necessary for the occasion. Rev. Elijah Sutton, a Baptist clergyman of the old school, preached the first sermon in the county in 1838, and the first within the city of Bluffton was delivered by Rev. George W. Bowers, of the Methodist Episcopal church, the services being held in the open air, at the foot of Johnson street. The first school was taught in 1837, by Jessie B. McGrew, in a log cabin on the farm of Adam Miller, on the river above Bluffton. The first election occurred in 1836, when not more than a dozen votes were polled in the county. The first circuit court convened in the log cabin of R. C. Bennett, in Bluffton, on October 19, 1837, Hon. Charles W. Ewing presiding. The first court house and jail were erected in 1838, and the first postoffice, a mile distant from Murray, was conducted by Bowen Hale, who has been previously mentioned.

The erection of Wells county as an organic division of the new state of Indiana was effected in the year 1835; when, together with Adams, it was set off from Allen county by enactment of the state legislature, this being in harmony with a bill introduced, during the session of that year, by Col. John Vawter, of Jennings county, who was chairman of the committee on new counties. Said bill was for an act to: "lay out all the unorganized territory to which the Indian title had been extinguished in the state into a suitable number of counties," and the approval of the measure occurred on the 7th of February, 1835, while under

its provisions thirteen counties were organized, the name of Wells county being given in honor of Capt. William H. Wells, a victim of the Fort Dearborn massacre, in Chicago, in 1812. The special act necessary to the erection of Wells county was passed and approved February 2, 1837, with a provision for a formal organization of the county on the 1st of the following May, while David Bennett was appointed sheriff and assigned the duty of notifying the electors to assemble at the house of Robert C. Bennett, for the purpose of electing three commissioners and likewise appointing five non-resident commissioners to determine the location of the county seat. As to the outcome in the matter of selecting the capital of the new county, we quote from a previous publication, as follows: "As these five commissioners for some cause failed to meet, a special act of the legislature was passed, and approved January 20, 1838, appointing Zachariah Smith, of Adams county; Christopher Hanna, of Jay county; Champion Helvey, of Huntington county; William Kizer, of Randolph county, and John Rogers, of Grant county, commissioners to locate the permanent seat of justice for Wells county. Having been duly notified by Isaac Covert, by this time elected sheriff, of their appointment, four of them came, the absent member being Zachariah Smith. The contestants for the county seat of government were Bluffton and Murray, and at first the four commissioners were evenly divided between the two points. Their first vote was taken about dusk in the evening. Mr. Abraham Studabaker, whose land lay at Bluffton, conferred with Daniel Miller, of Adams county, who also owned property near Bluffton, and was present at

the county seat contest. The result of the deliberation was that Miller should immediately post off on horse back to Adams county and fetch in Smith, the absentee, in time for the final vote in the morning. It was very cold; ten inches of snow were on the ground; not a single road had been cut, and there were only traces through the timber. He followed the Wabash fourteen miles, to the residence of Peter Studabaker, where he obtained a fresh horse, and on he pushed, twenty miles more, to the St. Mary's river, near the state line, where he found his man at three o'clock in the morning. Returning with him they again found fresh horses at Peter Studabaker's, and reached Bluffton before the commissioners met in the morning, after the messenger had traveled nearly seventy miles, mostly during the night and through a deep, unbroken snow and severe cold. The vote thus procured cast the die in favor of Bluffton. The report of the commissioners reads thus: 'We met at the house of Robert C. Bennett, in said county of Wells, on the first Monday of March, 1838, and have selected the west half of the northeast quarter of section 4, township 26, range 12, for the site of the seat of justice of Wells county, which land was donated by Abraham Studabaker, with a reserve of two choice lots. He also donated 31.90 acres off the east end of the south half of the southwest quarter of section 33, town 27, range 12 east. Robert C. Bennett donates the southeast fraction of the northeast quarter of section 4, town 26, range 12 east, with a reserve of two and one-half acres in the northeast corner. Studabaker and Bennett also donated two hundred and seventy dollars in cash.'

"But county government did not wait for the locating commissioners to do their duty. Long before the county seat was located, the citizens, in June, 1837, proceeded to elect their county board of three commissioners, namely: Solomon Johnson, James Scott and R. C. Bennett, Sr., for three, two and one years, in the order named. At this election six or seven non-resident landholders, living in Ohio, were permitted to vote, especially as they intended soon to move into the county, among them being Dr. George T. Riddle, Adam Hatfield and John Greer. The first acts of these commissioners, as condensed from their journal, were as follows: The board met Friday, July 21, 1837, at the house of R. C. Bennett, in accordance with the above recited act, and produced the certificates of the sheriff that they had been duly elected and qualified. David Bennett produced his commission appointing him sheriff (signed by Governor Noble) until the next annual election. Bowen Hale also produced a similar document appointing him clerk of Wells county. Both were certified to as having taken the oath as required by law. This being done, the board was organized, with Solomon Johnson as president. The first important acts of the board were in ordering that W. H. Parmalee be appointed agent of the three per cent. fund donated by the state to the county for roads and bridges, acceptance following and bond being given by the appointee; that Adanah Hall be appointed treasurer of the county, he also accepting, and giving bond in the sum of three thousand dollars; and that David Whitman be appointed assessor and collector of revenues for the county, his bond being fixed at eight hundred dollars.

For county purposes it was ordered that there be levied eighteen cents on each one hundred dollars valuation, and fifty cents on each poll.

"For several years taxes were often settled by promissory notes, endorsed each by two good men. For the first three years after the organization of the county it is said that the treasurer kept his office in his jacket pocket, but was never corrupted or approached with a bribe while discharging his trust. The fees of the office for a while necessarily exceeded the funds in the treasury, owing to the condition of things. As at that time the government lands were exempt from taxation five years after entry, there were but three tracts of land in the county subject to taxation. The first tax duplicate was made out on a single sheet of paper. The fifth order made by the board, the next day, was that Wells county be divided into two election districts, by a line commencing on the southern boundary of the county and running north between what are now Chester and Nottingham townships, and Harrison and Liberty townships; thence east two miles between Harrison and Lancaster townships; thence north to the county line. The territory on the east of this line was designated as Harrison township, and that on the west as Rock Creek township. At the above session of the board Bowen Hale was granted a license for one year, for the sum of five dollars, to retail merchandise and foreign groceries 'not the product of the state or of the United States.' September 4, 1837, the board met and 'on motion took their seats.' Bowen Hale was allowed fifty-six dollars for books for the use of the office, and other stationery—inkstands, ink powder, etc.

"John Casebeer was appointed the first surveyor, and the first road established in the county was that part of the state road leading from Greenville, Ohio, to Marion, Indiana. The expense of location through Wells county was fifty-six dollars and sixty-two and one-half cents. The next located in the county was the Fort Recovery and Huntington road, at the November session, 1837. For the opening of this road the board appropriated one thousand dollars of the three per cent. fund."

While, within the necessary limitations of this brief sketch, it will not be possible to enter into the chronological details of the history of Wells county, there are so many salient points of interest apropos of this early political epoch of inchoation, that we can scarce refrain from taking another glance at the perspective of the years ere passing forward. David Whitman served as "assessor of the revenue" of the county for 1837, and John Casebeer was chosen to fulfill the duties of this office for the ensuing year, while at this same session of the board of commissioners the first school commissioner of the county was appointed, in the person of Thomas T. Smith. In August, 1837, an election was held, and on this occasion Isaac Covert was chosen sheriff and James R. Greer associate judge, while in March of the following year the latter was appointed county agent, in which connection he gave bond in the sum of five thousand dollars. In May of that year the board held a session and awarded the sum of thirty-eight dollars to John Casebeer for surveying and platting the site of Bluffton, the recorded plat bearing date of March 23d of that year. In March, 1839, the board first extended a bounty on each wolf

killed, the sum of one dollar being paid for each scalp presented, while Adam Hatfield had the distinction of being the first to appear and demand this tribute. We again make excerpt from another's narrative in regard to this period: "At the close of this year Adnah Hall, treasurer, made his report, covering the period from November 6, 1838, to November 6, 1839, which showed that there had been received into the treasury from all sources the sum of \$1,419.40. His commission was \$19.43; notes, \$301. Total assets of the county, \$1,701.41, principally derived from fines and sales of lots. At the November session, 1839, Bowen Hale, clerk, reported that he had procured for the county a metallic seal, and the following description of the design was ordered to be placed on the minutes: 'A sheaf of wheat is the main design; a plane, a rake, a pitchfork; surrounded by the following words, to wit: "Commissioners of Wells County."' Prior to this date a scrawl seal had been used in official business."

Concerning the public buildings of Wells county, and it must be said to the credit of the county that in expenditures in this line it has kept pace with the magnificent march of development, as is *prima facie* to every one who visits the beautiful little city which is its official center, we note that the first court house was situated on the west side of Main street, between Market and Wabash streets, in the little frontier village of Bluffton, whose streets were still "improved" with the stumps of the native forest trees. This primitive hall of justice was constructed of logs hewed square and rose pretentiously to the height of two stories, the first being utilized by the courts and for all manner of public and semi-pub-

lic assemblies, while on the upper floor were to be found the one or two offices which the county found necessary for the handling of its affairs at that time. On the 18th of June, 1838, the county commissioners, being duly assembled, entered an order that the county agent should advertise for the letting of a contract for the erection of a court house in Bluffton, on the first day of the following August, and in the connection it is but consonant that we enter the record of the specifications provided: "The house to be built of hewn logs, eighteen by twenty-four feet, two stories high, and covered with three-foot boards, nailed on; floor to be oak or ash; with six twelve-light windows, four below and two above, and stairs to upper room. Also one jail, of hewn-timber one foot square, eighteen by twenty feet, two stories high." The contract was finally let to David Whitman, a farmer residing a few miles distant from Bluffton, and the jail was located about twenty rods to the south of the court house, the two being, as a matter of course, very similar in appearance, though not in the uses to which they were applied. Both were eventually destroyed by fire. On the 24th of April, 1843, the board of commissioners entered into a contract with Almon Case for the erection of the second court house, which was to be in keeping with the advancement and dignity of the county, the amount to be expended being five thousand dollars. Case sold the contract to George W. Webster, of Marion, Indiana, and under his direction the building was completed in 1845, being formally accepted by the board on October 5th of that year. This structure was retained as the official headquarters of the county for many years, and for the benefit

of coming generations, it may not be inappropriate to enter a brief description of the building which so long stood as a landmark of the county and which at the time of its erection was one of the finest of the sort in the northern part of the state. It was constructed of brick, manufactured in the vicinity of the town, fronted the east, with four large columns of the colonial type adorning this facade, giving a dignified and stately appearance, and it was two stories in height, the lower being utilized for the courts and the upper for the county offices, as had been the case with the little log structure. Eventually it was found necessary to provide smaller brick buildings adjoining or upon the premises, in order to furnish proper accommodations for the business of the county, and these provisions soon proved inadequate, so that the county was brought face to face with the problem of proving its progressiveness by the erection of a new building of modern type and one which would enable it to maintain its prestige among its sister counties. That its people have ever shown a distinctive public spirit cannot be doubted, and in 1888 we find the project for the providing of a new building assuming definite form. At the February term of court in that year Judge Henry Y. Saylor issued an order from the bench condemning the old court house, and the commissioners were then forced to order the building of a new one. It was erected on the site of the old building, the corner stone being laid, with appropriate ceremonies, on August 29, 1889. The building was completed and was duly dedicated by the bar of the county on the 2d of March, 1891. The original appropriation, under which the contract was assumed, was one

hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars, which did not include the furniture, various fittings and certain outside improvements, to cover which an additional expenditure of fifteen thousand dollars was made. The architects were George W. Bunting & Son, of Indianapolis, and the contractor was Christian Boseker, of Fort Wayne. The board of commissioners which awarded the contract comprised W. H. Rupright, Charles Scotten and Nathaniel McIntire, while Charles M. Miller was county auditor at the time. The same commissioners were in office when the building was completed and accepted it in behalf of the county. The building is eighty-seven feet in width and one hundred and thirty-five feet in length, and the material used in the construction is a fine grade of sandstone taken from the quarries on the line between Indiana and Michigan. The structure is of the Romanesque style of architecture and is particularly symmetrical and effective in design, the height of the tower being one hundred and thirty feet, while the interior finishing is of quarter-sawed oak.

In 1855-6 a brick jail was built a short distance south of the second court house, and this later was occupied by some of the county offices. The present jail and sheriff's residence was erected in 1880, at an expenditure of twenty-one thousand four hundred dollars, which indicates that it is thoroughly modern in design and equipment. It is forty-four by eighty feet in extreme dimensions, and its spire rises to a height of seventy-five feet above the ground level. The building is of the French renaissance style of architecture and is very attractive, being constructed of brick and stone, two stories in height with mansard

roof, covered with slate; it has a cellar throughout, and the prison wall is lined with one-fourth-inch boiler iron. It is situated one square southwest of the court house, and Jonathan P. Smith, of Bluffton, was the contractor.

The county infirmary and orphans' home is located a few miles southeast of Bluffton, on the southwest quarter of section 23, Harrison township, the farm comprising one hundred and fifty-six acres and having been purchased by the county in 1864, nearly the entire tract being now under cultivation. The main infirmary building was erected in 1875, at a cost of about sixteen thousand dollars and is substantially constructed of brick. Various improvements have been made, including the installation of a steam-heating plant, baths, etc. The barn on the premises was destroyed by fire in 1900 and a new building was erected at a cost of six thousand dollars. The institution has been on the whole ably conducted, the county showing no inclination to neglect its eleemosynary obligations, but making ample provision for the unfortunate wards of its charity. The value of the property is now about thirty thousand dollars and in the infirmary accommodations are afforded for about fifty inmates, the average number in the institution in the past few years having been about thirty-five. The orphans' home has a capacity for the accommodation of twenty persons, and the average number of inmates is twelve.

Concerning the census returns as touching Wells county, we enter the following summary: In 1860 the total population was 10,844; 1870, 13,585; 1880, 18,442; 1890, 21,514; and 1900, 23,449, showing that the increments in population have

come gradually and normally. The population of the townships, according to the census of 1900, is as follows: Chester, 2,345; Harrison, 6,548; Jackson, 2,237; Jefferson, 2,455; Lancaster, 2,169; Liberty, 1,976; Nottingham, 2,654; Rock Creek, 1,560; Union, 1,505.

Since the erection of the two original townships of Harrison and Rock Creek, at the first meeting of the original board of commissioners, in July, 1837, other townships have been set off as follows: Jackson, September 4, 1837; Jefferson, March 3, 1840; Nottingham, January 4, 1841; Chester and Lancaster, March 1, 1841, and Union, June 7, 1847. Jackson has been designated as the "lost township," from the fact that the counties about it were so formed that it could not be attached to any one of the number without the formation of a geographical projection, and by this means Wells county assumes somewhat the form of a reversed L, as has been already noted in this context.

The title of "palladium of liberty," as applied to the newspaper press of our republic, is no misnomer, and while no attempt will be made in this connection to enter into details as to the various papers which have come into the journalistic field in Wells county, many to continue in effective work and others to have but ephemeral existence, it will not be inconsistent to here make mention concerning the inceptual enterprises in the "art preservative of all arts." Wells county has been favored with a local vehicle of news since the year 1847, when was established the first newspaper, the Republican Bugle, whose politics were Democratic and whose editor and publisher was Thomas Smith, who had been

a soldier in the Mexican war. Of this venture a previous historical work has spoken as follows: "It was, of course, a small sheet; was printed in large type, on a Ramage (wooden) press, but being started at a premature stage of the settlement of the country, it failed to receive sufficient support and was suspended after an existence of about two years. Probably every village in the great west has been the scene of such premature newspaper enterprises. Early papers, however, gave but little local news. It was not the fashion then to give apparently small items of matters near home. Mr. Smith died in April, 1850." (The leading and official paper in the county has always been the Bluffton Banner, which was established in 1850 and which has ever stood as the staunch advocate of Democratic principles, being practically the successor of the Bugle. The first editors and proprietors of the Banner were Samuel G. Upton and Lewis S. Grove, and the ownership has been many times changed, the present executive and editorial principals in this well conducted enterprise being Messrs. George L. Saunders, Albert Oppenheim and W. H. Eichhorn. The Banner now issues daily editions as well as a weekly. The People's Press, Republican in politics, was established in 1855, by John L. Wilson and Michael Karns. Within the first year of the war of the Rebellion the name of the paper was changed to the Wells County Union; in 1866 it became the Wells County Standard, and three years later the name was changed to the Wells County Chronicle, which has since been retained, though there have been several changes in ownership and one or more temporary suspensions in publication. The present publisher is D. H. Swain. The

Chronicle is a weekly publication and both this and the Banner are issued in the city of Bluffton. Mr. Swaim also publishes the News, a daily, which is independent in politics. The Wells County Times, as an exponent of the principles and policies of the Greenback party, was established in 1878, by James Gerry Smith, and like the other Bluffton papers it had various changes in ownership; it is now extinct. The People's Press is a weekly paper and expounds the principles of socialism, Carl Venis being the proprietor. There are other papers in the county, and each is apparently exercising its functions to the satisfaction of patrons, proving an excellent exponent of local interests.

Of the beautiful little city of Bluffton, the official, and practically geographical, center of the county, we may say that the euphonious and consistent name was one suggested by the late Robert C. Bennett, Sr., by reason of the fact that the city is located on the more blufflike shore of the river, the first official mention of the name appearing on the records of 1838. In March of that year the original plat of the town was surveyed, under the direction of the newly appointed county surveyor, John Casebeer, and the county agent, James R. Greer, one hundred and ninety-one lots being laid out, while the plat was duly recorded on the 28th of the month mentioned. At the session of the county commissioners in the following June, they ordered the county agent to institute the sale of lots on the 16th instant and to continue until all were sold, as prescribed—that is, each alternate lot was to be thus disposed of, while three or four were reserved for Almon Case, in compensation for his entertaining those who came hither

for the sale. It is interesting to record that the "purchasers should have the privilege of cutting all timber that might endanger themselves or their property." The first lot sold for ninety-two dollars, and others brought proportionate prices, while the occasion was a notable one in the new county. To Mr. Case was issued the first tavern license in the county, and his first caravansery was succeeded by the Exchange Hotel, also conducted by him. It was long a landmark at the southeast corner of Main and Market streets and a place prolific in memories of the old stage-coach days. Ten per cent of the funds derived from the sale of lots was reserved, with rare foresight, for a county library, an institution that has kept pace with the progress of the intervening years and which is a distinct credit to the county. An addition of fifty-six lots was made to the original plat in August, 1838, and since that time many additions have been platted to accommodate the consecutive growth and development of the city. Continuing further mention of the inception of our now attractive county capital, we quote from a previous publication as to the nature of early "improvements" and conveniences: "The next month (September, 1838) John Studabaker, the first merchant in Bluffton, obtained from the commissioners license to sell merchandise. He erected a log cabin, with clapboard doors, into which he moved his meager stock. This he bartered, instead of selling for cash, coonskins and furs being the common medium of exchange. Coonskins were practically legal tender. He had no occasion for burglar-proof safes. About the same time the clerk's office was built, and these two fabrics then comprised all the im-

<http://stores.ebay.com/Ancestry-Found>

provements on Market street, the view between them being obstructed by timber of various dimensions, so that strangers had generally to be piloted from one to the other." Mr. Studabaker became one of the most prominent and influential citizens and business men of the county, and still continues to be actively concerned in the business and financial affairs of Bluffton.

The population of Bluffton in 1840 was two hundred and twenty-five, while according to the census of 1900 it has 4,479 inhabitants, its growth having been consecutive and of normal character, while it compares more than favorably with other cities of comparative population in the state. Its first board of trustees comprised the following named citizens: Lewis S. Grove, Joseph A. Williams, Engler Starr, William Strode and Nelson Kellogg. The place was incorporated on the 12th of February, 1851, and David Angle was chosen its first mayor and Theodore Horton clerk, while the members of the first council were Thomas L. Wisner, Bowen Hale, John Eby and C. T. Melsheimer; marshal, John Plessinger; treasurer, Erastus K. Bascom; street commissioner, George McDowell. The original council proceeded to transact its business with due decorum and dignity, and its first ordinances had to do with the imposition of a dog tax and a proper tax on real and personal property, with the customary poll tax of fifty cents, returns from this last source being applied to street improvement. Another ordinance imposed a fine for riding or driving faster than a common trot within the corporate limits, save in case of seeking the services of a physician, while regulations were made in regard to shooting for sport, gambling or disorderly conduct and the sale of spirituous liquors.

The city of today has a good representation of manufacturing industries and well equipped mercantile establishments; its business blocks are, in the main, of attractive and substantial order, the public improvements have been made with due conservatism and yet with a liberality which has provided the best of accessories in the line; the school and church buildings indicate the progressive attitude and the advanced moral status of the community, and here are to be found in significant evidence the various social and fraternal organizations which make for the bettering of conditions and for the enjoyment of the people of any community. Civic pride is in evidence on every hand, and is in no particular more patently exemplified than in the many beautiful homes, the spirit of emulation and appreciation being shown in the care given to even the more unpretentious residences, very few neglected properties marring the symmetry and attractiveness of the well kept streets. Bluffton is essentially a modern little city, in all the term implies; it is a prosperous city, both as a municipality and through individual enterprise, and its people are so placed as to have the "golden mean" of neither poverty or great riches, so that social intercourse is fixed on the most happy basis. In this article it is not intended to give more than a reminiscent glance at any one topic of the county history of the early days, or more than a word of inference as to present conditions, but it is hoped that this brief review will indicate more than superficially appears and will complement the more significant record appearing in the personal sketches of those who have here lived and labored.

Within the borders of Wells county are found many villages and hamlets of attract-

ive order, while in the southern portion marked advancement has been made in these minor towns through the development of the oil industry, whose importance is certain to become scarcely second to that of agriculture in this section. Ossian, a beautiful little village of about six hundred population, is located about nine miles north of Bluffton and was laid out by the township trustees on the 14th of March, 1850. It is located in Jefferson township and is a progressive town, with the best class of citizenship. The first settlers of Jefferson township were Samuel Ogden and Robert and William Craig, who here located in 1837, while in the following year came Richard Treenary, Thomas and James Ferguson, Robert Ewell and Adam Hatfield, while among the other early settlers were John Davis, Jacob Bunn, Levi Young, Samuel Weston, John Snyder, Joseph Hatfield, J. R. Lefever, Jacob and Martin King, William Webster, John Ogden, two bearing the name of Martin King, Joseph Gorrrell, William Quackenbush and Ellison Covert. The first township election was held April 6, 1840, at the house of William Craig, and the following officers were elected: Trustees, Philip Sower, Richard Treenary and Adam Hatfield; clerk, George Weston; treasurer, Jacob Bunn; justice of the peace, Samuel Weston. The Ferguson road, running east and west, a half mile north of Ossian, to Decatur, was the first road opened in the township. Near the center of Liberty township is located the village of Liberty Center, which was laid out November 12, 1878, by John W. Rinear and John Ernst, and which is now a thriving town. The village of Poneto lies partly in Liberty and partly in Harrison

township and has a population of about three hundred, the major portion of the town being in Liberty township. It was laid out by Simeon Tappy, on the 4th of September, 1871. The present name was given to the place in 1880. The first settlers in Liberty township were James Jackson and Henry Mossburg, who came here in the winter of 1836-7, while among those who took up their abode here within the years immediately following were G. H. and Johnson King, James Jackson, David Chapman, Stuart Bolton, Benjamin Mendenhall, John McFarren, David Goings, George Sparks, George P. Mann, James M. Merriman, John Hupp, John Muncie and Jacob First. The organization of the township occurred on the first Monday of April, 1842, at the home of Johnson King, and on this occasion the first election was held, there being nine voters present. The first road through the township was surveyed with a pocket compass, in 1839 or 1840, and ran from Bluffton to Jackson township, passing to the right of Liberty Center. This road was long since abandoned, and its course is now marked by cultivated fields. The next highway was the present north and south road running through Liberty Center on a section line. Vera Cruz, according to the last federal census, had a population only one individual short of the two hundred mark. It is located about seven miles southeast of Bluffton, on the other side of the river, and has retained some prestige as a trading point, though it has declined somewhat in population, being not on a line of railroad. Its founders were James Higgins and Christian Sowers and its establishment dates back to 1848, the place being known as Newville until about 1870, when

the present name was adopted. It was incorporated in 1870.

Rock Creek township has within its confines the little village of Rockford, the postoffice being Barber's Mills, the town dating its inception back to 1849, while it is most picturesquely situated on the little stream which gives title to the township. The first settlers in Rock Creek township were Solomon Johnson, Benjamin Brown, Solomon Sparks and Isaac DeWitt, who here located in 1835, while within the following two years came William and Allen Redding, Thomas T. Smith, John Zeke, David Snyder, William Barton, Thomas and Samuel Wallace, Mason Powell, William Ellingham and Jacob Miller. The first election in this township, which at that time included the present townships of Union, Liberty, Chester and Jackson, was held on the 8th of May, 1839, at the house of Benjamin Brown, who served as inspector and who was also honored with election as the first justice of the peace. Another writer has spoken of this township as follows: "Rock Creek is pre-eminently the most improved township in Wells county, if not in the whole state of Indiana. Nearly every resident appears to be a rich landlord, and scarcely any one a renter. The road running south from the Wabash river three miles, along the middle line of the township, is a royal highway and deserves some fancy name, as the land is high and the scenery beautiful."

In Union township are found the villages of Zanesville (a portion of which lies in Allen county), Uniondale and Prospect, none of which are lacking in attractions. Union township was organized in 1847, immediately after the extinguishing of the

Indian title to the same, which had been in the Miami Indian reservation. The settlers in that year were William Rosseau, James Edmundson, John Wandel, Joseph Rich, Joseph Davis, Milton Davis, E. Bagley and Jacob Dewitt. Others who came soon afterward were A. Housel, William Walker, John Felts, William Bell, S. B. Calley, Henry Chrismore, Simon Krewson, Michael Mason, James Cartwright, L. S. Walker and Robert McBride. Joseph Rich was the first incumbent of the office of justice of the peace.

Lancaster township was organized in 1841, as has been previously noted, and within its borders as at present constituted were made some of the earliest settlements in the county. In this township is located the town of Murray, which is the postoffice name of the old town of Lancaster, where was made the first village settlement in the county. Near this place Dr. Joseph Knox took up his abode in 1829, as the first white man to establish a home in the county, as has been previously mentioned in this article. In the connection it has also been noted that he and the few other settlers in the vicinity fled from the county at the time of the Indian troubles culminating in the Black Hawk war. The town of Murray was laid out October 17, 1839, by Jesse Gerhard, and two or more additions have been made to the original plat. The town is beautifully situated on the north bank of the Wabash river, but on account of its proximity to the county seat and on the score that it has remained without railroad facilities, its commercial precedence has not kept pace with the advance of years, though it is one of the attractive villages of the state and the home of worthy and progress-

ive citizens. The first justice of the peace in the township of Lancaster was James Dailey, and another who was called to the same office shortly afterward was Benjamin Brown.

Chester township was organized March 1, 1841, when the first election occurred at the house of Jonas Jarrett, while among the early settlers within its confines may be mentioned the following: Henry McCullick, Newton Putnam, Alpheus T. Stevens, Wilson Brown, Thomas Blunt, John Lancaster, Benjamin Starr, Jonas Jarrett, Isaac Lancaster, Alexander Walker, John McCullick, J. Brotherton, Levi Phillips, Franklin Spaulding and James Jordan, all of whom came prior to 1840, which year witnessed the arrival of Samuel and Nathan Rice, while prior to 1843 came Joseph H. McGrath, Thomas Hulet, Sewell Snow, Daniel and Joseph Sells and James Bell. The little hamlet of Keystone is located near the center of this township, the same having been laid out in April, 1872, by an honored pioneer of the locality, Luther Twibell.

So fully is the history of Harrison township, as at present constituted, coincident with the city of Bluffton, which is located near the center of its northern border, that further data is scarcely demanded in regard to the same. The first settlers within the present limits of the township were Charles Bennett and Thomas W. Van Horn, who took up their abode here in 1834, while others who came prior to 1840 were as follows: Gabriel and John Markley, Robert C. Bennett, Sr., Adam Miller, James Guthrie, Almon Case, John Burgess, Michael Myers, A. W. Johnson, Daniel Miller, Michael Whitmer, John Studabaker, Amos Townsend, C. Chalfant, Nelson Kellogg,

William Studabaker, John A. Deam and William Concannon. As has been previously noted, this was one of the original two townships into which the county was divided, the other having been Rock Creek. When it was erected, in July, 1837, it comprised its present territory besides that included in Nottingham township and the east three-fourths of Lancaster and Jefferson townships.

Nottingham township, whose oil fields are under process of effective development, was organized January 4, 1841, in which year its first election was held, in the Hite cabin, on section 14, fifteen votes being polled. The first settler in this township was Joseph Blacklege, in 1837, while in the following year came John Dawson, Abram Stahl, John Nutter, Jacob Warner, Lyman Bass, Hezekiah Grimes, Peter Garner, Isaac and Edward Haynes, Robert Smith and William Nutter. Among the villages and hamlets within this township may be mentioned Nottingham, Ruth, Petroleum, Domestic, Derrick and Phenix. Jackson township, to whose title of the "lost" township we have already made reference, was organized September 4, 1837, and originally included the present township of Chester. The township has three or more small villages and includes some of the finest agricultural land in this section of the state, as well as stone for building purposes, while its oil prospects are also flattering. The first permanent settlers came in 1836, being Nathaniel Batson, Daniel Jones and Leander Morrison, while others who located here prior to 1840 were Elijah Y. Graves, Christopher Miller, Philip Roush, Isaac Wright, Andrew Morrison, Richard and N. McIntire, Robert Alexander and Dorsey

Mason. The first road opened traversed the township in a northeasterly direction from the northeast corner of section 29, and was known as the Bluffton road. Excellent drainage is furnished by the Salamonie river, which traverses the township with good results.

In conclusion we may say that while the work of advancement in Wells county has gone successfully forward from those early days when was essayed the task of initiating the work of reclaiming this now opulent and favored section of the state from the untrammelled wilds, the particular object of this publication is to recite the story of progress, not through the specific recounting of the stages of such advancement, but rather to permit the record to assume symmetry and consistency through a consideration of the individual careers and accomplishments of those worthy men and women through whose efforts the present prosperity and precedence have been attained. Wells

county has sustained within its confines men who have been well able to play their assigned parts as founders and builders, and women of gracious, self-abnegating character. That nation is greatest which produces the greatest and most manly men and faithful women, and the intrinsic safety of a community depends not so much upon methods as upon that normal development from whose deep resources proceeds all that is precious and permanent in life. Such a result may not conscientiously be contemplated by the actors in the great social drama. Pursuing each his personal good by exalted means, the result comes as a logical sequence. In view of these facts who can doubt as to the permanent value of a publication of this nature? Let future generations learn through its pages the story which tells of the upbuilding of Wells county, while in the conditions which today obtain do we find an earnest of what the future is to bring forth.

INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS OF WELLS COUNTY.

By HON. HUGH DOUGHERTY.

To write on the subject of the industrial progress of Wells county should be a pleasant theme and an easy task, for it has been wonderful indeed. In these days of enlightenment and progress we are apt to forget what has brought opportunity to us and fail to appreciate the effort it has cost those who stood the hardships of frontier life, that we who follow may enjoy such wonderful opportunity to obtain knowledge, luxury and wealth. We fear that many of the youth whose advantages are now so abundant will not attempt a vigorous struggle to honor their own existence, as well as the patron saints who have put within their reach such great possibilities, yet we must not be pessimistic.

The best education, which is the only sure foundation upon which industrial progress can be advanced, is gained while struggling for a living, but there must be a determined purpose to acquire this knowledge, for we will not only through poverty and

take too much time and space, besides it is lack of means learn industry, frugality and independence of character, but will possess a sense of manliness and a broader usefulness in our chosen pursuits of life. As a rule those in moderate circumstances will surpass the sons and daughters of the rich in development and more fully enjoy the confidence of the world and will avoid failure and win success in their plans of operation. This, I think, is fully demonstrated in the progress of this county since its organization, for it was not the rich man's sons and daughters who laid the foundation for industrial progress, who were the pioneers and developed and made this one of the greatest counties in the state.

We are sure the reader will pardon the digression if we give a partial list of the men whom we found in Wells county opening the way for civilization when we came to adopt this as our future home in 1865. We will not be able to name all, as that would

not the purpose of this article, but a few of those who compose the roll of honor were Judge Jonathan Garton, Henry Miller, William Studabaker, John Markley, Gabriel Markley, John G. French, Chads Chalfant, Jacob Warner, James Bryson, Nathaniel Batson, Lemuel Bachelor, Abel Johnson, Chas. Rinear, David H. Drummond, Robert Roberts, Peter Sowerwine, Samuel Cotton, Jacob Haflich, Jacob Miller, John Ogden, John W. Davenport, George Gavin, James Dailey, Hiram Hatfield, Joseph Seaman, Joseph Rich, James Cartwright, Joseph Garrett, James Wasson, Martin Gilbert, Jacob Stahl, Bowen Hale and many more we would be pleased to mention if space would permit, all now having gone to their eternal reward.

Of one thing we are sure, no county was ever blessed with a more sturdy and honored citizenship than has been Wells county in the past, and of which the foregoing names were representatives.

The writer's personal knowledge of Wells county dates back only to November 5, 1865, at which time there was not a gravel road, railroad nor any of the important ditches constructed. Bluffton being the county seat, was the largest town, having then less than eight hundred inhabitants. The most important improvements in Bluffton at that time were three brick business blocks. The best and most imposing was built by John Studabaker, now occupied by the "Top," which included the east half of Bender & Walmer's store and the building adjoining these on the north, and one brick building where George F. McFarren's store building now stands, which was torn away some years ago to give way to the more spacious building which he now occupies; the

third one is now occupied by Cline & Zimmer's hardware store and was built by Drs. Melsheimer and McCleery. There were scarcely any sidewalks and those were made of plank; there were no crossings, so that pedestrians had but little use for shoe blacking, as they would not be able to cross the street after their shoes were polished without losing their lustre. The school houses of the town would scarcely accommodate one hundred students and the seating capacity of all the churches would not be more than three hundred. The court house, jail and other public improvements were on the same line; the private homes were no more pretentious, and still the town was ahead of the country at that time.

There were no gravel roads, the farmers doing well during the muddy season if they averaged getting to town twice a month. On this account there was very little reading matter found in the country homes. Dr. B. F. Cummins, who had a large country practice, once said to me that he was always prepared with paper in which to do up his powders, as he could not rely on the people to furnish it. For at least three months, and some times as much as five months, in the year it was impossible for farmers to get to town with their wagons, and in order to get over the corduroy roads and through the mud they were frequently to be found with a yoke of oxen or two horses hitched to the front wheels of a wagon, with a load of but two bags of wheat, the toilsome trip being necessary for the purpose of having the latter ground into flour for family use.

The main outlet for trade was Fort Wayne. There had been, several years previous, a plank road built from Fort Wayne to Bluffton, but the planks had become worn

out and in many places had broken through, which made it impossible for heavy freight to be hauled in a wagon, so when snow came in the winter, with good sleighing, all the teamsters in and about the town were employed to haul the produce and provisions to the market. A hack made the trip one way each day to Fort Wayne and return. It usually had four horses, though in the muddy season of the year they were unable to pull the hack and its passengers, so that very often the latter were compelled to get out and walk a good portion of the way. The writer paid two dollars for his hack fare from Fort Wayne to Bluffton on his first trip here, which reduced his total wealth to less than four dollars. After leaving Fort Wayne and driving about seven miles, we found the road so bad that the passengers found it more comfortable and speedy to walk. We would not have complained of this, if we had not been compelled to assist in prying out the hack on several occasions. This trip was made in April with the purpose in view of taking a view of the country, but the writer soon decided not to remain; later on, however, in the following autumn he returned to stay.

This condition of roads and transportation improved but little until the spring of 1868, when John Studabaker received a letter from D. T. Haines, of Muncie, saying there was a chance to get a railroad from Fort Wayne to Muncie, and thereupon Mr. Studabaker promptly joined Mr. Haines and Louis Worthington, of Cincinnati, at the Rockhill House, Fort Wayne, where a number of gentlemen from that city met them and at the conference it was proposed to construct the road if Wells county would contribute one hundred thousand dollars to

the enterprise and if responsible private citizens would guarantee this amount by a bond to be executed by them therefor. Public sentiment was strong enough to have voted a donation to this amount by the county, but there was no statute authorizing the vote or an appropriation for railroad purposes, so there was no other way to do but to create a sentiment strong enough to induce the county commissioners to appropriate the money without regard to existing laws. With that indomitable will and energy which has made John Studabaker's business life such a success, he proposed that the bond should be signed by four hundred citizens, all real estate owners, he first putting his name to the bond. Then a canvass was made of the county, meetings held and speeches made, until the four hundred freeholders' names were secured. Immediately following this Mr. Studabaker was made a director of the railroad. The contract was let to Byrd, Sturgis & Ney, of Fort Wayne, and the work was commenced and progressed for three months. The desire on the part of the people of Bluffton to have the road completed at an early date caused frequent inquiries to be made as to the progress, when it was found that the contractors were not paying their hands, nor for the material, but that each member of the firm had received the pay for the monthly estimate and kept the money. The writer was sent by Mr. Studabaker to see what could be done to hurry the work along, when he accidentally overheard a conversation that divulged the fact that the Junction Railroad, of which Louis Worthington was the president, and which was supposed to be furnishing the money to build our railroad, was in financial trouble. When

this was reported to Mr. Studabaker he called Mr. Worthington, the president of the road, and a number of directors to Fort Wayne and at that conference it was decided to take the work away from the contractors and put it in the hands of a receiver and if any profits were made they were to go to the contractors. A number of citizens were discussed as to who should take charge of the work and put it through with as much haste as possible, when Mr. Studabaker proposed the writer, who was then twenty-four years old. Some objections to him were made on account of his age, but with Mr. Studabaker's keen foresight he was determined to have control of the construction so that it might be put through as rapidly as possible and before any failure might occur with the Junction Railroad, so he proposed that the receiver should give a one-hundred-thousand-dollar bond, which was promptly given by Mr. Studabaker signing the bond, with Jesse L. Williams, of Fort Wayne, and other gentlemen. He brought it to Bluffton for the signature of the principal and on the next day the writer took charge of the enterprise, hiring all labor, buying the material and securing the right of way. Among the first men hired to hew ties was Augustus N. Martin, who afterwards was elected reporter of the supreme court and was also representative in congress three times from this district. There was much annoyance in getting the right of way, because of many unfulfilled promises made by the men who undertook to build this railroad years prior to this time. One of the instances that now comes to our mind occurred on the farm of George F. Burgan, through which the road ran a mile north of Bluffton. He was very agreeable as to the question of amount and we agreed

with him what he was to have and told him to let the men go to work and we would be out and pay him next day. This conversation was in the yard and he immediately stepped into the house, took down his rifle and said, "You will pay me now or the first man that steps on my land will be shot," so we were compelled to return to Bluffton at once and obtain the money to pay him, for the men were there ready to go to work. From that time on the road had no better friend than Mr. Burgan. We had several law suits for rights of way, in which we found David Colerick, of Fort Wayne, a very able lawyer, always on the opposite side. After we had the right of way through the farms Colerick came to us and asked that there might be a cattle guard put in so that a crossing could be made for a client of his, that the latter might drive his stock from one side of the farm to the other. We said to him, "Mr. Colerick, we do not consider you a friend of the road, therefore do not believe we can grant your request in behalf of your client." He yelled out at the top of his voice, "Friend! I am no man's friend, nor road either; I never had but one friend myself and he d—d nigh ruined me." His client did not get the crossing.

The intimation we had that the Junction Railroad and Louis Worthington, the president, were in financial straits caused great fears that the road never could be completed for lack of money, so it was agreed that the Junction Railroad would secure the iron and we would do the work and furnish the ties and bridges to complete the work to Bluffton and hold the one-hundred-thousand-dollar citizens' bond as security for what money we had advanced and would advance until the road was completed to Bluffton. The condi-

tion of the bond was that the one hundred thousand dollars would be due whenever a train of cars would have run over the road from the city of Fort Wayne into the town of Bluffton, where Market street would cross the railroad. This made it extremely important that the road be completed to Market street, Bluffton, before November 30, 1869. As the time drew near for the completion of the road there had to be a large number of men and teams put on the grade and in the woods making ties and getting out timber, and the last month we had three hundred names on the pay roll, which required over thirty thousand dollars. On November 10, 1869, twenty days before the time was up, we had run a train from Fort Wayne to Market street, Bluffton, which made the citizens' bond binding and worth one hundred thousand dollars. Then came the great jollification, large numbers of people coming in from all parts of the county with well filled baskets. A jolly time was had.

Up to this time there had been but one engine on the road, it being under the care of the writer, and the contractors, Byrd, Sturgis & Ney, refusing to surrender the possession of the road to the Junction Railroad until they were settled with for their profits. The Junction road bribed the fireman to run away with the engine. While the engineer was temporarily off his engine at Fort Wayne, the fireman cut loose and started it down the Pennsylvania track to Lima with all speed possible. This created great excitement at Bluffton and the question then arose in the minds of the wiseacres whether from a legal standpoint we had a railroad or not and it was a mooted question as to whether the one-hundred-thousand-dollar citizens' bond could be collected,

but it was only a few days until a train of cars was placed on the road.

While Mr. Studabaker and the writer were delighted to have completed the road in time to leave them secure for what had been advanced, yet there was great trouble ahead. About fifty thousand dollars of the money which had been appropriated by the county commissioners to the railroad had been paid in by tax payers to the county treasurer, he having deposited it in our bank. We in turn deposited it in the Central National Bank of Cincinnati, but when we made the last payment to the laborers and for the material and our bank undertook to draw the money from the Central National Bank of Cincinnati, we were told that Louis Worthington had already drawn the money, claiming it due them as soon as the railroad reached Market street, Bluffton. After spending two days making every effort to get them to give up the money peacefully we employed lawyers with the intention to force them to pay us the money, for the reason that we had never given the Central National Bank any authority to pay Mr. Worthington the money, and if they had advanced it to him on his word they must rely on that for their pay. This settled one-half of the citizens' bond. The other half was settled so far as it could be done by the county commissioners by their ordering the county auditor to issue county orders covering the other fifty thousand dollars, which was to be paid out of money as soon as collected for that purpose. The county commissioners appointed Mr. John Studabaker trustee to take charge of these county orders, but Hon. Newton Burwell, who had just held a term in the lower house of the legislature and was quite active in politics, raised

an objection to Mr. Studabaker being made trustee, because of his being a Republican. He had but little trouble in convincing the county commissioners that Mr. Studabaker could not be trusted with these county orders on account of his politics, this being made especially easy because of there having been quite a contest over Manuel Popejoy, who was nominated as one of the commissioners on the Democratic ticket. However, when the committee appointed by the four hundred on the citizens' bond called on Mr. Popejoy and asked what he would do in regard to pledging himself to appropriate the money for the railroad, his reply was, "If the law warrants such an appropriation and I am elected I will vote for it." The signers of the bond knew there was no law authorizing a levy for railroad purposes, so they set about to defeat him and did so by electing Louis Prilliman, a Republican. Thus Mr. Burwell's objection to Mr. Studabaker on account of his politics was accepted by the commissioners as being sufficient to remove him, and it was proposed that the writer, whose politics was regular, be put in his place, and he was appointed.

This only increased trouble for the writer, as the county orders were then placed in his hands and he started to Cincinnati to exchange them for the citizens' bond. He found it in the hands of a pork packer named Joseph Rawson, who had advanced Mr. Worthington the money on the last half of the bond, this being the money that paid for the railroad iron. Although we offered to sell them at ninety cents on the dollar, they had no attraction for Mr. Rawson and he promptly declined to take anything but cash, so we returned from Cincinnati with a heavy heart, feeling it would be from one

to two years at least before the orders could be paid. The citizens' bond was now due, as the railroad had already reached Market street, Bluffton. When we reached Bluffton it was a late hour in the night and we found Amos Townsend walking up and down the street waiting for us and said he had word that the taxpayers in the northern part of the county would enjoin us from disposing of the orders, if they were able to procure legal service on us.

We called on Mr. Studabaker and decided that there was only one thing for us to do and that was to get out of the reach of the officers and make some disposition of the orders. We concluded it was not safe to wait for a train the next morning and, after some deliberation, hitched up and went to Fort Wayne in a private rig. If we were unable to sell the orders in Fort Wayne we must keep on going, even to New York if necessary, until they were disposed of. We reached Fort Wayne a little before daylight. The writer, having traveled several nights and being much worried, was directed to go to bed until called by Mr. Studabaker. The next morning about nine o'clock we were directed to go to the First National Bank of Fort Wayne, of which J. D. Nuttman was president, and to take whatever paper he offered in exchange for the orders, but we were to go through the form of making a sale by first offering at par and when he offered ninety cents to agree to take it. We went through the performance and Mr. Nuttman handed over a paper together with two letters, one written to the auditor and one to the treasurer of Wells county.

As we were so nearly exhausted, Mr. Studabaker sent us home on train and he drove back. On our way home we opened

the papers and found a certificate of deposit from Nuttman calling for the amount of the face of the orders, less ten per cent. to be paid when the orders were paid. When we got home we delivered one letter to W. H. Deam, treasurer, and one to S. M. Dailey, auditor. They opened the letters, which said that the First National Bank of Fort Wayne had bought the orders and would expect payment for them as soon as the money could be collected. Mr. Dailey, the auditor, in a very excited way, began to announce to every one he met that the orders were sold and the money was in the Exchange Bank of John Studabaker & Company, ready to pay off the citizens' bond, all of which was glad news to every one who had signed the bond; but this was but the beginning of our troubles.

In the first place, the paper held against the First National Bank of Fort Wayne would cause us to meet with a loss of ten per cent. on the orders and the six per cent. they would draw until they were paid, so we could not stand that staring us in the face and insisted upon Mr. Studabaker returning to Fort Wayne at once and exchange the certificate we had for the orders given Nuttman. When we approached Nuttman, asking what his understanding about the matter was, he very promptly said that he of course expected the ten per cent. and interest on the orders for his trouble in the matter. A very hot controversy ensued, but finally Nuttman agreed to settle for \$300, to give up the orders and take back his certificate, which amount was paid by Mr. Studabaker. The certificate of deposit required twenty-eight dollars in government stamps, which made a loss of three hundred and twenty-eight dollars to start with, but that was bet-

ter than ten thousand dollars or more, as it would have been had we gone on with the arrangement first made.

But our troubles did not stop here; in fact, the clouds grew darker and darker until the writer made up his mind that disaster must follow, for his position before the public was a false one and especially interesting to those who were on the citizens' bond and directly interested in the matter, as having possession of the money. Yet he did not make any attempt to pay off the bond and return it to the original signers, as instead of having the money we had those spurious orders which were not worth anything from a legal standpoint.

These conditions continued for about three days, when the public began to get very uneasy and restless because we did not proceed to pay off the bond. The excuse was offered that we were sick, worn out and must rest, and thereupon a committee was appointed to take our place to redeem the bond. Then we were compelled to take some action, so the writer finally concluded that he would insist upon Mr. Studabaker signing his note to cover the amount of money which the commissioners had authorized the orders to be sold for and borrow the money out of our own bank to pay for the purchase of said orders, said fund to be reimbursed as the money was paid into the treasury. The public in the meantime were led to believe that the orders were owned and sent by Nuttman for collection.

When the writer reached this conclusion he found Mr. Studabaker in the woods and submitted to him his plan. At first he promptly declined to sign the paper, but upon reflection he agreed to go to the bank and further discuss the matter and on our way

up he was told that Captain Peter Studabaker, who was a partner in the bank at that time, must not know what we were doing, that the fewer the people were who knew of it the less danger there would be of exposure if we got into court. It was finally agreed that we should give our note for the whole amount, which was nearly fifty thousand dollars, with John Studabaker as surety. When we reached the bank we made out the note, both signed it and presented it to Captain Studabaker and told him to give us such exchange as could be used in Cincinnati to cover it. Then came a fierce demand to know what this meant. We declined to tell him and finally he consented and made out the papers. The writer went to Cincinnati, paid off the bond and brought it back and delivered it over to Mr. Dailey, the auditor, when there was a second jollification. Everybody was light hearted but the writer, who knew we owed fifty thousand dollars with no security except county orders which had been issued without warrant of law, and these were worthless from a legal standpoint.

At that time there were a large number of orders out for bridges and the bounty for war purposes, which were being taken up by the treasurer for taxes. We made arrangements with the treasurer to retain all orders he took in which were authorized by law and exchange them for our railroad orders, taking him into the secret of the whole transaction, so that within a year we practically had them all taken up. By this time our first railroad was completed to Bluffton and it was our time to rejoice, as we had escaped a calamity that might have been our destruction, for it is hardly to be expected that the public would have ever taken

care of us, even though the building of the railroad was worth to the town and county ten times the one hundred thousand dollars. Mr. Studabaker will never get too much praise for his courage and energy spent in behalf of the public in securing the first railroad for Bluffton.

The building of the second road, running east and west through Bluffton, had been agitated from time to time for a number of years. At times a line was proposed from Lima to Logansport, at other times from Van Wert in a southwesterly direction and thence west through Crawfordsville, but finally the narrow gauge fever struck the country and Joe Boehmr and Dr. Evans, of Delphos, Ohio, came along and proposed to build a road from that point through Bluffton west. At this time townships were authorized to vote aid which was done by Harrison, Lancaster and Liberty townships. James Crosbie and the writer were given the contract to build the road from Bluffton to Warren. The iron covering that point of the road was to be furnished by the company. The grade was constructed and the iron furnished, but before it was delivered it was necessary to have the officers of the company sign a note covering seven thousand dollars for the iron. The note was signed by Joseph Boehmr, Dr. Evans, W. J. Craig and the writer. Mr. Crosbie and the writer were given notes covering their contract, executed by the citizens of Warren and payable when the road was completed to that place. These were paid promptly, but the seven thousand dollars was unprovided for and after considerable manipulation the road was sold and the seven thousand dollars paid by the succeeding company, so that

Bluffton had the second railroad. From this small start it has since been converted into a standard gauge, with first-class day coaches and sleepers and with through trains from Toledo to St. Louis. It is now a credit to the city as well as the county and of great service to the people.

The building of the narrow gauge road without capital caused the promoters to make many promises they could not fulfill and they became quite unpopular. When the road proposed to locate the shops here, the proposition was turned down by a majority of thirty-seven in Harrison township. This was a misfortune to the citizens of Bluffton, but later on, when the Erie road proposed to come to Bluffton, they offered to give Bluffton the road for eighty thousand dollars, but they would not cross the river. Those who were active in railroad building up to that time having become discouraged by the loss of the narrow gauge shops, took no part in it and the promoters of this enterprise were not aggressive enough to accomplish their purpose, so the road was lost. Only second as a misfortune to the loss of this railroad is the loss of the Dayton, Union & Huntington road, which is destined to be built through Montpelier, building up that city to our detriment.

The next thing in the way of public improvement in facilitating travel was in building gravel roads. Interest began to spring up and it was finally decided to go to Rock Creek Center and have a meeting in the interest of such roads. W. B. Nimmons, an enthusiastic promoter of this enterprise, hired a band to attend a meeting at Rock Creek Center in the interest of the proposed improvements, but the presence of the band enraged the people, doing more harm than

good, because they conceived the idea that Bluffton was trying to take them by storm. A little later on the Fort Wayne gravel road, extending from the county seat to a point three miles north, came up before the people for consideration, when Mr. Greenfield said he would carry the petition around and get signers if he had a guarantee that the road would be built. We provided the guarantee satisfactory to him and he secured the number of signers necessary and the building of the road was contracted to Simon Bickle. About the same time a petition was circulated and signed by a sufficient number for a road extending from Bluffton to Barbers Mills, which road was built by James Crosbie, Sr.

A little later on a road known as the Salamonie, running from Bluffton through Mt. Zion to the south line of the county, was built by D. D. Studabaker & Company. These roads were more expensive than those later on, as much more was required of the contractors and the contractor knew less about building them, but since that time there is scarcely a section line road in the county that is not graveled, there now being about three hundred miles of gravel road in the county.

All the main ditches, which cost many hundred thousand dollars, have been made until there is no part of Wells county that is not thoroughly drained. It has been more difficult to construct the ditches entirely satisfactory to the farmers than any other improvement that has been made. There was much dissatisfaction both with Little River and Rock Creek ditches, which were the largest artificial drains in the county, but the people along these ditches have learned that their best soil is in the bottoms and would

not now exchange their ditches for the money paid.

In our public buildings we have a court house that is equal to any of the counties around us and one which was honestly built. A self-constituted committee of citizens gave the matter attention during the construction of the court house and saw to it that the people of the county got value received for the money they paid out. The jail is modern and first-class, the county infirmary and orphans' home are equal to any in this part of the country. Our school buildings are ample to take care of one thousand two hundred pupils, being located in three parts of the city where they are convenient and under the eye of the parents.

Our manufacturing interests have grown from one blacksmith shop, owned by Sam Jones, and one repair and blacksmith shop, owned by Michael Karns, altogether employing six men, to enterprises employing nearly six hundred men. The largest is the Red Cross Manufacturing Company, which makes wind mills, pumps and tower tanks, shipping much of their products to North and South America, Australia and New Zealand. The Grimes Foundry and Machine Shops make a specialty of the Mascot pumping power, which is used in the oil fields for operating large oil leases. The Bluffton Manufacturing Company, the oldest concern in the world for manufacturing washing machines, ship its goods all over the United States, as well as Europe. The Zero Mitten Manufacturing Company, employing nearly one hundred girls, makes mittens and gloves which are sold extensively in this country as well as in Canada. The Bluffton Folding Chair Works manufactures chairs, camp stools, lawn swings, etc., the

orders for which come from all parts of the country. In addition to these are the Aurora Fire Clay Company, the Indiana Scale Truck Company and the Bluffton Hoop Company, F. P. Adams Slackbarrel and Heading Factory, Smith & Bell Saw Mill, J. M. Buck Handle Factory, the Bluffton Overall Company, three flouring mills, the Mercer Lumber Company and a number of cigar factories, all of which give steady employment to the laborers of the city.

In the produce line, from the little warehouse where Studabaker, Sale & Company's office now is, which held the grain and seed for the season, waiting for good roads to allow it to be hauled to Fort Wayne, we have the Studabaker, Sale & Company's elevators, with a capacity sufficient to fill the old warehouse in one day. In addition to this the H. C. Arnold elevator and the S. Tudor & Company, packers and produce shippers, carrying on a business of great magnitude. These three produce firms frequently check out more money from the banks of Bluffton in one day than constituted the entire deposits and capital of the bank in the early days. At that time one bank, with total deposits of eighteen thousand dollars and fifty thousand dollars capital, was more than ample to take care of the business of the town and county. It is now succeeded by two banks with a capital and surplus of two and fifty thousand dollars and one million three hundred and fifty thousand dollars deposits.

The dry goods merchants, then Messrs. Arnold, Bliss & Company, L. L. Holmes and S. Oppenheim, and Nathaniel Schlesinger, the only clothier, have been succeeded by four dry goods stores, any one of which will do as much

business per annum as all three of the former stores, besides which are four large clothing stores, any one of which sells more goods in three months than were sold by the one former clothing store in a year. There are now three large hardware stores, in place of the one which was owned by Henry Cook. We also have at the present time four large furniture stores and three undertaking establishments.

The grocery business was represented by Sebastian Keeley and J. E. White. It is now represented by thirteen groceries, with every variety and quality of goods and having an excellent trade, though these are no more than adequate to supply the wants of the people. There are now five churches, with a combined seating capacity of four thousand. The development of oil has been a means of enriching the farmers wonderfully in the southern part of the county, among the most prominent operators being W. A. Kunkel, Brown & Long, James McCormick, L. C. Davenport.

Bluffton, the county seat of Wells county, is known throughout the entire country as a most beautiful city of five thousand inhabitants, with miles of asphalt, brick and macadam streets, matched with cement walks on either side, with its shade trees and lawns, beautiful and cozy residences, both large and small, as a background for the picture. Still the city is not ahead of the county, with its three hundred miles of gravel roads that ramify it. The farms are well

drained and in a fine state of cultivation, yielding excellent crops, in abundance comparing favorably with the very best counties of Indiana.

It is not, however, to be supposed that the triumphs of Wells county in these matters have been achieved without effort, for in the care and attention given to the successful cultivation of the soil the farmers have labored strenuously for many years, until ingenuity and integrity have become their most distinguished characteristics.

When one has comprehended all that this people have done for themselves we are sure it is neither natural or reasonable to grudge them the success that has attended their efforts, and yet the common complaint is that the farm and farm life are not appreciated by our people, but that they long for a more elegant pursuit. The ways and fashions of the city are not in the line of happiness and comfort, for the farmer has the most sacred and natural occupation and ought to find life sweeter than any other, for he alone, strictly speaking, has a home. He writes his history upon his field; his friends are his cattle, his team, his dog, his trees; his satisfaction is in his growing crops and his improved fields; his intimates are the bird and beast; he co-operates with the cloud, the sun and the season; heat, wind, rain and frost, all humble him, teaching him patience and reverence, and restore the proper tone to his system, and radiate his virtues after his day's work is done.

AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS IN WELLS COUNTY.

By EVAN T. CHALFANT.

Wells county is and, so far as we are able to see, must always be an agricultural district. There is neither coal nor iron here, nor water power to make a manufacturing district of it. The grand forests of oak, hickory, ash, beech, walnut, maple, elm, cottonwood and other varieties of timber which once covered our county, and which took centuries to grow, are now nearly gone. So our lumber industries are rapidly drawing to a close. There are no rare clays or minerals to bring manufacturing industries into our midst. In all these respects our county seems unfortunate; and yet we think these very deficiencies will prove a great blessing to our people. No manufacturing section can also be a successful agricultural section. The conditions that make the one work against the success of the other. Not having our attention divided between agriculture and manufacturing, we can concentrate all our energies, all our skill and all our wealth to make a success of the former.

Nature has blessed our county with conditions that will ever make it a successful and wealthy agricultural district. Our climate is healthful and favorable to agriculture. There is sufficient moisture and

warmth to grow bountiful crops. The winters are neither long nor severe; the summers are long and pleasant and give crops ample time to mature. Frosts come early enough to cause corn and other late growing crops to ripen and cure out to save well. Spring opens up early enough to give ample time for spring seeding. The soil is for the most part a rich clay loam, underlaid by from twenty to one hundred feet of clay subsoil, which constitutes the best farm land on earth. The surface is generally level, with just enough slope to give good drainage, but not to cause the surface to wash into gullies. The land is free from rocks and stones, so that it is easily farmed. A ridge of rolling lands crosses our county from northwest to southeast, that makes excellent grazing land, giving a grand opportunity for stock raising and dairying. The level lands are also well adapted to the same branch of agriculture. The great depth of soil between the surface and the rock having been formed by the glacial drift and so being equally rich throughout its depth in the mineral plant foods, makes it impossible to ever exhaust this kind of plant food. As the gases that help to form the plants comes from the air, that

source of plant food is also inexhaustible. The earth above the rock contains many gravel beds filled with excellent water, and the rock also contains an abundance, so the county is liberally supplied with this very necessary material. Our location with reference to the markets and our shipping facilities are all that could be desired, so there is no reason why Wells county should not always be a great and wealthy agricultural district.

The latest Indiana agricultural statistics for our county show that it is already a great agricultural district. It gives the amount of wheat raised in one year as 211,896 bushels, being an average of 9 bushels per acre; 1,909,680 bushels of corn, an average of 45 bushels per acre; 681,398 bushels of oats, an average of 46 1-2 bushels per acre; 12,270 bushels of rye, an average of 26 1-2 bushels per acre; 29,021 tons of timothy hay and 21,415 tons of clover hay, the former yielding 1 1-2 tons per acre and the latter 1 3-4 tons; 40,680 bushels of Irish potatoes and 1,540 bushels of sweet potatoes, yielding 110 bushels of the latter and 56 1-2 bushels of the former to the acre. Of horses the same statistics give us 7,954 head and 101 head of mules; 14,229 head of cattle, 40,330 head of hogs, and 20,532 sheep and lambs. Milk produced equalled 2,899,995 gallons and butter 620,981 pounds; 12,825 dozen chickens gave 693,459 dozen eggs. These statistics show only a part of the productions of our county for one year. The fruit and vegetables, excepting potatoes, are not mentioned, nor such crops as clover and timothy seed, buckwheat, soy beans, Canada field peas, corn stover and some others of which our county produces an abundance. While

the amounts of the various animals and crops given show an enormous total and a great diversity in kinds and varieties that can be successfully grown and produced in our county, yet they by no means show the limit of the amounts that our fine climate and rich soil are able to produce. Much of our land is not yet under cultivation, and that which is is capable of doubling and trebling the amounts now produced. For instance, in the report quoted wheat is given as averaging only 9 bushels per acre, while a yield of from 30 to 40 bushels is often grown by individual farmers. The same kind of farming that produces these latter amounts if followed by all the farmers would raise the average amount of wheat produced per acre to several times 9 bushels. So with corn, many farmers raise from 90 to 100 bushels per acre, or double what the whole county averages. The same ratio of increase could by good farming and management be continued throughout the whole list of crops and farm animals and animal products. At present our farmers try to manage too many acres for the amount of help they have. The results are crops not thoroughly cultivated and managed and many small unprofitable yields. If only half the number of acres received the same amount of work and care they would yield as many bushels as the larger number of acres but half cared for yield.

The conditions of the farmers and the methods of farming in Wells county have greatly changed and improved in the last quarter of a century. When the writer came to this county from the Pennsylvania hills, in the spring of 1867, the country was new, the land but partly cleared and the fields were full of stumps and roots. But

little ditching had been done; swamps and wet land abounded on all sides and the air was loaded with malaria and mosquitoes. The "chills" and fever were escaped by but few every summer. Most of the families then lived in log houses of but one or two rooms. For six months of the year the roads were almost impassible and they were never very good. A buggy or a carriage was a great curiosity and as rare as automobiles are today. Young men and women rode out together on horseback or went afoot. People either walked to church or went horseback or in the farm wagons. In those days the principal food was corn and pork. But little wheat was raised and fruit was still scarce. But few homes could boast of a sewing machine, a washing machine, an organ or a piano. The floors were usually bare boards and the furniture of the cheapest sorts. The farmer then cut his grass with a scythe, raked his hay by hand and pitched it all by hand. He cut his grain with the cradle and raked and bound it by hand. The threshing machines were run by horse power. There were no riding plows, cultivators, harrows nor other riding tools of which we now have such a variety. Hard toil was the rule in all the work on the farm. There were no railroads, telegraph lines nor telephones in the county in those days. The stock was of poor varieties, or breeds, or rather of no particular breeds. Hogs had to run in the woods till nearly or quite two years old before they could be fattened. When stock was sold it had to be driven to Ft. Wayne either by the owner or buyer. Grain sold had also to be hauled there for sale. It would seem impossible for people to enjoy life under such conditions; but they did, and we can

look back to those days and count over many blessings we received and many pleasures we enjoyed. How much more, then, ought we to enjoy life now and how thankful we ought to be for the many blessings and privileges we now enjoy. Compared with those early days, the farmers in Wells county live like kings and queens today. We have comforts and privileges and pleasures innumerable. If the improvement continues another quarter of a century as it has the past quarter or more, there surely will be nothing further to wish for this side of heaven. The farmers of Wells county now live in large, fine frame or brick dwellings. They drive to town or elsewhere in fine carriages over gravel roads, or they go on the cars, and they soon will be riding on inter-urban cars, as two or three roads are now being constructed that will pass through our county. They have telephones connecting them with their neighbors and with the cities. They have their mail delivered daily at their doors and now take the daily papers and many nice magazines and papers they seldom saw twenty-five years ago. Every farmer's boy now has his horse and buggy and his bicycle. The farmer's daughters also have their bicycles and they ride in the finest rubber-tired buggies in the world. In the homes are found organs, pianos, sewing machines, washing machines, fine furniture and carpets and rugs. Elegant stoves and ranges have taken the place of the old fireplace. Wind pumps now draw the water for the home and for the stock. The swamps have been drained, the land cleared, and the stumps gone. The climate is now healthful, and chills and ague unknown. The farmer now rides, often under a sunshade, while he plows his ground.

<http://stores.ebay.com/Ancestry-Found>

sows or plants his grain and while he cultivates and harvests his crops. Grass is now cut with a machine, stirred with a machine, raked, loaded on the wagons and unloaded, all by machines run by horse power. Grain is cut and bound by machinery and threshed by a steam-running machine that feeds itself, stacks the straw and measures and sacks the grain. Corn is now being cut by machinery that shocks it and it is husked by machinery, too, and the fodder shredded and put into the mow. The faithful horses do almost all the farm work now and do it easily, too. Steam and gasoline engines are fast taking the work off from the horses also, and we predict that the farmers' horses in our agricultural district a quarter of a century hence will have as easy a time of it as the farmer has today. Electricity and gasoline will then do most all the hard work and do it quickly and cheaply, too. Fruit of many kinds is now raised here in abundance and the farmers' bill of fare nowadays is varied, abundant, wholesome and palatable as heart could desire. The farm stock in our county has been greatly improved also in the past quarter of a century. It seems hardly possible to ever grow finer hogs, cattle, sheep or horses than are now found on the majority of Wells county farms. Hogs especially have been greatly improved until now one seldom sees any but good breeds on our farms. Instead of driving stock to Ft. Wayne, now it is usually hauled but few miles at most to the stock yards and there shipped to market. Grain elevators are now to be found in various places in our county, making it an easy matter for the farmer to dispose of his surplus. While nearly all kinds of fruit grown in the temperate zone will grow and do well in

our county, yet our climate and soil are better adapted to grain and grass than to fruit raising; so we find the former industry predominating here. As there is a profit to be made in feeding grain and grass to farm animals, farmers are raising more stock and selling less grain and hay.

The Wells county farmer has greatly improved in his knowledge of his profession; in business methods, and methods of managing his farm, cultivating his crops and in the breeding and care of his stock. This improvement has been brought about by the reading and study of agricultural papers and books, and by farmers' institutes and clubs, coupled with his own experience and observations. While most any kind of farming would produce fair crops in favorable seasons in the virgin soil of our county, it now takes skillful farming to succeed in raising large paying crops in all seasons. By this we do not mean that the land is poorer and the conditions more unfavorable than formerly, for they are not. In the early days the forests had been burned off and the fertility that had been gathering for centuries was thus made immediately available for plants to feed upon. In all those centuries nothing had been removed from the land. The leaves and twigs had decayed where they grew and the trees were mostly burned. The ground was also full of decayed and decaying roots and thus abundant fertility was, as it were, lying around ready to be eaten by the crops when planted, just as acorns and hickory nuts were lying scattered around for the farmers' hogs to eat up when turned into the woods. When the acorns and hickory nuts were gathered up, then the farmer had to replace them with other food for his hogs. So when

the forest fertility was gathered up by the crops the farmer had to learn how to make other fertilizers available, raise more or liberate more for his crops. However, the supply is rich and abundant. There is enough plant food in the soil of Wells county to last for thousands of years, but it requires skill to make it available and to keep the land in a suitable condition for the raising of good crops every season. As the supply in the soil is made available by the air, the water, by freezing and thawing, by cultivation and stirring of the soil, by the plant roots and by the decay of vegetable matter in the soil and the acids produced thereby and by the agency of bacterial life in the soil, the farmer must manage the soil and the crops so as to make the conditions the most favorable for all these agencies. He must also add to the amount of plant food made available from month to month and from season to season the manures produced by the feeding of animals on the farm. He must also add to the plant food of the soil the gases of the air that are used by the plants and which give life to the bacterial life of the soil. To do all this we can readily see why it requires more skillful farming and better posted farmers today than it did twenty-five or thirty-five years ago, when nature alone had accomplished what the farmer must now help to accomplish. In those early days the conditions required principally muscle to make a successful farmer, while now the chief qualification is brains.

We have examined into the agricultural conditions of the past and the present in our county, now let us look ahead a little way and try to see what the future has in store for us. Like Patrick Henry, we have no

way of judging the future but by the past. We know the conditions and changes of the past, and the tendencies of the present, and so we are enabled to form some correct premises as to what the future is apt to be. I predict that our agricultural conditions will continue to improve in the coming years, not at so rapid a pace, perhaps, as in the past, but there will be continual improvement and advancement in knowledge and wisdom and skill and wealth and pleasure amongst the farming classes. In another quarter of a century every farmer will have his mail delivered to him every day. Most farmers will then be connected with each other and with the outside world by telephone. Electric cars will cross our country in all directions and will give easy, quick and cheap transportation everywhere. Farmers' clubs, institutes and organizations will be the rule instead of the exception, as now. Farmers will have more leisure to devote to such institutions. They will then stand shoulder to shoulder and will work together for their mutual interests and welfare. The best of stock will be found on every farm, and the lands will be so farmed as to make them yield their utmost. Farmers will read and study more, and so will be better and more successful farmers, which will mean more wealth to them, and with more wealth will come more ease and comfort, more privileges and pleasures in life. Improvements in farm machinery will continue. Electricity, gasoline and wind will do more and more of the work on the farm. The homes will be lighted and heated by electricity, which will have been generated by wind power. The time is fast approaching when farming will be the pleasantest, most profitable and most

desirable pursuit to follow, as it is now the most healthful, least confining and most independent of all the professions. Then many engaged in other professions will envy the farmer, his occupation, his lovely home and his ease and comfort and enjoyment in life, and will try to change their professions to farming, but will not be able to do so, as there will be no more farms to possess, and the farmers will not sell out and go to the hot, crowded, noisy cities to live, but will live on their farms all their days and then turn them over to their children. To bring about such results in farm-

ing, the farmers must be better educated, better posted in their profession, more fully awake to their opportunities, more ready to make the best use of their privileges, and more in love with their farm life and work. And these qualities are becoming more and more common as the years roll by. There is a glorious future in store for the agriculturists of our county and nation. The farmer is in partnership with the Lord, who made the soil, who waters it with rain and dews, who warms it with sunshine, who supplies it with air and life and beauty, and he must succeed.

PUBLIC EDUCATION.

BY P. A. ALLEN.

The early beginnings always form an interesting chapter in any historical sketch, especially when it has to do with a subject which lies so near to the hearts of the people as does that of public education. In this important interest Wells county and the city of Bluffton have always occupied a place in the front rank and have for years enjoyed an enviable reputation throughout the state. In providing for the growth and efficiency of the schools, those who laid the foundation of the fine system which is a matter of just pride to our people, spared no pains or reasonable expense, and time has demonstrated that they "builted better than they knew." The foundation was laid broad and deep and will support well the superstructure which the later generations shall build upon it.

While a study of the beginning has a charm and absorbing interest on account of the mist of years that surrounds it, it is a matter of keen regret that a record of this first period was not made at the time it was fresh in the minds of those who actively participated in it. So long a time has elapsed since the first steps were taken in public education in this county that there

are few persons now living who were here in that pioneer period, and the infirmities of age have so impaired their powers of recollection that the incidents they are able to recall are so fragmentary and disconnected that nothing like a succinct account can be made from the information gleaned from those sources. That part of this chapter which is reminiscent in character was obtained by interviews with many persons who have been residents of their respective neighborhoods for many years and are well acquainted with the traditions of their locality. We realize that the best possible sketch to be written in this way will be open to the just criticism of being incomplete because of the omission of many most interesting things, and incorrect because of the defective memories of many of our informants. With this understanding we will ask our readers to take it for what it is worth, believing it will contain something of interest for all who are in any way identified with the interests of the county.

A school which is claimed by some to be the first in the county was taught by Jesse McGrew in 1837 in a school house which stood on the Adam Miller farm, southeast

of Bluffton, on Six Mile creek, on the south part of section 11, in Harrison township. Another of the early school houses of the county was near the one above mentioned, where David Powell's old tannery stood. It was a log building, eleven by eighteen feet in size, with clapboard roof held on with weight poles. The seats were arranged in semi-circular form about the fireplace; the writing desks were of hewn slabs pinned to the walls, and a row of backless benches in front of them for the use of the more advanced pupils. This was the typical school house of the period.

The first school in the present limits of Bluffton was taught by Asa Cohoe, a United Brethren minister, in the year 1839-40, in a log school house on the north side of the Henry Thoma residence lot on Scott street. This house was like its contemporaries in the country, in that it was provided with a huge fire place which occupied nearly all of one side of the room. It had a clay back wall and stick chimney. It took in logs of firewood ten feet long, and required a good-sized saw-log for the back-log. Mr. Cohoe taught school during the week, and preached to his congregation on Sundays. This log school house was succeeded by a brick structure which was used for school purposes until the erection of the Central building in 1868.

The following incident will illustrate the wilderness condition of the territory which is now the site of the city of Bluffton: Rev. Cohoe, the first teacher in the town, went hunting one day and was returning in the dusk of the evening. In trying to find his home, which was located at the corner of Market and Marion streets, he became hopelessly lost and came to the conclusion that

he was in the depths of the forest, he knew not how far from his home. Despairing of being able to find his home that night, he decided to make the best of the situation and prepared to spend the night in the woods. He crawled into a hollow log, and barricaded the entrance with logs and chunks to protect himself from wolves, which were very plentiful at that time. He thus spent the night in safety, and in the morning was awakened by the crowing of roosters at the home of Nelson Kellogg, at the corner of Main and Cherry streets, only a block away. The log in which he had lain was where the George Harnish residence now stands on Cherry street. When we see Bluffton as it now is, with all its metropolitan improvements, it seems almost incredible that the conditions only sixty-three years ago were such as that the above incident could have occurred.

Some of the pupils of the first schools in the city were B. F. Wiley, Warren McBride, J. B. Plessinger, Gabriel Shrock, Nancy Spencer, Mrs. Fay, George and Newton Burwell, Josie Hall, Joel Kemp, Ruth McDowell, Abraham and David Thompson, James, Calvin and Frank Deam and their sister Elizabeth, afterward the wife of James Russell.

In 1843 Nelson Kellogg taught a school in a shed-roofed building at the north end of Johnson street, on the banks of the Wabash. J. B. Plessinger has occasion to remember that year, as he froze his feet while gathering fire wood with which to keep the rest of the school from freezing to death. Ann Maria Hubbell, a niece of Adnah Hall, taught school in the same building later. The next winter George Brown taught school in the log court house, which

was the first temple of justice erected in the county. Robinson McKinney taught school the next year in a double room which stood where the Studabaker bank and the Snyder shoe store now stand. Several men still living in this city, who were boys under the tuition of George Brown, can tell interesting stories of that gentleman's unsuccessful attempts to use formidable bundles of willow gads on the backs of the larger pupils. James Donaldson and James McQuade taught school at one time in a building at the east end of Market street on the river bank. Both these gentlemen are remembered not only for their profound scholastic attainments, but for the severe means of discipline to which they resorted.

Another of the early school buildings was a brick structure which stood on Miller street, just north of the old Baptist church. This is still standing and forms part of the residence of Arthur Linn. In this building Rev. R. H. Jackson and wife were among the early teachers. Mr. Jackson was a Presbyterian minister and his wife was the first music teacher in the town. The third brick school house to be erected in the city was the two-story building at the corner of Marion and Cherry streets, which was called the High School, not only because of its imposing appearance, but for the reason that the larger scholars attended there. Two teachers were employed in this building. This was used for school purposes until the erection of the present Central building, after which it was used as a corn-planter factory, and then as a residence. It also served as the home of the free kindergarten for one year.

Among the early teachers in the city remembered by our oldest citizens were Eliz-

abeth Jane Burwell, who became the wife of Cyrus Burgan. Mrs. Wilson M. Bulger, Miss Belle Hanna, of Wooster, Ohio, Mrs. Martha Wilson, John J. Cooper, John Foreman, Mr. Washburn, Jack Drummond, Crawford Marquis, Charles Cruikshank, Cynthia Parker, of Hometown, Elizabeth Blackledge, now Mrs. E. M. C. Ninde, Lizzie Cozier, of Pennsylvania, T. A. R. Eaton, John S. McCleery, Mrs. H. C. Arnold, Newton Burwell, Nelson Kellogg and Rev. Russ, a Presbyterian minister. Lewis S. Grove, the first county auditor, taught a school in a building on the hill where the Henry Oman house now stands.

W. B. DeHaven, who came here in 1854, gives his school experience as follows: The first term I went to C. W. Beardsley in the Thoma brick school house. The next year I attended school in the United Brethren church, which stood at the corner of Scott and Market streets, and was taught by C. W. Beardsley and John H. Buckles. The next year I went to the "planter factory," as it is still called, and was under the tuition of Nathaniel Greenfield. The next year I went to the brick school on Miller street, which was presided over by Nicholas Van Horn. I finished my education the next year in the "planter factory," which was under the care of Prof. J. S. McCleery." This little sketch of Mr. DeHaven will recall to many others their own experience.

We must not think of the school work in those days as a plain, unalloyed effort to master the subjects prescribed in the meager curriculum of that time. School life was varied by the introduction of many diversions, some of which are no longer to be found among the adjuncts of school work. Such were the spelling contests, literary

societies and school exhibitions. All these served their useful purposes before they were superseded by the ideas of today. The first school exhibition ever given in the city was under the direction of Mr. Foreman, who has been mentioned in this sketch. It was held in the old Presbyterian church on East Washington street and consisted of songs, recitations and dialogues. It was regarded as a great affair at that time and enlisted the interest not only of the entire town but drew crowds from miles around.

In 1868 the first six rooms of the Central building were built and the other three school properties were disposed of. In the erection of this new building the school board came in for very sharp criticism. It was pronounced by many a very foolish piece of extravagance, and it was predicted that the time would never come when it would all be needed for school purposes. But time has justified the wisdom of those who planned and built at that time, for it was not long until the six rooms were overcrowded and it became necessary to build more rooms, making it the present ten-room building. After the erection of the Central building in 1868 all the pupils were brought together and were placed under the care of Prof. Reefy, the first city superintendent. Mr. Reefy was an excellent man for the place and soon had the school system of the city in successful and satisfactory operation. The magnificent maples which adorn the campus of the high school and Central buildings are a monument to his memory, as he planted them with his own hands the first year of his school work here. Since Mr. Reefy, the city superintendents have been as follows: Mr. Lilly, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Buckley, Mr. Vaughn, Mr.

Gunder, Mr. Ernst, P. A. Allen, 1881 to 1891, W. P. Burris, 1891 to 1897, E. D. Walker, 1897 to 1899. W. A. Wirt, the present very efficient superintendent, has been in this position since September, 1899.

The increase in school accommodations has more than kept pace with the growth of the city. The five school buildings now in use date as follows: Central building, six rooms, in 1868, to which four rooms were added in 1879. Two rooms of the Washington Park building were erected in 1883 and the other two rooms were built in 1886. The high school building was built in 1890, and the Columbian building in 1893. The manual training department occupies the old Baptist church on Wabash street.

The high school was organized by P. A. Allen in 1881, and in 1883 graduated its first class. It was commissioned in 1885, and the course has been strengthened from year to year by the addition of studies, and its work has been made more effective by the equipment of good chemical, physical and biological laboratories. The high school has never failed to send out each year a fine class of graduates, the class of 1886 consisting of thirty-four young ladies and gentlemen, being the largest in the history of the school. The library was started in 1881, and received additions each year of books purchased by funds raised by means of various enterprises for the purpose and by collections taken in the different rooms. It had grown to several thousand volumes before it was changed to a public library and a tax levied for its maintenance.

The present teaching force now numbers twenty-five in all the schools, and Superintendent Wirt is wonderfully successful in his administration of the various interests of

the schools under his care. Substantial progress marks each year's work. Manual training has been introduced in several of the grades and that part of the work placed under the care of Prof. F. C. Whitcomb. The manual training building on Wabash street is well fitted up with the necessary equipment for that line of work.

The beginnings in the rural districts of the county are full of interest, but we are sorry to say that data for that part of the sketch is very meager. A comparatively few names were obtainable from the available sources of information, and we regret we are not able to enrich this chapter with a profusion of the incidents and happenings which must have belonged to that time.

The first school in Lancaster township, and probably the first in the county, was the one taught by A. B. Waugh, father of Representative A. A. Waugh. The building was made of round logs, and greased paper served for windows. It had in it the old fashioned school furniture of that period, and must have been very primitive indeed. Some of those who attended school at that time were O. F. Sutton, Jacob Harvey, William Harvey, Tom Logan, Campbell Scott, William Metts, afterward a minister in the Methodist Episcopal church, Dr. J. I. Metts, Mary Ellen Metts, now Mrs. T. A. Doan. It was a subscription school. One of the incidents of that first school was a law suit which grew out of a whipping which was administered by Mr. Waugh to one of the big boys. It was inflicted by the use of a rule. The suit resulted in Mr. Waugh's favor, the court deciding that the punishment was not only deserved but reasonable. Another incident of the first school, which illustrates the progress that has been

made in temperance, occurred at the close of the term. It was known to be the custom to treat the scholars on such occasions, and Mr. Waugh, in complying with this unwritten custom, provided a wash-tub full of egg-nog, and all present were invited to help themselves freely to this beverage. A natural result of the free use of this kind of refreshment was that several of the larger boys became too drunk to get home without assistance. The fact that this incident met only a slight protest from a very few of the stricter ones shows how ideas have changed in the past sixty-four years. The second school house in Lancaster township was built about ten years later, four miles east of Murray, on Allen Clark's land, not far from Souder's farm. A man from Ohio was employed to teach, but he encountered the conditions described in the "Hoosier Schoolmaster," and not having the grit and tact of Ralph Hartsock, was driven off by the larger boys before the school had progressed very far. The plan of these boys was to combine themselves whenever the teacher attempted to punish one of their number. After the Ohio man had been driven from the field, David Clark was employed, but he suffered the same fate as his predecessor. His father, Allen Clark, was then employed, but he fared no better than his son. As a fourth effort in that term Sutton Metts was engaged to teach the school out with the understanding that he must succeed or he would not get any money for his services. The third day it became necessary for him to punish one of the disturbers. At this juncture some of the other boys attempted to carry out the tactics which had proven so successful with the other teachers. But they met with a surprising and very effect-

ive defeat. Mr. Metts, determined to profit by the experience of his predecessors, had provided himself with a lot of short clubs, which he had hidden until needed. When the boys were beginning to concentrate their forces, Mr. Metts had recourse to his supply of clubs, which he used with such rapidity and skill over the heads of his assailants that they were effectually knocked out in the first round and the rumpus settled in short order. Mr. Metts taught the term out and it is said that there was never any more trouble in that district afterward.

Another institution, aside from the public schools, which had great influence for good on that part of the country was the opening at Murray, in 1852, of an academy. This was held in the old Presbyterian church, which is still standing and is used for a barn on the McCleery property. The leading spirit in this enterprise was Rev. Wilson M. Donaldson, who was the pastor of the Presbyterian church at Bluffton and later at Ossian. Hiram Hatfield was a member of the board of that institution. The academy drew an attendance of young people from eight or ten miles around. The course of study provided was high for that time, and the academy left its impress upon the people of that generation in a marked degree. The principal was Joseph Sterling, of Pennsylvania, and the tuition was at the rate of five dollars per term of three months. Among those who were students at the academy were George E. Gardiner, Sam Ogden, Henry McLellan, R. F. Gavin, Mary Cotton, A. H. Metts and many others. The institution continued in operation until, in the early 'sixties, during the war, when it suspended operations.

Among the early teachers in Lancaster

township were Dr. J. I. Metts, who taught in the old Methodist church at Murray. McCoy Smith taught at the Center in 1851. Simeon Myers also taught at the Center. J. L. Myers taught in that township and also at Rock Creek Center and at the Farling school house. Sylvia Tobey, of Newford, was the second teacher at Murray. Later teachers were Dr. Williams, Crawford Marquis, Johnson Marquis and Adam Davison.

The first school in Jefferson township was taught by Isaac Hatfield, two miles northeast of Ossian. The second was in the Ogden neighborhood, southeast of Ossian. These were established a few years before the opening of any school at Ossian. The history of the schools of Jefferson township is closely identified with the official career of Dr. J. I. Metts, who served as trustee in all nearly twenty-two years. He was elected in 1859 and served until 1878, when a change in the state law limited the term of trustee and he was not eligible for re-election. He was again elected to the office after an interval of four years, and served the prescribed limit, two years. It was under his administration that the township graded school was established at Ossian, the first one to be established in the county. He planned the brick building at Ossian and provided for its erection. His successor, James Gorrell, took up the work and carried it to completion in 1878. A class of four members was graduated from the Ossian high school in the spring of 1881, which was the first class to be graduated in the county.

One of the early schools in Jackson township was called the Colbert school, and was in the north part of the township.

In 1851 the teacher who had been selected for the place gave up the job and James R. Bennett was chosen, but declined to take the position, modestly contending that he was too young for the place. He was then asked if he would assist in case W. H. Parmelee, living near Bluffton, should be chosen to take charge of the school. He agreed to this proposition, and accordingly took up the work of assistant to Mr. Parmelee, who was an old man and in ill health, which often occasioned his absence from school. Mr. Bennett's duties were to solve all difficult problems, write all the copies and take full charge in the absence of Mr. Parmelee. A year later the school at Dillman was built of logs, and it was regarded as the finest school house in the county at that time. J. R. Bennett and R. L. McFadden were among the number who helped to raise the building. Robert Alexander was the first teacher to have charge in this building. Among the scholars in that first Dillman school were R. L. McFadden, Frank McFadden, Martha McFadden, D. K. Elkins, Sarah Elkins, and the families of Wm. Duckwall and Jacob Banter. Among the prominent teachers in the earlier days of the township were Eli Arnold, B. M. Elkins, Fanny Ricketts and Mr. Lockwood. It is remarked by one identified with the early days in Jackson township that the prevalent idea was "no lickin', to larnin'," and for that reason the gad was held in high esteem by the teachers and regarded with great fear by the scholars. This was no doubt true of every township in the county. The same authority states that the people of the township prided themselves on their good spelling, and it was the highest ambition of larger scholars to be able to master

the old Webster's Elementary Spelling Book.

An old resident of Nottingham township states that Stanton Scott, father of Thomas E. Scott, was actively identified with the school interests at the beginning of that township. Beginning with 1849 he was trustee and treasurer till the close of 1853. Jason R. Blackledge was a trustee and clerk during that period. An old record shows that the first election for school officers of the township was held in 1849. The enumeration of school children taken in September of that year showed that there were 149 children of school age in the township, which was divided into nine school districts. The districts varied in the number of school children from five to thirty-one. The enumeration taken three years later showed 168 school children in the township. At an election held in August, 1851, to elect a trustee, but six votes were cast, the successful candidate receiving three of them. The clerk received twenty-five cents for taking the first enumeration, and later he received seventy-five cents for that service. The names of Gabriel Burgess, E. Harlan Philips, James S. Williams and others also appear as having been trustees. Martha Marmon was paid one dollar and a quarter for a half acre of ground on which to build a school-house at District No. 9, known as the Scott school.

The first school in Union township was erected in 1848 or 1849, and was built of round logs, puncheon floor, stick and mud chimney, roof of clapboards held in place by weight poles. The seats were of linden or bass wood, from trees eight to ten inches in diameter, split in halves, with pegs in each end for supports. Such were the ma-

terial and furnishings of Zion school house, or "Old Zion," as it was called, that stood one mile south of Zanesville. Abraham Beaber, who then lived three-fourths of a mile south, taught there the winter of 1850. Nothing now remains to show where this once great institution of learning stood. Ormsby's school, near the old Ormsby farm, was of the same class, as was "Center school" and "College Corner." At the latter place the first school was during the winter of 1851-52 and was taught by a Mr. Hixon, a brother of John Hixon, the grandfather of Frank Hixon, of this city. The school house in the south part of the township was built in the woods somewhere near the present location of Jeremiah Roe's farm buildings. The late John Kain was largely instrumental in having it erected. He had a large family of boys and girls of school age, among them Rev. D. F. Kain and Frank Kain, of this city. James Jennings, who went west during the Pike's Peak gold excitement, was the first teacher. He was a brother of Peter Jennings, still a resident of Union township. E. J. Felts, who died in this city a few years ago, taught the second term at Kain's school house. Stephen D. Cartwright, who wielded the birch in the old log school house at Uniontown, is yet an honored resident of the township. The furniture of all the schools taught was usually about the same; the teacher occupied a split-bottomed chair at the point in the room opposite the door, in his left hand he held a book, pen or slate, as might be required, while in his right hand he held the emblem of his power, a water beech gad from four to six feet long. First he called the little boys and girls, who came individually and stood by his knee while

they said the a, b, c's. One book served all the boys and one the girls, if there were two; if not, one served for all. Then came the first spelling class, second spelling class, first, second, third and fourth reading classes in the order given. Scholars while reciting stood in line close to the wall opposite the teacher's seat. One or two books answered for half a dozen pupils. The teacher looked over the shoulders of one of the pupils, or if he had a book of his own, he looked on and assisted in pronouncing the hard words. If some boy or girl came across a "sum" that he could not "work," the teacher was called upon at any time to "do the sum," and woe to him if he refused for any reason to comply. What was he paid the enormous salary of one dollar per day for if not to do sums for the scholars? Before dismissing school all the scholars stood in a row and spelled a prepared lesson. The teacher pronounced the words and the scholar at one end of the row, called the head of the class, named the letters in their proper order and pronounced each syllable. If this one failed, then the next one attempted the task, and so on until the word was correctly spelled and pronounced. The successful speller went above the first one to miss, and if he got to the head of the class and maintained that position until the end of the day's session, he was credited with a "head mark," and very up-to-date teachers of that time gave prizes at the end of the term to the scholars who secured the most of these marks. There was often lively competition at the beginning of the term among a number of pupils, but later it narrowed down to two or three contestants, who actually competed for the prize, while the other pupils arrayed themselves as

friends of the one or the other of the leaders and aided or opposed them by means not always fair. The spelling school was the great social feature of the school. Log-rollings, raisings, corn-huskings and wood-choppings were the social gatherings of the country, attended by young men and women and older persons, but it was at the spelling school that the small boy and girl were allowed to have sport, and felt themselves a real part of the procession. Every week the pupils clamored for a "spellin'." When the teacher, after roll call in the evening, announced that if candles could be furnished a spelling school would be held on a certain night during the week, there was immediate excitement. "We'll furnish one," called out a representative of some family, and then there was a whispering between brothers and sisters, and it usually took all the resources of the district in that line to furnish the three or four candles necessary to dimly light the room, and the teacher had to hold one in hand to "give out" by. The spelling school of those days is well described in the "Hoosier School-master." Pupils did their utmost to have the announcement made through their own and adjoining districts. "The more the merrier" was their motto, while the teacher who had to manage the crowd in the little 20x24 school room took an opposite view. Aside from the fun to be derived from the spelling school there was no little benefit. The rivalry between the different schools and the desire to be chosen among the first caused many a boy and girl to spend hours in their efforts to master all the words in the old Elementary Spelling Book. Another social and intellectual feature of many of the schools was the debating societies.

These were participated in by the boys and young men, and often the patrons of the district. Embryo statesmen, with all the fervor of actual combat in congressional halls, debated such questions as these: "Resolved, That the dog is of more use to man than the gun," "Resolved, That cattle are of greater use to mankind than the horse," "War is a greater evil than intemperance," "The negro has greater cause to complain than the Indian."

About the year 1854 township libraries were established, which were kept at the homes of the trustees. As there were then three trustees in each township, when the books were divided among them, they were so distributed that every boy who wished to debate could have access to them, and every volume was carefully searched for material with which to down the other fellows in the great debates.

There were few church buildings in the country and religious meetings of all kinds were held in the schoolhouses. The protracted, or "big meetings," always conducted in the winter, were often continued for a period of six consecutive weeks, evening meetings only being held excepting on Sunday. Thus they took the place largely of the spelling school and debating society. Young people and old attended and even if not interested in their spiritual welfare, they met their friends and enjoyed a social hour together.

If the small boys played "blackman" in the woods during the services it was because there was not room for them inside, at least that is what they told their mothers on going home, and it was often if not always the truth. If the sleighing was good most of the inhabitants of the township attended

the "big meetin'." In later years, since churches have been erected in every neighborhood, the use of the school houses has been limited to educational purposes almost exclusively.

Up to the time of the Civil war few or no lady teachers were employed. It was then thought that "school marms" could not govern the big boys. What led to the introduction of lady teachers at this time was the fact that the big boys had mostly gone to the army, and consequently were not in attendance as pupils and could not be employed as teachers. Teachers were a necessity and this necessity was the school ma'am's opportunity. She was employed then and has ever since held her position. One of the first to take command at "College Corners" was a Miss Smith. The boys "reckoned they could run her out afore three weeks." They did not, however. The larger number of the scholars liked her and obeyed her for that reason. Those that did not soon found that she could lick with a stick just like a "master." She taught two or three terms at the same place and fully demonstrated that a school marm could keep "winter school." In the mean time school buildings had improved. Hewed logs or frame buildings had taken the place of the little pens, blackboards and some maps and charts were installed, methods of teaching were improved and the old recognized truism, "no lickin', no larnin'," was questioned. It is the opinion of our informant that the teachers of Union township were generally in advance of their patrons in the march of improvement. Patrons as well as pupils had to be educated. What was true of Union township was doubtless true of every township in the

county. Had one of our present-day teachers introduced all his up-to-date methods into the schools of Union township thirty years ago he would have been literally "fired over the transom."

The teachers' institute was a very potent means of advancing both teachers and patrons. Many of those who taught in the township had attended the academy at Roanoke, of which Prof. Reefy, who later had charge of the Bluffton schools, was the head. He attended the early institutes, and his teaching and talks reached every home and had much to do with placing the schools of the township in the very front of Wells county's schools. Among the old time teachers were the following named persons: Frank Hamilton, W. J. Beaty, John A. Walker, Daniel K. Shoup, William Shoup, J. K. Rinehart, John Ormsby, James C. Kain, Elijah Sink, Henry Mygrants and John L. Thomas. We must not fail to mention Noah Walker, who taught successfully in the early 'fifties, and who yet lives in the township. Henry Eichhorn, Wm. A. Wirt, J. Ed Ormsby and Ira Sink are representatives of a later period of improved methods, improved appliances and improved surroundings generally. The school ma'am, the up-to-date, handsome, cultivated, successful school ma'am, of Union township has robbed the male teacher of his honor and glory and relegated him to a back seat. Instead of being sought and begged to take charge of a district school, he seeks the office of the trustee under a mantle of darkness to obscure him from the sight of the school ma'am and begs to be employed. "O, how the mighty schoolmaster has fallen." The school ma'am has risen and the schools of Union township have been exalt-

ed until they are considered the best among the best.

The foregoing very full and interesting picture of the early conditions in Union township, furnished us by John K. Rinehart, pictures the condition in the townships of the county at that period. The changing of a few names would make the sketch apply with equal accuracy to other communities. Notwithstanding the vigorous plainness of all these surroundings, the genius of those who availed themselves of the facilities afforded was in no way suppressed. From such early environment came those who have carved out the history of the county and adorned with honor the various places in the business or the professional world.

The schools of the county and city have kept pace with the advanced schools of the state. While laws have been subject to slight changes from time to time, these changes have proven beneficial as a rule. In the early days the teachers were licensed by an officer called a school examiner, and the work of ascertaining the fitness of applicants varied with the examiner. Sometimes a very few questions more or less remotely connected with school work were sufficient to secure the necessary license. While there were some who maintained a high standard in their respective counties, yet it was frequently the case that very crude scholarship passed all right before the examiner. As the law said very little about qualifications, the examining officer enjoyed very wide latitude in his discretion. Among those who were charged with the responsibility of examining and licensing teachers in Wells county in the early times were David T. Smith, W. H. Parmerlee, Nelson Kellogg and J. S. McCleery. In 1873 the law was

changed and the office of the county superintendent was created, which superseded that of the examiner. Since that time the county superintendents have been as follows: J. S. McCleery, John H. Ormsby, Smith Goodin, S. S. Roth, elected in 1877, W. H. Ernst, elected in 1888, W. A. Luce, in 1887, S. A. Shoemaker, in February, 1891, W. H. Eichhorn, in June, 1891, and R. W. Stine, the present incumbent, in August, 1893. During that period great progress has been made in the schools of the county. Well conducted county and township institutes have been great factors in helping to secure this advancement. The standard in examinations has been gradually raised until it is as high as can be found anywhere. The last few years have been marked especially by the establishment of a number of township high schools, as well as the introduction of high school studies in some of the other graded schools. This very important step has been accomplished through the efforts of our very progressive county superintendent, R. W. Stine, working in harmony with our enterprising and up-to-date township trustees. The first of these township high schools to be established was in Jefferson township at Ossian, while Dr. J. I. Metts was trustee. It has a substantial eight-room building, is supplied with necessary apparatus and good working library. An excellent school spirit prevails in that community and the spirit of progress is apparent in all its educational affairs. Good classes are graduated every year from the school, which stands in high favor all over the township.

Chester township took a great stride ahead in its school interests in 1896 when the fine township high school building was

erected at Keystone. From the first this enterprise met with favor in nearly all quarters, although, as is the case nearly everywhere, there was criticism from persons who thought that Trustee F. P. Risley had built a building much too large for the needs of the township. But it was not long until all the rooms were in use and well filled with earnest pupils under competent and enthusiastic instructors. All grounds of former criticism were removed and patrons all over the township were united in their support of and loyalty to the schools, which are the pride of the people. This school has been singularly fortunate in the selection of principal and assistant teachers. Principal A. R. Huyette has been in charge for the past several years and has inspired an interest which has been commendable and the work done in the high school, as well as in the various grades, is as thorough as can be found anywhere.

W. C. Arnold, trustee of Liberty township, kept pace with the spirit of progress and in 1896 erected the imposing township high school building at Liberty Center which has been a matter of pride to the entire township. Principal F. J. Haecker has been in charge the past two or three years and the school work has been characterized by great enthusiasm as well as thoroughness. More loyal patrons are not to be found anywhere than the people of Liberty Center and the township. The high school classes are well sustained and good classes complete the course each year.

In 1899 the magnificent Lancaster township high school building was erected at Murray under the direction of Trustee N. E. Stafford. The high school was at once organized and has been ever since

maintained under capable principals and assistants. It seems eminently fitting that this place, one of the oldest settled places in the county, where the first school was established and where a flourishing academy was sustained for several years, long before a high school was thought of at any other place in the county, should join in the procession of this later progress and afford to the young people of the surrounding community as fine a course of study as can be found anywhere outside of the cities. This school is at present under the very efficient care of Principal S. J. Brickley.

Nottingham township, which has been the scene for the past few years of so much activity and progress in material things, is with others at the head of the procession in educational affairs. In 1899 Trustee Samuel Gehrett, after mature consideration, erected the Nottingham township high school near Petroleum. This is one of the finest school buildings in the county, provided with all the modern conveniences. Although it stands out in the country with not even a farm house close to it, its rooms have been thronged with a busy lot of pupils of all grades from all over the township. Since this building was erected when the township high school idea had hardly passed the experimental stage, it is very gratifying to those who were interested in its organization that time has so thoroughly shown the wisdom of the enterprise. Principal Q. R. Tavines is directing the affairs of this school in a very able manner.

Besides the five township high schools above mentioned, high school work is done in the schools of Vera Cruz, Craigville, Zanesville, Dillman and Poneto. All these schools are in charge of well qualified in-

structors, who with their patrons and pupils are ambitious to expand the scope of study and influence of their respective schools.

Wells county has 7,258 persons of school age, 3,749 males and 3,509 females. During the past year there were 5,805 pupils enrolled in the schools, 2,986 males and 2,819 females, and the average daily attendance was 4,462. There is one commissioned high school, the one at Bluffton, five township high schools, and five others in which high school work is done. There are eighty-nine school districts in each of which but one teacher is employed. There are one hundred and six school buildings in the county, all of which are of brick. The value of the school buildings and apparatus is \$241,375. There are 9,533 volumes in the various libraries. The total assessment of taxable property in the county is \$13,954,315. There are enrolled in the high schools of the county 355 students, of whom 146 are in the Bluffton high school and 209 in the townships.

The present board of township trustees are as follows: Alva B. Sine, Jackson township; Lot McCullick, Chester township; George M. Gavin, Liberty township; W. A. Redding, Rock Creek township; W. H. Kain, Union township; Andrew Sours, Nottingham township; Benjamin P. Smith, Harrison township; Joel Fry, Lancaster

township; Nicholas Shorts, Jefferson township. These gentlemen are thoroughly progressive and admirably fitted for their positions. They are looking well after the school interests, and see to it that not only the schools of the county take no backward steps, but that they shall make forward strides every year. If they do not establish as many township high schools as were started the past five or six years, it is because their predecessors did that before them. Their work is even more important, that of so providing instructors and equipment for these schools that they shall be established on a firm basis and continue to be an inspiration to the people of their respective townships. It is one of the great blessings of this age that the young people are provided with a high school education equal to the college education of a quarter of a century ago, without going out of the bounds of their own township. To maintain these schools and keep the standard all the time moving forward is the work that is being accomplished by our excellent board of township trustees.

The Bluffton school board consists of Abram Simmons, president; George F. Markley, secretary, and Chas. H. Plessinger, treasurer. These gentlemen are coupling their efforts with those of Superintendent W. A. Wirt to keep our city schools in the front rank of the schools of the state.

LITERATURE AND ITS PROGRESS.

BY MRS. D. T. SMITH.

It goes without saying that the pulpit, the press and the school form the cornerstone of the foundation upon which rests the superstructure of literature. Wherever these three educators are so intelligently conducted as to produce results which are of a progressive order, one may be sure to find persons of pronounced literary ability. The seed which the divine hand plants within the souls of the sons and daughters of men requires careful, patient culture in order that the blossom and the fruit may give satisfactory results.

With first-class reading matter at one's command, rapid strides may be made in literary advancement, but the full harvest requires that there shall be an interchange of ideas with persons of refinement and culture. In newly-settled countries, where churches, schools and printing presses are few and far between, it is to the pioneer clergyman that many persons are indebted for assistance in literary pursuits. The hard-worked, poorly-paid preacher of the past paved the way to future success, fortunately for all concerned, when he was able to combine his chosen profession with that of the teacher, and left a lasting impression of spiritual and mental progress upon the

hearts of the people among whom he labored.

Wells county as it is known today has had its full quota of struggles with poverty, malaria, and dearth of schools, churches and newspapers. Of its earlier history I am not personally acquainted, since my knowledge of it dates no further back than June, 1857. Events that transpired prior to that time have many of them been related to me by descendants of the old settlers who gave them to their families as portions of family history. Some of those have no bearing whatever upon the subject in hand. In many instances I have found much difficulty in securing correct dates of events that are both historical and biographical. So many of the old people of this county have passed the border land within the last decade that comparatively few are left who can be truthfully called "old settlers."

With this introductory, I will attempt to tell what I know of the first religious service which was held in Bluffton, and which I have been assured was the first of its kind ever held in Wells county. In November, 1888, the First Methodist Episcopal church of Bluffton celebrated its semi-centennial anniversary. At that time Rev. George W.

Bowers, the minister who preached the first sermon in Bluffton, was present and led in all of the services of that important occasion. Fortunately for me I have preserved the invitation which was sent to me to attend those services, as it contains a brief history of the organization of the church. Quoting from this souvenir is the following statement: "About the middle of November, 1838, the Rev. George W. Bowers, a young Methodist minister on what was at that time known as the Portland Mission, made his way down through the wilds of unpromising Wabash country to the town of Bluffton. Having called together a few of the settlers, he preached under an oak tree, on the bank of the Wabash, the first sermon ever delivered in Bluffton. Afterwards he organized and established the first Methodist Episcopal church." The circuit upon which Rev. Bowers was assigned work embraced a large extent of territory. His appointments were met under difficulties of which the present generation can form no adequate conception. His trips were made on horseback, over a country where Indians traveled, and where bears, deer, wolves and other wild animals had the pre-empted right of way. He rode through thickly wooded forests, guided by blazed trees which the settlers had thus marked, or over marsh and corduroy roads, varied occasionally by a turfy path over the flower-germed prairies. In inclement weather weeks were consumed in making a round of his circuit. The settlers' cabins were far apart, and sometimes he rode many miles without seeing a human being or a habitation. His long absences from his home made it necessary for him to travel with his wardrobe and a portion of his library with

him in order that he might not meet his appointments and find himself without clean linen or hymn-book and Bible. Frequently he stopped for the night at some lonely log cabin where the greater number of the family were shaking with the ague, and the outlook for a good meal was not very cheerful. However, he was made welcome to such as the house afforded, and, in exchange for the hospitality of his host and hostess he not only gave them spiritual instruction, but he brought them news from the outside world, of which they heard only at rare intervals. It was a case of give and take, for while he partook of the hospitality of the settlers, he carried a rift of sunshine into their lives, through his scripture reading, his singing of hymns, and his knowledge of the arts and sciences.

When Rev. Bowers rode into the little log settlement of Bluffton, situated upon the south bank of the Wabash, then a navigable river, he felt as if he was literally just out of the woods. The announcement of his coming had been duly made, and he was met with generous hospitality and warmly welcomed. Every home sent representatives to listen to his preaching, and as many of those living on farms within a few miles of town as could possibly do so helped to swell the numbers. This was a notable occasion, and men, women and children, on foot, on horseback, in farm wagons, and in carts which were drawn by slow-moving oxen, came to hear him. Many wore home-spun, home-made garments, of various styles and colors. Dame Fashion had few votaries there, for, with one accord, they came to hear the first sermon to which it had been their privilege to listen since they had left their old homes to settle in a new country.

It requires no vivid imagination to picture the honest, joyful greeting which was extended to each new arrival, and which was, in turn, extended to the young preacher who was that day to break the bread of life to them. Conversation was carried forward in the Hoosier and Southern dialects mostly, and there was no one to criticise.

On both sides of the Wabash river were giant trees of hickory, walnut, oak and maple. Through these forests deer, wildcats, wolves, and occasionally a bear and other denizens of the forest, roamed at their own sweet will. And here the crack of the huntsman's rifle often broke the stillness, and some unwary prowler fell to welter in its own life's blood. But those groves, which were the pre-empted homes of wild animals, were daily being marred by the settler's ax. The groves being "God's first temples," and having no other sanctuary in which to worship the "Almighty Ruler of the Universe," the pioneers selected one of the giant oaks on the south bank of the river, under which to hold their services. Nature's artistic pencil had touched the foliage of trees and shrubs with the various shades of red, yellow and brown, while a few green spots still withstood the frosts which had brought down from their summer leafy home the acorns, hickorynuts and walnuts, in lavish profusion. Here, without a pulpit, and with an improvised choir, the service, which to the most of those assembled was literally a soul service, was held.

Rev. Bowers must have been at this time a young man of more than ordinary ability, for his one year's pastorate in the county was attended with excellent results, and he greatly endeared himself to his people. When, in 1888, he appeared before the

Bluffton congregation, he was nearly eighty years of age. It was conceded by all who heard him at that time, that the pulpit had never been filled by a brighter, wittier man, or one who could so effectually touch the hearts of his congregation to lead them to a better life. His language and address were excellent, and he showed familiarity with the writings of our best authors; he also gave evidence of having been a minister who had helped to arouse the latent literary ability of the people wherever he had been assigned a charge. Perhaps it is to him that Wells county may trace its forward march in literature.

Of the schools, another factor in the advancement of literature, Mr. P. A. Allen, in another article, will give a full and comprehensive account. I will merely say that the first house in which a public school was taught in Bluffton was built like a shed, with a sloping board roof, and stood almost upon the identical spot where the first sermon was preached.

The press, that wonderful disseminator of literature, has wielded a powerful influence in Wells county. To those who have never lived where newspapers were not liberally circulated, it appears almost incredible that there ever was a time when such a publication had no existence. However, it was eleven years after Rev. Bowers preached his first sermon on the bank of the Wabash before Wells county had the first newspaper published within its borders. In 1849 Samuel Lupton issued the first number of the Bluffton Banner. This paper was devoted to the interests of the Democratic party, and has always been the official organ of the county. In its infancy it was a small four-paged paper with a limited circulation.

It has changed its editorial staff several times, and has been improved and enlarged in its appearance, but the name has never been changed. For over two years past the Evening Banner, daily, has been issued from the same office. The present editor is George L. Saunders.

In the early 'fifties Nelson Kellogg began the publication of a small paper called The People's Press. This paper was published in the interest of what was then the Whig party. It has changed its editorial staff several times, and after the Civil war the name was changed to that of the Bluffton Chronicle, the leading Republican organ of the county. The present editor is D. H. Swaim, a native of this county. For the past ten years the Evening News, a daily paper, has been issued from this office, and it has a large circulation. At this writing, there are five weekly and two daily newspapers published in this county.

For many years after this county could claim its two weekly papers, the mail service was limited, in the rural districts a weekly mail being the limit. Even in Bluffton, the county seat, a tri-weekly or a bi-weekly mail prevailed for nearly thirty years. In the dearth of public libraries, the Banner and the Press were warmly welcomed by the families when they made their weekly appearance. Every line of their pages was read and talked over by all of the members of the families into which they found their way. The people of this county are certainly debtors to the two pioneer newspapers for their aid in disseminating good reading matter.

After newspapers were an established fact in the county, the next step in literary work was that of securing public libraries

where those so inclined could have access to the works of the best authors of history, biography, the arts and sciences, and of choice fiction. Long years before the world had heard of the benevolence of Andrew Carnegie, a public library was endowed in Bluffton; the exact date I have not been able to obtain, but it was in the early 'fifties. I have also been informed that branch libraries were endowed in other townships in the county. This public benefactor was a man by the name of McClure, a wealthy citizen of the county, and the library was known by the name of McClure or Mechanic's Library. A library association was formed and about four hundred choice volumes were placed on the shelves or bookcases in the furniture rooms of Tribolet & Thoma. Those gentlemen were the librarians for about twenty-five years. By the terms of the endowment the books were subject to the drawing only of workingmen and their families. Later on, others besides the families of workingmen found a way to evade the terms, by securing the books through the services of those who were entitled to draw them. The McClure library was one of the prime factors which helped to arouse the people of the county to the cultivation of literary talent.

The old log court house which stood on North Main street has been an historical landmark in other respects besides being the county hall of justice. Several religious denominations held their services and Sabbath schools there until churches could be built, and lectures and singing schools were also held within its friendly walls. A debating society was organized there, and from among its members there have issued some of the brightest speakers of Wells county.

After churches, newspapers, schools and libraries were an established fact, the young people began to talk about organizing literary societies, where they could spend an evening each week both pleasantly and profitably. There being a greater number of young people in Bluffton than elsewhere in the county, they took the initiative and extended invitations to others in the county to participate with them. From the very first the greatest interest was manifested, and rapid advancement was made. The regular program consisted of debates, recitations and essays. Besides these exercises, a manuscript paper was occasionally issued by the members, the editorial department being usually conducted by some one of the lady members. The debates were often spirited, but they were carried forward in the best of humor, and the keenest of interest was manifested by all who were present. The meetings were free to all who cared to attend, and there was always a good audience. Among the most active members were three young men who followed "Old Glory" into the Civil war and gave their lives, either directly or indirectly, to their country's cause. I refer to L. W. Dailey, J. Sharpe Wisner and J. Parrish Blacklege. They are worthy of mention in this article. L. W. Dailey, a brother of our fellow-citizen, Judge J. S. Dailey, was born in this county and, for the most part of his life, was a resident of Bluffton. He was fine-looking, intelligent and affable, and was a favorite with his companions and in social circles. After he had mastered the branches which embraced the curriculum of studies which were then taught in the Bluffton schools, he entered the Indiana University to pursue a course in law. In less than a year after-

wards the call for volunteers was issued by President Lincoln, and young Dailey was among the first to don the soldier's blue and march away to the scene of strife. He won his way to promotion, and, but for the accidental discharge of his rifle, which caused a wound in his foot, causing his death, he would have had greater honors conferred upon him. The wound was not considered dangerous at first, but for lack of proper surgical care it proved mortal, and, after encountering almost insurmountable difficulties, his second lieutenant succeeded in accompanying his remains to his father's home. He was the first soldier who was buried with the honors of war in this county, and, although the weather was decidedly inclement, and the roads were almost impassable, the people of the county were well represented at his grave to give honor to the bright young man who had so prematurely met his death. J. Sharpe Wisner was the son of Thomas L. Wisner and wife, who removed here from Ohio when their children were quite young. Sharpe, as he was usually called, was a bright scholar and won his way to precedence in his classes. He was also a practical printer, having learned the trade at the Banner office. As a member of the literary society he was very efficient. Occasionally he issued from the Banner office a small paper which was full of witty paragraphs, and which helped to keep up the interest of the members of the society. He also followed "Old Glory" to the seat of war, and, after braving danger and privation, came home at the close of the war broken down in health. A few years later he was kissed to sleep by the death angel, and, "under the low, green tent whose curtain knows no

outward swing," in Fairview cemetery his dust now reposes. At each returning anniversary of Decoration day loving and loyal hands crown his resting place with God's sweet messengers of love, the fair and fragrant flowers. J. Parrish Blacklege was a native of Marietta, Ohio, but came with his father's family to Bluffton in the early 'fifties. He was a quiet young man of exemplary habits and a consistent and active member of the Methodist church. He was a fluent speaker, and in his easy, gentlemanly way he was one of the most efficient members of the literary society. Some time after the other two young men took their lives in their hands and marched away to the front, young Blacklege also volunteered. Not long afterwards he was killed in an engagement with the enemy, and he now "sleeps the sleep that knows no waking" in an unmarked soldier's grave. Captain E. Y. Sturgis was another one of the members of the literary society who donned the blue, and he is now the only one of the soldier members who is living here.

When war spread its dark pall over the country, and almost every family was represented in the army, social and literary gatherings were greatly interfered with. While the men were drilling, the women were preparing and sending supplies to their absent ones, and looking after the families of those who had lain down their lives on the field of battle. When peace again spread her white wings over this mourning country, there was a general revival of business, amusements and educational pursuits. Again throughout Wells county the halls, churches and school houses echoed with speeches, songs and music. Professional men joined the ranks, and the teachers insisted

upon their pupils devoting some time to literature as well as in digging deep into the mysteries of science. Many of the teachers of the country schools took one or two terms of instruction in the Bluffton school, and became active and enthusiastic members of the flourishing literary society. Being thus impressed with the importance of a higher education, they urged their pupils to read carefully the writings of the best authors of the time. They further prompted them to write or recite in their own language the choice thoughts which they had gleaned from the printed pages. The result has been just what might have been expected. The Hoosier dialect is seldom heard, and backwoodsmen are few and far between.

The pulpits of today are filled by men who are not only theological scholars, but are also thoroughly familiar with current events, and possess a liberal knowledge of the writings of our most popular authors. Our pulpit teachers impress their congregations as being men who believe it to be the duty of every one to cultivate to the utmost of his or her ability all of the talents with which the Maker of the universe has liberally endowed them. Their teachings are emphasized by precept and example, and they are, many of them, ready writers.

It has been very truly said that a home without a newspaper is one of literary darkness. To the honor of this county it can be said that there are but few homes within its boundaries where a newspaper does not find its way. These "black missionaries" create and perpetuate within the minds of their readers a desire for a more extensive knowledge of the best literature of the day. Since free rural mail delivery has been estab-

lished, all of the up-to-date farmers are kept in touch with the times by the receipt of one or more dailies, besides weekly newspapers and magazines. A visit to the sessions of the Farmers' Institute discloses the fact that the farmers' families are both readers and thinkers, and that they are progressing rapidly.

Of late years the public literary societies and debating clubs have been giving way to reading circles and clubs which are limited in their membership. These circles and clubs have inspired their members to pursue a course of study which has developed latent literary talent that is yielding a rich harvest.

Since literature has been added to the curriculum of studies of our public schools, on the shelves of our school libraries are to be found the works of our most noted authors of poetry and prose, and that they are carefully read and utilized is a fact worthy of mention. It is impossible for me to estimate the number of volumes in the public school libraries throughout the county, but the Bluffton library alone contains over five thousand volumes. Many of these are from the McClure library, while additions are made to the new books almost every year. In reviewing the progress which has been made in literature in this county during the last half century, while it would seem to be miraculous to one of our dead and gone pioneers, it is in strict keeping with the appearance of prosperity which is manifested in all of the different lines of life.

A ride over the country, where handsome farm houses, which are supplied with all of the modern conveniences, have superseded the log cabins of "lang syne," we look for and find culture within their walls.

Handsome brick school houses, supplied with all kinds of aids necessary for teaching and illustrating the topics which are taught in the public schools, dot the country here and there, and are a credit to the community which supports them. Fine, well-kept gravel roads throughout the county have superseded corduroy roads and fathomless mud holes, and it is a source of pleasure to take a drive over these pleasant thoroughfares. Farm telephones, with fuel and illuminating gas simplifies the work and more time for reading and study is left to those who are anxious to move along with "the march of time."

With all of these outward improvements, our pastors, our teachers, our lawyers, our physicians, our business men and our mechanics have taken Excelsior for their motto, and it is their aim and purpose to win. At each succeeding annual commencement of all schools throughout the county higher attainments are manifested, and our young people are making rapid strides in literary, scientific and musical advancement.

The pastor who rode over miles of pole-bridges to meet his appointment, and who carried his tuning fork "to pitch the tunes," and who also lined the hymns, has already passed into memory as some fragment of early history. The teacher who, besides teaching the rudimentary branches, carried as a close companion the rod of correction, and daily illustrated his lectures by cuts upon the persons of his pupils, is now as obsolete as Ichabod Crane, who is so graphically described by Washington Irving.

If, as Patrick Henry said, "we have no means of judging the future but by the

past," we may expect much from the coming citizens of this county. The young people have already demonstrated their mental ability, much of which is of a high order, and which gives them rank with the young people of any county in the state of Indiana. It is safe to promise that in the near

future the laurels of fame will pass to the coming men and women, and that those who have won some celebrity in the literary world, and who have paved the way for greater advancement, will soon cease to shine and will be known to the world only as back numbers.

THE BENCH AND BAR.

BY HON. JOSEPH S. DAILEY.

The first term of the circuit court of Wells county convened at the residence of Robert C. Bennett, where Bluffton is now situated, in October, 1837, with the following officers: Charles W. Ewing, judge; John Swett and James R. Greer, associate judges; Bowen Hale, clerk; Isaac Covert, sheriff, and Thomas Johnson, prosecuting attorney. The first grand jury consisted of Abram McDowell, James Guthrie, James Mace, James Wright, James Cobbum, David Bennett, Christopher Miller, William Ray, William P. Davis, Henry Mace, Jeremiah Masterson, Nathaniel Batson, Isaac Dewitt, James Harvey, Isaac Wright, Isaac Lewellyn, Joseph Jones and Buell Baldwin; the petit jurors were Joseph Sparks, John McCullick, Noah Tobey, John Seek, Newton Putnam, Allen Norcross, Andrew Brown, John Higgins, John Casebeer, Goldsmith Baldwin, Samuel Wallace, Conklin Master-son, Henry Miller, Henry Myers, Daniel Miller, John C. Whitman, James Jarrett, David Snyder, Mason Powell, William Concannon, Samuel Myers, Adam Miller, John Swett and James Greer, all of whom are now dead. The grand jurors previous to the April term, 1839, failed to present

any one for crime, but at this term Jehu T. Elliott, of New Castle, Indiana, afterwards supreme judge, appeared as prosecuting attorney and the first indictments in the county were then found and presented and the court made the following entry in relation thereto, which will be found on page 21, Minute Book A: "Ordered by the court that in all bills of indictment found at the present term of this court for assaults and batteries, betting and selling and giving spirits to Indians, the defendants be required to enter into recognizance in the sum of twenty-five dollars each and security in a like sum and in all indictments for grand larceny and for suffering gaming in grocery or taverns the defendants be required to enter into recognizance in the sum of one hundred dollars each with security in like sum."

At the September term, 1839, Judge Ewing was succeeded on the bench by Hon. David Kilgore, of Muncie, afterward a speaker of the Indiana house of representatives and subsequently for two terms a member of congress from the "Old Burnt District." At this term, among others, the famous Moses Jenkinson, Judge Jeremiah Smith, of Winchester, and Judge Jacob B.

Julian, recently of Indianapolis, were admitted to practice in this court. The first criminal proceeding tried was against Associate Judge James R. Greer, who entered a plea of guilty to a charge of betting and was fined one dollar. It seems that the judges in those days dealt out justice impartially and in proof of this made one of their own number the first victim of the majesty of the law. At this term John Brownlee, of Grant county, since a leading member of the Marion bar, and who is now deceased, was the prosecuting attorney. The criminal docket contained fifty-two causes, of which forty-five were for betting, and most of the prominent citizens of the county were placed under indictment.

At the March term, 1840, the late Jeremiah Smith appeared as prosecuting attorney.

At the October term, 1840, the first divorce petition in the county was filed. Prior to that event domestic bliss and felicity seem to have reigned supreme.

At the April term, 1841, Sahucl Ogden succeeded John Swett as associate judge, and at this term John P. Greer, who departed this life at an advanced age at Topeka, Kansas, became the first resident member of the Wells county bar and was one of its leading lights until his removal from the state in 1857. The first entry in the probate docket of the county was made by William Wallace, probate judge, on November 10, 1841, ordering a writ of habeas corpus for the body of one Martin Perry.

At the March term, 1842, James W. Borden, of Fort Wayne, succeeded to the judgeship and Lucien P. Ferry, of the same place, appeared as prosecuting attorney. Borden, though only a moderate lawyer,

was a man of fine physical proportions, an excellent conversationalist and spent the subsequent years of his life in office, having been a member of the constitutional convention, judge of the court of common pleas, minister to the Sandwich Islands under Buchanan, again common pleas judge, and he died in the harness as judge of the Allen criminal court, many years ago. The court as then constituted had an equitable but arbitrary way of apportioning costs, and at this term, in the case of "Andy" Ferguson vs. Almon Case, where the jury found for the plaintiff in the sum of two dollars, the court ordered "that each party pay one-half the costs."

The first attorney to locate in Bluffton was James Brownlee, afterwards a prominent member of the Grant county bar. He was then young in years, youthful in appearance and it was his first venture in the legal profession. He swung his "shingle" in the clerk's office, which was surrounded by woods with a trail leading up to it. Artists were scarce in those days and Mr. Brownlee painted his own sign which read as follows: "James Bröwnlee, Eterny at Law." It had been up but a short time when a pioneer, more scholarly than the rest, suggested that he thought there was something wrong in the orthography and upon investigation this was discovered to be true. It was then finally decided that the counsellor who could not spell the word "attorney" knew little about his profession and the youthful barrister became the subject of ridicule. They made his life so uncomfortable that he "folded his tent" and sought a new field of usefulness.

At the September term, 1842, the name of Horatio M. Slack, the second resident

attorney of Bluffton, appears of record. At this term William H. Coombs, of Fort Wayne, appeared as prosecuting attorney. After having practiced at that city for more than one-half a century, he rounded off his career by a brief service on the supreme bench of this state. During this term the judge and ex-Prosecuting Attorney Ferry were jointly indicted on the novel charge of "aiding in the escape of prisoner."

At the March term, 1843, the venerable David H. Colerick appeared as prosecuting attorney. He was at his prime, a man of excellent delivery and surpassing eloquence, and several of his sons have inherited great ability in these respects. At this term, John W. Dawson, afterward editor of the Fort Wayne Times, and subsequently governor of Utah territory, was admitted to the bar. He was a ready writer and a strong, aggressive man, but his pilgrimage closed more than twenty years ago. Two important events occurred at this term, the conviction of Associate Justice Greer for violating the revenue laws, and the indictment of S. G. Upton, the third resident attorney admitted to the bar, for barratry, but to the credit of the fraternity let it be said that he was acquitted of the charge.

At the September term, 1843, Robert B. Turner became associate judge with Greer, and Lewis Lynn was then sheriff.

At the March term, 1844, Lysander C. Jacoby was special prosecutor. During this session Ezekiel Parker was convicted of obtaining goods under false pretense, which was the first successful prosecution of felony in the county.

At the March term, 1845, Jonathan Garton, the maternal grandfather of the writer, became associate judge and continued in

this capacity with Greer until the office was abolished by the adoption of the new constitution in 1852. At this term James R. Slack, a Union general during the Rebellion and afterward judge of the twenty-eighth judicial circuit, acted as prosecuting attorney. He was a man of rugged sense and old-fashioned honesty.

At the August term, 1845, and March term, 1846, Elza A. McMahon, afterward judge of this circuit, but long a resident of Minnesota, acted as prosecuting attorney.

In 1847 Isaac Covert again became sheriff, but with this exception the same judge and officers continued until March, 1848, when Samuel G. Upton was commissioned prosecuting attorney. He was a straight, dignified New Yorker, prematurely gray, who thought his frosty head was the result of hard study, but who was never a radical lawyer. He engaged for a number of years in editing and publishing the Bluffton Banner, and was for a time postmaster at this place, but ended his career a number of years ago at New Orleans, Louisiana, at the advanced age of seventy-five years. In 1849 Isaac Covert retired from the shrievalty and was succeeded by Amza White.

At the December term, 1849, James L. Worden acted as prosecuting attorney. He was born in Massachusetts in 1819, but lost his father in infancy, removed to Portage county, Ohio, when a child and was deprived of the advantages of an early education. He was largely self-taught, and removed to Indiana, during his early manhood, where, by his real merits, he gained rapid promotions, first to the office of prosecuting attorney, next to the nisi prius bench, and afterward to the supreme bench of Indiana, where he remained nineteen

years. His opinions were so much regarded that he was styled the "old reliable" and the "John Marshall" of that court.

At the March term, 1851, the accomplished John R. Coffroth, since deceased, was admitted to practice here. Judges L. M. Ninde, William W. Carson, Jacob M. Haynes and Isaac Jenkinson were admitted at the same time, and Benedict Burns was added as the fourth resident member of the bar.

At the March term, 1852, Amza White, an original character in his day, and Arthur W. Sanford, afterward a prominent clergyman of Marion, Indiana, were admitted to the force of local counsel. At this term James L. Worden acted as prosecuting attorney, and in March, 1853, he produced his commission and qualified as prosecutor. William Porter was then added to the list of resident attorneys. In the earlier court practice they disposed of business in a summary manner after the fashion of the old English "dusty foot" court, and while it was rough on the victim, little complaint was made of the law's delay. One notable instance of this kind was the trial of Detro and Brown, in 1851, for the larceny of horses belonging to Daniel Miller. They had taken the stolen property into Ohio. The vigilance committee got upon their trail, pursued them to near the city of Dayton, captured the thieves with their plunder, and recrossed the state line without the aid of a requisition, brought the captives to Bluffton, and on the day of their arrival they were indicted, tried, convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary, and on the morning of the next day the sheriff started with his prisoners to Jeffersonville to execute the judgment of the court. It

was claimed that this was done in obedience to that clause in the organic law of the state which declares that "justice shall be administered speedily and without delay."

At the August term, 1853, Edwin R. Wilson, an expert and aggressive young attorney, was admitted and became a resident member of the bar. Michael Miller succeeded White as sheriff, and at the February term, 1854, Edwin R. Wilson was prosecuting attorney.

At the February term, 1855, Edwin R. Wilson's brother, John L. Wilson, subsequently on the common pleas bench at Morrow, Ohio, was placed on the roll of local attorneys, and also the name of John N. Reynolds, an auctioneer and pettifogger of great tact, who "lost his grip" when he reached the circuit court.

At the August term, 1855, James L. Worden qualified as circuit judge, and in the November following, George McDowell, a brother of the late Hon. James F. McDowell, of Marion, succeeded Bowen Hale as clerk, the latter having retired after a service of seventeen years.

At the February term, 1857, Robert E. Hutcheson, afterward somewhat distinguished at the Columbus, Ohio, bar, was added to the list of resident counsel, but he remained only a brief time. At this term, David T. Smith, who had been educated at Oxford, Ohio, came from Richmond to Bluffton to engage in the practice of law. He brought with him an excellent law library, and was soon in the enjoyment of a lucrative practice. In the midst of his success he became a victim for a time of chronic alcoholism, which nearly wrought his ruin. When in his cups he was given to flights of fancy in his speeches that astonished the

natives. In his peroration after an exhaustive argument in defense of a client charged with a felony, he said: "Gentlemen of the jury, when this all-important trial is over, I hope I shall have the pleasure of taking my old friend and client by the hand and of congratulating him upon his escape from the just penalty of the law." On another occasion at a jubilee held on the public square, after his party had been successful in the state election, he used this significant language: "Ladies and gentlemen, our opponents in the last campaign have lied, stolen and cheated, and we have beaten them at their own game." Mr. Smith, many years before his demise, reformed, became an active member of a Christian church, was mayor of the city of Bluffton, and later a justice of the peace, and died respected and esteemed by the entire community.

At the February term, 1859, Reuben J. Dawson, of Albion, Indiana, became circuit judge, James F. McDowell, subsequently a member of congress from this district and a man of charming eloquence, was admitted to the bar, and George S. Brown, a scholarly man of fine appearance, located here and was also admitted to the bar. He subsequently located at Huntington, Indiana, where he for a time was engaged in business with Col. L. P. Milligan, one of the finest logicians of the Wabash valley, and from there he removed to Topeka, Kansas, where, in the midst of a growing practice, he died of blood cancer. During this year, Newton Burwell, a fluent speaker, ready writer and well-read man, was admitted to the bar, and for many years was identified with much important litigation in our courts, but the hand of business adversity

was laid heavily upon him, and after following a diversity of pursuits and rowing against the tide, he at last took up the line of march and drifted to Rapid City, Dakota. He is now engaged in the practice of his profession at Enid, Oklahoma. At this term Nicholas Van Horn commenced the practice here, but being of a somewhat notional disposition, he has been alternately lawyer, preacher and doctor, and is now trying his hand at a variety of vocations in Texas. During this term one of the most important criminal trials occurred that has ever transpired in the history of the county. One Moses T. Murphy, a merchant of Vera Cruz, had gone into the country for the purpose of procuring teams to haul wheat to Fort Wayne, and while in the woods, between the residences of John Linn and Harvey Risley, he was slain. His continued absence excited the suspicion of his family, friends and neighbors, who instituted a thorough search for him. His body was found with marks of violence upon his head, indicating that he had been felled by some blunt instrument, and upon closer inspection it was ascertained that his jugular vein was severed. A club bespattered with blood and hair was also found near the body. Suspicion at once, whether justly or otherwise, rested upon Dr. William Freeman, who was Mr. Murphy's neighbor. He was arrested and indicted for the crime, and, after an exciting trial, was acquitted. The case was ably prosecuted by Sanford J. Stoughton, prosecuting attorney, assisted by Messrs. Ninde and Wilson, and was defended by Messrs. McDowell, Milligan and Coffroth. Edwin R. Wilson became judge at the December term, 1858, and James M. Defrees, of Goshen, who long since died, prosecuting

attorney. Thomas L. Wisner became clerk in November, 1859.

At the February term, 1860, John Cole-
rick, a man of magnetic and persuasive elo-
quence, succeeded to the office of prosecu-
tor, and in February, 1861, was in turn
succeeded by Augustus A. Chapin, recent
judge of the Allen superior court.

On August 23, 1861, Thomas W. Wilson
became a member of this bar, and Nathaniel
DeHaven became sheriff. In November,
1864, James H. Schell became prosecutor
and in the following February Robert Low-
ry, a member of the forty-eighth and forty-
ninth congresses from the Fort Wayne dis-
trict, took his seat upon the bench. The
chief business transacted in the courts of
this county from the years 1861 to 1867
inclusive was by some general divorce
agents residing at Fort Wayne, who oper-
ated for the middle, eastern and New Eng-
land states and Canada. Divorces under
the lax laws then existing were ground out
by the half-bushel.

During the subsequent years of our juris-
prudence the circuit court has been pro-
vided with officers as follows: Judges—
Robert Lowry, until April, 1873, when he
was succeeded by Jacob M. Haynes, who
continued until November, 1878, when his
successor, James R. Bobo, qualified and con-
tinued until April, 1885, at which time he
was succeeded by Henry B. Sayler, who re-
tired from the bench November 19, 1888,
and was in turn succeeded by Joseph S.
Dailey. The latter was promoted to the
supreme bench of Indiana, on July 25, 1893,
to fill the unexpired term of Judge Olds,
and remained thereon until January 8, 1895.
Edwin C. Vaughn, present incumbent, was
appointed his successor as judge of the

Wells county circuit court. James R. Mc-
Cleery succeeded Wisner as clerk in Novem-
ber, 1867, and continued as such until his
death in April, 1874. Thomas L. Wisner was
commissioned as his successor and held until
November, 1874. William J. Craig was
clerk from November, 1874, to November,
1882. His successor, John H. Ormsby,
held this office from November, 1882, to
November, 1890; Albert Oppenheim, from
November, 1890, to November, 1894; Rob-
ert F. Cummins, from November, 1894, to
November, 1898, and was succeeded by the
present incumbent, James C. Hatfield, at
said time.

Manual Chalfant was sheriff from 1865
to 1867 and from 1869 to 1871; Isaiah J.
Covault, from 1867 to 1869 and from 1871
to 1873; William W. Weisell, from 1873 to
1877; James B. Plessinger, from 1877 to
1881; Marcellus M. Justus, from 1881 to
1885; Henry Kirkwood, from 1885 to
1889; James T. Dailey, from 1889 to 1893;
George W. Huffman, from 1893 to 1897;
William Higgins, from 1897 to January 1,
1902, and since then James R. Johnston has
been sheriff. This court has been supplied
with the following prosecutors during the
interim named: Thomas W. Wilson, from
November, 1866, to November, 1868; Jos-
eph S. Dailey, from November, 1868, to
November, 1876; Joshua Bishop, from
November, 1876, to November, 1877;
Luther I. Baker, from November, 1877, to
November, 1880; John T. France, from
November, 1880, to November, 1884; Ed-
win C. Vaughn, from November, 1884, to
November, 1888; William A. Branyan,
from November, 1888, to November, 1892;
Samuel E. Cook, from November, 1892, to
July, 1893; Jay A. Hindman, from 1893 to

1896; Aaron M. Waltz, from November, 1896, to November, 1900, since which time John Burns has occupied this position.

At the November term, 1870, James Gillen was tried for the murder of William J. McCleery, but was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to the penitentiary for twelve years. It was a case that created great excitement and much interest, and was ably conducted on both sides, by counsel many of whom were eminent in the law.

The usually quiet and law-abiding county of Wells has been at times under great commotion by reason of homicides in her midst. In her history John Strode was tried for the murder of Daniel Miller, an old pioneer of the county; Mary M. Eddingfield for the alleged poisoning of her children; Frank Hoopengartner, for killing Needham McBride; George W. King, for killing Martin Thayer; William Walker, for slaying George Shaw, and John Siberry, for the killing of his wife. Some of these cases were of great moral turpitude, and are a blotch upon the otherwise fair escutcheon of the county; but a portion of the cases had many extenuating circumstances, and in the case of Hoopengartner the jury wisely found it to be one of justifiable homicide.

We had the anomaly from 1853 to 1873 of a court of common pleas, erected and organized with almost concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit court, and during its existence it contained the following officers: Wilson B. Loughridge was judge from its organization to January, 1861, when he was succeeded by Joseph Brackenridge, who held until January, 1865; James W. Borden, from January, 1865, until January, 1868, when Robert S. Taylor, one of the most learned and best equipped attorneys

of this state, was commissioned his successor. David Studabaker, of Decatur, an able lawyer, succeeded him in January, 1869, but resigned in September, 1869, when Robert S. Taylor became his successor. In January, 1871, William W. Carson succeeded Judge Taylor, who in turn was succeeded by Samuel E. Sinclair, in January, 1873, the latter holding this position until it was abolished as a needless expense about three months thereafter. The prosecutors of this court were Benedict Burns, Newton Burwell, James G. Smith, David T. Smith, David Colerick, Joseph S. Dailey and Benjamin F. Ibach.

During the first thirty years of our county's history the business transactions were limited, and one order book of this court embraces all the civil and criminal causes there tried from its organization up to and including the January term, 1859. During the subsequent period of our jurisprudence several parties were admitted to the local bar and for a time were engaged as counsel who no longer respond to the roll call. Among these was Thomas A. R. Eaton, now deceased; William J. Bright, who edited the Wells County Union. He was "bright" by name and nature, but died at the beginning of his career in our midst. In 1863 Daniel J. Callen, an eloquent orator and "word-painter," came and practiced here, but soon returned to his native state, Ohio, which he for a time served with distinction in her legislative council. Mr. Callen has been in his grave for the last decade. Benjamin G. Shinn, now a prominent lawyer of Hartford City, was admitted to practice here on September 19, 1865. Hon. Daniel Waugh, former judge of the Tipton and Howard circuit, and more re-

cently a member of congress, was admitted May 22, 1866, with the lamented Jacob J. Todd and James A. Cotton, now of New Castle, Indiana, May 20, 1867. William J. Davis, a graduate of Washington College, Pennsylvania, located here and was admitted to the bar in 1871; later he removed to Goshen. He is now a prominent attorney of that city and served his county with distinction in the state senate. Capt. William J. Hilligass, who recently died at Muncie, was admitted in the succeeding year. Joseph W. Ady, who afterwards enjoyed a state-wide reputation in Kansas, and was Harrison's United States attorney for that state, was reared in Wells county, and admitted to this bar, but shortly thereafter obeyed the injunction of the "white-hatted philosopher" who said, "Young man, go west."

About the year 1870 Augustus N. Martin, a young man from Butler county, Pennsylvania, made his advent into this community, began the study of law with Jacob J. Todd, and shortly thereafter became his partner in business. He served his adopted county in the house of representatives of this state from January, 1875, to January, 1877, was for four years thereafter reporter of the supreme court of Indiana, and from 1889 to 1895 was a member of the national congress, making for himself an excellent record therein. He died in 1901.

Our present bar comprises a large per cent. of all the members who ever engaged as resident attorneys at this place, and embraces the names of Joseph S. Dailey, Levi

Mock, John K. Rinehart, James P. Hale, A. L. Sharpe, J. H. C. Smith, George W. Kimball, Abram Simmons, F. M. McFadden, Charles E. Sturgis, Martin W. Walbert, George Mock, John Mock, William H. Eichhorn, Frank C. Dailey, George A. Matlack, Nelson K. Todd, Augustus W. Hamilton, L. F. Sprague and J. W. Lambright, and without particularizing or making any invidious distinctions, the writer with confidence states, that this list comprises in its numbers a galaxy of attorneys as well qualified for the great work of the profession as can be found in any county in Indiana.

Since the influx of railroads into the county, beginning in the autumn of 1869, it has nearly tripled in population and material wealth; two thousand miles of open ditches have been constructed and three hundred miles of free gravel roads.

Many large manufacturing industries have been established in Bluffton, and all kinds of commercial pursuits are being conducted and the county is rapidly gaining a front rank as an educated, enterprising and public-spirited locality; as a result of the growth and development of her material interests, much litigation has necessarily followed in the last twenty years. But the Wells county bar have been equal to the emergency, fully equipped for the great work they have been called upon to perform, and in their efforts to enforce rights and redress wrongs, they have been aided at all times by an intelligent and incorruptible judiciary.

MEDICAL HISTORY OF WELLS COUNTY.

BY GEORGE E. FULTON, M. D.,

Ex-Member Indiana State Legislature; Ex-Health Officer to Wells County.

The medical history of Wells county has to do not only with the physicians who from the earliest pioneer days applied the healing art as best they could under the adverse circumstances of that early epoch, but deals with the people, the climate and the geographical aspect of the territory out of which the county was carved by chain and compass. With a state and county map lying before me and with a fair practical knowledge of the surroundings from traveling at various times over the entire county, I would say that, approximately estimated, Wells county is fourteen miles from east to west and twenty-four miles from north to south, with the addition thereto of Jackson township on the extreme southwest with an area of six miles square, the said township being the equal in all respects to the rest of the county. The area embraced within the rugged outlines given is largely a level tract, covered originally with dense forest and in the low marshy lands with an exuberant growth of vegetation. The Wabash river, the main source of water supply, courses diagonally across the county from the south-

east to the northwest; the second largest stream, the Salamonie river, crosses the southwestern portion of the county; both of these streams are splendid water-ways, the bed of each stream is underlaid with a fine quality of lime-stone rock, sand and gravel, insuring abundance of building material for domestic and public purposes, while the water of said streams is pure and wholesome for man and beast. Other and smaller streams are frequent in the northern and south-central portions of the county. In the former, Eight-mile river, or creek, might be mentioned (now transformed into a large public ditch and the waste lands reclaimed to agricultural purposes). This stream had scarcely any channel or outlet and comprised originally a low marshy tract of land that lay for a long period of time practically useless, except as a rendezvous in the heated season for frogs, mosquitoes, stray cattle and wild hogs, and last, but not least, as a stronghold for the origin and spread of malarial germs, resulting in fever and ague. This area, like many others where the lowlands existed and the water

was more or less stagnant during the heated and ensuing autumnal season of the year, became the battleground of the "pioneer doctor." His services, with a liberal supply of quinine, were in constant demand in every cabin, as malaria, resulting in chills and fever, afflicted almost every person, although not so virulent and destructive to life as many of the diseases that now visit the older and more densely populated communities, such as diphtheria, small-pox, scarlet fever, cerebro-spinal meningitis and typhoid fever. Malaria was not so destructive to life and devastating to the community as these, yet it was a great source of suffering and its miasm caused many deaths and was a barrier in the way of the health and progress of the unacclimated pioneer inhabitants of the new country which was just emerging from the wilderness of chaos.

All honor to the early practitioner of medicine who braved the storms and plunged into the dense forests with horse and spur and pillbags, winding his way by bridle path and blazed trees, and at times plunging his horse into swollen streams or crossing dangerous bridges, before arriving on his mission of healing at the little cabin in the "open" or "clearing." These were the days of marked hospitality and nothing was too good for the doctor or preacher, possibly the only visitors to enter the house for months at a time, to cheer and comfort the hearts of the settlers.

The twin professions, medicine and theology, have ever gone hand in hand and have served well their day and generation, from the earliest dawn to the present day, and their responsibility and prominent parts enacted in the drama of life are ever widening, ever increasing and must continue to do

so while the world and the race lasts. With the foregoing as a ground work for the scenes and incidents that were to play a prominent part in the moral and physical development and life of the county, the tide of emigration began to flow steadily in and soon in many places the dense forest was felled by the woodman's ax and by and by in place thereof appeared fields of waving grain and pasture lands, dotted here and there with bleating sheep and lowing cattle, while orchard and vineyard were wont to fling out their blossoms and sweet perfume to laden the invigorating air. The best of all and crowning hope of the land, the school house and academy, appeared, garlanded round about as with a girdle by the new generation of boys and girls, whose merry laughter, ringing voices, romp and frolic would seem to drive care and trouble forever to the remotest caverns of the earth. In these primitive institutions of learning the youthful brain was tutored with useful knowledge and the character was formulated and stocked with the underlying principles essential to good government, viz: industry, truth and sobriety.

A good start is nine-tenths already won in life's battle. Surely the ultimate growth and achievement all along the line in the multitude of affairs in the county indicate that the first settlers were of the right kind of stock and gave to us the right kind of a start, and so it then devolved upon us to carry out and fulfill, building upon the bed-rock foundation already laid for us.

EARLY MEDICAL STATISTICS.

From a personal interview with some of the pioneer citizens yet living, and others who have passed away, the writer has

gleaned the following facts: Jacob R. Harvey, who is yet living on his farm near Murray, informed us that he emigrated with his parents and settled near Murray in 1832; he also stated that Allen and William Norcross settled here in 1830. Dr. John I. Metts, of Ossian, in an interview I held with him, stated that he settled in Wells county in 1836. These citizens reported to me that remnants of the Miami tribe of Indians were still here, but friendly in disposition. To my inquiry as to whether the Indians were subject to chills and fever, they answered that they were.

The first physician to settle in Wells county was Dr. John Knox, settling here in 1829 on the farm subsequently owned by Henry Miller, near Murray. The second physician was Dr. Williams, who located in Murray in 1838. The third physician in the county was Dr. William Fellows, a regular practitioner who settled some two miles south of Bluffton, on the David Studabaker farm, in 1838.

The birth of the only colored child born in the county occurred in Bluffton, on July 20, 1880.

EARLY EPIDEMICS.

An epidemic of typhoid fever occurred in 1845; an epidemic of scarlet fever in 1849; a case of cholera (Asiatic) in 1849; an epidemic of measles in 1849; a case of small pox occurred in Bluffton in 1854; an epidemic of diphtheria in 1855.

THE WELLS COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

This society was organized April 9, 1878, with the following physicians as its officers: President, C. T. Melsheimer; secretary, T. H. Crosbie; treasurer, T. Horton;

censors, B. F. Cummins, W. R. S. Clark and L. A. Spaulding.

A constitution and by-laws were framed and adopted and articles of incorporation were filed and recorded within the records of Wells county. The organization adopted the code of ethics of the American Medical Association and is auxiliary to the Indiana State Medical Society, to which it sends at each annual meeting delegates to represent the county society, the said delegates having a voice in all the deliberations of that body. The object of this society is to provide an organization through which the "regular physicians" of the county may be united in one professional fraternity, for the purpose of giving frequent and decided expressions to their views and the objects of the medical profession; to develop more efficient means than we have had hitherto for cultivating and raising to a higher plain the standard of medical knowledge; for exciting and encouraging unity of purpose among the members; for enlightening and directing public opinion in reference to the duties, responsibilities and requirements of medical men; and for the promotion of all measures calculated to ameliorate the suffering and to improve the health and protect the lives of the community. The society does not embody a large membership, there being an average of from fifteen to twenty members, owing to death, removals, etc. Being composed of the leading physicians of the county it is as live and active, according to its members, as any like organization in the state. The meetings of the society are held the second Tuesday of each month in Bluffton, with the exception of one meeting each year in the month of June, which is held in Ossian, the second city in size in the county.

A standing invitation to attend each meeting is always gratuitously published by the press of Bluffton to all who may desire an examination and the advice of the members free, in response to which numerous persons from all parts of the county attend the meetings and embrace the opportunity of benefits tendered. A prominent feature of the society is the preparation and reading of original papers or essays on subjects pertaining to the science of medicine and surgery by the members in turn as their names occur on the roll in alphabetical order. Following the delivery of such papers there is a rigid discussion, approving or disapproving in a friendly and ethical way the respective merits of each.

It is hoped that in the future of this society, as in the past, persons having unusually rare cases or ailments will seek the gratuitous advice and counsel of the society, as in the "multitude of counsel there is wisdom." Ordinarily a layman has but little interest, aside from curiosity, in attending the meetings of physicians and surgeons; as the friendly combats of the intellect are of intense interest to the doctors, they offer about as much interest to the general public as would a theological debate conducted in Sanscrit, or the tedious discussion of a problem in abstract mathematics. In a meeting of this kind there is innumerable reference to such unheard-of things as "lesions," internal extravasations," "medullas," "cystitis," "femurs," "aneurisms," and "articulations," to say nothing about "metabolic" and "pre-systolic."

Every organization, like every household, has its visitations of gloom; here we pause and drop the sympathetic tear in memory of those who on earth have applied

their last healing unction. Five of the charter members have passed away by death; they are Drs. C. T. Melsheimer, T. H. Crosbie, W. R. S. Clark, Theodore Horton and B. F. Cummins. The places in the ranks thus sadly made vacant were rapidly refilled, so far as members are concerned, but to say excelled or outclassed so far as merit is taken as the unit of standard is a question the answer to which I will leave to the intelligent scrutiny of a just public. Under the limited advantages of the early period in the development and progress of the science, they who preceded us wrought well and faithfully. It therefore remains to be seen whether, with the advanced position we now occupy, if the search-light of modern investigation and research were turned on, it would disclose the fact that we occupy, relatively speaking, a higher altitude in the scale of attainments or not.

The physicians of the pioneer days wrought according to the light and surroundings of the period in which they lived and we of these latter days have only done as much, while those who are to succeed us will perform well their part and doubtless pierce the hidden and mysterious forces yet latent so far as the intellect of man is concerned, but pregnant with untold wonders in the universe about us.

This is said to be the "sanitary era," and it is certain that no period of time prior to the present has witnessed the activity displayed along this line of prophylaxis. Legislation, both state and national, has been enacted and its beneficent results have descended even down to Wells county among the others. These laws have been carried out and enforced with a fair degree of success, reaching from the great and populous

municipalities down to the village and rural districts. As a result of the foregoing, contagious diseases such as diphtheria, scarlet fever, typhoid fever, small pox, and in some places tuberculosis and possible others, have been quarantined, thus saving countless numbers from exposure to disease and possible death and thousands upon thousands of dollars to the commercial world. Wells county also shares in the benefits derived to her unfortunate subjects, in the establishing of state and county institutions which are maintained at great public expense for the comfort and relief of the insane, the inebriates, the epileptics and other unfortunates who come under the special care and protection of the benevolent institutions of our state.

As to the prevention of contagious diseases, none is freighted with more importance to the human family than tuberculosis and its arrest and cure, if such a thing were possible. A number of eminent specialists have quite recently given valuable statistics relative to this disease, and have shown that more people die from this dread disease in every country on the face of the globe than from any other disease; sixteen people die from it to each one from typhoid-fever; eight to one of diphtheria. In Germany more die from consumption in four months than from yellow fever in thirty years. In the past year (1901) 18,763 people died of this disease alone in the ten principal cities of the United States. There is one hopeful aspect among the direful reports about this disease and that is, that the universal agitation of the subject will result in greater information regarding the disease and its care and treatment, and thus the outlook is somewhat better from this standpoint. Hospitals

and sanitariums for tuberculosis patients should be established, and I think will be in the future, and maintained by county and state for the detention and cure of this class of cases. Great improvement has been made in the treatment and management of many diseases and in surgical operations and procedure. For example the introduction of anti-toxine serum for the prevention and cure of diphtheria has actually lessened the mortality from that dread disease fifty per cent. Prof. Pasteur's discovery and method of inoculation for the prevention and cure of rabies (hydrophobia) has proven what is claimed for it.

The wonderful achievement in the surgical field is surprising and many and dangerous operations only occasionally performed by the rarest experts in the large cities and hospitals are now successfully performed by the rural surgeons in every part of the land.

Within the last few years the discovery has been made that malaria is a blood disease due to a parasite, which gains entrance into the system through the bite of the "pesky little mosquito" and that it is not the result of a mysterious miasm, which was long thought to be the cause. Thanks to the scientific investigations of two English physicians, Drs. Manson and Ross, it has been clearly shown that malaria is contracted through the bite of the mosquito; when a person is thus bitten, certain minute needle-like spores pass into the poison sack, to be injected into the unfortunate person; these spores then develop in the blood to full-fledged plasmodia and the malaria is thus communicated. This has later been verified by the medical records and reports of the Cuban war.

WIDE SPREAD EPIDEMIC OF LA GRIPPE.

Within the last few years the entire country, from Maine to California, was brought under the bane of la grippe, transported into this country from Europe. The number of cases ran up into the hundred thousands in the United States. From inquiry among the leading physicians in the county, I should judge there must have been from six to eight thousand persons in Wells county attacked with the malady. The mortality from the effects of the scourge was not so great in itself, but many people who were subject to serious organic diseases and general debility were carried away or their health seriously undermined as a result of the complications directly traceable to la grippe. Other epidemics have prevailed throughout the county in recent years and, while not attended by large mortality, entailed considerable distress and inconvenience and expense to the public, such as closing of the public schools and churches in certain localities for a time. Prominent in the list of diseases constituting said epidemics, were measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria and, more recently, small-pox; of the latter disease there were between eighty and ninety cases scattered throughout this county; only a death or two, however, occurred and these were due, it is claimed, from the complications, showing the mildness of the type and the effectiveness of vaccination and quarantine regulations.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE, OR FAITH CURE.

This fanatical outburst has not had any extensive following in this county and it is hoped will not. The state legislature has taken the matter in hand and laws have

been enacted to protect innocent and helpless children and others who may come under the influences of these fanatics. The law was formed to meet the emergency in such cases and provides a penalty or punishment for anyone having a person or persons under their especial care or guardianship, who shall refuse to procure for them proper medical aid in sickness. This is eminently right and proper. There can be no objection whatever to all the praying that may be done for the sick; we must not only pray, but work; we must use the proper means and resources at our command to counteract disease and cure the patient.

The question is frequently asked by the laity, "Doctor, there are more diseases now than there used to be; we hardly ever heard of heart failure or appendicitis, and how does it come that the people didn't use to have these diseases?" Then the doctor begins to look wise and assume an attitude of dignity, mingled, however, with a slight tinge of uncertainty crowded in the back ground, and after clearing his throat of a rasping impediment, ventures in response, "What's that you say?" "You doctors," retorts the patient, "have a way of finding out new diseases and calling them by big names, then the people get scared, and you charge them big bills. Don't you, Doc.?" Whatever wrong impressions may prevail on this subject, the doctor explains away these difficult questions as best he can, informing the people that, as there is a constant influx of emigrants from the European and Asiatic nations, representing but a small per cent. of the thrifty and desirable on the one hand and on the other an innumerable host of the illiterate and criminal, the very offscourings and refuse of hundreds of

years of degeneracy, from such sources of origin and consequent contamination of population come disease, pestilence and, I might add, crime, for crime comes in the main from a perverted or vitiated mind.

The city of Bluffton, with its population of five thousand, has in the main excellent health, due largely, no doubt, to its excellent hygienic surroundings. The city has several miles of asphalt streets and pavement, which is the most sanitary street that can be constructed; these streets are swept and kept free of dust and debris and are healthy. We also have a sewer system, put in at a cost to the city of seventy-five thousand dollars; the same empties into the Wabash river, which flows by and forms the northern boundary of the city. We have a splendid system of public water works; the water is supplied by a number of deep wells drilled down into the rock, and is pure and of the most excellent quality, a fact of vital interest to the health of the citizens. On inquiry I ascertained from the engineer that the amount of water pumped for all purposes is six hundred and fifty thousand gallons per day.

The commissioners of the county recently purchased a farm adjoining the poor farm and the good and charitable ladies of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union have had the farm-house on this new purchase remodeled and equipped as an orphan's home, with a view to taking the little children out of the poor house and from among the hardened and wretched and having them cared for and taught separately and among pleasant and happy surroundings.

The medical profession has witnessed a revolution all along the line in inventions

and discoveries and in the practical application of these modern deductions to accomplish ends heretofore inconceivable. The discovery of liquid air and its wonderful properties has startled the scientific world and while it is only emerging from the birth-throes, it awaits the hand of some genius to harness its forces that it may become an obedient servant, doing the will of mankind. With the X-ray, another power, the medical man is enabled to explore the interior of the living human system, while the heart continues to beat, the mind to act and life goes on uninterrupted, so that diseased conditions are determined, foreign bodies, as bullets or tumors, are located to a certainty and therefore are more readily treated or removed, as the respective cases require. The gold cure for inebriety has proven largely a success and the institutions established for that purpose have actually reclaimed thousands of lives from wreck and ruin back to family and home, and to a useful career in the world. The treatment for certain diseased conditions by "suggestion" has found favor with some, and of course will have its day and ardent devotees.

As this article must draw to a close, I only have time and space to hint at some of the more important things in store for the future of the medical profession. The convenience and dispatch with which the profession is now able to receive calls and discharge the daily routine of visits and attendance on the sick is unique indeed. Electricity, too, has wrought wonders. Formerly the physician received the calls and filled the same from the country districts after messenger and himself had ridden on horse-back many, many miles

through the mud and swales; but how different today, and with what lightning dispatch the same is accomplished now, in part at least, through the medium of the telephone, the gravel roads and asphalt streets. A message is sent from the farmer's house to the physician's office and he is soon on the way to the patient, either going on the bicycle, the automobile or the electric car, which will bring him in an inconceivable short period of time to the door of the sick. It has even gone beyond this—it is now too long to await the stretching of the telephone wires, as "wireless telegraphy" has stepped in and—"presto change"—the message is received. Many and varied are the experiences of the physician and surgeon. At times he is required to be as mute, unobserving and silent as the tomb, and at other times, observing and outspoken. He should have the eyes of an eagle, the hand and touch of a

woman, and the heart and determination of a lion, as the occasion demands.

THE DEATH.

"While some may live and seem no
grace to yield,
Still some must die, though all their
world complain,
As if the One who harvests in the
Field
Would leave the weeds and garner
unripe grain.

THE CURE.

To some 'tis given they must suffer
pain;
Another that he comes with skill to
heal,
And having healed goes calmly on his
way,
While those who suffered live and
love again."

Be kind and considerate and respectful to the doctor, for God has made you and you have need of him.

DENTISTRY.

BY THOMAS STURGIS, D. D. S.

In this notice of the history of dentistry in our beautiful city of Bluffton it is likely to be quite a mixture, a gleanings here and a gleanings there; so we are likely to give you in these pages something unlike anything you have seen before, a cross, perhaps, between an editor's special and a report of discussion, and if the reader regards it as too much of a medley we can make him better understand our idea if in the war of the Rebellion he ever reached the region visited by Gen. Turchin's brigade, by saying, "Here's your mule." This subject is far-reaching and comprehends the treatment of every organ contained in the oral cavity, for dentistry is a positive science as well as a practical art. But a free use of scientific terms will not pass for well expressed ideas nor rebound half so much to the credit of the writer as the simple language which conveys some useful, practical and appreciable thought.

There have been located in Bluffton seventeen dentists, as follows: Drs. S. M. Cummins, O. W. Crow, Jack Ross, Ralph Fenton, Uranus Fenton, Thomas Sturgis, Earl B. Sturgis, P. L. Robinson, Homer E. Robinson, Evert Meriman, Forst Brenne-
man, L. W. Dailey, Homer Clayton, O. K. Muckley, O. F. Covert, F. W. Karns and

G. M. Kinsey. Those now located in our midst are: Sturgis & Sturgis, D. D. S., L. W. Dailey, D. D. S., Robinson & Robinson, D. D. S., and Homer Clayton, D. D. S. Of the others, three are known to be dead. Dr. Oliver S. Covert, died in Denver, Colorado, February 20, 1889; Dr. Fred Karns died in Bluffton June 19, 1895; Ralph Fenton died at Kokomo, Indiana. These died full of young manhood, and were an honor to their profession. In the mysterious providence of our Father in heaven they have gone to their reward; peace to their ashes. Dr. S. M. Cummins, the first dentist to locate in Bluffton, is now at Elkhart, Indiana; Dr. Uranus Fenton, at Alliance, Ohio; Dr. O. K. Muckley, at Huntington, Indiana; Dr. Evert Merriman, at South Whitley, Indiana; Dr. Forst Brenne-
man, at Columbia City, Indiana; Dr. G. M. Kinsey, at Toledo, Ohio.

Our forefathers of forty years ago were handicapped in their work. Then equipments and instruments were not of the character they are today; but we will have to admit they did some noble work and laid the foundation of one of the highest branches of science the world has ever known. Today we are foremost in this noble profession. We have at our com-

mand all the advantages of science and investigation worked out by our preceptors. Today operations are made easy by modern methods and equipments. The filling of teeth with gold, silver, cement, crowning of broken down teeth, bridge work, the best possible substitute for lost teeth, plates where all the teeth are gone—this work is done today with the greatest of satisfaction. Now, a word to mothers and those who have children under their care. The preservation of the temporary teeth is by no means a matter of trifling importance. They demand prompt attention, and demand it more imperatively than do the permanent teeth. The deciduous teeth, commonly known as baby teeth, are the first to appear in the mouth in infancy, being twenty in number. They begin to erupt about the fourth to the sixth month, and are completed from the twentieth to twenty-fourth month. This cannot be said of all children, as they may erupt sooner or later than the designated time. After the eruption of these temporary organs in their respective places the dentist should be consulted at least once a year, or oftener, as the retention of the temporary teeth insures evenness and permanency in the permanent set. At about the fifth to the sixth year, when the child begins to discard these temporary organs to accommodate a more substantial set of thirty-two teeth, the mother is often misled, especially in the first permanent molar, which erupts about the sixth year. Thinking it a baby tooth, they allow it to decay until it is past the power of the dentist to restore. It should be a mother's ambition to care for the child's teeth until they reach an age when they are responsible for their own welfare.

In conclusion we desire to address a few words to our brothers in the practice. The dentist's duty to his profession is to maintain its dignity, to increase its efficiency and to make it honorable in the eyes of men. Any course of action which will diminish public confidence in dentistry as a profession is a breach of duty and every breach of duty is an infraction of the code of ethics; hence poor practice, imperfect operations, unskillful treatment, whether resulting from carelessness or ignorance, are unethical. In all your busy hours in operating rooms and laboratory, let me entreat you never to forget the obligation resting upon you as members of society and as citizens of the state. The great law of reciprocity embodied in the injunction, "Bear ye one another's burdens," should always prevail. Society maintains you and the state protects you; be dutiful and loyal to both. Society today is profoundly agitated with questions, social, economic and political, which reach to the very foundation of free government. You can not stand aloof and say that by reason of your particular occupation you have nothing to do with such matters; on the contrary they concern every man and you can not evade your responsibility; you must take part in the current daily discussions of your fellow citizens and help to form the general verdict of public opinion. Let your ballot be cast as conscientiously as you read your Bible, and let your influence in the community always be equal to your ability and your opportunity. Now to the subject, farewell; to the future, hail; to honorable employment, welcome, and may you each and all be crowned with success and happiness. The writer of this article has practiced dentistry thirty years

continuously in Bluffton, Indiana. He is one of five brothers who saw service and plenty of it in the war of the Rebellion. All five are alive today; three of them passed through the struggle unscathed; two were wounded, Capt. E. Y. Sturgis at the battle of Champion Hill, Mississippi, and Capt.

William Sturgis at the battle of Resaca, Georgia. Sergeant Thomas Sturgis, author of this article, was a member of Company A, Thirty-fourth Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He claims the distinction of having served the longest of the five brothers, having four years and over five months to his credit.



Hugh Dougherty

PART II.

BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD.

HON. HUGH DOUGHERTY.

True biography has a more noble purpose than mere fulsome eulogy. The historic spirit, faithful to the record; the discerning judgment, unmoved by prejudice, and uncolored by enthusiasm, are as essential in giving the life of the individual as in writing the history of a people. Indeed, the ingenuousness of the former picture is even more vital, because the individual is the national unit, and if the unit be justly estimated the complex organism will become correspondingly intelligible. The world today is what the leading men of the last generation have made it, and this rule must ever hold good. From the past comes the legacy of the present. Art, science, statesmanship and government are accumulations. They constitute an inheritance upon which the present generation have entered, and the advantages secured from so vast a bequeathment depend entirely upon the fidelity with which is conducted the study of the lives of the principle actors who have transmitted and are still transmitting the

legacy. This is especially true of those whose influence has passed beyond the confines of locality and permeated the state or national life. To such a careful study are the life, character and services of Hugh Dougherty pre-eminently entitled, not only on the part of the student of biography but also of every citizen who, guided by example, would in the present wisely build for the future.

Any piece of biographical writing should have an autobiographic quality; should be an impression and interpretation, quite as much as a summary of facts. Facts, to be sure, are of use as wholesome correction of prejudice or whimsy, but in the condensed narrative of a life there is danger that they may tyrannize. In studying a clean-cut, sane, distinct character like that of the subject, interpretation follows fact in a straight line of derivation. There is a small use for indirection or puzzling. His character is the positive expression of a strong nature. A partial revelation of his prolific application, sturdy patriotism, worthy ancestry and eminently successful

life will be secured through a perusal of this brief tribute. Wells county may well be proud of such citizens as this popular and honored citizen of Bluffton.

Hugh Dougherty is a native of that state concerning which Senator Depew spoke in the following amusing paraphrase: "Some men are born great, some achieve greatness and some are born in Ohio." Mr. Dougherty was born on the parental homestead, in Darke county, Ohio, on the 28th of July, 1844, his lineage showing the sturdy dual strains of the Irish and German extraction. He bears the full patronymic of his paternal grandfather, Hugh Dougherty, who emigrated from the Emerald Isle and took up his abode in Pennsylvania in 1818, and there, in 1820, was born William Dougherty, the father of the subject. About a decade later, in 1831, the family emigrated to Ohio and settled on a tract of unclaimed land in Darke county, where the grandfather died in 1833. There William grew to years of maturity and there, on the 7th of June, 1841, was solemnized his marriage to Miss Margaret Studabaker, who was born in that county in August, 1821, on the farm which her father had taken up when that section of the Buckeye state was a veritable wilderness, and where there was the menace of Indians and wild beasts to fear, besides the endurance of the privations and vicissitudes incidental to the pioneer days. Grandfather Studabaker was compelled to keep his wife near him in the clearing while he was engaged in his arduous toil, in order to protect her from prowling bands of hostile Indians. He was of stanch German extraction, and the name was one which early became identified with the history of the old Keystone state

of Pennsylvania. Margaret (Studabaker) Dougherty passed her entire life in Darke county, where her death occurred on the 15th of August, 1860. She was survived by six children. Her husband eventually removed to Wells county, Indiana, and settled on a farm near Bluffton, where his death occurred on the 2nd of June, 1879. These were folk of sterling character, and their lives were signally true and noble, though not lived on an exalted plane.

Hugh Dougherty grew up under the sturdy and invigorating discipline and environment of the old home farm in Darke county, where he assisted in the farm work during the summer seasons and prosecuted his studies in the district schools during the winter months. However, his nature was self-reliant and positive, and he was not satisfied with the somewhat meager educational opportunities afforded him in his boyhood, and thus he so applied himself as to become eligible for pedagogic honors when seventeen years of age. He devoted his attention to teaching for some time, being successful in his efforts, and was thus engaged when there came the clarion call to respond to the demands of higher duty, as the integrity of the nation was placed in jeopardy through armed rebellion. In August, 1862, at the age of eighteen years, he enlisted as a private in Company F, Ninety-fourth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in which his brother Abraham was already enrolled, and within ten days after his enlistment the regiment proceeded, under orders, by rail to Lexington, Kentucky, and thence by march on toward Richmond, Kentucky, passing the old homestead of Henry Clay, on the Richmond & Lexington turnpike, and on the second day encountering the

Confederates, who were moving toward Lexington. In the engagement which ensued Mr. Dougherty's intimate friend and messmate, Perry Weikle, was killed, and William H. Birely, of the same company, was severely wounded. The Union forces retreated to Lexington, and the remnant of the Ninety-fourth numbered about three hundred men, all the others having been killed, wounded or taken prisoners. The survivors fought their way back to Louisville, where they remained until the regiment was repleted and reorganized, when it was assigned to Buell's army and participated in the battle of Perryville, being in the thickest of the fray in this spirited engagement. The ranks of the regiment were again decimated by the large number killed, wounded and captured, and after this battle such of the members as were eligible for service marched to Nashville, where they remained twenty days and then proceeded to Stone river and took part in the battle at that point. During this engagement young Dougherty was stationed near Nolensville, guarding ammunition and stores, and the Confederate cavalry made a detour in the rear and captured him and others of the guard. They were immediately paroled, after subscribing to an oath of which the following is a copy:

NOLENSVILLE, TENN., Dec. 30, 1862.

I, Hugh Dougherty, private of Company F, Ninety-fourth Ohio Infantry, U. S. A., do take a solemn oath not to take up arms against the Confederate States troops, nor reveal anything I may have learned derogatory to the interests of the Confederate States of America, nor do any police or constabulary duties until I shall have been properly exchanged, under penalty of death.

(Signed) HUGH DOUGHERTY.

Witness: Lieut.-Col. M. H. Hawkins, of General Wheeler's staff.

Mr. Dougherty was then sent back to Nashville and thence to Camp Chase, at Columbus, Ohio, to remain until his exchange could be accomplished. Learning of the critical illness of his soldier brother, Abraham, who had been sent home on sick furlough, he made a visit to his home, where he remained until his loved brother yielded up his life to the one invincible foe, death, after which he reported for duty, but was almost immediately attacked with a serious illness, which rendered him ineligible for active service, so that he was soon afterward accorded an honorable discharge, by reason of disability. After his military career had been thus summarily terminated, Mr. Dougherty returned to his native state, and at Greenville found employment as deputy in the office of the recorder of Darke county, remaining in tenure of this position for a period of three years. His removal to Bluffton occurred immediately after his withdrawal from this office, and after his arrival here he was for six months employed as salesman in a dry-goods establishment. He then entered into a partnership association with his uncle, John Studabaker, in the grain and produce business, in which line he continued operations for a period of seven years, doing a large and successful commission business. In the meantime he became assistant cashier in the First National Bank of Bluffton, of which his uncle previously mentioned was president, and this institution was subsequently merged into one of a private character, becoming known as the Exchange Bank of John Studabaker & Co., the interested principals being Hon. John Studabaker, Major Peter Studabaker and Mr. Dougherty. The Studabakers were among the early settlers

and most prominent and influential business men of Bluffton, as is noted in the general historical sketch appearing elsewhere in this work, and they are of the same family line as the celebrated manufacturers of South Bend, this state, and Chicago. This banking firm transacted an extensive and representative business under the able and discriminating management of Mr. Dougherty, to whom all the executive details were entrusted. Major Peter Studabaker died on the 19th of May, 1888, and the surviving partners decided that the demands placed upon their institution by the enlarged and still increasing business rendered a change of system and methods expedient, and accordingly, on the 1st of January, 1895, the proposed changes were made and the institution was given title as the Studabaker Bank, Mr. Dougherty being chosen president, while other officers were selected for the minor executive duties. The institution is capitalized at one hundred and forty thousand dollars and Mr. Dougherty is still its presiding officer.

The subject has not only gained recognition and prestige as one of the most able and discerning financiers and capable business men, but also has always had an abiding interest in all that touches the material progress and general prosperity of his home city, being known as one of Bluffton's most progressive and public spirited citizens, and having contributed, both by influence and tangible aid, to all legitimate projects which have tended to conserve the best interests of the community. He was largely instrumental in pushing to final completion the Fort Wayne, Cincinnati & St. Louis Railroad and was superintendent of the construction of the section of the line

between Bluffton and Fort Wayne. He was also signally interested in the Toledo, St. Louis & Kansas City Railroad and was associated with James Crosbie in the building of the section between Bluffton and Warren. He threw the weight of his influence and energy aggressively into the movement for the construction of turnpikes and gravel roads throughout Wells county, an improvement whose value to the county can not be overestimated. He has been active and liberal in the promotion of all material interests in his city and county and has been equally conspicuous in advancing the causes of education and morality. Mainly through his determined personal efforts, while a member of the board of school trustees, the handsome and commodious school building of Bluffton was secured,—in fact, it was through his individual credit that the money was procured for its construction, as no public funds were available at the time. In January, 1866, Mr. Dougherty became a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and in 1871, when was essayed the task of providing for the erection of a new church edifice in Bluffton, he was selected as financial manager during the period of building the spacious and beautiful structure, which met the requirements of a progressive church society for a score of years. The edifice proved finally inadequate for the demands placed upon it, and in 1892 it was rebuilt and greatly improved, very largely through the financial aid and active management of the honored subject of this sketch. His name appears on a tablet, let into the interior walls of the church, and the inscription in the connection gives a perpetual evidence of his earnest and successful efforts in effecting the erection of the

original building and also the new and imposing edifice evolved from the former.

In politics Mr. Dougherty has ever accorded an unequivocal allegiance to the Democratic party and for more than a quarter of a century he has been an active and valued worker in behalf of its cause, prominent in the councils of its leaders. His advice and assistance in partisan affairs of the county and district have been freely sought and in his mature and conservative judgment great confidence has been placed. He was made a member of the Democratic executive committee of the state in 1890 and served in this capacity until 1896. In 1870 he was elected to the state senate, from the district embracing Wells and Huntington counties, and he served with signal acceptability for four years, doing much to further wise legislation and to advance the interests of the state at large. He voted in favor of the famous Baxter bill, providing for the controlling of the liquor traffic in the state through local option on the part of the several counties, and in this action showed to a marked degree the courage of his convictions and that he could not be swerved by any matter of personal expediency or political policy when the matter of conscience was involved, for his party was intensely opposed to the bill. He has had no occasion to regret his action in the premises, but, on the contrary, adheres firmly to the principles which he advocated in supporting that law. In 1878 he was a candidate in the nominating convention for member of congress, and was defeated by only five votes, after one hundred and fourteen ballots had been taken in the convention. In the opinion of his friends he could have received the nomination in the conven-

tion of 1886, had he not peremptorily declined when his name was presented. He was a delegate to the national convention of his party, in Chicago, in 1884, to that held in the same city in 1892, and also at Kansas City in 1900, in which he was a delegate at large from the state. Mr. Dougherty was nominated by the Democratic state convention for the office of state treasurer, but went down to defeat with the balance of the ticket, though running over two thousand votes ahead of the ticket, the latter fact indicating his personal popularity.

In 1887 Mr. Dougherty was appointed by a commission, composed of the governor and other state officers, as one of the commissioners of the soldiers' monument, provided for by act of the legislature and erected in the state capital, and though fully appreciative of the honor conferred he felt constrained to decline the appointment, by reason of impaired health and the insistent demands of his business. When the state tax board, under the law of 1891, undertook to require all banks to furnish to assessors a written statement giving the names of all the depositors, with the amounts of the respective deposits, the associated bankers of the state decided to resist the demand by legal process, deeming the action inquisitorial and unconstitutional. Mr. Dougherty was selected to represent the private banks, with Volney T. Malott, of Indianapolis, representing the national banks, and Philip C. Decker, of Evansville, representing the state banks, to test the constitutionality of the law. The result of the litigation was finally summed up in an order from the court vacating and setting aside the order of the state tax board—this showing the ability with which the three

representatives were enabled to present the case.

The organization of a company in Bluffton for the development of natural gas, and its subsequent action, which resulted in supplying the city with such gas, were largely accomplished through the leadership and persistent energy of Mr. Dougherty. Popular confidence in his judgment and extraordinary executive ability enabled the company to raise in the town the capital of one hundred thousand dollars required to consummate the project. He was selected by the associated gas companies of the state as one of a committee to direct the resistance of the Chicago Natural Gas Company to pipe gas out of the state, the result being that the movement was delayed for two years, though the Chicago company was eventually successful. In the autumn of 1894 the Bluffton Gas Company was consolidated with that of Fort Wayne and the stock passed into the hands of an eastern syndicate, which selected Mr. Dougherty as its Indiana representative on the board of directors, in which position he has continued to serve until the present. He was at one time a part owner of the Indianapolis Sentinel, being one of the directors of the company. Mr. Dougherty is also president of the United Telephone Company, with an actual paid-in capital of three hundred thousand dollars, and of the Federal Union Surety Company of Indianapolis, with a paid-in capital of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

In June, 1895, Governor Matthews appointed Mr. Dougherty a member, from the state at large, on the commission to arrange for the proper celebration of the centennial anniversary of the organization of the ter-

ritory of Indiana, and he made exceptional effort to make the laudable project materialize in success, but owing to unfortunate apathy the observance of the centennial as a state function was finally abandoned. At a meeting of the Indiana Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, held at Evansville, Indiana, December 19, 1895, Col. Eli Lilly, of Indianapolis, offered a vigorous and interesting address in response to the toast, "One Hundred Years of Indiana," and incidentally incorporated the views—as expressed in an interview—of Mr. Dougherty as touching the centennial celebration of Indiana territory, and it is eminently appropriate that space be given to perpetuating these sentiments in this connection. Referring to the spirit which inspired the Indiana Centennial Commission in its work, Colonel Lilly said: "I cannot do my subject, or the state, a better service than by quoting the words of our comrade, the Hon. Hugh Dougherty, commissioner for the state at large:"

Indiana is the pulse state of the Union. Through her the great throbbing veins of commerce, which nourish every part of our national body, flow. Her geographical location and physical features are such that the East and the West traverse her territory in passing to and fro. Her capital is the largest inland railroad center in the world. The center of our country's population is within her borders. Her position among her sister states is unique, and her marvelous progress since her organization as a territory calls for a centennial jubilee of such character as will best enable her sons and daughters to appreciate the heritage of a hundred years.

There is no way in which we could more effectively kindle that wholesome state pride which must underlie the noble action of her present and future citizenship than by a parade of her achievements and a fresh revelation of her early struggles. The latter are now matters of recorded history to most of us, and a retrospective view of the

heroic struggles of our fathers would be an eloquent lesson to patriotism. In their toils, their sufferings, their hardships, their conflicts, momentous questions were at stake and issues vital to the future world. In appearance they were insignificant at times, but in reality, copious and full of benevolent consequences. Acting at the springs of our future greatness, instruments otherwise weak became mighty for good, and our pioneer fathers, obscure to the world, proved to be agents of destiny. They entered an untamed wilderness with vast wastes of forest verdure to make a garden for their children, and the hills then silent in their primeval sleep now echo the music of happy homes of industry. Those hardy sons of toil, whose school was the forest, whose trade was barter with savages, whose social life was that of the camp-fire, whose daily lesson was self-sacrifice, conquered the territory of Indiana for civilization. Such memories as these ought to kindle a burning enthusiasm in every loyal Hoosier breast to join in the proposed observance of our anniversary.

Such an observance would be of more than local consequence. It would be a formal way in which our state could give evidence to the world of her worthiness of a place in the family of states comprising our great republic. Our exhibit would say: "This is our achievement," and of this we need not be ashamed. With an agricultural productivity unsurpassed; monumental manufacturing industries; natural resources inexhaustible, among which are lumber, stone, coal, natural gas and petroleum; a school system which is an object lesson to the world; an intelligent, industrious, patriotic, Christian citizenship; populous cities, with every modern improvement,—in fine, all that constitutes the highest degree of prosperity and civilization to be found on the globe,—the people of this great state may be exceedingly glad to make a representative exhibit of the fruit of their labors and say to the world: "Behold the heritage of a hundred years."

Then, let us celebrate the event which has led to such marvelous consequences—an event contemporaneous with the beginning of a century which has seen greater commercial development, more extensive manufacturing enterprises, more valuable invention and discovery, more fruitful agricultural activity, more widespread intelligence, more altruistic feeling, and more application to the agencies that make possible complete living than all the centuries that preceded; and in

the observance of this historic event let us show that Indiana has contributed her full share toward achieving this unparalleled progress.

Fraternally Mr. Dougherty is identified with *Lew Dailey Post No. 33, G. A. R.*, and through his active association with the organization he keeps in touch with his old comrades in arms and perpetuates the more grateful memories of the days when he was serving as a leal and loyal son of the republic in the greatest internecine war known in the annals of history. In the midst of the thronging cares and demands of a busy life Mr. Dougherty is always approachable, being gracious in his association with his fellow men and enjoying personal popularity which is a natural result of his characteristics. He has gained a reputation as a man well equipped equally with the solid and the brilliant qualities essential to material success, but above this he has ordered his life on a high plane, having a deep sense of his stewardship and an appreciation of the responsibility that canopies every life. He is a man of fine intellectuality and is a wide and discriminating reader of the best literature, while as a writer and speaker he has facility and ease in the employing of choice and effective diction. He has been devoted to the public service and to the improvement of his town and county, is beloved by his friends and admired and esteemed by the community. His generosity, unswerving integrity and pronounced ability have gained to him a distinctive position as one of the truest and best citizens of Bluffton. He has traveled extensively and has studied men and affairs with intelligence and interest. His career has been crowned with usefulness and sustained by genuine popular approval.

On the 25th of October, 1877, Mr. Dougherty was united in marriage to Miss Emma Gilliland, the only daughter of Theodore F. and Elizabeth (Sheldon) Gilliland, both of whom were natives of the state of New York and of stanch Scotch-Irish extraction. Mrs. Dougherty was born in Sterling, Illinois, on the 22d of June, 1857, and is a woman of gentle refinement and gracious presence, taking an active part in the social and religious life of her home city and holding the appreciative regard of all who come within the sphere of her kindly and helpful influence. Since her girlhood she has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. and Mrs. Dougherty have one daughter, Elizabeth, who was born on the 23d of March, 1885, and who is one of the popular young ladies in the social circles of Bluffton.

HON. JOSEPH S. DAILEY.

An enumeration of those men of the present generation who have won honor and public recognition for themselves, and at the same time have honored the state to which they belong, would stultify consistency were there failure to make prominent reference to the one whose name initiates this review. He holds distinctive precedence as an able lawyer and judge, having served with signal ability as associate justice of the supreme court of the state of Indiana, is a man of recondite attainments and has ever borne himself with that honor and dignity whose natural offspring is unequivocal confidence and esteem from objective sources. He has been and is dis-

tinctively a man of affairs and one who has wielded a wide influence. A strong mentality, an invincible courage, a most determined individuality, have so entered into his makeup as to render him a natural leader of men and director of opinion. Aside from his position in public and civic life, there is farther propriety in according him representation in this work, for he is a native son of Wells county, and this has been the scene of the greater part of his life's earnest labors, his home being in the attractive capital of the county, the city of Bluffton, where he is at the present time still actively engaged in the practice of his chosen profession.

Joseph S. Dailey was born on a farm in Lancaster township, Wells county, Indiana, on the 31st of May, 1844, and is a representative of one of the worthy pioneer families of the state. He was the fifth in order of birth of the nine children of James and Lydia (Garton) Dailey, and of these children four died in infancy. His brother, Lewis W., died at the age of nineteen, while in command of a company of the Twenty-second Indiana Volunteer Infantry, during the war of the Rebellion. His sister, Mary A., died at the age of eighteen, and another sister, Mrs. Rachel L. Sowards, yet survives. The genealogy in the agnatic line records, perhaps, the "short and simple annals of the poor," and yet betokens sterling manhood and noble womanhood, as one generation followed another onto the stage of action. As has been said in a previously published article referring to Judge Dailey, "His paternal ancestors were plain, unpretentious men who performed their several duties modestly and without ostentation. They were content to earn an honest living



Joseph S. Bailey

on the farm or in the shop, without seeking official honors or public favor. He is of the fifth generation by direct lineage from Dennis Dailey, who was a native of county Sligo, Ireland, and who emigrated to America before the middle of the eighteenth century, settling in New Jersey. Both of Judge Dailey's grandfathers attested their courage and patriotism by honorable service in the war of 1812, against England. Both of them were natives of New Jersey; both removed to Indiana and became early settlers of Franklin county. Here his father and mother were married and lived until their first three children were born; they then removed to Allen county, where the fourth was born; thence to Wells county, which became their permanent home."

Joseph S. Dailey secured his early educational discipline in the public schools of Bluffton and then began his technical preparation for his chosen profession by entering the law office of Newton Burwell, of this place, under whose direction he continued his studies for two years. In order to secure the funds necessary to defraying his course in the law department of the state university, he devoted a portion of his time to teaching in the district schools of Wells county and also in the public schools of Bluffton. In 1865 he was duly matriculated in the law department of the university, where he was graduated in 1866, being admitted to the bar of Indiana in that year. He forthwith entered into a professional partnership with the late George S. Brown, who later removed to the state of Kansas, his death occurring in its capital city a number of years later. In October, 1866, within the first year of his active practice in Bluffton, Judge Dailey was

elected to the office of district attorney for the court of common pleas, and two years later still further advancement came to him along the line of professional work, since in 1868 he was elected prosecuting attorney for the district in which Judge Lowry, of Fort Wayne, presided. That his services in this capacity met with favor is evident from the fact that he was re-elected in 1870, 1872 and 1874, thus serving four consecutive terms of two years each. Of his career in this office the following pertinent words have been written: "The position secured for the young lawyer not only a reasonable income, but also afforded the desired opportunity for practice. Gaining familiarity with criminal statutes, in conducting investigations before the grand jury, preparing indictments and prosecuting the cases in court, was not the only benefit derived from the service. There was constant incentive to thorough preparation in all the details of procedure. The defense was usually conducted by lawyers of ability and experience, with whom the prosecutor must cope in the preparation of indictments and pleadings, in the marshalling of evidence and the examination of witnesses, and, finally, in the presentation of cases to a jury. This professional contact sharpens the intellect and stimulates the desire for superiority. It tends to the cultivation of alertness, quickness of perception and self-confidence. If the young practitioner is favored by nature with the endowments essential to a reasonable degree of success he soon apprehends the futility of depending upon inspiration, and the importance of knowing all the elements and features of his case. Professional pride and persistent application are equally essential. Mr. Dailey soon ac-

quired a good practice. He was not without ambition. In 1878 he was nominated and elected a representative in the state legislature. His record in that body was that of a conservative working member,—always persistent, always moderate, yet courageous in the expression of his views. As a member of important committees, and in support of measures on the floor, he was influenced in formulating and securing the passage of much legislation. He was also potent in opposing much that was vicious and objectionable. His uniform courtesy and firmness won him the esteem of political opponents. His conscientious regard for public duty secured to him the confidence of all his colleagues and associates. Once afterward he yielded to the importunities of partisan friends and became a candidate for political office. In 1882 he accepted the Democratic nomination for congress and made a race that was hopeless, because of the adverse partisan majority, though his canvass was highly creditable and entirely honorable. Settling down again to the practice of law, he secured a valuable clientele, extending over a large district. In 1888 he was elected judge of the twenty-eighth circuit, comprising the counties of Huntington and Wells, for a term of six years. His service on the bench was alike acceptable to the bar and the populace. He exercised wise discretion and commendable humanity in dealing with youth convicted of violating penal statutes. In most instances of first offense, if the accused had previously borne a good reputation, sentence was withheld and he was allowed to enjoy liberty, after timely advice and warning by the court, so long as good deportment was maintained. In this way

boys were reclaimed and saved for good citizenship instead of a life of crime. Before the expiration of his term in the circuit Judge Dailey was appointed judge of the supreme court of the state, by Governor Matthews, receiving his commission to this exalted office July 25, 1893. His qualifications for the office of judge, whether in the trial of causes or in the court of last resort, are unquestionable. First of all, he has the integrity of character. He possesses the natural ability and essential acquirements, the acumen of the judicial temperament. He was able to divest himself of prejudice or favoritism and consider only the legal aspects of a question submitted. No labor was too great, however onerous; no application too exacting, however severe, if necessary to the complete understanding and correct determination of a question. These are, indeed, words of high praise, but the encomium is justified in every particular, for the Judge has proved him a distinct man, in all the term implies, and its implication is wide. Many of the decisions of the circuit and supreme courts bear the impress of his patient investigation and his logical argument and deductions. As a practitioner he employs none of the arts and tricks of oratory, but his speeches are eloquent in the clearness of statement, the broad common sense of reasoning, the force of logic, earnestness and power. His career on the bench and at the bar offers a noble example and an inspiration, while he has never been known to fail in that strict courtesy and regard for professional ethics which should ever characterize the members of the bar. Faultless in honor, fearless in conduct and stainless in reputation, his career reflects credit upon the judiciary and

bar of one of the sovereign commonwealths of the Union. Since his retirement from the bench Judge Dailey has been actively engaged in the practice of his profession in Bluffton, though his range of professional labor far transcends local limitations, as a matter of course. He has as associates in practice his eldest son, Frank C. Dailey, and Abraham Simmons, the large and important business being conducted under the firm name of Dailey, Simmons & Dailey. The writer from whose signally able and appreciative estimate we have hitherto liberally quoted, continues farther, as follows: "The Judge is favored in the possession of a healthful, vigorous constitution, robust energy and marked vitality. He is in the prime of middle life, which is conducive to the most effectual utilization of all the mental resources. Candid, earnest and sincere, he is a reliable counselor. His popularity as a citizen is the natural outgrowth of confidence in his ability, integrity and sound judgment."

The domestic chapter in the history of Judge Dailey has been one of ideal character, and it would be impertinence to more than lift the veil from the sacred precincts where much of his inspiration, courage and confidence have been born of the grateful influences supplied by the gracious womanhood of his wife and the love and respect of his devoted children, to whom he has accorded the best possible educational advantages, finding ample recompense in the worthiness and usefulness of his children. On the 15th of March, 1870, Judge Dailey was united in marriage to Miss Emma Gutelius, of Bluffton, who is of French extraction in the agnatic line, which traces back to a distinguished surgeon in the French

army. She was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, being a daughter of John P. and Henrietta Gutelius. Judge and Mrs. Dailey are the parents of four children, namely: Frank C., who was admitted to the bar of the state and is now associated with his father in practice, as previously noted; Lewis W., who was graduated in the Indianapolis Dental Collège in 1884, and who is now established in an excellent practice of his profession in Bluffton; Charles Gutelius, who is incumbent of the position of principal of the Bluffton high school, and Blanche, who is studying at home.

JOHN STUDABAKER.

It is pleasing indulgence to write the biography of a man who has been so prominently identified with the material activities of the nation as has John Studabaker, who stands conspicuously forward as one of the pioneers of Indiana and one whose connection with the growth and substantial upbuilding of the thriving little city of Bluffton has been of such intimate nature and extended over the course of many years. The name of John Studabaker, wherever known, passes current as a synonym for all that is upright and honorable. He came from Greenville, Ohio, to Bluffton in the year 1838, and here engaged in the mercantile business. Since that early date he has been a prominent figure in the county and city and for many years had a personal acquaintance with nearly every adult person in the county. Mr. Studabaker is a native of Darke county, Ohio, where he was born on the 15th of August, 1817, being the son of Abraham and Mary (Townsend) Studa-

baker. The conditions of place and period were such as to afford him but limited advantages in the way of securing an education, since in that early day there were but few schools of any importance throughout what is now the great state of Ohio. The old log school house, with its puncheon floor and slab seats, figured as the seat of learning in the locality of his birth, and it may be said that in these rude school houses have been "graduated" some of the best and strongest men of the nation. The boyhood days of the subject were passed upon the parental farmstead, and when a young man he went to Greenville, Ohio, where he engaged as a clerk in the dry goods establishment of Henry Arnold, thus gaining his initial experience in practical business affairs and incidentally laying the foundation for his future success.

Mr. Studabaker came to Wells county a single man, but he realized the truth of the scriptural injunction, that it is not well for man to be alone, and he accordingly returned to Darke county, Ohio, and there, on the 7th day of July, 1839, was united in marriage to Rebecca Angel, daughter of David Angel, one of the leading citizens of that county. With his bride he returned to Bluffton, making his wedding tour on horse back. Of the ten children born to this union only four are now living: Mary Jane, the eldest daughter, was married to Dwight Klinck, in 1863, and to them were born four children. While crossing the Atlantic ocean, in 1875, Mr. Klinck was drowned and in August, 1876, his widow became the wife of Jacob J. Todd, a prominent attorney of Bluffton. By this union two children were born. The third daughter of the subject, Jeanette, became the wife

of F. T. Waring and her death occurred in 1874. She left two children, who were entrusted to the care of her youngest sister, Martha, who, in 1875, also married F. T. Waring. The eldest son, David E. Studabaker, is a prominent business man residing in Bluffton. John A., the youngest son, married Edna Angel, of Dayton, Ohio, and has one child.

Upon coming to Bluffton Mr. Studabaker began his mercantile operations in a log cabin north of the public square. At that time the Indians were still largely in evidence and were numbered among his best customers. For many years he transported his stock of goods from Cincinnati by means of wagons, fifteen to twenty days being required to make the round trip. During this time he was agent for the American Fur Company and bought all kinds of furs, having control of the counties of Adams, Jay, Wells and Blackford, and conducting extensive and profitable operations in this line of industry which had so important bearing upon the commercial and material progress of the little pioneer communities. The country increased rapidly in population, and in 1844 Mr. Studabaker found his previously adequate accommodations were not sufficient to meet the exigencies of his business, and he accordingly erected a two-story frame building in which to continue his mercantile enterprise, continuing to utilize these quarters until 1852, when he erected a brick building on the same site where he reared his original cabin.

In 1856 Mr. Studabaker disposed of his dry goods business and instituted banking operations, under the name of the Exchange Bank. In 1863 this institution was merged

into the First National Bank, with the subject as president. In 1868 the First National was discontinued, whereupon Mr. Studabaker associated himself with his brother, Peter, and his nephew, Hugh Dougherty, in the organization of the Exchange Bank of John Studabaker & Company. This institution is still in operation under the name of The Studabaker Bank, and is the leading bank of Wells county, having a distinctive hold upon public favor and confidence.

In connection with his banking business Mr. Studabaker has continued in the grain and produce business on an extensive scale. From time to time he has invested his means in farm land, and today he is the owner of several fine farms, together with a large amount of town property, both improved and unimproved. He has made two or three additions to the city of Bluffton and has given much time and financial encouragement to public improvement. In an early day he was interested with others in the Bluffton and Fort Wayne plank road, and in 1851 was largely concerned with the putting through of the Fort Wayne & Southern Railroad, which was graded through Wells county, but which, by reason of the stringency of the money market, was not completed for a long term of years. In 1869 the project was revived and largely through the energy and well directed efforts of the subject the road was finally completed and put into active operation.

In his political proclivities Mr. Studabaker was originally an advocate of the principles of the Whig party, which cause he supported until the organization of the Republican party, when he identified himself with the latter, continuing his allegiance until the year 1876, when he espoused

the principles of the Greenback party, in which connection he was twice on its state ticket, also becoming a candidate for congress. His party being in the minority, he suffered defeat on each occasion. During his entire life he has been an earnest advocate of temperance, and believing that no restriction of practical order could be applied to the doing away of the obnoxious liquor traffic through the medium of the two dominant national parties, he placed himself stanchly in line as a supporter of the Prohibition party, identified himself therewith in 1884 and casting his vote for St. John for President.

In 1843 Mr. Studabaker became a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and his daily life has shown that his faith is one of earnestness and sincerity—a faith that makes faithful. In the spread of the gospel he has contributed liberally of his means, and he aided to a conspicuous extent in the erection of the fine edifice of the Methodist church at Bluffton, the ground upon which the church is built being contributed by him. In his younger days he was an active worker in the Sunday school, but within late years he has felt that his advanced age has incapacitated him for activity in that branch of the Lord's work.

Mrs. Studabaker has been for more than half a century a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church. She is also an active worker in the cause of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and is a valuable helpmeet to her husband in his labor of love for humanity in fighting that great curse—the saloon evil.

This review of the life of the honored subject is necessarily general in its character. To enter fully into the interesting

details of his life, touching the struggles of his early manhood and successes of later days, would require almost a volume in itself. Enough has been submitted, however, to prove that he is entitled to a place in the front ranks of the brave, determined, energetic and self-made men of Indiana, those who by pluck, enterprise and unswerving honor have wrought from the wilderness a state second to none in the grand constellation comprising the Union, and the name of this patriarchal citizen will be revered in Bluffton for all time to come.

PHILO ROGERS.

The gentleman to a brief review of whose life and characteristics the reader's attention is herewith directed is among the foremost business men of Wells county and has by his enterprise and progressive methods contributed in a material way to the industrial and commercial advancement of the city and county. He has in the course of an honorable career been most successful in the business enterprises with which he has been and is now connected, and is well deserving of mention in a volume of this character.

Philo Rogers was born in Huntington county, Indiana, on the 31st of March, 1850, and is the son of Nathan W. and Jane (Sparks) Rogers. The Rogers family is from Ohio, where the subject's father was a mail carrier in an early day, his route lying between Greenville, Ohio, and Huntington, Indiana. The subject's maternal ancestors were from Virginia, but came to Indiana and settled in Rock Creek township,

Wells county, of which section they were pioneers. When the subject was but four months old his mother was removed by death. At a very early age he was bound out to Amos Curry, the well-known merchant and banker of this county. In his youth he was given the advantages of a common school education, and as he was energetic and ambitious he took advantage of all the opportunities that came his way of adding to his store of knowledge, at length becoming a thoroughly well informed man. Mr. Rogers remained with Mr. Curry and when the latter went into the dry goods business in 1862 he remained with him as clerk, also working at times upon the farm. In 1865 Mr. Curry sold his store at Markel and came to Bluffton, where he engaged as a farmer, merchant and banker. By close association with his employer, a man of broad experience and splendid business qualifications, young Rogers acquired splendid ideas as to up-to-date business methods and became in due time a valuable employee. In 1872 he was admitted into a partnership with Mr. Curry in the dry goods business, an arrangement which continued until 1876, at which time he entered the bank in the capacity of cashier. He remained in this position two years and then returned to his former business. In 1880 he went into business for himself in partnership with Henry Deam, but at the end of two years he assumed full control of the business until 1886. S. Bender then became a partner in the business, an arrangement which continued for four years, at the end of which time Mr. Rogers went into the hardware business and is at the present time associated with Amos Cole. They carry a large and well-assorted stock

of shelf and heavy hardware and all kinds of agricultural implements, are both pleasant and agreeable in manner, accommodating and courteous, and have built up a flattering patronage, their customers coming from distant points in this and adjoining counties.

In 1872 Mr. Rogers was united in the holy bonds of matrimony with Miss Mariah Prillaman, the daughter of Lewis Prillaman, and to them have been born three children, Lizzie, the wife of Dr. L. W. Dailey, Wharton W., a graduate of the Bluffton high school; and Jessie, now deceased. Mrs. Rogers is a kind and pleasant lady, possessed of those womanly graces which are so certain to win and retain friends, and she numbers her friends by the score. Politically Mr. Rogers is a firm and uncompromising Republican and takes a prominent part in advancing the interests of his party in Wells county. He is well read and watches closely the trend of passing events. Fraternally he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, holding membership in the subordinate lodge at Bluffton. The family are members of the Baptist church and are faithful and consistent in the performance of their religious duties. The subject is a very public spirited citizen and has been foremost in every enterprise for advancing the prosperity of his community, contributing liberally from his means and exercising his personal influence with others, and his name is a synonym for all that is good and true wherever it is known.

Mrs. Rogers' father, Lewis Prillaman, was born in Miami county, Ohio, March 26, 1825, and was the oldest son of nine children born to William and Sarah Prillaman, both natives of Virginia, and the grandson of Christopher Prillaman. The

latter was of German extraction, and his wife, whose maiden name was Obadiah Winter, was a native of New Jersey and of English parentage. William Prillaman moved with his family to Wells county May 14, 1838, and located in section 12, Harrison township. He was a prominent and well known citizen and to marked extent held the confidence of the people. He served acceptably in the important office of county commissioner, and in the winter of 1842-3 represented his county in the state legislature. He started in Wells county without means, but by the exercise of sound judgment, wise discrimination and economy became a well-to-do man. He and his wife were faithful and consistent members of the Christian church, whose simple doctrines they exemplified in their daily lives. He died March 16, 1855, and his wife died April 8, 1873. Lewis Prillaman was a lad of but thirteen years when brought by his parents to Wells county, but even at that early age nobly performed his part in clearing up land and working it fit for cultivation. His educational privileges were limited, but he was of a studious disposition and ambitious, and all his leisure time was assiduously devoted to the acquiring of knowledge. In 1845 he was granted license to teach and taught school in this county for twelve dollars per month. He married Miss Maria Studabaker, the daughter of William Studabaker, and in 1853 he purchased his father's farm, to which he afterward gave his attention. He and his wife became the parents of eleven children, Mrs. Rogers being the only child living of the first marriage. Mr. Prillaman was a member of the Christian church and was one of the substantial and highly esteemed residents of his county.

HON. GEORGE E. FULTON.

The family of which the subject of this review is an honorable representative has long been identified with the history of northeastern Indiana and in each succeeding generation it has furnished the business and professional world with men of eminent ability and sterling worth. Prominent among these is Hon. George E. Fulton, whose position as a distinguished physician and surgeon rests upon an assured foundation and whose career as a legislator is creditable alike to himself and to the county honored by his citizenship. The Doctor is proud to claim the county of Wells as his native home, having spent the greater part of his life and achieved his professional success within its borders. His father, John Fulton, and his mother, who bore the maiden name of Sarah Egbert, were born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, the former a son of James Fulton, of whose family history a more complete account will be found elsewhere in these pages. The subject was born in the town of Ossian on the 8th day of October, 1855, and at the age of three years lost his father, the mother dying when he was a lad of eight. The severing of family ties by the ruthless hand of death caused the youth to find a home with relatives who took him to Illinois and later to Iowa, in which state his early educational discipline was acquired. After completing the common school course he pursued his studies for some time in the Sioux City high school, after which he spent several years steamboating on the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, finally stopping at the city of New Orleans, where for a period of three years he served in the capacity of hotel clerk. After these varied experiences it be-

came necessary for him to make choice of some profession or vocation for a life work. His tastes and inclinations leading him to decide upon medicine, he took a preliminary course of reading under the direction of competent instructors and then entered Miami Medical College at Cincinnati, Ohio, from which he graduated with an honorable record in the year 1878. Receiving his degree, Dr. Fulton returned to his native city and entering the office of his brother, J. C. Fulton, at Murray, was soon in the enjoyment of a lucrative practice, which continued unabated until his removal to a large and more inviting field at Bluffton four years later. During the last twenty years he has maintained an office in the latter place, building up an extensive business, second to that of no other medical man in this part of the state, and continually adding to his reputation as an eminent physician and surgeon. Dr. Fulton stands admittedly in the front ranks of Wells county's distinguished professional men, possessing a thoroughly disciplined mind and keeping in close touch with the trend of modern thought relating to the noble calling to which his life and energies have been devoted. He has ever maintained his high standing, never descending beneath the dignity of his profession nor compromising his usefulness by countenancing any but noble and legitimate practice. The apparent ease with which he has mounted to his present commanding position in the healing art marks him as the possessor of talents beyond the majority of his professional brethren and, being a close and critical student, he experiences no difficulty in sustaining the high reputation which his professional abilities and marked success have earned for him.

While primarily interested in his life work, Dr. Fulton has not been unmindful of the duties which every citizen owes to the public. He has ever taken an active part in promoting the material welfare of his city and county, aiding with his influence and means all enterprises with that object in view. In politics he is pronounced in his allegiance to the Democratic party and for a number of years has been one of its recognized leaders in this section of the state. He has never been an aspirant for official honors, but in 1888, at the earnest solicitation of many friends, he permitted his name to be placed on the ticket as a candidate for representative to the lower house of the general assembly. He was easily elected and his career as a lawmaker proved eminently satisfactory to his constituency regardless of party affiliation, resulting in his re-election in 1890. While a member of the legislature he served on some of the most important committees, took not only an active but influential part in the general deliberations of the body, his ability as a public speaker always commanding the most respectful attention from both sides of the house. He introduced a number of bills which became laws, beside being instrumental in bringing about much important legislation which has had a beneficial influence upon the state in many ways. Dr. Fulton is an accomplished campaigner, contributing greatly to the success of the cause on the hustings as well as by judicious advice in party councils. While deeply interested in public matters in general, he does not let these things interfere with the successful prosecution of his professional duties. He holds himself in readiness to answer the numerous calls for services at all hours and

rarely does he permit the matter of remuneration to prevent him from alleviating suffering, be the patient ever so poor or humble. Some years ago he served as health officer to Wells county and for the city of Bluffton for six years. He is a member of the county and state medical societies, having served as president and secretary of the former, and not infrequently has he read before these bodies carefully prepared papers evincing ripe scholarship, critical analysis and original and profound investigation. For a period of twelve years he has been holding the position of surgeon for the Clover Leaf Railroad, during which time he has performed many delicate operations and saved lives which but for his skill would have been lost. Fraternally the Doctor is a member of the Pythian order and religiously subscribes to the Presbyterian creed. Believing that religion is largely a matter of the conscience, he is tolerant in his opinion, believing all churches to be great moral and spiritual forces calculated to save men from their sins and win them to a high life here and an infinitely better and grander state of existence hereafter. Dr. Fulton was married in 1881 to Miss Mary Mosy, who departed this life on the 20th day of June, 1892, the mother of two children, Anna and Jane, the latter dying January 16, 1892. The Doctor's present wife, whom he married in 1894, was formerly Miss Elizabeth Muth.

HON. LEVI MOCK.

Among Indiana's distinguished sons and leading men of affairs the name of Hon. Levi Mock, of Bluffton, has long been pre-eminent. Of commanding intellectual

ability and eminent professional attainments, he has been a forceful factor in the legal circles of the state, while as a director of thought and moulder of opinion he is duly recognized and appreciated by his fellow citizens of Bluffton and Wells county. Paternally Mr. Mock is descended from German ancestry and inherits in a marked degree the sturdy characteristics and sterling qualities for which that nationality is distinguished among the peoples of the world. His great-grandfather, Devaulter Mock, was a native of the Fatherland, came to America in the time of the colonies and settled in North Carolina, where he reared a family and lived the life of an honest, industrious and, to a considerable extent, a successful tiller of the soil. Among his children was a son by the name of Daniel, whose birth occurred in North Carolina, and whose marriage was also solemnized in that state. Shortly after taking to himself a wife Daniel Mock moved to Ohio, thence a little later migrated to what is now Randolph county, Indiana, but at that time the western verge of civilization, settling in the beautiful valley of the Mississinnewa, where he afterwards entered lands and developed a farm and became one of the most enterprising and progressive men of the community which he assisted to establish. It is a well authenticated fact that Mr. Mock was the third white man to locate a home within the present limits of Randolph county, and the part he took in the early growth and development of the country entitles him to specific mention as one of its most aggressive pioneers. Physically he was almost a giant and moved among his fellows as one born to command. Five feet ten inches in height and measuring forty-

five inches around the chest and correspondingly strong, he was a remarkable specimen of symmetrically developed manhood, being as honest and honorable in his dealings and as unsullied in character as his bodily powers were vigorous. Possessing excellent judgment and strict integrity, he became useful to the early settlers in the adjustment of their business affairs and his advice was eagerly sought and acted upon in matters of more than ordinary moment involving a knowledge of law. Daniel Mock was three times married and had children by each wife, the majority of whom grew to mature years and became useful in their various spheres of life. Enjoying superb health, he lived to a good old age in possession of his physical and mental faculties, having never lost a tooth nor at any time attempted to aid his eyesight by the use of glasses. He departed this life at the age of eighty-four, honored and esteemed by all who knew him, leaving to his descendants the memory of a name untarnished by the slightest suspicion of anything savoring of dishonor.

Emsley Mock, son of Daniel Mock and father of the immediate subject of this review, was born in Ohio in 1813 and when a small boy accompanied his parents to the new home in the wilds of the Mississinnewa. He was reared to young manhood amid the pioneer scenes of Randolph county, chose agriculture as the vocation best suited to his taste and inclinations and continued that pursuit near where the family originally settled until 1869 when he sold his possessions and divided the greater part of the proceeds among his children. By industry and good management he not only made a fine farm but succeeded in ac-

cumulating an ample competence, with the residue of which he came to Wells county the above year and purchased a small estate near the city of Bluffton. Here he spent the remaining years of his life as a contented agriculturist until called from the scenes of his earthly labors on the 3rd day of January, 1877. Like his father before him, Emsley Mock was a man of herculean physique and strength, attaining a height of six feet five and one-half inches and weighing in health upon an average of two hundred and twenty-five pounds. He was superbly developed mentally as well as physically, independent in thought and action, and the soul of honor in all that constituted true manhood and upright citizenship. His name was a synonym for integrity, his word among his fellows was taken in lieu of his bond in business transactions and the correctness and purity of his motives were never questioned by any one with whom he had dealings. A profound student of the sacred scriptures, he so believed in the goodness and overreaching mercy of an allwise Father as to disassociate his name from the idea of everlasting punishment, a favorite doctrine at that time among orthodox churches and much more frequently discussed than at the present day. His reading and investigation led him to accept the beautiful doctrine of the final salvation of the human race, as consistent with the nature and attributes of God, and he lived in that faith for a number of years, later in life becoming a spiritualist, a belief from which he also derived much pleasure and genuine satisfaction. The wife of Emsley Mock bore the maiden name of Ruth Watson; she was the daughter of James Watson, a native of Pennsylvania, and first saw

the light of day in that state, but grew to maturity near Jamestown, Ohio, where her father moved when she was quite a small child. The Watsons were of Irish lineage and members of the family achieved much more than local distinction in different professions and vocations. A brother of Mrs. Mock, Hon. Enos L. Watson, became an eminent member of the Indiana bar and practiced his profession at Winchester for a number of years with distinguished success. His son, Hon. James E. Watson, of that city, is one of the brilliant orators of the west and for four consecutive terms represented his district in the congress of the United States. Mrs. Mock was born in the year 1816 and died at Bluffton in 1897. She became widely known as a leader among the spiritualists of Indiana, took advanced grounds in the advocacy of that belief and for a number of years shone as one of the cult's most brilliant and influential stars. She was a lady of strong mentality, wide reading and beautiful moral character and her influence had much to do in forming the life and shaping the destiny of her distinguished son whose name furnishes the caption of this article. Emsley and Ruth Mock were the parents of three sons and one daughter; the latter's name was Rachel, and when a young woman she became the wife of Emanuel Trostel, of Randolph county, her death subsequently occurring in this city. John G., the second in order of birth, is a well known and prosperous farmer now pursuing his vocation in the county of Wells. The third in succession is Levi, who is the immediate subject of this review, after whom comes James D., also a successful agriculturist of this county.

Levi Mock was born April 20, 1840, in Randolph county, Indiana, and to him fell the good fortune of being reared in close touch with nature on the farm, that fruitful soil from which has sprung much of the nation's political sinew and moral fiber. With the exception of the time spent as a soldier, he remained on the home place until his twenty-sixth year, attending to the varied duties of the farm in the summer and of winter seasons prosecuting his studies in the public schools of the neighborhood. After completing the usual course he secured a teacher's license and for some years divided his time between teaching and attending school, devoting the fall months to the latter and the winter and early spring to the farm. Blessed with excellent parentage, young Mock grew up with intelligent conceptions of life and the dignity of honest, honorable endeavor. Inheriting from his father the splendid physical and mental qualities for which the paternal branch of the family had long been noted, and from his mother equally marked intellectual traits, softened perhaps by the gentle feminine graces which were among her distinguishing characteristics, he early developed vigor of body and independence of mind which enabled him to formulate plans for his future course of life and action. With a well defined object in view, he determined to make the most of his time and circumstances and that he succeeded in carrying out these purposes and realizing in full the ambitious desires of his youthful days is attested by the distinguished course he has since pursued as an influential factor in the political arena and that eminent position which he has attained in professional circles and in the world of affairs. When

the national atmosphere became overcast with the approaching clouds of civil war, Mr. Mock did not long discuss the advisability of tendering his services to the government in its hour of need. Animated by patriotic motives, he laid aside his studies and on the 14th of August, 1862, enlisted in Company E, Eighty-fourth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, which formed part of the Fourth Army Corps. He saw considerable active service in West Virginia and Kentucky, sharing with his comrades the vicissitudes and fortunes of war until failing health obliged him to leave the ranks and take treatment in a hospital. For a period of sixty-six days he was closely confined to one room and such were the sad effects which disease made upon his erstwhile vigorous constitution that at the end of that time he was pronounced unfit for further effective duty; accordingly in April, 1863, he received his discharge and as soon as possible thereafter he returned to his old home, where, under more salutary influences and surroundings, he in due time regained a goodly portion of his wonted health.

As soon as sufficiently recovered Mr. Mock resumed his studies, which, with teaching, engaged his time until 1866, when he began reading law under the guidance of his uncle, Hon. Enos L. Watson, of Winchester. Much of his study was prosecuted at home during his hours of leisure and with such assiduity did he apply himself to his books that his Sundays were devoted exclusively to their perusal and not infrequently would he pore over his text of nights until the still small hours of the morning admonished him to recuperate his jaded energies with a little sleep. Meanwhile he

would recite to his uncle at stated intervals, receive his instruction, and in this way he continued his investigations in the realm of legal science until sufficiently advanced to engage in the practice. Mr. Mock's preliminary studies covered a period of about two years, at the expiration of which time he located at Bluffton where, in February, 1869, he was formally admitted to the bar. Here he soon made his presence felt, not alone in his profession, but also in local politics as is attested by the fact of his election as mayor of the city within nine months after his arrival. So ably did he discharge the duties of this position that he was retained in the office by successive re-elections from the year 1869 to 1873 inclusive, and in 1875 he was again made the city's chief executive, serving in all eight years, the last two under the amended charter which extended the term of mayor to two years. In 1870 Mr. Mock entered into a law partnership with Hon. Joseph S. Dailey, the firm thus constituted lasting for a period of eighteen years, during which time it built up a business second in volume and importance to that of no other legal firm in northeastern Indiana, the two distinguished members easily ranking with the ablest and most successful lawyers in this section of the state. They represented either the plaintiff or defendant in nearly every important case tried in the courts of Wells county during the existence of the partnership, in addition to which their practice extended to many other counties, also to the supreme and federal courts where they added to their already firmly established reputations as masters of their profession. The firm of Dailey & Mock was dissolved by the appointment of the former to the circuit

judgeship, from which time Mr. Mock was with Abe Simmons in the practice until about 1895 when he took John and George, his two sons, who have since been partners, under the name of Mock & Sons.

By the sheer force of his powerful personality, as well by reason of combining within himself the essential elements of leadership, Mr. Mock forged to the front in the councils of the Democratic party and within a short time after locating at Bluffton became an acknowledged power in local and state politics. In 1882 he was elected joint representative from the counties of Adams, Jay and Wells to the general assembly, and two years later served in the legislature from Wells and Blackford counties and in 1886 was elected from Wells county. His career as a law maker fully justified the wisdom of his choice and with little or no exception met the high expectations of his constituents irrespective of party. He became one of the most influential members of the body and both in the committee room and on the floor did much towards moulding public thought and shaping legislation. Through his instrumentality many important laws were passed which have had a decidedly beneficial influence on the state and as a leader of the Democratic side of the house he was untiring in his efforts to strengthen party lines and promote a spirit of harmony in the organization throughout Indiana. For four years, beginning with the year 1889 and ending with 1893, Mr. Mock was a member of the board of directors of the Northern Indiana Prison at Michigan City, in which capacity his business-like methods and untiring efforts were of especial value to the state. He looked carefully after the interest of this institu-

tion and the welfare of its inmates, and took advanced grounds as to the proper management and treatment of the criminal classes. The board's report to the governor contains the following statement expressive of his views upon this important matter: "The board is of the opinion that crime is a disease resulting from heredity and environment, and that no man should be punished for what he does, but should be imprisoned to protect society, and while in prison it is the duty of the state to elevate his manhood to a higher standard if possible, which can only be done by moderate labor, kind treatment and moral suasion." This broad humanitarian view of one of the most difficult and perplexing problems that has been engaging the attention of the management of penal institutions, although in advance of the age, was not without a decided effect upon the chief executive and law-making power, for since the adoption of the report the Southern Prison has been made an infirmary, thus revolutionizing the government of the two institutions which formerly obtained.

Mr. Mock has long been interested in the agricultural development of his own and other counties and has done much to encourage and foster modern methods of farming and other industries growing out of husbandry. In 1879 he was elected president of the Wells County Agricultural Society and during his incumbency devoted much time and energy to place the organization upon a firm financial basis so that it would answer the noble purposes for which it was originally designed. Additional to the official stations already referred to, he has been identified at different times with various enterprises calculated to promote

the industrial growth of Bluffton, while all movements having for their end the material prosperity of the city or county have been sure of his encouragement and support. He is indeed public spirited, taking an active interest in whatever tends to the material advancement of the community and, having implicit faith in the future of the city of his residence, has done as much if not more than any of his fellow citizens to advertise its advantages to the world as a favorable business center, a safe place wherein to invest capital and a desirable residence location.

Reference has already been made to Mr. Mock's power and influence as a politician. In every campaign his voice is heard and as a strong, logical and eloquent speaker he has few superiors on the hustings in the state. Thoroughly grounded in the basic principles of jurisprudence and familiar with the intricacies of practice, he stands with few peers as an able and conscientious lawyer, looking upon his profession as the means by which wrongs may be righted, justice done and society and the state protected. At different times he has been called to the bench and there, as before the court, his attainments have shone with peculiar luster, fully demonstrating a masterly grasp of great legal questions and an ability to render decisions in strict harmony with the letter and the spirit of the law. He served as special judge in the courts of Wells, Adams, Jay, Blackford, Huntington, Allen and Grant counties, frequently occupying the bench for weeks at a time, and while serving thus his opinions were characterized by lucidity and great legal acumen, his rulings were fair and impartial and his decisions, devoid of technical verbiage, but clear, explicit, incis-

ive and embodying every point at issue, seldom if ever suffered reversal at the hands of the supreme court.

Personally Mr. Mock is a gentleman of unblemished reputation and the strictest integrity and his private character as well as his career in public places and as custodian of high and important trusts has always been above reproach. He is a vigorous as well as an independent thinker and has the courage of his convictions upon all subjects which he investigates. He is also strikingly original, prosecutes his researches after his own peculiar fashion and cares little for conventionalism or for the sanctity attaching to person or place by reason of artificial distinction, accident of birth or tradition. He is essentially cosmopolitan in his ideas, a man of the people in all the term implies and in the best sense of the word a representative type of that strong, virile American manhood which commands and retains respect by reason of inherent merit, sound sense and correct conduct. Like his father and grandfather before him, Mr. Mock is a man of heroic mould and superb physical proportions. His commanding height of six and a half feet and correspondingly large but well knit frame, weighing two hundred and sixty pounds, makes him a marked figure wherever he goes and he is sure to attract attention in any crowd or assemblage as a man born to leadership. With his splendid build he likewise possesses almost unlimited endurance and knows not by practical experience the meaning of weariness or fatigue such as the average mortal feels. Mr. Mock is a great lover of manly sports and nearly every year finds pleasure in hunting bear, deer and other game in the forests of Michigan, Arkansas,

Minnesota and other western states and territories, frequently prolonging these excursions for weeks and months in the pursuit of his favorite pastime. He is usually accompanied by a few congenial spirits and in this way, far from the distractions of courts and the trammels of civilization, they throw care to the winds, forget their annoyances in the joys of the hour and for one brief season at least get in close touch with nature by throwing off artificial restraints and imbibing in some degree the unseen spirit pervading the universe.

Mr. Mock is a man of domestic tastes and takes a loving interest in the beautiful and attractive home of which he is the head. He was happily married on the 19th of November, 1871, to Miss Rebecca C. Patterson, daughter of Samuel and Mary (McFarlin) Patterson, who moved to this county in an early day from Beaver county, Pennsylvania, where Mrs. Mock was born. Mr. and Mrs. Mock are the parents of three children, John, George and Charles, the first two members of the Bluffton bar and associated with their father in the practice under the firm name of Mock & Sons. They read law under the father's direction and each was admitted to the bar on the day he attained his majority. Mr. Mock has been an active member of the Masonic fraternity for over thirty years and stands high in the order, having taken a number of degrees, including that of the Royal Arch. He is also identified with the Improved Order of Red Men, being a charter member of the camp meeting in Bluffton, and is also a charter member of the Elks. A careful and conscientious investigation of spiritualism led him to accept that beautiful and satisfactory belief and he is

now one of its most intelligent advocates, though by no means narrow or intolerant in his views, according to everybody the same right of opinion which he claims for himself.

CHARLES C. SIXBEY.

It requires a master mind to rise superior to discouraging environments and establish, successfully guide and control large and important industrial enterprises. The necessary ability to accomplish such results is possessed in an eminent degree by Charles C. Sixbey, one of Bluffton's leading citizens and a typical western business man of tireless energy, unflinching perseverance, keen discrimination and absolute reliability. Few men have done as much in the same length of time as he and it is fitting in this connection that a brief outline of his life and achievements be given, as his friends and acquaintances throughout the state are many and will no doubt gladly peruse the record. Mr. Sixbey's father was Col. John Sixbey, a native of New York, born and reared in what was formerly known as the Big North Woods, a section of country one hundred miles long by eighty miles wide bordering on the St. Lawrence river in Herkimer county. For many years the men of that region were noted for their great physical strength and endurance and also for sturdiness of character and resoluteness of purpose in carrying to successful conclusion any undertaking to which they addressed themselves.

Col. Sixbey and five sons, three of whom entered the service of their country in the late war and fell while bravely fight-

ing to maintain the integrity of the union. John, the oldest, was killed in the battle of Fair Oaks, Virginia; Nicholas fought under the brave Gen. Lyon at Wilson's Creek, Missouri, and met his death on that bloody field; Jerome received his death wound in the engagement at Nelson's farm; Charles met with an accidental death at home in the year 1849; the subject of this sketch was named for the last mentioned. In addition to the five sons, there were six daughters in the family, the majority of whom grew to mature years and became well settled in life.

Charles C. Sixbey was born in Salisbury, Herkimer county, New York, December 22, 1851, and spent his early life on a farm, with the duties of which he soon became familiar. In addition to agricultural pursuits he also worked in a tannery and at times assisted his father in the lumber business, which the latter carried on for a number of years. By reason of his services being required at home, his early educational training was somewhat limited, but later, about 1868, he entered Elgin Academy, Elgin, Illinois, which he attended one year, making rapid progress in his studies during that time. With his father's aid he afterwards supplemented the above course by attending for several sessions the Fairfield Academy, Fairfield, New York, where he laid a broad and deep foundation for his subsequent career of usefulness in the business and industrial world. When a young man Mr. Sixbey entered the employ of the Peters Box and Lumber Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana, with which he continued about two years and later worked for some time in a factory operated by Mr. Pope. When he arrived in that city he could not



C. C. Sibley

boast the possession of a single dollar and some time elapsed before he found himself even in comfortable circumstances. While in Fort Wayne he was employed in different capacities, a part of the time being engaged with a lumber company and later working for a firm which manufactured pails. During the year 1879 he was employed by one John Peters at eighty-five cents per day, but before quitting that gentleman's service he was promoted foreman of the establishment and in that capacity greatly enlarged the magnitude and widened the scope of the business. While exercising his duties as manager of the above concern Mr. Sixbey began dealing in wood on his own responsibility and after severing his connection with his employer devoted his attention for some time to the latter business. He ran a wood yard, which was well patronized, but later disposed of the same and in 1881 embarked in the lumber business at the town of Sheldon. This venture not being remunerative, he discontinued it after a short time and purchasing a separator, engaged in the threshing of grain, following the same for only a limited period.

Up to this time Mr. Sixbey's business enterprises had not been very successful and his financial condition was anything but encouraging. On one occasion he was refused credit for a pair of shoes, but later had the satisfaction of opening a store hard by the one in which he requested the favor and became the unfeeling merchant's more formidable competitor in the world of trade. Beginning on credit, he soon built up a large and lucrative trade, in due time becoming one of the most prosperous and successful merchants in the village of Sheldon. Dis-

posing of his stock in 1883, Mr. Sixbey came to Bluffton and opened a mercantile establishment in the building now occupied by the Williamson Hardware Company. Enjoying first rate credit with the leading wholesale houses of Ft. Wayne, he purchased a large and carefully selected assortment of groceries, subsequently adding boots, shoes, dry goods and gents' furnishing goods, and within a comparatively short time his place became one of the best known and most extensively patronized mercantile establishments in the city. He commanded a large trade not only in Bluffton and from all parts of Wells county, but extended patronage throughout adjoining counties, his sales for the first year amounting to considerably in excess of forty thousand dollars. The continued increase of custom soon rendered necessary a building of enlarged proportions, accordingly he purchased the old Presbyterian church, which when thoroughly remodeled afforded him a very capacious and convenient room in which to meet the demands of the trade. The continued growth of the city and the consequent advancement of his own mercantile interests led Mr. Sixbey afterwards to erect a still larger and more commodious brick edifice on Market street. The capital required in putting up this block and the business depression which almost immediately followed caused Mr. Sixbey considerable financial embarrassment. Like many other merchants at that period, he failed to realize on outstanding obligations and not being able to meet his own bills as they became due, decided after struggling earnestly and manfully against adverse circumstances to retire from mercantile business.

By no means discouraged Mr. Sixbey at

once began to look around and contrive some means to retrieve his fortune. He was without means to embark again in merchandising, having finally paid up his outstanding obligations in full, consequently he was obliged to seek some other undertaking. It was at this time that the idea first entered his mind of manufacturing a cloth mitten and glove, a strong, durable article, but so cheap as to be within the purchasing power of the poor as well as the better class of working people. To conceive the idea was with him equivalent to acting and it was not long until he began operations in a little old building with a force consisting of two girls and one boy, beside himself. He put in a small machine and advertising the product to the world, began manufacturing at first for the local trade, but the superior quality of his goods soon created a demand at other places. From the outstart the enterprise proved successful beyond his most sanguine expectations and within the first two years his trade had so grown as to require a larger building and a corresponding increase in the force of operators. His factory is now one of the largest and most important of Bluffton's industries, containing one hundred and twenty machines and affording steady employment to one hundred and fifty hands, exclusive of the large number of salesmen who represent the establishment in all of the western, middle, southern and several of the eastern states and Canada. The constantly increasing demand for the "Zero Mittens," as they are called, taxing the original factory to its utmost capacity, led Mr. Sixbey in 1901 to establish a branch at Fort Wayne which now gives employment to eighty operators. Still later he opened a second branch at Bluffton, but such has been the high reputation of his goods that the three factories, running at

full force every working day in the year, are not sufficient to fill the large number of orders which are constantly coming in.

Mr. Sixbey has done much to promote the business and industrial growth of Bluffton by giving employment to a large force of laborers, all of whom spend their money in the city. The relations between himself and his employes have always been mutually pleasant and agreeable and such a condition of affairs as a strike or lockout has never been known or even contemplated in his establishments. He is a natural leader and, possessing executive abilities of a high order, manages his factories with consummate skill, winning the esteem of all in his employ as well as of those with whom he transacts business. He is widely known in commercial circles throughout the United States, enjoys unexceptional standing with the leading business agencies of the country and the remarkable advancement made since inaugurating his enterprises in Bluffton may be taken as an earnest of a still larger and more prosperous career in the future. Mr. Sixbey is one of the leading citizens and progressive men of Wells county and occupies a conspicuous place in the estimation of his fellow townsmen. He takes an active interest in whatever tends to advance the material growth of the city, supports with a liberal hand all worthy enterprises having for their object the social and moral welfare of the community and his influence, always strong, has ever been exerted on the right side of all local issues. In politics he is a Republican, but the urgent nature of his business affairs has prevented him taking a very lively interest in party matters. Fraternally he belongs to the Knights of Pythias and his name also appears as a charter member of the Elks' lodge in Bluffton.

Mr. Sixbey has been twice married. While living in Ft. Wayne he married Miss Edmee Miller, daughter of James Miller, of that city, a union blessed with five children, one son and four daughters. Some time after the death of the above wife Mr. Sixbey was united in marriage to Miss Anna Spake, of Bluffton.

Mr. Sixbey's career has been one of great activity, in the main attended by remarkable business advancement and financial prosperity. He is essentially progressive in all he undertakes and, endowed with the power and tact to mould circumstances to suit his purpose, his success in overriding adverse conditions and mounting to his present high and honorable station in the world of affairs is such as few attain. Of strong convictions, positive character and incorruptible integrity, he is classed with the most intelligent and energetic of Bluffton's representative men and holds a warm place in the hearts of his fellow citizens.

HON. M. W. WALBERT.

The student, possessed of the energy and wit to put the knowledge acquired by study to good use, need never have fears of failure. Knowledge secured by study is a good deal like money won by labor. Both are species of capital, which if judiciously invested must inevitably bring results. Some students are mere dreamers who have no further use for their knowledge once they have been thrilled by the pleasure of getting it. The miser with his gold, who has no further use for it outside of the pleasure of getting and having it, is very much like such a student with his knowledge. It is

very rarely that one hears of the failure of a person possessed of judgment, energy and a taste for study. Success is the rule of people of that bend of mind, failure the exception.

A very striking illustration of this is given in the case of Hon. M. W. Walbert, of Bluffton. Beginning in very humble circumstances, the first years of his boyhood spent in the labors of the shop and the factory, with little time even for a superficial knowledge of books, he nevertheless not only mastered the calling of a cooper, but fitted himself by his studies for the profession of law and later was honored by his fellow citizens by being elevated to the position of mayor of the city of Bluffton. His story reads not a little like that of the renowned Dick Whittington, who, through the instrumentality of his cat, became lord mayor of London.

Hon. M. W. Walbert, the son of George and Mary Wetzel Walbert, was born February 2, 1860, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. It is asserted that the blood of the famous Indian fighters, the Wetzels, flowed in the veins of his mother, but of that Mr. Walbert is too democratic to make any boast. From the time he was six years of age until he attained the age of thirteen he attended the common school, becoming very proficient in all the common school branches. When not in school, late and early each day, he assisted his father in his cooper shop. Such was the knowledge of the business and such skill in the mechanical details of the craft had he acquired that at the age of fourteen years he won first prize at a county fair for the best specimen of cooperage there exhibited. His competitors were men well along in years, who had spent

most of their lives at the business. Every moment of his leisure time was devoted to reading, particularly in the line of history, ancient and modern, of which he was passionately fond. Very often he trespassed upon the hours that should have been allotted to sleep to indulge his passion for books. It was through the fruits of his own industry that he was enabled in 1884 and 1885 to attend Franklin College, which gave him the opportunity of rounding out an education that might have been by many others considered already sufficient. He taught school one term and then, under direction of Hon. J. H. C. Smith, began the study of law. His studious habits, persistent application and retentive memory made this task, so discouragingly difficult to others, comparatively light for him. The intricacies of Blackstone, Kent, Greenfield and Story he mastered within a brief period of years and soon after passed examination, was admitted to the bar and regularly licensed to practice. A partnership was then entered into with his preceptor, Hon. J. H. C. Smith, at Bluffton, which continued until 1891. The firm was recognized as one of the ablest at the bar in that part of the state, had no lack of clients and met with the most gratifying success in every particular.

In 1889 Mr. Walbert was elected mayor of Bluffton. He served the city in that capacity until 1894, giving to the people an administration that will be long remembered for the improvements that were made. During this time the high school, a magnificent structure, was erected, the city water works were altered, improved and extended and the principle of municipal ownership was advanced by the city purchasing the electric light plant. Many other good

works and reforms were either entered upon or consummated during his administration. During his term of office he sat as examining magistrate in three murder cases and in all species of litigation that came before him he showed that he was not only well versed in the law, but possessed a high order of judicial talent. He was mayor of Bluffton for a period of five years and four months.

In politics Mr. Walbert is an active, zealous, conscientious Democrat. He is an orator of acknowledged ability and his services are always in demand on the stump during political campaigns. He has a memory that may always be relied upon and is not excelled by any one in quoting from memory facts, figures, dates or any kind of statistics. He has never sought for or aspired to office. Such public place as he has been elected to and filled has come to him wholly unsolicited.

It has been said that "the law is a jealous mistress," a statement which doubtless is true in the case of most of those who yearn for the smile of fame and fortune through her. Mr. Walbert, however, seems to be a law unto himself. He has stolen enough time from this jealous mistress to dally most successfully with literature. He is the author of a work on the national banking system that is pronounced, by persons competent to judge, a most valuable work, not only on the particular system of which it treats, but also upon the general subject of finance. It has been highly complimented by the press generally and the book reviews have accorded it no little praise. The readiness and elegance with which he expressed himself on paper has cultivated in him a liking for newspaper work, so in mo-

ments of relaxation from labors in the law he indulges his taste for literature by the production of an article on some subject familiar to him, for either the local or metropolitan press. On relinquishing the office of mayor he again resumed the practice of law, entering into partnership with J. K. Rinehart, of Bluffton. At present he is holding the office of justice of the peace, having been elected thereto in 1900, and is discharging the duties of the office in a satisfactory and creditable manner.

June 24, 1891, Hon. M. W. Walbert was united in marriage to Miss Emma Davis, an accomplished lady of pleasing manners and high attainment. She is a graduate of the Bluffton high school and was a teacher of recognized ability. She is the daughter of Milton Davis, a prominent citizen of Wells county. They are the parents of two children, one of whom died in infancy; the other, Doratha, was born July 26, 1892. Having been a hard worker himself all his life, Mr. Walbert deeply sympathizes with the cause of labor, is a member of the Federation and never lets an opportunity escape unimproved whereby he can benefit the cause or anyone engaged in it.

The star of the subject of this sketch is still in the ascendancy. Although having in years passed the meridian of life, in physical and mental vigor he is still in his prime. The ardor of youth still characterizes his every movement and his life, as years ago when working at the cooper's bench in his father's shop. Personally he is honest, frank and candid, a man who appreciates and values a friend. He enjoys the high respect and warm admiration of the people of the city for which he did so much as its chief executive.

THOMAS C. CLOUD.

Thomas C. Cloud first saw the light April 7, 1823, in Clinton county, Ohio. He is the son of Joseph and Nancy Cloud, natives of Pennsylvania, the former a son of Thomas Cloud. Joseph and Nancy Cloud, after their marriage, settled in Clinton county, Ohio. He was a stone dresser and mason and worked in Cincinnati, Ohio, when it gave but small promise of the populous city of today. They moved from Ohio to Rush county, Indiana, about 1828, and were there for about two years, when Joseph died, leaving a widow and nine children: Betsie, deceased; Peggie, deceased; John F., deceased; Sallie, deceased, was the wife of William Duckwall; Prudie, now a resident of Ohio; Thomas; Pricilla, a resident of Frankfort, Indiana; Keziah, deceased, and Nancy, now a resident of Warren, this state.

After the death of her husband Nancy Cloud removed her family to Grant county, Indiana, about the year 1841, her son, Thomas, who now acted as head of the family, having previously gone there and helped to build a cabin. They were there about thirteen years when they sold their place for five hundred dollars and came to Wells county and bought the farm where Thomas now lives, paying the same amount for forty acres of land on which there had never been an ax. This made it necessary to rent land on the river front until they could get some cleared. During the first three years Thomas Cloud cleared thirty acres and attended to his crops besides. He finally cleared up ninety acres on the farm, which had grown to a hundred and twenty acres. February 20, 1850, Thomas Cloud was mar-

ried to Rebecca A. Jones, a daughter of Daniel and Susie Jones, natives of Pennsylvania. Thomas and Rebecca A. Cloud are the parents of seven children, three of whom are yet living: Isaac, born January 20, 1851, died July 8, 1874; Sarah D., born February 19, 1852, married John E. Dillman, December 30, 1877; they are now keeping house for the wife's father. John Dillman is the father of nine children, seven of whom are still living, Charlie, deceased, Homer, Josie, Mary, George, deceased, Almeda, Thomas, Vergie and Hazel. Susan, the third child of Thomas and Rebecca Cloud, was born June 13, 1854, is the wife of Eli Rea, of McNatts, Indiana, and they are the parents of one child, Nellie A. Nancy was born August 8, 1856, is the wife of Calvin Alspach, and the mother of seven children: Laura, Daniel, Amos, Charlie, Clinton, Lucy and George, deceased. Daniel W. was born May 15, 1858, and died October 7, 1873, Delilah J. was born September 12, 1860, and died May 25, 1864; Joseph L. was born March 23, 1864, died October 8, 1888, his death being caused by a fall from a horse; he married Rosa Minnich and a daughter, Josie, was born after his death.

The subject has worked at the carpenter's trade at times, but has devoted most of his life to farming, though he has not done active farm work for eleven years. He has also been a general stock raiser, rather preferring hogs as a specialty. Rebecca A. Cloud, his wife, died January 1, 1900, and in the fall of 1902 his daughter, Sarah Dillman, moved into his home to care for her father in his old age. In the spring of 1900 Mr. Cloud suffered a stroke of paralysis which confined him to his bed for some time, but after a few weeks he was

able to arise from his bed and is now able to walk about the yard of his home and other short distances. He and wife were consistent members of the Methodist Protestant church and he loves the Christian church. While he was in active life he always manifested a lively interest in everything which had for its object the promotion or advancement of the class to which he belonged. With this idea in view, he took an active part in the early Grange movement inaugurated by the farmers of the country. In politics Mr. Cloud has always been a Democrat. In character, as exemplified in his life, Thomas C. Cloud has set an example which is worthy of all commendation, and the success which has attended his labors and the estimation in which he is held in the closing years of a long and well spent life should prove an incentive to the youth of the land. Forced by the death of his father to assume the responsibilities of life at an early age, he proved himself a strong reed, upon which his widowed mother with her large and fatherless family were able to lean. With filial care devoting himself to the general welfare of the family, he thus laid the foundation of his own fortunes and assured himself of a competency for his own old age. The success which has crowned the labors and life of Father Cloud proves that environment alone does not determine results; that "Honor and fame from no conditions rise; but in acting well your part, therein the honor lies."

JAMES PERDUE.

James Perdue was born in Delaware county, Indiana, February 28, 1834. His

father was James Perdue, Sr., a native of North Carolina, and who was a son of John Perdue, also a native of the same state. James Perdue, Sr., married Mary Price, who was likewise a native of North Carolina, a daughter of Ellen (Lowery) Price, the wedding taking place in North Carolina. The births of both parents took place on the site of the battle of Guilford Court House, North Carolina, where the British were commanded by Lord Cornwallis and the Americans by General Greene. James Perdue, Sr., settled down to farming, but later came to Indiana, stopping a while in Wayne county, about 1830, and then came to Delaware county where he died, in November, 1833, before James, Jr., was born. While in Delaware county he farmed and taught school. James, Jr., has the instrument of writing, in his father's hand, that the latter made of the section of land set apart for the purpose of the school fund in the township where he settled. James, Sr., was the father of four children, of whom two are yet living: John, deceased; Emily J.; William, now residing in Warren, Indiana, and James. Mary, the widow of James Sr., married Francis McNairy in Delaware county and they later moved to Fayette county, Indiana, when James, Jr., was about ten years old, and the latter grew to manhood in that county. He was educated in the public schools until he was about twenty years of age. The last term of school he attended was taught by a Presbyterian minister, who preached in the Ebenezer meeting house and taught a select term of school in an old log church. He had worked there during the summer, by the month, and boarded with the same man for whom he worked, attending the school during the

following winter. He remained there the next summer, and in the fall returned to Delaware county and worked by the month for his stepfather, remaining with him that fall. He remained in Delaware county during the winter and worked until harvest the next summer. September 2, 1855, the subject of this sketch was married to Mary Wall, a resident of Delaware county, Indiana, a native of Ohio, and a daughter of Christian and Hannah (Moss) Wall. The parents of Mary removed to Delaware county in an early day, settling on the land before there was any house on it and when it was all in woods. The father improvised a sort of shelter tent with brush, in which he kept his family until he could build a house. Christian Wall was the father of six children: Amanda, deceased; Alexander, deceased; John, deceased; Margaret, deceased; David, probably dead, went to California and not heard from, and Mary, who married James Perdue, was born May 8, 1830. After his marriage James Perdue and wife settled in Fayette county, Indiana, where they remained for two years, when they removed back to Delaware county and farmed in that county from 1857 until the former date inclusive. They came to Jackson township, Wells county, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Perdue had six children, three sons and three daughters, all deceased but two. Francis M. has two children, Frederick and Carl P.; Walter L. was born August 23, 1861, and died September 13, 1862; William R. was born December 17, 1862, and died August 19, 1882; Mary L. was born March 8, 1865, and died December 23, 1873; Olive, born November 7, 1866, died September 13, 1867; Hettie, born November 15, 1870,

married Darwin Lee, now a resident of Jackson township, Wells county, Indiana. They have two children, Jay and Burle. James Perdue and his wife are members of the Christian church at Perry Creek. He was an elder of the church in Delaware county for several years, also of the church at Dillman, Indiana, until it was disbanded several years ago.

Mr. Perdue is a member of Lodge No. 392, I. O. O. F., of Warren, Indiana, and has passed the chairs twice; he has been secretary and representative to the grand lodge, and was also deputy grand master under D. B. Shideler. Mr. Perdue was formerly a Democrat, voting for Buchanan and Douglas, but since that time he has been a Republican. He has never missed an opportunity to vote since he was old enough and has been active in politics. He served as assessor five times in his native township in Delaware county and was at one time a candidate for treasurer of Wells county, Indiana.

James Perdue has lived in this state all his life, a period of more than two-thirds of a century. He has been a citizen of three counties of Indiana and has been a witness of and aided in their development. While his life has not been essentially that of the original pioneers of the state, he has been conversant with most of the changes through which they passed, and the improved methods which have been adopted, both in work and manner of living. He has witnessed the development of the state of his nativity from a semi-border commonwealth until it occupies today a position midway in the great chain of highly cultivated agricultural domains which constitute the integral divisions of our wonderful coun-

try. He has acted well his part in life, seeking to improve his own environments and in the performance of his duties as a good citizen and neighbor has added to the general welfare of the communities in which he has lived.

HENRY H. HUNSICKER.

It is with marked satisfaction that the biographer adverts to the life of one who has attained success in any vocation requiring definiteness of purpose and determined action. Such a life, whether it be one of calm, consecutive endeavor or of sudden meteoric accomplishments, must abound in both lesson and incentive and prove a guide to young men whose fortunes and destinies are still matters for the future to determine. The subject of this sketch is distinctively one of the representative business men of Bluffton. For a number of years he directed his efforts toward the goal of success and by patient continuance in well doing succeeded at last in overcoming the many obstacles by which his pathway was beset.

Henry H. Hunsicker is a native of Seneca county, Ohio, where he was born on the 22d day of January, 1860. His father, G. C. Hunsicker, was a native of Pennsylvania and a descendant of one of the old families of that commonwealth. When a young man he went to Ohio, settling in the county of Seneca, where he met and married Catherine Heiser, who had come to this country some years previously from Germany. About the year 1866 Mr. Hunsicker moved his family to Allen county, Indiana, locating at Monroeville, in which town the subject of this sketch spent the years of his



Mr. & Mrs. Henry Sturwick

early youth. Henry H. Hunsicker was a lad of six when his parents became residents of the Hoosier state. After acquiring a fair education in the public schools, he began working in a factory at Monroeville and from the time of securing employment until reaching the age of eighteen all of his wages were turned over to his parents. During the three years preceding his majority he retained half of his earnings for his own use, the other half being generously contributed to the support of the family, the father's circumstances being such as to make this addition to the general fund very acceptable.

When twenty-one Mr. Hunsicker went to St. Louis, Missouri, where he soon found employment at good wages in a heading factory and later worked as a wood turner. In the fall of 1882 he came to Bluffton, Indiana, and accepted a position with a wood-working firm, continuing as head sawyer until the spring of 1885. Meantime, July 1, 1884, he was united in marriage to Miss Susanna Johnston, daughter of John and Catherine (Porter) Johnston, who were among the early settlers of Wells county. Mr. Johnston was one of the leading farmers of Harrison township for a number of years, and later became a prominent resident of Bluffton. Mrs. Hunsicker was born in the above township in February, 1863, and is one of five children, the names of the other living members of the family being Maggie, now Mrs. John Crosbie, and J. R. Johnston, the present sheriff of Wells county.

In 1885 Mr. Hunsicker purchased drays and engaged in the transfer business, which he followed about two years. Disposing of his outfit, he worked for a short time in the

factory where he had formerly been employed. In 1887 he embarked in the grocery business in partnership with B. Bowman for a short time, afterward with A. Watson for about a year, then a few months with John Burgan, and for twelve years by himself. August 6, 1901, Mr. Hunsicker sold his grocery business and purchased the over-all factory of which he has since been proprietor. Mr. Hunsicker's present enterprise has grown into one of the most important and successful manufacturing concerns in the city of Bluffton. Under his management its capacity has been greatly enlarged to meet the demands of the trade, and upon an average of from twenty-eight to thirty-five hands are given employment every working day of the year. The weekly pay roll amounts to about one hundred and sixty dollars, exclusive of the salary of the two salesmen who represent the factory in the states of Indiana, Illinois, Ohio and Michigan. The output is about two hundred and fifty dozen every week, which finds ready sale, and such is the demand for these articles that it will soon become necessary to increase the productive capacity of the factory and add to the force of operators. What success has come to Mr. Hunsicker, and it is by no means small, has been the result of his own efforts, supplemented by a judgment and business capacity of a very high order. He inherited no wealth and began the struggle of life with no financial aid and little assistance from influential friends. The only heritage that came to him was a sound constitution, an active mind, a thorough brand of American pluck and grit, and an intelligent comprehension of the way in which to put these to the best uses. With an inborn industry and a

natural capacity for hard work, he has always made the most of his opportunities, at the same time laid well his plans for the future, and ever labored with something better in view. Forseeing what should be done and doing it in the right time, together with the ability to mould circumstances to suit his purposes, have been the secrets of the success which has marked Mr. Hunsicker's career since he became head of the flourishing enterprise which he now operates.

As a citizen he stands deservedly high in public esteem, being interested in the progress of his adopted city, and doing all within his power to promote its material, social and moral welfare. Like all progressive men, he takes a lively interest in politics, but has never been known as an active partisan or aspirant for public position. He votes the Democratic ticket in state and national affairs, but in matters purely local pays little attention to the dictates of party leaders. Mr. Hunsicker is an enthusiastic Odd Fellow, having passed all the chairs in the subordinate lodge and encampment, besides belonging to the Pythian brotherhood and a charter member of the Order of Red Men. Mrs. Hunsicker is a leading worker in the Rathbone Sisters, also the Rebekah degree, I. O. O. F., which she has represented in the grand lodge, and holds a prominent position in the Woman's Relief Corps of Bluffton. Both are well known in society circles and are among the city's most intelligent and estimable people.

THE SWAIM BROTHERS.

So closely interwoven were the lives of David H. and William Thomas Toy Swaim

that the history of one is practically the history of both. Their relations during childhood and youth, their school life and later their associations in a business way made their mutual interests complete. They are natives of Wells county, Indiana, born in the town of Ossian, David H. on the 17th of September, 1858, and William T. T. on the 1st day of April, 1861. They were reared to young manhood in the above village and only left there when ready to embark in business pursuits, meanwhile attending the public schools, in which they received an intellectual discipline of no inconsiderable importance. Their parents were William and Hannah (Toy) Swaim, for many years well known and highly respected residents of the community in which they lived. The father enlisted in an Indiana regiment at the breaking out of the late Civil war and received at the battle of Champion Hill, Mississippi, a mortal wound which resulted in his death on the 17th of June, 1863. His widow survived him a number of years, departing this life February 28, 1895. After the father's death the mother, desirous of procuring for her children the best educational advantages obtainable, moved, from the farm to Ossian, where in due time the brothers entered upon their school work. They continued their studies there until completing the prescribed course in 1879, in the spring of which year David H. became assistant to Superintendent P. A. Allen, in a select school which the two jointly conducted the year following. In 1880 the brothers entered Fort Wayne College, but before the end of the first year David withdrew in order to accept the position of assistant in a school at Ossian, Thomas remaining until he was graduated

in the latter part of the year following. Subsequently, 1881-2, David served as superintendent of the Ossian schools and during that time Thomas was employed as assistant in the schools of Bluffton, both earning enviable reputations as educators. Having decided upon the legal profession as their life work, they entered, in the fall of 1882, the law department of Michigan University at Ann Arbor, where they continued their studies until completing the full course, both graduating two years later with the degree of B. L. In September, 1884, they moved with their mother to Bluffton and, forming a partnership under the name of Swaim & Swaim, began the practice of their profession under most favorable auspices. They soon took high rank with the leading members of the Bluffton bar, built up a large and lucrative business in the courts of Wells and neighboring counties and continued the practice until May, 1888, when they withdrew from the law and, in partnership with Asbury Duglay, purchased the Bluffton Chronicle. The Swaim brothers embarked upon the sea of journalism with a full appreciation of the difficulties which it entailed, coupled with a well defined purpose of making the enterprise a success as far as success under the circumstances could be attained. Briefly stated, the history of the paper of which the Swaim brothers became managers in the above year is as follows: In 1853 the People's Press, a Republican organ, was established in Bluffton, by John Wilson and Michael Karnes, who employed as editor a Mr. Knox, a newspaper man of considerable experience and a fair writer. Subsequently James Branigan and James Gorrell served as editors and under their management the paper continued to

make its periodical appearance until 1857, when the plant was purchased by T. N. Kellogg and a Mr. Bixler, Nelson Kellogg taking charge of the editorial work. Messrs. Kellogg and Bixler ran the paper with fair success until 1861, when it passed into the hands of W. J. Bright, who changed the name to the Wells County Union, under which title it was issued until the stringent financial condition of the times caused its temporary suspension. After a time the enterprise was revived by Cephas Hogg, who, as editor and proprietor, labored against many obstacles until succeeded by J. H. Smith, under whose management the name of the paper was changed in 1866 to the Wells County Standard, the editorial department the meanwhile being in charge of James Sewell. Subsequently A. Callon and J. Sewell became owners and in 1869 the title was a third time changed, the name of Bluffton Chronicle being substituted and S. Davenport becoming editor. Under the latter firm the Chronicle was issued until 1873, when the publication again suspended, but after a short period J. W. Ruckman took charge of the plant and in due time established it upon a self-supporting basis. He managed the enterprise quite successfully until 1877, when he sold out to J. F. Pearson, who in turn disposed of the office to C. A. Arnold, under whose control the paper continued to grow in influence and public favor until 1878. In that year George Arnold & Son became proprietors and during their ownership the paper was greatly improved in its editorial and mechanical makeup. Its circulation largely increased, the advertising patronage was quite liberal and as a political organ it was influential in shaping the policy of the Re-

publican party in the county and contributed much to the success of the ticket in local affairs. The Messrs. Arnold in 1888 disposed of the Chronicle to Swaim Brothers & Duglay, as already stated, and under the management of the latter firm the paper took on new life and more than at any other period of its history became a power for good in the community. In August, 1891, Mr. Duglay died, after which event the Swaims purchased his interest in the plant and became sole proprietors. William T. T. Swaim died October 6, 1895, and after his death David became sole owner and manager of the enterprise. Since assuming sole control he has greatly enlarged the paper, changing it from a nine-column folio to a seven-column quarto, besides purchasing new engines and presses and supplying the office with all the latest and most approved appliances used in the "art preservative." The Chronicle is a model of typographic art and within the last ten years its circulation and advertising patronage have so increased that it is now one of the best paying newspaper properties in northern Indiana. In its literary makeup it is designed to vibrate with the public pulse and be a reflex of the current thought of the day; politically it is staunchly Republican and, being recognized as the official organ of the party in Wells county, its influence in directing and controlling thought relative to leading issues has brought it prominently to the notice of the party throughout the state. As editorial writer Mr. Swaim is clear, forceful, elegant, at times trenchant, and in discussing the great questions of the day is a formidable but courteous antagonist. As a family newspaper the Chronicle enjoys a large measure of popularity and its

periodical visits are eagerly looked forward to by its many patrons in Wells county and elsewhere. On all matters of public policy it occupies no neutral ground, but fearlessly advocates honest convictions regardless of consequences. Its moral tone is of a high standard and while it is a medium through which the production of local writers as well as other correspondence is given publicity, nothing objectionable is permitted to appear in its columns. It is designed to answer the purpose of an educational factor and such it has indeed become, as its contents, both political and general, tend to improve the mind and cultivate the taste rather than to appeal to passion and prejudice as is the manner of too many local sheets. Mr. Swaim has displayed commendable enterprise in the field of journalism, not only by improving the Chronicle and bringing it up to its present standard of excellence, but by giving to the public an additional paper, The Evening News, a bright daily, the first number of which made its appearance in 1893. Since that time the News has been regularly issued from the Chronicle office and that it is appreciated by the public is attested by the large and constantly increasing patronage which has marked its history from the first number to the present time. David H. Swaim is a public spirited man in all the term implies and personally as well as through the medium of the press is doing much to foster the industrial development and intellectual growth of the city and county besides exercising a potent influence in elevating the moral sentiment of the community. He is a wide awake, broad minded man of the day, deeply interested in whatever concerns the general welfare and ready

at all times to lend his influence and material aid to any movement with this object in view.

David H. Swaim was married September 15, 1885, to Miss E. May Gorrell, daughter of James and Mary Ann Gorrell, of this county. Mrs. Swaim was born April 14, 1861, graduated from the Ossian schools in 1880, and later became a teacher in the schools of Bluffton, where she labored successfully until the year of her marriage. She is a devoted member of the First Methodist Episcopal church of Bluffton and for a number of years has been a teacher in the Sunday school. On the 8th of June, 1890, David H. Swaim was appointed postmaster of Bluffton and discharged the duties of the position with his accustomed energy and business methods for a period of three years and two months, proving a capable and courteous official and fully meeting the high expectation of his friends and the public generally. He also subscribes to the Methodist creed, having united with the church while prosecuting his legal studies at Ann Arbor. Mr. and Mrs. Swaim are the parents of two children, Helen, born November 19, 1888, and Roger Gorrell, born March 6, 1897.

JOHN MINNICH.

John Minnich, who was born November 11, 1835, in Clark county, Ohio, is a son of Jacob Minnich, born July 24, 1814, in Ohio, Jacob being born after his father's death. The family was originally from the state of Pennsylvania. Jacob is yet living, at the age of eighty-eight years, and went through

a siege of smallpox this last spring. The first wife of Jacob Minnich was Christiana Ebersole, a native of Ohio, but whose parents came from Virginia. Jacob married his first wife in Ohio, settled there and commenced farming, later removed his family to Jackson township, Wells county, Indiana, settling in September, 1841, on the farm where he now lives. His wife, Christiana, died in February, 1855, leaving six children, as follows: John; Phoebe, the wife of Peter Wright, a resident of Summitville, Indiana; Sarah, deceased; Mary, the wife of Madison Irving, a resident of Warren, Indiana; Peter, a resident of Warren, Indiana; Michael lives on the old home farm. Jacob Minnich moved from Clark county, Ohio, by wagon, it taking eight days to make the trip of about one hundred and ten miles. He had made a trip to Indiana and built a log cabin on his land before removing his family, though it had neither fire place nor door when he returned to it. Soon after arriving he was taken sick and was not out of the house until February of the next year. The subject was then only six years old. But luckily James McIntyre had come with them and they managed to keep "soul and body together." His horses were out all winter without any kind of shelter save the brush and timber of the woods. They had at the time two head of horses, the same number of cattle and two dogs. At night the dogs were kept under the house through fear of the wolves, which were very plentiful in the country at that time. When the family removed from Ohio, they brought with them two barrels of flour, which furnished all the bread they had until they had cleared the ground, planted and raised a crop of corn, and after-

wards of wheat. In the spring the father was able to work again, and they managed to get out sixty acres of a corn crop. They were allowed to plant a piece of land on Mr. Batson's place, in return for the labor of burning the brush off it, raised corn enough the first year for their own use and had some to spare. They kept adding a little to the amount cleared until finally the whole farm was cleared up. Their meat they obtained from the forest; the usual manner of securing it was to secretly approach the deer along the river in a canoe at night, during the summer time, having the light in the canoe blinded by a board. Under such circumstances the deer would stand and stare at the boat, their shining eyes making an easy mark for the hunter's rifle. The early settlers could usually also get plenty of good honey from wild bees in the fall of the year. John went to school in a log cabin, which had a stick chimney about six feet wide, with greased paper for window lights. He attended his last term of school when he was twenty-one years of age. The most of the schools which he attended were subscription schools, supplemented later by a few terms in the public school, which had then become better established. John remained at home with his father until he was twenty-two years of age, when, on November 6, 1857, he was married to Mary M. Huffman. She was born in Ohio March 6, 1838, and is a daughter of John Huffman, a native of Ohio, and Susan (Myers) Huffman. They were married in Ohio and came to Indiana in the fall of 1846, settled in Huntington county and remained there until John's death. Susan is yet living at the home of John Minnich at the age of eighty-six years. John Huffman was the father of

seven children, all of whom are yet living: Mary M. married John Minnich; Louis is a resident of Mt. Zion, Indiana; George H. is ex-sheriff of Wells county, Indiana; Rachel is the wife of Robert Campbell, a farmer of Liberty township; Martha is the wife of Sylvester Gephart; Elijah is now a resident of Mt. Zion, Indiana, and Jacob resides on the old home place in Huntington county, Indiana. After their marriage John Minnich and his wife lived for two years in a house on his father's farm. In March, 1860, they moved onto the place where he now lives, having purchased two or three years previously the eighty acres which constituted the farm. On March 8 he began the clearing of his land and the first year he got out seven acres of a crop, breaking up the land with a borrowed yoke of oxen, feeding them on potatoes while doing the work; he did some plowing for the owner for the use of the animals.

During their first years on this farm Mrs. Minnich spun her own flax and wove the cloth for the use of the family. She did not purchase a dress from a store for six years. Steadily they toiled on, clearing and improving the farm little by little. Mr. Minnich had to haul wheat to the market in Huntington, which was more than twenty miles away, and over the roughest and muddiest roads conceivable, and after getting it there forty cents a bushel was the selling price. About twenty-two bushels of wheat was the limit for a load for a good team to haul to Huntington in those days. Huntington and Wells counties had no railroads at that time and the wheat and other products as well were transported to the general market at Toledo, Ohio, by way of the Wabash canal, which passed through

Huntington. The first salt that was brought into the community cost thirteen dollars per barrel. It took three days to go to mill, as they had to go to Camden, in Jay county, where they had steam power. On one occasion Samuel Batson and John Minnich started to the mill at noon on Sunday and did not get back home until Thursday noon following. Mr. Minnich now has one hundred and fifty-eight acres of fine land, with eleven producing oil wells, which brought him a profit of about sixty dollars per month during the last year. He is a lover of farm stock, preferring Poland China hogs and shorthorn cattle. He has not farmed any for the last seven years, having been laid up with rheumatism. He has been gardening for about eighteen or nineteen years, marketing his produce at Montpelier, Indiana, where Perman, Johnson & Company get all his stock. He has devoted the most of his life to farming. During the war he worked at the carpenter's trade and made money enough to pay for an additional eighty acres of land. He also ran a blacksmith shop for twenty years, but does not now try to do work of that kind. He is the father of four children: Louis, born November 6, 1864, married Mamie J. Colbert, lives on his father's farm and has one son, Park F.; Jacob, born May 5, 1871, married Jennie E. Anderson, lives in Liberty township and has two children, Edna M. and Lillian C.; Oliver was born April 11, 1879, married Maud Shadles and now resides in Chester township, Wells county, Indiana; they have one child, Don W.; an infant son died unnamed. They also reared and provided for three other children not their own.

Mr. Minnich and wife are members of the German Baptist church and are active

Christian workers. After the oil interest had been developed on his farm, he divided the income received in royalty, giving one-half of it in equal amounts to his children. In politics, Mr. Minnich was formerly a Republican, but is now a Democrat. He believes, however, in voting for principle. John Minnich and his wife are essentially Indiana pioneers. Coming to the state with their parents when the section in which they settled was an almost unbroken wilderness, in which, at night, the howling of the predatory wolf was a frequent and familiar sound; when the roaming droves of deer in the forests furnished the few settlers with meat for their families and the hardy settler, with unerring eye, would course the wild honey bee to his native hive in the cavity of some forest tree. Growing to manhood and womanhood amid all these early scenes, they were familiar with all the customs and modes of living in those pioneer days. After their marriage they moved onto land in the woods and were subject to all the vicissitudes and hardships which attended the earliest settlers in the country. Mrs. Minnich was familiar with the use of the flax brake, the spinning wheel and the reel, and hand cards, for rolling the wool before spinning, which were implements of daily household use in the family for several years. Mr. Minnich made the old fashioned spinning wheel and the reel which his wife had spun the wool on and they have these old relics in their home yet.

But all this is changed; they have lived to see the country, which at that time had no roads, except bridle paths and tracks cut through the timber, crossed and recrossed by railroads and macadamized highways traversing a highly improved and finely cul-

tivated country in every direction. Where there were towns at that time, there are now cities, and towns and villages now dot the country where there were forests and swamps. The log cabin, with its huge chimney and greased-paper windows, has given way to fine brick buildings dedicated to learning, and the spinning wheel, with the reel, etc., have been relegated to the attics of the palatial homes that have taken the place of the cabins on the farms and are now spoken of as antique.

The actors in these scenes have also changed; instead of the buoyancy and inspiration of youth with which they were then filled, their heads are now silvered by age and their forms are bent with the infirmity of years. But they have done well their part in life, their labors have been blessed with a competency, and, surrounded by loving children and friends, and esteemed by all who know them, they confidently await the inevitable change.

Mr. and Mrs. Minnich have in their possession an old parchment sheepskin deed, bearing the signature of President Martin Van Buren and dated August 20, 1838, one year after the great panic of 1837.

AARON FLEMING.

The gentleman whose name appears above is one of the brave, indomitable spirits to whom the present generation is indebted for the transformation of the wilderness of Indiana to a domain of civilization and enlightenment. Endowed by nature with strong characteristics that have made him efficient in the mission he was to fulfill, he has done much to confer the blessings of

progress upon this part of the state and is today one of the oldest living settlers in the county of Wells. Aaron Fleming is a native of Jefferson county, Ohio, where his birth occurred on the 4th day of July, 1817. His father, Absalom Fleming, was born in Maryland and the mother, whose maiden name was Sarah Wright, was a native of Virginia. These parents moved in an early day to Jefferson county, Ohio, where they became acquainted and married and some time thereafter they changed their residence to the county of Wayne. Absalom Fleming followed tilling the soil for a livelihood, but being poor in this world's goods was obliged to rear his family on rented land. As soon as the subject was old enough to be of practical service he was obliged to assist his father and as the greater part of his early life was spent in a comparatively new country, he enjoyed no educational advantages worthy of mention before learning to read and write. Actuated by a sense of duty most commendable, he labored diligently for his parents and otherwise looked after their interests until reaching an age when young men are expected to sever home ties and branch out in the world for themselves. On attaining his majority he engaged with a man who moved to Indiana and the month of October, 1838, witnessed his arrival in the new and sparsely settled county of Wells. Pleased with the country, he soon purchased one hundred acres of land in Rock Creek township and paid for the same in due time out of his wages of one hundred dollars per year, which he saved with most rigid economy. In order to meet the payments as they became due he was obliged to deny himself many privileges peculiarly dear to young men, doing without suitable raiment and



AARON FLEMING.

withdrawing himself entirely from the social gatherings which in those days afforded such an agreeable break in the dull monotony of pioneer life. After spending some time in Wells county he returned to Ohio, where better wages for farm labor could be obtained. He spent one year in his native county, during which time he was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Bell Kirkpatrick and the following year moved to his new home, erected a rude log cabin and addressed himself to the task of clearing and developing a farm. Mr. and Mrs. Fleming set up their first domestic establishment in a very modest way. Their house, which consisted of a single room, was sparsely furnished with articles of his own manufacture, including a few roughly-made chairs, a bedstead of the most primitive pattern and a box which answered the purpose of a table. The first year Mr. Fleming cleared three acres of ground, which were planted in corn, potatoes and other vegetables, and while the little crop matured he continued his labors in the woods early and late until by the following spring there was a goodly area in readiness for tillage. After living on this place for a period of nine years and clearing with his own hands over fifty acres of ground, he sold the farm for twelve hundred dollars and purchased one hundred and fifty-one acres in the township of Lancaster. Subsequently he added to the latter at intervals until he became one of the largest land owners in that part of the county, his real estate at this time amounting to four hundred and seventy-seven acres, which with other property in his possession represents a fortune considerably in excess of thirty thousand dollars.

Mr. Fleming made considerable money

by pasturing and feeding live stock, especially cattle, in which business his success was most gratifying. As a farmer he early took rank among the most enterprising and progressive agriculturists of the county and in his various business transactions he was no less fortunate. He mounted rapidly the ladder of success, managed with masterly skill every undertaking in which he engaged and from the small beginning alluded to has advanced step by step until he is now the possessor of a competence of much greater magnitude than the majority of farmers attain. Clear perception, correct judgment, comprehensive thought and stainless honor have ever characterized his career and he stands today not only at the head of his vocation, but as a citizen ranks with the representative men of his adopted county. Mr. Fleming possesses in a marked degree those traits and abilities which make men masters of their fate. Great industry and consecutive effort account largely for the success which has attended him, while his word has always been held as sacred as a written obligation. He has witnessed the remarkable growth and development of Wells county along all lines of industrial activity and to the best of his ability he has contributed of brawn and brain to bring about the results that now exist. During a residence here covering a period of sixty-four years his character has ever been above reproach and his conduct in every relation of life has been that of the upright man and honorable citizen. No man in the county is better known and few occupy as conspicuous a place in the confidence and esteem of the people. In politics he has voted with the Republican party ever since its organization, but has never taken a very active part in public af-

fairs, preferring the plain, simple life of private citizenship to any official honors within the power of the people to bestow. His religious belief is embodied in the Presbyterian creed and for a great many years he has been a faithful and earnest member of that communion. Originally he and wife belonged to the Pleasant Ridge church in Jefferson township, but later their membership was transferred to the Murray congregation in which he held the office of ruling elder and with which they are now identified.

Mr. and Mrs. Fleming have been blessed with five children, namely: Mary J., wife of Albert Wilson; Sarah A., widow of the late Jere Sowl, of this county; Lydia Bell, who married James Wilson, of Lancaster township; Drusilla, now Mrs. Donaldson Wilson, and Martha Jeanette, widow of David Truesdale Wason.

JAMES C. HATFIELD.

In this utilitarian age, when there is so little just discrimination between decisive merit and shallow pretenses, when selfish assurance is often better appreciated than modest, unpretending worth, it is a pleasure to contemplate the character and career of such a man as the subject of this review, a man who, though unassuming, has not been underestimated by the people and who in return for their mark of favor has taught them how valuable may be those public services that must be sought for and are never obtrusively displayed, as it were, on the political auction block. Though a man without pretense, he possesses that magnetic force that silently attracts, those mental and

moral qualities and personal characteristics that win strong friendships and that tact that make men and events subserve his just purpose.

James Clement Hatfield is a scion of one of the oldest and most worthy pioneer families of Wells county, his ancestors having been among the sturdy indomitable spirits that led the van of civilization into this section of the Hoosier state. Tracing the Hatfield genealogy, it is learned that the family originated in England, one of the first ancestors of which there remains an authentic record being one John Hatfield, who in an early day engaged in the East India service and amassed an immense fortune by commerce and banking. He was twice married, the first wife, whose maiden name was Dorothea O'Neal, bearing him children as follows: Adam, Andrew, John and Sarah, all of whom came to America and spent the greater portion of their lives in this country. The second wife of John Hatfield, Elizabeth Shippore, a native of England, died without issue. Mr. Hatfield died in India, leaving as was supposed a very large and valuable estate to his relations, but for some reason it was not properly administered on, the effect being that his lawful heirs never obtained the possession due them.

Adam Hatfield, founder of the American branch of the family, came to this country prior to the struggle for independence and settled in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania. About the year 1772 he was united in marriage with Margaret Dilworth, who bore him the following sons and daughters: Elizabeth, John, Mary, Benjamin, Sarah, Margaret, Robert, Nancy, Joseph and Adam. In 1795 Adam Hatfield, with

his large family, migrated to Cincinnati, Ohio, then a mere frontier trading post, and departed this life there the following year. The family then returned to Beaver county, Pennsylvania, where they made their home until 1815, at which time Mrs. Hatfield and her sons, Robert, Adam and Joseph, removed to Wayne county, Ohio, settling near the town of Wooster.

Adam Hatfield, Jr., married Miss Martha Kirkpatrick, a lady of great force of character, well fitted by nature and early training to bear the hard lot of pioneer life, and about the year 1839 moved to Wells county, Indiana, locating in Jefferson township three miles north of the present site of Murray on a tract of four hundred and eighty acres of land which he had previously entered. Here he erected his log cabin, made a small clearing and entered upon that course of life which subsequently made him one of the leading farmers and prominent citizens of this part of the state. Adam Hatfield was a man of excellent parts and early took an active interest in public affairs, having been one of the first officials in Jefferson township. Although of limited education as far as a knowledge of books was concerned, he possessed a clear mind, quick perception, correct judgment, and was a leader of thought and moulder of opinion in his community. He also exerted a wholesome influence as a director of moral and religious sentiment among his neighbors and politically early took a decided stand as a Whig against the nefarious institution of human slavery. A Presbyterian in religion, he and his good wife may properly be termed the forerunners of that faith in the county of Wells. In their little cabin home were held the first religious services ever

conducted in this part of the state, Rev. Isaac A. Ogden, of the Miami (Ohio) presbytery, officiating. The outgrowth of these services was a regularly organized church, the first in the county, of which Rev. John H. Russ was chosen pastor. In 1840 occurred the death of Mrs. Adam Hatfield and her remains were laid to rest in the old Miller burying ground. Subsequently the body was removed to the cemetery at Murray where now it lies awaiting the resurrection of the just. Adam Hatfield afterwards entered into the marriage relation with Mrs. Elizabeth Steward, who remained his faithful companion and helpmeet until his death, which occurred in 1848 at the age of fifty-five years.

Hiram Hatfield, son of Adam and Martha (Kirkpatrick) Hatfield, was born in Wayne county, Ohio, but spent his childhood and youth amid the pioneer scenes of Wells county, Indiana. Owing to the lack of educational facilities his advantages in the way of intellectual development were exceedingly limited, being confined to a small private school taught by Miss Margaret Hatfield in a little log cabin that formerly stood on the Hatfield homestead. It is said that this lady received for her services the munificent sum of seventy-five cents per week and boarded among the patrons of the school, spending a week with each family in succession until the end of the term. Notwithstanding these unfavorable circumstances Mr. Hatfield made the most of his opportunities and by much reading and close observation in after years became not only a good practical scholar, but a remarkably well informed man on many important subjects. In 1850 he chose a companion in the person of Miss Martha A. Egbert, who

entered into rest after two years of happy wedded life. Subsequently Mr. Hatfield married Miss Catherine K. Donaldson, daughter of Robert and Ann Donaldson, a union blessed with five children: Anna M., Victor M., James C., of this review, Jennie and Robert A.

In 1852 Mr. Hatfield disposed of his farm and engaged in the mercantile business at Murray, where he enjoyed a large and lucrative trade for sixteen years. In 1867 he purchased a stock of goods at Ossian where he carried on a very successful business, the magnitude of which necessitated the erection of the large two-story brick structure which was completed and occupied in the year 1880. From that time to the great panic in 1893 his trade constantly increased until his establishment easily became the leading house of the kind in the county. He was the embodiment of honor in all of his dealings and his name shines with peculiar luster as one of the most successful as well as one of the kindest and most obliging merchants that ever carried on business in this section of the state. He easily met all of his obligations in ordinary times, but when the cyclone of disaster swept over the country in 1893 it became impossible for him to realize on his securities and outstanding accounts, consequently he, with hundreds of others, was engulfed in the tide. To such a man as he this proved a very heavy blow, but no blame has ever attached to his good name nor was the rectitude of his intentions for a moment criticised by those familiar with the peculiar conditions of the business situation at that time. Extremely sensitive, the wreck of the splendid fortune representing the labors and self-denials of a life time prostrated him physically

as well as financially. After a somewhat protracted illness he gently passed into the great unknown, departing this life on the 30th day of November, 1893, honored and respected by all who knew him. In addition to his business career Mr. Hatfield had a military record, replete with duty faithfully performed during the most momentous crisis in our national history. In 1861 he responded to the President's call for volunteers to defend the Union, joining the Twelfth Indiana Infantry, with which he served until honorably discharged at the expiration of his period of enlistment. When he entered the army it was to the great sacrifice of his business interests, but to one of his loyalty and true patriotic fervor the closing of his store for a few years and the consequent loss of custom was as nothing compared with the danger which at that time threatened the perpetuity of America's beloved institutions. Religiously he was a lifelong member of the Presbyterian church and for many years served the local congregation to which he belonged as ruling elder. Soundly orthodox in his belief, he gave liberally of his means for the support of the gospel at home and abroad and also championed every cause that had for its object the elevation of man to a higher standard of moral and Christian living and honorable citizenship. In the language of another, "He left the heritage of a good name to his descendants, a name untarnished by even a suspicion of bad intent or wrong doing, a name that will long live throughout Wells county without a peer for unvarying integrity and stability of character." Mrs. Hatfield survives her husband and is still living in the town of Ossian.

James Clement Hatfield, the direct sub-

ject of this sketch, is a native of Wells county, Indiana, born in the village of Murray on the 31st day of August, 1861. Much of character and success in life depends upon the right kind of parentage, in which respect the subject was peculiarly blessed. In early childhood there were implanted in his mind and heart principles of rectitude and honor which within the course of years crystallized into correct moral fiber, growing with his growth and developing into well defined purposes as he advanced towards manhood's estate. At the proper age he entered the public schools of his native town and by close application made substantial progress in his studies, laying broad and deep a sure foundation for the useful career which he has subsequently led as an enterprising business man and trusted servant of the public. Meantime of mornings and evenings he assisted his father in the store and his vacations were always spent behind the counter where, by intelligent observation, he soon became familiar with the details of business and well acquainted with the underlying principles and ethics of commercial life. Young Hatfield pursued his studies until about ready to complete the last year of the high school course, when he yielded to his own and his father's inclinations by entering the employ of the mercantile firm of Hatfield & Son. He also became a partner in the Ossian Creamery Company and for one year managed that enterprise to the satisfaction of the stockholders and others concerned. Mr. Hatfield experienced his full share of the financial disaster which caused such consternation in business circles in 1893, but, with an energy born of a determination not to become discouraged, he rallied from the ef-

fects of the blow and in due time again found himself on the high road to prosperity and ultimate success. Early displaying decided interest as well as marked aptitude for public affairs, he became a politician in the best sense of the term. Reared a Republican and believing most earnestly in the principles of the party, he espoused the cause with all the ardor of his nature and it was not long until he was recognized as one of the energetic young leaders in the county of Wells. His services bringing him to public notice, he was elected chairman of his precinct and as such served with marked ability, contributing much to the success of the ticket. For a number of years he served as delegate to the various county, district and state conventions and by reason of valuable services rendered the party as well as on account of his recognized fitness for the position, his friends, in 1898, nominated him for the office of clerk of the Wells circuit court. This signal mark of favor was peculiarly complimentary in that it came to Mr. Hatfield unsolicited on his part, the one case in a thousand where the office seeks the man instead of the man seeking the office. Accepting the nomination in the spirit in which it was tendered, he went into the contest with the determination to win and notwithstanding the strength of the opposition his thorough canvass, aided largely by personal popularity, enabled him to vanquish his competitor and secure the office by a small majority. This victory speaks much for Mr. Hatfield's high standing with the people when taking into consideration the overwhelming odds arrayed against him in the contest, the county being reliably Democratic. Mr. Hatfield entered upon the discharge of his duties with the

best wishes of the public irrespective of party and that he has proven a most capable, courteous and obliging official is cheerfully conceded by all. His record thus far is without a blemish and such is his strength in his own county and district that his friends are justified in the prediction that the future awaits him with still higher honors which the people of the state at no distant day will take pride in conferring.

It is not always easy to discover and define the hidden forces that move a life of ceaseless activity; little more can be done than to note their manifestation in the individual's career. In view of this fact the life of Mr. Hatfield affords a striking example of well defined purpose with the ability to make that purpose subserve not only his own ends but the good of his fellow man as well. He has proven a useful member of the body politic and, rising high in the confidence and esteem of the public, has always acquitted himself honorably, never falling below the dignity of true manhood nor in any way resorting to the methods and wiles of the professional partisan or demagogue. He is essentially a man among men, moving as one who commands respect by innate force as well as by acquired leadership. As a citizen he easily ranks with the most influential of his county, as a politician he is above the suspicion of dishonorable practice and all who have been favored with an intimate acquaintance with him are profuse in their praise of his upright course and manly virtues.

Mr. Hatfield is a married man and the father of three children, whose names are Ethel, Hiram and Edgar. Mrs. Hatfield was formerly Miss Ella Gorrell, daughter of Milo and Mary Gorrell, and the ceremony

by which her name was changed to the one she now has was solemnized on the 13th day of September, 1882. Mr. and Mrs. Hatfield are active members of the Presbyterian church, the former having served for a number of years as superintendent of the Sunday school, while both are deeply interested in disseminating the pure doctrines of Christianity among men. Fraternally Mr. Hatfield is a thirty-second-degree Scottish Rite Mason, and also a member of chapter, council and commandery of the York Rite, and is well and favorably known to the brotherhood throughout the state. He is identified with the Knights of Pythias and K. O. T. M., having been honored with important official positions in both organizations. He is also a charter member of Bluffton Lodge No. 796, B. P. O. E.

NELSON KELLOGG TODD.

Nelson Kellogg Todd, son of the late Jacob Jefferson Todd, is a native of Wells county, Indiana, born in the city of Bluffton on the 10th day of February, 1867. His mother is Rachel J., daughter of Nelson Kellogg, one of the pioneers of his county. He early gave promise of intellectual powers, and while still a youth made rapid progress in his studies, completing the prescribed public school course when but sixteen years of age, graduating from the Bluffton high school in 1883. This was the first class ever graduated from that institution and the subject was one of its youngest as well as one of its most creditable members. Having decided to make the law his profession, Mr. Todd began the study under his father's direction and in due time

was sufficiently grounded in its principles to entitle him to admission to the bar. Accordingly in 1889 he passed the required examination in the principles of law before Hon. Joseph S. Dailey, judge of the twenty-eighth judicial district, and after his formal admission entered upon the practice at Bluffton in the office of Wilson & Todd, with whom he remained until the death of the former, when he became associated with his father under the firm name of Todd & Todd. This partnership continued until the death of the senior member in 1900, since which time the subject was alone in the practice until April 1, 1902, when he formed a partnership with Frank W. Gordon, under the firm name of Todd & Gordon.

Mr. Todd's recognized legal ability soon won him a large and lucrative practice and it was not long until he became one of the leading members of the Bluffton bar. His practice gradually extended into adjoining counties, and for a number of years his name has appeared in connection with the majority of important cases tried in the courts of his native county of Wells. As a lawyer he ranks with the ablest of his contemporaries, being a safe and reliable counsellor, thoroughly skilled in the arts of practice. Being a man of quick mental processes, his reach and grasp of legal questions and principles are unusually wide and far-reaching. In his practice he never resorts to any of the devices of superficial men, but makes himself a necessity to those having complicated cases. Mr. Todd is unacquainted with the wiles to which the unscrupulous practitioner resorts to gain his end, and has nothing but scorn for the lawyer who by disreputable means lowers the dignity of the pro-

fession which, as the conservator of justice, should command the unbounded respect and confidence of all. Actuated by correct and lofty motives, his reputation for honorable dealing with his associates and clients has won him a high place in the esteem of the public and, as already stated, he stands today among the leading and successful counsellors in a part of the state where legal ability is recognized and appreciated at its true worth. Like his father before him, Mr. Todd is a politician, and as such has been an influential factor in the Republican party ever since old enough to wield the elective franchise. He has been an untiring worker in the ranks, a judicious adviser in party councils and for a number of years past it has fallen to him to attend as a delegate the various conventions, county, state and district. In the year 1892 he was a candidate for the office of prosecuting attorney, but the county being nominally Democratic by a large majority, he, with the rest of the ticket, failed of election, although receiving much more than the strength of his party.

Fraternally Mr. Todd has long been an ardent member of the Masonic order, in which he has risen to the degrees of chapter and council. He is also identified with various other fraternal and benevolent organizations, in several of which he has been honored with high official station. He is an enthusiastic member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, being a charter member of Bluffton Lodge No. 796. In early life Mr. Todd learned the printer's trade and after becoming an efficient workman he set type in a number of offices in different states. At one time he seriously considered the advisability of devoting his life to journalism and had he done so he

doubtless would have attained prominence and distinction in that useful field of endeavor. As a citizen he is popular with all classes and conditions of people, inheriting many of the sterling characteristics and admirable qualities for which his father was peculiarly distinguished. Public spirited, he gives countenance and support to all measures for the material advancement of his city and county, being greatly interested in the industrial development of the country, as well as encouraging to the extent of his ability the improvement of the community's social and moral conditions.

Mr. Todd's domestic relations are most pleasant and agreeable, being the head of a household which is presided over by a lady of culture and refinement to whom he was united in the bonds of wedlock on the 18th day of June, 1891. Mrs. Todd was formerly Miss Jeannette A. Patterson, daughter of Capt. and Mrs. Robert D. Patterson, of Adams county, this state. She is well known in the society circles of Bluffton, and is noted for her many virtues and excellent traits of character. Mr. and Mrs. Todd have one child, Margaret, whose birth occurred on the 28th of August, 1895.

JOSIAH FEESER.

The popular citizen and enterprising business man whose name furnishes the heading of this review needs no formal introduction to the people of Bluffton and Wells county. For many years identified with industrial interests and always taking active part in promoting the welfare of the public, he has risen to a high place in business circles, besides earning the reputation of

one of the county's progressive men of affairs. Paternally Mr. Feeser is descended from German ancestry and traces his family history to an early period in the annals of Lebanon county, Pennsylvania, where his father, John G. Feeser, was born and reared. By occupation John was a blacksmith, in connection with which trade he also carried on the pursuit of agriculture in his native state, at one time owning four hundred and eighty acres of valuable land in the county of Lebanon. In 1860 he disposed of his interests there and moved to Springfield, Ohio, where he remained about three years, changing his residence about 1865 to Wells county, Indiana. In 1863 he enlisted in an Ohio regiment and served gallantly until the close of the war, shortly after which he opened a shop in Bluffton and began working at his trade upon quite an extensive scale. He built up a large and lucrative business in general blacksmithing, wagon and carriage making, in which his son, the subject of this sketch, subsequently became a partner, this establishment being the largest and most successful industry of the kind in the city. John G. Feeser was a man of high character, an excellent citizen and did much to promote the business interests of Bluffton. He served several terms in the town council and as a public official was untiring in his efforts to subserve the material good of the county, at the same time proving a safe and conservative custodian of the people's interests. By untiring industry and correct business methods he accumulated an ample fortune, conservatively estimated at twenty-five thousand dollars, and continued to manage his affairs until advancing age obliged him to retire from active life. Politically he was a Demo-



Josiah Feeder

crat, fraternally a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and in matters of religion an earnest and devout worker in the Baptist church. He lived a long and useful life and entered into rest on the 7th day of April, 1900, at the age of seventy-five. Five children were born to John G. and Lydia (Weaver) Feeser, namely: John H., Josiah, Morris, Alfred and Laura, all living, the father being the first of the family to be called to the other life.

Josiah Feeser was born in Lebanon county, Pennsylvania, on the 23rd day of December, 1855. He received his educational training in the public schools of Springfield, Ohio, and Bluffton, Indiana, and at the early age of twelve entered his father's shop for the purpose of learning blacksmithing. Naturally skilled in the use of tools, he soon became an efficient workman and for a number of years was his father's able assistant, later, as already stated, becoming a partner in the business. In 1880 he was united in marriage to Miss Josie Kretner, of Ft. Wayne, daughter of Joseph Kretner, and one year later became a member of the firm of Feeser & Son, which relationship continued until the father's death in 1900.

Since the latter year Mr. Feeser has been sole proprietor of the establishment and has more than doubled its capacity. He employs a large number of skillful workmen, does all kinds of blacksmithing, manufactures wagons, carriages, buggies and other vehicles, besides carrying on an extensive repair shop which has proven one of the most remunerative departments of his large and constantly increasing business. Familiar with every detail of his establishment and possessing executive ability of

high order, Mr. Feeser has never met with a reverse of fortune. His career has been most satisfactory from a financial point of view, his business at this time being confined to Bluffton and adjacent country, although many of his vehicles are shipped to other cities in Indiana and adjoining states.

Mr. Feeser's record as a business man is without a blemish, while his sterling worth as a neighbor and citizen has won for him a host of friends and given him a position among the leading men of his adopted city. Primarily interested in his own affairs, he has not been neglectful of his duties to the public, consequently his name is identified with all commendable enterprises for the general good of the community. He is an active member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, having been honored with important official positions in both subordinate lodge and encampment. He is also a leading worker in the Pythian brotherhood and Improved Order of Red Men, belonging to the Uniform Rank in the former and filling important stations in both organizations. Mr. Feeser is not only a devout believer in revealed religion, but exemplifies his faith in his daily walk and conversation. He holds membership in the Baptist church of Bluffton, as does also his wife, and is one of the pillars of the congregation, using his influence and expending his means liberally for its support. In his political views he is a pronounced Democrat and has long been an aggressive worker in the party. In 1896 he was one of six candidates for the office of county recorder, but failed of election by only eighty-one votes, running far in advance of the rest of his ticket.

All of Mr. Feeser's business life has been spent in Bluffton and his personal history

presents no pages blotted by unworthy actions. Few men here are as well and favorably known and none enjoy higher standing as a generous, obliging and self sacrificing friend. His hand is ever open to accommodate the needy and no worthy object has ever appealed to him in vain for material assistance. To know him is to honor him, the large share of public esteem which he commands attesting his value to the community. Mr. and Mrs. Feeser have a beautiful home supplied with many of the conveniences and comforts of life, and their domestic relations are indeed most pleasant and agreeable. They are the parents of three children, whose names are Jasper, Jesse and Nina.

ISAAC NEWTON HATFIELD, M. D.

The subject of this sketch has attained an enviable position in the medical world, gaining distinguished repute which comes only through ability and skill, the legitimate reward of faithful and persistent effort. Progressive in the broadest sense of the term, he keeps abreast the times in all matters pertaining to his noble calling and his advanced methods and thorough understanding have brought him not only eminent professional success but liberal financial rewards as well. Dr. Isaac Newton Hatfield is a lineal descendant of John Hatfield, a noted banker and business man of England who figured prominently in the commercial and financial affairs of the East Indies about the middle of the eighteenth century. For particulars concerning the Hatfield genealogy the reader is respectfully referred to the sketch of James Clement

Hatfield, in which the family history is given at some length. Adam Hatfield, son of the above John, came to America about the year 1772 and settled in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, subsequently moving to Cincinnati, Ohio, where his death occurred. Among his children was a son by the name of Joseph who as early as 1839 came to Wells county, Indiana, and located in Jefferson township where he cleared a farm and became a leading man of affairs. This was his home until his death, June 29, 1876, at the age of eighty-five years. He was twice married. By his first wife, Phebe Peppard, he had nine children: Margaret, Isaac, Elizabeth, Robert, Mary, Rebecca, John, David and Phoebe. By his second wife, Mary A. Marshall, he had two sons, Gilmore and Robison. The son John married Ann Harter and to this couple was born, on the 18th day of August, 1856, the subject of this biography.

Isaac Newton Hatfield first saw the light of day in what is now Union township and received his early training in close touch with nature on his father's farm. During the summer months his employments were such as are common to country boys and after the harvests were gathered and the work of the year done he attended the public school in the neighborhood. To these early years, under the tutelage of parents whose ambition was to engraft upon the minds of the children such principles as would insure honor and usefulness, the Doctor is largely indebted for that integrity of character and well defined purpose that have pre-eminently distinguished him in his life work. After finishing the common school course he entered the graded school of Bluffton where he pursued his studies with great assiduity,

obtaining a knowledge of some of the higher branches of learning. Actuated by a laudable desire to add to his educational discipline, he subsequently became a student of the Northern Indiana Normal University of Valparaiso and after spending two years in that institution entered Hanover College where he prosecuted his intellectual work about the same length of time. By reason of ill health he was obliged to quit his studies before completing the prescribed course, after which he traveled quite extensively throughout the west with the object in view of recuperating his physical energies. In this way he not only satisfied his desire for seeing something of the vast extent of our country and learning of its wonderful resources, but added largely to his experience and increased those powers of mind which have since been often drawn upon in the requirements of the profession in which he has achieved such signal honors. While acquiring his literary education the Doctor taught two terms of school in his native county and had he seen fit to continue in that useful work he doubtless would have become distinguished as an educator. But there comes a time in every young man's life when the desire for a permanent calling rises superior to every other consideration and to this the subject was no exception. Having selected medicine as the profession best suited to his taste, he at once addressed himself to a preparatory course of discipline, after which, in 1881, he entered the medical department of the Iowa University, at Iowa City. He prosecuted his studies and investigations in that institution until completing the course in 1884, meantime during the summer of the previous years doing special work in the College of Physicians and Sur-

geons at Chicago. Immediately after graduating, Dr. Hatfield began the practice of his profession at Osage, Jefferson county, Kansas, but after a residence of two and a half years at that place he was led to seek another location on account of his health, which had broken down under the unfavorable influence of the climate and stress of professional duty. In 1887 he returned to his native county and opened an office at Bluffton, where he has since remained, meantime building up the large and lucrative practice which he now commands.

Dr. Hatfield brought to his calling a mind well trained by severe intellectual and professional discipline and with an ambition to excel has steadily advanced until he is now easily the peer of any man in a city noted for the high order of its medical talent. He has ever been a student and so absorbing is his industry that he knows not what it is to eat the bread of idleness. In him are combined the essential qualities and characteristics of the ideal family physician, the kindly presence, the gentle touch, the courteous demeanor, which at once enlists the sympathy both of patient and friends and without which the most skillful treatment oftentimes proves unavailing. Equally proficient in medicine and surgery, his success in many critical cases and delicate operations early brought him prominently to the notice of the public and now in addition to his home practice, which includes a wide range, he is frequently called to distant places to treat diseases which baffle the skill of the ordinary physician. In order the more thoroughly to acquaint himself in the latest discoveries in medicinal science and to become familiar with the most approved methods of modern practice, Dr. Hatfield,

in the year 1892-3, took a post-graduate course in the Polyclinic College, Chicago, where, under the direction of some of the most distinguished professors of the land, he fitted himself for still greater usefulness as a healer of humanity. While in Kansas he was a member of the medical association of that state and since locating at Bluffton he has been identified with the Wells County Medical Society and the Medical Society of Indiana, having served as president of the former.

While a student in the Iowa University Dr. Hatfield became acquainted with a young lady of culture and refinement by the name of Cora B. Watson, between whom and himself a warm attachment soon sprang up, which, ripening into love, eventually led to marriage. The ceremony which made the two husband and wife was solemnized on the 4th day of June, 1884, and the union has been blessed with one child, a daughter, Miss Nina, whose birth occurred September 10, 1887. Mrs. Hatfield was born at West Liberty, Iowa, and is the daughter of Albert Watson, an enterprising and successful farmer of that state.

While interested in all movements for the public good and taking a pardonable pride in the growth and welfare of Bluffton and Wells county, the Doctor has little time to devote to affairs outside his own profession. He is an exceedingly busy man, consequently has entertained no ambition for political distinction nor has he ever been an aspirant for office of any kind. In politics he is a Republican, but beyond voting for his party nominees he has little to do with the distraction of partisan strife. As stated in a preceding paragraph, the Doctor's financial success has been commensur-

ate with his professional advancement and he is now in independent circumstances. He has a comfortable and attractive home on West Cherry street, where, after the busy cares of the day are over, he finds in an almost ideal domestic circle that rest and recreation which only a busy, energetic man of his mental and social character knows so well how to appreciate and enjoy. In addition to the members of his immediate household Dr. Hatfield has opened his home to his wife's nephew, an orphan boy, whom he is rearing and educating with the same attention he would bestow upon a child of his own. Religiously the Doctor and family are Presbyterians; socially they are favorites in the best society circles of the city. The foregoing is but a feeble attempt to outline the career of this intelligent, broad minded and pre-eminently honorable man. Belonging to one of the oldest, best known and most respectable families of Wells county, his course in life has been such as to add to its honorable reputation and doubtless he will leave to his descendants the same spotless name for which his ancestors were distinguished. He is now in the prime of manhood, physically and intellectually, with many years of usefulness yet before him, and it is a compliment worthily bestowed to state that there are few who can compete with him in all that goes to make up the polished, courteous and praiseworthy gentlemen.

SYLVESTER LOUNSBURY.

Sylvester Lounsbury was born March 6, 1844, in Jackson township, Wells county, Indiana, in sight of the place where he now

lives. His parents, Smith Lounsbury, born in 1801, and Jeannett (Tomlinson) Lounsbury, born in 1804, were natives of the state of Connecticut. After Smith's marriage he first settled in Connecticut, engaged in farm work, remaining there until the year 1831, when he emigrated with his family to Coshocton county, Ohio, where he remained about two years. At that time, about 1833, he removed to Marion, Grant county, Indiana, when one or two log cabins constituted all there was of the now bustling and important city on the banks of the Mississinewa. About 1840 he moved onto the Salimonic river in Wells county, and here entered at one time about four hundred acres of land in the woods. There were no roads at this time, but bridle paths led from Marion to his new possessions. In going to and returning from Ft. Wayne, Indiana, where the land office was then located, he would lie down and sleep in the woods beside the path when and wherever night would overtake him. Smith Lounsbury was the father of seven children, three of whom are yet living: Jane, born in Connecticut February 16, 1825, deceased; Truman, born in Connecticut, January 9, 1828, deceased; Nathan, born in Connecticut July 8, 1830, deceased; Hannah, born in Ohio October 5, 1832; Matilda, born in Marion, Indiana, July 22, 1835, deceased; Henrietta, born November 3, 1837, on Sugar creek in Grant county, widow of J. I. McGrew, Montpelier, Indiana, who is now deceased; Sylvester, the subject, born on Salimonic river in Wells county.

The subject attended the district schools of Jackson township until he was twelve years of age. While he did not attend school after that early age, yet he is self-

educated to an extent sufficient to enable him to attend to all kinds of business. He has been a commissioner of Wells county and is now serving as a justice of the peace and finds no difficulty in transacting the business appertaining to those positions. The elder Lounsbury died when the subject was but a child, and when the latter was seventeen years of age he assumed the management of the farm, remaining home, caring for and supporting his mother. He continued thus until he was about twenty years old, when he decided to do for himself, and went into Delaware county, working by the day and month three years in that and Henry county, spending also some time in this manner in Michigan. After working five years in this way, he returned home to again care for his mother and was with her until her death. The last two years of her life she was continually in a very poor state of health and the subject believes he spent five hundred nights during that time at her bedside, working on the farm during the daytime.

Sylvester Lounsbury was married March 10, 1877, to Mahala Matlack, who was born November 14, 1856, in Preble county, Ohio. She was a daughter of William and Catherine (Stambach) Matlack, William being a native of Pennsylvania and Catherine of Ohio. William was married and first settled in Ohio, but about the year 1857 they removed to Huntington county, Indiana, purchasing the old McFarren farm, on which they lived the remainder of their lives. William Matlack was the father of four children, all of whom are living: David T., farmer in Liberty township, Wells county, married Mary E. Priddy and is the father of two sons, George A.

and Edward; Mary J. is the wife of Thomas Mounsey, a farmer of Liberty township, and is the mother of three children, Mahala, Debbie and Elna; Martha, wife of Thomas Weekly, a resident of Wells county, was first married to Palmer McKee, and is the mother of four children, David, Ida, William and Mattie; Mahala, the wife of the subject. Mrs. Lounsbury was but a child when brought to Huntington county by her parents, and she was here reared, receiving her education in the common schools. She is a lady of most pleasing address, of an affectionate nature, and has been a true and loving wife and mother. By her untiring efforts she has assisted largely in the erection of their cosy and comfortable home. After his marriage the subject settled on the farm he now occupies. He had at that time one hundred and twenty acres of land, on which he has since made many improvements and to which he has added by purchase two tracts of fifty-three acres and eighty acres respectively, and he now has a fine farm of two hundred and fifty-three acres in Wells county. He now has fourteen producing oil wells, which are probably yielding from sixty to sixty-five barrels of oil per day.

The subject devotes the greater part of his time to farming and especially to stock-raising. He has handled some western horses and has been greatly interested in cattle, especially of the shorthorn variety. Of sheep he prefers the Shropshire breed. The subject is the father of eight children: Wells, born July 25, 1884, at home; Vaughn, born January 5, 1888, at home; Ralph, born May 15, 1886; Cletus, born February 16, 1890; Fern, born November 30, 1891; Earl, born February 5, 1893;

Jeanette, born May 3, 1894; Winnie, born May 10, 1897.

Mr. Lounsbury has always acted with the Democratic party and is a firm believer in the principles of that organization. He was elected, by his party about 1880, as one of the commissioners of Wells county, and served for three years, his colleagues being Studabaker and John Sowards, who died soon after the subject became a member of the board, Ephraim Middaugh being appointed to the vacancy for the unexpired term. The first official business transacted after the subject became a member of the board was the letting of the contract for the Wells county jail. The first gravel roads in the county were built during his term of office. At about the same time the iron bridges in the county were also built, the old wooden bridges going down at that time and iron ones being generally substituted, the board advertising at one time for bids on as many as ten iron bridges for crossing streams in different parts of the county, but the board from some cause failed to receive a single bid on these bridges. The subject, as he says, "took the ox by the horns," contracted for the stone and hired men to build the bridges. Mr. Lounsbury was appointed and afterward elected assessor and land appraiser for Jackson township, in which capacity he served for three years. Since November, 1901, he has been serving as justice of the peace of his township.

It has been the lot of the subject of this sketch to live at a period of our national history which has enabled him to see many of the transitions of the country from that of the possession of simply the utilitarian necessities of a new country and a border

civilization to that of the luxuries and culture which are the sequence of older and longer settled communities. His labors and experiences have partaken of the nature both of the pioneer and the recipients of the fruits of a yet earlier race of empire builders. Armed with the mental equipment secured in the common school, supported by the scant facilities of his early youth, he entered and bravely faced the battles of life. Deprived in childhood of a father's love and protection, he devoted years of his youth and young manhood to the filial care and support of his widowed mother. In the race of life, which his friends hope may not close for many years, his native ability, supplemented by his self improvement and united with his strength of character, has enabled him to win a competence and serve with honor in the several offices to which the esteem and confidence of his party friends has successively called him. He is a successful farmer and business man, a good citizen and neighbor and worthy of the high estimation in which he is held.

Mr. and Mrs. Lounsbury have in their possession several relics of "ye olden days," among which are two double coverlets, and a counterpane woven or made by Mrs. Lounsbury's mother. They also have copies of the oldest almanacs extant, one, published in 1816, having been published by Cotton and called "New Virginia Almanack;" also an almanac of 1805, and a Bible printed about 1800.

MRS. ELIZABETH GEHRETT.

Among the more prominent, refined and noble ladies of Bluffton and Wells county,

Indiana, is Mrs. Elizabeth Gehrett, who was born about fifty-two years ago in Medina county, Ohio, a daughter of David and Christina (Shaffer) Keller, natives of Germany. David and Christina Keller were both children when brought to America by their respective parents, who settled in Medina county, Ohio, in close proximity to each other, and there the two children grew to maturity together and in due time were united in marriage. David Keller engaged largely in farming and stock raising in Medina county, Ohio, was a quiet and unassuming gentleman, was held in the highest esteem by his neighbors, and passed the remainder of his life on his farm.

To David and Christina Keller were born eight children, of whom six are still living, two of the daughters being married to well-to-do farmers in Nottingham township, Wells county. Elizabeth, one of these six survivors, was reared on the home farm and in her girlhood days was familiar with the duties pertaining to a rural home. During the proper seasons of the year she was sent to the district school and, being bright and apt, easily acquired the knowledge with which her mind is so well stored today; later on she attended the normal school and was trained to the technicalities of teaching.

On coming from her native state to Wells county, Indiana, to visit an elder sister in Nottingham township, Elizabeth Keller was employed for several terms as a school teacher and while thus engaged she formed the acquaintance of Henry S. Gehrett, a native of the township and a son of Amos Gehrett. This acquaintanceship ripened into a warmer feeling and September 20, 1868, Henry S. Gehrett and Elizabeth Keller were joined in the holy bonds of matrimony.

Henry S. Gehrett was born in 1846 and was reared to farming and stock raising, but in early life he was given ample opportunity to attend the district schools during the winter seasons and thus secured a very fair education. On reaching his majority he engaged in agriculture on his own account and farmed on a very extensive scale and also raised great numbers of cattle and other live stock. He was a man of true worth and honesty and was ever recognized as one of the best citizens of Wells county.

In 1889 Henry S. Gehrett withdrew from farming and took up his residence in Bluffton and engaged in the livery business, in which he continued the remainder of his life, dying March 31, 1894. Although not a member of any church, Mr. Gehrett was a liberal contributor to all the congregations in his neighborhood and was himself a strictly moral man, being guided in all his acts by the sublime lesson inculcated by the Master in his Sermon on the Mount and familiarly designated as the Golden Rule. In politics Mr. Gehrett was a Democrat and was active in the interests of his party, but preferred to devote his attention to his private affairs and the interests of his family.

To Henry S. and Elizabeth (Shaffer) Gehrett were born three children, viz: Sarah A., deceased; Amos S. and Hugh L., also deceased. The departure of these children leaves Mrs. Gehrett somewhat forlorn in the decline of life, but she possesses excellent business qualifications and ably manages her farm of two hundred and forty acres, eighty acres of which reach the incorporated town of Bluffton and one hundred and sixty acres a little further away in Nottingham township. The residence of Mrs. Gehrett, however, is on East Market

street, Bluffton, where she has a beautiful home.

Mrs. Gehrett is a lady of culture and refinement and is held in high esteem by the entire population of Harrison township as well as Bluffton.

R. A. KILANDER.

R. A. Kilander was born in Jackson township, Wells county, Indiana, and is a son of Perry and Elizabeth (Martin) Kilander, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of the state of Ohio. His parents were married in Ohio, where they settled and engaged in farming for a few years. In a very early day they removed to Jackson township, Wells county, Indiana, where the wife, Mary E., died March 14, 1901, and where the father is yet living on the old home place, at the venerable age of eighty years. Perry Kilander is the father of twelve children, ten of whom are living: Margaret, Maria, Elizabeth, deceased, Calvin, deceased, William, Mottrey, Olive, R. A., the subject, Rebecca, Jacob, Emma and John.

Mr. Kilander attended the district schools in Jackson township, Wells county, until the age of eighteen years. He then went to school in Bluffton, Indiana, for two terms, one in the normal and the other in the city schools, while under the superintendency of Colonel McCleary. He then secured license to teach, but never had much desire to enter that profession. He remained at home with his parents until he was twenty-one years old, at which time he was married, on March 25, 1882, to Emily McIntyre, who was born in West Virginia,



R. A. KILANDER VIEW.

April 12, 1862. She was the daughter of William and Mary (Fearnow) McIntyre, both natives of Virginia, who later settled in Jackson township, Wells county, Indiana, on the farm where the subject now lives, remaining there until they died. William McIntyre's death occurred on December 2, 1900, and that of his wife December 11, 1890. William was the father of four children, two of whom are yet alive: Zelpha, born September 17, 1839, died May 26, 1842; Mary, born December 11, 1840, died May 28, 1842; Richard, born August 27, 1842, and Emily, born April 12, 1862. After his marriage R. A. Kilander moved onto his father-in-law's farm and, farming on shares, he remained there until the death of both of his wife's parents, since which time he has had full control of the old McIntyre farm. Mr. Kilander, together with his father-in-law, had previously purchased a one-half interest in the old McIntyre farm, which up to that time belonged to Harrison McIntyre, a brother of William. Some time previous to his death William had disposed of his interest in the farm to his children, reserving a life-time lease. Mr. Kilander and wife now have three hundred and sixty and a half acres of fine land, one hundred and twenty acres of which is in Chester township. He has twenty-four producing oil wells on his farms and others are being drilled.

In March, 1900, Mr. Kilander completed the finest house in Wells county and one of the finest in the state, which cost about eight thousand dollars, the work on which he himself superintended. He had plans drawn, but no architect oversaw the building. He had the finishing lumber which was used in the construction of the building

laid away seasoning for twelve years. It is finished in different costly woods, showing the natural grain, and the house is heated and lighted by gas. It is constructed of brick and stone, with mansard roof. The furnishings of the house are costly and in elegant taste and the home is a credit to the state. Mr. Kilander is a breeder of both Chester White and Poland China hogs and a general class of cattle. He prefers, however, the shorthorn breed when he can obtain them. He farms, or at least oversees the farming of, the greater part of his lands.

Mr. Kilander is the father of eight children, seven of whom are living: Charles E., born December 20, 1882, married Nannie E. Alexander and lives at home with his father; Mary A., born March 9, 1884; William, born February 24, 1886; Carrie A., born September 10, 1889, died September 9, 1890; Lulu M., born June 30, 1891; Lela A., born April 23, 1895; Robb M., born September 21, 1899, and Catherine L., born August 23, 1901. The subject has always been a Democrat, although he was not reared in that political faith. He has been trustee of Jackson township for five years, the three preceding terms having been held by Republicans who had been elected by both Republicans and Populists. This fact proves his personal popularity among his neighbors. The subject is also superintendent of seventeen miles of gravel roads in this county, the appointment to which position is made by the county commissioners.

R. A. Kilander is a representative of the energetic, go-ahead class of farmers of the state, a product of the farm life and the admirable system of our country and city schools. He is a citizen in whom any locality might take pride. The capacity and

aptitude for public affairs which he possesses and his own personal popularity, with the confidence of his neighbors and party friends in his integrity and executive ability, has already enabled him to serve them in a public capacity, and the same conditions will no doubt in the future call him to other and higher trusts in the public service.

Mr. and Mrs. Kilander have an old fashioned spinning wheel and reel of "ye old days" of their mothers. They have some of the old family records of the McIntyre and Fearnow families which dates to 1815 and 1817, these beautiful records being executed with pen and ink. The great-grandfather of Mrs. Kilander has left his record also from Scotch-Irish ancestry, and dates back to 1754 and 1773. Mrs. Kilander has some of her grandmother's dishes, over a century old, and also double combs.

W. A. DONALDSON.

Among all branches of history, there is none more instructive or more eagerly sought after than that which truthfully delineates the rise and progress of the state, county or community in which the reader lives. There is pleasure as well as profit to every intelligent mind in contemplating the struggles of the early settlers in every portion of the great west; how they encountered and successfully overcame every species of trial, hardship and danger to which men in that stirring period were subjected. But these things strike us more forcibly and fill our minds with more immediate interest when confined to our own locality where we can yet occasionally meet

with some of the silver haired actors in those early scenes, men whose bravery in encountering the manifold troubles and misfortunes incident to frontier times has borne an important part towards making Indiana what it now is and whose acts, in connection with hundreds of others in the first settling of our vast domain, have compelled the world to acknowledge the Americans an invincible people. The early settlement of Wells county was marked by as much heroism and daring as characterized the frontier history of any other section of the state. Her pioneers were men of invincible courage, undaunted by no obstacle, and the results of their self-sacrificing labors are today seen in the wonderful achievements they wrought in laying the foundation upon which their successors have builded wisely and well. The great majority of these veterans of the early day long since finished their work and are now sleeping the peaceful sleep which knows no waking on this side of the mystic stream of death. To meet and converse with the few living representatives of the pioneer period, those who came here as children or as very young men and women and are now fast approaching or have passed the allotted three score years and ten, stooped with age, venerable patriarchs mostly and their white haired companions and helpmeets, is one of the peculiar experiences and pleasing tasks which falls to the lot of the writers of these pages. To gather up the raveled and now mostly broken threads of the strange but simple stories of their lives, to catch the fleeting facts of their histories and hand them on to posterity, might well be the ambitious labor of any man's life.

Among the oldest surviving pioneers of

Wells county is the well known gentleman whose name furnishes the heading of this review. W. A. Donaldson came to Indiana nearly fifty-three years ago and from that time to the present his life has been very closely identified with the growth and development of Wells county. In his veins is mingled the blood of a long line of sturdy Scotch and Irish ancestors and he appears to have inherited many of the sterling characteristics which have made those nationalities noted among the people of the earth. From the most reliable information obtainable the first representatives of the Donaldson family to visit the United States was one Isaac Donaldson, who left the shores of his native Scotland early in the colonial period and found a home in eastern Pennsylvania when that part of the Keystone state was a wilderness infested by wild-beasts and the scarcely less wild but more bloodthirsty red men. He became the father of three daughters and one son, the latter, James by name, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch. Not long after locating in Pennsylvania the French and Indian war broke out and in the long and arduous struggle which followed the elder Donaldson took a brave and active part. Joining a company of volunteers he participated in a number of bloody battles in one of which he lost his life, leaving his children to the care of his widow by whom they were reared to years of maturity.

James Donaldson grew to manhood in Pennsylvania and there married Martha Reynolds, whose people were also among the early pioneers of that state. To this marriage were born sons and daughters, among whom was Robert Donaldson, the father of the subject. The family achieved much

more than local prominence in that several of the brothers of Robert became noted in different walks of life, among their descendants being a minister of distinction, successful architects, well-to-do farmers and others who rose to leading public positions in their own and other states. Robert Donaldson was reared to agricultural pursuits, but early in life turned his attention to carpentry and in due time became a skillful and successful builder. In 1850 he left Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, where he had previously lived, and came to Wells county, Indiana, settling in the deep woods of what is now the township of Lancaster, where he purchased land and began the task of its improvement. After erecting a small cabin of the most primitive pattern he addressed himself to the formidable work of clearing a farm, which in due season was accomplished. After the death of his first wife he moved to Ossian, where some time later he took a second companion, and after her death he migrated to Iowa, of which state he was also a pioneer. Mr. Donaldson spent the remainder of his days in Iowa, dying there a number of years ago respected by all who knew him. Reared according to the strict teaching of the Presbyterian church, he became a prominent member of that body and lived a life consistent with his religious profession. Gifted in music, he devoted his splendid talents to the worship of God and wherever he lived invariably led the singing in the churches with which he worshipped. He was a good man, just in all his dealings, kept himself unspotted from the world, and left to his descendants a character above reproach and a reputation for probity and godliness which they prize as a priceless heritage.

Robert Donaldson was the father of five children, namely: James, Catherine, William A., Jane and Samuel.

William A. Donaldson, of this review, was a son by his father's first wife, who bore the maiden name of Ann Felton. He was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, on the 19th of August, 1833, and at the age of sixteen accompanied his parents to Indiana, growing to mature years in the county of Wells. Before leaving the home of his childhood he attended at intervals such schools as the community afforded, but after coming to the new home in the wilderness his assistance was required in clearing and developing the farm, consequently there was little time at his disposal to devote to educational discipline. He grew up strong of limb and lithe of body and while still a youth in his teens had become so inured to vigorous exercise with the axe and other implements as to be able to do a man's work at all kinds of manual labor.

Mr. Donaldson remained with his parents until 1855, on August 9 of which year he was united in marriage to Miss Eliza Karns and began farming upon his own responsibility. Mrs. Donaldson is the daughter of Michael and Lucinda (Mann) Karns and was born in Ohio in the year 1834. She was brought to Wells county as early as 1842 and grew to young womanhood near Ossian, later moving to Bluffton. She was educated in the common schools and for one term prior to her marriage taught in the Bluffton school, earning the reputation of a capable and popular teacher.

Mr. and Mrs. Donaldson set up their first domestic establishment on the Donaldson homestead and nothing occurred to dis-

turb or mar the serenity of their lives until the approaching clouds of the great Civil war. When the struggle began, Mr. Donaldson, with true patriotic fervor, laid aside the implements of husbandry and tendered his services to his country. Enlisting at Wabash on the 22nd day of August, 1862, in Company G, One Hundred and First Indiana Infantry, he proceeded to Indianapolis, thence to the front, his regiment joining the force under Rosecrans in time to take part in the celebrated pursuit of Bragg through Tennessee and Kentucky. His first engagement of any note was the bloody battle at Perryville, where his command faced the enemy in the thickest of the fight, after which, by reason of sickness brought on by exposure and overexertion he was sent to the hospital for treatment. So completely broken down was he that five months elapsed before he was able to rejoin his command and no sooner had he done so than he was discharged as being entirely unfit for active service. Returning home in March, 1863, Mr. Donaldson resumed farming, cheered by the delusive hope that a few months spent thus would so improve his health as to enable him again to join his regiment and assist in crushing the rebellion. To his great disappointment his ailment did not yield easily to treatment and he was obliged to forego the pleasure of participating in the final overthrow of the cause of the Confederacy. He has never entirely recovered from the disability contracted while in the service and still suffers therefrom, although able to look after his farm and manage successfully his various business interests.

Mr. Donaldson continued agricultural pursuits with most gratifying result until

October, 1897, meantime purchasing the old family homestead of one hundred and twenty acres, of which he made one of the best farms in the county of Wells. As a farmer he easily ranked with the most enterprising and successful in the township of Lancaster, bringing his place to a high state of tillage and carrying on his labors by the most approved methods of modern agriculture. By reason of advancing age and increasing infirmities he finally concluded to abandon active labor and spend the rest of his life in the enjoyment of the well earned fruits of many years of honest toil; accordingly in the year 1897, he turned his place over to the care of others, purchased a comfortable home in Bluffton and since that time has been living in honorable retirement.

Mr. and Mrs. Donaldson have been blessed with eight children, the oldest of whom, William W., died in infancy; Lucy, whose birth occurred on the 11th of April, 1858, died in the year 1880; Frank, born July 1, 1860, married Bessie Ward and is engaged in business in the state of Iowa; Luella, the next in order of birth, died when an infant; Samuel, born June 20, 1867, was one of the county's successful teachers and departed this life in November, 1887; Carrie, born August 14, 1869, is the wife of Alexander Brickley and lives in Lancaster township on the old homestead; Jennie was born June 3, 1873, and died in January, 1899; she was a graduate of the Ossian high school, a popular teacher and a young lady of refinement and varied culture; Lewis, born August 29, 1875, is now substituting on a rural mail route with a promise of a regular route to be established soon. Mr. Donaldson spared no pains in providing his children with the best educational advan-

tages obtainable and they in turn profited by his efforts in their behalf. He has always been a friend of whatever tended to benefit the community, materially, intellectually and socially, and in matters religious, like his ancestors before him, he has adhered strictly to the Presbyterian creed, holding the responsible position of ruling elder in the congregation to which he now belongs. While an ardent Republican and earnest in the expression of his opinions, he has never been an active partisan, much less an aspirant for public distinction or official honors. Fraternally he is a member of Lew Dailey Post No. 33, G. A. R., and is now holding the office of junior vice commander in that organization, his wife being an active worker in the Woman's Relief Corps. Mr. and Mrs. Donaldson are among the old and highly respected citizens of Wells county, and have seen the county developed from a primitive condition to its present advanced state of prosperity and civilization. In numerous ways they have contributed to the many remarkable changes that have taken place within the last half century and now in the evening of life, after having borne the burden and heat of the day, they are passing toward the twilight and the journey's end, loved and revered by their children and honored by a large circle of friends, all of whom wish the venerable couple many more years in which to bless the world with their presence.

J. W. BOCK.

J. W. Bock was born May 19, 1861, near Sulphur Springs, Henry county, Indiana. He is a son of C. C. M. Bock, a na-

tive of Henry county, who was a son of Michael and Margaret Bock. C. C. M. Bock married Eliza E. Benbow, of Henry county, a daughter of Adam and Abigail Benbow, both natives of North Carolina. Eliza died April 8, 1898, in Jackson township, Wells county, Indiana, and C. C. M. Bock is now a resident of Marion, Indiana. He is the father of eleven children, of whom five are living: Jacob M., born November 16, 1859, is now a contractor in Sulphur Springs, Henry county, Indiana; J. W., born May 19, 1861; Willie F., born January 28, 1863, died March 7, 1863; David A., born January 29, 1864, now a resident of Wells county; Lena A., born September 9, 1866, the wife of James Dove, of Warren, Indiana; Morris N., born September 11, 1869, died October 7, 1875, and Sarah A. and Margaret A., twins, born June 8, 1872; Sarah A. died August 30, 1872, and Margaret died March 16, 1874; Carl, born July 5, 1874, a resident of Jackson township, Wells county, Indiana; Ralph was born January 2, 1877, and died March 10, 1880; Chrisella, born September 7, 1881, married H. C. Rybolt, now a resident of Warren, Indiana. C. C. M. Bock was a soldier of the Civil war. He was discharged one year after his enlistment on account of disability, but later re-enlisted for three years and was in service until the close of the war.

J. W. Bock attended the district school in Jefferson township, Henry county, Indiana, until he was fourteen years old. He then entered the New Castle graded school, which he attended for two years, finishing his school life at the age of sixteen years. He then went with his parents, by wagon, to Cloud county, Kansas, starting Septem-

ber 15, 1877, and arriving at their destination November 19, stopping on the way for three weeks, two of which were spent in St. Joseph, Missouri. J. W. remained in Kansas until December 23, 1879, his parents in the meantime having moved to St. Joseph, Missouri. He was unable to go with them at the time of their removal on account of having a job of work on hand at the time for which he was to receive a hundred dollars for eight months' work. He considered this a good job, so remained and finished it, saving the money which he received for it. After his arrival at St. Joseph he returned with his parents to Henry county, Indiana. He remained in Henry county for two years, but was not satisfied, wishing to return to Kansas. In order to induce his parents to return to that state he went there again in 1882 and put out a crop of corn, also cultivating his uncle's corn in order to get the use of the team to attend to his own. Failing to induce his parents to come to him, he sold his corn crop, nine acres for sixty dollars, receiving twenty-five dollars of this amount at the time of sale, and taking a mortgage on the buyer's three cows for the balance. Two days before he left the state the hot winds came and in two days more time the corn was burned up. He arrived at the home of his parents in Henry county, Indiana, again, in the fall of 1882. His father, having met with a serious accident while the family was living at St. Joseph, Missouri, was afterward more or less unable to perform any labor. This being the case, after his return from Kansas with his parents in 1880, it fell to the lot of the subject to help care for his father's family. He began working on the railroad, doing section work, but after three months, his health

failing, he had to give up that kind of labor. After his return from Kansas, in November, 1882, he met with an accident and was not able to walk without the aid of crutches until the following March. He was unable to do much work during the following summer and spent his time until the next spring as an apprentice in a harness shop at Sulphur Springs, Indiana. He then spent the spring and summer of 1884 working on a farm near Point Isabel, Grant county, Indiana. September 16, 1884, he came to Wells county, Indiana, and began working by the month for Oliver Jones and James Cloud. In the following year, July 8, 1885, he was married to Sarilda Hudson, a daughter of Sarah Hudson, who had been reared by John Jones, the father of Oliver P. Jones and Elizabeth Cloud. After John's death his property was inherited by Oliver Jones and James Cloud, the husband of Elizabeth. These two families had lived together and with them Sarah Hudson and her daughter Sarilda also lived until the latter grew to womanhood and married the subject of this sketch. After his marriage Mr. Bock and wife lived in the same house with the families of Oliver B. Jones and James Cloud, making three families under the same roof. He worked by the month for three years and then began to receive a share of the crops for his labor, continuing in this way until the spring of 1901, when Oliver Jones and Elizabeth Cloud removed to Warren, Indiana, James Cloud having died on April 19, 1900. Since that time Mr. Bock has had full control of the farm of three hundred and sixty acres of land and gives his special attention to Mr. Jones' family.

The families of Jones and Cloud were among the first settlers of Jackson township, Wells county, Indiana. This land was

purchased by John Jones and at his death it passed into the hands of his son Oliver, the title yet remaining vested in their names. Their doors were always open to the poor and they never turned a stranger away who sought either food or shelter. Among the most remarkable instances of the interest which they took in the welfare of the poor and unfortunate was in the taking of orphan children into their homes, caring for and rearing them until they were able to provide for themselves. The number of those whom they thus fostered, educated and cared for was about sixteen and they all learned to look upon them as kind and generous benefactors. They treated these waifs as kindly as if they had been their own children and those who survive remember them as tenderly as if they had been their own parents. The subject has been on the same farm for seventeen years; he is a general stock farmer, preferring shorthorn cattle, but breeds good stock of all classes. He is the father of four children: Leona May, born May 30, 1886, is at home with her parents; Milton T., born August 11, 1888; Ward V., born November 6, 1893; Eliza E., born May 16, 1897. Both he and wife are members of the Christian church, with which they became connected December 17, 1886. He was chosen an elder in July, 1889, and served in that capacity until the disbanding of the congregation on account of the dangerous condition of the church. The building was sold and the congregation intended to build another, but have not yet done so. The organization went down in 1894, after Mr. Bock had served eight years as an elder. He is also a member of Lodge No. 684, I. O. O. F., of Mt. Zion, Indiana, and No. 167, Encampment, of Warren, Indiana. He was elected assessor of Jackson

township, Wells county, Indiana, by the Democratic party in the fall of 1892 and began the active work of the office in the spring of 1894, retaining the office six years. He is now a member of the advisory board of his township; has always affiliated with the Democratic party, works some during campaigns and has represented his party as a delegate in various political conventions. J. W. Bock was born amid the excitement that attended the opening days of the Civil war, and is the son of a veteran, one of the grand army to which, as the passing years shed the glamour which dignifies and glorifies historic events, rising generations will feel under greater and more lasting obligations. He is of that class of ambitious Americans whose aspirations in youth inspired him with the desire to identify himself with the boundless opportunities of the wide spreading prairie lands of the west, and after making two trips to that country, worked one season and another farmed on his own account; he returned to his home in Indiana with filial solicitude, to aid in taking care of his father, who had met with an accident previously, and of the family who needed his assistance. Thus he was prevented from realizing his ambitions fully, perhaps, but he has the consciousness of having performed his duty, which he has ever done in all the relations of life as a citizen, neighbor and friend.

S. J. BATSON.

Samuel J. Batson, who was born October 17, 1830, in Henry county, Indiana, is a son of Nathaniel Batson, born in Ohio,

February 24, 1808. He was a son of Samuel Batson, a native of New Jersey and of Welsh descent. The maternal parent of the subject and wife of Nathaniel Batson was Nancy (Ralston) Batson, born in the state of Kentucky, January 9, 1812. She was the daughter of James Ralston and came with her parents to Wayne county, Indiana. She grew to womanhood in Henry county, Indiana, where she met and married Nathaniel Batson, who had come to Henry county with his parents when he was fifteen years old, about the year 1823.

Nathaniel Batson, after his marriage, settled in Henry county and engaged in farming there until the spring of 1837, when they removed to Wells county, Indiana, and there entered four hundred and sixty-two acres of land in section 11, Jackson township. This land was in the woods, the nearest neighbor being distant one mile and the next nearest two miles away. Nathaniel and Nancy Batson spent the remainder of their lives in Wells county, where they both died, Nathaniel in 1878 and Nancy in 1881. They were the parents of twelve children: Samuel J., the subject; Lavina, deceased; Esther, deceased; Nathaniel died in infancy; Andrew Jackson died in infancy; William died in Oklahoma; Mary, deceased; Martin, now a resident of Bluffton, Indiana; Eliza Jane, the wife of Henry Roush, now living near Mt. Zion, Indiana; Sarah, deceased; John, and Nancy, the wife of Andrew Gephart.

The subject was schooled in the subscription schools in Jackson township, the present admirable common school system not having been developed at that time in the locality. The sessions of the school where the subject attended were held in an



MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL BATSON.

old log cabin with greased paper for window lights, slab seats and puncheon flooring. Samuel attended his last term of school when he was about nineteen years of age. He then remained at home with his father until his marriage. He was married January 15, 1852, to Catherine Huffman, born December 11, 1832. Her parents, Henry and Elizabeth (Eversole) Huffman, were natives of Clark county, Ohio, but settled later in Jackson township, Wells county, Indiana. Elizabeth died in Ohio and Henry in Wells county, Indiana. Henry was twice married, his second wife being Catherine Baker. To his first union four children were born, all of whom are yet living: Jacob, a resident of Huntington county, Indiana; Catherine, the wife of the subject; Sarah, the wife of Isaac Jones, and Peter, a resident of Ohio. To his second union ten children were born: Frederick, Mary S., deceased, George, Samuel, Evelyn, Levi, John, Lydia, Eliza and Henry. After his marriage the subject settled on the farm and in the same house in which he now lives; he and his father hewed out the logs of which it is built. The house has had three roofs since it was built, the father shaving the shingles for the first, and the subject those for the second roofing, but he had to buy the material for the third and last covering, which is still in good condition.

When the wife of the subject was a girl she was an adept in the accomplishments of weaving, spinning, etc., which were common housewifely occupations in those days, when they made all their own clothing. She yet retains a spinning wheel which belonged to an aunt. The subject cleared up the land on which he now lives. As he says, he had to "dig it out." He is the father of nine

children, seven of whom are yet living: Nathaniel, born August 9, 1853, married Mary Wyley September 28, 1882, and is the father of three boys, Firman, an oil pumper, Aubrey and Oris; Sarah, the second child, was born August 1, 1855, and is now the wife of Henry Swaim: she was first married to William Smithson, to which union five children were born, William E., Franklin, Lloyd, Clinton and Edith; to her second marriage two children have been born, Alva and Orval Swaim; the third child of the subject, Henry, was born December 27, 1857, married Sarah J. Sills, and they are the parents of three children, Dessa, Letha and Mary T.; the fifth child, Nancy C., was born February 26, 1862, is the wife of Henry King and has one son, Frank; Mary E. was born July 8, 1860, and is the wife of A. J. Faust, a resident of Nottingham township, Wells county, and has three children, Ada May, Clara B. and Catharine; Ella M., born July 6, 1864, is the wife of Homer Knott, of Hartford City, Indiana, and they have two children, Winona and Inez; Elnora, born July 21, 1867, was the wife of John Click, but died August 10, 1893, leaving one child, Orta; Laura A., born April 3, 1874, wife of Lawson J. Beavans, has four children, Leha, Fay, Jesse and James H.; Clara Belle, born October 3, 1876, died August 28, 1891.

Mr. Batson has been a general stock farmer. He is in the oil field and has on his farm six producing wells, making seven inches (tank measure) a day, which yields him a profit of fifteen or twenty dollars per month. He has devoted his whole life to farming, occasionally helping to run a threshing machine in the fall of the year. Mr. Batson now owns forty acres of land

on which he lives. He and his wife are both connected with the Campbellite (or Christian) church, of which they are consistent members. Politically the subject has always acted and voted with the Democratic party. He is of a class which is rapidly passing away and has witnessed all the stages of development of his locality from a comparative wilderness to its present highly improved and well cultivated condition. He has seen the evolution in temples of learning from the log cabin with puncheon floors and greased paper window lights, and subscription schools, to the palatial buildings now devoted to the uses of the common schools of the country, and in all the multitudinous and laborious changes that have transformed the face of nature he has well borne his part. In the course of nature it will not be many years until the last of these hardy pioneers will be gathered to their fathers. While it is scarcely possible for the present generation to realize what they have passed, the greatest compliment they can pay to their memory is to emulate their example.

I. K. CLARK.

I. K. Clark was born in Maryland or Virginia about the year 1839. His father, Matthew J. Clark, was a native of Virginia and his mother, Fannie O'Terrel, of the state of Maryland, and were married and settled in Virginia in an early day. Matthew in his earlier days was a merchant or store keeper, but the latter part of his life he spent in the vocation of farming in the state of Virginia. He remained in that state until his death, his wife dying in Butler county, Pennsylvania. He was twice

married and had by his first wife five children, John G., William, Elizabeth, Catherine and James, all of whom are deceased. By his second marriage he was also the father of five children, three of whom are still alive: Frances, deceased, was the wife of Thomas Jacobs; Matthew J., Jr., is now a resident of Marietta, Ohio; M. G. was a resident of Washington, Pennsylvania, but now of Warren, Indiana; I. K., the subject, and Clemit, deceased. During the Civil war the southern army entered and ransacked Matthew Clark's house, destroying everything, including records, etc., he being absent at the time as a soldier in the Federal army.

I. K. Clark obtained his schooling in the state of Virginia by attending the subscription schools. He attended his last term of school when he was about twelve years old and when he was thirteen years of age he began to do and care for himself by working by the month. He continued to work in this way until his marriage, April 11, 1880, to Minerva Russell, a daughter of Robert and Elizabeth (Lyon) Russell, the father a native of Pennsylvania and his wife of Ohio. Mrs. Clark came to Wells county with her parents in an early day (about 1843). Neither of her parents are now living, both having died in Wells county. The subject came to Delaware county, Indiana, about 1867, having a sister residing there. He began working by the month and was there for about two years. His sister, who had a tract of wild land in Liberty township, Wells county, made a proposition to him for the clearing of this land, which he accepted and came to Wells county and began working by the day, and at odd spells on this clearing. After a few years he purchased

forty acres of land of a Mr. Smith, which he also cleared up. He then purchased an additional forty, which he cleared, thus possessing an improved farm of eighty acres in one body. He then purchased forty acres more, which he partially cleared, having then a hundred and twenty acres of fine land in Liberty township, Wells county, secured by the labor of his own hands. He continued his work, boarding at different times with John J. Kingon, James Davis, George White and Thomas Jacobs. Having gone in debt on his land, in order to make better wages he spent the harvest and corn-husking seasons in Delaware county, carrying his wheat cradle on his shoulder from Wells county to his field of labor, where he received twenty-five cents extra on the day's labor. At one time on his way across the country he had to stop over night. Telling his host he was looking for work, the farmer kept him over night without charge, but not wishing to impose upon the hospitality of his entertainer, the subject shouldered his cradle and proceeded breakfastless on his way. After traveling a couple of miles he came upon an old man and a boy who were just beginning to reap a field of ten acres of wheat. Entering the field, the subject inquired of the owner if he wanted a hand to help harvest his wheat. Being answered in the affirmative, a bargain was struck for putting the field of wheat in the swath for the sum of ten dollars. So anxious was the subject to complete his task that without mentioning the subject of breakfast, he set down his carpet sack and begun work, awaiting the regular noon hour for something to eat. He continued his work until the field of wheat was in the swath, received his pay and pursued his

way. This incident is a striking example of the habits of industry, economy and sturdy independence that have characterized his whole life. He found more work in the same settlement, and remained through the harvest, threshing and corn cutting seasons as well, and finally when cold weather came on he employed himself in "grubbing" and did not leave Delaware county until he had earned one hundred and fifty dollars, which he applied in payment on purchase of his first forty acres of land. At one time Mr. Clark asked a Mr. Smith what he would take for a certain forty-acre tract of land, and he replied seven hundred dollars. How much down, was the next inquiry of the subject, who was desirous of adding to his vested possessions. "Oh," was the reply, "enough to pay the delinquent taxes, about fifteen dollars, and the balance on the 15th of the following December." Having fifteen dollars due him for a month's work for a man in Delaware county, the subject was thus able to make the first payment and accepted Smith's proposition, the deeds being drawn by Mr. Daily and the first payment of fifteen dollars duly paid in hand. Mr. Clark then went to Delaware county and borrowed the remainder of the money necessary to complete the purchase at ten per cent. and when the stipulated 15th of December came around he met his obligation by the payment of the balance of the purchase price, six hundred and eighty-five dollars. This transaction shows the comparative values put on land at that time with the present, and it also shows the tenacity of purpose and prompt and sagacious action of the subject in securing that most valuable of assets in a new and growing county, well located and pro-

ductive real estate. In 1880 Mr. Clark married and settled on the farm where he now lives in Jackson township and has been here ever since. He has devoted his entire life to the vocation of farming and allied interests. He has been a general stock farmer, breeding and handling hogs, cattle and sheep. In the line of hogs, he prefers the Chester White and Poland China varieties, while in cattle and sheep, the short-horn and Shropshires respectively engage his fancy. He started in life without a dollar and is now the owner of three hundred and thirty-two acres of farm land and also two city lots in Muncie, Indiana. There are seventeen productive oil wells on his land, which at one time yielded him a profit of one hundred dollars a month.

Mr. Clark raised an orphan child from about eighteen months of age, who is now twenty-one years of age and a member of his family. Her name is Alice Carman, a bright young lady, and Mr. and Mrs. Clark think as much of her as their own child.

Politically the subject affiliates with the Republican party. The father of Mrs. Clark, Robert Russell, was born January 25, 1803, and died April 15, 1875, and her maternal parent, Elizabeth Russell, was born August 24, 1802, and died in September, 1882. The subject is an exemplar of the possibilities of our form of government, in which, however unfavorable may be the environments surrounding the actor in the labors of life, a determined purpose, with success the goal, coupled with habits of industry and thrift, is sure in the end to lead to competency and public esteem.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark have in their possession several valuable and curious relics of former days. Among them is a copper tea

kettle, in a good state of preservation, which is over three centuries old. They also have an old bread toaster, a century old, a pair of snuffers, a pair of andirons, and a double coverlet woven by the grandmother of Mrs. Clark. Another quaint article of furniture in their home is an old "grandfather's," or Longfellow, clock, seven feet tall and eighty-five years old, and which still keeps accurate time.

GEORGE W. KIMBLE.

The gentleman whose brief biography is herewith presented has achieved success in various walks of civil life and at a critical period in our national history, when the ship of state was almost stranded upon the rugged rock of disunion, proved his loyalty to his country by following the flag into the southland. The Kimble family had its origin in Holland, but for three or four generations has been represented in various parts of the United States. From the most authentic sources, it appears that the progenitor of the American branch settled in New Jersey in an early day, in which state at a subsequent period was born the grandfather of the subject of this sketch. Some time after his marriage this ancestor moved to Ohio, where he died in Perry county a number of years ago. Among his children was a son by the name of Uzal Kimble, who grew to maturity in the above county and there married Rachel McDaniel. Of this union were born four children, namely: Isabel, wife of John Harris; George W., of this review; Margaret, now Mrs. Thomas Shull, and William E., who married Rachel Brown, of Darke county, Ohio.

Uzal Kimble remained in his native state until 1850, when he disposed of his interests there and changed his residence to Wells county, Indiana, purchasing a farm in the township of Nottingham where he spent the remainder of his days. When a young man he united with the Christian church and later became an acceptable minister of that body, though seldom sustaining regular pastoral relations. He was a man of sincere convictions, an earnest and devout Christian and exercised a wholesome influence in the community by his upright conduct and correct deportment, as well as by the exercise of his public duties as an able preacher of the word.

George W. Kimble, the direct subject of this article, was born on the 14th day of August, 1845, in Athens county, Ohio, and until his seventeenth year assisted his father with the varied duties of the farm. His educational training was acquired in a little log school-house near the home of his childhood and at the age of seventeen he left the farm for the purpose of learning the trade of blacksmithing. In due time he became an efficient mechanic, but shortly after beginning the work for himself President Lincoln issued his call for volunteers to assist in crushing the great Rebellion. Like thousands of other loyal sons of the north, young Kimble tendered his services to the government, enlisting in Company G, One Hundred and Thirty-eighth Indiana Infantry, with which he shared the vicissitudes of war from 1864 until his regiment was mustered out of service. After his discharge he resumed blacksmithing in Wells county and continued working at the trade at various places until 1881, meanwhile devoting all of his leisure time to the study of law,

for which he early manifested a very decided preference. The better to prepare himself for the practice of the profession, he entered, the above year, the law department of the Northern Indiana Normal University at Valparaiso, where he prosecuted his legal studies for a period of two years, graduating in 1883 with the degree of LL. B. The same year in which he completed his course at the above institution, Mr. Kimble opened an office in Bluffton, where he has since been actively engaged in the practice, giving especial attention to collections. He is well versed in the underlying principles of jurisprudence, has earned the reputation of a sound and discreet counsellor and occupies a prominent position among his professional brethren of the Bluffton bar. Politically Mr. Kimble is one of the leading Republicans of Wells county and is always ready to do his share in promoting the success of his party in local, state and national elections. He was for three years justice of the peace in the township of Nottingham, aside from which he has held no official position nor has any ambition to gratify in that direction. Fraternally he belongs to Lodge No. 145, F. & A. M., and to his credit be it said that he has tried to square his life in harmony with the sublime principles of that order.

In the year 1870 Mr. Kimble was happily married to Miss Lydia M. Goodin, daughter of Rev. Smith Goodin, formerly superintendent of the Wells county public schools. Mrs. Kimble was born in Ohio, but came to Indiana when young and grew to mature years in the county in which she was married. She received an excellent education, was a lady of varied culture and for a number of years enjoyed the reputa-

tion of being one of the most capable and popular teachers in the county of Wells. She taught in the schools of Bluffton for six years and was engaged in educational work up to the time of her marriage. After a happy wedded life of twenty-two years duration, Mr. Kimble's home was invaded by the angel of death who, on the 30th day of March, 1892, summoned the faithful and loving wife to her final rest. She was a devoted Christian, a member of the Baptist church and died in the faith which had afforded her so much consolation and solace during her life.

As a citizen Mr. Kimble stands high in the esteem of the people of his city and all cheerfully concede his right to be called one of Wells county's representative men. Quiet and unassuming in manner and easily approachable, he belongs to that large and eminently respectable class of people that make their presence felt by actions rather than by words, and in every relation of life his conduct has been characteristic of the intelligent, enterprising man of affairs and true gentleman.

PETER BRICKLEY.

The subject of this sketch is among the oldest living settlers of Wells county, his residence of over a half a century covering the most important period in the history of this part of the state. He is a native of Ohio and the son of George and Belinda (Wolfe-call) Brickley, both parents born in Pennsylvania and descendants of old pioneer families of that commonwealth. In an early day George Brickley moved to Ohio, where he lived a number of years, subsequently

selling his possessions there and migrating to Wells county, Indiana, where he purchased a partially improved farm which he made his home for a considerable period. This place is situated in the township of Rock Creek and is now one of the oldest and best farms in that section of the country. Late in life Mr. Brickley changed his residence to a farm a short distance south of Markle and it was there that he spent the remainder of his days, dying at a good old age, honored and respected by the people of his own and other communities. He is remembered as a man of enterprise and untiring energy, progressive in his ideas and successful in the accumulation of land and other property. Of his family of eleven children the following are still living in the county of Wells: Peter, Alfred, Lewis, Nancy Jane, Ogden and Laura.

Peter is the second in order of birth and first saw the light of day at Lordstown, Ohio, August 1, 1832. He was reared in his native state, received such educational discipline as the indifferent subscription schools of those times could impart and, while still a mere lad, was obliged to assist his father with the varied labors of the farm. He was early taught lessons of industry and economy and grew to manhood strong and healthy in body and with a fixed purpose of making the most of such opportunities as came his way. He remained on the home place until his twenty-second year and then began life's struggle for himself, choosing the time honored vocation of an agriculturist as the pursuit most suited to his tastes and inclinations. Mr. Brickley lived in Ohio until 1851, after which he removed to Wells county with his parents, August 24, 1854. Mr. Brickley married Mary Ann Smith, of

Rock Creek township. At this time he was given a farm of sixty acres by his father which he afterwards sold and with the proceeds purchased a farm in Lancaster township. Addressing himself to the task of improving his land, he was rewarded in due time with a finely developed farm, to which additions were made at intervals when favorable opportunities presented themselves.

Mr. Brickley's career in Wells county was signally successful from the beginning. He continued to increase his holdings until his real estate amounted to three hundred and twenty-five acres, all admirably situated for agricultural purposes, and with the passing years and corresponding growth of the county these lands advanced in value until they now represent a fortune of no small magnitude. As a farmer he was enterprising in all the term implies and soon earned the reputation of one of the county's most successful and progressive agriculturists. In addition to tilling the soil he added much to his capital by buying and shipping live stock, also made considerable money raising cattle of his own, a business in which his success was most encouraging. He has always been a far-sighted business man and everything in which he engages seems to prosper. After acquiring a sufficiency of this world's goods to make him independent, Mr. Brickley, in 1896, left the farm and moved to Bluffton where he has since lived in honorable retirement. Blessed with an abundance of everything calculated to minister to his material comfort, he is now passing his declining years in the midst of friends and companions cheered by the thought that his competence was accumulated by honorable means and that his friendships were won by conduct above reproach.

Mr. Brickley was early led to take an active interest in political matters and ever since old enough to vote he has been an earnest and uncompromising supporter of the Democratic party. He never missed an election when able to go to the polls and his activity and leadership have contributed much to the strength and success of Democratic principles in Wells county during the fifty-two years of his residence therein. Early in the '70s he was elected justice of the peace of his township and continued to hold the office by successive elections until positively declining longer to serve, having held the position for a period of eight years. In 1890 he was nominated and elected a member of the board of county commissioners, the most important office within the gift of the people, and discharged the duties incident thereto for six years, having been chosen his own successor in 1894. It was during Mr. Brickley's incumbency as a member of the commissioner's court that many of the most important public improvements were inaugurated and carried to successful completion. Among these were the purchase of one hundred and twenty acres for a county farm, and the erection of the necessary buildings thereon, the construction of two large bridges across the Wabash, besides a general improvement of the public highways and other work of much importance to the people. Mr. Brickley's record as a public servant proved eminently satisfactory to the people, as well as affording him inward consciousness of having well and faithfully performed his duty. His judgment with respect to public matters was seldom if ever at fault, and his county is largely indebted to him for much of the prosperity which it now shares with its sister counties of the state.

Personally Mr. Brickley is a quiet and unassuming gentleman and his relations with his fellow citizens have always been of the most pleasant and agreeable character. He is not much given to speech making, but makes his presence felt by his actions, which have always been correct, and by his influence, which has ever been on the right side of all great moral questions and issues. His popularity with all classes of people is only bounded by the limits beyond which his name is not known and it is a compliment nobly earned and fittingly bestowed to class him with the best and most enterprising of the county's representative citizens.

In the year 1900 Mr. Brickley suffered a sad bereavement in the death of his faithful and devoted wife, since which time he has made his home with a daughter living in Bluffton. Mrs. Brickley was a lady of beautiful moral character, a sincere member of the Presbyterian church and, with a Christian's faith to cheer her, she entered into rest on April 19 of the above year. She bore her husband twelve children, namely: Andrew J., for a number of years one of the county's successful teachers; James; Louisa M.; Mary C.; John Z., formerly a teacher in the public schools; Elzy M., Cora J., Maggie, Frank, Arlie A. and Artha, all married except Artha and Maggie.

JOHN W. BEAVANS.

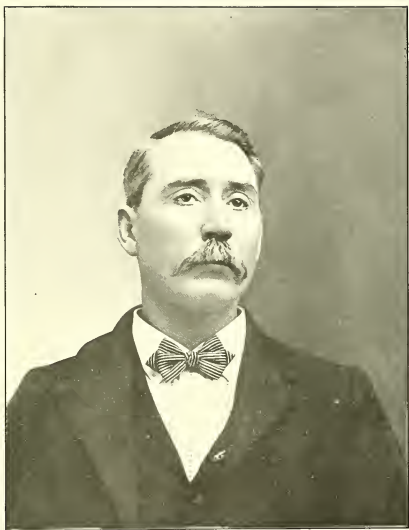
This young and thriving farmer of Jackson township, Wells county, Indiana, was born in Clinton county, Ohio, March 27, 1862. His father, James Beavans, was born in Monmouthshire, England, November 12, 1828. He remained in his native country

until about thirty years of age, when, on the 30th of April, 1859, he was united in marriage to Anne Williams, who was also a native of Monmouthshire. Soon after his marriage James Beavans came to the United States, landing at Portsmouth, Virginia, November 10, 1859, and soon afterward located in Clinton county, Ohio. In the fall of 1864 he removed to Blackford county, Indiana, remaining there until 1870, when he came to Jackson county, Indiana, and located first on a rented farm, from whence he subsequently removed to his late home in the same township. There, by industry and economy, he made for himself and family a home of comfort and plenty. He had in former years met with many reverses, which were very discouraging, but instead of yielding to their influences, it only awakened in him a determination to take a stronger hold upon the great possibilities of life. He was honest and upright with his fellow men; his word was as good as his bond; he was a good neighbor, honored and respected by all who knew him. He united with the Methodist church in 1885 and remained a consistent member until death. As a Christian he was not a sun that flashed and burned in mighty energy, but as a star that shone steadily in its constancy. For several years before his death his health and strength gradually failed, and he passed into the silent land February 1, 1899, aged seventy years, two months and eighteen days.

To James and Anne (Williams) Beavans were born seven children, named in order of birth as follows: Francis, now deceased; John W., in whose interest principally this biography is prepared; William E., at home with his mother; Horace A., deceased; David E., residing in Warren, Indiana;



Mary E. Beavans.



John W. Beavans

Lawson J., farming in Jackson township, and Mary M., wife of B. F. McCoy, a resident of Jefferson township, Huntington county, Indiana.

John W. Beavans attended the district schools of Jackson township until about twenty-one years of age, and continued to assist on the home farm until he married, March 6, 1886, Miss Mary E. Alexander, who was born March 7, 1865, and is a daughter of Robert and Mary Jane (Jones) Alexander, natives of Ohio, but who were brought to Indiana when young by their parents.

Robert and Mary Jane Alexander were the parents of nine children, namely: Rhoda Adeline, deceased; Susan; John T., a resident of Salmonie township, Huntington county; Enoch, farming in Jackson township, Wells county; William R., a resident of Jefferson township, Huntington county; Sarah, wife of Edward Fornsshell; Mary E., now Mrs. J. W. Beavans; Daniel, deceased, and an infant also deceased.

When John W. Beavans started in life for himself his father assisted in buying him a team of colts and John W. himself borrowed one hundred dollars with which to purchase furniture. He located on a part of his father's farm, where he resided about a year and then moved to a log cabin already standing on the farm he now occupies and here built his modern dwelling in 1894 and his substantial barn in 1901, and now owns one hundred and five acres of arable land and also twelve producing oil wells which in 1901 netted him a little over one hundred dollars per month; but the supply is gradually diminishing and the income from these wells is now about seventy dollars monthly. His farming is of a general

character, but he gives a great deal of attention to live stock, making specialties of shorthorn cattle, Shropshire sheep and Poland China hogs, in the breeding of all of which he has been remarkably successful.

The marriage of John W. Beavans and Mary E. Alexander has been crowned by the birth of five children, namely: A daughter who was born March 22, 1887, and died unnamed in infancy; Lawrence L., born February 26, 1889; Frederick E., born September 9, 1894; Mabel M., born September 9, 1896, and Nora E., born February 1, 1902.

Mrs. Beavans is a member of the Methodist Protestant church and Mr. Beavans affiliates with the Jackson Center Lodge No. 769, I. O. O. F., at McNatts. In politics Mr. Beavans is a Democrat, but is not particularly active save during the campaign season, when he warms up to his work as a party man. The Beavans family are held in very high esteem by their neighbors, Mrs. Beavans being a lady of many amiable domestic qualities and Mr. Beavans being recognized as one of the most upright as well as industrious young farmers in the township.

As being of special interest in connection with the foregoing sketch, the following obituary notices are here reprinted:

Anna, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Williams, was born in Monmouthshire county, England, October 7, 1834. Departed this life July 18, 1902. Was united in marriage to James Beavans April 30, 1859. To this union were born seven children, five of whom survive her, four sons and one daughter, her husband, one son and a daughter having preceded her to the glory land. She leaves two brothers, eleven grandchildren and a number of other relatives and friends. She united with the Church of England while in youth. She, with her husband, came to this country November 10, 1859, landing at Portsmouth, Virginia. They set-

lived in Clinton county, Ohio, the same year, removing to Blackford county, Indiana, in the fall of 1864; removed to Jackson township, Wells county, Indiana, in 1870; March 17, removed to where she lived at the time of her death. She united with the Methodist Protestant church at Union Chapel in 1884 and remained a faithful member until her death. She was a kind and devoted Christian mother and by her deeds of kindness she had won a great many friends and will be missed by the church and community in which she lived. The home circle is once more broken. Mother is gone, but not forgotten. In her declining years the burden of her conversation was, "We cannot do too much for the Lord." She was aged sixty-seven years, nine months and eleven days. The funeral was conducted by her pastor, Rev. J. L. Barclay, at Union Chapel, before a large and sympathetic audience. Interment took place at Woodlawn cemetery, Warren, Indiana.

Robert Alexander, son of John and Rhoda Alexander, was born in Brown county, Ohio, October 23, 1822; died March 24, 1897, aged seventy-four years, five months and one day. He moved with his parents from Ohio to Warren, Indiana, in 1841. He was married to Mary J. Jones in 1846, and to this union were born nine children. The wife, two sons and a daughter preceded him. Father Alexander was the oldest of six brothers and three sisters. He leaves three sons, three daughters, three brothers, a sister and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his departure. He united with the Methodist Protestant church about thirty years ago and lived a true Christian life. He will be sadly missed in church, for as long as he was able his seat was seldom vacant. The funeral was held at Union Chapel, conducted by Rev. Tharp, assisted by Rev. Bundy. The text was, "Be ye faithful unto death and I will give you a crown of life."—Rev. 2:10. Faithfulness comes with charity, hope and love. The concourse of friends showed their last tribute of respect by being present at the funeral and interment in the Batson cemetery.

Mary Jane Jones was born in Clinton county, Ohio, June 4, 1823, and departed this life November 15, 1892, aged sixty-nine years, five months and eleven days. She came to Wells county, Indiana, in the year 1837. She was united in marriage to Robert Alexander January 8, 1846. Nine children blessed this union, five boys and four girls, three of whom—two boys and one girl—

sleep in the city of the dead. Sister Alexander in early youth consecrated her life to God. At the age of nineteen years she joined the Methodist Episcopal church, where she remained a consistent member until 1846, when she united with the Methodist Protestant church, continuing a faithful member and an earnest Christian until death marked her life and the God whom she loved to adore said: "Enter thou into the joys of thy Lord." Her sickness, though long and severe, was borne with patience. She was willing at all times to say, "Thy will, O God, not mine, be done." But she is gone. We will see her no more. She has left this world for the other shore. We will miss the work of her dear hands; we will miss her in the family band; we will see the paths she has trod, but it is a joy to think she rests with God. She leaves a husband three sons and three daughters to mourn her departure. Funeral services at Union Chapel, conducted by Rev. J. R. French; interment in the Batson cemetery.

SOLOMON B. NELSON.

Recurrences to the past, with the recollections and associations which cause it to pass in lifelike review before our mental vision, will continue to be, as of yore, a source of satisfaction, especially when they connect themselves with facts and incidents reflected from our own experience. These reminders remain with the life of the participants when no landmarks remain to save us the pictures faintly delineated on the tablets of memory. To preserve from forgetfulness the leading facts in the lives of the pioneers and older citizens of our country is the work devolved upon the writers of this work. Biography fails in its mission when it fails to preserve these valuable facts committed to its care. More than any other form of history, it commands the most interested attention for the reason that it is largely a record of our own experiences as seen reflected from the careers of others

who have traveled the rugged pathway of life as our companions, acquaintances and friends. In the life of the gentleman whose name introduces this article the reader will find much that is interesting and instructive. An honored resident of Wells county for over a half century and a gallant soldier in one of the greatest wars of history, he has borne well his part in life and now, when the shadows have deepened, he looks back over his long and useful career, finding in the retrospect little to condemn and much to commend. Solomon B. Nelson is a native of Ohio and the son of James and Sarah (Beals) Nelson, both parents born in Pennsylvania. James Nelson was taken to Wayne county, Ohio, when a small boy, and there grew to maturity and married. Shortly after taking to himself a helpmeet he removed to the county of Stark, where he owned a farm, and for some years lived in that section of the state, engaging in agriculture and blacksmithing. About 1844 he disposed of his place and moved his family to Adams county, Indiana, where he purchased a quarter section of timber land, thirty-five acres of which were cleared and reduced to cultivation during the five years that followed. In 1849 Mr. Nelson sold this place at a good figure and came to Wells county, locating in the township of Lancaster, where he bought an eighty-acre farm on which the remainder of his life was spent. In connection with agriculture he worked at blacksmithing and by industry and successful management succeeded in accumulating a sufficiency of this world's goods to place himself in comfortable circumstances. James Nelson was a man of excellent parts, honest and industrious and the embodiment of all that was honorable and upright in

citizenship. For many years he served as class leader in the Methodist church and he always tried to measure his life according to the high standard of excellence as found in the life and teachings of the man of Nazareth. In politics he was a Democrat and as such was elected to various local offices, among which was that of township trustee. James and Sarah Nelson were the parents of twelve children, all but one reaching the years of maturity, four sons, Solomon B., William, Silas and Sanford P., serving their country faithfully during the great Rebellion.

Solomon B. Nelson was born in Wayne county, Ohio, July 30, 1837, and was a lad of about eleven when his parents moved to the county of Wells. Aside from the daily routine of labor on the farm, varied of winter seasons by attending the common schools, his early life was marked by no striking incident or fact worthy of note. He grew up to the full requirement that man should earn his bread by honest toil and from his excellent parents learned those lessons of duty and correct living which redounded so greatly to his advantage in after years. After completing the public school course he taught one term, but not caring to devote his attention exclusively to educational work soon exchanged that calling for the vocation of farming.

In April, 1860, Mr. Nelson was united in marriage to Miss Sarah J. Clark, a native of Ohio who came to Wells county with her parents as early as the year 1839. Her father, Allen Clark, a native of Pennsylvania, was of Irish descent and her mother, who bore the maiden name of Florinda Marquis, was born and reared in Ohio. The childhood and youthful years of Mrs. Nel-

son were spent on the home farm in Lancaster and after receiving a good common school education she taught for some time in the village of Eaglesville. Immediately following his marriage Mr. Nelson turned his attention to farming, but was not very long permitted to pursue that vocation undisturbed. The President's call for volunteers to crush the rebellion in the southern states so appealed to his patriotism that he at once tendered his services to his country in its time of need. In September, 1861, he enlisted in Company A, Thirty-fourth Indiana Infantry, Captain William Swain, and after spending a short time at Anderson, Indiana, proceeded to the front, meeting the enemy for the first time at New Madrid, Missouri. Subsequently the regiment was sent to Memphis, Tennessee, thence up White river to meet the force under General Curtis and later to Port Gibson, on the Mississippi, where the subject took part in one of the hard fought battles of the war. Mr. Nelson shared with his comrades the vicissitudes and fortunes of war in a number of campaigns in different states and proved his bravery and loyalty under many trying circumstances. He participated in the bloody engagement at Champion Hill, Mississippi, where his colonel was severely wounded, and some time thereafter was obliged to take hospital treatment for disability brought on by exposure and over-exertion. At the expiration of his period of enlistment, December, 1863, he was discharged, but the following year re-enlisted and served until the close of the war, being mustered out the second time at New York City on the 26th of June, 1865. While in the service Mr. Nelson's eyes became seriously affected and at one time it

was feared his sight would be lost. He has never recovered from this ailment, his vision being very greatly impaired at the present time, so much so in fact that it is impossible for him to perceive any but very large and distinct objects. For this misfortune he is partially reimbursed by a pension of seventy-two dollars per month, which, though quite liberal, by no means compensates him for the loss of vision. After the war Mr. Nelson took up his residence at Eaglesville, where he supported his family by various kinds of manual labor until his diminishing eyesight compelled him to retire from active life. When it became impossible for him to work, he moved to Bluffton and here he has resided since 1883, honored and respected by all who know him. He purchased a beautiful and comfortable home and, barring his disability, is well situated to enjoy the many blessings of life by which he is surrounded.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson have had five children, namely: Florence E., born January 16, 1861, died at the age of twenty months; Rachel E., born January 15, 1865, married J. Z. Brickley and departed this life some years ago; Marion F. was born September 22, 1866, married Irene B. Cobbins and is now in the United States mail service, having charge of Rural Route No. 6; Martha J., born January 1, 1869, died when seven years old; the youngest of the family, Allen C., whose birth occurred on the 6th day of May, 1878, is a compositor in the office of the Bluffton Chronicle and News.

Prior to the Rebellion Mr. Nelson was a Democrat, but after the war he joined the Republican party and has been one of its earnest supporters ever since, though not a partisan in the sense the term is generally

understood. He belongs to the Grand Army post at Bluffton and takes an active interest in all of its deliberations. His religious creed is represented by the Presbyterian church, of which body he has been an earnest and consistent member for many years; Mrs. Nelson also belongs to the same denomination. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson are among the oldest and best known residents of Wells county and all who are favored with their acquaintance speak in the highest terms of their many sterling qualities of head and heart. They have lived long and well, have done their duty without fear or favor and the future awaits them with abundant rewards.

JOHN BAKER.

John Baker, who was born October 11, 1845, in Champaign county, Ohio, is a son of John and Susan (Hower) Baker, natives of Pennsylvania, who, when they were children, moved with their parents into Ohio, where they grew up and were married. John, Sr., was a cooper by trade and worked at that business until the end of his life, his death occurring in 1853 in Wells county, Indiana, on the farm where the subject now lives.

The senior Baker and his family came to Wells county about the year 1850 and his wife died here in 1884. Mr. Baker was the father of eight children, six of whom are living: Sarah, the wife of Jacob Huffman; Lydia, the wife of John Knott; Mary A., the wife of Andrew Bilbee; Jacob, now a resident of Huntington county, Indiana; John; Elizabeth, deceased, was the wife of Neriah Humnicott; Martin, now residing in

Chester township, Wells county, Indiana, and an infant, deceased. John, Jr., attended the public schools of Jackson township, Wells county, Indiana, until he was eighteen years of age. He then enlisted in the army, becoming a member of Company E, Seventy-fifth Regiment Indiana Volunteers, December 6, 1863, and remained in the service of his country until the close of the war, being discharged therefrom in August, 1865. He was with Sherman from Atlanta to the sea, engaging in all the battles of that memorable march. After his return from the army he began to work at the carpenter's trade and continued at the business for about twelve years, or two years after his marriage. He was married October 31, 1848, in Wells county, Indiana, to a daughter of Benjamin Hudson, a native of Maryland, and Katie Ann Mullen, a native of Ohio. When Benjamin Hudson was a small boy his parents, Selby and Elizabeth Hudson, came to Cincinnati, Ohio. Later on Selby removed his family to Brown county, Ohio, and there Benjamin grew to manhood. The parents of Katie Miller were Abram and Hannah Miller. Benjamin and Katie were married in Ohio and after a few years moved to Jackson township, Wells county, Indiana, where they spent the remainder of their days. Katie was born January 7, 1815, and died October 22, 1888. Benjamin Hudson was born December 26, 1808, and died February 11, 1897. He was twice married. To the first wife, Nancy S., two children were born, and to the second, Katie M., nine children were born. The children by his first marriage were James, a resident of Jackson township, Wells county, Indiana, and Sarah O. Of the second marriage the children are Lucinda, de-

ceased; William, who died in the army; Lavina, deceased; Elizabeth, the wife of Alexander Little, of Montpelier, Indiana; Sophrona, deceased; Mollie, wife of John Baker; Selby, now a resident of Kansas; Abrani, deceased; Belinda, the wife of Ross D. Dintman, deceased, and is now living in Kansas.

After John Baker's marriage he settled on the farm where he now lives. He owned the south forty acres and after the death of his parents he purchased the remaining forty acres of the farm. He now owns two hundred and sixty-nine acres of fine land in Jackson township, eighty acres of which is in the home place. There are fourteen oil wells on his land, the production of which yields a profit of about two hundred dollars per month. Besides looking after his interests in this line, Mr. Baker also has the supervision of his farm. He is a general stock farmer and has devoted the greater portion of his life to farming and its allied interests. He has earned and accumulated the most of his wealth by his own efforts. He is the father of three children: James W., born May 23, 1876, married Anna Good and lives on a part of the home place and is now an oil pumper; they have one child, Maxie; Benjamin Franklin was born September 23, 1876, married Mary H. Hayward, and lives on a part of his father's land, and is an oil pumper; he is the father of two children, Ethel and Hazel; Oscar E., the youngest son, was born November 29, 1884, and is at home with his parents. Both Mr. Baker and wife were formerly members of the Christian church, but the congregation to which they were attached having disbanded, they have not formed other church connections. He is a member of Masonic Lodge No. 246 in Warren, Indiana.

In politics Mr. Baker is a Democrat and has always voted that ticket in national and state affairs. In local and municipal matters, however, he believes in voting for the best man, without regard to the party to which he belongs. In 1896 he built a very fine house on his farm and has it well furnished. He constructed his barn in 1901. The success which has attended the efforts of John Baker to improve his environments has again demonstrated the fact that in this country no life need be barren of results if directed by a definite purpose, accompanied by industrious habits and the moral rectitude which gives stability and worth to character. Upon commencing in life, his plans, like those of so many thousands of others, were interrupted by the Civil war, which gave to the country a new and valuable experience. As a patriotic citizen he performed his duty as a soldier, and returned after peace had been declared to continue his purposes in life. After working a number of years as a carpenter, he became identified with the agricultural pursuits of the country, the ground work of the nation's prosperity. In this he has been eminently successful and, chiefly by his own labor and efforts, has secured a competence and a position in his community which is highly creditable to him as a citizen and neighbor.

HENRY A. MANN.

Henry A. Mann was born in Monroe county, West Virginia, July 8, 1828. His father, Michael Mann, was born in Virginia, August 12, 1795, his father being Jacob Mann, a native of Germany. The

maternal parent of the subject, Cynthia (Walker) Mann, was also a native of Virginia, born January 5, 1797. The parents of the subject were married March 14, 1816, and settled on a farm in Virginia, where the father engaged in farming, also conducting the business of blacksmithing. In 1833 they came to Henry county, Indiana, entering land in the new country where the wife died September 30, 1871. Michael afterward married a second wife, who died prior to his own death, which occurred at Rensselaer, Indiana, December 21, 1889. Michael Mann was the father of the following children: Jacob C., born July 20, 1821, a resident of Howard county, Indiana; Christopher D., born December 11, 1830, now a resident of Marion, Indiana; Henry A.; Clayton W., born June 29, 1819; Marinda, born July 5, 1823; Leroy, born March 7, 1826; Lucinda C., born October 6, 1833.

Henry A. Mann attended the district schools of Henry county until he was about eighteen years of age, but at that period of time the terms of school were very brief and the most of his time until that age was spent in assisting his father on the farm. He also attended Franklin College, south of Indianapolis, for a short time in 1854 and at the age of twenty-one years began work for himself, a part of the time cropping on his father's place and a part of the time working for wages on the farm for his father. He made his home with his father until January 3, 1856, at which time he married Martha Allen, a daughter of William and Sarah (Prathee) Allen, the father a native of North Carolina, born September 7, 1798, and the mother a native of Virginia, born October 8, 1806. William

Allen was a son of Reuben Allen, also a native of North Carolina. William and Sarah Allen were married October 19, 1826, in Wayne county, Indiana, where they settled, remaining there for a time. They then removed to Madison county, Indiana, where they lived the remainder of their lives. William was the father of eight children, four of whom are yet living: James, born July 30, 1827, died February 15, 1893; Thomas C., born September 10, 1829, died November 11, 1854; Martha, born October 16, 1831, the wife of the subject; W. A., born in March, 1834, a physician now practicing in Rochester, Minnesota; Jonathan P., born August 12, 1837, died January 5, 1862, of disease contracted in the army; Benjamin F., born February 6, 1840, now a dentist in Glencoe, Minnesota; Mary E., born November 16, 1842, died September 19, 1845, and Rachel, born December 15, 1846, now the wife of C. W. Wymant, of Danville, Indiana. The subject, after his marriage, settled in Henry county, Indiana, renting a farm for a period of three years. He then removed to Wells county, settling in Nottingham township, purchasing one hundred acres of land, which he cleared and brought under cultivation. After remaining on this farm seventeen years, he purchased eighty acres, where he now lives, also clearing the greater part of this place. The subject now owns one hundred and eighty acres of fine farming land and, besides being a general stock farmer, is one of the four stockholders interested in the grain elevator at Poneto, Wells county.

Mr. Mann is the father of two children, one of whom is yet living: Emma, born August 16, 1857, died September 2, 1859;

James M., born April 15, 1860, married Sarah Stahl, and is now a resident of Nottingham township, and is the father of one child, Lillie. The subject and family are connected with the Baptist church, of which he has been a clerk for thirty-one years and a deacon for about thirteen years. He answered his country's call during the great Rebellion, enlisting in the army on October 16, 1864, in Company K, Fifty-third Regiment Indiana Volunteers, and served until the close of the war. While the husband was absent in the army serving his country, his wife was left alone on the farm with her little son, then five years old. Owing to the absence of nearly all the men in the army she did her own plowing, but she says that her old horse knew more about the business than she did herself.

In politics the subject of this sketch has been a Republican all his life, and, as in all the relations of life, he has performed his civic duties from conscientious motives of duty, and when he is convinced that he is right is hard to swerve from his course. He is a type of the solid, responsible yeomanry of our state, possessing all the traits of economic thrift and industry possessed by the German people.

JOHN S. HYDE.

John S. Hyde was born November 19, 1842, in White Water township, Franklin county, Indiana, and is a son of Thomas Hyde, a native of Lancastershire, England, born near Manchester in 1808. Thomas Hyde came to the United States in 1839, finding his first stopping place near Mt. Carmel, Franklin county, Indiana. While in England he spent seven years as an ap-

prentice to a surgeon. He began practice with his brother while in England and was with him two years. After coming to this country he again began practice and continued in that vocation until his death, which occurred November 9, 1886, he being at that time the oldest practitioner in Franklin county. He was married to Esther Hall, February 22, 1842. After his marriage he bought a piece of land in Franklin county and began to devote some time to farming. He was the father of twelve children, six of whom are yet living: John S., Edward, who is now a resident of Franklin county; Thomas F., deceased; James P.; Harrison M., deceased; Eli E.; Joel B.; James died in infancy; Esther died in childhood; Elizabeth, and an infant who died unnamed.

John S. Hyde attended the schools in Franklin county, Indiana, until he was about twenty years of age, going about ten weeks in the year. He then taught one term of school. In 1864, when he was in his twenty-second year, he went west, stopping near Virginia City, Montana; he stopped there most of his time, although he spent four months where Butte City now stands. When he first went to Butte there were but two houses in the place, and one of those a miserable log hut. He spent eight years and nine months in mining, most of the time on his own account. He had fair success and thinks he made more money than if he had remained in Indiana. In 1873 he came back to his old home in Franklin county, Indiana. After one year he, with his brother Edward, purchased one hundred and seventy-three acres of land in Franklin county and began farming in the spring of 1875, continuing it until March, 1888, at which time he sold out and removed to Wells county and purchased a



MRS. JOHN S. HYDE.



JOHN S HYDE

farm, to which he moved in August, 1888, and where he still resides. He now has one hundred and sixty acres of finely improved land, about one hundred and thirty of which are under cultivation. When he came onto the farm it had no improvements worth mentioning, but in 1900 Mr. Hyde built a very fine residence on the farm, in which he lives and which improvement adds materially to his surroundings. There are eleven productive oil wells on his farm, which are making about thirteen inches (tank measure) daily. The territory on his farm is not yet fully developed; when it is, his oil wells will probably yield him a profit of one hundred dollars per month. He has been a general stock farmer and a breeder of Poland China hogs, but he has changed to the Duroc, and his preference is for shorthorn cattle. Mr. Hyde was married October 19, 1875, to Mary C. Campbell, who was born November 22, 1855, the daughter of David and Nancy (Lafforge) Campbell. The father of Mrs. Hyde is a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, and her mother, of Brookville, Franklin county, Indiana, the daughter of Jacob and Katie (Hartman) Lafforge. David was the son of John Campbell, a native of Scotland, and died when his daughter, the wife of the subject of this sketch, was but a child. Mrs. Hyde attended the public schools of Franklin county, Indiana, until she was about fifteen years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Hyde are the parents of eight children: Mary E., born August 16, 1877, is the wife of Arthur L. Palen, now a resident of Mt. Zion, Wells county, and is the mother of one child, Blanche; Estella Hyde was born July 25, 1880, married Urias M. Brinnemann, a resident of Petroleum, Wells county, Indiana, and they have two children, Russell and Ralph; Alice G., born Septem-

ber 10, 1881, was married October 22, 1902, to Charles Bevington; Amy B., born November 19, 1885, is at home; John H., born May 26, 1887, is at home; Charles E., born August 2, 1889; Leona L., born March 23, 1893, and Clara E., born October 5, 1894. Mr. Hyde has made all he is worth by his own efforts by the aid of his estimable wife, is blessed with a good wife and a pleasant home, with dutiful children, and enough of the goods of this world to make him comfortable. He appreciates his blessings and enjoys life. He is a member of the Masonic order at Mt. Carmel, Franklin county, Indiana, but has his membership at present in Lodge No. 246, Warren, Indiana. He has always voted the Democratic ticket in national affairs, but in local affairs he votes for the man. When he bought the farm where he now lives his neighbors thought he was a "sucker" and said he could not "raise beans." He now has as fine a farm as there is in the country, and is also the owner of six hundred and forty acres of land in Pecos county, Texas, which shows that he has raised other things than "beans;" he has raised his own reputation wherever he is known, as a live, energetic farmer, and first class citizen.

Mr. and Mrs. Hyde have in their possession an old parchment deed executed August 20, 1838, and bearing the signature of President Van Buren.

HENRY STEGKAMPER.

The gentleman whose name introduces this sketch is a creditable representative of the large German element which has exercised such a potent influence in American life and upon American industries. Like

the majority of his countrymen who have found home and fortune in the new world, he inherits many of the sterling characteristics for which his nationality has long been noted and that he is a true and loyal citizen of his adopted government has been abundantly demonstrated by the brave part he took while fighting for its maintenance on some of the bloodiest battle fields of the sunny Southland. Mr. Stegkamper was born December 15, 1843, in the kingdom of Hanover, the son of Fred and Catherine (Notbush) Stegkamper, both parents natives of Germany. By occupation the father was a carpenter, which trade he followed for a number of years in Hanover. In 1863 he came to the United States, whither his son Henry had preceded him by one year, and spent the remainder of his life in this country, continuing his chosen calling as long as able to perform manual labor.

Henry Stegkamper was reared in the land of his nativity and received a good education in the public schools. He grew to young manhood with a fixed purpose of making the best of his opportunities, but early learned that the condition under which the common people of his native land obtained a livelihood was calculated to retard rather than encourage those not born to fortune or influential surroundings. Being without either of these essential prerequisites, he did the best he could under the existing circumstances, meantime forming a resolution to leave the Fatherland and go to America, of which country he had received many favorable reports from friends and relatives who had emigrated thither. Not having sufficient means to pay his passage, he wrote to an uncle living in the United States soliciting a small loan, which

in due time was remitted. With this money he purchased a ticket, set sail and after an uneventful voyage landed in New York on the 20th day of September, 1862, proceeding thence to the city of Cleveland, Ohio. In the latter place he at once began learning the cigarmaker's trade, but after a couple of years left his work for the purpose of tendering his services to his adopted country, which at that time was in the throes of a great civil war. In March, 1864, Mr. Stegkamper enlisted in Company H, Thirty-seventh Ohio Volunteers, and within a short time thereafter was at the front with the army under General Sherman, experiencing all the horrors of war in the celebrated Atlanta campaign. Eleven days after leaving home he received his first baptism of fire in the bloody battle of Resaca and during the one hundred and five days following his regiment was constantly under arms. He took part in all the engagements preceding the fall of Atlanta and later marched with Sherman to the sea, subsequently accompanying the celebrated army through the Carolinas northward.

Mr. Stegkamper received a painful wound at the battle of Kenesaw Mountain, which eventually incapacitated him from active service, although he remained with his command quite a while after his recovery. In June, 1865, he was discharged on account of this disability, after which he returned to Cleveland, resumed his trade and worked at the same with encouraging results until his removal, in 1870, to Huntington, Indiana. On the 17th day of August, 1873, he was happily married to Miss Louisa Conklin, of Wells county, and three years later located at Bluffton, where he has since been actively engaged in the manufac-

ture of cigars, having a large and constantly increasing trade.

Mr. Stegkamper is an accomplished business man and a thorough master of the calling to which the greater part of his life has been devoted. He manufactures a high grade of cigars, which have a wide reputation, and his establishment is the largest and best patronized industry of the kind in Bluffton. By industry and close attention to details he has steadily advanced to a prominent place in the business world and today his name is honored as one of the representative men of the city in which he lives. In the true sense of the term he is a self-made man, as he came to this country on borrowed capital and without assistance other than his own energy and determination, worked himself up to the respectable position which he now commands.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Stegkamper consists of two sons and four daughters, whose names and dates of birth are as follows: Ida, June 15, 1874, now the wife of Ed. McClure, of Marion, this state; Cora, November 4, 1875; Rosa, January 27, 1878; Catherine, September 7, 1881; Harry, January 10, 1884, and Fred, who first saw the light of day on the 31st of January, 1890.

Mr. Stegkamper is a prominent member of the Odd Fellows fraternity, belonging to Lodge No. 114, at Bluffton, and Encampment 141, having passed all the chairs in both organizations, besides representing his lodge in the grand lodge of Indiana. He is also identified with the Grand Army of the Republic, being one of the active workers in Lew Dailey Post No. 33, of which he is now past commander. His religious views are in harmony with the Lutheran creed, he

and wife belonging to that church and doing all in their power to promote its growth and usefulness. While not a politician in the sense of the word as commonly used, Mr. Stegkamper keeps himself well informed upon all public and political matters, voting with the Republican party in state and general elections, but in local affairs giving his support to the candidates best qualified for the offices sought. He has no political aspirations himself, preferring his business to the distractions of partisan politics and the domain of private citizenship to official distinction. As a citizen Mr. Stegkamper is honorable and upright, strictly honest in all his dealings, and his reputation is above the shadow of reproach. He stands high in the confidence and esteem of the people of Bluffton and all who know him speak in the most complimentary terms of his sterling integrity and straightforward, manly conduct.

CAPT. BENJAMIN F. WILEY.

One of the oldest and most honored residents of Wells county, Indiana, is Capt. B. F. Wiley, of Bluffton, who was born in Greenville, Darke county, Ohio, October 16, 1830, a son of William and Rachel (Mann) Wiley. The Wiley family is of Scotch-Irish descent, and on coming to America the ancestors of the Captain first located in Virginia, whence they removed to Kentucky, where William Wiley, father of the Captain, was born and reared. From Kentucky William Wiley went to Maryland, where he met Rachel Mann, who was then attending school and whom he subsequently married. This lady was a daughter of Lieut.-Gov.

David Mann, of Pennsylvania, and a relative of Congressman Mann. William Wiley, however, was not in opulent circumstances and emigrated to Greenville, Dark county, Ohio, where he carried on tailoring somewhat extensively for that early day, but was called from earth when his son, B. F., was but seven years of age. Mrs. Rachel Wiley later married Nelson Kellogg, and in 1839 the family came to Wells county, Indiana, and settled in Bluffton, when there were but twelve houses in the village and these houses far apart. Of the inhabitants of the forest in which Bluffton was at that time situated the only survivors were Capt. Wiley, John Studebaker and Amos Townsend, although the city has now a population of about five thousand. Mr. Kellogg was a plasterer and for twenty years was a justice of the peace in Bluffton.

B. F. Wiley, at the age of thirteen years, was employed in making brick for the construction of the first brick court house erected in Bluffton, which has since been replaced by a handsome modern structure, and for his labor, from daylight until dark, he was paid at the rate of four dollars per month. In 1844 he was employed in carrying these same brick to the masons engaged in erecting the court house. In the winter of 1845-6, young Wiley went to Camden to assist in a branch store owned by John Studebaker, and when that store was abandoned he returned to Bluffton and worked for Hall & Townsend for some time. In 1850 Mr. Wiley walked across the plains, a distance of twenty-three hundred miles, to California. He returned to Bluffton in 1852, and worked with his stepfather at masonry for some time. Later he engaged in merchandising, and afterward clerked for

George Arnold. About this time came the breaking out of the Civil war. Ben Wiley, as he was called by his intimates, although at that time entering upon the prime of early manhood, was, like the majority of Northern youth, inspired with loyal patriotism and volunteered his services to assist in preserving the Union. Accordingly he enlisted in Company K, Seventy-fifth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, under Colonel Robertson and Captain Karnes, in August, 1862. This regiment was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland and had its first fighting experience at the famous battle of Chickamauga, September 19 and 20, 1863. In 1864 he was appointed adjutant of the One Hundred and Thirty-eighth Indiana, and later was commissioned captain of Company C, One Hundred and Fifty-third Indiana, and in this capacity served through the war and was honorably mustered out at Louisville, Kentucky, in August, 1865, after an active and faithful service of over three years.

On returning from the army, Captain Wiley joined John Studebaker in the business of buying and selling produce at Bluffton, which business they conducted for about five years, and later, in 1872, joined John Daugherty and James Crosbee in pork-packing. The Captain was also associated with Mr. Studebaker in merchandising, but sold out to H. C. Arnold, then joined Mr. Sumier in the same line, next was by himself awhile, selling to Baumgartner & Hatfield in 1882. Captain Wiley then bought the Wilson stock and in company with his son carried on business in Bluffton for several years. In 1892 he and his son purchased a stock of goods in Elwood and in 1893 returned to Bluffton and retired from busi-

ness. He now deals in real estate and is also a farmer, owning one hundred and twenty-five acres in Bluffton and one hundred and sixty acres just outside the city limits. The Captain is a very public spirited citizen, has made three additions to Bluffton, Nos. 1 and 2, and Main street additions. Wiley avenue was named in his honor, Central avenue being the present north line of his farm.

Captain Wiley was married September 6, 1855, to Miss Susan Waltz, five children being the result of the union, viz: Rachel Ellen, who is the wife of Dr. H. H. Wear; May, unmarried; William F., a retired merchant of Chicago, Illinois; Mary E., wife of W. D. Burgan, real estate dealer in Bluffton, and Charles F., clerk in a retail store in New York city.

Fraternally Capt. Wiley has been a member of Bluffton Lodge No. 145, F. & A. M., since 1854, and has also been a trustee of the Presbyterian church at Bluffton, of which his family are all devoted members. Politically he was primarily a Whig and cast his first presidential vote for Winfield Scott, with Graham for vice-president, next in 1856 for Millard Fillmore, and in 1860 for Abraham Lincoln. He became a Republican in 1860 and adhered to it until 1884, when he became identified with the Prohibition party, of which he is a leading and ardent member and was one of its delegates from his district at its last state convention. Captain Wiley is a broad minded and liberal man, whose sympathies are always extended to the laboring classes, to the elevation of which he devotes much thought as well as practical aid as far as circumstances will permit. His popularity among all classes is unbounded.

JOSEPH A. ULLMAN.

The pump factory at Bluffton, Wells county, Indiana, is one of the leading industries of the city and is under the efficient management of one of the most able young business men of the county, Joseph A. Ullman, who was born January 2, 1870, in Loudenville, Ohio, a son of George A. Ullman, of German descent. George A. Ullman settled in Ashland county, Ohio, when a young man, there grew to manhood, and is the present cashier of the Farmers' Bank in the city of Ashland. From him Joseph A. Ullman received his splendid business education. The literary education of Joseph A. Ullman was acquired in the graded and high schools of Ashland city, from the latter of which he was graduated in 1888 with honors and was then appointed to a position in the Farmers' Bank of Ashland, in the service of which he was retained four years, as he was very attentive to his duties and withal performed them in an intelligent and acceptable manner. After quitting the bank, Mr. Ullman engaged in the manufacture of pumps in Ashland and from a small beginning increased the capacity of the plant until it required forty workmen to fill the orders that poured in upon the concern. In the winter of 1897-98 Mr. Ullman came to Bluffton and formed a partnership with J. W. Sherick, of this city, and R. G. Marcy, of Kendallville, Indiana, for the purpose of founding the Marcy Manufacturing Company, the object of which was to make and introduce upon the market the now famous Red Cross Pump and also to handle pump supplies in general. The company at first employed about ten men only, but under the skillful management of Mr.

Ullman the business has now been so increased as to require the services of one hundred and thirty workmen and the weekly disbursement of cash for wages reaches the sum of one thousand dollars in Bluffton alone, besides which large amounts are expended on salesmen in all parts of the United States.

In addition to his extensive business at Bluffton, Mr. Ullman is a stockholder in and president of the Tipton Clay Company, at Tipton, Indiana. He is a thorough business man and a busy one at that, and possesses an enterprising spirit that is in itself marvelous. Although he has been in Bluffton but five years, he has developed a line of manufacture that excels in extent possibly any other in the town and has made friends by the hundred who esteem him for integrity as a business man and his genial and social ways as a neighbor. His business enterprise has been a blessing to the community, as his factory gives employment to a large number of persons who are not necessarily skilled mechanics but must have some knowledge of tools and machinery, and there are always numbers of such persons seeking employment, which it is Mr. Ullman's good fortune to be able to give. It is somewhat surprising to the ordinary individual that a gentleman reared at the beginning of his business life to clerical work should later make so phenomenal a success as a manufacturer, and this instance may be adduced as an evidence of Mr. Ullman's wonderful versatility.

Mr. Ullman was united in marriage July 6, 1891, to Miss Martha Marsh, of Ashland, Ohio, and their union has been blessed with one child, Howard, who was born in 1895. The parents are members of

the Methodist church at Bluffton, and Mr. Ullman is both a Freemason and a Knight of Pythias and in the latter order has filled all the offices.

In the social circles of Bluffton Mr. and Mrs. Ullman are leading and conspicuous figures and are greatly esteemed for their many amiable qualities. They have made friends innumerable, who are warm and true, and they do not all reside in Bluffton.

SAMUEL H. PALMER.

This native-born agriculturalist of Wells county, Indiana, had his nativity April 15, 1845, in Jackson township, on the farm now occupied by William Banter. Samuel Palmer, the father of Samuel A., was a native of Virginia, born December 27, about the year 1809, and was a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Risoner) Palmer, also natives of the Old Dominion. Jacob Palmer removed from Virginia, with his family, in 1828 and settled in Perry county, Ohio, near Thornville, and there Samuel attained his majority and in April, 1832, married Sarah Fox, a resident of Perry county, Ohio, who bore him ten children, of whom the following are living: Jacob and Mary, Samuel H., Susannah and Sarah J. In 1839 the Palmer family came to Wells county, Indiana, and settled in Jackson township, where they resided for forty years and then sold to William Banter. While on this farm Mr. and Mrs. Palmer had born to them eight children, two of whom died in early life, and on February 16, 1879, the faithful wife was called away in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church, which she

and her husband had joined the first year of their marriage.

September 1, 1881, Samuel Palmer married for his second wife Lucy Stout, who still survives. Of the posterity of Samuel Palmer there are still living two sons, three daughters, thirty-eight grandchildren, forty-eight great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. There are also living in Wells county a host of relatives of Samuel H. Palmer, whose ancestors settled in the same neighborhood and were largely instrumental in redeeming the country from the wilderness. "Uncle Sam" Palmer, as he is familiarly called by his friends and neighbors, will be ever remembered for his numerous good deeds and prolonged longevity, as well as for his patriotism during the period of the late Civil war.

Samuel H. Palmer attended the Banter school until eighteen years old, and at twenty began work for himself. He married Miss Elizabeth Lee, who was born June 5, 1845, a daughter of Jonathan R. and Susan (Banter) Lee, and for the following ten years lived on the parental farm; he then located on his father's old homestead, where he lived about eighteen years, and then purchased twenty acres of the farm on which he at present lives from which at the time not a tree had been felled with the exception of a sufficient number to furnish logs for a dwelling. The property cost him two hundred dollars, for which he went in debt one hundred dollars, trading a horse in order to raise the funds necessary for the first payment. A brother of Mrs. Elizabeth (Lee) Palmer presented the young couple with a forty-acre tract adjoining the twenty acres they had purchased and in February, 1891, Mr. Palmer purchased forty more

acres, so that he now owns one hundred acres, all in one body, on which there are five producing oil wells, but the attention of Mr. Palmer is principally confined to general farming and stock raising. In 1891 Mr. Palmer built a fine barn, and two years later erected one of the handsomest dwellings in Jackson township.

Samuel H. Palmer and wife have been blessed with seven children, namely: Rosella, who was born February 12, 1866, and died October 1, 1872; John W., born August 17, 1868, married Miss Cora Stephenson, who bore him one child, Mabel, who, since the age of eighteen months, has been reared by its grandfather, Samuel H. Palmer, the mother having been called away by death; John W. married for his second wife Lorinda Cruse, who has borne four children, Fred, Elizabeth, Leland and Violet (deceased); Susanna was born February 3, 1872, is now the wife of Ervin Risinger and the mother of four children, Alta B., deceased, John, deceased, Oscar and Samuel D.; Hettie V. was born March 10, 1875, is married to Chancey Elwood and is the mother of three children, Howard, Harvey and Homer; the fifth child and sixth child of Samuel H. were twins, born November 4, 1877, and were named Hanford E. and Manford E., of whom Manford E. died May 14, 1878, and Hanford E. August 22, 1879; Nellie, the youngest, was born September 17, 1883. For several years Mrs. Palmer has been a member of the Universalist church and in politics Mr. Palmer is an active Democrat, having represented his party in a congressional convention at Anderson, Indiana. He has also served several times as a delegate to congressional conventions, and likewise was elected a del-

egate to the last state convention, but declined to attend.

JONATHAN R. LEE.

Jonathan R. Lee, one of the oldest residents of Wells county, now living a life of honorable retirement, is a native of Miami county, Ohio, born on the 2nd day of December, 1822. His father, William Lee, an early settler of Ohio, was a native of Virginia, as was also the mother, whose name before marriage was Martha Little. These parents were married in Virginia and for a few years thereafter lived in that state, Mr. Lee following the shoemaker's trade for a livelihood. Thinking to better his financial condition further west, William Lee moved to Piqua, Miami county, Ohio, where he ran a shoe shop about five years and at the expiration of that time engaged in agricultural pursuits in the county of Clark. About the year 1847 he took up his residence in the newly settled county of Delaware, Indiana, where he entered a tract of land and began the work of clearing a farm. After a few years there he disposed of his place and purchased land in the county of Wabash, where in due time he cleared a large farm and became well-to-do financially. Subsequently he sold out and moved to Huntington county where he lived the remainder of his days, dying on his farm, a short distance east of the city of Huntington, after reaching a good old age. His first wife, the mother of the subject of this sketch, died in Piqua, Ohio, and later he entered into the marriage relation with Margaret Haney, who survived him a number of years.

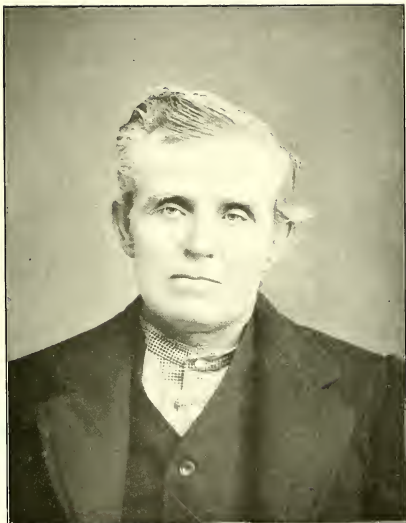
To William and Martha Lee were born four children, namely: Margaret, deceased; Jane, widow of Abram Seamore; Jonathan R., and Martha, who died in childhood. By his second wife Mr. Lee was the father of six children, five of whom are living at the present time: William; Samuel; Ezra; Catherine, widow of Daniel Haney; Jonas, the oldest of the second family, has been dead a number of years; Jacob, died in the Civil war, and Susannah, also dead.

The early life of Jonathan R. Lee was spent on a farm in Clark county, Ohio, and it was there that he received his educational training in the subscription schools, attending the same until about fifteen years old. He then accompanied his parents to Indiana and for a number of years thereafter his life was closely identified with the pioneer period of Delaware county. He assisted his father to build a small log cabin on the latter's place and though but a lad of fifteen did his full share in cutting down timber, piling logs and other hard work necessary to clear land and fit it for cultivation. He also met with many interesting incidents peculiar to life in the backwoods, one of which was the killing of a large deer, with a gun which his father had forbidden him to take from the house, thinking such weapons dangerous in the hands of a lad unexperienced in their use.

Mr. Lee grew up a strong and vigorous young man and was able to do his full share of clearing, cutting wood and other hard work long before attaining his majority. In 1842, when twenty years old, he was united in the bonds of wedlock to Miss Susana Banter, of Virginia, and immediately thereafter commenced farming on rented land in



MRS. JONATHAN R. LEE.



JONATHAN R. LEE.

Delaware county, where he spent the first two years of his married life. At the end of that time he bought forty acres of unimproved land in Wells county, for which he agreed to pay the sum of one hundred and fifteen dollars, going in debt for the greater part of the amount. Erecting a small log cabin of the most primitive pattern, eighteen by twenty feet in size, he and his good wife set up their domestic establishment, cheered by a sense of ownership such as their previous experience had not brought to them. He then addressed himself to the larger task of clearing his place and by dint of hard work, frequently prolonged far into the night, prepared for cultivation the first spring about six acres, which were planted in corn. Between attending his crop and clearing, during the following summer he increased the area of cultivable ground so that by fall he was enabled to sow quite a number of acres in wheat which in due season yielded bountiful returns. Meantime from the sale of such products as could be spared and by trading in live stock he greatly reduced the debt on his farm and it was not long until the place was entirely free of incumbrance. Six years after locating in Wells county he was able to purchase other land and from that time on he continued to add to his real estate until he became the owner of about four hundred acres, the greater part of which was brought to a high state of cultivation. After his boys married and left home and Mr. Lee by reason of advanced age was no longer able to run his farm, he divided the estate among his eight children, giving to each forty acres and retaining eighty acres for his own use. As a farmer he early took high rank in his township, having always been a man of progres-

sive ideas and sound judgment in matters pertaining to the pursuit of agriculture. He also achieved an enviable reputation as a raiser of fine horses and in this way made the greater part of his wealth; there was always a great demand for his horses, as they were of superior breeds and well calculated for draft and general farming purposes. Later in life he devoted considerable attention to the raising of fine hogs, in which he was also successful, adding very materially to his income from this source alone.

After a happy married life of a half century's duration, Mrs. Lee entered into rest on the 17th day of March, 1894. She was a most faithful and loving companion and true helpmeet to her husband during the long period they lived together, ministering to him in times of suffering, encouraging him when the world looked dark, and contributing to his success in the days of his prosperity. She bore him eight children, all of whom are living at this writing (1902): their names are William, a prosperous farmer of Jackson township, this county; Elizabeth, wife of Samuel H. Palmer, also a resident of Jackson; Margaret, widow of the late Philip Elkin and, since the latter's death a number of years ago, her father's devoted companion, especially since the death of Mrs. Lee; she is the mother of one son, Daniel K., who was nine months old when his father died, but since that time he has made his home with his grandfather whose interests he now looks after with the most filial regard; he married Miss Emma Kiser; Lucy J., the next in order of birth, married Meredith Capper, a farmer and stockraiser of Pulaski county; John, a teacher, married Miss Montry C. Kilan-

der; George W. is a resident of Jackson township; Sarah A. is the wife of Thomas Morris and lives at Mt. Zion, this county; the youngest member of the family is Mary, now the wife of George McFarland, a well known resident of the county of Wells. All the children of Mr. Lee are honorable, upright citizens of integrity of character and occupy enviable positions in the several communities in which they have resided.

Mr. Lee has passed the eightieth milestone on life's journey, but is remarkably active for one of his age, being able to get about with comparative ease, also retaining to a marked degree the possession of his mental powers. His coming here and the settlement of this township were almost co-eval events and to much of its growth and prosperity it is indebted to him. He has been a western man in the broad sense of the term, and is one of the few left to tell the story of the struggles, adversities and final successes of the pioneers to whom the people of the present day owe such a deep debt of gratitude. Forty years ago Mr. Lee, with his good wife, joined the Universalist church and commenced the Christian life that has characterized him ever since. Born and reared a Democrat, he faithfully upheld the traditions and doctrines of that political faith until the organization of the Greenback party when he gave his allegiance to the latter, firmly believing the financial policy which it advocated to be for the best interest of the American people. Of late years he has paid little attention to politics, voting for men and principle rather than at the dictates of party leaders. Throughout his entire career he has tried to live up to his ideal of right, in view of which fact there is nothing in the future that he need fear.

WILLIAM POULESS.

A thoroughly practical and experienced agriculturist of Jackson township, Wells county, Indiana, and today one of its most respected citizens, William Pouless comes from Highland county, Ohio, where he was born December 28, 1836, a son of John and Hannah (Barnes) Pouless, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of Pennsylvania, Hannah being a daughter of John Barnes, also a native of the Keystone state. John and Hannah Pouless were married in Highland county, Ohio, where he followed the cooper's trade until his death, which occurred when William Pouless, whose name opens this biography, was but three years of age. Mrs. Hannah Pouless was left a widow with six children, named as follows: Phebe, who is now a widow and is living with her son-in-law, John McAfee; Jacob, now a resident of Grant county; William, named at the opening of this paragraph; Effie E., Betsie and Christina, both deceased. Mrs. Hannah Pouless accepted for her second husband Joseph Saum, but both have died, with no issue to their union.

William Pouless was educated in the district schools of Highland county, Ohio, and of Jackson township, Wells county, Indiana, having come with his mother to the latter place in 1851. The mother settled here on the farm now owned by the son, William, and here passed the remainder of her life, dying about 1892.

At the age of twenty-one years William Pouless began the cultivation and the general care of his step-father's farm, and was recompensed for his toil and care by being awarded one-third of the crops. He continued thus to manage the farm for his

mother and step-father until he was forty-five years of age and on June 26, 1882, William Pouless married Miss Mary J. Walters, who was born about 1847, a daughter of Josuah and Catherine Walters, the father a native of Ohio and an old settler in Wells county, Indiana, and the mother a native of Perry county, Ohio.

After his marriage William Pouless purchased fifty-eight acres of the home place, and now owns a neat and well-kept farm of one hundred and ten acres. To pay for this land Mr. Pouless has to thank only himself, as it was through his individual labor and exertion that the money was earned with which to pay for it. He has now cleared up seventy acres and has improved the place with a comfortable and modern dwelling, substantial barns and other necessary out-buildings and has all the cleared space under a high state of cultivation. He pays a great deal of attention to stock raising, breeding shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs in preference to other breeds. In addition to general farming and stock raising, Mr. Pouless is engaged in oil producing, having six good wells on his premises which net him steadily at least one hundred dollars per month. It may thus readily be seen that Mr. Pouless holds a prominent place among the substantial residents of his township and county.

Mrs. Pouless is affiliated with the Union chapel of the Methodist Protestant church, and in his fraternal relations Mr. Pouless holds membership with Salamonie Lodge No. 392, I. O. O. F., at Warren, Indiana. In politics Mr. Pouless is a Democrat, but takes little interest in party matters, save that he warms up considerably about the time that a campaign opens. A true patriot,

Mr. Pouless enlisted in October, 1865, in Company C, Thirty-fifth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served under General Thomas in Kentucky, Alabama, Louisiana and Texas, thrice crossing the gulf of Mexico; but because of disability he was honorably discharged before the close of the year.

Mr. Pouless has as a relic of "ye olden times," an old arithmetic, published in the year 1793, probably the oldest book in Wells county. Mr. and Mrs. Pouless in the goodness and kindness of their hearts have taken three little homeless children and reared them as their own.

CHARLES H. FORD.

This thriving young farmer and oil producer of Wells county, Indiana, was born in Dayton, Ohio, April 17, 1873. Thomas Ford, father of Charles H., was born in Ireland about 1832 and when twenty-one years old came to America, found employment as a tanner at Dayton, Ohio, located his home near that city and for twenty years was in the employ of the same individual, but during that period twice made visits to his native island.

About the same time that Thomas Ford came from Ireland there also came Miss Catherine Delahanty, and the two formed an acquaintanceship in Dayton, which resulted in their marriage. The young couple continued their residence in the city named until 1874, when they came to Wells county, Indiana, and settled on the one-hundred-and-sixty-acre farm now owned by their son, Charles H., but which now comprises eighty acres only. On this farm

Thomas Ford passed the remainder of his life, dying February 2, 1892. His widow, now about seventy years of age, is at present a resident of Hartford City, Indiana, and is the mother of eight children, named as follows: Thomas A., a resident of Dayton, Ohio; W. J., who lost his life by coming in contact with a "live" electric wire in Hartford City, Indiana; Mary C., deceased wife of Thomas Monahan, of Bluffton, Indiana; John E., deceased; Anna, deceased; Jennie, wife of Michael Timmons, of Hartford City; Michael J., a Catholic clergyman, now in Logansport, Indiana, and Charles H., whose name opens this biography.

Charles H. Ford was educated in the Dundee school of Blackford county, Indiana, which he attended until about eighteen years of age, when he removed with his parents to Hartford City, in the same county, where he was employed in various occupations for about six years.

February 16, 1898, Mr. Ford married Miss Elizabeth A. Nolen, who was born November 27, 1872, a daughter of John and Ann (Orrark) Nolen, natives of Ohio. In the latter state her parents continued to reside until death called the father away, when the widow with her family moved to Hartford City, Blackford county, Indiana, where Mrs. Ann Nolen still resides. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Ford has been blessed with one child, Catherine A., who was born April 30, 1899.

After marriage Mr. Ford settled on the old home farm, where he has charge of one hundred and sixty acres of arable land, and on which farm there are eight flowing oil wells, producing about five hundred barrels per month, although they have turned out as much as thirteen hundred barrels per month.

Mr. Ford has erected for his occupation a very handsome dwelling and is now constructing a commodious and substantial barn. He and wife are members of St. John's Catholic church of Hartford City, and in politics Mr. Ford is a Democrat, although in local matters he prefers to support the candidates whom he feels to be capable of filling an office satisfactorily, rather than a candidate who has no merit other than that of being a Democrat.

O. B. BEVINGTON.

O. B. Bevington was born in Jackson township, Wells county, Indiana, November 6, 1860. He is a son of R. A. Bevington, born May 25, 1819, in Pennsylvania, and who died March 24, 1897. His maternal parent was Catherine (Shadle) Bevington, born in the year 1827, a native of Pennsylvania, who died March 24, 1887. R. A. Bevington, a few years after his first marriage, came to Wells county, Indiana, at a very early day, entered land and cleared up a farm, and remarried, his second wife being Lucy Gill. He then removed into Huntington county, Indiana, where he died. To his first union eleven children were born, six of whom are yet living: Clorinda, the wife of Samuel Knott, a resident of Jackson township; Melissa, the wife of Peter Runkle, of Jackson township, Wells county; Sarah, who is the wife of Dr. Harrold, a resident of Blackford county, Indiana; O. B., of Montpelier, Indiana; Henrietta, the wife of Daniel Alspach, and Oscar, now a resident of Fairmount, Indiana. The deceased children of the first marriage are

Emaline E., who was the wife of Isaac Hodson; Martha, Ira and Catherine.

The subject attended the public schools of Jackson township until he was about fourteen years old, when he went to work with his father and remained until he was twenty-four years of age, receiving his board and clothes for his labor. After his mother's second marriage he left home. He then began working by the day for Daniel Alspach, and afterward by the month for Walter Perry, with whom he remained one summer. He then went to Delaware county, Indiana, where he remained from fall until the holidays. He then came to R. A. Bevington's, remaining one year, when he went to Fulton county, Ohio, and was there for about six years. He then came back to Indiana, working by the day and month for about one and a half years, when he married Eva L. Good, a daughter of John Good. She died January 19, 1898. After his marriage, Mr. Bevington moved onto the old homestead, where he remained for about seven years, when he constructed buildings and removed to a farm on which he now lives. After living on this place for about three months he married Elvina Davis, born April 20, 1878, a daughter of John and Mary (Bailey) Davis, both natives of Huntington county, Indiana, the father now deceased. Mr. Bevington is a general stock farmer and has engaged in the breeding and handling of cattle, hogs and horses. In the line of swine he prefers the Poland China breed and is an admirer of shorthorn cattle. He has five fine producing oil wells on his farm, which seem to be holding up well, yielding him a profit of about fifty dollars per month. He has devoted his entire life to farming and farm interests. He is the

father of two children, one of whom is living: Martha, born December 16, 1900, died April 12, 1901, and Russell B., born April 12, 1902.

Mr. Bevington was formerly a Republican in politics, but is now a Prohibitionist. Both he and wife are members of the Wesleyan Methodist church in Warren, Indiana, and are exemplary representatives of that worthy denomination. O. B. Bevington is a worthy example of the citizenship which is the product of our common district schools and the sturdy farm life, belonging to that class who naturally take up the vocation of the farm for their life work, and thus become a part of that important and influential element of our population which is the bone and sinew of the country and to whom the nation is indebted for the boundless prosperity which is ours and of which we boast.

LEW L. DeHAVEN.

L. L. DeHaven, the present energetic and able assistant superintendent of the Bluffton water-works plant, is a son of Walter B. and Dorothy (Pleasinger) DeHaven, and was born in Bluffton, Wells county, Indiana, April 17, 1867, this city having always been his home. He was educated in the graded and high schools of Bluffton, which he attended during the winter seasons of each year, and in the summer season worked in a store, in the meanwhile acquiring a thorough knowledge of machinery. In July, 1886, he was appointed to his present position as assistant superintendent of the Bluffton water-works, and so at-

tentive and faithful has he been in the performance of the duties pertaining to this position that his salary has several times been increased without solicitation on his part. Since Mr. DeHaven has been the incumbent of this office the works have been enlarged from 45x20 feet to 60x104 feet; there were then two forty-horse-power boilers and one pump, three and one-half miles of line pipe and thirty-seven fire hydrants; there are now two one-hundred-horse-power boilers, a new duplex pump with a capacity of three and a half million gallons per day, a compound air compressor with a capacity of one and a half million, and one well twenty-five feet in diameter, to which has been added another 35x80 feet; there have been put in ten eight-inch holes, two hundred feet deep, from which the water is forced by air compressors, and there are now fifteen miles of pipe and eighty-six fire hydrants. The plant is self-sustaining and is one of the finest in any city in the state of the size of Bluffton. During the past sixteen years there have been one hundred and sixty-five fires in the city, the greater number of which occurred in winter, but under the supervision of Mr. DeHaven the works have been adequate for all emergencies.

L. L. DeHaven was married in 1890 to Miss Minnie J. Liest, a native of Wells county, and this union has been blessed with two children, Bessie and Frank. Mr. and Mrs. DeHaven are members of the Presbyterian church, and Mr. DeHaven is a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 92 and also of the order of American Mechanics No. 5, a beneficial organization. In politics Mr. DeHaven is a Democrat, but has never been an office seeker. He is a very gentlemanly young man and visitors to the

water works invariably depart highly pleased with his treatment of them.

Walter B. DeHaven, superintendent of the Bluffton water-works and the father of Lew L. DeHaven, was born in Summit county, Ohio, May 28, 1843, and is a son of Nathaniel DeHaven, a native of Pennsylvania, who came to Bluffton in 1854, where he had a shingle and lath factory, and where he died in 1872 in his eighty-fifth year, the father of fourteen children, of whom seven still survive. Walter B. grew to manhood in Bluffton, here learned the profession of engineer, and has been a foreman or has always held some equally responsible position, being recognized as one of the best informed machinists in Wells county. When the water-works were established in Bluffton in 1886 Walter B. was selected on account of his superior ability to fill the position of superintendent and his son, Lew L., was appointed his assistant. So satisfactorily have been their services that they have been retained ever since with occasional increase of compensation for their invaluable services as the plant became more and more remunerative. Walter B. DeHaven was first united in marriage, in 1864, with Miss Dorothy Pleasinger, sister of J. B. Pleasinger, ex-sheriff of Wells county, and this union has been blessed by the birth of nine children. Mrs. Dorothy DeHaven was called away in the faith of the Presbyterian church, and Mr. DeHaven chose for his second wife Lavina Elwell, a native of Bluffton, who died in 1895. In politics Mr. DeHaven is a Democrat and has served as a member of the city council of Bluffton for four years, but has never been ambitious as to holding office. He is a member of Bluffton Lodge No. 145, F. & A. M., and is a

quiet, unassuming gentleman, a good neighbor, and is highly respected and well known throughout Wells county.

GEORGE TURNER.

The subject of this sketch, who was born January 22, 1858, is a son of James Turner, a native of Greene county, Ohio, and Mary (Arnold) Turner, a native of Darke county, the same state, and was born in Jackson township, Wells county, on the farm on which he now resides. James, the father, was a son of Jonathan and Polly Turner, natives of Ohio, the latter a daughter of Samuel B. and Mary Arnold, and of Irish descent, while her husband's ancestors were English. They both died in Wells county. James Turner came with his parents to Wells county in an early day and settled in Chester township on the farm now owned by Simeon Crosby, where they resided until they died. Jonathan Turner was the father of five children, two of which are yet living: James, deceased, father of the subject; George, deceased; Catherine, deceased, who was the wife of Jesse Thomas, of Chester Center, Wells county; Margerie, the wife of Isaac Gray, now a resident of the state of New York; Tilda, the wife of Milton Shields. James Turner, the father of the subject, was married to Mary Arnold and settled on a farm in Chester township and began as a farmer, but after two years they removed to Montpelier, Indiana, where he learned the blacksmithing trade. Grandfather Arnold, who was of German descent, was born in New York state, while his wife, who was of English

descent, was a native of Maryland. After working at his trade for about twelve years he traded a horse for forty acres of land in the woods and returned to Wells county. Here he followed farming until his death, which occurred in September, 1880, on the farm where his widow yet lives. James Turner was the father of five children, two of whom are yet living, the subject and twin sister, Barbara. Mary E. died in early childhood; Susanna, deceased, was the wife of I. N. Perry, and Eli, who died at the age of two years.

The subject attended the public schools of Montpelier and Jackson township, Wells county, until he was seventeen years old, after which he remained with and worked for his father until he was twenty-one years of age. He then got married and commenced work on the home place, his father furnishing seed, teams and implements, giving George one-third of the crops. He farmed in this way for about six years, when he bought the stock and implements, after which he received two-thirds of the products of the farm, and thus continued to work until his father's death. He now owns an eighty-acre farm of fine land (the old home place), about sixty of which is in a high state of cultivation.

Mr. Turner is one of the lucky ones who have struck oil. His farm, being in the "belt," now contains ten producing wells, from which he derives a profit of about one hundred and forty dollars per month, and this number will be increased by three or four additional wells when his farm is fully developed in that line. He now has one well to each five acres. He has devoted his whole life to farming and breeding of fine stock, as his well cultivated farm and herds

of Poland China hogs, Durham cattle and Shropshire sheep attest.

The subject of this sketch has been twice married, his first wife being Eva Krise, a daughter of Isaac and Janie Krise, who died after two years of married life, leaving a son, Charles Albert, six months old. This son married Miss Pearl Booher and is now an oil worker in Grant county. For his second wife Mr. Turner married Sarah J. Saxon, a daughter of James and Sarepta (Boyles) Saxon. To this union ten children were born, nine of whom are now living: Eva E. married Frederick Ice and is the mother of one child, Carrie; James H., an oil worker; Mary M., at home; Emma I., at home; Margaret; Francis M., at home; Sarah M., at home; George W., deceased; Harmon, at home, and John D. As an instance of the success attending a definite purpose and well directed efforts in life, the subject of this sketch is a living example. He is a worthy descendant of one of the hardy pioneers who pushed on to aid in reclaiming the wilderness and found a home in the west. He has lived to see and enjoy the full fruition of the labors and hopes of the early settlers and he received as the reward of his own labor a well merited prosperity. He is now in the possession of a pleasant home, a competency for his declining years, surrounded by sons and daughters whose future achievements shall add honor to his name. His wife is a member of the Disciples church and he contributes liberally of his means to the cause. Politically the subject is a Democrat, which ticket he has voted since his majority with the exception of the first, which he cast for James A. Garfield for President. He is a close reader and takes some interest in the

party campaigns, but devotes his time principally to his farming interests.

WILLIAM COLBERT.

William Colbert, born October 2, 1849, on the farm where he now lives, is a son of George Colbert, a native of Ohio, and Mrs. Elizabeth King (Collins) Colbert, also a native of Ohio. George married a Miss Chapman in Ohio, and in an early day came to Jackson township, Wells county, Indiana, and settled on the farm where the subject of this sketch now lives. The land at that time was all in woods, but he afterward cleared it up. He remained on this farm until his death and was buried on the place, as was his first wife also. He married Mrs. Elizabeth Collins for his second wife and to this union were born six children, four of whom are yet alive: William; Isaiah, a twin, died when about three years of age; Isaac, now a resident of Huntington county, Indiana; George, now residing in the state of California; Nancy J., deceased, and Lucinda, the wife of Samuel Haines. William attended the public schools in Jackson township until he was about eighteen years of age. Then remaining with his father until he was twenty-one, he began cropping on the home farm, and so continued until his father made a division of his land. About 1867 William Colbert was married to Miss Amanda Miller, a daughter of Joseph and Nancy (Jones) Miller, both natives of Wells county, Indiana, where they were married and settled on the farm now owned by Nancy Miller and her second husband, James Hutson. Joseph Miller, who died



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM COLBERT.

when Amanda was a small child, was the father of seven children, four of whom are yet living: Mary E., deceased; Isaac, deceased; Rebecca, the wife of Elijah Morrison; Amanda, wife of William Colbert; Samuel, now a resident of Warren, Indiana; Josephine, deceased; and Delilah, wife of Samuel Huffman, of Jackson township.

After his marriage William Colbert moved into the house with his father and after one year he built a house on his father's farm and moved into it, remaining there for four years. His father, becoming dissatisfied at this time, wanted William to move back on the home farm, which he did and cared for his father until the latter's death; he has since remained on the same farm. He now owns seventy-one acres of fine land, on which there are two producing oil wells; the lease on his farm for development in that line is just beginning, however. He has devoted his whole time to farming interests and is also a general stock farmer, usually breeding Poland China hogs and shorthorn cattle.

Mr. Colbert's family consists of four children: Mamie J. is the wife of Louis Minnich, a resident of Jackson township, Wells county, and they have one child, Park F.; Cora A. married H. J. Roby, a farmer of Jackson township, Wells county, Indiana, and they have two children, Beryl O. and Hazel; Daniel L., who married Clara Beard, is an oil pumper and lives on a part of the old homestead; Joseph C., an oil pumper, is at home.

Mr. Colbert and wife were formerly members of the Christian church, but the congregation to which they belonged is now disbanded. He has always been a Democrat and has been somewhat active in politics.

William Colbert is an enterprising, energetic citizen, fully alive to the questions of the day, with an inclination to the performance of his civic duties from conscientious motives and a due regard to the rights of others, and himself and family are held in high esteem in the community in which they live.

SAMUEL C. KNOTT.

Samuel C. Knott was born June 25, 1845, in Delaware county, Indiana, the son of James and Susan (Moffett) Knott. His father was a native of Guilford county, North Carolina, born November 22, 1808, and married Susan Moffett November 22, 1831, on his twenty-third birthday. Susan was born October 8, 1813, and had come to Fayette county, Indiana, in an early day with her parents, James and Mary Moffett. There James Knott married her and they settled down to farming in Fayette county for a short time and then came to Delaware county, Indiana, and settled on land in the woods. Susan died when the subject was seventeen months old. She and her husband were making a visit in Fayette county, Indiana, when she was taken sick and died November 19, 1846, being buried in that county. James, the father of Samuel, married Charity Vanmetre, his second wife, in 1850, and spent the remainder of his life in Delaware county, Indiana. His wife died October 6, 1857, and his death ensued June 6, 1863. To his first union six children were born, four of whom are yet living: Mary Emma, born April 12, 1833, died about August, 1875; William P., born November 25, 1834, now a resident of

Blountsville, Henry county, Indiana; John W., born July 12, 1836, now a resident of Jackson township, Wells county, Indiana; Martha, born December 25, 1838, died about 1889; Minerva J., born November 16, 1848, the wife of John S. Barr, a resident of Blountsville, Henry county, Indiana, and Samuel C., residing in Jackson township. To the second marriage one child was born, Margaret J., born April 4, 1855, and died January 23, 1884.

Samuel C. Knott was educated in Delaware county, attending the district schools of that county until he was seventeen years of age, and then remained with his father for one year longer, or until he was eighteen. He then left home and began working by the month in a tan yard in Sulphur Springs, Henry county, Indiana, where he remained for five or six months and then went to Connersville, Indiana, and worked in a tan yard for John L. Gilchrist for about one year. He then came back to Delaware county and worked by the month on a farm for about one year, after which he came to Wells county, Indiana, and worked for his brother a while and also by the day in the fall of 1865. September 2 of that year he was married to Clorinda Bevington, a daughter of R. A. and Catherine (Shadle) Bevington (for whose history see sketch of O. B. Bevington).

After his marriage Samuel and wife settled on a part of R. A. Bevington's farm for a short time and then moved to Warren, where they remained for a number of years. He was engaged in working at the carpenter's trade, a business which he followed exclusively for twenty-eight years, working in Warren, Hartford City and Cambridge City. He also contracted in Wells county

awhile and then in the cities of Bluffton, Ft. Wayne, Summitville and Montpelier, Indiana. March 1, 1868, he settled on the farm where they now live. He now has fifty-five and a half acres of land, with five producing oil wells on the farm, which yield him a profit of fifty dollars per month. He is now a general stock farmer, but has spent the greater portion of his life as a carpenter, only devoting a few of his later years to the interests of the farm. He is the father of seven children, six of whom are still living: Olive L., born March 2, 1867, married T. F. Ochiltree, an oil pumper in Blackford county, and they have four children, Ruby, Ethel, Charles and Mildred; Catherine L. was born July 20, 1869, married L. C. Johnson, now a resident of Washington, D. C., and they have two children, Zeffie, deceased, and Blanche, born January 28, 1871, who married H. S. Byall, a resident of Jackson township, Wells county, Indiana; they have three children, Samuel, deceased, Robert and Vernon; Harry was born September 30, 1874, died July 28, 1875; O. E., in the state of New Jersey, a teacher and a graduate in Vorhis Business College; J. C. was born August 1, 1880, and is a barber in Marion, Indiana; Pearl, born April 23, 1884, single and at home with parents. Mrs. Knott and the children are connected with the Church of Christ and are exemplary members of that denomination. Samuel Knott is, as he expresses it, a thorough Democrat and during campaign times does active party work. He has served as constable of Chester township and is now filling a position as one of the road overseers of Jackson township. He is an active, every-day citizen, a native of the Hoosier state, where he has lived all his

life. Like the majority of boys born on farms in the country, after obtaining the rudiments of an education in the common schools, he launched out into the world to carve out his own "niche" and became the architect of his own fortunes. With that adaptability which seems inherent in the youth of our land to turn a hand to almost any kind of work, he, after working for short periods of time at various pursuits, married, at the age of about twenty years, and settled down to the work of a carpenter and contractor, which business he actively followed for a period of twenty-eight years, extending his operations' over a territory embracing several counties, cities, towns and neighborhoods. After engaging exclusively in this business for so long a period of time he, like many mechanics born in the country, yielded to his bucolic instincts and love of early associations, and in 1898 purchased a nice little farm of fifty odd acres. It has on it a number of oil wells, which yield him a nice little income, which he is supplementing by indulging his proclivities for fine stock, in the breeding of both hogs and cattle of the better grades. In this manner he has settled down to enjoy life, and, possessing the esteem of all his neighbors, his remaining years promise to pass in cheerful contentment.

DAVID EICHHORN.

For a number of years a representative farmer of Lancaster township, where he still has valuable possessions, but of late connected with the industrial interests of Bluffton, the subject of this sketch is en-

titled to much more than passing notice in the biographical review of Wells county's progressive men. As may be inferred from the name, Mr. Eichhorn is of German lineage. His father, Philip Eichhorn, was born in the Fatherland, and when a youth came to the United States, the family settling in Crawford county, Ohio. The mother, who bore the maiden name of Margaret Hassler, was also of German birth and her arrival in America was contemporary with that of her future husband. After their marriage the parents settled on a farm in Crawford county, and continued to reside there until the year 1864, when they moved to Wells county, Indiana, locating in Rock Creek township, where Philip Eichhorn became the owner of a large and valuable tract of land, numbering about eight hundred acres. He was a man of great energy and thrift, provided liberally for his family and at his death, which occurred not long after his arrival left a large estate much of which is still in possession of his descendants. The property was divided among the children, viz: Frederick, William, John, Daniel, Elizabeth, Mary, David, Margaret and Philip.

David Eichhorn, whose name introduces this article, was born in Crawford county, Ohio, September 11, 1852. When about eleven years old he was brought to Indiana and from that time to the present his life has been very closely interwoven with the growth and development of Wells county. Blessed with excellent parentage and reared according to the democracy of the farm, he early developed strength of character and definiteness of purpose, which served well as a foundation for the successful career which he has since led as an enter-

prising farmer and business man and intelligent, broad minded member of the body politic. The public schools afforded him the means of a fair education, but by far the greater part of his knowledge is of that practical kind obtained by coming in contact with the world in the stern school of experience. Until twenty-one years of age Mr. Eichhorn remained on the farm with his mother, whose interests he looked after as became a true and faithful son. On attaining his majority he began working for himself and four years later was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Griffin, the ceremony being solemnized on the 6th day of August, 1876. Mrs. Eichhorn was born in Wells county, her parents having been among the early and well known pioneers of this part of the state.

Immediately following his marriage, Mr. Eichhorn moved to a quarter section of land in the county of Wells, which he still owns and on which he lived and prospered until October, 1901, when he turned the place over to the hands of others and moved to Bluffton, with the object in view of spending the remainder of his life in retirement. Mr. Eichhorn's career as an agriculturist was fortunate in every respect, as is attested by the ample competence acquired during the years of his active labor. He became one of the leading farmers of the county, also took high rank as a business man, while his standing as a citizen was second to that of no other man in the township of his residence. Shortly after moving to Bluffton he became associated with N. E. Stafford and G. A. Harnish in the manufacture of flour, the partnership thus constituted being still in existence. This firm has completely rebuilt and remodeled the

Wabash River Mill, furnished it with machinery for the manufacture of flour by the latest improved process and under the personal supervision of Mr. Stafford, a practical miller of many years' experience, the enterprise has become one of the city's most important industries. Mr. Eichhorn has long been interested in the progress of his adopted county, and his attitude towards all movements having for their object its material advancement has been that of a wide awake, enterprising and thoroughly public spirited man. He has served his township in various official capacities, but has never been an office seeker, although for many years one of the leading Democrats of his part of the county. Believing the principles of Democracy to be for the best interests of the people, and having an abiding faith in the dignity of the party's mission, he has been active in supporting same, devoting much of his time to the cause in local, state and national contests. For some time he was a member of the township council and for a period of four years served as assessor, discharging the duties of both positions in a manner highly creditable to himself and satisfactory to the public.

Mr. Eichhorn holds fraternal relations with the Knights of Pythias, belonging to the lodge at Uniondale, which he has served in important official positions, besides representing it in the grand lodge of Indiana. He is an earnest believer in revealed religion, and, like all true disciples, makes his daily life correspond with his profession. Reared according to the strict teachings of the German Reformed church, his early religious instructions had a potent power in shaping his conduct, as is evident from the

correct deportment and symmetrically developed Christian character which has been manifest in all his relations with his fellow men. He has held office of deacon in the local church with which he is identified, his family also belonging to the German Reformed communion.

Mr. and Mrs. Eichhorn are the parents of six children, whose names are as follows: Ira T., born September 27, 1877, is unmarried and still a member of the home circle; Stella P., born June 18, 1880, is the wife of John H. Lesh; Orville D., whose birth occurred on the 27th of May, 1882, has never left the parental roof; Elva M., wife of T. P. Paxson, was born August 31, 1885; Floa L. was born November 29, 1891, and Celia on the 27th day of October, 1893. Mr. Eichhorn is peculiarly blessed in his household and has so deported himself as to be a worthy example to his children. His life forcibly illustrates what can be accomplished by concentration of purpose and indomitable perseverance, directed and controlled by correct moral and religious principles. He is a fine representative of successful manhood, and possesses a character marked by integrity, true benevolence and a high sense of personal honor.

HENRY SCHAFFTER.

Notwithstanding the fact that the republic of Switzerland is one of the smallest countries of the world, it has sent a large number of emigrants to the United States during the years that have elapsed since independence was secured. The people of that country, appreciating the blessings of

liberty, of which they had a strong example in their own land, were not slow to recognize the possibilities that opened out in splendid perspective before all who ventured across the Atlantic and settled down to the pursuit of happiness and a competence. They have here become among the most intelligent, patriotic, industrious and upright of our great and wonderful cosmopolitan population.

Henry Schaffter was born in Switzerland May 12, 1818, and is the son of John H. Schaffter, also a native of that country. The father was an expert watchmaker and had a splendid reputation as a competent workman. He engaged in military service and was about to come to America to help fight for liberty and independence with General Lafayette, in which war two of his brothers died. When the war closed he was sent to Spain and served twenty-four years under the French republic and the first empire, until the battle of Eiloo. He held rank as a commissioned officer, winning a high reputation as an able and gallant officer and was three times wounded. He was the father of four children, of whom the subject is the only one now living.

Henry Schaffter remained under the parental roof until he was sixteen years old, in the meantime attending the common schools and acquiring a fair education. Upon leaving school he was apprenticed to learn the trade of cabinetmaker, at which he served two years. Upon the completion of his apprenticeship he worked for a time as a machinist, but afterward went to Germany and France and worked at the trade of cabinetmaking. In 1850, realizing that in America lay larger opportunities for a man of energy and ambition, he came to the

United States. Upon landing in this country he came at once to Vera Cruz, Wells county, but shortly after his arrival he was taken sick and all his savings were soon used up in the payment of doctor's bills. Upon recovering his health he purchased a farm, consisting mostly of timber land, and at once went to work to clear the land and put the soil in a condition for cultivation. By persistent and indefatigable industry he brought the tract to a high state of excellence and in time possessed one of the choice farms of Wells county. He remained upon this place until 1902, when he removed to Bluffton and has since made his home there with his daughter.

In 1847 Mr. Shaffter was united in marriage with Miss Marianne Boivin, whose death occurred in 1880. To them were born twelve children, of whom six are still living. There are also twenty-one grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Mr. Shaffter is a member of the Reformed church. In politics he is a stanch Republican, and in his younger days took a very active and prominent part in local politics.

In many respects the career of Mr. Schaffter is peculiarly instructive and commendable. It is a complete triumph over apparently insurmountable obstacles by a young man with almost no means at his command but a determination to make the best of his opportunities, and how well he has succeeded in this laudable endeavor is demonstrated by the fact that he has accumulated in material things enough to make him independent for the rest of his days. He is one of the most popular men of his community, genial, companionable, ever ready to do a favor or make a sacrifice whereby his fellow men may be benefited or the country profited.

GEORGE W. COTTON.

In calling to mind the dealer in live stock, most persons will picture him as a hard-riding, hard-drinking, hard-swearing individual, genial and kind enough in his way, but rough of language and uncouth of manners. Whether or not it is the life they lead in driving over the country, purchasing stock, driving them to the station to be shipped and keeping up a night-and-day vigilance upon them while in transit, that gives them the distinguishing traits of character referred to, it would be difficult to assert. Certain it is, however, that the great majority of those who actively engage in purchasing, driving and shipping live stock to the commercial centers of the country would never be called upon to impart instructions in good breeding to the pupils of a young ladies' seminary. In this as in all other things there are some very notable exceptions. One of these is George W. Cotton, a resident of Bluffton, Wells county, Indiana, the subject of this sketch. His career amply shows that a man may be truthful, honest and moral in any respective calling; in other words, that to be possessed of the virtues mentioned, including abstinence, it is not necessary to become a theological student or a minister of the gospel.

The Cotton family was one of the first families to locate in Wells county. It is now more than sixty-two years since Samuel G. Cotton and his good wife Dianah, who were natives of Holmes county, Ohio, decided to make their home in that locality. After investing in a number of tracts of land in Rock Creek township, he finally purchased the farm which has since been known as the Cotton farm and by the labor

of his hands and the sweat of his brow, made it what it now is, one of the best improved and most productive pieces of land in the county. Here he lived until the latter part of his life, when he moved to Bluffton, where his wife died in 1895. His death occurred in Chicago May 21, 1902. He was widely known and because of his many excellent qualities he possessed the esteem and regard of all who knew him. The county is largely indebted to him for its early development.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Cotton, father and mother of George W. Cotton, were the parents of five sons and one daughter. George W., the subject hereof, was born August 1, 1851, and was the youngest child of the family. He was educated in the common schools of Rock Creek township, later in the graded schools of Bluffton, eventually going to Marion, where educational facilities were supposed to be better. Outside of the time occupied in his studies, he worked upon his father's farm until he attained his majority, when he engaged in business for himself, buying and selling live stock. He was, indeed is yet, what is termed in these latter days "a hustler," and the competitor who gathered in more animals than he did during the course of a year had to get up earlier in the morning, move faster during business hours and prolong his labors later at night than the average stock buyer is in the habit of doing. His negotiations are conducted calmly, coolly and generally satisfactorily. He always pays the highest price permitted by the conditions of the market and during the long and active life has paid to the farmers of Wells and adjoining counties hundreds of thousands of dollars. At different times he

was associated in business with his brothers, Cyrus and Frank, but for the last fifteen years he has been alone. That he has been most successful is amply attested by the volume of business he has done. His shipments are made to Chicago, Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Buffalo and other points. His long experience both as to the markets and the stock, have brought to him a penetration and judgment that seems almost infallible.

April 27, 1875, Mr. Cotton was married to Miss Josephine McDonald, who is a native of Noble county, Indiana. To them have been born eight children: Bessie, the first born, is the wife of Hamer McKinney; Marshall S.; Ralph C.; Franklin F.; Hazel D., and Ruby; two are dead. Mr. Cotton was a Republican and always voted with that party until 1884, when he transferred his allegiance to the Prohibition party, with which he has since steadily voted. He has on two separate occasions occupied a place upon the county ticket of the Prohibition party, once for sheriff and at another time for representative, but in Wells county they seldom elect to office any other kind of people than Democrats. Prohibitionists are especially obnoxious to them, hence it is unnecessary to say that he was defeated each time. He and wife are members of the Baptist church of Bluffton, are zealous in all charitable and Christian work and give of their substance quite liberally to every worthy cause. While a moral, upright Christian man, Mr. Cotton is not a long-visaged, canting, pretending personage. He is warm-hearted, merry and jovial, a man whose friendship you would be induced to court and whose loyalty you would never question in any emergency.

LEVI HUFFMAN.

Among the enterprising men of affairs whose life and character are familiar to nearly every citizen of Wells county, the name of Levi Huffman stands out clear and sharp. Distinctly a progressive man and as such deeply interested in everything pertaining to the material advancement of the county, and the promotion of its industrial growth, he fills no insignificant place in public esteem, but on the contrary enjoys much more than local repute in the various vocations with which he is identified. Mr. Huffman is a native of Wells county and the son of Henry and Catharine (Baker) Huffman, the father born in Clark county, Ohio, and the mother in the state of Pennsylvania. The father of Henry was Adam Huffman, one of the earliest settlers of Clark county; Mrs. Huffman was the daughter of Adam Baker, a representative of one of the oldest families in the part of Pennsylvania where he lived.

In 1840 Henry Huffman came to Wells county, Indiana, and entered the land in Jackson township now owned by the subject and at once began the preliminary work of clearing a farm. Up to that time the land was as nature created it and the first thing necessary was some kind of a habitation for the family. In a short time a log cabin of the conventional type was erected and it served the purpose for which intended until replaced in 1867 by a frame, one of the first buildings of the kind in the township of Jackson. When Mr. Huffman took possession of his place the woods were so dense that a person going fifteen rods from the house was in danger of getting lost. To clear away such growth and prepare the

ground for tillage required an immense amount of hard labor, but by patient endurance the forest gradually disappeared before the woodman's sturdy strokes until in the course of time nearly all of the ninety and a half acres was in a fine state of cultivation. Later Mr. Huffman added to his original purchase until his place included one hundred and seventy acres of as fertile soil as the county could boast, and the farm is now considered one of the most valuable pieces of land in this part of the state. He made many substantial improvements and soon took high rank with the leading agriculturists of his township.

Mr. Huffman died on this place in the fall of 1883, just four weeks and three days after the departure of his faithful companion. This was his second wife, his first having died a number of years previously, after bearing him four children, Jacob, Catherine, Sallie and Peter, all living at the present time. The maiden name of the first wife was Elizabeth Eversole. By the second marriage, to which reference is made in a preceding paragraph, Mr. Huffman was the father of ten children, whose names are as follows: Frederick, George, Henry, Lydia, John, Samuel, Levi, Eliza, Eva and Mary, all but the last named living. The death of but one in a family of fourteen children after they had grown to the years of maturity is perhaps unparalleled in the history of any other family in the state. It is evidence of a strong and vigorous ancestry, supplemented by correct habits of living on the part of the descendants, all of the children being fine specimens of physical manhood and womanhood.

The birth of Levi Huffman occurred October 20, 1850, on the farm which he now



MRS. LEVI HUFFMAN.



LEVI HUFFMAN.

owns and occupies. He inherited a strong constitution and by faithful outdoor exercise early developed a vigor of body which enabled him while still a youth to perform a man's labor at all kinds of farm work. In the winter time he attended the public schools of Jackson township until his twentieth year, spending the other seasons as his father's assistant in carrying on the farm. He commenced life for himself by working a part of the home place on the shares, in addition to which he also rented land of his neighbors and in this way succeeded within a few years in getting a very good start in the world. He continued to live under the parental roof until his marriage, which was solemnized on the 31st of December, 1874, with Miss Martha Coolman, daughter of William and Mary A. (McKee) Coolman, natives of Ohio, and early settlers of Huntington county, Indiana. Soon after taking to himself a wife Mr. Huffman moved into a little old log house on a forty-acre tract of land which his father subsequently purchased and during the seven years following he lived on this place and prospered in his labors. At the expiration of that time he took charge of the home farm for the purpose of looking after his father, who by reason of old age and infirmities incident thereto was no longer able to manage the place or attend to his business affairs. With filial devotion and affection most commendable, the subject continued to care for his parents as long as they lived and after their death he sold a piece of land in Blackford county which he had purchased the meantime and bought the old family homestead. Since taking possession in 1883 Mr. Huffman has made the farm one of the finest in the township and, as already stated, he soon became one of the most enterprising

farmers and stockraisers in the county of Wells. Among the many valuable improvements which he has made are a large and commodious barn, erected in 1884, and the fine modern residence, built five years later, besides the other buildings which every first class farm contains. At the present time Mr. Huffman owns four hundred acres of land, all lying in the Indiana oil fields, and on this are forty-seven producing wells which yield him the handsome income of seven hundred dollars per month. From this source alone he has become a wealthy man, the returns from his agricultural and live stock interests also adding very materially to the large fortune now in his possession. Mr. Huffman is a careful and conservative business man and has made many judicious investments, all of which return him a liberal margin. He owns a half interest in a large business block in the town of Warren and a number of dwellings and other property in Montpelier, and looks forward to making still greater investments in country and city real estate. He is now chiefly engaged in looking after his large business interests, but devotes a considerable portion of his time to the breeding and raising of fine live stock, in which industry he has a wide and growing reputation. Mr. Huffman pays especial attention to shorthorn cattle, of which he keeps on hand a herd of from twenty-five to thirty-five, all first-class animals, many of them representing hundreds of dollars in value; he has also met with most encouraging success raising Poland China and Duroc breeds of hogs, supplying many of his neighbors and others with this valuable stock, besides marketing a large number every year, thus materially increasing his income.

With all his success as a farmer and business man, Mr. Huffman is quiet and unassuming in demeanor, having no desire to boast of his achievements, realizing that worldly wealth does not constitute truest riches. In the best sense of the term he is a Christian and as such looks upon material possession only as a means of accomplishing good among his fellow men. A number of years ago he united with the German Baptist church and began that religious life which has since characterized him and he is now one of the most active workers in the congregation with which he worships. His wife is also a member of the same communion and in many ways has demonstrated her faith in good works among those with whom she mingles. Mr. and Mrs. Huffman have been kind and charitable to the worthy poor and no legitimate enterprise for the moral advancement of the community has ever appealed for their assistance in vain. They are highly esteemed by the people of their neighborhood and those who know them best are the most profuse in their praise. Mr. Huffman reads much and has decided opinions on the leading questions of the day. He has been a pronounced Democrat all his life and takes an active interest in local and general politics, never missing an election, unless unavoidably detained, nor hesitating to express his opinions upon the questions at issue.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Huffman has been blessed with two children, the older of whom is Ardella, now the wife of Watson Hayward, who lives on the subject's farm in Huntington county; Josephine A., the younger, married Daniel Roscoe Hardman and lives with her parents, her husband having charge of the home farm. Mr. Huffman

has in his possession an old parchment deed, dated August 5, 1837, and bearing the signature of President Martin Van Buren.

ISAAC MASON THARP.

This enterprising farmer and ex-soldier of the Civil war, and a United Brethren clergyman, was born March 1, 1846, in Wells county, Indiana, on the farm now occupied by Amos Tharp.

A. B. Tharp, father of Isaac M. Tharp, was a native of Virginia and was born June 12, 1820. His parents died in Virginia when he was but a lad, his father, mother and only brother dying within one week of each other, leaving A. B. alone in the world at the age of nine years. He was brought by a Mr. Shaw to Ohio, where he was taken in charge by a distant relative and reared to manhood in Darke county. When he had attained his majority he came to Indiana and about 1841 or 1842 married Miss Irena Ricketts, a daughter of Mrs. Hannah Ricketts, and at once entered forty acres of the land now owned by his son, A. S. Tharp. This land he paid for by day labor at the rate of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, cleared it up, built a log cabin, and also assisted in clearing off the brush to make way for the construction of the present Warren and Hartford gravel road. This was in the pioneer days, when market towns were far apart, and on one occasion he was obliged to travel eighty-two miles on horseback to secure a sack of corn meal, and was glad to get it even at that great disadvantage. Both A. B. and Irena Tharp passed the remainder of life on this farm,



REV. ISAAC M. THARP.

A. B. dying January 27, 1871, and Irena March 21, 1889.

To the marriage of A. B. and Irena Tharp were born the large family of fourteen children, as follows: Elizabeth J., who died in infancy; William H., who enlisted in the Forty-seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry in 1861 and died of lung fever while in the service; Hannah M., widow of Samuel M. Click; I. M., the subject proper of this biographical record; John W., a mechanic of Jackson township; Mary C., wife of J. W. Bachelor, of Bluffton; R. R., now residing in Sidney, Colorado; Jonas G., of Jackson township, Wells county, Indiana; Berthina, deceased, wife of James Ruble; Lucy S., now Mrs. J. Lambert, of New Albany, Indiana; Sarah F., deceased; Ezra, deceased; Amos S., on the old homestead, and M. M., on a farm of his own in Jackson township.

Isaac M. Tharp received his primary education in district school No. 4, of Jackson township, which he attended until eighteen years of age. when, on his birthday, he was mustered into the service as a member of Company A, Forty-seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry, in which he enlisted in February, 1864, under Col. John A. McLaughlin and Capt. E. Y. Sturges, of Bluffton. Mr. Tharp served in the expedition up the Red river from start to finish, was in fourteen different engagements in all, including the sieges of Fort Blakely, Alabama, and Spanish Fort, in the same state, in the rear of Mobile, where he was under fire fourteen days, and had to mine or dig all the way before getting within speaking distance and in forcing the enemy to succumb. Mr. Tharp caught a severe cold, caused by wet clothes, but was

in the hospital only four days and three nights during his entire term of service, but during these four days suffered from an excruciating earache, and still feels the effects of the attack, being somewhat dull of hearing. He was honorably mustered out November 23, 1865, about six months after the war had closed.

On his return from the war, Mr. Tharp engaged in carpenter work with his father. January 14, 1869, he married Miss Mary A. Runkle, who was born August 22, 1843, in Perry county, Ohio, a daughter of Jeremiah and Anna (Leonard) Runkle, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of France. Mr. and Mrs. Runkle were married in Perry county, Ohio, and soon afterwards settled in Wells county, Indiana, and had born to them eleven children, viz: Mary A., now Mrs. I. M. Tharp; Alpheus, deceased; Charles, a mechanic in Jackson township; Maggie, wife of Samuel Griffith; Frances, married to Commodore Alexander; Matthew, a resident of Dundee, Indiana; Peter, in Jersey City, New Jersey; Ella, deceased; Clara, wife of Henry Blake, of Hartford City, Indiana; Alma, married to William Rhoads, of Santa Fe, Ohio; Albert, deceased. Of this family of eleven children there is a difference of twenty-two years between the birth of the eldest and that of the youngest, both of whom were born on the same day of the month.

Isaac M. Tharp at his marriage settled on forty acres of land, now owned by Mrs. Compton. He had saved five hundred dollars while in the army and this money had been handled by his father, who made the investment and had the land deeded to the son. Isaac M. cleared up thirty acres, which he placed under cultivation, but his inclina-

tion was more toward carpenter work than toward farm work, so he sold his farm in March, 1876, went to Hartsville, Bartholomew county, Indiana, entered the college at that place, and was graduated three years later in theology. He then became a member of the White River conference in 1877, but it was not until 1879 that he entered upon active ministerial work. The first year of his ministry was in Clifty circuit and the second year in Fall creek circuit, about fifty miles from his home. One Friday afternoon he left his home to keep an appointment the following Sunday, and when within a half mile of his destination his horse ran away, throwing Mr. Tharp from his cart. This disaster occurred September 5, 1880, and in the fall of that year Mr. Tharp had one leg broken and the ankle joint in the other leg dislocated. On the 21st day of the same month the broken leg was amputated and on October 13 a second amputation was found to be necessary. These operations confined him to his bed for four months and it was thought by the physician last in attendance that death would be the result, but Mr. Tharp eventually recovered.

Mr. Tharp next spent two years in Honey Creek circuit and then came to Salamonie circuit in Wells county and here passed two years, when he was elected presiding elder of Marion district for the same length of time; he was next on the Indianapolis district for two years and then on the Dublin district for one year. He then went to the Williamsburg circuit of Wayne county, was next in the Salamonie circuit and was then re-elected presiding elder, in the meantime having officiated in the Indianapolis and Dublin districts. He then was assigned to the Fairmount circuit, and later to the Hartford circuit, from which he

retired to his farm in 1898, but still preaches about twice each month.

Mr. Tharp's farm comprises forty acres, but this he rents out, as he has five very fair oil wells on his premises, the product of which, in forty-one months, sold for thirty-one thousand three hundred dollars and are now yielding him about seventy-five dollars per month.

Rev. Tharp seems to have been a victim to accidental occurrences. Once while on his way from Honey Creek circuit to Salamonie circuit his horse, at nine o'clock at night, took fright, backed off a bridge and fell a distance of fifteen feet, but providentially the rider escaped injury. Beside the serious injuries alluded to, Rev. Tharp has been in two railroad accidents, was on a steamboat when it sank, and on another when its boiler exploded, has fallen from several houses and once, when a boy, fell thirty feet from the limb of a hickory tree, but in every case was miraculously and apparently providentially saved for the useful life in the Master's vineyard which he has since led.

To the marriage of Rev. Tharp have been born six children, viz: Charles, deceased; W. M., a pumper, who married Sallie Ritchie; Aurie A., wife of Charles Compton, a farmer of Jackson township, to whom she has borne five children, Clarence, Clinton, Effie, Josie, deceased, and Sylvia Bertha, deceased; Milton W., a pumper, married Minnie Williams, who has borne him three children, Vance, Treva and Audrey; the sixth child, Lizzie I., was the wife of Harvey Kline, but she is now deceased.

In politics the Rev. Mr. Tharp has always been of Republican proclivities, but has never been very aggressive.

PERRY KILANDER.

Perry Kilander was born June 10, 1823, in Brown county, Ohio. He was a son of Jacob Kilander, a native of Pennsylvania, whose ancestors were originally from Holland, and Polly Dillman Kilander, a native of the state of Kentucky. After their marriage they settled in Kentucky, later going to Brown county, Ohio, and from there they removed to Jackson township, Wells county, Indiana, where they remained until death. Jacob was the father of seven children, the subject being the only one now living, at the age of eighty years. David, Dillman, Sarah, Sina and Calvin are all deceased. The subject attended school in Brown county, Ohio, on days which were too bad to work. He began working for himself when he was about twenty-one years of age, remaining with his father and working out, etc. At the age of twenty-three, on March 17, 1846, he was married to Sarah Jane Martin, born in Brown county, Ohio, in November, 1821, a daughter of George and Mary (Myers) Martin. After his marriage the subject began farming in Brown county, Ohio, remaining there five years, when he removed to Wells county, Indiana, and purchased two hundred and eighty acres of unimproved land which he and a farm hand cleared up and improved. He afterward divided his land among his children, reserving eighty acres for himself. He has devoted his entire life to the interests of farming. His faithful wife and helpmeet died March 14, 1901. He is the father of twelve children, ten of whom are yet living: Polly M., born January 17, 1847, is the wife of Canada Griffith and they have three living children; the second

child of the subject, Sarah E., was born August 28, 1848, and died November 14, 1900; the third, Maria E., born March 2, 1850, is the wife of John Verner; Calvin V., born February 17, 1852, deceased; William D., born November 26, 1853, now residing in Kansas City; Montre C., born December 19, 1857, the wife of John Lee; Charlotte O., born November 19, 1858, the wife of Phaniel McIntyre; Robert A., born March 23, 1861; Rebecca A., born September 18, 1863, wife of Warner Welch; Jacob M., born January 17, 1866; Emma R., born October 8, 1868, wife of Keaver Risinger, and John E., born December 28, 1872.

Mr. Kilander has been a general stock farmer all his life, devoting his time distinctly to his farming affairs and has never taken an active interest in politics. In the person of the venerable subject we have a personage who has attained an age beyond that of the most of his contemporaries. Born in the first quarter of the last century, he has lived to see the wonderful development of the country and the applied inventions used as a means thereto which were undreamed of in his youth. He has been a pioneer of two states, aiding by the labor of his own hands in creating the conditions of prosperity which his environments denote. He has lived to see the fruition of his labors in the days of his strong manhood in the possession by himself and children of the bounteous returns of the farms which he wrested so largely with his own hands from the virgin forests of a new country. Those who have been witnesses to and aided in all the transitory changes which have attended our wonderful development will have soon gone hence, but their deeds will be enshrined in the hearts of com-

ing generations and sons and daughters will arise up on every hand and call them blessed.

NELSON E. STAFFORD.

Prominent among the enterprising men of Wells county is Nelson E. Stafford, who at this time is identified with one of the leading industrial interests of the city of Bluffton. The Stafford family had its origin in Ireland and was first represented in the United States by the subject's grandfather, who crossed the ocean many years ago and settled in Pennsylvania. There he married and reared a family and it was in that state that his death also occurred. John Stafford, father of Nelson E., was born in Pennsylvania and at the early age of four years was left to make his own way in the world. He chose agriculture for his life work and by industry and thrift succeeded in purchasing a farm, in addition to the cultivation of which he also earned considerable money as a plasterer. When a young man he married Miss Lydia Eschleman, who bore him a large family of fifteen children, all of whom grew to maturity, five living at the present time. John Stafford provided well for those dependent upon him and assisted his children by every means within his power. He began life a poor orphan boy, but in time became quite well-to-do, having accumulated a competency of sufficient magnitude to place his family in comfortable circumstances.

Nelson E. Stafford, of this review, was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, on the 25th of March, 1851. His early life included the usual experiences of country lads, and

he grew to young manhood impressed with the idea that in this world no excellence is to be achieved without great labor. The farm is no place for an idler, as young Stafford early learned by practical experience. He assisted his father and older brothers with the work in the fields and of winter seasons attended the public schools, where he acquired sufficient education to enable him to pass the required examination and procure a teacher's license. After teaching three terms in his native county he decided to abandon educational work and turn his attention to a vocation more in harmony with his tastes and inclinations. In April, 1873, Mr. Stafford came to Indiana and entered a mill at Richmond with the object in view of learning how to manufacture flour. After remaining in that city three years and becoming proficient at his trade, he changed his location to Wells county, arriving here in August, 1875. From that time until 1880 he operated the flouring-mill at Murray and did a fairly remunerative business, but the latter year purchased an interest in the Quaker City mills, which he retained for about one year. Disposing of his share in the above enterprise, Mr. Stafford, in the fall of 1882, returned to Wells county and bought the Murray mill, which he had formerly operated, and ran the same until July, 1902, when he became associated with David Eichhorn and G. A. Harnish in the manufacture of flour at Bluffton. Purchasing the old river mill in this city, they rebuilt and completely remodeled the structure, supplying it with the latest improved machinery, making it one of the best and most successful enterprises of the kind in this part of the state. Mr. Stafford has thoroughly mastered the art of making

flour, as the superior brands which he now turns out abundantly attest. He gives personal attention to every detail of the business and in order to meet the constantly increasing demand for his product both at home and elsewhere the mill is kept running at its full capacity. He has spared no pains to add to his efficiency as a miller, keeping in close touch with the latest improvements in the trade.

Politically Mr. Stafford is a decided Democrat and for many years has been prominent in the councils of his party at the different places of his residence. In 1894 he was elected trustee of Lancaster township, which office he held for a period of five and a half years, proving a safe, conservative and in every respect a most judicious and satisfactory public servant. While using his best endeavors to keep the levy at the lowest point conducive to the public good, he nevertheless did much for the township in the way of improving the highways, erecting school buildings and looking after other important interests. During his incumbency about eight miles of free turnpike road were constructed, a fine graded four-room school building was erected at Murray and a structure containing two rooms built in the village of Craigville. Always interested in the cause of education, he did much to advance the standard within his jurisdiction, and as long as he held the office of trustee none but teachers of scholarship and well recognized professional ability were employed in the schools of Lancaster township. Mr. Stafford is a man of progressive ideas and stands for enterprise and improvement in all the terms imply. He discharges the duties of citizenship as becomes an intelligent, broad minded, loyal American and loses sight of self if by so do-

ing he can in any legitimate way subserve the public good. Every object calculated to improve the material, social and intellectual condition of the community is sure to find in him not only a zealous advocate but a liberal patron, and to the extent of his ability he has ever been a promoter of the general welfare of his city and county. Mr. Stafford has many friends and occupies a conspicuous place in the confidence and esteem of all with whom he has had business or social relations. He is an excellent neighbor, earnest in his efforts to make life pleasant to those with whom he mingles and stands deservedly high in the list of Bluffton's representative men.

On the 7th day of June, 1879, Mr. Stafford was happily married to Miss Louisa J. Eversole, daughter of Jacob Eversole, of Wells county, a union blessed with three children, namely: Frank, born June 7, 1879, was educated at the Northern Indiana Normal University at Valparaiso and the Marion Normal School at Marion, this state, has been one of the county's successful teachers, and is now with the firm of Stafford, Eichhorn & Co.; Grace, whose birth occurred on the 7th of May, 1880, and who is now the wife of Samuel Brickley, was educated in the home schools and at the Normal College at Angola; Roy, born September 8, 1881, is a miller by trade, working also for his father in the city of Bluffton. Fraternally Mr. Stafford belongs to the Pythian brotherhood and religiously believes in the plain, simple teachings of the Christian church which takes the Bible alone for its creed and standard of faith and practice. He has held the dual office of clerk and treasurer of the congregation worshipping in Murray, his wife being a communicant of the same body.

DANIEL ALSPACH.

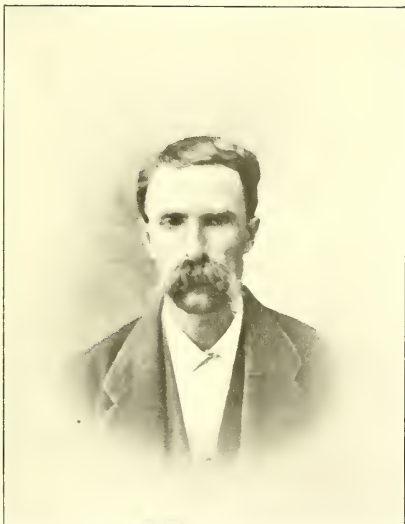
Daniel Alspach, deceased, was born August 10, 1842, in the state of Ohio. He was a son of Amos and Elizabeth (Fox) Alspach, who were natives of Ohio also. The grandfather was likewise named Daniel. Daniel, Jr., came with his parents to Wells county, Indiana, about the year 1852, entering the land now owned by Calvin Alspach. Amos is yet living with his son Calvin, Elizabeth being deceased.

Amos was the father of five children, one of whom is yet living; Elijah, deceased; Daniel died May 5, 1893; John, deceased; Elizabeth, deceased, and Calvin, now living on the old home farm. Daniel Alspach attended the public schools of Jackson township, Wells county, Indiana, until he was about eighteen years old. He then enlisted in Company A, Forty-seventh Indiana Volunteers, and entered the service as a soldier of the Civil war. He first enlisted on the 25th day of September, 1861, to serve for three years, and re-enlisted as a veteran, on the 15th of December, 1863, being mustered out of service at the close of the war, October 23, 1865. After his discharge from the army Daniel spent his time working on the farm of his father until his marriage, which event occurred December 25, 1867. On that day he was married to Henrietta Bevington, born November 3, 1850. She is a daughter of Reason and Catherine (Shadle) Bevington, both of whom are deceased. After his marriage Daniel and wife moved on to the farm where his widow yet resides, and where he died. He had saved money enough during his service in the army to purchase eighty acres of land in the woods. He cleared up and improved all this land

before his death, which occurred May 5, 1893. He left, besides his widow, four sons, viz: John A., born March 10, 1863, married Ellen Jones, and they have five children, Delphos E., deceased, Frederick H., Raymond E., Mable and Nelson D.; Asa B., born October 19, 1870, married Mamie Card, is an oil pumper and a farmer in Jackson township, Wells county; Orville F. was born May 21, 1876, married Lizzie Stoler, and is an oil pumper in Blackford county; Daniel Clyde was born December 18, 1887, and is yet attending the public schools, being in the sixth grade, and a great reader. Daniel Alspach was a general stock farmer, devoting his time entirely to the interests of his farming operations. Both himself and wife were active members of the Wesleyan church and were consistent Christians.

In politics the subject of this sketch was a Republican and an active worker in the ranks of his party, taking a lively interest in its success. At the time of his death he owned eighty acres of land, on which there are eight oil wells. There are five tanks on the farm, which will run a hundred dollars per month. His widow, Henrietta, has fifty acres of land, on which there are five wells, both places yielding a profit in royalties on oil of two hundred dollars per month.

September 20, 1896, Henrietta, widow of Daniel, was married a second time, her present husband being Benjamin Snyder. Daniel Alspach was a member of that great army of patriotic youth of the land whose pulses were quickened by the call to arms when traitors threatened the disruption of our country. With multitudes of others, he answered the nation's call; relinquishing his schools and youthful aspirations, he



Daniel Alapach

donned a uniform and marched away, a soldier of that invincible host who had sworn that the union of states of our country must and should not be severed. Mr. Alspach participated in some of the heaviest battles of the Trans-Mississippi valley campaign, viz: New Madrid, Missouri, Port Gibson, Mississippi, the great siege of Vicksburg and possibly witnessed the surrender of General Pemberton to Grant; was also on the Banks expedition up the Red river and the battles of Fort Blakely and Spanish Fort and Mobile, Alabama. During his entire service he was never taken prisoner nor was wounded. Much honor is due Mr. Alspach for his long service for his country.

After serving his country faithfully until its sovereignty had been acknowledged and peace declared, he proudly passed in review with that great army before disbandment and returned to his home, from which he had been absent for more than four long and anxious years. Having demonstrated the stability and purpose of his life, as but comparatively few others did, by saving his money earned in the army, he returned to the peaceful pursuits of a husbandman of the soil. Purchasing unimproved land, he married and he and his young wife devoted themselves to the carving out of the unbroken woodland a home for themselves and the children that should bless their union. He lived the life of an industrious, peaceful and Christian citizen, performing all the duties relating thereto with a conscientious regard of the rights of others and an innate self indorsement of the rectitude of his own actions. He died at the comparatively early age of fifty-one years, as a result, no doubt, of the vicissitudes and hardships through which he had passed during his

army life. He has left to his children the record of a Christian citizen and patriotic soldier, and it can be said of him, that "the world is better for his having lived in it."

AMOS FRENCH.

The blessing bestowed upon the community in general, and the afflicted in particular, by the public institutions of the state are not appreciated as they should be by the public. The institution for the education of the deaf and dumb has accomplished a work in Indiana the effect of which will live long after this and many another generation has passed away. Two of the students of that institution, some years ago, were Amos French, the subject of this sketch, and Harriett A. Adams, who are now and have been for many years husband and wife, residing on a farm in Nottingham township, Wells county, Indiana. Without the instruction, learning and training received by them in that splendid school their lives would be far less happy than they have been and the field of usefulness they have occupied and so faithfully and efficiently filled would have been short of the service of two energetic workers.

Amos French was born March 23, 1852, in Adams county, Indiana. His father was John G. French, a native of Dearborn county, Indiana, whose parents were Joseph and Eliza (Beach) French, natives of Massachusetts. John G. French was born on the 27th of November, 1824, and his wife's maiden name was Mary Ann Heller. They were married February 22, 1849, and became the parents of one child,

Mary A., who married George Mowery. The first Mrs. French died December 25, 1849, having enjoyed less than a year of married life. On March 18, 1851, John G. French was united in marriage to Lydia Weist. To this union nine children were born, two of whom preceded their father into eternity. The others are Amos, Eli, Henry, William, Eliza, John and Hattie. Amos is the subject of this sketch and will be more particularly referred to hereafter; Eliza became the wife of John Gentis and is now deceased, and Hattie married Jethro Potter.

In December, 1835, Joseph French, paternal grandfather of the subject, moved with his family to Wells county. At that time John G., father of the subject, was quite young, but he had early become familiar with hard work and learned to endure privation and hardship common to that period and locality. He was strong and muscular, wielded an ax with giant power and had few if any equals in clearing the land. No one did more than he did toward wiping out the wilderness and converting the land into beautiful farms. Industry and energy, coupled with an economy in no sense approaching parsimony, enabled him to become the owner of considerable property. When because of old age he began to feel the ravages of time he decided to divide up his property among his children. He owned some five hundred acres of land and of this he gave each son and daughter an equal share. For himself he reserved a home, with his youngest daughter, Mrs. Jethro Potter. There he remained until his death, which occurred on his birthday, November 27, 1897. His wife died October 18, 1895.

John G. French was a man of wonderful

memory and much intellectual ability and by diligent reading had become possessed of a vast fund of useful information. He delighted to entertain his friends, particularly the young people, with stories of his early life and his experience in the days long gone by. There were few of his generation better posted on the current questions of the time than he and few could equal him in the discussion of any proposition. He was a lawyer, a member of the Wells county bar, but did not engage much in the practice except in his immediate neighborhood before justices of the peace, where he won many signal victories. He was well known and highly respected in Bluffton and his children vied with each other in securing the pleasure of his company, even when age had greatly enfeebled him. The perversity and peevishness that generally comes with advancing years was unknown to him. Genial and kindly even unto the last, he accepted the inevitable with a meekness and resignation that almost amounted to stoicism. Few men enjoy their old ages as he did.

When Amos French was three years of age, through an attack of scarlet fever, he lost his hearing and in 1862, when he was ten years old, he entered the state institution for the instruction of the deaf and dumb, at Indianapolis. He remained there ten years, until 1872, when he had completed his academic course in that institution. On August 14, 1873, he was united in marriage to Miss Harriett A. Adams, a native of Preble county, Ohio, born July 16, 1852. She was afflicted as he was and it was while securing an education at the state institution that they became acquainted. Her parents were M. C. and Mary (Shewman)

Adams. M. C. Adams was born in Preble county, Ohio, July 16, 1830, and was the son of Samuel and Emily Adams, natives of Massachusetts. Mary Shewman was born April 10, 1832, in Hamburg, Preble county, Ohio, and was the daughter of Christopher and Anna Shewman, also natives of Preble county. M. C. Adams and Mary Shewman were united in marriage August 31, 1851, in Preble county, located there and remained for six years, when they moved to Cincinnati and remained there six years. From there they moved to Indianapolis, Indiana, where Mr. Adams engaged in the wholesale business for four years. In 1861 they moved to Galveston, Indiana, where they remained until his death, which occurred March 13, 1887. His wife Mary is yet living at the age of seventy years. She lives in Kokomo, Indiana, with her son Grant. To them eight children were born, viz: Hattie, wife of the subject of this sketch, to whom more particular reference will be made hereafter; M. J., a resident of Hamilton, Ohio; Alice, widow of James Cox; Florence, wife of Eddie Leach, of Fairmont, Indiana; Daniel, a resident of Illinois; Lincoln; Grant lives in Kokomo and Susie died in infancy.

When only sixteen months old Harriett A. Adams, wife of the subject, was taken ill with the measles. It was a most severe attack and for a time the life of the little one was despaired of. Fortunately she displayed far more vital force than she was credited with and she recovered, but the faculty of hearing was totally destroyed. She entered the state institution for people thus afflicted about the same time that her present husband did. They were members of the same class and as they grew older and

pursued their studies, Cupid made his appearance and smoothly played his customary part. Both graduated from school the same year and the year following were united in marriage. The young people established their first home on an eighty-acre tract of land the same on which they now live in Nottingham township. On this only about twelve acres were cleared. Their home was an old log cabin, twenty by twenty-six feet, and their barn was a structure similar in character. Now fifty-five acres of the place are cleared, well drained, fenced and in fine tillable condition. In 1894 they erected a very comfortable house and commodious barn. To the work of the farm Mr. French devotes his entire time, carrying on general farming, raising grain and feeding live stock. With Poland China hogs he has been very successful. He has one pig which he is inclined to look upon as a mascot. It has five toes on each foot, but it is not likely that they will "save his bacon" when killing time comes. His cattle are of the general class.

To Mr. and Mrs. Amos French four children have been born, viz: Dorothy, born November 7, 1875, widow of Elmer Williams, is the mother of two children, Ralph and Raymond, the latter now dead; Ella, born March 25, 1878, married Charles Bieri, and they have one child, Elsie E.; Bertha, born October 27, 1883; Hubert, born December 12, 1889. All have received good common school education, are intelligent and capable, with none of their faculties in the least impaired. The wit of the family especially commends his parents for never having subjected them to jawing or scolding.

The parents and some of the children are members of the Evangelical church and at-

tend service at Krepps. Mr. French has always been a man of good habits, never having drank liquor, chewed tobacco or smoked. As he wittily expresses it, he prefers a full pocket to being full himself. In politics he is an independent Democrat, favoring the national platform of that party, but in local affairs he votes for the man who he considers best fitted to fill the office.

The loss of one of their senses has not prevented this model couple from accomplishing a splendid life work. They have reared and educated a family of four talented, even brilliant children, have managed their business affairs most commendably and accumulated considerable property. In the world of silence with which they are surrounded, silent themselves, they have played their part most nobly, far better than many with faculties complete. Despite their afflictions, they can leave their posterity names well worthy of being honored and revered for all time.

JACOB FREDERICK KREHL.

The subject of this review has been identified with the more important interests of Bluffton for many years, being one of the prime factors in the city's commercial prosperity, besides gaining recognition as one of her representative and popular citizens, facts which clearly entitle him to consideration in this volume devoted to the lives of Wells county's successful men. As the name indicates, Mr. Krehl is of German birth. His parents, Frederick and Catherine (Flukfelder) Krehl, were natives of Poppenweiler, Wurtemberg, and it was in

that faraway kingdom that the subject first saw the light of day, June 4, 1845. When Jacob Frederick was about nine years old his parents decided to better their financial condition by seeking a home in the United States; accordingly, in December, 1853, the family embarked and in due time reached the port of New York, from whence they went to Mahoning county, Ohio, where they remained until the spring following. In April, 1854, Frederick Krehl moved his family to Dekalb county, Indiana, where he invested his small means, amounting to about two hundred dollars, in eighty acres of land, the only improvements on which consisted of a rude log cabin and about five acres partially cleared. Here he lived the remainder of his days, improving a good farm and adding to its area until it included one hundred and twenty acres and meeting with that success and financial prosperity which the strong limbed, industrious, honest German yeomanry know so well how to command. He lived a long and useful life, provided well for those dependent upon him and earned the reputation of an honorable man and loyal, enterprising citizen. He died in 1892 at the advanced age of eighty-two; his wife, who had so long been his faithful companion and true helpmeet through life's rugged journey, is still living, having reached the ripe old age of eighty-six years. Frederick and Catherine Krehl had seven children, the oldest of whom is Catherine, formerly the wife of John Bohnenberger, but now a widow living in Noble county, this state; William, the second of the number, is a farmer living in the county of Dekalb; Mary, the second daughter, married a cousin by the name of Frederick Krehl and resides in Girard,

Ohio; Charles lives in Steuben county, Indiana; Joseph follows agricultural pursuits in the county of Dekalb, and Elizabeth, who married John Hess, lives in Noble county.

Jacob Frederick Krehl, the third in order of birth, was reared on the home farm in Dekalb county and there received those lessons of industry, economy and thrift which exercised such a controlling influence upon his subsequent life and conduct. He worked hard during the spring, summer and early autumn and during the winter seasons attended the country school, in which he acquired a fair knowledge of the branches which constituted the course. After remaining with his parents until his twenty-second year he left home and went to the town of Girard, Trumbull county, Ohio, where he engaged with a tanner to learn the art of making leather. From the start his services proved valuable to his employer and the eight dollars per week paid him was at that time considered very liberal wages for an inexperienced hand. On becoming more proficient his weekly pay was raised to twelve dollars, including board, and after remaining six years and demonstrating his ability as an industrious and skillful workman he was given a third interest in the business. The firm of Krehl, Houser & Co., of which the subject was the company partner, lasted four years, during which time it earned much more than a local reputation by reason of the superior quality of the different kinds of leather produced and put upon the market. At the expiration of the above period Mr. Krehl sold out his interest in the tannery and coming to Bluffton, Indiana, began dealing in hides and leather, within a short time establishing quite a flourishing business, which continued to grow in magnitude with each re-

curing year. By close application and honorable dealing he laid the foundation of an ample fortune and became one of the enterprising, wide awake and thoroughly up-to-date tradesmen in a city long noted for the progressive spirit of its business men. After continuing the hide and leather trade with success and financial profit until 1897, Mr. Krehl disposed of his stock and from that time to the present has devoted his attention largely to dealing in real estate.

Mr. Krehl was happily married on the 11th of October, 1877, to Miss Maggie Erler, daughter of John M. and Elizabeth (Engler) Erler, whose birth occurred in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 19, 1855. Mrs. Krehl's father was a native of Seefeld, Germany, and the mother was born and reared in Frauenfeld, Switzerland. They came to the United States in 1853, settling first in New York, thence a little later moved to Philadelphia and from that city, in July, 1855, came to Wells county, Indiana, purchasing a home in Bluffton. By occupation Mr. Erler was a tailor up to 1860, when he opened a grocery in Bluffton, in which business he continued until 1888, when he had accumulated a competence by industry and good management. Mrs. Erler died at Bluffton in 1892, aged nearly sixty-nine years, leaving one daughter, Mrs. Krehl, who was the only child born to her parents' marriage. Mr. Erler is still living at a ripe old age and enjoys the confidence and esteem of all who know him. Mr. and Mrs. Krehl have one child, Lillian, born April 23, 1879. The 29th day of October, 1901, she became the wife of Emanuel E. Moseman, a jeweler of Bluffton and a well known resident of Wells county, where he was born and raised.

Since engaging in the real estate busi-

ness Mr. Krehl has made a number of successful deals in Wells county and elsewhere, meeting with gratifying financial results in this as in his former undertaking. His judgment is clear and seldom at fault, his discrimination keen and alert and his business transactions have always been characterized by honorable methods and fair dealing. He manifests great interest in the growth and prosperity of his adopted city, encourages all enterprises having for their object the building up of the community and is also a warm friend and liberal patron of movements for the social and moral advancement of his fellow man. His long residence in Wells county has won him a wide and varied acquaintance and it is eminently proper to state that he is among the best known and most highly respected German-American citizens in this section of the state. In 1893 he built his present beautiful home at No. 211 West Cherry street, where he entertains his many friends with a generous old-fashioned hospitality which is greatly appreciated by all who share it. He is known as an intelligent, substantial citizen, belonging to the class that always builds up a community and gives it character and stability from a moral point of view. Mr. Krehl represented his ward three times in the city council and proved an able, judicious and painstaking legislator, doing all within his power to promote the interests of the municipality, at the same time exercising due caution in the matter of public expenditures. In his religious views he subscribes to the Lutheran creed, his wife being a member of the Baptist church. Mrs. Krehl is a worthy helpmate of a worthy husband and deserves much credit for her faithfulness and sympathy in the management of the household

and the execution of its multiplied duties and responsibilities. Both are popular with a large circle of friends and acquaintances and to say that they are among the city's most estimable people is to state a fact patent to everybody within the range of their acquaintance. It means much to have the good will of the entire community and few can boast of this mark of universal esteem. Honorable and straightforward conduct in every relation of life is the sure passport to such standing and these with other equally praiseworthy qualities have been among the more pronounced characteristics distinguishing this excellent couple. They have lived well, made the world better by their presence and the future, both in this life and in the life beyond the veil, has nothing which need cause them a moment of anxiety or fear.

ROBERT M. ENGLE.

It is an axiom demonstrated by all human experience that industry is the key of prosperity. Success comes not to the man who idly waits for fortune's smiles, but to the faithful toiler who works with cheerful celerity and sleepless vigilance and takes advantage of every circumstance calculated to advance his interests. Such a man is Robert M. Engle, a well known and highly respected citizen of Nottingham township who within a comparatively few years has worked his way from an humble station in life to a proud position among the leading farmers of his community, besides winning for himself a name which all who know him hold in the highest esteem. Mr. Engle is a native of Wells county, Indiana, and has

spent all his life within its borders. He was born September 7, 1864, in the township of Nottingham, and is a son of Isaac and Ann (Hopkins) Engle, who were among the substantial residents of this part of the county. When a mere lad he was taught the necessity of honest toil as the only legitimate means of obtaining a livelihood, consequently he grew up to the full stature of manhood imbued with the idea that idleness, if not a crime, is, to say the least, anything but honorable. When old enough to work to advantage he took his place by the side of his father in the fields and nobly did his part in running the farm and supporting the family. The district school in the neighborhood afforded him the means of acquiring a good practical education and he attended the same of winter seasons until his twentieth year, making the most of every opportunity to add to his intellectual discipline. He remained at home as his father's assistant several years after reaching manhood's estate and it was not until his twenty-eighth year that he severed home ties and set up a domestic establishment of his own. Meantime, on the 13th of March, 1886, he was joined in wedlock with Miss Rosetta McClain, of Nottingham township, daughter of William and Emma (Fisher) McClain, and from that time until 1892 continued to live at home, getting little more than a living for himself and wife from his labor. In return for his filial devotion his father, in the latter year, assisted Robert to buy a farm of eighty acres, contributing one thousand dollars towards the purchase price, a sum which the son had much more than earned while managing the homestead and looking after his parents' interests. Only a part of the place

was in cultivation when the subject took possession, but he has since cleared and otherwise improved the land until all but ten acres is susceptible to tillage. Mr. Engle is a man of industrious habits and the result of his systematic labors is apparent in the fine condition to which he has brought his farm within the last ten years. He has put in many rods of tiling, to the great improvement of the soil, built fine fences, besides erecting a comfortable dwelling to replace the house destroyed by fire shortly after he moved to the farm. By reason of the discovery of oil in this part of the county and the subsequent development of the industry, Mr. Engle's place has greatly increased in value, there being five wells on his land, from which he receives an income of over six hundred dollars per year. At the present time he does little on the farm besides superintending the work, now devoting the greater part of his attention to pumping oil, which business he has followed more or less during the six years past. He also takes pride in the raising of fine live stock, a department of husbandry which has assumed considerable magnitude in Wells county and which promises to become more important with each succeeding year.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Engle originally consisted of four children, whose names are Howard, Esther, Edna and Harvey, the first two deceased. In his political views Mr. Engle votes with the Republican party and during campaign years takes an active interest in working for its success. He is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to the lodge meeting at the village of Petroleum. The qualities which have made Mr.

Engle one of the successful farmers and stock-raisers of his township have also brought him the good will and esteem of his fellow citizens, for his career from the beginning has been one of well directed energy, strong determination and honorable dealing. Endowed by nature with good mental powers and possessing the energy to direct his faculties into proper channels, he has become a man of resourceful capacity as the able management of his private affairs and rapid advancement in material things abundantly demonstrates. Socially he is a most agreeable gentleman, always genial and pleasant in manner, a loyal friend, an excellent neighbor and as a citizen ranking with the best of his compeers. He has never been misled by political aspirations to the neglect of his business interests and has no ambition to gratify in the way of public distinction, wishing only to be known and recognized as a common man in the domain of private citizenship.

AMOS SCHWOB.

Amos Schwob was born in Germany, March 22, 1859. He is a son of John Schwob, a native of Germany, born about 1835, and Mary (Miller) Schwob, also a native of Germany, in which country they were married. They settled and lived there for a time, John working at the shoemaker's trade. When he emigrated to this country they were thirty-seven days out from Hamburg, Germany, to New York, where he landed in 1861, with his family and without money. He managed to get enough from some one to pay their way to Columbus,

Ohio, where John began to work at his trade, and Mary, by the week, to earn money to repay that which he had borrowed to pay their way to that place. They remained in Columbus, Ohio, awhile, when they moved to a town in Fairfield county, Ohio. Here Mr. Schwob worked at his trade until about 1865, when they came to Huntington county, Indiana. He then rented Daniel Burman's farm and began farming, the owner of the land living at the time in Ohio. Mr. Schwob had met him while there, and in this way he became a resident of Huntington county. He traveled from Ohio to his destination in Indiana by wagon, arriving here during war times. After arriving in Huntington county he worked at his trade, also farming, which he continued more or less until about 1877. He then bought three acres of land, three miles north of Warren, Indiana, and built a log house on it. After owning that for about five years, he sold it, and bought forty-eight acres of the old Alexander Morgan farm in Huntington county. Later on he added twenty acres adjoining, and is now living on this farm. Mary having died about 1889, Mr. Schwob married Adeline Heenenberger. To his marriage twelve children have been born, six of whom are yet alive: Amos; Mary, who is the wife of William J. Ellerman, a farmer of Huntington county, Indiana; John, deceased; Rosina is the wife of Augustus Ballhoffer, and they reside in Grant county, Indiana; an infant, deceased; Katherine, the wife of Leopold Ruef, a resident of Huntington county; Willie, deceased; Agnes, burned to death in childhood; Charlie, deceased; Henry, a resident of Huntington county, Indiana; Luella is the wife of Harry Posey, and they are resi-



RESIDENCE OF AMOS SCHWOB.



AMOS SCHWOB'S FIRST RESIDENCE.

dents of Marion, Indiana, and an infant, deceased. When John Schwob started life he had nothing and after coming to Indiana he had much sickness in his family, ague and other diseases incident to a new country.

Amos Schwob was nine years old before he could speak English. Soon after coming to Huntington county, his mother decided that her son should have some schooling. She accordingly made him ready and proceeded to take him to school herself, he crying all the time on the way. At that time three months was the longest and only term taught in the common school during the year. Amos had to learn to speak English, and it was three years before he made much headway in his mastery of the common branches taught in the schools. He attended his last term of school when he was sixteen years old. Being the oldest in the family of children, he did not get more than two months schooling in each year during the time of his attendance in the district school. He is now a fair scholar, having picked up a great deal of scholastic knowledge since his school days, and speaks both the German and English languages fluently. Amos remained at home until he was eighteen years old, at which time his father told him he did need him any longer at home and that he might work out. The subject then engaged himself to Kale Wylie for nine months' work, but while he was gone to make his contract his father rented thirty acres more land for a corn crop and he found upon his return that his father had made arrangement to keep him home, consequently he had to break the contract for work which he had already made. In the new arrangement which he made with his father, the lat-

ter was to give him a team of horses and a set of harness and a wagon if the son would remain at home until he was twenty-one years of age. January 1, 1880, Amos was married, being at that time a few months under twenty-one years old. He got the team promised by his father, and took, instead of a wagon, a buggy and harness. He still has one of the horses received from his father, which is now more than twenty-five years old. His wife, before her marriage, was Ella Wharton, born July 29, 1862, in Montgomery county, Ohio. She is a daughter of Mark and Minerva (Dyke) Wharton, natives of Ohio, and she was born in Montgomery county, that state. They came to Huntington county, Indiana, about the year 1870, and both of them are still living in Warren, Indiana. Mark Wharton has devoted his life to farming. He is the father of three children, Charlie, a resident of Gas City, Indiana, is a minister in the Church of Christ; Florence, the wife of Peter Lines, a resident of Huntington county, Indiana, and Ella, wife of Amos Schwob.

After their marriage, Amos Schwob and his wife went over to the Wabash river and rented the "Holt" place, a farm of one hundred and eighty acres. All they had was a team and the clothes which they wore. In the fall of 1879 Amos and his brother-in-law, William J. Ellerman, had rented this place and put in a wheat crop. He was not thinking of marriage at that time, but seeing a good chance to start in life, he and Ella Wharton decided to consummate their union at once. While they were very poor, yet they were contented with their lot, and especially with themselves. They remained on this farm for three years, when he rented a farm from John Roach, but after putting

out a wheat crop on the farm, he sold his interest. He then traded his buggy and set of double harness which his father had given him, for a first payment on the purchase of forty acres of land and moved onto that. After remaining on this land for one summer he sold his forty acres for the reason that he could not, as he had intended, buy after awhile an adjoining forty-acre tract. It was so situated, however, that it could not be sold. For that reason he did not desire to keep his tract; added to this was the fact that he was making four hundred dollars in the deal, which of itself was no small incentive. He then moved on to the farm owned by his father-in-law, an eighty-acre tract, and was there for two years. He then bought eighty acres in Wells county, Indiana, where he now lives.

In the fall of 1886, when he purchased this farm, Mr. Schwob assumed an indebtedness of fourteen hundred dollars. At that time there was only a garden patch cleared on the land and the improvements in the way of building consisted of a log cabin only. He has since then cleared, fenced and improved it in every way, and he has now sixty-five acres under a good state of cultivation, having twenty-six hundred rods of tiling on the eighty acres. Neither he nor his wife have ever had a dollar given to them. He now owns one hundred and twenty acres of land in one body which, with the exception of his woodland, is all under a fine state of cultivation. He says that he has worked night and day for seven years, but thinks if it had not been for the chicken production he could not have bought a postal card. After the oil boom came on, he was a pumper for eight years. His farm is in the oil territory and his income from that

source will average probably fifty dollars per month. During the last one or two years he has engaged in the breeding of shorthorn cattle; he had previously bred Poland China hogs, but at present he has a variety of the latter stock, including Duroc, Poland China and Chester White breeds. He also has a house and lot in Warren, Indiana, and eighteen acres of land adjoining the town site. He has devoted his entire life to the vocation of farming, yet, as he says, he could make a boot. The subject of the present sketch is the father of three children: Artie E., born April 1, 1884, at home with parents, will take up high school work in Warren, Indiana; Arvie E., born April 19, 1889, and Eva E., born June 3, 1897. Both himself and wife are members of the Disciples church. Generally speaking, he has been a Democrat in politics, warming up some and doing active work for his party during campaigns. Both his boys are in school and have done well in their school work, standing well in their respective grades. His youngest son will enter the eighth grade next year.

In the personage of Amos Schwob we find the best type of the German American yeomanry and American citizenship, possessing in his make-up all the attributes of pertinacious industry, patience and thrifty habits which characterize his German ancestry. He has risen from a condition of penury, through which his father struggled, surrounded by the adverse circumstances of an ignorance of our language and the serious diseases incident to a new country, to a plane of citizenship and a position in the community in which he lives which does him the highest honor. His labors have been rewarded in the possession of a competency

and he has pride in the progress of his sons in the schools, which so far surpass his own meager opportunities. His own and his father's success, as portrayed in the present sketch, afford a striking illustration of the rewards that await, not only the industrious and worthy emigrant from a foreign shore, but every citizen in our favored land.

ABRAHAM SPEHEGER.

Some begin their business career most auspiciously, others with every obstacle, including poverty, to be overcome. It often happens that the former lags in the race for success, while the latter forges ahead, each successive year bringing a newer and grander success. Of the latter class Abraham Speheger, of Nottingham township, Wells county, Indiana, the subject of this sketch, furnished a splendid example. Born in a foreign land, living there until he was twelve years old, then coming to America and working for his parents until he was twenty-one without compensation, having little knowledge of the English language until he was twenty, it could hardly be expected that such a youth would accomplish as much by the time he was fifty as the youth who began life's battle under circumstances more favorable. That he has is amply attested by a brief sketch of the life of the gentleman to whom reference is above made.

Abraham Speheger was born in Berne, Switzerland, August 4, 1842, the son of John and Fannie (Burkholder) Speheger, both natives of Switzerland. With his

family, John Speheger emigrated to America in 1854, locating in Wayne county, Ohio. He was by trade a carpenter and followed that calling most of his life. In 1862 he and his family moved to Adams county, Indiana, and there the remainder of his life and that of his wife was spent. They were the parents of five children, viz: Anna, wife of Samuel Riff, resides in Adams county; John, a resident of Lancaster township, Wells county; Fannie, deceased; Mary, deceased; Abraham, the subject, who will hereafter be referred to more particularly.

Abraham went to school a number of years in his native land and after coming to America attended school here about three years. But the mysteries of the English language seemed unfathomable to him. His native tongue was spoken in the family and his busy life forbade him the privilege of learning English from playmates. He was twenty years of age before he could understand much of what was said to him and considerably older before he could make people understand him in the language of the United States. Thus handicapped, at the age of twenty-one, without a dollar in his pocket and a very meager supply of clothing, he faced the world to win for himself a fortune and a home. His first employer was Christian Welty, for whom he began to work on the farm by the year, in Wayne county, Ohio, and he worked for him seven years. He then hired to Henry Otis and was in his employ eight years. It was while he was working for him that he acquired the greater part of his knowledge of the popular language in America. They were educated people and one of his objects in hiring to them was to improve himself

in English. During this time he had given more than half of his earnings to his parents to help them along. Nevertheless, in 1869 he had saved five hundred dollars and was the owner of a horse and buggy worth three hundred dollars. While working in Wayne county he became acquainted with a young lady, Miss Rebecca Fritz. Her parents were Jacob and Eliza (Coulter) Fritz, natives of Pennsylvania but of German, Irish and Scotch ancestry. When they moved to Ashland county, Indiana, Abraham was neither happy nor contented in Wayne. The result was inevitable. Rebecca's bright eyes were the guiding stars to him and he, too, was soon in Ashland county. They were married March 17, 1871, the date (St. Patrick's day) doubtless being fixed out of deference to the Irish in the bride's composition. She was born in Pennsylvania, April 14, 1850.

Soon after marriage the young couple returned to Wayne county, where Abraham rented eighty acres of land, which he cultivated for two years with the success that is invariably the reward of industry. He next rented one hundred and sixty acres which offered a much better opportunity both as to terms and extent. After remaining on this place three years he moved to another of one hundred and thirty acres, on which he remained five years. During all this time his savings were steadily increasing and he was approaching nearer the desired goal, i. e., a well improved, well cultivated farm of his own. In 1881 he moved to Indiana, bringing with him about eighteen hundred dollars, every one of them having been earned by his own hard labor. For twenty-five hundred dollars he purchased one hundred acres of land in Harri-

son township, paying seventeen hundred dollars and incurring an indebtedness of eight hundred dollars. He owned this place only about seven months when he got an opportunity of selling it. On this transaction he made a small margin of profit and then purchased eighty-two and a half acres in Nottingham township, where he now lives. It cost him three thousand dollars, but it was improved to the extent of having upon it a good barn and nice orchard. He has improved it since by erecting a good house, commodious outbuildings, fencing, ditching, etc. He has also cleared twenty-five acres and has purchased a farm in Harrison township of forty-six acres that is well improved and in a fine state of cultivation. He raises Poland China and Chester White hogs and shorthorn cattle. For a long time he made a practice to feed all his grain to his stock, but in later years he sells considerable on account of the uncertainty of hogs. All that they are possessed of, and it is no small or insignificant fortune, has been made by him and his faithful wife.

Mr. and Mrs. Speheger are the parents of seven children, viz: Allen married Stella Nutter and lives on his father's farm in Harrison township; Mary married John Bower and also resides in Nottingham township; John resides at home with his parents; William is employed at Ruth, clerking; Anna, Ida and Fritz are still at home. They have each received as good an education as the district schools of the state afford. They are intelligent, well informed young men and women, with far better opportunities than their parents ever had and it remains to be seen whether or not they will achieve as much of success in life as have their parents.

In religion both Mr. and Mrs. Spehger are members of the Evangelical church and are active in church and charitable work. He is a steward and a teacher in the Sunday school. In politics he is nominally a Democrat, but in local affairs he is never bound by party ties. In this, as in other matters, he acts independently. He is a man of kindly nature and generous disposition, there being nothing selfish or miserly about him. His success is wholly attributable to industry and good management. He has a determination and firmness of purpose that will overcome every obstacle.

J. E. SAUNDERS, M. D.

In no field of human endeavor is there opened a wider avenue of usefulness than in the medical profession. The true physician is in many ways a benefactor of his kind. He not only ministers to the suffering by alleviating pain and curing disease, but to him is intrusted the responsibility of laboring for the development of a higher and nobler type of physical humanity than that which now obtains. No one should think of engaging in this noblest of all callings without natural endowments of a high order, supplemented by thorough intellectual discipline and the most careful and critical professional training. With little appreciation of the responsibilities which it entails many enter the profession, but the law of the survival of the fittest proves that few reach the goal of success and become true healers. Among the successful class it is

eminently proper to include the subject of this sketch, who, though a young man, has by proper preparation and conscientious fidelity to duty risen to a position in the medical world with many older in years and of much greater experience have not attained.

Dr. J. E. Saunders, of Petroleum, comes of a medical family, his father, C. B. Saunders, being one of the oldest and most successful practicing physicians of north-eastern Indiana. Dr. C. B. Saunders is a native of Ohio. He married in Indiana, Miss Harriet Morrical, and after preparing himself for his life work took up his residence on a farm in Jay county, Indiana, where he spent thirty years in the successful practice of the healing art. Subsequently he changed his abode from the county to the town of Pennville, where for about twenty-five years he has ministered to the wants of suffering humanity, being, as already stated, one of the oldest if not the oldest practitioner in that part of the country. In addition to his profession, he also managed a farm for a number of years, but made agriculture merely a side issue to his labors as a healer of men. The Doctor has been four times married and is the father of nine children, the oldest of whom, a son by the name of George, has been lost track of, his relatives not knowing whether he is alive or dead; William, the second of the family, is a resident of British Columbia, as is also Charles, the next in order of birth; Celia is not living; Jesse E., the subject of this review; Joel E. is a physician and surgeon practicing his profession in Nottingham township, Wells county; Belle is the wife of John Van Horn, a resident of Pennville, Jay county,

and Harry H. C., the youngest of the number, lives with the father.

Jesse E. Saunders was born December 16, 1870, one mile south of Nottingham, Wells county, his mother, whose maiden name was Harriet Morrical, being his father's third wife. After attending the district schools until completing the prescribed course, he entered the high school at Pennville and while thus prosecuting his studies devoted the summer seasons to work on his father's farm. When a mere lad he conceived a great taste for medical literature and every spare hour at his command he would spend poring over the books with which his father's library was plentifully stocked. In this way and by assisting his father in the office he easily acquired a valuable practical knowledge of the profession which proved of great benefit to him when he took up the study of medicine in regular course some years later. His younger brother, Joel E., was equally interested with him in reading and otherwise obtaining an insight into the mysteries of the healing art, the two availing themselves of every opportunity to add to their knowledge, not alone by reading, but by tending the office, preparing their father's medicine case and not infrequently accompanying the latter on his professional rounds. Later the subject spent five years as a drug clerk, two in Pennville, two at Shideler and one at Poneta, and in this capacity became familiar with materia medica, besides acquiring a knowledge of practical business methods which has conserved a good purpose in his chosen calling.

In the fall of 1893 Dr. Saunders entered the American Eclectic Medical College at

Cincinnati, which he attended two years, and then finished his professional course at Marion, Indiana, beginning the practice at Hartford City in the latter part of 1895. The following spring he located at Petroleum, Wells county, and here he has since resided, meanwhile building up a large and lucrative business which has been as successful financially as it has been professionally. As already stated, Dr. Saunders grew up in a doctor's office, consequently he entered upon his life work with a confidence and self reliance which the great majority of beginners do not possess. This natural ability, supplemented by rigid professional discipline, peculiarly fitted him to discharge his duties and since opening an office his advancement has been so rapid that he is now accounted one of the most successful physicians and surgeons in the county of Wells. He has spared neither pains nor expense in acquiring a thorough knowledge of his profession, as witness the fact that of his having in the year 1900 attended the Chicago Polyclinic, from which he holds a post-graduate certificate, and receiving in 1897 a certificate from the state board of medical registration which enables him to practice in any part of Indiana without further examination. His success has been commensurate with the ability and energy displayed in his practice and his patronage today is perhaps larger and more remunerative than that of any other physician of like experience in this part of the state. He is widely and favorably known in medical circles throughout Wells and neighboring counties and has a personal acquaintance with many of the most eminent professional men of the country, among whom he

is considered as rapidly coming to the front as a profound student and successful healer. He has been a member of the American Association of Physicians and Surgeons since 1897 and in this and many other ways keeps himself in close touch with the trend of modern thought relative to medicine and surgery, thus earning the confidence of his patrons.

Financially the Doctor's success has more than met his brightest anticipations. He has already accumulated a handsome competence and is well situated to enjoy life, owning the most beautiful and desirable residence in the village of Petroleum, besides other valuable property, real and personal. Dr. Saunders is a great admirer of fine horses and gratifies his taste in this direction by keeping for his own use the finest animals obtainable. He has on his place a model barn, one of the most complete structures of the kind in the county, and he spares no pains in caring for his horses and keeping them in the best of condition possible. He also has a well equipped office, containing the most approved appliances used in the profession, a fine library of technical works and a large stock of drugs, representing at a conservative estimate considerably in excess of three hundred dollars.

Dr. Saunders is a progressive man of broad and liberal views and maintains an active interest in all enterprises for the good of the community. In politics he is a Democrat, but so great have been the demands of his profession that he has never stepped aside to take a very active part in political affairs. Fraternally he is an Odd Fellow, holding membership with Lodge No. 721 at Petroleum. He was married on

the 21st day of September, 1895, to Miss Mary Wiseman, daughter of Daniel and Mary A. (Butter) Wiseman, the father a native of Pennsylvania, the mother born in Fayette county, Indiana. After living for a number of years in the county of Fayette these parents moved to Blackford county, where they spent the remainder of their lives. They had seven children, whose names are as follows: Martha, wife of Bud Bowman, a resident of Montpelier; Mary, deceased wife of Alexander Johnson, of Blackford county; Frank, deceased; Charles, deceased; Mrs. May Saunders; Belle, the wife of Frank Pruden, of Hartford City, and an infant that died unnamed. Dr. and Mrs. Saunders are the parents of three children, Ralph, Delorme and Twilo, a little daughter, the latter being the only one living.

The following memorial notice is here reprinted as being of special interest in connection with mention of the subject's children:

IN MEMORIAM.—Delorme Saunders, little son of Dr. J. E. and B. M. Saunders, was born August 20, 1899, and died January 6, 1902, being two years four months and seventeen days old, after a lingering illness of four and one-half weeks. Delorme was brighter than ordinary children of his age, and was loved by all who knew him. The last few minutes of his life, he knew something was wrong, but could not tell what it was. About fifteen minutes before he died he asked his father to take him. His father took him in his arms and the child looked up into his papa's face and said, "O, papa," wanting his papa to do something for him; but the father with broken heart, could do nothing, and saw death clasp his little son. Then Delorme placed his arms around his father's neck and said, "Good-bye, papa," and all was over. The funeral occurred at 2 o'clock, January 7, at the United Brethren church at Petroleum, Bro. E. Polly officiating, and the remains were taken to Pennville and laid to rest in the Odd Fellows' cemetery.

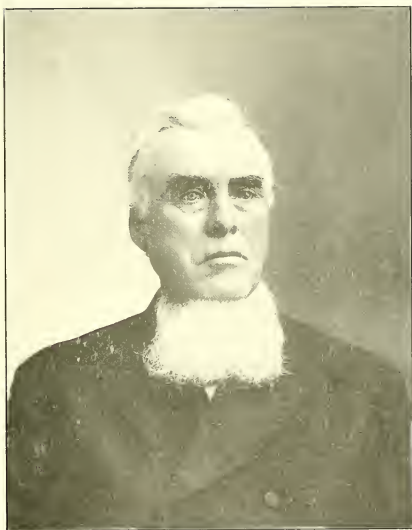
WILSON HUDSON.

Wilson Hudson was born on the stroke of midnight and it is yet an unsettled question whether his natal day should be celebrated as the 9th or 10th of July, 1836. His grandfather, being an old sea captain, claims that it is permissible to date back, but not forward. So, in accordance with his grandfather's dictum, this solution was adopted and he was named George, born July 9, and so recorded in his grandfather's record. After a few years his uncle Wilson was killed by a falling rail while climbing a fence and so his grandmother would have the boy's name changed to Wilson, born July 10, 1836, in Clinton county, Ohio, and since that time he has been known and called by the name of Wilson. He came with his parents to Huntington county, Indiana, in 1853. He obtained the rudiments of his education in the country in Huntington county. He remained under his father's control even to the extent of not being allowed to call upon young ladies, until he was twenty-three years old. As an instance of parental supervision, he relates that upon one occasion he with his father were cutting rail timber on a day the evening of which the subject had promised to call upon a young lady of the neighborhood. Being afraid his father might interpose objections, the young man invented an excuse to escape his lynx-eyed parent and account for his absence. So he left the measuring pole some distance back, and telling his father he would return for it, he hastened to the house to don his best clothes and seek the presence of his inamorata. After he had started, he heard his father calling him, and his mother answering, seeking to cover his retreat, as mothers

will in such cases, God bless them, informing him that the young man had "dressed and gone." The father's only remark on the occasion was, "Why in the devil did he not say he was going," which would indicate that in this case young Lochinvar's fear was the chief element to discourage love's young dream. The subject was married May 20, 1860, to Margaret L. Corey, who was born in Rush county, Indiana, July 9, 1838, the daughter of Stephen and Mary (Downard) Corey. After his marriage Mr. Hudson remained one year with his father, who still retained control over him, and even the second year after his marriage he could not say that he was his own boss. At this time he and wife moved to themselves and rented land in Huntington county. He remained there for two years, when he traded out and removed to the farm where he now lives. In 1863 this farm was all in the woods except twelve acres which was chopped to eighteen inches. (It was the custom in clearing land in the early days of the state to remove everything under eighteen inches in diameter, deadening the larger timber by girdling, and farming the land, a few years before finally clearing it off.) There were thirty-seven trees lying across the fences surrounding this twelve acres. The improvements in the way of buildings consisted only of a log house and barn. He now has one hundred acres of cleared land with fine buildings, the house having been built in 1893. About 1880 the subject's father sold his farm in Huntington county and moved onto a twenty-five-acre tract of land belonging to the subject. Here his parents remained for about ten years, when the son moved them into his own house where, after two years, the



Margaret L. Hudson



Wilson Hudson

mother died. The son then gave his father the choice of any room in his house he wanted. He chose and was freely given the bed room of the subject and remained with him the rest of his life. He died very suddenly of heart disease at the home of Orlando Thorp, in Warren, Indiana. As is frequently the case, he had presentiments of his approaching end, and the changes attending the inevitable lot of all cast their shadows before.

With the exception of three years during the war, which he spent in dealing in cattle, being known as a cattle broker, Wilson Hudson has devoted his whole life to farming interests, and is also a general stock farmer. He has eight producing oil wells on his farm and says it is just like finding the money. The subject is the father of two children, both of whom died unnamed in infancy. Since then he has turned his attention to needy children, having at different times brought clothing for sixty-three children who were objects for the charitably inclined. To many of these children he gave the privilege of buying the kind of clothing they wanted. He always has from one to four orphan children around him and is indeed a father to the fatherless. He and his wife are both members of the Methodist Episcopal church and have served many years as live practical workers.

Politically Mr. Hudson's affiliations have been with the Democratic party, and he has ever been true to church and party. Although many times solicited, he has never accepted public office. Believing that a public recognition of the Sabbath as a day of rest and worship would be conducive to the moral well-being of his locality, he

with others have petitioned that the oil wells be closed down on Sunday, but they have not yet succeeded in bringing this about. While the owners of the wells on his farm are pumping on Sunday, he has decided to donate his royalties of that duty to charity, and the proceeds of his Sunday production for the first year amounted to the sum of sixty-eight dollars and ninety-four cents. He is ever ready to lend a helping hand to the deserving poor, in which he observes the scriptural injunction in giving, to not let the left hand know what the right hand doeth. In the past four years the subject has aided four different parties (only one of whom was a relative) to the amount of fifty dollars each. Mr. Hudson thinks that he might have been wealthy if he had been a guardian. If it is more blessed to give than to receive, surely the subject is rich in the consciousness of good deeds well done. He has realized the proper use of money in creating happiness for others, thus setting a worthy example to others who are cloyed with the sordid practice of accumulation and hoarding, with the delusive hope that in the possession of money alone is happiness to be found.

Mrs. Hudson, the wife of the subject, was a maiden of nine years when she came with her parents to Grant county, receiving her education in that county. She has seen this part of Indiana when it was new, even when the wolves howled around their cabin door. She is one of those good, kind, affectionate, motherly ladies, whom it is pleasure to meet. She and her good husband's hospitable home is a haven for friend and stranger alike. Many hundreds have partaken from their bountiful table, and been cheered by the happy smiling faces of father

and mother Hudson. Mrs. Hudson has ever been her husband's companion in all the walks of life, ever ready to cheer him by her sweet presence, advice and counsel. To show their wonderful generosity and hospitality it is said that one year thirteen hundred people dined in their home.

HUDSON FAMILY.

Twenty-five Hudsons, among whom were five Johns, came from England and Ireland in the year 1600, the principal portion of this number landing in Pennsylvania. They were given between three and four thousand acres of land for their transportation and taking allegiance to the old country. The Johns aforementioned were distinguished from each other by John Pond, John Delight, etc., according as they happened to live by a pond, or other appellations suggested by surrounding circumstances. They described their land as follows: "On north side of marsh of Wicomico." This is a sample of deed: "John Hudson, 'John Pond,' thirty-four acres, surveyed October 9, 1674, in Dorchester county, on the north side of a marsh of Wicomico river." Dennis Hudson, great-grandfather of the subject, was born in Ireland. Grandfather Selby Hudson was a sea captain, commanding a vessel during the Revolutionary war. He was on his way to some point with a vessel loaded with soldiers, when he met vessels returning with the news that peace had been declared. He then moved to Rochester county, Maryland, where he lived for several years, still retaining the position of sea captain, and made his

stopping place at his home at Snow Hill, from which place he removed to Brown county, Ohio. He constructed the first steamboat that was built at Cincinnati, Ohio. He had two sisters, Margaret and Hester Ann, and three brothers, Melvin, Eli and Elihu; Eli died in Jay county, Indiana.

Selby Hudson was twice married. His first wife was Hettie Davis and to them were born two children who lived, Thomas and Katie Ann. His second wife was Elizabeth Richardson, by whom he had several children. To both marriages were born twenty-two children. When Selby Hudson came to Cincinnati, Ohio, he moved his family there. James W. Hudson was born in Maryland, his father later removing his family onto a farm in Brown county, Ohio, when James W., the father of the subject, was a small boy. Soon after his removal to Brown county, Ohio, James was sent on an errand to his uncle's. He started, wearing a new pair of trousers. It being a customary thing in those days to wear long shirts, he hung his trousers in a tree by the wayside and thus dressed in the usual costume for boys of the period, he continued his journey, performed his errand, and returning by the same way, he repossessed himself of the, what seemed to him, unnecessary part of his apparel which he had left hanging in the tree and wore them back home. Selby Hudson died in Clinton county, Ohio, at the age of eighty years; James W. grew up on the farm in Ohio, and there met and married Catherine Sharp, a daughter of Stockdale and Mary Sharp.

After his marriage James W. Sharp settled in Ohio, where he remained until 1853, when he removed to Jefferson town-

ship, Huntington county, Indiana. About 1885 he moved to Wells county and lived virtually with Wilson Hudson until his death. Catherine, his wife, died November 1, 1894, aged eighty-two years ten months and twenty-two days. James W. died August 19, 1899, aged eighty-seven years ten months and six days.

AMOS GEHRETT.

Wells county is characterized by her full share of the honest pioneer element who have done so much for the development of the county and the establishment of the institutions of civilization in this fertile and well-favored section. A great work was accomplished by the early settlers and it is granted by all that they builded wiser than they knew. Admit that as a rule, but few ever realized in the dimmest way the transcendent possibilities that rested upon their shoulders; grant it that their lives, in most instances, were somewhat narrow and that they realized but little the great results that ultimately crowned their efforts; yet there exists the supreme fact that they followed their restless impulses, took their lives in their own hands, as it were, penetrated the wilderness and with a patient energy, resolution and self-sacrifice that stands alone and unparalleled, they worked out their allotted tasks, accomplished their destinies and today their descendants and others enjoy undisturbed the fruitage of their labors. A few of these honored old pioneers are yet living in the midst of the scenes of some of their former labors and are today enjoying the richly-merited honors and material rewards which have come to them as the re-

sult of their former endeavors. Among this class may be properly included the gentleman whose name forms the caption to these paragraphs.

Amos Gehrett is a native of Pennsylvania, having been born in Berks county, that state, in 1822. His father, Henry Gehrett, was also a native of the same state and was immediately descended from Revolutionary ancestry, the subject's paternal grandfather and two of the latter's brothers having given up their lives on the altar of their country's independence. Henry Gehrett grew to manhood in his native county and was there married to Miss Susan Feon. For some time after his marriage he remained there and pursued the occupation of farming. Subsequently he removed with his family to Fairfield county, Ohio, and there also engaged in the same occupation. He spent the most of his life there, but his last days were spent in Wells county, Indiana, where he made his home with his children, his wife having died during their residence in Ohio. They were the parents of thirteen children, briefly mentioned as follows: Benjamin, deceased; Lydia, deceased; Elizabeth, deceased; William, deceased; Peter, deceased; Samuel died while in the military service of his country; Amos, the subject; Sarah, the widow of Jacob Warner; Susan, the widow of William Kirkwood; Deborah, deceased; Henry and Rosetta, twins, of whom Henry is a resident of Ohio, and Rosetta is the wife of Reuben Stout, of Wells county; a son who died in infancy.

Amos Gehrett did not receive very liberal educational advantages in his youth, but attended the public schools whenever it was possible for him to do so and at length became fairly proficient in the common

branches. As soon as he was old enough he commenced working for his father on the Ohio farm and remained under the parental roof until he was twenty-two years old, receiving for his labor his board, clothing, etc. About 1844 he came to Wells county, Indiana, and settled on eighty acres of land comprising part of the farm which he still occupies, his father having entered the land some time previously. His material resources at this time were quite limited, possessing very little besides a cow and a horse. He made his own bedstead and such other furniture as was absolutely necessary with which to engage in house-keeping. However he was not at all discouraged, but, filled with ambition and energy, he at once went to work to create for himself a home. He at first erected a small log cabin, sixteen by eighteen feet in size, and the same season planted five acres of ground to corn. He worked for others whenever he could find work to do in order to obtain money and was also employed in the construction of the first railroad surveyed through the county. Meantime his spare time was steadily occupied in the task of clearing his land, which was eventually accomplished, and then, as rapidly as opportunity offered and he had the means, he purchased other tracts. His first additional purchase was one hundred and sixty acres of timber land. He and his son cleared a part of this tract and he then disposed of it and bought another tract of one hundred and sixty acres which he gave to his son, Henry. Subsequently he bought one hundred and sixty acres of the John Warner estate and also eighty acres of the Jacob Warner estate and forty acres belonging to his son, Henry. He is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres in one body

and also another tract of forty acres, all being considered fine farming land. With the exception of eight hundred dollars which he received from his father's estate, all his property has been acquired as the result of his own industry and unremitting toil. He has carried on a general line of farming, and has also been engaged largely in the raising and selling of live stock, which has been, under his able management, a profitable source of income. He breeds a general line of cattle, but gives special attention to Poland China hogs. He has been an indefatigable worker during all the years of his residence in this county, and his labor has been commensurately rewarded. He has, by a course of right living and strict attention to the ethics of life, won the warm esteem and high regard of his numerous acquaintances and few men in his locality have a larger circle of friends than he.

In 1844 Mr. Gehrett was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Hufford, the daughter of Daniel and Sarah Hufford, natives of Berks county, Pennsylvania. She was born in 1823, also in Berks county, and was brought by her parents to Fairfield county, Ohio, where she formed an acquaintance with the subject, an acquaintance which resulted in their marriage. They became the parents of one child, Henry S., who died on the 3rd of March, 1894, aged forty-seven years, seven months and five days. He married Elizabeth Keller and to their union were born three children, as follows: Sarah Alice died June 9, 1892; Hugh L. died March 17, 1894; Amos died March 16, 1873. The subject has now no children or grandchildren living.

Religiously the subject and his wife have been for a number of years earnest and faithful members of the German Baptist

church. Politically Mr. Gehrett is affiliated with the Democratic party and votes that ticket on national elections, though in local elections he votes for the best man for the office, irrespective of party lines. He has never been an aspirant for office, though soon after he came to Wells county he served for three years in the position of trustee and has also served two terms as supervisor. All movements having for their object the advancement of the public welfare have always received his cordial endorsement and his influence has been potent for good in the community. A volume purporting to contain a record of the lives of the representative citizens of the county would be incomplete were there failure to mention Mr. Gehrett.

C. B. FUNK.

The native Hoosier is as proud of the commonwealth of his birth as any man on earth. He has many and very substantial reasons for being so. It is a productive state; it is inhabited by progressive people; it has kept pace with its neighbors in the matter of material advancement; politically it is the most liberal state in the Union, never being chained to the triumphal car of either political party; its climate is healthful; its air is salubrious, and the opportunities for individual advancement in Indiana are at least equal to those of any other. The only person who need not be ambitious to be a native Hoosier is the one who can lay claim to that distinguished honor as his birth-right.

C. B. Funk, the subject of this article, is a native of the Hoosier state. He was born in Chester township, Wabash county,

Indiana, on the 26th day of January, 1857. He is the son of Samuel D. Funk and wife, Catherine (Burk) Funk, the latter a native of Ohio. The grandparents of the subject were natives of Germany; they were prosperous and thrifty, and coming to America at an early period, possessed of considerable money, they located in Huntington county, where a tract of nine hundred and sixty acres of land was purchased, out of which they carved enough land for each of their sons and daughters to make a good farm. Here his son, Samuel, the father of C. B. Funk, was married to Catherine Burk, daughter of Abraham Burk, and took up his abode upon the land granted him by his father. Finding a piece of land located in Wabash and Whitley counties quite to his fancy, he took occasion to dispose of his place in Huntington county, purchased the Wabash county land and moved his family thereto. A part of the tract extended over into Whitley county, but the house, barn and outbuildings were located in Wabash county. This was the birth place of C. B. Funk, and on this place Samuel Funk resided until his death, which occurred January 2, 1892. His good wife, Catherine, is still living; she owns the old home place, but does not live upon it, preferring to make her home with her children.

Samuel and Catherine Funk were the parents of ten children. Only one of the interesting group has passed into eternity, Delila, who died when four years of age. The others are J. B., Sarah A., George M., Oliver W., Mary J., C. B., Elizabeth, Elenora and Ora. J. B., Oliver and Elenora are still residents of Wabash county, the latter the wife of H. T. Tillman; Sarah is the wife of James Roadarmey and lives in Illinois; George and Elizabeth live in Kosciusko

county, the latter the wife of G. M. Rice; Mary is the wife of Rev. Samuels, of Eaton, Ohio, and Ora is Mrs. Warren Robbins, of Kosciusko county.

C. B. Funk grew to manhood in Wabash county and attended the public schools until he was twenty years of age. So well did he improve his time that after passing a very creditable examination he was granted a license to teach. That calling, however, was not wholly to his taste. One term sufficed to convince him that imparting knowledge to the youths of the land was a calling in which others might excel. He ceased to have any ambition whatever for the acquisition of fame in that direction, as farming and stock raising were more to his taste. For seven years he assiduously devoted himself to this labor, renting the old home place on the shares, thereby greatly improving his financial condition.

On August 28, 1881, C. B. Funk was united in marriage to Catherine Swank, a native of Wabash county, Indiana, having been born there March 17, 1861. She is the daughter of John and Fannie Swank, both natives of Ohio, but early settlers of Wabash county, Indiana. Fannie died in 1872, but John is still living, residing in California. They are the parents of ten children, all of whom are living. Sarah is Mrs. William Heeler; Susan is Mrs. Mike Snyderman; Emma is Mrs. Mahlon Harmon; Mariah is Mrs. S. W. Heeter; these and their brother James all reside in Wabash county; Zacharia and Ambrose live in Miami county; Dayton lives in Huntington county; Catherine is Mrs. C. B. Funk and Frances is Mrs. Mort Kenard, of Kosciusko county. All are worthy citizens, highly respected in the various communities in which they reside.

Four years after his marriage C. B. Funk moved to Adams county, Indiana, where he purchased eighty acres of land, chiefly on credit. It was nearly all cleared and fairly well improved. After twelve years of unremitting toil and commendable economy he found himself wholly out of debt, with a farm so splendidly productive and under such thorough cultivation as to excite the envy of many of his less industrious neighbors. The receipts from the products of this place alone were sufficient, not only to pay for the land, but to leave its owner with a comfortable bank account. In addition to his labors on the farm he devoted much of his time, during the season, to threshing and to the manufacture of lumber and shingles. In 1898 he disposed of this land and secured a farm of one hundred and twenty-one acres in Nottingham township, Wells county, on which he now lives. Of this tract one hundred and five acres are cleared and under cultivation. He is still interested in threshing, owning one of the best threshing rigs to be found in that section of the state. At this time he is discharging the duties of trustee of the estate of his father over in Wabash county. He is also an extensive breeder of shorthorn cattle, Poland China hogs and Shropshire sheep.

Mr. and Mrs. Funk are the parents of three children, two of whom are living: Artie B. was born February 15, 1886, died October 23, 1886; Flossie M. was born February 5, 1887, resides with her parents and has finished the regular course in the district schools of Nottingham township; Losier was born August 30, 1897.

Religiously Mr. and Mrs. Funk do not belong to the same denomination. He is a

member of the Evangelical church, while she belongs to the Christian church. This, however, does not interfere in the least with the Christian zeal or work of either. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Lyn Grove and of the encampment at Bluffton, and both are members of the Rebekahs at Liberty Mills. He is a life-long Republican in national and state affairs, but in local matters believes in supporting the man whom he considers most worthy and capable. As a man, a citizen, a husband and father, the story of the life of C. B. Funk conclusively proves that he is and has been all that he should be in each and all of these capacities.

MRS. FRANCES CLARK.

Mrs. Frances Clark died at the residence of her son, Matthew J. Clark, in Peachville, Butler county, Pennsylvania, on Monday, the 13th of June, 1887. She was a daughter of Ignatius and Frances (McKiernan) O'Ferrall, was born at Martinsburg, Berkeley county, Virginia (now West Virginia), on the 14th of October, 1793, and had therefore passed her ninety-third birthday. Her parents were Irish, and she had inherited in a remarkable degree the nobler traits of the Irish character. She was the widow of Major Matthew J. Clark, who died at Morgantown, West Virginia, in 1859, eighty-three years of age, more than four-score years. Born back in the last century! What an ocean of events! What a sea of trials, troubles and tribulations she had passed over during her long life voyage! She had heard the patriots

of the Revolution, when still comparatively young men, tell of Valley Forge, Quebec, the Cowpens and Yorktown. She had seen a brother, with the ardor of youthful patriotism glowing in his countenance, march to North Point to meet "the British invader," and had listened to the cannon's roar in our second war for independence. She had heard the returning tramp of the victorious veterans from the plains of Mexico, and then had seen our land involved in internecine strife and bathed in the mingled blood of brothers; had furnished sons for the maintenance of the Union, and then lived to rejoice over a re-united country—one flag and one people—and a restoration of fraternal feelings between the sections. She had witnessed the column of states run up from fifteen to thirty-eight, and the increase of our population from four millions to sixty millions, and infant weakness raised to giant power. She had lived in the days of Washington and had mourned with a nation over his death. She had stood at the graves of her parents, three brothers and a sister, or had wiped away the teardrops as news of the departure of one after another reached her, until she remained as the only survivor of her family. Children had been born to her and grandchildren had delighted her heart, and her days had been so lengthened as to be blessed with great-grandchildren. In all the relations of life, as wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, friend, she was the perfect woman. Possessed of remarkable strength of character, equable temperament, amiable disposition and fine judgment, she impressed herself upon all with whom she was brought in contact and in the family circle her influence and example shed their

benign rays and made useful citizens of her sons and exemplary women of her daughters. Being of a bright, cheerful nature, her presence ever brought sunshine into the gloomy vaults of a heart depressed, and so self-sacrificing was she that she thought not of her own comfort, if she could bring ease to the suffering, rest to the weary or happiness to the distressed. But she is gone, full of years, leaving behind her many to call her blessed, many to revere her memory.

Three sons and one daughter and many kindred, among these two nephews (Gen. John W. O'Ferrall, of Mississippi, and Judge Chas. T. O'Ferrall, member of congress from the Shenandoah valley, Virginia), survive her. Should there be sadness over her departure?

Ye are not sad to see the gathered grain,
Nor where their mellow fruit the orchards cast,
Nor when the yellow woods let fall the ripened mast.

Should there be weeping over her grave? When her life's labors are done, and she has passed serenely to her final rest, and

The soft memory of virtues yet
Lingers like twilight hours, when the bright sun is set.

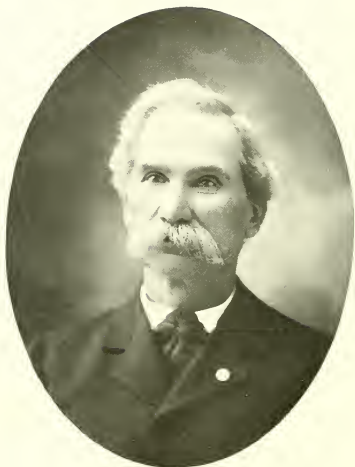
No; but let those whose hearts are so deeply touched by the recollection of the now stilled voice that was ever as sweet music to their ears, and by the sight of the now vacant old arm-chair, and those in distant parts who loved her, be enabled to say with true Christian resignation, "The will of the Lord be done."

And we are glad she has lived thus long,
And glad that she has gone to her reward;
Nor can we deem that Nature did her wrong,
Softly to disengage the vital cord.

BUNYON J. WELLS.

It is often asserted that the superiority of the average American over the individual of any other nation is due to the fact that the native of this country has the blood of many nationalities circulating in his veins and that his bent of mind and tendency of disposition is dominated by the best elements of each nationality entering into his composition. The theory is probably correct; at least, Americans like to plume themselves upon its verity. In that case Bunyon J. Wells, the subject of this sketch, comes by his good qualities very naturally. English, Irish and Dutch are so beautifully mingled and tangled up in his composition that goodness must necessarily be his prevailing characteristic, and it is. He is a resident of Nottingham township, Wells county, Indiana. The date of his birth is April 5, 1835, in Guernsey county, Ohio.

The parents of Bunyon J. Wells were John and Sarah (Tedrick) Wells. John was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, of English parentage. There he grew to manhood and learned the trade of a tanner. The family moved to Guernsey county when he was a young man, and there he found ample employment at his trade or tanning, was prosperous and got married. His wife was Miss Sarah Tedrick, daughter of Jacob and Sarah Tedrick. She was of Irish and he of Dutch descent. After marriage they went to housekeeping in Guernsey county and it was there all their children were born. About 1839 the family moved to Blackford county, Indiana, and settled on the land now owned by Sarber & Scott, which was then all in the woods. He prepared the timber to build a cabin and had



B. J. WELLS.



MRS. B. J. WELLS.

to walk three and a half miles to the nearest neighbors to get them to come and help raise it. For a number of years he worked on his farm, but toward the latter part of his life he again devoted himself to the business of tanning leather. He continued to reside upon his land up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1879; his wife had then been dead about three years. Among the assets of his estate were three hundred and twenty acres of land. To John and Sarah (Tedrick) Wells six children were born, viz: James M., a resident of Montpelier; Martha, now deceased, was the wife of William Clevenger; Elizabeth, now deceased, was the wife of George Dawson; Sarah is the wife of Albert Dawson, a resident of near Petoskey, Michigan; Bunyon J., the subject of this sketch; Jacob, deceased.

To the public schools of Blackford county and Liber College, near Portland, B. J. Wells is indebted for his education. The public schools he attended until he was twenty years of age and then attended the college during three terms. For a time he devoted himself to teaching in Chester township, Wells county. Though doing much work on the farm from boyhood, he received no compensation whatever from his father, outside of his necessities, until he was twenty-one years of age, from which time he received wages the same as a hired hand. On March 31, 1859, Bunyon J. Wells was united in marriage to Miss Sarah J. Dawson, who was born in Champaign county, Ohio, February 2, 1837, the daughter of John and Prudence (Travis) Dawson.

John Dawson was a native of Hartford county, Maryland, and a son of Thomas and Margaret Dawson. Thomas came from his native country, Ireland, to Maryland when he was only fifteen years of age. There

he married and there his son John was born. The most of the life of Thomas Dawson was devoted to farming. John grew to manhood in Maryland and became a manufacturer of boots and shoes. When war with England was declared, in 1812, he volunteered in a Maryland regiment, serving all through the conflict, and when peace was declared he came home, with health badly impaired. By the advice of his physicians he traveled on horse back through Pennsylvania and into Ohio. There he met, in 1817, Jane Travis, married her and settled down to manufacturing boots and shoes in Guernsey county, Ohio. For about eleven years he worked at this business and was fairly prosperous. In 1828 his wife died, leaving him children, viz: Rebecca, born August 2, 1818, died at the age of eleven years; Elizabeth, born November 6, 1822, deceased; George, born November 25, 1824, now a resident of Union City; Albert, born December 27, 1826, resides in Petoskey, Michigan. In 1830 John Dawson married Prudence Travis, a sister of his former wife. To them three children were born, the oldest in 1833, died in infancy; the second died aged eighteen months; Margaret, in 1835; Sarah J., the youngest of the family, was born February 2, 1837, and is the wife of Bunyon J. Wells, the subject of his sketch. In 1838 John Dawson moved his family to Wells county, Indiana, and settled on the farm in Nottingham township, where Lewis Abshire now lives. He secured four hundred acres of land, all in the woods. In winter he worked at the boot and shoe business, sometimes at home, sometimes in Camden, while in summer he attended to his farm. Here he remained until his death, which occurred March 12, 1877.

When John Dawson settled in Wells

county, Indiana, his nearest neighbor lived four miles away. In her girlhood, Mrs. Wells says, Indians were quite numerous in Wells county, and wolves and bears were also plentiful. One of the Dawson boys shot and killed an old bear and captured three cubs and one of the latter was brought up about the house as a pet. Deer were so plentiful it was not uncommon to see as many as fifteen in one herd and it is told by the Dawsons that they shot deer from the top of their cabin. At that time the state road was the only road and it was merely a trail blazed through the woods. The low ground was then so wet and marshy that they did not pretend to use it. Only the high ground was cultivated.

After marriage Bunyon J. Wells rented his father's farm for four years. The fifth year he moved to the one-hundred-and-twenty-acre farm where he now lives. Their home was an old log cabin, through the cracks of which, Mrs. Wells says, you could fling a cat. From this place, in November, 1864, he entered the Federal service, joining Company K, Fifty-third Indiana Volunteers. He went to the front almost immediately after enlistment, was "marching through Georgia" with Sherman in the spring of 1865, was stationed at Dalton and remained there until April, when they joined the forces at Alexandria in time to take part in the grand review at Washington City. He was discharged in July, 1865. In his absence Mrs. Wells looked after the stock, managed the farm and took care of his interests generally.

After returning from the service in the fall of 1865 Bunyon J. Wells moved his family to his father's farm, went to work at tanning and continued in that business un-

til 1870, when he returned to his farm. Of the one hundred and twenty acres of which his farm is comprised, only thirty acres yet remained uncleared. The other ninety acres are well cleared, fenced, ditched and are splendidly cultivated. All of the improvements are substantial and lasting. On the place are six oil wells that at one time were "gushers," but are now giving out about twelve barrels a day.

Since 1870, a period of thirty-two years, Bunyon J. Wells has devoted his entire time to his farm. He raises crops of grain, hay, vegetables and fruit, breeds and feeds cattle and Poland China hogs. He has made his business of farming quite profitable. His youngest son, John W. Wells, owns the lease of the six oil wells on the place and also manages the farm. He is prudent, energetic and economical. While the flow from the wells was big he was engaged in pumping, saved his money and when the opportunity offered purchased the lease. He also owns forty acres of land purchased with money accumulated in this way.

To Mr. and Mrs. Bunyon J. Wells have been born five children, viz: Albertus V., born January 28, 1860; Geneva, born April 4, 1865, is the wife of John C. S. Burritt, and they are the parents of two children, Dwight and Beatrice, and reside on Mrs. Burritt's parents' farm; Prudence E., born November 12, 1867, married Frank Neubaumer, a farmer, a resident of Bluffton, and have two children, Goldie and Leah; Carrie, born October 14, 1871, died November 4, 1888; John W., born May 11, 1874, married Mollie Nutter, and they have two children, Amy and Eugene.

In politics Bunyon J. Wells is a Republican, but not an office seeker or an office hold-

er. The only public position he ever held was that of constable for two years. Nevertheless few campaigns come round in which he does not take an active part in the interest of his party. The only order to which he belongs is that of *Lew Daily Post* No. 33, G. A. R., at Bluffton. All through his long and useful life of nearly three score and ten years he has acted his part well by his family, his county, his state and his nation. To be right is his ambition, to do right is his creed.

Mr. and Mrs. Wells have in their possession an old parchment deed which was executed November 7, 1840, and bears the signature of President Martin Van Buren.

JAMES LOCKWOOD.

People of philanthropic tendencies, engaged in the work of ameliorating the condition of the working man, have long known that their labors would be much easier if they could induce laboring people to leave the cities and take up their abode in rural districts. In the cities few laboring people rise above a monotonous existence of living, as it is expressed, "from hand to mouth." In the country it is vastly different. There are few of the most successful farmers of any agricultural section who did not begin their active life working on the farm for other people. Had they started in a shop, factory, or other work in town, they might not even own the home they live in and they would be confronted with a dependent old age, instead of having ample means to gratify every want. The subject of this sketch, James E. Lockwood,

of Nottingham township, Wells county, may be said to have begun active life as a farm hand. He is not ashamed of it, and has no cause to be, for he has demonstrated that he has the material in him that enables him to rise far above such an humble beginning.

James Lockwood was born in Champaign county, Ohio, April 12, 1842. His parents were Alonzo and Eliza (Stanly) Lockwood, a sketch of whose lives will be found elsewhere in this volume. The subject hereof was educated in the public schools of Nottingham township, which he attended during the winter season as much as possible. The education received by him in this way was of course quite limited, but by judicious reading and retentive memory, supplemented by an excellent fund of common sense, he is far better informed than many who arrogate to themselves much more learning. On attaining his majority he went to work by the day or month as he found employment, but the ambition to make and have a home of his own took possession of him and as an initiatory step in that direction he did what most youths do, got married.

July 30, 1863, James E. Lockwood was united in marriage to Miss Frances O. Blacklidge, a native of Wells county, born May 3, 1847. Her parents were Joseph and Susan Blacklidge, among the oldest settlers of Wells county. The young people took up their residence on forty acres of land in the woods, in a modest log cabin, eighteen by twenty feet in size, with a clap-board roof and walls daubed with mud to exclude the wind. If they had lived in the land of the Caesars, they might be reminded of Shakespeare's couplet:

"Great Caesar dead and turned to clay
Might stop a hole to keep the wind away."

The log cabin is still standing, but is no longer used as a human habitation. A horse, a cow, a sow and pigs and a scant supply of rude furniture constituted their entire worldly possessions. However, they had youth and strength, and inexhaustible supply of hope and confidence in each other and a peace and happiness which far oftener accompany humble poverty than grasping wealth. For the neighboring farmers he continued to work by the day, month or job as he could get work to do, and as a workman his services were always appreciated. One of those who knew him in those days describes him as "a young man without a lazy fiber in his makeup." When not employed by others he worked for himself, clearing and improving his land and planting as he cleared. After he had earned and saved enough money to purchase some stock and had enough land cleared to occupy all of his time in planting, cultivating and gathering his crop, he devoted all of his time to his own little farm. Some six years after his marriage an opportunity offered to purchase forty acres lying northwest of where he lived. For this he went in debt, the burden being an additional incentive to industry and economy. This land he proceeded to clear, improve and pay for and when this was done forty more acres, adjoining his original place on the south, were purchased, of which tract fifteen acres were cleared and under cultivation. He next sold twenty acres and bought another twenty acres in order to give his farm more symmetrical proportions, so that he now owns in one tract a splendid farm of one hundred and twenty acres, under good cul-

tivation and all cleared, ditched, fenced and improved except about ten acres that is in timber. He built a large, substantial barn, conveniently arranged, in 1887, and a handsome, comfortable, well finished house in 1889. This home he has splendidly furnished and it forms quite a contrast, indeed, with the rude log cabin that sheltered him and his wife during the early days of their wedded life.

On this farm there are eight oil wells, which yield to the owner of the land about one dollar per day. There was a time when their output was more valuable, but the highest he ever received from them in a single month was three hundred and forty dollars. These latter years, not caring to subject himself to the hard work he did in other days, he keeps a renter on his farm by whom most of the crops are raised. His place is well stocked with polled Durham cattle and a general class of sheep. He is a thorough farmer, having devoted his entire life to the work, and under his management and direction the business is conducted most profitably.

To Mr. and Mrs. Lockwood eight children have been born, viz: James S., whose home is in Nottingham township, married Ida Heaston, and they are the parents of four children, Vera, Flossie, Zarapha and Lewis; Joseph F. married Hepsie Stephens and they have eight children, Roscoe, Bertha, Virgil, Edward, Harry, Cecil, Grace, Estella; Arthur married Elizabeth Neusbaumer and they have two children, Delma and Chella; Charles married Anna Walker; Lonella married Samuel I. Nelar and they have one child, Hugh; Maggie resides at her home with her parents, and two that died in infancy.

In religion Mr. and Mrs. Lockwood and their daughter Maggie are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, devout and regular in their attendance upon the services and liberal in their support of religion and charity. In politics Mr. Lockwood is a Republican of the true stalwart type and earlier in life was quite active in campaign work. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows lodge at Petroleum and takes much interest in the work of that fraternal order. The only public position he ever occupied was that of township trustee. He always had too many interests of his own demanding his attention to be able to spare any time to look after public interests. Close application, industry and economy are the virtues that have given him success. He and his good wife have well earned the leisure and comfort that is now theirs in their declining years. With the love of their children and children's children and with the esteem and regard of all their neighbors and acquaintances, they can glide smoothly down life's rugged course until their summons comes to "wrap the drapery of their couch about them and lie down to pleasant dreams."

JOSEPH ROSE.

Among the prominent business men of Bluffton, Wells county, Indiana, but who started in meager circumstances, is Joseph Rose, who was born in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, March 17, 1852, and is a son of Samuel and Sarah (Gordon) Rose, also natives of the Keystone state. Samuel Rose was a railroad contractor in his early

business career, but later became a merchant, in which calling he both made and lost money.

To Samuel and Gordon (Rose) have been born nine children and of these Joseph is the fifth in order of birth. As the father found it necessary to utilize the services of the son in his business of contracting, the education of the latter was somewhat neglected in youth. The father paid the son wages from the time the latter was fifteen years old until twenty-two and their mutual labor was always of a harmonious nature. After ceasing to work for his father, Joseph entered a general store in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, in which he was employed as a salaried man for six years, but in the meantime, December 25, 1879, he married Miss Sarah A. Stoeber, of Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, a daughter of David and Elizabeth (Hunsicker) Stoeber. Sarah A. was born February 23, 1854, on a farm in Lebanon county, Pennsylvania, and received her education in the common schools of her native township.

March 21, 1881, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Rose came to Wells county, Indiana, Mr. Rose being then possessor of about two hundred dollars. He found employment in the grocery store owned by Joseph Valentine, with whom he continued about one year, then entered the employ of Jacob Brown, with whom he remained four years; he was next employed by John A. Bowman for a year and a half, and next by Albert Shepherd for a period of similar duration. All this time Mr. Rose employed his small capital in speculating in town lots and in this line made money rapidly. In 1892 he also purchased two farms, comprising one hundred and seventy-nine acres west of Bluffton,

and later disposed of them at a profit that was satisfactory. In 1892 Mr. Rose erected his present brick building, twenty-four by one hundred and forty feet, on Main street, at a cost of about twelve thousand dollars, the lower or ground floor of which is occupied as salesrooms while the upper floors are arranged as living rooms.

The residence of Mr. Rose, erected in 1900 at the corner of Washington and Marion streets, at a cost of nearly eight thousand dollars, is one of the finest dwellings in Bluffton, contains nine rooms and is heated by furnace. The fortune of Mr. Rose is now estimated at thirty thousand dollars, which he, aided by his amiable helpmate, has realized through personal efforts, shrewd speculative tact and the judicious manner in which he has made his investments.

Fraternally Mr. Rose is a member of Lodge No. 114, I. O. O. F., at Bluffton, and Mrs. Rose is a member of the Rebekah Lodge No. 87, of the same order, in which he has passed all the chairs and in April, 1898, represented her subordinate in the grand lodge; she is also an active member of the Woman's Relief Corps, of which she was once the president and in which she has filled all the minor chairs. Being a lady of culture and fine literary taste, Mrs. Rose is also a member of the Shakespearian Reading Club of Bluffton.

In politics Mr. Rose is a Republican in national matters, but in town and county affairs he exercises his own judgment in casting his vote, generally selecting the most competent candidate for the office to be filled regardless of party affinities, he being himself a broad minded and public spirited citizen and fully competent to

judge of the needs of the community and of the manner in which they should be supplied. He is honest in all his dealings and his bare word is as reliable as would be any document to which he might affix his signature.

GEORGE W. HUFFMAN.

A biographical compendium of the nature of this work would be incomplete without due reference to the life of George W. Huffman, whose career as a citizen and as a public official have won for him a prominent place in the esteem of the people of Wells county. Mr. Huffman's parents were natives of Clark county, Ohio, but about the year 1846 they came to Indiana, settling in the county of Huntington, where the subject was born on the 27th day of January, 1847. His father, John Huffman, was a farmer and spent the remainder of his life in his adopted state. Like the majority of country lads, the early life of George W. was spent under the parental roof and as soon as old enough to be of practical service he was obliged to contribute his share towards cultivating the farm and providing for the general support of the family. In the common schools he acquired a fair knowledge of the fundamental branches and later, by much reading, close observation and contact with the world in various business and official capacities, became one of the well balanced and thoroughly informed men of the community in which he has so long resided. Actuated by motives of filial duty he remained at home until his twenty-second year, meantime assuming much of the responsibility of managing the

farm and sparing no pains in looking after his parents' interests and ministering to their comfort and welfare. At the age of twenty-two he took a life companion in the person of Miss Sarah C. Neff, of Wayne county, this state, and shortly after his marriage moved to the county of Wells where he engaged in farming on land leased for the purpose. Mr. Huffman began life as an independent factor with a limited capital, but in the course of two years was enabled to purchase a home of his own, investing his means in an eighty-acre tract of wood land in section 1, Jackson township. To clear and reduce this place to cultivation required long and unremitting toil, but with a spirit born of a determination to succeed, he pursued in the undertaking until in due time he not only had a well tilled farm, but had increased his real estate to one hundred and ninety-eight acres of as fine soil as the county can boast. Mr. Huffman was extremely fortunate in his selection, although unconsciously so, as future developments attested. When oil was discovered in the Indiana field, it was found that his farm lay in the heart of the finest producing district of the state, the result of the discovery raising the value of his land many fold, its present worth being conservatively estimated at over thirty thousand dollars. As a farmer Mr. Huffman has long enjoyed the reputation of being one of the most enterprising and thorough of the county, as the splendid condition of his fields and the general appearance of his place abundantly prove. Admirably situated for agricultural and live stock purposes, he has spared no pains in its development and, barring the boundless wealth which lies beneath the soil, it is today one of the finest farms as well as

one of the most beautiful and attractive homes in the township of Jackson.

For many years Mr. Huffman has taken an active interest in public and political affairs and since attaining his majority has been unwavering in his allegiance to the Democratic party. Not only has he been an active worker, but his ability as a natural leader of men long since caused his services to be sought by the councils of his party both in local and general campaigns. In the year 1893 he was elected sheriff of Wells county, which responsible office he filled four years, proving a most capable and obliging public servant, his administration being eminently satisfactory to the people regardless of party ties. At the expiration of his term he retired with the best wishes of all and since that time has not been actively engaged in any vocation further than to look after his large and constantly increasing oil interests, which yield him a handsome income. At the present time there are twelve producing wells on his place which, with others to be drilled at intervals, assure him a fortune of still larger magnitude in years to come. To Mr. and Mrs. Huffman have been born three children, the oldest of whom, Oscar, died at the age of three and one-half years; Ella, now the wife of Isaac Roush, of Mt. Zion, this state, and Charlie Wayne, the youngest, who served with distinction in the late Spanish-American war and at the present time lives in the city of Bluffton.

In his private life Mr. Huffman is sociable, hospitable and generous, ever ready to lend a helping hand to others and to give his influence and material assistance to all enterprises having for their object the general welfare. Few men in the county are as

well and favorably known. His integrity has always been above reproach and his name is synonymous for all that is correct in manhood and ennobling in citizenship. Already he has won many victories in life's battle field and it is no extravagant flight of fancy to indulge in the prediction that many more triumphs will yet be his before the days of his usefulness and power shall end. Fraternally Mr. Huffman is a member of Lodge No. 92, Knights of Pythias, and religiously belongs to the Methodist church, as does also his wife.

MICHAEL MILLER.

For a number of years this gentleman has been a prominent factor in the agricultural affairs of Nottingham township and as such should be accorded specific recognition in a work of this character. Mr. Miller is a native of Wells county, Indiana, born on the 25th day of December, 1848, about a quarter of a mile north of his present place of residence. His ancestors on both sides were German and the family was first represented in the United States by his parents, Henry and Mary (Gottschalk) Miller, who came from their native land of Wittenburg in 1841 and settled in Ohio. There the father worked by the day and month at any honest employment he could find until earning enough money to buy forty acres of land in Wells county, Indiana. He came here about the year 1846, settling on a tract of woodland in Nottingham township which he at once began to improve. Like other early comers, he was obliged to live in the conventional log cabin until a better habitation

could be prepared and for many years his life was a ceaseless round of toil, attended at times by hardships and vicissitudes calculated to test to the utmost his courage and endurance. He lived to see the country transformed from a wilderness state into a very garden of plenty, the meantime improving his farm and adding to his possessions until his real estate amounted to one hundred and twenty acres, the greater part of which he brought to a high state of cultivation. After living forty years on the place where he originally settled he discontinued farming and moved to Vera Cruz, where his death subsequently occurred. His wife died at Buena Vista, this state, where she had made her home for some time with a married daughter. ^{Henry} Michael and Mary Miller reared a family of nine children, but three of whom are living at the present time, namely: Lucinda, wife of William Mertz, of Ft. Wayne; Sarah, wife of Ed Helbe, and the subject of this review; the following are the names of those who are now deceased: John, Lena, Mary A., Jacob, Barbara and Noah.

Michael Miller is the third of the above children in order of birth. He grew up to the full stature of robust physical and mental manhood amid the bracing and vitalizing scenes of farm life and received the best educational advantages this native township afforded, attending the district school of winter seasons until his eighteenth year. Like a dutiful son, he remained with his father several years after attaining his majority, receiving for his labor after reaching the age of twenty-one nothing but his board and clothing. When twenty-four years old he was united in wedlock with Miss Eliza Eger, of Wabash county, this state, the cere-



MICHAEL MILLER FAMILY GROUP.

mony being solemnized on the 21st day of November, 1872. With a wife to support, Mr. Miller settled down on a forty-acre farm in Nottingham township which he purchased of his father for fifteen hundred dollars, going in debt for every cent of the amount, and began housekeeping in the little old log cabin that had been erected many years before. This cabin is still standing as a monument of the olden time and in spite of the fifty-five years that have passed over it the old structure is in a fairly good state of preservation. When Mr. Miller commenced farming on his own accord a team of horses and a few agricultural implements represented the sum total of his worldly wealth. However, he was rich in a well-defined purpose to succeed and being blessed with good health he succeeded in getting a substantial start in life. He energetically prosecuted his farm work and in a few years bought a threshing outfit which he operated very successfully for some time, thus materially increasing his earnings. In due time he discharged every dollar of the indebtedness on his land and five years after his marriage was able to add another forty acres to that which he already owned. As years passed by he bought with his savings other tracts until he now has real estate to the amount of two hundred and twenty acres, one hundred and eighty of which constitute the home farm, the other forty lying in the county of Wabash. Every foot of land and every dollar's worth of property in his possession has been obtained by his own good judgment and foresight, coupled with sterling honesty and tireless industry. He has made farming a study and knows how to produce the best results from his means and labor. Mr. Miller is known throughout the township of Nottingham

and elsewhere as one of the most successful agriculturists and stock raisers in this part of the country, while his high standing as a neighbor and citizen is cheerfully conceded by all who know him.

In 1888 Mr. Miller built a fine modern residence on his farm, followed five years later by a large and commodious barn, both structures being among the best of their kind in the township of Nottingham. By a successful system of tile drainage he has greatly enhanced the fertility of the soil, besides reclaiming and reducing to the highest state of tillage quite an area which was formerly considered too wet and swampy to be of any practical value. Reference has already been made to Mr. Miller's success as a raiser of live stock; to be more specific, suffice it to state that he devotes especial attention to the Chester White, Poland China and Duroc breeds of swine, shorthorn cattle of various species and several varieties of fine woolled sheep.

Mr. Miller has a beautiful home and the comforts and conveniences of life with which he has surrounded his family are many. He and his wife are the proud parents of nine children, whose names are as follows: Jacob H., who married Minnie Sells and lives in Wabash county, has one child, Sarah E.; John E. married Myrtle French and assists his father in cultivating the home farm; Reuben, Irvin, Tina, Clara, Wesley and Glennie are still members of the home circle; one daughter, May, died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Miller, together with nearly all of their children, are members of the Evangelical church. During the last twenty-two years Mr. Miller has served as trustee of the local congregation to which he belongs, in addition to which office he was

also steward for a period of twelve years. He is zealous in all departments of religious endeavor and has always demonstrated the genuineness of his faith by his works, as the two, according to the apostle James, go hand in hand. In national and state politics Mr. Miller is soundly Democratic, but in township and county affairs he always votes for the best qualified candidates regardless of party affiliation. Mr. Miller is a splendid example of the successful self-made man and his life and career may be studied with great profit by the young man just starting on the road to fortune. He is indebted to no one but himself for his present respectable position in the world, as he realizes how every dollar of the ample fortune which he now commands has been earned.

JOHN WISNER.

The subject of this sketch is an honorable representative of one of the earliest pioneer families of Wells county. Not long after this part of the state was opened for settlement one William Wisner purchased land in what is now Lancaster township and proceeded to clear and develop a farm. He was a man of excellent repute, industrious, frugal and honest and in due time his labors were rewarded with a comfortable home on which the remainder of his life was spent. Mr. Wisner was a native of Ohio and there married Mary Plummer, who bore him the following sons and daughters: Richard, John, Silas, Sarah, Mary J. and Nancy A., all living in the county of Wells.

John Wisner, the second son, was born

on the homestead in Lancaster township, June 26, 1843, and spent the years of his childhood and youth amid the stirring scenes of pioneer times. Reared on a new farm, he early became skilled in the use of the ax and as soon as old enough to wield that implement to advantage he was set to work in the woods, where he was soon able to perform a man's labor. Of winter seasons he attended the little school hard by, but not taking kindly to books or to the restraints of indoor life did not make the progress in his studies that he should or that his parents desired. Naturally ingenious, he spent his leisure time making various mechanical devices and long before reaching manhood's estate he had developed an aptness and skill in the use of tools which enables him to do all kinds of mechanical work with ease and dispatch. While at home his ability in this direction proved of practical use in the way of carpentry, all kinds of repairing and the making of various agricultural implements of much greater value and utility than those procured in the market. Young Wisner bore his full share in running the farm and it was while thus engaged that the national atmosphere became darkened by the clouds of impending civil war. Imbued with a spirit of patriotism and impressed with the belief that every able bodied man should be willing to sacrifice his life if need be in order that the government might be preserved, he laid aside the implements of husbandry on the 23rd of November, 1861, and enlisted in Company H, Forty-seventh Indiana Infantry. Mr. Wisner was mustered into the service on the 31st day of the month following and immediately thereafter proceeded to the front via Louisville and

Bardstown, Kentucky, reaching New Madrid, Missouri, in time to take part in the battle at that place. Subsequently his regiment operated for some time along the Mississippi river, later joining Grant's force in the campaign against Vicksburg. He took part in the battles near that city and the long siege before its final reduction, being almost continuously under fire from May 1, 1863, until the capitulation on the 4th day of July following. After the fall of that Confederate stronghold, the Forty-seventh was sent to New Orleans, thence retreated to Sabine Cross Roads and Alexandria, Louisiana, meantime engaging the enemy at many points and experiencing its full share of the horrible realities of war. Mr. Wisner remained with his command in Louisiana until the expiration of his period of enlistment when he received his discharge and returned home, after three years of very active service. His military experience was marred by no disaster and he was seldom if ever absent from duty. Ready and willing at all times to meet danger, he won the good will of comrades and officers and when he retired from the service it was with a record for bravery and duty well done, of which any gallant defender of his country's honor might well feel proud.

After the war Mr. Wisner resumed work on the family homestead and continued under the parental roof until his marriage, which was solemnized in February, 1867, with Miss Mary J. Pippard, of Lancaster township. Mr. and Mrs. Wisner set up their first domestic establishment on her father's old farm and began the struggle of life with a combined capital of about one hundred dollars. After renting ground for three years he purchased sixty acres in the

township of Lancaster, where he made his home until 1872, at which time he disposed of the place and bought an outfit for boring wells. He followed the latter business with gratifying success for several years, operating in various parts of Wells and neighboring counties, his family meantime living in Bluffton. During the winter seasons, when well drilling could not be prosecuted successfully, Mr. Wisner devoted his time to all kinds of repairing requiring superior mechanical skill. He also made guns to order, besides doing other work which proved financially remunerative. Disposing of his well-boring outfit, he afterwards purchased a threshing outfit and for several seasons followed the threshing of grain as a business. While thus engaged he invented a machine for threshing flax seed which has since been patented and put on the market and a little later took out letters patent on a skillful appliance for the stretching of lace curtains. In partnership with A. E. Summer, Mr. Wisner about 1890 started the first steam laundry in Bluffton. After operating the plant jointly for three years, the subject sold his interest and established the Hoosier Laundry in the city of Huntington, running the same until 1900, when he disposed of the business and returned to Bluffton where he has since resided. For many years Mr. Wisner has spent considerable time in hunting, a sport which he loves and prosecutes with all the ardor of his intense romantic nature. In company with Hon. Levi Mock, his friend and companion, he has pursued all kinds of game in the northern wilds, hunting from the Great Lakes to the gulf of Mexico besides traversing at different times various states and territories of the west. He has killed sixty-

three deer, one bear and much smaller game in his time, which fact attests his skill and experience in what to him is the most pleasurable and fascinating means of recreation.

Mr. and Mrs. Wisner have not been blessed with children of their own, but for a number of years have given a home to Alice Church, a niece of Mrs. Wisner, upon whom they have lavished all the wealth of their love and affection. Their domestic circle is a very pleasant one and the open-handed hospitality which reigns within the walls of their dwelling is freely and generously dispensed to the many friends and acquaintances who frequently gather there. Mr. Wisner is a member of Lew Darby Post, G. A. R., but formerly belonged to the organization at Huntington, of which he served a term as commander. He still manifests much interest in military affairs and nothing affords him more sincere gratification than to meet his old army comrades and with them recall the thrilling incidents and startling experiences of war times. Of Mr. Wisner personally much in the way of compliment may be said. The soul of honor in his relations with his fellow men, of unimpeachable integrity in all of his business transactions and a citizen whom the people of Huntington and Bluffton hold in the highest esteem, it is a fitting tribute to speak of him as one of the intelligent, enterprising and progressive men of Wells county. He gave some of the best years of his life for the preservation of the Union and since that time has supported the political party which in his judgment best represents the principles for which he fought. While a pronounced Republican, he is not a partisan and has never entertained any political aspirations. Measured

by the true standard of success, his life has been fruitful of good results and he stands today, as he has always stood, for everything that subserves the public welfare and makes a higher order of citizenship.

C. S. BRINEMAN.

He who devotes his life to the education of others has a work that is generally thankless and always poorly paid. This is one of the many reasons why, so few enter the profession of educators with a view of making it their life work. It will do for the time being, it will tide over a period in life for the student or graduate, fresh from school, who knows nothing of any other calling. But the man or woman who takes it up, cognizant of all that must be encountered in it, and determined to stay by it in every emergency, has in him or her a good deal of the material out of which philanthropists are made. One of this very class is Clement S. Brineman, the subject of this sketch. He is a teacher of acknowledged ability, one of the very few who has not broken the birch or cast the ferule aside with a view of bidding farewell to the calling forever.

Clement S. Brineman is the son of Malachi and Sarah (Malotte) Brineman and was born in Chester township, Wells county, Indiana, July 12, 1866. His grandfather was John Brineman, a native of Germany, who, when a young man, to better his condition in life emigrated to America, settled in Pennsylvania and began life in this country as a common laborer. Here he met his future wife, married her and with-

in a short time changed his habitation to Ohio, which was then supposed to possess many advantages over the older and more densely populated parts of the country. Not finding his home in the Buckeye state wholly to his liking, after residing there a number of years, he effected a second removal, this time settling in Liberty township, Wells county, Indiana. This was in 1852. In those days the purchase price of land, per acre, was not nearly so great as it is today. The poor German emigrant was financially able to invest in an eighty-acre tract of land and although little schooled in the art of chopping trees, sawing logs or making rails, he set about clearing his land with an earnestness of purpose and an unflagging industry that was soon productive of results. Here he lived, maintained, reared and educated his children, and here he finally died, commended and extolled for the many good qualities he was known to possess. He was the father of a large family, his son Malachi, father of the subject hereof, being the second child.

Malachi Brineman was born and educated in Ohio. When he arrived at man's estate he was married and became the father of a number of children. While he was still a comparatively young man his wife died and about the time his father moved to Indiana he determined to try his fortune in the same locality. But before moving to Indiana he formed the acquaintance and later secured the friendship of Miss Sarah Malotte. This developed into a stronger passion, so that before many months elapsed, in 1852, Malachi Brineman and Sarah Malotte were husband and wife. Mrs. Malotte was the daughter of A. J. and Elizabeth (Baldwin) Malotte. Her

father, who was of French descent, was born October 14, 1816, and died February 26, 1862; his wife, of German descent, was born in 1818, and died January 31, 1850. They were married in 1835, and their daughter Sarah was born March 23, 1857, her death occurring during the winter of 1873. With the slender means in his possession, Malachi Brineman purchased eighty acres of land, upon which he erected an humble home and proceeded to improve it. Mr. Brineman was a hard worker, a man of fair education, shrewd and sagacious, and took quite an active part in local politics even at that early date. He was a member of the Christian church and prominently identified himself with the work of that denomination. He died in 1877, loved, admired and respected by all his friends and acquaintances. They were the parents of nine children, of whom five are dead and four are still living. The dead are Caroline, Fielden, Dora, Mary and Elizabeth. The living are Clement S., the subject of this sketch; Commodore, who is a resident of Chester township; Uriah, whose home is in Jackson township; Rosa, wife of Carl Smith, a resident of Mount Zion.

Clement S. Brineman was the sixth child of the family and at his father's death he was a boy of only eleven years. The family was poor, each member being left dependent upon his own resources and at this tender age the lad was obliged to look in the face of the world and solve for himself the problem of life. He went to work by the month for such neighbors as would give him employment, and at whatever work he was capable of performing. For five months he worked for one man and received the munificent sum of seven dollars

per month. In this way, not always, however, for such meager wages, he continued to work, embracing every opportunity to obtain an education. No days were too cold or inclement to keep him out of the school-room when school was in session. He applied himself with a zest and earnestness to his books, which zeal threatened to undermine his constitution. His eager thirst for knowledge won the sympathy of his teachers and they were only too ready to impart to him every morsel of instruction his youthful mind could grasp. When he was seventeen years of age, with much timidity and some misgivings, he applied for a license to teach. He took the examination and in fear and trembling awaited the result. It was favorable and a license of six months was granted him. He secured a school and taught it most successfully. The bow of promise was now far up in the heavens. He felt that learning was indeed the key. From that time up to the present he has labored steadily in the school-room and is regarded as one of the best educators in this part of the state. When we consider the obstacles he had to surmount, the efforts he had to put forth to reach the goal, we need not be surprised that he decided to make teaching his life work. For two years he has been principal of the schools at Vera Cruz. His first certificate was for a period of six months, but the one he now holds is in duration six times that.

On July 18, 1888, Mr. Brineman was united in marriage to Miss Zeffa Hower, who was born in Coldwater, Michigan, August 8, 1866, the daughter of John Y. and Ethelinda (Chalfant) Hower. She received her education in Bluffton, graduating from the high school of that city in the

class of 1884, and was a teacher, previous to her marriage, for three years. One son has been born to this marriage, John H., the date of whose birth is November 7, 1889. He also has a thirst for learning, which is without doubt inherited. Although only in his thirteenth year, he is in the second year of high school. Mr. and Mrs. Brineman are both members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to Lodge No. 114 of Bluffton, and is a past grand. Politically he is a Democrat, and at the last Democratic county convention held in Wells county he was a candidate for the office of auditor. He was regularly selected by the voice of his party as its nominee and at the regular election held November 4, 1902, was elected to hold the office for the term of four years beginning January 1, 1904. He is honest, capable and most deserving. Although he was before the people many months as a candidate, not a blot nor blemish has been found to tarnish his fair name.

JOSIAH SLUSHER.

Although this gentleman was left an orphan when a mere infant, he is today one of the substantial and most respected farmers of Wells county, Indiana. He was born August 27, 1844, on section 17, Jackson township, this county, a son of William and Hettie (Cale) Slusher, the former of whom was the first to pass away, and on the death of the latter the child, Josiah Slusher, was taken to the home of Isaac Jones, by whom he was reared on a farm until he reached his

majority, when he was given a horse and saddle by Mr. Jones, with which he made a trip to Iowa, where he passed one year.

When Mr. Slusher returned to Wells county he worked out as a farm hand for about twelve months, then went back to Iowa and worked in the same capacity for another year, then made a trip through Missouri, Kansas and other parts of the west, and finally, in the fall of 1868, returned to Wells county and again worked out by the month until his marriage, October 29, 1869, to Naomi Morgan. This estimable lady was born September 3, 1848, in Wayne county, Indiana, and is a daughter of Charles H. and Mary Morgan, natives of South Carolina, the latter of whom passed away on the farm on which Josiah Slusher now lives, and the former in Warren, Indiana, in 1901.

After marriage Mr. and Mrs. Slusher lived on rented land in Jackson township, Wells county, for a considerable time and then lived on Dr. Good's farm in Huntington county for three years. He then made a sale of his personal effects and went to Arkansas in November, 1876, but, not liking the country, returned to Wells county, Indiana, the following February and purchased forty acres of the farm on which he now lives, but which was then a wilderness and had no improvements except an old log cabin containing but one room, but in 1886 Mr. Slusher erected a comfortable house in which he and his family lived until 1901. In the meanwhile he worked industriously at clearing off the land from its incumbrance of timber and converting it into a fruitful and profitable farm.

By 1901 Mr. Slusher had acquired the means with which to purchase the parental

homestead, of which he then took possession. He continued to follow his industrious habits and now owns one hundred and twenty acres of as fine farm land as can be found in Wells county, and has besides seven oil wells which yield him about forty dollars per month. He carries on general farming and at the same time devotes much of his time and attention to the breeding of live stock, giving the preference to Jersey cattle and Poland China hogs.

The union of Mr. and Mrs. Slusher has been blessed with nine children, namely: Emma Eliza, born July 23, 1870, is now the wife of Oliver Williams, of Jackson township, and is the mother of four children, Frederick C., Arthur C., Howard D. and an infant; William, the second child of Mr. and Mrs. Slusher, was born August 14, 1872, is a farmer in Jackson township, is married to Miss Daisy Riggs, and is the father of two children, Ruie G. and Randall C.; Samuel was born November 20, 1874, and died February 4, 1877; Leora, born November 25, 1877, died September 2, 1878; Charles H., born September 20, 1879, still lives under the parental roof; Mary L. was born March 23, 1882, is married to Eugene Cruse; James R. was born July 27, 1885, and is still at home; Goldie was born June 28, 1891, and the youngest child died in infancy unnamed.

In politics in his earlier manhood Mr. Slusher did not identify himself with any particular party, but voted for such candidates as were best suited in his opinion to fill the various offices for which they were nominated, but he is now a strict Prohibitionist. With his family, he is a member of the Radical United Brethren church, is an active worker in the congregation and

has also been a trustee in the church ever since the erection of the church edifice.

Too much credit cannot be given to Mr. Slusher for the prudence he has exercised throughout life and the care with which he and his estimable wife have reared such of their children as have reached mature years and who are now ornaments to the communities in which they live.

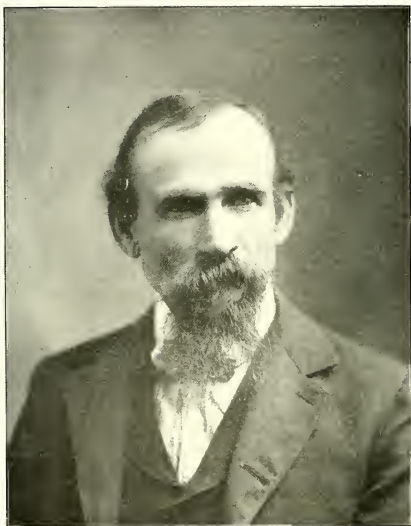
PHILIP B. ALBERSON.

The gentleman of whom the biographer now writes is widely known as one of the honored citizens of Wells county and for a number of years he has been actively identified with the varied interests of the township in which he resides. His well-directed efforts in the practical affairs of life, his capable management of his own business interests and his worthy discharge of important trusts, together with his sound judgment and sterling integrity, have brought to him prosperity and public confidence and his life demonstrates what may be accomplished by a man of energy and ambition who is not afraid to work and who places upon honorable endeavor its proper value. In all the relations of life he has commanded the respect and confidence of his fellow citizens and without a brief record of his career the biographical history of Wells county would be incomplete.

Philip B. Alberson was born January 29, 1854, in Adams county, Indiana, and is a son of Charles and Mary A. (Brown) Alberson. Charles was the son of Joshua and Catherine Alberson, who were among the early settlers of Randolph county, Indi-

ana, subsequently removing to the county of Adams. Charles Alberson was born in Randolph county, but grew up and married in Adams, moving from the latter to Wells county about the year 1860, settling on the farm which his son Philip B. now owns. He cleared eighty acres of this place, became one of the substantial men of his community and died in the year 1878, honored and respected by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. His widow is still living at the ripe old age of eighty and is quite strong and vigorous for one of her years, retaining in a marked degree her mental as well as her bodily powers. Mr. and Mrs. Alberson reared a large family of eleven children, ten of whom grew to years of maturity, namely: Joshua, a resident of Nottingham township; Elizabeth, wife of W. S. Settles; Henry, of Nottingham township; Philip, subject of this sketch; Catherine, who married Warren Walser; Nancy, now Mrs. Mat Tinsley; Daniel, of this county; Julia, wife of Robert Gilby; Jacob, a farmer of Nottingham, and Samuel, also a resident of this township; the first born of the family was a son by the name of John who died in infancy.

Philip B. Alberson received a limited knowledge of books in the schools of his native township and owing to circumstances which he could not command was unable to prosecute his studies as far as he desired. He remained at home faithfully attending to the duties of the farm until seventeen years of age, when he began earning money for himself by working as a farm hand for a man by the name of Settle, later entering the employ of Mr. Jacob Wolf. He was thus engaged for two years, at the end of which time he took charge of the home place on account of his father's ill-health and con-



PHILIP B. ALBERSON.



MRS. PHILIP B. ALBERSON.

tinued to look after the same until beginning life for himself several years later. While cultivating the old homestead he purchased twenty-five acres of his own and on the 16th of September, 1877, was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Davis, daughter of T. F. and Alice (Rogers) Davis, of Adams county. Immediately following his marriage Mr. Alberson moved to his little place in Nottingham township referred to above, but did not long remain there, his father's continued ill health causing him again to return to the old home. On the death of his father he purchased his brothers' and sisters' interests in the estate, after which he took possession of the farm and has since cultivated it in connection with stock raising, realizing liberal returns from his labors. He has added many improvements to the place in the way of buildings, draining, etc., and from time to time has purchased other lands until he is now the owner of two hundred and thirty acres of real estate which for productiveness and advantage of situation is not excelled by any like area in the township of Nottingham. In addition to his country real estate, Mr. Alberson has valuable town property, owning a large store building and several dwelling houses in Phoenix, besides lots and buildings in the village of Petroleum. In connection with agriculture he has made for a number of years past a specialty of live stock, particularly the rearing of hogs, and has shown excellent judgment in this important branch of husbandry. Not a little of Mr. Alberson's wealth of recent years has been derived from the twenty-three oil wells on his land, his share of the proceeds now averaging from sixty to seventy dollars per month, although much greater than these amounts

for some time following the development of the industry.

Mr. Alberson has always been recognized as a man of sound judgment and excellent business qualifications, in view of which facts his services have frequently been in demand to settle estates and act as guardian for minor heirs, several of which trusts he has on his hands at the present time. His advice in legal matters has also been sought by his neighbors and his opinions in these and other affairs have seldom if ever been at fault. As a Republican he has taken an active interest in political and public affairs and as a citizen his voice and influence have always been used to further legitimate objects for the material advancement of the community and the social and moral improvement of his fellowmen. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge No. 721, at Petroleum, his wife belonging to the Rebekah degree, Lodge No. 571, at Petroleum.

Mr. and Mrs. Alberson have had nine children, whose names and other facts concerning them are as follows: Rella M., born July 5, 1878, is the wife of John Young, of this county, and the mother of three offspring, Arlie, Esther and Oakes; the second of the family was an infant daughter, born and died on the 6th of October, 1880; Emma C. was born November 18, 1882, and still lives under the parental roof; the next in order of birth was an infant that died unnamed; John C. was born on the 7th day of June, 1885; Arvil, born July 28, 1887, died October 6, of the same year; Mary A. was born August 11, 1888, departed this life on the 13th of September, 1889; William was born August 11, 1890, and Violet, whose birth occurred on the 10th day of

June, 1894. Mr. Alberson's family is one of the best known and among the most popular in this part of the county. He has every reason to be proud of his fine home, of his well cultivated farm and of his good citizenship and excellent name. The high esteem in which he is held bears testimony to his moral character and substantial worth, and his life has been so filled with good deeds that he finds little to regret in the years gone by.

SANFORD H. TEMPLIN.

Rent is one of the most exacting and persistent sources of expense to the poor. It feasts upon a slender income with as much voraciousness as a hungry guest at a cheap restaurant. Nine-tenths of the poor would not be so poor as they are if they did not have to pay rent all their lives. The average man who has been the head of a family twenty-five years is appalled when he figures up the amount he has paid out in rent. Most people think there is no other help for it but to pay and keep on paying. Sanford H. Templin, of Nottingham township, Wells county, the subject of this sketch, long ago discovered that the rent cormorant could be avoided. It would be difficult for a young couple to be much poorer than he and his young wife were when they were first married thirty-seven years ago. They started in their married life with the purpose of avoiding all unnecessary expense, rent among the rest, and now in the fifty-eighth year of his age he can truthfully say he never defrauded a landlord out of a penny or paid a cent of rent in his life. In reply to those who in-

quire how he did it, all that is necessary to say is that when there's a will there's a way.

Sanford H. Templin was born October 11, 1845, in Henry county, Indiana. He is the son of Terry and Rachael (Johnson) Templin. The father was a native of Highland county, Ohio, a son of Robert and Eunice Templin, both natives of Ohio. The Templins were of English ancestry and the Johnsons of Welsh. Terry Templin grew to manhood in his native state, married Rachael Johnson and settled down to his life on the farm. In 1830 he moved his family to Delaware county, Indiana, his parents accompanying him. All settled in the same neighborhood where they remained until after the death of Robert Templin, grandfather of the subject. His wife Eunice died at the home of her son Timothy, in Howard county, some years after.

On first coming to Indiana Terry Templin engaged in farming. He followed this for a number of years, when he embarked in the manufacturing business. He opened a small factory, foundry and shop at Blountsville, Henry county, and engaged in the manufacture of such agricultural implements as were in use at the time. He was very successful and continued in the business up to the time of his death, January 23, 1855. To him and his wife Rachael thirteen children were born and at the time of his death his wife and eleven children were living. Sanford, the subject, was then only nine years of age. The children are: Sarah A., born February 23, 1829, deceased; Nancy J., born November 3, 1830, deceased; Mary E., born December 5, 1832, deceased; Lancey J., born December 20, 1834, deceased, was a minister in the Methodist Episcopal church; Eunice, born De-



P. B. ALBERSON.
LOG CABIN HOUSE ERECTED ABOUT 1850.

ember 30, 1836, deceased; Catharine, born March 5, 1836, is the wife of Ephraim Carey, and resides in Dallas, Texas; Elizabeth, born May 24, 1843, is the wife of Alexander Chalfant; Grace A. is the wife of William Faulkner, a resident of Nottingham township; Sanford H., the subject of this sketch, will be more particularly referred to hereafter; Rachael L., born October 17, 1847, deceased; Charles E., born July 10, 1851; Seneth A., born June 24, 1854, is the wife of F. M. Campbell and resides in Randolph county; Letitia died in infancy, December 28, 1859. Rachael, the mother of these children, died at the home of her son, Sanford H., April 17, 1884, the latter years of her life having been spent under his roof, where she was tenderly cared for.

Delaware and Henry counties each contributed to the education of Sanford H. Templin. Until he was eighteen years of age he attended the public schools and secured a fair education. The family being poor at the death of his father, every resource had to be taken advantage of to supply the wants of the widowed mother and children, and Sanford, therefore, early had to learn to work. At the age of ten years he began to work for neighboring farmers by the month. Unselfishly, willingly, even gladly, the little fellow gave up every dollar that he earned to supply the necessities of his mother and sisters and he continued to do so as long as occasion required. When not employed by the month he chopped cord wood, was engaged in this class of work at the time of his marriage and continued it for five years thereafter. On February 4, 1865, he was united in marriage to Miss Judith M. Faulkner, a native of Randolph county, born January 16, 1847. She was

the daughter of Solomon and Ruth (Bales) Faulkner. Solomon Faulkner was born in Virginia, March 26, 1799, his wife Ruth on August 26, 1808, and they were married in 1825. His parents were David and Judith Faulkner, natives of Wales, while her parents were John and Lois Bales. Some three years after marriage Solomon and Ruth Faulkner moved to Randolph county, Indiana, and there remained on the same farm until their deaths.

Fourteen children were born to Solomon and Ruth Faulkner: Isaiah M., born September 16, 1826, died August 27, 1895; Nathan, born November 29, 1827, died January 27, 1895; Jason and Jabert were twins, born November 22, 1829; the latter died on the day of his birth, the former living until October 21, 1834; Mary, born January 15, 1832, is the widow of Jacob Booher; Rachael, born December 27, 1833, is the widow of Henry Hill; Jesse, born January 21, 1836, resides in Muncie, Illinois; Phoebe J. and Betsie E., twins, born March 17, 1838; the latter died December 7, 1882, and the former is the wife of Aaron H. Pucket; John, born November 29, 1841, is a resident of Delaware county; William, born September 13, 1842, resides in Wells county; Lois A., born May 25, 1844, is the wife of William Williams; Judith, born June 16, 1847, is the wife of Sanford H. Templin, the subject of this sketch; Martha E., born June 2, 1849, died February 22, 1854.

After marriage Sanford H. and Judith Templin established themselves at house-keeping at Windsor, Randolph county. They purchased a small house, paying five dollars down, and the greater part of the purchase money was paid in labor and in

truck which he raised in his garden. They started out in their married life with the purpose of never paying rent and so far they have fulfilled their purpose. Their present prosperous condition and good financial standing gives promise of their being able to continue to do so. As a wedding portion her father gave her a cow and three sheep and her mother gave her a half dozen chickens and some household necessities. While commendably industrious, Sanford had saved nothing from all his hard labor, because what he earned was mostly devoted to his mother and sisters. For several years he chopped cord wood, then put in two years scoring timber to be used in the building of bridges, receiving for this work one dollar and a half a day. Jonathan Clevenger was his employer and from him he purchased a piece of ground, nine acres in extent, and all his earnings, while scoring timber, went to pay for this land. Meanwhile Solomon Faulkner, father of Mrs. Templin, died and Sanford traded his nine acres to his brother-in-law, William, for his interest in the Faulkner farm. He and his wife then moved to the farm and took up their residence there.

As showing how thrifty and economical people were in those days, the first year they were on the farm Mrs. Templin took one hundred and twenty-five pounds of wool from her sister's sheep, carded and spun it with her own hands, gave half of the thread for weaving it into cloth and out of this cloth she cut and made garments for the family. She did this without in the least interfering with her regular work, caring for her household, looking after her children, milking three cows and making butter therefrom, raising her chickens and

gathering the eggs. They remained on this place about three years, when they traded their interest in it for eighty acres of land, incurring thereby an indebtedness of four hundred dollars. The greater part of this land was woods, but the trees on forty acres of it had been deadened by girdling. There were no ditches or fences on the place and the log house, when they moved into it, had been "chinked," but not "daubed." For a window there was a hole in the side of the structure and a bed quilt supplied the place of a door. Once while the mother was out milking, the sheep went in and frightened the babies nearly to death. At another time they were short of milk for nine weeks. The cows wandered off and were not found for that length of time.

It was the purpose of Mr. Templin to plant ten acres of corn on his place the first year, but he only succeeded in preparing the ground and planting about eight acres. Between clearing, ditching, fencing, plowing and planting, to say nothing about gathering his crop and feeding his stock, he was kept quite busy the next few years. When the project of digging the Wilson creek ditch was inaugurated Mr. Templin was one of its chief promoters. Year by year, through hard work and good management, he prospered and added to his worldly possessions. In 1888 he built a large barn and in 1891 he erected a comfortable, commodious residence. He has added, by purchase, forty acres to his farm on the south. It was nearly all clear and he incurred some indebtedness in securing it, but every dollar of it has been paid off long ago. Last year he purchased forty acres on the north, which gives him one hundred and sixty acres, all in one body. On this place he has

five oil wells that are now bringing him fifteen dollars per month. At one time they were good ones, producing the first year not less than two thousand dollars.

To Mr. and Mrs. Sanford H. Templin three children have been born, viz: Leticia Jane, born November 8, 1865, married George Chenoweth, and they have four children, Clarence, Elma, Charley and Owen; Cary, born November 20, 1867, was twice married, his first wife, whose maiden name was Ella Kelley, having died five months after marriage; he later married Ebbie Chenoweth, and they have three children, Chester R., deceased, Roswell M., Clinton H.; George, born March 20, 1870, married Ollie Settle, and they have two children, Lawrence and Helen. The family are members of the United Brethren church and are active in church and charitable work. The father is a trustee of the church near his home, where they attend, and his son Cary is a trustee of the church at Petroleum.

In addition to land which he owns, the personal property of Sanford H. Templin will schedule upward of two thousand five hundred dollars. Considering how small their beginning was, this is quite a showing for the work they have done and the savings they made. In politics he has always been a Republican and is generally quite active in his party's interest, especially during important campaigns. He has served as a member of the county central committee a number of years, was deputy assessor and has frequently attended the state convention as a delegate. He is a man of ability and influence in his locality whose opinions are deferred to, whose influence is courted and whose worth is well appreciated.

Before closing this sketch, it will be worthy of note to state that the original Templin ancestor was a sailor, having served as such on the "Mayflower" when she brought her famous passengers to Plymouth Rock. He made thirteen trips across the Atlantic, but finally gave up his seafaring life and settled in Pennsylvania, and from him the entire Templin family in the United States is descended. The subject's great-grandfather Templin felled the first tree in Cincinnati when the fort there was built.

A. W. SOURS.

This enterprising young agriculturist of Nottingham township, Wells county, Indiana, is the eldest of the seven children that constitute the family of Samuel and Cynthia (Houdyshell) Sours, and was born in the eastern part of Nottingham township, April 19, 1849.

Samuel Sours was born in Virginia, from which state he was taken when young to Ohio by his parents, George and Nancy (Gentis) Sours. In 1837 the family came from Ohio to Wells county, Indiana, which was at that time a dense wilderness. George Sours, the grandfather of A. W., on arriving in Wells county, entered the two-hundred-and-forty-acre tract of land now owned by C. B. Funk, and here passed the remainder of his life. To George and Nancy Sours were born five children, in the following order: Henry, deceased; Samuel, father of A. W.; Jane, deceased; Eliza, married to J. M. Powers, and Mary, wife of Jerome Reiff.

Samuel Sours grew to manhood virtually in Wells county and was here married. His wife was born in Hocking county, Ohio, a

daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Roberts) Houdyshell, who were of German descent. At his marriage Samuel settled on a part of the old place, where he lived until about 1864, when he purchased a tract of one hundred and sixty acres in section 17, on which he lived until advancing years rendered him too feeble for the active work of life, when he and wife went to live with their children. The death of Samuel Sours occurred April 10, 1898, but Mrs. Cynthia Sours, at the age of seventy-six years, still survives. The seven children born to Samuel and Cynthia Sours were named in order of birth as follows: A. W., whose name opens this biographical record; John, a farmer in Adams county, Indiana; George, a resident of Muncie, Indiana; Eliza, deceased; Melissa, wife of Oliver Richardson, also of Muncie; Adeline, who died an infant, and Amarillis, married to John Conan, a prominent citizen of Adams county, Indiana.

A. W. Sours received his earlier education in the district schools of Nottingham township, Wells county, Indiana, and later attended the public school at irregular intervals until he reached the age of twenty-one years. This irregular attendance was occasioned by the constant call for his services in clearing up the old homestead from the heavy timber with which it was encumbered, a work which occupied his time until he reached his twenty-third year, when he began working out on his own account by the month, and at this he continued about four years. He was frugal and industrious and during this period accumulated sufficient funds to purchase his present farm of forty acres, which he has entirely cleared off and converted into a perfect garden spot.

August 23, 1876, Mr. Sours was united in marriage with Miss Martha E. Runyon, who was born in Adams county, Indiana, May 24, 1852, a daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Nicholas) Runyon, natives of Virginia, whence they went to Ohio and from the Buckeye state came to Indiana and settled in Adams county, where Benjamin Runyon was serving as county commissioner at the time of his death, and where his wife also died. To Mr. and Mrs. Runyon were born seven children, named as follows: Jane, Sarah, John, George, Martha, Mrs. Sours, Laura M. and Clarissa.

A. W. Sours at his marriage began housekeeping in a cabin that had already been built on the farm. Mr. Sours at this time owned a team and his wife brought a cow from the home of her parents, and with these personal effects they began the earnest work of matrimonial life. Mr. Sours worked hard and succeeded in clearing up his forty acres and about 1897 was able to purchase another tract of the same size, all of which land is now well drained, although it was originally all a swamp, especially the first purchase. He erected a comfortable dwelling about fifteen years ago and now has one of the best farms of its dimensions in the county. He raises the crops usual to the latitude, and gives a great deal of attention to the breeding of shorthorn cattle, Poland China hogs, mixed with Durocs, and also Shropshire sheep, and is altogether a successful live stock breeder and general farmer.

Mr. and Mrs. Sours have had no children born to them, but in the kindness of their hearts they took to their home Mary E. Runyon when she was but eleven years of age, and have reared her with all the af-

fection and care they could have bestowed upon a daughter of their own. Mr. Sours and wife are members of the Christian church at Linn Grove, to the support of which they are very liberal and in the work of which they take a most active and effective part. Mr. Sours is a member of Lodge No. 634, I. O. O. F., at Geneva, Indiana, and he, wife and Miss Runyon are members of Rebekah Lodge No. 327, of the same order at the same place. Mr. Sours is a Democrat in politics and has served his party as trustee of Nottingham township with fidelity and ability. He believes in good roads and objects to wooden bridges, but favors all improvements that conduce to the convenience and benefit of the general public.

The following obituary notices, relative to Mrs. Sours' parents and to the subject's father, are here reprinted and will undoubtedly prove of interest to the reader:

Sister Elizabeth Nichols was born in Page county, Virginia, January 2, 1821, moved with her parents to Champaign county, Ohio, when eleven years of age and was married to Benjamin Runyon, June 19, 1838. She moved with her husband to Hartford township, Adams county, in 1843. In 1853 she professed Christ and was baptised by Rev. C. Skinner into the Canaan Baptist church. Her life was one of faithfulness to her God, her church and her family. She was the mother of sixteen children, nine of whom reached mature years and eight of whom are still living. The death of Sister Runyon had been expected; her disease was consumption and for months she had been waiting by the River and when the Ferryman came to ferry her over she was fully prepared. With a peace of mind prevailing her soul like a clear, calm stream, she sank sweetly, trustingly into the arms of death without a struggle. Hers was the death of a Christian. On her dying lips the song of glory quivered. She departed this life March 2, 1888, at the age of sixty-seven years and two months, on her old homestead, surrounded by her family and friends. She leaves many to

mourn her departure. The funeral sermon was preached from the text found in Psalms 23:4.

Benjamin Runyon was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, February 6, 1819, departed this life October 25, 1879, aged sixty years eight months and twenty days. While young he moved with his parents to Champaign county, Ohio. He was married to Elizabeth Nichols June 19, 1838, and moved with his family to Adams county, Indiana, in 1843. In 1853 he was converted and joined the Canaan Baptist church, of which he was a faithful and consistent member until death. He was one of the pioneers of the county and helped to fell the forest and make for himself a home. He served as justice of the peace for twelve years, after which he was elected county commissioner, and was serving his second term at the time of his death. He leaves to mourn his loss a wife, nine children, eleven grandchildren, six brothers, one sister and a host of friends; but our loss is his gain. Funeral services were conducted at his home by his pastor.

We are called upon this week to chronicle an event the like of which has not occurred since the formation of Adams county, viz: the death of a county official. Benjamin Runyon, commissioner from the third district, after a lingering sickness of several months, departed this life last Saturday morning, October 25, 1879, aged sixty years, eight months and twenty days. Benjamin Runyon was of that class of men who will rather suffer wrong themselves than do wrong to others. In his official capacity as a member of the commissioners' court he was always on the side of right and justice. He was first elected commissioner in 1874, and re-elected in 1876; his full term would not have expired until December, 1880. A large concourse of people paid the last sad rites to his memory last Sabbath afternoon.

On April 10, 1898, in Hartford township, Adams county, occurred the death of one of the oldest pioneers of the county in the person of Samuel Sours. The deceased was born August 28, 1821, in Augusta county, Virginia, and died aged seventy-five years, seven months and twelve days. He was married December 19, 1847, to Cynthia Howdyshell, to which union were born seven children, three sons and four daughters, two of whom have preceded him to the spirit world. The remaining five were present at the

funeral to mourn the departure of a kind and affectionate parent. Brother Sours in early life united with and became one of the charter members of the Christian church, in which he lived a consistent Christian life to the day of his death. Brother Sours came to Wells county, Indiana, in 1837 and settled in Nottingham township. In his early life he was a brickmaker and it was he who made the brick for the old court house of Wells county. Around and in connection with his life cluster many interesting facts and scenes of the early settlers in the forests of Wells county. Father Sours has gone to his reward, and peace to his ashes. May we all draw a lesson from the peaceful life of one who was always ready to do good.

WILLIAM BLOXSOM.

When it comes to tracing ancestry in this country back to a remote period, there are few persons in Indiana who can do better in that line than William Bloxsom, of Nottingham township, Wells county, who is the subject of this sketch. His great-grandfather was Richard Bloxsom, a native of Dundee, Scotland, who came to America about the middle of the last century, when he was a young man, settled in Virginia, was one of the colonial troops who went out under Washington to fight the Indians and participated in that most unfortunate affair, known in American history as Braddock's defeat. His wife was Anna, a native of Virginia. Their son was William Bloxsom, grandfather of the subject hereof. The wife of William was Mary, a native of New Lewisburg, Virginia, and their son was James Bloxsom, whose wife was Anna Robinson, and they became the parents of William Bloxsom, the subject of this sketch.

After returning from the Indian war Richard Bloxsom secured a tract of land in

Virginia, married and settled down, like the typical Virginia gentlemen of the period, upon a plantation. He owned slaves, planted, garnered his crops and prospered. Though an intense patriot during the Revolutionary war, the hostilities did not affect him much financially. In the latter part of his life he became a member of the Friends church and as slavery is obnoxious to the teachings of that creed, in 1804 he liberated his slaves. In those days a plantation without slaves was an insupportable incumbrance, so he sold out and moved to Ohio. He brought with him his wife and five children, William, Charles Gregory, Gideon, Anna and Mary.

William, grandfather of the subject hereof, first settled in Belmont county, Ohio, and later moved to Clark county about 1820. He and his wife were the parents of six children, viz: James, father of William, the subject; William; Ann, wife of Jonathan Morgan, of Clark county, Ohio; Elizabeth, wife of John King, a resident of Knox county, Indiana; Maria, wife of Albert Westfall, both deceased; Sarah, wife of Charles Scott, of Clark county, Ohio, who later moved to Grant county, Indiana. All are now deceased.

James Bloxsom was a native of Belmont county, Ohio, where he was reared to man's estate. About 1828 he emigrated to Knox county, Indiana, locating near Vincennes. In 1831 he was united in marriage to Anna Robinson, a native of Knox county, and daughter of Abner and Naomi Robinson. They settled in Vincennes where he opened a harness shop and engaged in business. In 1843 he moved his family to Grant county, Indiana, locating in Washington township. He and his wife were the parents of the fol-



MRS. WILLIAM BLOXSOM.



WILLIAM BLOXSOM.

lowing children: Cynthia married Norman Gwinn, a native of Oregon, to which territory she traveled, overland, in a wagon, with her uncle and aunt; Malinda, wife of James Crispin, of Jay county, settled near Pennville about 1852; William, the subject of this sketch, will be more particularly referred to hereafter; Naomi, wife of John Flinn, of Grant county; James married Christena J. Tinsley in 1868, is now a resident of Nottingham township. The mother of this family died on the old home place in Washington township, Grant county, in the spring of 1848. Her husband did not long survive her, dying on the same farm in 1851.

William Bloxsom, the subject of this sketch, was born near Vincennes, Knox county, Indiana, September 21, 1839. He was only nine years of age when his mother died and eleven at the death of his father. The orphan boy was placed in the care of his uncle and aunt, Jonathan and Ann Morgan, near Pennville, Jay county, where he remained until he was twenty-one years of age. He received a fair common-school education, such as the conditions of those days warranted, and on attaining his majority and going out into the world to do for himself was not left wholly penniless by the good people who were his foster parents. October 25, 1860, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary McDaniel, a native of Athens county, Ohio, born November 26, 1840.

Abraham and Mary (Wymer) McDaniel were the parents of Mary McDaniel, wife of William Bloxsom. They were natives of Bedford county, Pennsylvania. He was a son of Peter and Isabell McDaniels, who were also natives of Pennsylvania. They moved to Ohio in their married life and in that state Abraham grew to manhood

and married Mary Wymer. In 1848 they moved to Darke county, Ohio, and in 1851 settled in Nottingham township, Wells county, Indiana, and about 1856 he located in Penn township, Jay county, Indiana, and there died in 1868. They were the parents of four children, viz: Jemima, wife of D. H. Shinn, of Jay county; Jephtha married Sarah J. Shinn, of Blackford county; Nahum married Melissa Dowley and moved to Oklahoma, where he died; Mary, wife of the subject of this sketch.

After this marriage William Bloxsom and wife settled on forty acres of the farm which they now own and on which they live. It was in the woods and abounded in brush and ponds. A log cabin eighteen by twenty feet, put up by themselves, was their first home. They had two cows, one horse and a scanty supply of the rudest kind of household furniture. Not even a cooking stove was to be found in their little home for more than two years after they were married. The first spring eight acres of cleared land was the result of their united labor. Mrs. Bloxsom was in the clearing much of the time, doing her full share toward converting the wilderness into a farm. By the time the first forty acres was cleared an opportunity offered and they bought forty acres adjoining their place on the north. Then the process of improving this tract began and progressed with persistent steadiness. The first tract bought cost ten dollars per acre and it was paid for, in full, in the fall of 1864. He was materially aided in getting out of debt by the money he received as compensation for teaching in the winter months.

On December 20, 1864, he became a victim of the draft and joined Company H, Forty-eighth Regiment Indiana Volunteers.

He followed Sherman from Savannah, Georgia, to Washington, where he took part in the grand review, May 24 and 25, 1865. In July of the same year he was mustered out. Although he enjoyed fairly good health in the service, on returning home he was stricken with the ague and suffered so severely from it that by cold weather there was scarcely enough of him left to make a shadow. Nevertheless he managed to make a living and within a few years had the additional forty acres, on which he had ceased operation when he went into the army, cleared up. In 1868 he was elected justice of the peace and held the office one term. In 1880 he purchased another tract of land, sixty acres adjoining his place. In 1882 he built his present residence and in 1883 he built his barn. Both are substantial and lasting improvements and add materially to the value of the farm. There are now one hundred and forty acres in the home place and he is the owner of forty acres in section 33, Nottingham township. On his place there are six producing oil wells which yield him an income of about twenty-five dollars per month. He carries on general farming and live stock raising on his place, giving special attention to Poland China hogs, shorthorn and Jersey cattle and Shropshire sheep. About all the grain and hay that is raised on the place is fed to the stock. He has been frequently called during the past few years to assist in the settlement of estates and to act as guardian for minor heirs. For the past six years he has been a notary public.

To Mr. and Mrs. Bloxson five children have been born, viz: William F., born June 1, 1863, died September 30, 1865; N. Leander, born March 5, 1865, married Hannah

Wheeler, January 28, 1891, now resides at Bluffton, and have two children, Paul W. and Ralph T., aged nine and six years, respectively. The children make their home with their grandparents on the Bloxson place; Anna L., born March 20, 1873, married Thomas Hobbs, a well driller, in 1896, and they reside in Jonesboro; Mary J., born August 27, 1875, married Charles Wheeler, and they have one child, Delores, eight months of age; they reside in Jonesboro; an infant son died before a name was conferred upon him. All of the children living have been given a good common school education. Both parents are members of the Christian church and are interested in religious and charitable work. Mr. Bloxson is a member of the Masonic fraternity at Pennville. In politics he is a Republican, as he expresses it himself, from start to finish. While never seeking office, he has frequently been honored by his party with a place on the county ticket and while he ran well, generally ahead of his party vote, the Democratic majority of Wells county is too strong to be easily overcome. His life has been an active one. It has been good and blameless. He has endeavored to do right at all times and came far nearer doing so than many others of greater pretention. He is a man well worthy of the distinguished ancestry from which he sprang.

Mr. Bloxson has one of the best selected libraries in Wells county. It contains about two hundred volumes, selected from the best authors in history, biography, fiction, poetry, the sciences and also possesses very complete and exhaustive encyclopedias. He has also in his possession an old parchment deed, executed August 20, 1838, and bearing the signature of President Martin



THE PROGRESSIVE FARMERS, RALPH AND PAUL BLOXSOM.

Van Buren. Two of the grandsons of the subject, Ralph T. and Paul W., though but lads, are possessed of splendid business ability. Recently they made a contract with the Mullen-Blackledge Company, of Indianapolis, Indiana, to raise and deliver to them an acre of tomatoes, the land belonging to their grandfather. The product amounted to nineteen tons and thirteen hundred and seventy pounds, for which the boys received almost one hundred and forty dollars. They also raised almost forty dollars' worth of melons, thus enabling their grandfather to deposit in the bank almost one hundred and seventy-five dollars, subject to their order.

JOSEPH UNRUE.

A list of Jackson township's enterprising farmers and prominent citizens would be incomplete if it did not include the name of the well known gentleman whose simple life story is told in these lines. A resident of Wells county since his twelfth year, he has literally grown up with the country, and few have been more active than he in behalf of the agricultural interests of the township which is proud to claim his citizenship. Joseph Unrue is an Ohio man and the son of George and Mary Unrue, who for many years were residents of Montgomery county, that state, the father a native of Virginia. The subject's paternal grandparents were George and Catherine Unrue, who moved from Virginia to Ross county, Ohio, when their son George was about seven years of age. Subsequently the family moved to Montgomery county, where George, Jr., grew to maturity and

married Mary Eubank, daughter of Hezekiah and Christina Eubank, early settlers of that part of the state.

By occupation George Unrue, Jr., was a stone mason, but later in life he devoted the most of his time to agricultural pursuits. In October, 1852, he came to Wells county, Indiana, and purchased a piece of woodland in Jackson township on which, with the aid of his son and the few neighbors in the vicinity, he hastily built a log cabin, sixteen by sixteen feet in area and six feet high. Into this rude dwelling of a single room his family was domiciled and during the first years of their residence eight acres were partially cleared and planted in corn. Mr. Unrue brought with him sufficient provision for one year, obtaining his meat the meantime from the wild game with which the woods then abounded. In the course of a few years he had a comfortable home and in due time became one of the prosperous farmers of his township, as well as one of its most highly esteemed citizens. His wife died in 1878 and in 1894, after reaching a good old age, he too was called from the scenes of his earthly trials and successes. George and Mary Unrue were the parents of four children, three of whom are living, the subject of this sketch being the oldest of the family. John the second in order of birth, is a farmer of Jackson township and lives on part of the old homestead; Henry, the third, is deceased, and Catherine, the youngest of the number, is the wife of Isaiah Barnes, of Warren, this state.

Joseph Unrue was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, on the 24th of March, 1840. He received his preliminary education in the district schools of his native place and at the age of twelve was brought by his par-

ents to Wells county, since which time, as already stated, his life has been very closely identified with the growth and development of Jackson township. Here he attended school a few months of each winter until reaching the age of eighteen, meanwhile assisting to clear the farm and tend the crops, proving a strong and willing hand at all kinds of work required in carving a home from the wilderness. When nineteen years old he began taking contracts for clearing land and in this way worked until his marriage, which was solemnized March 25, 1861, with Miss Charlotte Athan, whose birth occurred in Jackson township in the year 1843. Mrs. Unrue is the daughter of Jacob and Mary Athan, who moved to Ohio from Virginia in an early day and from the latter state to Wells county in 1838. They were among the earliest settlers of Jackson township and spent the remainder of their lives on the land which Mr. Athan originally purchased from the government. Of their four children three are yet living, Mrs. Martha A. Webb, Mrs. Unrue and Wilson, a resident of the state of Washington; Hannah Eliza has been a number of years deceased.

Mr. Unrue spent the first year of his married life with his father-in-law and during the ensuing ten years rented land of his wife's uncle, Thomas Athan. He then moved to his father's place, which he cultivated about ten years, and at the end of that time again took charge of his father-in-law's farm which he made his home until 1872. In that year he purchased a small tract of land in section 6, Jackson township, on which he built a rough log cabin, but after occupying the place about one year sold out and later bought forty-five acres of

the Athan farm. Moving to the latter, he farmed it in connection with rented land until 1889, when he changed his residence to the old family homestead for the purpose of taking care of his father in his old age.

At the death of his father, Mr. Unrue took charge of the farm and from that time to the present he has been engaged in agriculture and stock raising with most gratifying results. He is a man of progressive tendencies and to say that he has made a success of life is to state what is apparent to all who know him or have heard of his industrious habits and enterprising methods. Like a number of his neighbors and fellow citizens, John Unrue has the good fortune to live in one of the rich oil producing districts of Indiana and receives from thirty-five to fifty dollars per month income therefrom. This has been a very material aid to him and the prospects are fair for other wells and much larger income from the oil interests in the no distant future. As a stock raiser Mr. Unrue has made considerable money, there being a large and constantly increasing demand for the fine breed of hogs to which he has devoted much attention of recent years. As a citizen he enjoys the confidence and esteem of the community, holding worthy prestige as a neighbor and no one has ever had occasion to question the loyalty of his friendship. He is a good and just man, and has always endeavored to square his life according to the precept of the Golden Rule and to do all the good within his power among those with whom he is brought in contact. Fraternally he belongs to Warren Lodge No. 392, I. O. O. F., and politically is and always has been a staunch supporter of the Democratic party. He is recognized as an effective

worker in campaign years and, though by no means a seeker after the honors or emoluments of office, the people of his township elected him twice to the position of justice of the peace. After serving in that capacity for eight years and proving a most efficient dispenser of justice, he resigned the office, refusing to fill out his second term.

Mr. and Mrs. Unrue have had born to them seven children, but, as with the majority of families, the angel of death has crossed their threshold until there are only four of the number left; the names of these offspring are as follows: George, deceased; Nancy J. married William B. Miller, who lives on a part of the home place and works in the oil fields; Jacob S. is deceased; Mary I. is the wife of Henry Zent, a resident of Jackson township; Hannah C., now Mrs. John M. Sprow, lives in the town of Warren, and Sarah E., who married Elam Sprow, a painter, residing on a part of the subject's farm. Mr. and Mrs. Unrue have in their possession an old parchment sheepskin deed, executed under the administration of President Van Buren and bearing his signature.

W. A. SHUMAKER.

The two most strongly marked characteristics of both the east and the west are combined in the residents of the section of country of which this volume treats. The enthusiastic enterprise which overleaps all obstacles and makes possible almost any undertaking in the comparatively new and vigorous western states is here tempered by the stable and more conservative policy that

we have borrowed from our eastern neighbors, and the combination is one of peculiar force and power. It has been the means of placing this section of the country on a par with the older east, at the same time producing a reliability and certainty in business affairs which is frequently lacking in the west. This happy combination of characteristics is possessed by the subject of this brief review, W. A. Shumaker, of Harrison township, Wells county.

W. A. Shumaker is a native of Lincoln, Nebraska, and was born in 1868, the son of W. L. and Mary S. (Horne) Shumaker. The Shumaker family is originally of Scotch origin and in the subject is embodied the more prominent traits of that nationality. The subject's father was a man of good education and acquired considerable reputation as a teacher. During the war of the Rebellion he served in the postoffice department and did much effective service in the line of duty. At the close of the war he left the Buckeye state and went into the poultry business in Jonesboro, Grant county, Indiana, and remained so engaged until his death. He was a good manager and acquired a fair share of this world's goods. He was the father of two sons, the subject and S. F. S. F. Shumaker was educated in the public schools of Peru, Indiana, and was afterward engaged in the poultry business at Warren, Indiana, and later at Bluffton. He is now at Chicago, Illinois, and connected with Armour & Company. He has been twice married, first to Lena Sprowl, of Warren, and after her death to Miss Bessie Plessinger, the daughter of Mayer Plessinger.

W. A. Shumaker was given the advantage of the common schools and acquired a

good practical education. He early became identified with the poultry business, being employed by his father. Subsequently he was employed by the Horne Produce Company and still later by the firm of S. Tudor & Company, now managing the latter company's business at Bluffton and Montpelier. By close attention to the details of the business and a watchful regard of his employers' interests, he has won their confidence and is now given full charge of their business at the two places mentioned. The business has grown rapidly in the last few years and now amounts to very considerable proportions, being counted among the county's leading industries.

The subject was united in marriage with Miss Constance J. Martin, of Warren, Indiana, and to them one daughter has been born, now an interesting and charming little miss of ten years. Fraternally Mr. Shumaker is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and is also a member of Bluffton Lodge No. 92, K. of P. He is not a member of any church, but attends the Presbyterian church and is a liberal supporter of the same. In politics he is a straight Republican and takes a keen interest in the party's success, but does not actively participate in the campaign work, being satisfied with the casting of his ballot. He is an ardent admirer of outdoor sports and his vacations are passed with his rod and gun. He is of a jovial and happy disposition and is blessed with a host of warm personal friends, who admire him not only for his pleasant disposition, but for the manly and exemplary qualities which are his. He has always been an honorable, upright man, industrious, temperate and economical, has performed well his part as a

factor in the body politic and no one questions his standing as one of the leading citizens of his community.

P. S. GREEN.

The history of the Hoosier state is not an ancient one. It is the record of the steady growth of a community planted in the wilderness in the last century and reaching its magnitude of today without other aids than those of continued industry. Each county has its share in the story, and every county can lay claim to some incident or transaction which goes to make up the history of the commonwealth. After all, the history of a state is but a record of the doings of its people, among whom the pioneers and the sturdy descendants occupy places of no secondary importance. The story of the plain common people who constitute the moral bone and sinew of the state should ever attract the attention and prove of interest to all true lovers of their kind. In the life story of the subject of this sketch there are no striking chapters or startling incidents, but it is merely the record of a life true to its highest ideals and fraught with much that should stimulate the youth just starting in the world as an independent factor.

P. S. Green is a native of Wells county and a descendant of one of its old and highly respected pioneers. The American branch of the family appears to have had its origin in New York many years ago, and from there representatives moved westward, settling in Ohio. In the latter state was born James Green, who in young manhood married Rebecca Koon, the couple,

about 1842, moving to Wells county, Indiana, and settling in the township of Nottingham. James Green cleared and developed a farm from the dense woods in which he originally built his cabin home, and in due time became one of the leading citizens of his community. After tilling the soil for some years he turned his attention to merchandizing, opening a general store in Nottingham township, which was highly prized by the people in that part of the county. For a while he prospered and made money, but later met with reverses which seriously crippled his business and caused the loss of the greater portion of his earnings. A man of much energy, he refused to become discouraged and by successful management eventually rallied from his disaster and again succeeded in accumulating a comfortable competence, including a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres on which he lived for a number of years. Subsequently he took up his residence in Bluffton, where he spent the remainder of his days, honored and respected by all who knew him.

James and Rebecca Green were the parents of ten children, namely: Mary A., Andrew, Amelia, James, Peter S., Charlotte, Rebecca, Charles, Benjamin and Nancy E. Six of these children are still living, three being well known residents of Wells county.

Peter S. Green, of this review, was born March 25, 1851, in Nottingham township, and grew to young manhood on his father's farm. He attended the public schools of winter seasons until about the age of nineteen and then began working in a flouring mill with the object in view of learning the miller's trade. He followed

the business for five years in his native county and then went to Michigan, where he spent two years similarly engaged, returning to Bluffton at the end of this time and entering the employ of John Van Horn. Later Mr. Green worked for John P. Clayton, with whom he remained about one year, and in 1880 went to work in a saw-mill for Jacob North, where he remained until about 1884. Severing his connection with his employer, he next turned his attention to carpentry and after following this trade two years, again engaged with Mr. North, in whose employ he continued for some time to his financial advantage. Later Mr. Green bought grain for Studebaker, Sale & Co. at Markle for three or four years, also spending a year or more at Warren buying grain. In addition to the above brief outline of his active business career, he spent some time in the employ of M. D. Brown and in 1896 purchased the flouring-mill at Bluffton which he now owns and which he so successfully operates. Mr. Green has been a very busy man, and in the main success has crowned his efforts as miller. Since moving to Bluffton he has thoroughly remodeled his mill, supplying it with machinery for the manufacture of his White Rose brand of flour. He is familiar with every detail of milling and by giving his customers a superior article has not only built up an extensive business, but has placed himself in independent circumstances financially.

Mr. Green has been twice married, the first time in 1878 to Miss Hattie Bennett, daughter of R. C. Bennett, a union terminated by the death of the wife in 1885. Subsequently he entered into the marriage relation with Emma Estabrook, who has pre-

sented him one child, Howard Dale Green, whose birth occurred on the 10th of May, 1890. Politically, Mr. Green is a Republican, but not an active party worker, having no taste in that direction; nevertheless he has pronounced convictions and keeps well posted on matters of state and national legislation, also reads much concerning the great political and industrial questions in which the people are interested at the present time. In every relation of life Mr. Green is known as an honest, incorruptible man, who has ever tried to do his duty as he sees and understands it, and whose word wherever he is known has all the sanctity of a written obligation. In the most liberal sense of the term, he is an optimist, and believes in getting out of life all the enjoyment and sunshine possible to be had. Social to an eminent degree and popular with all classes, he numbers his warm personal friends by the score and all who come within the range of his influence pronounce him the soul of honor and a prince of good fellowship. He has made the world brighter and better by his presence and when the time comes for him to cease life's labors and join the great majority, he will be sadly missed by those whose burdens he lightened, and into whose pathway he cast so many garlands of love and joy.

THOMAS W. WHEELER.

Few citizens of Wells county are more entitled to the term "self made man" than the subject of this review. His rise from a condition of obscurity to a conspicuous place among the leading agriculturists of his town-

ship shows him to be the possessor of an enterprising spirit of high order, while his respectable social standing attests the esteem in which he is held by the people with whom he mingles. Thomas W. Wheeler is an Indianian by adoption, being a native of Bedford county, North Carolina, where his birth took place on the 17th day of June, 1863. His father was Thomas Wheeler, a descendant of one of the old families of the Old North state, and his mother, Sarah J. McFarland, was also born and reared in that commonwealth. These parents were married in their native county and continued to live there until the breaking out of the Great Rebellion, when Mr. Wheeler was impressed into the Confederate service, although a Union man in sentiment. Determined not to fight against his convictions, he deserted one night while on guard duty and after a long and trying experience finally made his way northward as far as Henry county, Indiana, where he concluded to remain until the close of the war. For several years he supported himself by working at the carpenter's trade and earned the reputation of an industrious and skillful mechanic. As soon as conditions in the South would permit, he sent for his family and in due time the domestic circle was reunited, after which Mr. Wheeler settled on a farm and engaged in agriculture in connection with his trade. The family remained in Henry county until 1872 when they removed to the county of Jay, settling in Penn township, where Mr. and Mrs. M. Wheeler and several of their children still reside. Thomas and Sarah Wheeler have reared a very large family, fourteen children in all, of whom nine are living, namely: Julian F., Walter, Thomas W., John A., Charles, Edgar, Anna, Mary



MRS. T. W. WHEELER.



T. W. WHEELER AND DAUGHTER.

and Joseph; the names of those deceased are William, Ernest, Hannah and Allie.

Thomas W. Wheeler was born while his father was in the Confederate service and was about three years old when the family moved to Indiana. The surprise when he and his father first met was mutual, neither having seen the other up to that time. Of course the child did not know his parent and it required several days to establish a friendship for him. Thomas being one of the older boys, much of the family support fell to him as soon as he was able to work, in consequence of which his educational advantages were considerably limited. He was permitted to attend the district schools until his thirteenth year and then began working for a farmer in the neighborhood, turning one-half of his earnings into the family fund. He continued as a farm laborer at monthly wages until attaining his majority, during the greater part of which time he was in the employ of Joseph Hudson, one of the prominent and well-to-do men of Blackford county. Meanwhile, having accumulated sufficient means to justify him in taking a companion for life's journey, Mr. Wheeler, on the 1st day of February, 1890, was united in marriage to Miss Eva McDaniel, after which he began farming for himself on a part of his father-in-law's place in the county of Wells. Ten years later he moved to his present farm adjoining to the McDaniel homestead and in 1902 purchased the latter place, making his real estate at the present time one hundred and four acres, nearly all of which is in cultivation. Mr. Wheeler began with nothing and the beautiful home which he now owns is the well-merited result of his honest toil and successful management. On his place are a number of pro-

ducing oil wells from the proceeds of which he receives a liberal share of his income and in connection with farming he devotes considerable attention to the oil industry, having a complete mechanical outfit for driving and drawing pipes. He does this kind of work of winter seasons and at odd times and has made it very remunerative, being one of the most efficient workman in the oil fields. Mr. Wheeler has made a success of raising live stock and takes great interest in all matters which promise good to the agricultural interests of his township and county. Politically he is a Republican and since his twenty-first year has been an active worker in the party. Fraternally he is a member of the Odd Fellows order, Leaf Lodge No. 145, at Pennville, Indiana, also belonging to the encampment degree, in which, as in the subordinate lodge, he has been honored with high official station. Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler have two children, Vida, born on the 28th of October, 1895, and an infant that died unnamed.

Mrs. Wheeler was born April 9, 1870, and is the daughter of Alexander and Frances (Dawley) McDaniel. Mr. McDaniel was born December 29, 1815, in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, of which state his parents, Amos and Catherine McDaniel, were also natives. He grew to manhood in the county of Bedford and there married Mary Evans, of whom he had four children, Louisa, deceased, Harvey, Amanda, deceased, and Catherine. The mother of these children dying in 1853, Mr. McDaniel subsequently took a wife in the person of Miss Frances Dawley, who was born September 22, 1832, the daughter of Gideon and Lucy Dawley, natives of Rhode Island. These parents lived to a good old age, the father

dying at ninety-four, the mother in her ninety-first year. In an early day, Mr. McDaniel came to Wells county, Indiana, settling on eighty acres of wild land from which he cleared a fine farm and on which his death occurred in 1899, his wife dying on the 2nd day of August, 1894. His second marriage resulted in three children, Amos, Lucy and Eva.

LEWIS C. ABSHIRE.

One begins to realize that the good old state of Indiana is growing old, as well as some of her people, when he finds a family which has inhabited the state for five generations. Such a family is that of Lewis C. Abshire, the subject of this sketch, who was born in Nottingham township, Wells county, Indiana, July 4, 1861. His father was C. B. Abshire, a native of Henry county, Indiana, but who was one of the first settlers of Wells county. The wife of C. B. Abshire, mother of Lewis C., was Julia A. Jones, a native of Wells county, and she was the daughter of Michael and Nancy (Abshire) Jones, who were among the first settlers of Wells. Dawson, the son of Lewis C. Abshire, now in his thirteenth year, is of the third generation from Michael and Nancy Jones.

Lewis C. Abshire was not any more fortunate than some other children in that matter of procuring an education. Two counties had combined to supply the schools of Harrison township, Blackford county, and Chester township, Wells county. At the age of fifteen he quit school and has devoted himself ever since to labor. When seventeen years of age he went out to work by the

month, his parents permitting him to have full control of his wages. After working one season for Lemuel Tate, in Chester township, he went to Kansas and was employed there three years. The region of hot winds, cyclones and prohibition did not fulfill the measure of his requirements as a home, so he returned after three years and entered the employ of J. C. Maddox, in Chester township. He and his mother jointly owned a tract of forty acres of land in Chester township, and about this time they sold it. With his share of the purchase money he bought a tract of one hundred acres, the same on which he now resides. This he has improved by clearing and ditching it into a very fine farm. For two or three years after purchasing this place he cultivated it, making his home with the family of his hired man.

On February 22, 1885, he was united in marriage to Miss Emma Dawson, who was born April 7, 1863. She is the daughter of George and Louisa (Lockwood) Dawson, and is now a resident of Union City. Mrs. Dawson died when her daughter Emma was an infant of only one year, and the young people immediately took up their residence upon the farm and there they have lived ever since. Mr. Abshire has been very successful in his business of farming, raised large crops of grain, hay and vegetables, also breeding and feeding cattle, horses, hogs and sheep. All of his life has been devoted to the cultivations of the soil and caring for his flocks and herds. When the oil fever was at its height he devoted some time and money to it and derived some benefit therefrom, but he recognized the fact that the production of oil in this region is a thing of the past.

At this time Lewis C. Abshire is the owner of a splendid farm of two hundred

and twenty acres, well improved as to efficient drainage and substantial buildings. It is a sure crop getter, failures or even partial failures being practically unknown. He and his wife are the parents of one son, Dawson, a bright, intelligent youth now in his thirteenth year, born September 16, 1890. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, with membership at Shinn chapel. In politics Mr. Abshire is a Republican and always sufficiently interested in the success of his party to take a hand in the campaign. On a number of occasions he has been a delegate to congressional conventions and generally represents his township in the county convention. He is a live, energetic, intelligent man, whose work is always effective and whose promises are invariably fulfilled.

SIMON BOWER.

At present a farmer, but by trade a carpenter, Simon Bower, of Nottingham township, Wells county, Indiana, was born in Amanda township, Fairfield county, Ohio, August 30, 1848, a son of Joel and Susan (Shoemaker) Bower.

Joel Bower was born in Pennsylvania, a son of Simon and Hannah Bower, and located in Ohio when a young man; there he married Miss Shoemaker, a native of the Buckeye state, and a daughter of Henry Shoemaker, and settled down for awhile at his trade of making shoes, a fact that his son well remembers from having been frequently brought into contact with his father's kneestraps. In 1853 Joel Bower brought his family to Wells county, Indiana, and pur-

chased eighty acres of wild woodland a mile and a half southwest of Reiffsburg. His first dwelling was a hewed-log house, twenty by twenty-four feet, one and one-half stories, chinked with mud and covered with a lap-shingle roof. He made an effort to continue at his trade, but the patronage not being ample for the support of his family, he had recourse to the practice of the neighboring pioneers and began clearing up his land, a task he finally accomplished, and eventually became the owner of five hundred and twenty acres, on which he passed the remainder of his life.

To Joel and Susan (Shoemaker) Bower were born eleven children, viz: Henry, Simon, the subject, E. J., Rebecca, deceased, Israel and Hannah, twins, Israel dying in infancy, Willison died in childhood, Jacob, Noah, Mahala, and Frank, the last named also deceased. Mrs. Susan Bower was called away in the course of time, and Joel took for his second wife Cynthia Arnold, who still survives and is the mother of two children, Joel D. and Cynthia, the former of whom died in 1896.

Simon Bower attended school in Nottingham township during the winter season or whenever he had an opportunity of doing so, until he was twenty-one years old, and acquired a better knowledge of mathematics than is usually the case in rural districts. From childhood he had always had a desire to learn the carpenter's trade and on attaining his majority began learning this branch of mechanical industry. Prior to this time he had felt himself to be quite wealthy when he was the possessor of a quarter dollar, but in the fall of the year in which he became of age he went to Ohio and worked, principally at carpentering, for

nine months, saved the surplus of his earnings over the cost of his living, and became an employe of David Lukins, also as a carpenter. The following spring he began work on a barn for Alexander DeLong, and when that was completed built a barn for David Cellor, a task which occupied him for about a month, and then began business on his own account as a contractor and builder, and continued in this line until 1879.

In the meantime Simon Bower was joined in marriage with Miss Sarah C. Moyer, who was born August 31, 1852, on a farm adjoining that on which he and family now live. Mrs. Sarah C. (Moyer) Bower is a daughter of William and Mary E. Moyer, the former of whom was born in Ohio and the latter in Pennsylvania, but was taken to Ohio by her parents when she was nine years old. William and Mary E. Moyer both came to Wells county with their parents' families respectively, grew to maturity, were here married, and here passed the remainder of their lives. They had born to them two children, viz: Sarah C., now Mrs. Simon Bower, and Eliza.

On marrying, Simon Bower settled on the farm he now occupies, the only structure thereon being a hewed-log house, sixteen by eighteen feet, and one and a half stories high, the corners and everything else being prepared in advance and ready to be raised, the only time this was ever done in the township. Mr. Bower forthwith cleared up fifteen acres of his land and placed upon it all the improvements, which now include a handsome modern dwelling and all necessary farm buildings. The ditching of the place has been a matter of special attention, and he probably has more rods of ditching than has been done on any farm of

the same dimensions in the townships of Nottingham and Harrison, in the latter of which forty-eight acres of his eighty-eight are situated.

Besides general farm products, Mr. Bower raises large numbers of cattle and hogs, but makes a specialty of the latter, giving preference to Chester Whites, of which he last year sold nearly seven hundred dollars' worth; his cattle are chiefly of the Red Polled strain, and he feeds nearly all his grain to his live stock, finding it to be more profitable to sell the fattened stock than the grain itself. Still Mr. Bower finds time to do all his own carpenter work, thus saving the expenditure of many a dollar. To Simon and Sarah C. Bower have been born four children, viz: Samuel, born September 11, 1872, and married to Leave Lyons; John W., born December 27, 1876, and now the husband of Mary Speheger; James M., born June 9, 1880, and Irene L., born January 30, 1891.

Mr. and Mrs. Simon Bower are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics Mr. Bower is a Prohibitionist, having been an advocate of its principles for the past fifteen years. He has not used tobacco in any form since 1871 and has not once swallowed a glass of whiskey sold at a saloon.

William Moyer, the father of Mrs. Sarah C. Bower, was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, a son of Jonathan and Mary Moyer, natives of Pennsylvania. William Moyer came to Wells county, Indiana, in 1849, with his parents, and here married Mary Reiff April 9, 1851. Mary Reiff was a daughter of John and Susannah Reiff, who came from Pennsylvania to Wells county, Indiana, in 1845, and settled near the pres-

ent town of Reiffsburg, which town was laid out by John Reiff and named in his honor. Mr. Moyer passed the remainder of his life on his farm, but his widow still survives at the age of seventy-three years, being still quite strong and active.

GEORGE DULINSKY.

Weaving, like spinning, in the homes of the country is a thing of the past. Yet less than forty years ago it was no very rare thing to hear, on approaching a farm house, the hum of the spinning wheel or the rattle of the shuttle in the loom. Of either accomplishment, weaving or spinning, the present generation knows comparatively nothing. In the early settlement of Indiana weaving was a species of skilled labor much in demand. William Dulinsky, father of George, the subject of this sketch, was a weaver and put his knowledge of the business to good use while clearing his land and making a home for his family in Wells county during the 'fifties.

George Dulinsky, the subject hereof, was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, July 26, 1844. He was the son of William Dulinsky, a native of Poland who came to America when a lad of only fourteen years. William's first employment in this country was in a woolen mill in the east. He was a steady lad, observant and quick to learn, and when given an opportunity to learn weaving he made the most of it. Becoming an expert weaver, he decided to try his fortune in the west. He secured a position in his business in Pickaway county, Ohio, where he met and married Miss Mary Leist, a native of the

same place. She was a daughter of George and Barbara Leist, natives of Pennsylvania, but had come to Ohio and made settlement there early in life. They spent the remaining years of their lives in their new home in Ohio.

For a number of years after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. William Dulinsky continued to reside in Pickaway county, he working at his trade of weaving. Finally, in 1850, he moved his family to Wells county, Indiana, bought a farm of forty acres in the woods of Nottingham township and proceeded to make a home. A log cabin, stable and five acres of cleared land were all the improvements there were on the place. For fifteen years this constituted the home of the family. During this time William Dulinsky equipped an apartment which he devoted to the business of weaving. He was about the only weaver in that region and consequently had plenty to do. In 1864 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of timber lands west of where his son George, the subject of this sketch, now resides. This place he cleared, improved and occupied until his death, which occurred in 1891. He followed the business of weaving until 1881, when he gave it up as unprofitable and no longer of much use in a country place. Mrs. Dulinsky is still living on the old home place. She is eighty-four years old, but strong and active. She is the mother of five children, four of whom are still living. George, the subject hereof, is the oldest of the family; Samuel and Levi both reside on the old home place; Ellen is dead and Barbara resides with her mother.

The opportunities for receiving an education afforded to George Dulinsky were by no means all that could be desired. In those

days the public schools of Nottingham township was open only three months in the year. These three months, however, were utilized by George to the very best advantage. He attended the sessions right along up to the time that he was nineteen years of age. A year previous he began working out by the month, but continued to make his home with his parents. On June 27, 1869, he was united in marriage to Miss Ellen Yarger, who was born in Ohio, November 22, 1842. She was the daughter of Joseph and Margaret Yarger, old settlers of Wells county, but both now deceased. The first year of their married life Mr. and Mrs. Dulinsky occupied the William Oswart farm, the next three years he cultivated his father's farm and for the next four years he was on the McClain place. By this time he had accumulated sufficient money to purchase a place of his own. He bought sixty acres of timber land, paying four hundred dollars cash and going in debt for as much more. This he has cleared and improved and upon it he now resides.

When they started in life at the time of their marriage, the Dulinskys were owners of very little property. He had a two-year-old colt and two pigs and she had a cow. From this small beginning they have by hard work and good management secured a very fair start in life. In 1880, after buying their place, he built a round-log house eighteen by twenty-four feet, and a pole barn. Both were raised the same day. While clearing his land he continued to rent some ground, farmed it and made a good living for his family. He also worked at ditching and such other employment as he could secure. He is now the owner of a well improved farm of eighty acres, seventy of which is under cul-

tivation. In 1895 he erected a handsome, comfortable home and a substantial, commodious barn upon the place. He carries on general farming and stock raising, prefers Poland-China hogs, but is of the opinion the better success is secured by a mixture with the Chester White. The ordinary run of cattle he considers quite good enough to attain success with on the farm, if the products are fed instead of being sold. On his place he has six oil wells from which he realizes a nice little sum each month. Farming has been his life work and he has made it profitable.

Along toward the latter days of the war, in 1865, George Dulinsky was drafted for service in the Federal army and taken to Wabash. It was the last call made for troops and was most peremptory. He and thirteen others were taken forthwith without getting any time whatever to adjust their affairs. Only seven were needed, but fourteen were drawn. The seven were secured from his fellow victims of the draft before Mr. Dulinsky's turn on the list came, so he was permitted to return home without a uniform.

To Mr. and Mrs. Dulinsky six children have been born, viz: Orlando, born December 10, 1869, married Della Ira, now lives in Nottingham township and is working in the oil fields; Mary Estella died in childhood; Emma, born June 29, 1875, married Bert Kelley and now resides in Nottingham township; she is the mother of two children, Lelo F. and Marion; Lewis was born June 13, 1878, and resides at home with his parents; Nora died in infancy; Oscar died in childhood. In politics George Dulinsky is a Democrat, always votes the ticket and warms up some during the heat

of the political campaign. In local affairs, however, he prefers to be independent and vote for the man. He is a man who commands the respect and esteem of all his fellow citizens.

O. R. WILLIAMS.

This young and prosperous farmer of Jackson township, Wells county, Indiana, was born September 17, 1870, two miles south of Bluffton, on the state road, in the same county. J. W. Williams, father of O. R. Williams, was a native of Fairfield county, Ohio, a son of Jesse Williams, and while still single came to Wells county, Indiana, about the year 1865, and began working at bridge building and also at cabinetmaking, in Bluffton, although he had been reared a blacksmith by his father, who was noted for his skill in this branch of the mechanical arts. He married, about 1867, Miss Martha Vennenmon, whose mother is still living at the age of ninety years.

After marriage J. W. Williams located on the farm two miles south of Bluffton, where his son, O. R. Williams, was born, but four years later came to Jackson township, and here lost his wife, June 10, 1884. In the September following, Mr. Williams married Mrs. Kittie Smith, who still lives to share with him the blessings as well as the sorrows of life. In 1900 J. W. Williams retired from farm life and now lives in Warren, enjoying in peace and comfort the competency his early industry gained him. To the first marriage of J. W. Williams were born three children, namely: Adrian, now a resident of Jackson town-

ship; O. R., whose name opens this biography, and William, who has his residence in Idaho. To the second marriage there has been no issue.

O. R. Williams attended the district schools of Jackson township, Wells county, Indiana, until he was seventeen years of age and assisted in the cultivation of the home place until he was twenty, when he went to the city of Butte, Montana, and worked in a smelter for a year, then returning to Wells county. Here he and his father purchased sixty acres of the farm on which he now lives, but which was then all in the woods. He set himself energetically to work and cleared off all but ten acres and in July, 1898, purchased his father's interest in the place.

In 1901 Mr. Williams erected a substantial and commodious barn on his farm and in 1902 began the erection of an elegant residence. He rents out his farming land, however, and devotes his attention to his oil wells, of which he owns five producers, which bring him in twenty-five to thirty dollars each per month, and he has not lost a day at this industry for the past three years.

Mr. Williams was joined in marriage November 23, 1893, with Miss Emma Slusher, a daughter of Josiah and Naomi Slusher, whose biography will be found on another page of this volume. To this happy marriage have been born four children, to-wit: Fred, November 8, 1894; Arthur, September 30, 1897; Howard, March 26, 1900; and an infant daughter, born October 10, 1902.

Mr. Williams is a member of Lodge No. 784, I. O. O. F., at McNatts, and in politics is a Republican. He is one of the re-

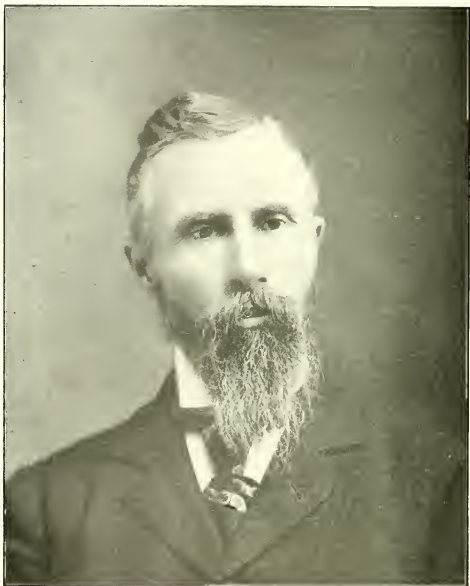
spected young men in Jackson township, as it is well known that he has made all he is worth through his personal exertions, he having had nothing at the start, and having made his first "stake" of four hundred dollars while in Montana. His industry and strict integrity have always been matters of commendation by his neighbors, and he and his estimable wife are held in the highest regard by all classes of the community.

NATHAN MACY SCOTT.

The years of the Civil war in America frustrated more plans for young people than any other years in our history. Affairs of the heart and the plans growing out of them were not the only affairs of young people that suffered by the strife going on during this period south of the Ohio river. The life course of thousands of young men was materially changed by a term of service in the army. Few youths who entered the army were able, when they returned, to carry out their plans as at first contemplated. One who came about as near doing so as any, probably, was Nathan Macy Scott, of Nottingham township, Wells county, the subject of this sketch. As a young man, in 1860, his purpose was to secure a good, liberal education, and the breaking out of hostilities found him alternately teaching and being taught; that is, he taught school in the winter and in the summer and fall attended school, himself, as a student. When the boys returned from the war, of all his comrades in arms he was about the only one not too proud to go back to his desk in the school room and to his studies.

Nathan Macy Scott was born February 21, 1842, in Penn township, Jay county, Indiana. He was the son of Stanton and Esther (Edmondson) Scott, and his paternal grandparents were Joshua and Abigail (Stanton) Scott. Joshua Scott was a native of Scotland, emigrated to North Carolina when a young man, and married Abigail Stanton, who was an aunt of President Lincoln's secretary of war, Edwin M. Stanton. Joshua was by trade a blacksmith, but devoted the latter part of his life to agricultural pursuits. Stanton Scott, father of the subject, was born June 26, 1807, grew to manhood in Clark county, Ohio, and there married Ester Edmonson, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Morsel) Edmonson, the father of English ancestry, the mother of Irish. After his marriage Stanton Scott settled on a farm in Logan county, Ohio, where he remained a few years. In 1841 he moved to Jay county, Indiana, and lived there three years on a rented farm. While still renting in Jay county, he secured eighty acres of land in Wells county, the same on which his son Thomas now lives, deadened some of the timber, preparatory to clearing, and built a log cabin. In the spring of 1845 he moved to this farm, at that time there being no human habitation on the road all the way from Pennville. His cabin was eighteen by twenty-two feet in size, built of round logs, "chinked" and plastered with clay. The entire personal property of the family consisted of two cows, two horses, some chickens and a few necessary articles of household furniture. Stoves in those days were not much in use and all the cooking was done at the big fireplace. Although but three years of age at this time, Nathan M. Scott well remembers the neighbors and





NATHAN M. SCOTT.



MRS. NATHAN M. SCOTT.

where their homes were located. Joseph Williamson lived one and a fourth miles southeast, Darius Shinn's home was a mile south, John Dawson lived one and a half miles northeast, Joseph Blunt and Michael Jones about one and a half miles northwest. There were no public roads at this time except the old state road, which was merely an Indian trail. Stanton Scott died August 24, 1855, leaving a widow and seven children, the oldest being seventeen years of age. One son, Thomas, was fifteen years old and Nathan was but thirteen years of age at the time of their father's death. The bereaved mother, though by no means physically strong, determined to keep her little ones together. With her untiring exertions and the assistance of her oldest daughter and two sons, she was successful in doing so. The children were Mary, deceased; Thomas, who now lives on the old home place; Nathan, the subject; Elizabeth married B. L. DeWeese, of Balbec; Joshua, a resident of Nottingham township; Elma J.; Rebecca, deceased. The good mother lived to see all of her surviving children comfortably settled in life, dying July 4, 1896, aged eighty-six years, one month and twenty days. She was a devout member of the Friends church and was a woman of good intellect and splendid memory. In the early years of her womanhood, before her marriage, she was a school teacher. She and her husband, Stanton Scott, were married September 21, 1836. At the time of their settlement in the woods of Wells county the denizens of the forest were disposed to be neighborly. Porcupines, ground hogs and 'possums burrowed under their cabin and made their home there. Pennville, which was then called Camden, was the nearest town and was nine miles

distant. The postage on a letter at that time was eighteen cents, and pennies were a great deal harder to pick up then than now.

The district schools furnished Nathan M. Scott his education. They were open only three months in the year, but he continued his attendance upon them until he was twenty-two years of age. When not in school he had plenty of work to do on the farm. In the spring of 1864 he attended school at Liber College, near Portland, Indiana, and it was his purpose to again attend in the fall. He entered the school in September, but on October 13, 1864, he entered the United States service as a volunteer, enlisting in the Fifty-third Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He was mustered out in the fall of 1865 and on coming home was preparing to enter college again when he was taken down by typhoid fever. By the time he recovered the term had progressed so far he did not care to enter, so he secured a school and taught that winter. From that time until 1873 he taught school in the winter and attended school as a student during the months of spring and fall.

October 11, 1873, Mr. Scott was united in marriage to Miss Tacy J. Lewis, born May 8, 1855, in Jay county, Indiana, a daughter of Lorenzo and Elizabeth (Haines) Lewis, who were both natives of Monroe county, Ohio, the former born October 28, 1828, the latter July 4, 1830. Lorenzo Lewis's parents were Emery and Rachael (Thomas) Lewis, of Welsh ancestry, and his wife's parents were Timothy and Hannah (Tomlinson) Haines, of English ancestry. They were all old residents of Pennsylvania, and Hannah lived to see the fifth generation. To Lorenzo Lewis and his wife six children were born, all of whom

are yet living, viz: Tacy J., wife of the subject; Emery G., a resident of Jay county; Hilinda, wife of Solomon Grable; Edwin W. resides in Jay county. The parents of these children, in 1850, moved to Jay county, where they remained until their deaths; Elizabeth died April 4, 1870; Lorenzo survived her eight years, paying the debt of nature May 1, 1878.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Scott located on the farm where they now reside. He taught one term of school after his marriage, but has since devoted his time entirely to his farm. In 1873 he was elected justice of peace and served one term of four years, since which time he has held no official position whatever. To him and his wife two children have been born, viz: Elveretta, born February 5, 1875; W. Tarlton, born August 13, 1878, took a commercial course in the Eastern Indiana University at Muncie. Both still reside with their parents. Elveretta is a graduate of Pennville high school and is quite proficient in music, to which accomplishment she has devoted much time.

Nathan M. Scott is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land in Nottingham township. It is a fine, well improved farm, one hundred and twenty acres of which is under cultivation and it is managed and operated by him and his son. In 1894 he built a large, substantial and commodious barn. He devotes his attention to general farming, raising grain and breeding and feeding live stock. His favorite stock is Duroc hogs and shorthorn cattle and with these, of late years, he keeps his farm well stocked. He is a member of the Friends church, and Mrs. Scott had been brought up

in that faith. In politics he is a Republican and active in the interests of his party. To vote for a good man or a number of them is always a real pleasure to him and he never misses an opportunity of exercising his right of franchise. He has been a delegate many times to different conventions, always in the interest of some friend, and in 1872 was elected justice of the peace. He is a member of Lew Dailey Post, G. A. R., at Bluffton, and never loses an opportunity to benefit a veteran of the Civil war. All of his leisure time is employed in reading and, having an exceptionally good memory, his mind is a storehouse of knowledge of many kinds. While frustrated somewhat in the design of securing a first-class education, he is much better informed than many who boast of far more learning. Mr. and Mrs. Scott have in their possession an old parchment deed bearing the signature of President Van Buren and executed November 10, 1840.

JOHN BOOHER.

John Booher, deceased, was born June 1, 1816, in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, where he grew to manhood. From the place of his birth he came to Jefferson county, Ohio, spending his boyhood on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. He married Phoebe J. Blazer, a descendant of New Jersey stock. His wife was a daughter of Joseph Blazer, of New Jersey, the marriage taking place in 1884 in Jefferson county, Ohio, where he settled down to the vocation of a farmer. After twelve years of marriage, in 1856 his wife, Phoebe Jane, died, leaving three living children of the five which had been born to their union:

William, born January 1, 1840, in Jefferson county, Ohio; Nancy Ann, deceased; John A., born December 25, 1850; Mary M., the wife of Francis M. Carter, a farmer in section 22, Jackson township; they have three living children, John, Nancy and Ida; Joseph, the fifth child and youngest son of John and Phoebe J. Booher, was buried with his mother in the same grave. John Booher was married a second time, taking for his wife Joanna Rouse, a native of Jefferson county, Ohio, born April 26, 1833, this second marriage taking place about the year 1857. In 1862 they removed to Wells county, Indiana, and settled on the farm he now occupies, which was then owned by Jack Studebaker, from whom he rented for a period of eleven years, clearing up a large portion of the land the meantime. He then moved onto the farm now owned by Ira Spaulding, and was there about two years, when he moved onto the farm now owned by Mary Turner, remaining there nearly two years. John and his sons, William and John, Jr., then purchased of Eli Arnold eighty acres of land, the farm on which the father died and where the sons, William and John, yet live, each holding a one-third interest. This land was purchased in 1873. About 1877 they moved onto his land, which was then all in the woods and had no improvements in the way of buildings except a log cabin. They purchased another forty acres of Tommie Arnold and William also later purchased an additional forty acres. Since the father's death the sons have owned the old home place, with forty acres adjoining.

The death of John Booher occurred August 12, 1900, and that of Joanna, his second wife, September 29, of the same

year. To the second marriage of the subject six children were born: Lisander, now a resident of section 22, married Catherine Jones, a daughter of Oliver Jones, and they have four children living, Oliver E., John L., James H. and an infant son; George, now residing on the old Page and Faust farm, married Ida Jones, and they have three sons, Carl, Charles W. and Carey S.; Annie married W. H. Jones, lives on the Riggs place and has one son, Oscar; Eli makes his home with William and John on the old home place.

William and John Booher, who jointly own and farm the old home place, are general stock farmers as well. They prefer as breeds of stock Poland China hogs and shorthorn cattle. Their farm is in oil territory, and has on it eleven productive wells which yield a profit of from seventy-five to one hundred and thirty dollars per month. They, however, devote their time to farming and farm interests.

In politics the sons are all Republicans, as was their father before them. They believe, however, in the principle, as did he, of according the largest liberty in matters of opinion, and allow others to vote as they please, not assuming to question the motives of others, and only asking for themselves, in all matters pertaining to duty as citizens, the same liberty of thought and action.

John Booher is a type of the thousands who, seeing no chance in the older communities of the states in which they were born, grew to manhood and were married, to provide for a growing family and finally attain that possession dear to every ambitious American husbandman, a home and farm of his own, pressed on further west to a newer

state and cheaper lands. Here while renting and farming, and helping to clear the land owned by others, he, in common with so many of his contemporaries, succeeded by economy and the labor of himself and family in purchasing unimproved land and, while fulfilling all his duties as an honored citizen and neighbor, wrested from the unbroken forest a homestead whereon his sons may worthily emulate and follow his example. The early progenitors of the Booher boys of Wells county came from the fatherland, Germany, and the brothers are possessed of that economical, thrifty spirit which characterizes German farmers.

JOHN WILLIAMS.

Among the enterprising agriculturists of Wells county the subject of this review has long held worthy prestige. His finely cultivated farm and the evidence of prosperity which every foot of his land presents attest his efficiency as a master of his vocation, while the universal esteem in which he is held is evidence of his great personal popularity with the people of his township. Paternally Mr. Williams is descended from an old Virginia family and on the mother's side traces his lineage to the state of New Jersey. His grandparents, William and Elizabeth Williams, were born and reared in the Old Dominion state, but a number of years after their marriage migrated to Ohio, settling near the present city of New Lancaster. By occupation William Williams was a tiller of the soil and as such accumulated a comfortable fortune in the state of his adoption. Among his children was a

son by the name of Thomas who was a youth of eighteen when the family moved to Ohio. When a young man Thomas entered the marriage relation with Miss Mary Ann Taylor, of New Jersey, the daughter of Joseph and Beulah Taylor, who settled in the county of New Lancaster, Ohio, in an early day. After his marriage Mr. Williams located in Greene county, thence moved to the county of Montgomery, where he lived until 1856, when he disposed of his interests in Ohio and took up his residence in Wells county, Indiana, settling on the farm in Nottingham township now owned by Marion France. The country at that time was a wilderness and until he could erect a cabin of his own Mr. Williams and Owen Clevenger, whose family accompanied his own, lived on the same place and had things in common. When a house was finally prepared, Mr. Williams moved to his own land, an eighty-acre tract, on which up to that time nothing in the way of improvement had been attempted. The neighbors were few and far between and the usual vicissitudes and privations of pioneer times were experienced before the farm was cleared and a comfortable era of living inaugurated. Mr. Williams succeeded in preparing two acres for cultivation the first year and later hired considerable of the timber removed until in due time the greater part of the place was in readiness for the plow. Within a short time Mr. Williams left his original purchase and moved on what is now known as the Whiteman place, where he lived for a period of eleven years, making many substantial improvements the meanwhile. He invested his means in one hundred and twenty acres adjoining the old place on the north, and from time to time purchased other tracts until he

finally became the owner of real estate to the amount of three hundred and forty acres, nearly all of which was reduced to tillage. After living for a number of years on the Whiteman farm, he returned to his old home place and spent the remainder of his life there, dying on the 15th day of July, 1898. Mrs. Williams entered into rest before her husband, departing this life in the year 1882. Six children were born to Thomas and Mary A. Williams, three of whom are living, namely: John, whose name introduces this review; James and Edward. The deceased are Eliza, Thomas and Joseph.

Thomas Williams was a man of excellent character and every enterprise to which he addressed himself appeared to prosper. He was successful in the accumulation of property and as a farmer ranked with the most enterprising agriculturalists in the county of Wells. At different times he devoted much attention to the live stock business, buying and shipping cattle and horses, also raising these and other domestic animals, in which his success was most encouraging. As a neighbor and citizen no man in the community was more universally respected and in every relation of life his character and conduct were always above the shadow of anything dishonorable.

John Williams, the immediate subject of this sketch, was born October 13, 1847, in Montgomery county, Ohio, and when a lad of nine years was brought by his parents to the new home in Wells county, Indiana. His youthful experience on the farm was such as to develop not only a strong physique, but also to foster a spirit of independence, which enabled him while still a mere lad to lay plans for the future and to labor zealously for the accomplishment of the

same. His naturally quick mind and keen powers of perception were strengthened by study in the common schools, which he attended at intervals during his minority, and on reaching the age of twenty-one he engaged in the pursuit of agriculture, renting land of farmers living in the neighborhood. He continued to live at home until his marriage, which was solemnized on the 20th of February, 1870, with Miss Viretta Ewell, of Henry county, Indiana, and for one year thereafter he cultivated a farm in Nottingham township belonging to a gentleman by the name of Frederick Guysell. At the expiration of that time he built a small log house on the farm which he now owns and moving into the same addressed himself manfully to the task of clearing his land and laying the foundation of the comfortable fortune which has since come into his possession. But little work had been done on his place before Mr. Williams purchased it and to remove the timber and reduce the soil to tillage required an amount of labor which taxed his energy and endurance to the utmost limit. He succeeded, however, in transforming the place into one of the most valuable and attractive homes in the township and by the exercise of sound judgment and shrewd business tact gradually accumulated a sufficiency of this world's goods to place him in independent circumstances for the remainder of his life. He has made agriculture a study and appreciating the economy of time and the value of little things has so managed his affairs as to reap the greatest possible results from his labors. Living in the midst of the oil district he has encouraged the development of this great industry by every means within his power and at the present time has four

producing wells, which yield him handsome returns. He has not been unmindful of the value of good live stock as a source of income and like the majority of enterprising agriculturists makes this one of the most important features of his farm.

Mr. Williams has supported the Republican party ever since attaining his majority, and while interested in its success he can hardly be called a politician in the sense in which the term is generally understood. In a broader sense, however, he is a politician in that he is deeply interested in good government and uses his influence to have the best men in his party nominated for office. Mr. Williams is not a church member himself, but believes in religion and contributes liberally to the local Christian church to which his wife and daughters belong. Interested in the material and industrial growth of his township and county, he encourages all enterprises with those ends in view, and his position among the public spirited men of the community is recognized and appreciated by all. His career since beginning life for himself has been most satisfactory and his reputation as a kind and obliging neighbor and wide-awake, up-to-date citizen is second to that of none of his compeers.

Mrs. Williams is the daughter of John and Matilda Ewell, natives of West Virginia, and early settlers of Henry county, Indiana. She has borne her husband six children, five living, the oldest of whom is Thomas, one of the county's most efficient and popular educators. After completing the common school course, he entered the state normal at Terre Haute and later became principal of the graded schools of Nottingham township. After filling this position one year, he took charge of the schools

at Creggsville for the same length of time, then accepted the principalship of the Washington Park school, Bluffton, his present field of labor. He married Miss Libbie Hines and is the father of two children, Hubert and Lavern; John, the second son, was graduated from the common schools of Nottingham township, married Miss Mary Miller, and at the present time is a resident of Marion, this state. The other members of the family are Minnie, Zonetta and Charley, all three still under the parental roof.

JOHN S. SHEPHERD.

This public-spirited and highly respected resident of Nottingham township, Wells county, Indiana, was born in Darke county, Ohio, October 15, 1847, a son of John S. and Susan (Hartpence) Shepherd. John E., a native of Pennsylvania, was a son of Dennis and Esther Shepherd, also of the Keystone state. He was taken to Butler county, Ohio, when a small boy, and subsequently to Darke county, in the same state, and in these two counties he reached manhood's years. In the latter county John S. married Miss Hartpence, a native of New Jersey, the ceremony taking place at Ithaca, where he at once engaged in the mercantile business and followed it until 1847, when he was elected county recorder and removed to Greenville. He was re-elected to succeed himself, and remained in the city until the spring of 1870, when he went to Adams county, Indiana, and settled on the farm now occupied by his youngest son, F. J.

John S. Shepherd had traded a half lot in Ithaca for one hundred and sixty acres

of land in Adams county, but before removing thither purchased an additional tract of one hundred and eighty acres, making a total of three hundred and forty, nearly all of which was under a good state of cultivation prior to his death, which occurred at the home of his son, John S., July 18, 1893. His wife, Susan, had preceded him to the grave, dying November 10, 1882, leaving him nine children, viz: W. H.; W. W., deceased; Thomas M., who died in the army; Sarah E., who is married to Charles W. Hartsell; John S., the subject proper of this sketch; Andrew, who died in childhood; F. J.; Mary M., wife of Joseph French, and Anna S.

John S. Shepherd attended the public schools of Greenville, Ohio, until twenty-one years of age, when he rented his father's farm, in 1870. April 16, 1871, he married Miss Mary J. Weist, who was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, October 17, 1849, a daughter of Josiah and Catherine (Rose) Weist. Josiah Weist was born in Pennsylvania, but located in Pickaway county, Ohio, in 1850, whence he came to Indiana and settled on land which had been entered by his father, Peter Weist, who had preceded him. Catherine died on their homestead, and Josiah then went to live with his youngest child, who is also named Josiah and who resides in Vera Cruz, Indiana.

Josiah and Catherine (Rose) Weist had a family of nine children, who were named, in order of their birth, as follows: Mary, now Mrs. J. S. Shepherd; Sarah A.; John W., deceased; Lewis A., deceased; Sylvester M., deceased; Alice L., married to J. D. Kreps; George; Emma and Josiah.

John S. Shepherd, for three years after marriage, continued to live on his father's

farm, and then came to Nottingham township, Wells county, Indiana, and located on the Amos Warren farm, where he lived for about two years. In the spring of 1877 he took charge of the poor or county farm, held the position for two years, then moved to Bluffton and conducted a photograph gallery for two years. In 1884 Mr. Shepherd settled on the farm he at present occupies, and which comprises ninety-four acres, which he had purchased in 1879, having, with the laudable aid of his wife, earned sufficient money to pay for the place. When Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd began housekeeping they had a cooking stove; they converted a store box into a cupboard, and the father of Mrs. Shepherd presented the young couple with four chairs and a table. Mrs. Shepherd had worked out to earn the means with which to buy a bed and some dishes, and Mr. Shepherd's mother gave them sixteen chickens. They also had a cow, and with the eggs and the milk which they sold, and what they consumed themselves, they managed to get along the first year without any great hardship, and at the close of the year had raised eighty chickens. The second year the eggs laid by the hens were disposed of for sixty-seven dollars and ten cents, Mrs. Shepherd also selling turkeys that netted her sixty-five dollars. When Mr. Shepherd settled upon his farm there were about thirty-five acres cleared, but now he has eighty acres from which the superfluous timber has been removed; he has also thoroughly ditched the place and has made all the improvements, which are fully up-to-date. The farm now comprises one hundred and seventy-four acres, eighty of which are in Adams county. Mr. Shepherd is also the owner of eight producing oil wells, from which he has

derived about one thousand dollars from the lessees as his half interest, while V. L. Reed, of Mount Zion, owns the other half. Recently, Mr. Shepherd has converted his place into a pasture farm, on which he breeds Red Polled cattle and Shropshire and Oxford Down sheep. He also owns the old home farm in Greenville, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd are members of the Baptist church, and in politics Mr. Shepherd is a Democrat, and under the auspices of his party has served for two years as treasurer of Bluffton, and has twice made the race for the office of county treasurer.

A. T. STUDABAKER.

America is indebted to no one race or nationality for so many of the sterling qualities which characterize Americans of today as much as it is to the German emigrants who came to this country during the early settlement of the colonies. Few of them had much in the way of material wealth, but they were well supplied with industry and thrift, an ambition to better their condition and a steadfast firmness of purpose that nothing could overcome. Once believing themselves to be right, no persuasion, argument or coercive force could divert them from the course they had determined upon. This national characteristic is often severely criticised, is frequently referred to as "pig-headedness," but there is little doubt that that trait of American character so noticeable and so highly commended as "stability" comes from this very source. That which is denounced as "pig-headedness" in the early German settler is commended as

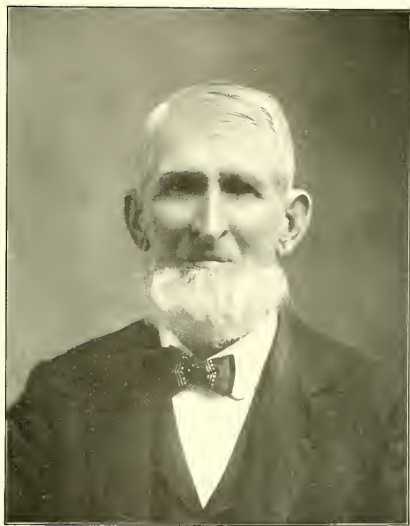
"firmness" and "stability" in his descendant of the third or fourth generation.

The subject of this sketch, A. T. Studabaker, of Harrison township, Wells county, Indiana, is one of those same descendants. If the name did not tell of it, or if he was not able to trace his genealogy to that source, the determination, firmness and steadfastness of purpose which he discloses in every walk of life would pronounce him, beyond all cavil, as of this same German descent. For years he has been the only voter of his precinct who at each successive election casts a Prohibition ticket. It is not in casting a Prohibition ticket that the German descent is disclosed in him; it is shown in the persistence with which he clings to his opinions, the tenacity with which he adheres to his views in the face of all opposition and in a cause that to others appears absolutely hopeless. He believes he is right, and he will stay right, even though the heavens fall.

A. T. Studabaker is the son of William and Sarah (Thompson) Studabaker and was born in Darke county, Ohio, July 18, 1830. His grandfather was Abraham Studabaker, a descendant of an old German family that came to America and settled in one of the colonies long before the Revolutionary war. He was a man of mature years and recognized influence at the breaking out of the war of 1812 and took an active part in the agitation that made it necessary for the struggling but dauntless colonies, for a second time, to grapple with their old oppressor. He was a sincere patriot and took an active part in public affairs during that interesting period. William Studabaker was born in Warren county, Ohio, February 7, 1807. When he was one year of age his parents moved to Darke county, Ohio, where Gettysburg now



MRS A. T. STUDABAKER.



A. T. STUDABAKER.

stands. At the time his parents located in Darke county the county was very wild and Indians and beasts of the forest were plenty. There were two classes of Indians, hostile and friendly. William at this time was very weakly. Some of the friendly Indians, visiting his father, saw the condition of the then small boy, and, believing they could restore him to health, stole him away while his parents were in the clearing at work, he having been left in the care of a little girl, his cousin Nancy Miller, who afterwards became the wife of Orrin Perrin, and now lives near Murray, Wells county, Indiana. The little girl ran to the clearing to give the alarm to the parents and the father, on receiving the news, asked what kind of an Indian he was. The little girl gave a description of the Indian, and the father remarked, "He is a friendly Indian; he will bring him back." They continued coming and bringing him back almost every day for about a year. During this time William became very much attached to them, and when they would come and go away without him, he would cry after them, and up to the day of his death he would say nothing against the friendly Indians, but would remark that he believed the medical treatment he received from them was the means of prolonging his life. A few years later he moved with his parents to a farm near Greenville, Ohio, where he remained until he was twenty-one years of age. He was then married to Sarah A. Thompson, in the month of March, 1828. After his marriage he located on a farm near Greenville, the one now known as the county farm. He lived on this farm eleven years, and in the year 1839 moved to Wells county, Indiana, locating on the farm now owned by Lewis Markley. He remained

on this farm about six years, and then moved across the river on his farm where he remained up to the time of his death. He was a man of wonderful constitution, and with that constitution he made a success of all his undertakings in life. In moving to Wells county in an early day, he with his companion had to endure many hardships connected with a pioneer life. No roads existed, only as they were "blazed" out through the woods, the dwelling place of the Indians and wild beasts, no bridges as we now have, and when the settlers came to a swollen stream, they would plunge into it, sometimes the horses being compelled to swim and the water running into the wagon-bed. Mr. Studabaker cleared up the farm that Lewis Markley now lives on, also most of the farm on which he lived when he died. While clearing up his farm he was compelled to go to Greenville for a greater part of his provisions, and part of the time he went into Ohio to mill. His nearest milling point at the time was Huntington, Indiana, he sometimes going to mill on horseback and sometimes going down the Wabash in a canoe. A few years later a mill was built at Bluffton, and one time Mr. Studabaker, in company with John Markley, went to mill at the latter place in a canoe, at which time he came near being drowned. After their grinding was done they started home, and in coming out of the mill-race by some mishap they were drawn out into the swift current of the river and in spite of their utmost efforts were carried over the dam. In going over Markley leaped out, caught to the edge of the dam and saved himself. Mr. Studabaker went over with the canoe and was taken under the water by the suck of the dam. But being a good swimmer, and having presence of

mind, after making several efforts to swim, but being beaten back by the force of the current, he dived to the bottom, swam down the river a few rods, came to the surface and started for the shore, being rescued by Benjamin Nutter.

Mr. Studabaker accumulated property quite rapidly, at one time owning upwards of two thousand acres in the upper valley of the Wabash. He was a man of much public spirit and always took a leading part in all public improvements. Sincere in all his convictions, he was a man of rare Christian character, a consistent member of the Christian church, in the full faith and fellowship of which he died in 1881. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, Mariah, A. T., Mary A., Ben, John, David, William T., Louisa and J. M., who were twins, and George W.

As soon as A. T. Studabaker had matured sufficiently to be of use on his father's farm he was constantly employed in the labor thereof. During the winter months when little could be done outside of caring for the stock, he attended the district school and laid the foundation for a good education. Later he took a course in the schools of Bluffton, then turned his attention to teaching. He was in the educational work three terms in Wells county. He remained on the farm with his father, assisting in caring for the family, until he was twenty-three years of age.

On the 6th day of March, 1853, A. T. Studabaker was united in marriage to Miss Louisa DeWitte, a lady of good education and fine attainments. Her family came west from New York in 1839 and settled on the old Adam Hall place. Her father was a man of energy and industry, who in his time had

done much hard work. At his marriage, A. T. Studabaker, the subject hereof, was worth a few hundred dollars. With this he erected a comfortable home on his present farm, in June, 1853. It was then in the midst of the woods. It took time, labor and money to carve a productive farm out of the primeval forest, but each was expended ungrudgingly by the owner, with the result that at this time no more comfortable home or desirable farm may be found for miles around. He is the owner of two hundred and eight acres of the productive bottom lands of that region. Like his father and grandfather before him, he has engaged in the raising, purchase and sale of live stock. Early in life he was schooled in the art of estimating the weight and value of animals at a glance. In this line his knowledge is such and his experience so valued that his judgment is almost infallible on these points. He is accorded the credit of having bought more stock than any other man in Wells county, and of course such purchases were profitable.

To Mr. and Mrs. Studabaker have been born eleven children, nine of whom are still living. Harriette is the wife of Marion French; Lewis and Henry both died in infancy; William L. is married and lives at Elwood; Mary J. is the wife of Joseph Carter, a resident of Grant county; Noah is engaged in the purchase of grain at Van Buren; Abby and Ida are twins, the former of whom is the wife of W. A. Bowman, the latter the wife of Charles Helms; John is married, the father of a family and lives in Harrison township; Lillie is the wife of L. L. Baumgartner and Minnie M. is the wife of Ed. Huffman, who lives on the old home place with Mrs. Huffman's parents.

In politics Mr. Studabaker was at one

time a Democrat, but espoused the cause of Greenbackism when that political doctrine first began to command public attention. Since then he has become a most profound Prohibitionist. Single-handed and alone he has fought for years the battles of the Prohibition party in Harrison township. At each successive election the ballots of the township are counted and one solitary Prohibition ticket is always found in the box. Everybody knows that it was voted by A. T. Studabaker. It never increases, it never diminishes, but it is always there. The other voters of the township look for it as confidently at the next election as they do that that event will come around. He has been honored by his party with the nomination for representative from Wells county, has also been placed upon the ticket as a candidate for treasurer of the county and when placed on the county ticket has shown himself better than his party by the larger vote which he received. When gravel roads were being built in Indiana he became a contractor and built some twenty miles in Wells county and several in Grant county. Mr. and Mrs. Studabaker are both church members and have been since 1858, for years attending what is known as the Six-mile Christian church.

Few men in Wells county are better known than Mr. Studabaker. His business is such as to bring him in contact with a large number of people all over the county. For a man so set in his purposes, firm in his convictions, extreme in his likes and dislikes, he is a man with many warm friends. He is honest, truthful and manly, qualities always admired by people whose good opinion is worth having. As a neighbor he is generous, as a citizen he is public spirited,

as a father he is indulgent, and as a husband he is loyal and true. While his neighbors indulge in some amusement, at his expense, in so tenaciously adhering to Prohibition principles, all accord him the credit of sincerity. They may question his judgment—his course shows that he has the courage of his convictions.

CHARLES E. DYSON.

There are few men, no matter how many their millions may be, who have not a very distinct recollection of the first one hundred dollars they ever earned and saved. While the making of it may have been accompanied by many unpleasant feelings of weariness, exposure and sufferings of various kinds, the consciousness of being in possession of that first little "dot" of wealth is replete with pleasant memories. The subject of this sketch, Charles E. Dyson, has many reasons to well remember the first two hundred dollars he made and saved. It was dug out of the earth, perhaps hundreds of feet below the surface, "down in the coal mines." It represented the savings of three years of the most unrelenting toil.

Charles E. Dyson, of Nottingham township, Wells county, was born December 13, 1862, in Hocking county, Ohio. His parents were George and Melissa (Milton) Dyson, a sketch of whose lives will be found in another part of this volume under the heading George Dyson. In Hocking county the youth of Charles E. Dyson was spent. He had little opportunity of acquiring an education, but improved such opportunity as came his way, attending the public schools

during the winter months until he was seventeen. From his earliest years he was brought up to know and appreciate the value and necessity of industry. He quickly learned that every dollar that came into his possession represented as much muscular exertion, so much sweat and labor, and he was not long in understanding the need of saving his money when he got it. These were lessons of as much value, perhaps more than those he might have learned in the school room.

About the time that Mr. Dyson attained his majority his parents moved to Wells county, Indiana, locating in Nottingham township. When he was only twenty years of age the subject entered the mines as a miner, having previously been in the mines of Hocking county, Ohio, and dug coal for a period of three years. The first two hundred dollars he ever possessed he saved out of these three years' earnings. With this amount in his pocket he came to Wells county, rented ground and began farming. The first favorable opportunity that offered he invested his two hundred dollars in an eighty-acre tract of land, going in debt for the remainder of the purchase price. The tract was partly woods and partly swamp. He knew the hard work that was necessary to convert it into a farm, but it was hard work that he was accustomed to and in this hard work he would be blessed with God's sunshine and plenty of pure air to breathe. It had this much the advantage of his work in the mines. He dug ditches, built fences and chopped down trees upon this place until he has now clear and under cultivation sixty-five acres. He has erected comfortable but not expensive buildings upon the place and otherwise improved it. It

is by no means a model farm, but it is a well-cultivated, productive and valuable one. December 17, 1894, Charles E. Dyson was united in marriage to Miss Ida M. Neher, a native of Wells county, born August 8, 1878. (For a sketch of the life of her parents the reader is respectfully referred to another part of this volume under the heading Samuel Neher.) With that prudence which characterized him from youth, Mr. Dyson had his home on his own farm prepared for the reception of his young wife. This was their home until March, 1902, when, at the solicitation of Mrs. Dyson's father, they moved onto his place and have taken charge of the work thereon.

In April, 1900, Charles E. Dyson and Samuel I. Neher entered into a partnership in the business of drilling oil wells. The latter had had about six months' experience in manipulating a drilling machine before they undertook the work. They invested in a string of tools and have been actively engaged in the business of drilling oil wells ever since. A year later they took in as equal partners J. P. Lockwood and W. B. Kirkwood and purchased another string of tools. Meanwhile they decided to do some leasing of oil property on their own behalf. They secured leases on the farms of the following persons: Henry Johns, Katherine Kimble, C. E. Dyson and Cynthia Bowers, making in all two hundred and forty-nine acres. After they had drilled four wells and were completing the fifth they sold out to Almy A. Thomas, of New York, for sixteen thousand dollars. It was a spot cash deal. Since then they have been working for the purchasers, drilling wells on the property the lease to which they sold.

Charles E. Dyson is the owner of a well-

improved farm of eighty acres, to which, however, he devotes little attention, his well-drilling operations occupying most of his attention. He rents the place to different parties by fields. Nevertheless he breeds and feeds considerable stock, giving the preference to Polled Angus cattle and a general class of hogs. He is the owner of not less than five thousand dollars' worth of personal property and his entire estate would foot up several times that much. Beginning with nothing but the labor of his hands, muscles with which to toil and a mind with which to plan, within a period of less than twenty years he has accomplished all this; it is needless to say that it took no common or ordinary man to do it. He has applied well the gifts which nature has given him and supplemented them with many acquired virtues.

In politics Mr. Dyson has always been a Democrat, passive and moderate generally, but somewhat aggressive and insistent during the heat of political campaigns. He seeks no political preferment for himself but, with his customary unselfishness, is ever on the lookout for the welfare of his friends who take more kindly to politics than he does. He and his good wife are the parents of three intelligent, healthy children, viz: Iva L., Virgil V. and Ethel R., constituting a most happy and agreeable family. Mr. Dyson is certainly most fortunate in his domestic relations. In this as in most other instances fate has smiled kindly upon him. However, fate generally smiles upon the worthy and no one who knows him doubts that Mr. Charles E. Dyson is deserving of all the good luck that has come his way. In all respects he deserves the confidence reposed in him by his fellow citizens.

HENRY E. JOHNS.

Youth and inexperience rarely count the cost. If they did there would be far more sour-visaged old maids and ill natured, petulant old bachelors than there are. Perhaps it is a wise provision of nature that youth is so unreasonably impulsive in matters matrimonial. Cupid's darts have little more effect than pin pricks on persons of mature years. It is the youth of both sexes who rush into marital ties where even angels, without stomachs to fill or raiment to wear, might fear the tightening of the noose. A Chicago judge some time ago decided that twenty-five dollars was sufficient capital for a young couple to begin matrimonial life on. Some have begun on hundreds of thousands more and found neither contentment nor happiness. The subject of this sketch, Henry E. Johns, had a comfortable start in life when he united his destiny with Miss Clara King. He was the owner of a team of horses and one hundred dollars. Miss Clara was even better provided to keep the wolf from the family door, she being the owner of eight hundred dollars. Money is not always essential to happiness in affairs of the heart, but there is a great deal of unhappiness in this life for the want of it.

Henry E. Johns was born July 5, 1870, in Harrison township, Wells county, Indiana. He was a son of John S. Johns, a native of Ohio, the latter being the son of Fleming and Rebecca Johns, natives of Virginia. Fleming Johns and his wife moved to Ohio, where they resided a number of years and where their son, John S., was born. When the latter was a small child his parents moved to Harrison township, Wells county, where John S. grew to manhood.

He was twice married. His first wife was Trissa Haughton and to that union nine children were born, five of whom are still living. Trissa, the mother, died in 1882 and John S. emigrated soon after to Arkansas. At the time he was the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of land in Wells county. The following are the children: Lenora; Alonzo; Josephine, deceased; Roswell married Emma Shoemaker, a resident of Nottingham township; Henry E., the subject of this sketch, who will be more particularly referred to hereafter; Mary, deceased; Cora; Ellen, deceased; Mason, deceased. To the second marriage of John S. Johns only one child was born, a little daughter, Trissa.

In the public schools of Wells and Adams counties Henry E. Johns received his education. He was nineteen years of age when he attended his last term of the public school. Two years previous to that, however, he had been working by the month when school was not in session. He was in the employ of different persons for a number of years, among them, Peter Weastbrood, Peter Beler and Andrew Lynn. He worked by the day, month or job, upon the farm, as best suited his employer. He was in the employ of one man four years in succession. In this way he employed his time, steadily accumulating a little money, until he was twenty-four years of age, at which time he got married. At that time he had his team and one hundred dollars and the provident little woman he took for his wife, Miss Clara King, was the owner of eight hundred dollars. They were married September 17, 1893, she being then in her twentieth year. She was born April 8, 1874, in Nottingham township.

The parents of Clara (King) Johns were

Adam and Elizabeth King, both early settlers of Wells county. In 1889 Adam passed to his eternal rest, but his wife is still living, a resident of Petroleum. To them twelve children were born, eight of whom are living, viz: Minerva married Sylvanius Shepherd; Sarah married Henry Kirkwood; George married Julia Gale; Etta married Milton Dean; Frank married Lizzie Ships; Adam married Louisa Blair; Almira is the wife of Joseph Elson; Clara is the wife of Henry E. Johns, the subject of this sketch.

The young couple began housekeeping on the C. W. Shoemaker farm, where they remained four years. In the meantime, an opportunity offering, Mr. Johns purchased sixty-one acres of land in Nottingham township, which now constitutes the family home. For this he paid sixteen hundred and thirty dollars, of which amount he incurred an indebtedness of five hundred dollars. This place he has since fenced, ditched and cultivated and it is upon it the family now make their home. It has five producing oil wells, the royalty from which amounts to about one hundred and fifty dollars per month, and there are four more locations on the place. He has two teams working in the oil field, but it is to his farm that his chief attention is devoted. It is his purpose to add to the size of his farm as opportunity offers, he feeling that he needs more room for the raising of crops and the feeding of stock. His personal property will very easily foot up two thousand dollars.

To Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Johns two children have been born, viz: Raymond, born March 3, 1895; Freddie, born April 2, 1898. Mrs. Johns is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Reiffsburg, is interested in church work and contributes lib-

erally to the cause of religion and charity. While pretending to no political ability, power or influence, Mr. Johns is always sufficiently interested in the success of his party to take a hand in the campaign and do a little essential work on election day. He is a Democrat, earnest and sincere, but he has never sought or solicited any political preferment whatever. All he does is for what he believes to be the best interests of the country and the community in which he lives. He is most happy in domestic relations, deriving his chief joy from the society of his family.

JOHN LEE.

This well known educator and farmer of Jackson township, Wells county, Indiana, was born here May 18, 1852, a son of Jonathan R. and Susannah (Banter) Lee. Jonathan R. Lee was born in Ohio in 1822 and was a son of William Lee, a native of Virginia and one of Ohio's early pioneers. Susannah Banter was a native of Virginia and was born in 1820, a daughter of Abraham and Elizabeth (Bates) Banter, who settled in Indiana in the pioneer days. Jonathan R. Lee also came to Indiana with his parents and here Susannah Banter was in the employ of William Lee, father of Jonathan R. Thus it came about that her many domestic virtues attracted the attention of Jonathan R. and led to their marriage. They went to housekeeping and farming in Delaware county, later came to Wells county and for a short time lived on what is known now as the William Perdue farm, from which they moved to the farm on which

Susannah died and on which Jonathan yet lives, at the age of eighty years, his daughter, Margaret Elkins, keeping house for him.

To Jonathan R. and Susannah (Banter) Lee were born eight children, namely: William, a resident of Jackson township; Elizabeth, wife of S. H. Palmer, also of Jackson township; Mrs. Margaret Elkin, now a widow; Mrs. Lucy J. Capper, who resides in White county, Indiana; John, of whom more will be mentioned; George W., a resident of Dillman, Wells county; Sarah A., wife of Dr. Morris, of Mount Zion, and Mary C., married to George M. McFarland and residing one-half mile west of Dillman.

John Lee, of this biography, attended district school No. 9, of Jackson township, Wells county, where he received an excellent preparatory education, and then, when about twenty-one years of age, attended the graded school at Montpelier, Blackford county, Indiana, one term; he then returned to Wells county and attended for one term the graded school at Bluffton, after which he taught a while and then, for two terms, attended the normal school in the same town, S. S. Roth and A. E. Helm being his instructors. After graduating from this institution he taught several terms during the winter seasons and continued his farm work during the summers.

Although Mr. Lee had worked for his father for his board and clothes until he was probably twenty-five years of age, he had saved about five hundred dollars from his earnings and had secured a good team by the time he had decided to marry. This ceremony took place April 6, 1878, to Miss Montrie C. Kilander, who was born De-

cember 19, 1857, and is a daughter of Perry and Sarah J. Kilander, of whom a biographical sketch will be found elsewhere in this volume. After his marriage, Mr. Lee and wife lived for two years on the farm at present occupied by William Lee, a brother, on which farm John Lee did considerable clearing. At the end of the year he moved to the farm on which he now lives and which comprised fifty acres, deep in the forest. This land he cleared up and added to until he owned seventy-five acres in one body, all of which is now cleared, is finely improved and under a high state of cultivation. Mr. Lee has kept adding to his possessions until he now owns two hundred and fifty-five acres in various parts of Jackson township, all of which land he has earned by his own personal exertions and commendable industry and good management. Besides his land, Mr. Lee owns six flowing oil wells, from which he realizes about fifty dollars per month, the assessment on his personal property being about four thousand dollars. Beside conducting general farming, Mr. Lee pays considerable attention to live stock. He breeds short-horn and Jersey cattle, Poland China and Duroc hogs and formerly raised large numbers of sheep.

To Mr. and Mrs. John Lee have been born two children, namely: Charles M., February 20, 1879, and Perry A., September 16, 1883. Charles M. was educated in the district school and at the Marion normal school and is now assisting his father on the farm, and Perry A. is also at home. Charles M. receives one-quarter of the grain raised on the farm in compensation for his services and Perry A. is furnished with a horse and buggy to use at his own

pleasure and will be supplied with his clothing until he shall have attained his twenty-first year.

In politics Mr. Lee was reared a Democrat, has never been over active in party matters and votes for the man he deems best suited for office.

REV. PETER VITZ.

Among the men who have indelibly stamped the impress of their personality upon the communities with which they have been connected is the gentleman whose name appears above. Deeply impressed with the responsibilities incumbent upon one of his calling, he has at all times and under all circumstances endeavored to perform life's duties so as to do the greatest good to the greatest number. That his life has been immeasurably beneficial to the world is the consensus of opinion among those at all conversant with his life career and a volume of this character would be incomplete were there failure to make mention of him.

Rev. Peter Vitz is the son of Fred Vitz, and is a native of Germany, his birth having occurred October 6, 1825. His ancestry is traced back to the French Huguenots who, because of religious persecution, were forced to leave France and took up their homes in Germany. At an early age Peter Vitz was left an orphan and was thus deprived of the tender and solicitous care of parents. He early entered upon life's active duties, his first employment being as a worker or apprentice in silk mills. He was at the same time given an opportunity to attend school and, being of a studious disposition, was en-



MRS. PETER VITZ.



REV. PETER VITZ.



abled to gain a fair education. He continued his work in the silk mills and by closely studying his work and by his indefatigable industry was at length enabled to command good wages. According to the custom of his country, he entered the military service of Prussia and served for five years, receiving but scant pay. He had long been convinced that in America lay larger opportunities and wider possibilities for a man of energy and ambition and determined as soon as possible to make the change. He was of a deeply religious nature and paid close attention to his church and her requirements, and the fact was forcibly impressed upon him that his German brethren in the United States needed spiritual help and guidance. In July, 1853, he embarked for America with the definite intention of engaging in missionary work among the German population and went immediately to Wisconsin for that purpose. Wishing to become better equipped for the work, and learning of a college at Tiffin, Ohio, he entered that institution in 1853 and pursued a two-years theological course, after which he was again sent into the field. He came at first to Adams county, Indiana, where he organized a congregation and erected a church near where the town of Magley now is. Under his ministry the society continued to grow until it is now one of the best country churches in Adams county. Later he organized a church near Honduras and remained in charge there for several years, a large number of communicants being added to the church through his influence. From this charge he went to Huntington, Indiana, where a church had been started, but which was in a weak and somewhat demoralized condition. When

he entered upon his work at that point there were but ten members, but as a result of his energetic and persistent efforts, at the close of his ministry a few years later the society numbered three hundred members and a neat and substantial brick edifice had been erected. He was next called to take charge of a congregation at Lafayette, Indiana, also in an unsatisfactory condition, and, as elsewhere, his work here was accompanied by most remarkable and gratifying results. He ministered to the society there about eight years and succeeded in building the membership up to about three hundred. The church was at that time a strong, active and aggressive body of Christians and the influence of his work there will remain always as a blessed benediction upon that church, as upon all other churches over which he ministered. Upon leaving Lafayette the subject located at Vera Cruz, Wells county, where for over six years he was in charge of a congregation and then he returned to a farm which he had purchased in Huntington county, this state. But one of his temperament and deep interest in the cause in which he had so long labored could not remain inactive and he soon went to Wisconsin and for three years served a church there in a pastoral capacity. He returned again to his Huntington county farm, but again was called into the work and for eleven years served as pastor over a church in Delphos, Ohio, at the end of that time coming to Vera Cruz, Wells county, where he has since resided.

Peter Vitz was united in marriage in Germany to Miss Catherine Jorris, and to this marriage there was born one son, Fredrich, now a resident of Huntington county, this state. Mrs. Vitz died in Wis-

consin, and subsequently Mr. Vitz chose for his second wife Miss Mary A. Jacob, of Toledo, Ohio. This union was blessed by the birth of nine children, six sons and three daughters, namely: Martin received a good common school education and afterward graduated from a theological school at Tiffin, Ohio, and one in Wisconsin, and is now the successful pastor of a church in Cleveland, Ohio; Otto supplemented his earlier education by graduating from the theological seminary near Sheboygan, Wisconsin, and is now pastor of a church at Louisville, Kentucky; Henry graduated from the same seminary and has charge of a church at Indianapolis, Indiana; Albert is a farmer and resides in Huntington county, this state; Martha is the wife of Rev. P. S. Kohler, of St. Mary's, Ohio; Emma is the wife of Rev. H. B. Robrock, of Sandusky, Ohio; Anna L. is the wife of E. Eberhardt, proprietor of a laundry at Indianapolis; Nathaniel is a student in the theological school at Tiffin, Ohio; O. P. is a graduate of the Sheboygan Seminary, Wisconsin, in the class of 1897 and the same year received a call to the charge at Vera Cruz, of which he is still the pastor. He married Miss Barbara Emmer, of Crestline, Ohio, and they have two children, Edwin D., born May 29, 1899, and Anna M., born July 26, 1902. In his political relations Mr. Vitz is allied with the Democratic party, believing the principles announced in the platform of that party to be those most conducive to the welfare of the people of this country. Father and son alike have closely endeared themselves to the people of this county, who value them because of the eminent services they have performed in the interest of humanity. They are generous and manly men and their un-

tiring labors in the cause of Christianity have endeared them to their many acquaintances and aroused in all with whom they come in contact an admiration seldom enjoyed by preacher or layman. Broad-minded, charitable and devout, they well deserve the high regard in which they are held and the good they have accomplished in the name of God and humanity is incalculable by any human standard.

THADDEUS S. HURST.

A gallant ex-soldier of the Civil war and now a prosperous farmer near Ruth, Wells county, Indiana, Thaddeus S. Hurst was born January 26, 1845, in Stark county, Ohio, a son of Samuel Hurst, who was born in Pennsylvania October 2, 1822, a son of George and Naomi, the former of whom was a native of Ireland and the latter of the Keystone state. From Ireland, George Hurst came to America and with his family settled in Stark county, Ohio, where Samuel grew to manhood and was reared to farming, and where George and his wife passed the remainder of life.

Samuel Hurst was joined in marriage, in Columbiana county, Ohio, in 1844, to Isabella S. Brackney, who was born November 8, 1825, in Pennsylvania, and was a daughter of Samuel and Hannah Brackney, the former of whom was a native of New Jersey and the latter of Pennsylvania. He went back to Wells county and for some time was engaged in farming. In 1847 Samuel Hurst came to Wells county, Indiana, and located on forty acres of land where the Ruth postoffice now stands, but which was then

in a wilderness. His only neighbors at that time were Abram Stahl, to the northeast, Samuel Watts to the southeast, and Robert Smith to the west, and there he died in 1883 and his widow in 1884. To Samuel Hurst and his wife were born three children, viz: Thaddeus, whose name opens this biographical record; Albina, deceased wife of Henry Bower, and Mary, wife of William Sark, who resides in Bluffton.

Thaddeus S. Hurst was educated in the public schools of Nottingham township, which he attended until he was nineteen years of age. He then, fired by the glorious patriotism that inspired the breast of the American youth of that day, promptly responded to the call to arms and enlisted in Company A, Forty-seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry, on the 20th of March, 1864, and took part in all the marches, skirmishes and battles in which his regiment was engaged until November, 1865, when he was honorably discharged. During his service he was present at the skirmish at Atchafalaya Bayou, Louisiana, and was here struck in the left side by a piece of shell. It hit his rubber blanket and the belt of his cartridge box. While on the skirmish line at Alexandria, Virginia, he was startled by a rebel minie ball which struck a brick, knocking the pieces into his face. He also accompanied General Banks on his famous Red river expedition, and was later present at the siege of Mobile and the capture of Fort Blakeley and Spanish Fort. He was mustered out at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and was honorably discharged at Indianapolis. He has always been an admirer of Indiana's great war governor, Morton.

After returning from his military service, during which he never shirked his duty, but

endured all the hardships of a soldier's life with fortitude and indomitable courage, Mr. Hurst worked out by the day in Wells county for about five years, or until 1870, when he went to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, where he engaged in the manufacture of queensware, and later continued at day work until 1887. In the meantime Mr. Hurst married Miss Ida Lockwood, who was born June 7, 1860, a daughter of George A. and Esther Ann (Schooley) Lockwood, and settled on the farm he now owns and occupies. Mr. Hurst has cleared up this farm of ten acres, has ditched it well, and drained it with over five hundred rods of tiling, and in addition to his farming operates three oil wells which produce about four tanks per month.

The marriage of Thaddeus S. Hurst and Ida Lockwood has been crowned with four children, namely: Chloe, born April 26, 1887; Chester H., born July 27, 1888; Hugh H., born July 27, 1891, and Hazel, born April 1, 1896.

Mrs. Hurst and her oldest daughter are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which they are active workers and to the maintenance of which they are liberal and willing contributors, and fraternally Mr. Hurst is a member of the Lew Dailey Post No. 33, G. A. R., at Bluffton. In politics Mr. Hurst has always been a Republican, and in April, 1890, was elected township trustee by a majority of fifty-one in a precinct which had had no Republican trustee since 1866. Mr. Hurst has been chairman of his precinct for six years, has been a delegate to various conventions of his party, and is a delegate at present to its judicial convention. Mr. Hurst is not only very popular with his party, but he is a great favorite in the community in which he lives and in

which he and his family enjoy the sincere respect of all who have the pleasure of their acquaintance.

Thaddeus S. Hurst, it will be perceived from the foregoing, has placed himself in his present position through his own unaided efforts and indomitable industry, backed by a life of strict morality, and the time has never come when his word has been doubted by friend or foe, but it is a pleasure to add that the latter are few and far between.

JOHN H. REEVES.

Chief among the breeders of fancy live stock in Wells county, Indiana, as well as among the thrifty farmers, stands John H. Reeves. He was born June 4, 1864, in Adams county, Indiana, and is a son of Dennis and Nancy (Alberson) Reeves, natives of Randolph county, Indiana.

Dennis Reeves was twice married, but about a year after his first marriage he was bereft of his wife, and he next married Nancy Alberson, in Adams county. This lady is a daughter of Joshua and Catherine (Deeter) Alberson, who were the parents of ten children, five of whom were mutes. After his second marriage Dennis Reeves came to Wells county (in 1865) and purchased the farm of eighty acres on which John H. Reeves now lives. Dennis lived here until about 1882, when he purchased forty acres in Adams county, and has virtually resided there ever since, although at present living in Bryan, Indiana, at the age of seventy-six years and partially blind. His wife is now sixty-five years old, and has borne her husband eight children, namely: John H.,

whose name opens this biography; Katherine, wife of Lewis Nusbaumer; Winfield, in Randolph county, Indiana; Joshua, deceased, as are also James, Thomas, Mary and Willis.

John H. Reeves attended the Harper school house in Nottingham township, Wells county, until eighteen years of age, when his father removed to Adams county, accompanied by John H., who worked until twenty-eight years old for his father for no recompense beyond his expenses.

September 5, 1885, John H. Reeves was united in marriage with Miss Martha E. Coffman, who was born July 27, 1867, in Wells county, a daughter of Jacob and Amelia Coffman, the former of whom was born in Hocking county, Ohio, and the latter in Wells county, Indiana. Jacob Coffman is a son of Andrew Coffman, one of the old pioneers of Wells county, and with his wife, Amelia, now resides in Ruth, Wells county, in quiet retirement and highly esteemed by their neighbors; they had born to them thirteen children, in the following order: Rebecca, deceased; Martha E., wife of John H. Reeves; Nancy, deceased; James, deceased; Peter, residing in Wells county; Charlotte, wife of William Fordice, of Huntington; Benjamin, deceased; Charles, in Wells county; Mary, Edward, Bertha, Alta, deceased, and Esther.

John H. Reeves for eight years after his marriage continued to live and work on his father's farm, which he then purchased. It is but just to add that the father deducted one thousand dollars from the purchase price, however, in consideration of the labor the latter had previously performed, leaving a balance of eighteen hundred dollars to be paid by the son, who has erected all the build-

ings necessary, has underdrained the fields and meadows, and has sixty-four acres in a good state of cultivation; but he gives special attention to the breeding of Berkshire hogs, while he does not neglect other classes of live stock.

To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Reeves have been born six children, namely: Glennie, August 26, 1886; Tressie, November 25, 1889; Earnest, January 30, 1892; Harold, February 14, 1895; Baby Reeves, January 3, 1899, and an infant daughter, deceased.

In 1896 John H. Reeves and P. B. Alberson purchased a store in Phenix from Thomas Bouse and for some time conducted a prosperous general trade, Mr. Reeves subsequently selling his interest to Charles Mann; at the present time Mr. Reeves holds an interest in the fine Percheron Norman horse, Daniel, and of this animal he has charge. He also has six producing oil wells on his land, which have netted him about three thousand dollars.

Mr. and Mrs. Reeves are active as well as devout members of the United Brethren church at Phenix, of which Mr. Reeves is also a member of the board of trustees. He is likewise a member of Lodge No. 721, I. O. O. F., at Petroleum, in which he has filled all the chairs and represented his lodge in the grand lodge; he is at present a member of Encampment No. 145, of Pennville. He and wife are likewise members of Rebekah Lodge No. 571 at Petroleum, and Mrs. Reeves has missed attending its meetings but twice in two years. In politics Mr. Reeves is a Democrat and is very active in local affairs, having been largely instrumental in causing the Phenix gravel road to be laid out.

MARTIN KIZER.

A native of Champaign county, Ohio, Martin Kizer was born April 24, 1841, a son of Martin Kizer, who was born in the same county December 19, 1819, and on the same farm. Martin Kizer, Sr., was a son of Joseph and Catherine (Coner) Kizer, who were natives of Virginia. Joseph Kizer settled with his family in Champaign county, Ohio, in 1813, and there passed the remainder of life, having had born to them eight children, namely: Peter, Philip, Daniel, Benjamin, Charles, Polly, Cornelius and Martin, all now deceased.

Martin Kizer, Sr., grew to manhood in Champaign county, Ohio, and there married Mary A. Rinaker, who was born June 4, 1820, in Page county, Virginia. She was a daughter of Abraham and Mary Rinaker, also natives of the Old Dominion, and after his marriage Martin Kizer, Sr., and his wife lived in the old homestead until the fall of 1851, when they removed to Adams county, where Martin, Sr., bought two hundred and two acres in the woods at two dollars and a half per acre, put up a cabin eighteen by twenty feet and cleared up four acres, hiring Robert Simminson to do the clearing. By the end of the first year seven acres had been cleared, and from that time on six or eight acres were cleared per year until sixty-five acres were placed under cultivation. On this farm Martin Kizer died November 6, 1878, while Mary A. is yet living, aged eighty-two years old, at Beuna Vista, with her daughter, Mrs. Rosanna Christman. To Martin, Sr., and wife were born five children, viz: Martin, whose name opens this record; Catherine, deceased wife of Joseph Runyon; Philip, deceased; Rosanna, wife of William Christman, and Emanuel.

Martin Kizer, at the age of ten years, came with his parents to Indiana. They located in Adams county, where young Martin attended the public schools until twenty-one years old, and then taught one term, but did not like the vocation on account of its being too confining. He continued to live with his father until he reached his twenty-second year, and on July 30, 1863, married Mary Ann Runyon, who was born October 7, 1840, in Champaign county, Ohio, where her parents, John and Mary Runyon, natives of Virginia, had settled in 1842. From Champaign county the Runyon family moved to Adams county in 1842 and lived under a beech tree until they had an opportunity of putting up a cabin, and there the parents died, the mother at the age of sixty-six years and the father at eighty-three.

After his marriage Martin Kizer erected a cabin on his father's farm, in which he lived four years. The father then presented the son with a forty-acre tract of wild land, on which the latter built a dwelling, eighteen by twenty-two feet, and here he and wife lived until 1883. Mr. Kizer cleared off his forty-acre tract, then sold it and bought one hundred and twenty acres, to which he removed and on which he still resides. The high ground on this place had been cleared, but there were no ditches in the low ground. Since then Mr. Kizer has, however, done an immense amount of ditching and draining and has made many other improvements. He has seven producing oil wells on his premises, yielding from ninety to one hundred and fifty dollars per month, and besides carrying on general farming he breeds Chester White and Duroc hogs and Holstein cattle.

The marriage of Martin Kizer and Mary

Ann Runyon has been crowned with five children, viz: Emma C., born August 13, 1866, is now the wife of Andrew Burgess and has five children, Mildred, Josie, Wellford, Bessie and Marie; Thomas E., born April 4, 1869, is a teacher in Wells county and is also attending school at Angola; Cora E., born September 3, 1871, was married to Samuel Dickerson, but died November 29, 1899; William W., born February 13, 1874, is still with his parents; Orlando O., born February 5, 1877, is also at the paternal home.

Mr. Kizer is a Democrat in politics and has served as trustee of Adams township. In religion he and family are Methodists and to his church Greenwood cemetery in Adams county was donated by Martin Kizer, Sr.

When Martin Kizer, the younger, started housekeeping he had one yearling colt and a cow, but no swine, and he also had thirty-five dollars in cash, but through his industry and skill he has been able to add continuously to his possessions ever since and today stands among the most substantial and respected farmers of his township and community.

HENRY BOWER.

Many of the early settlers of Indiana were natives of Pennsylvania. They did not all come direct from the Keystone state but most of them sojourned a number of years in some part of Ohio before coming to the land of the Hoosier. The Bower family was among those who entered from Pennsylvania through the gateway of Ohio. Henry Bower, the subject of this sketch, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, August

16, 1846. His parents and grandparents were natives of Pennsylvania, who emigrated to Ohio in the early part of the last century. Simon and Hannah Bower were his grandparents and Joel Bower was his father. The latter married, in Ohio, Susan Shoemaker, who was a daughter of Henry Shoemaker. After his marriage Joel followed the business of making and repairing shoes.

In 1853, believing he could materially better the condition of his family by doing so, Joel Bower moved with his wife and children to Nottingham township, Wells county, Indiana. They spent their first winter on the old Henry King farm and in the spring built a log house on their own land, in the woods, the farm where Henry Bower, the subject, now resides. The remainder of the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Bower was spent upon this place. They were the parents of ten children, only six of whom are now living, Henry, Simon, Ephraim L., Jacob, Noah and Mahlon. Each received the benefit of a good common school education and are worthy, useful citizens.

Until he had attained his majority Henry Bower remained in the employ of his father. When he was twenty-one years of age his father turned over to him the customary reward of the time for the youth who had helped his father until he was twenty-one, viz: a horse, bridle and saddle. His father then offered him employment by the month at good wages. He accepted and worked for his father until March, 1868, when he was united in marriage to Miss Albina Hurst, a native of Darke county, Ohio. Her parents were Samuel and Sabella Hurst, who were among the early settlers of Wells county and who continued to reside there until their deaths. Mrs. Bower died December 18,

1900, leaving her husband and seven children to mourn her loss. The children are: Clara married Harvey Foust, who died recently, leaving a widow with two children, Lora and Estella M.; Sabilla married James G. Nute and they have two children, Grace and Ruth; Ephraim married Nannie Oswalt, lives just west of his father and cultivates his father's lands; they have one child, Merle; Susan married Art Fетters and they have two children, Gladys and Ethel; Eli is a school teacher and resides with his widowed sister, Mrs. Harvey Foust; Jennie wedded John Cosart, of Chester township, and Hattie is still at home. Up to the time of her marriage, Susan, Mrs. Fетters, had also been a teacher.

Soon after his marriage Henry Bower settled on seventy-six acres of woodland, half a mile south of Poneto. Here the family resided for about thirteen years, the husband and father clearing the land and having to work much of the time away from home in order to make a living for his family. In the beginning of their domestic career the Bowers were not possessed of much property. He had a horse and later secured a start in swine by purchasing a sow and pigs. In 1871 he sold the place they first settled on after he had cleared about thirty acres, and purchased the place on which he now lives, one hundred and twenty acres. At the time of the purchase about sixty acres were cleared on this place. Ninety acres are now cleared out of the one hundred that remain, he having sold twenty acres, which is now owned by his son Ephraim. The place is splendidly improved, between fifteen hundred and sixteen hundred rods of tiling having been put in on the place. He breeds, feeds and rears all kind of stock, to which

he devotes his entire attention, the farm being rented. There are five oil wells upon his place that are bringing him each month sixty dollars, and he has location for three more. Farming has formed the entire life-work of Mr. Bower. In politics he was a Democrat, but of late years he has refrained from voting, not taking enough interest in the campaign to go to the polls. He is not a member of any religious denomination nor of any fraternal order, but has no objection whatever to either. He likes to hear a good discourse by an able speaker on almost any subject and sometimes attends church when the prospects of hearing a good sermon are good. He is a thoughtful, conservative, prudent man, with no ambition whatever to be considered either learned or brilliant. For himself he says he has endeavored to fill the little niche in life well. Sins, both of omission and commission, he has been scrupulously careful to avoid, but he is human and it is human to err. However, if some of the "truly good" people could point to a life with as little blemish, the world would have been many times brighter than it has been.

FRANKLIN P. RISLEY.

The subject of this review is one of the leading farmers and stock raisers of Chester township and as a citizen ranks with the representative men of Wells county. His father, Harvey Risley, who was born February 8, 1828, came to Wells county when a boy and lived with Adam Miller until attaining his majority, after which he began life for himself as an agriculturist. In his

young manhood Harvey Risley married Miss Harriet Gracy, whose birth occurred in Ross county, Ohio, December 4, 1832, her parents moving to the county of Wells when she was a child. After his marriage Mr. Risley settled on a farm in Harrison township and in due time became one of the successful tillers of the soil as well as one of the leading citizens of the community in which he resides. He and wife still live where they originally located and are accounted by all who know them a most excellent and praiseworthy couple, having the good of their neighbors and fellow citizens ever at heart. They have prospered in life and are the parents of eight children, the subject of this sketch being the oldest of the number; the others are Almira, who died at the age of four years; Eliza, wife of Eli French, of Nottingham township; Etta, now Mrs. Amos Mowery, lives in Harrison township; Ulysses S. G. lives with his parents and runs the home place; Harvey A., Samuel I. and Ethie A. are also members of the home circle.

Franklin P. Risley was born February 25, 1853, in Harrison township, Wells county, Indiana, and spent the years of his childhood and youth in close touch with nature on the family homestead. He was reared to habits of industry and early learned the valuable lesson of self-reliance which contributed so much to his success in after life. Between working on the farm in summer time and attending the district schools of winter seasons, he spent his first eighteen years and then entered the Bluffton high school where he prosecuted his studies for three terms with the object in view of teaching. Mr. Risley taught his first term in district No. 1, Harrison township, and the



MRS. FRANK RISLEY.



F. P. RISLEY.

following year took charge of the school in district 11, at both places earning the reputation of a capable, painstaking and popular instructor. These experiences in the educational field convinced him that teaching was a hard and unremunerative vocation, consequently he abandoned it and turned his attention to other occupations for a livelihood. Purchasing an engine and separator, he spent several seasons threshing grain and in this way made considerable money, meanwhile devoting a goodly part of each year to agricultural pursuits.

On the 18th day of March, 1877, Mr. Risley was united in marriage to Miss Mary A. Watson, daughter of J. M. and Elnora Watson, who came to Wells county in an early day from their native state, Ohio. Mrs. Risley is a native of Nottingham township, this county, born November 17, 1858, and was reared to young womanhood near the place of her birth, receiving a good education in the common schools. During the three years following his marriage Mr. Risley rented land in the township of Harrison and at the expiration of that time discontinued agriculture for the purpose of engaging in the drug trade at the town of Linn Grove. After a fairly successful career of eighteen months at that place, he transferred his business to the village of Keystone where he ran a drug store for three years and then added to his special lines a general stock of merchandise. Mr. Risley built up a large and lucrative trade and earned an enviable reputation as a careful and conservative business man. His wide acquaintance and personal popularity contributed much to his success and as long as he was identified with commercial pursuits he never lacked his full complement of patronage. He continued

the business until about 1893, when he disposed of his stock and with the proceeds purchased a beautiful farm in Chester township on which he has since lived and prospered. While at Keystone he was station agent for the Lake Erie & Western Railroad and in connection with his duties in this capacity and his regular business he carried on an extensive grain trade. During his incumbency there was a much larger volume of business done at Keystone than at any previous period in the history of the town and the records of the office show a great falling off in the amount of freight receipts since he resigned the office. At certain seasons of the year the monthly freight receipts ran as high as eight thousand dollars, by far the greater part of which resulted from the grain business of which he was the head. Since the year 1894 Mr. Risley has devoted his attention to farming with most gratifying success, and in addition thereto he has achieved much more than local repute as a raiser of fine live stock, especially Hereford cattle and the Duroc and Jersey breeds of hogs. He has a beautiful and attractive home, the general appearance of his farm indicating advanced agricultural methods, and everything to which he addresses himself appears to prosper. In the year 1894 he was elected on the Republican ticket to the office of township trustee and that, too, in face of a normally large Democratic majority, which fact attests the high place he holds in public esteem. During his incumbency of six years he did much in the way of public improvements, building three new school houses, one of them being the high school at Keystone, which was the first attempt at advanced education in the history of the township. By a successful system of consolida-

tion he was enabled to abandon one district school and centralize the pupils in the above village, where there are now five teachers employed, instead of one as formerly. This has resulted greatly to the benefit of the schools, as it is now possible for students to obtain a good high school education with little or no expense.

As already stated, Mr. Risley is a Republican; he cast his first presidential vote for Rutherford B. Hayes and from that time to the present has been prominent in the councils of his party and an active worker in the ranks. He has served as delegate to a number of county conventions and five or six times represented his township in the state conventions of his party. Fraternally he is an Odd Fellow, belonging to Montpelier Lodge No. 410, in which he has held every official position within the power of the organization to bestow. In matters religious he subscribes to the Methodist Protestant creed, he and wife being identified with the church at Keystone.

Mr. and Mrs. Risley have had eight children, namely: Lucy E., born October 25, 1877, died November 24, of the same year; Irvin E., born March 13, 1879, was accidentally killed at Keystone on the 30th of March, 1889, while attempting to couple two freight cars; Stella E. M., born June 9, 1881, married Earl V. Shimp and at the present time holds an important clerical position in a business house at Keystone; Ruel, born July 14, 1885, departed this life on the 16th day of December, 1885; Wanda P. was born February 14, 1887, and died November 11 of the year following; Eva O. A. was born on the 27th of October, 1889; Adam C. C. was born September 11, 1892, and Vergie N. M., the youngest of the fam-

ily, first saw the light of day on the 29th of August, 1895. Mr. Risley has provided well for his children and given them every educational advantage within his power, besides assisting in a very substantial way those who married. He is a gentleman of intelligence and fine business abilities, stands high socially and his position as a representative citizen of Wells county has been fairly and honorably earned.

LEVI SPAULDING.

Levi Spaulding was born January 30, 1853, in Chester township, Wells county, Indiana. He is a son of Stephen S. Spaulding, born in Weston, Virginia. He came to Blackford county, Indiana, about 1836, and, until he was about twenty-one years old, lived with his brother John, from whom he received as remuneration for his time and labor, a horse, saddle and bridle. He then farmed his brother Franklin's place for one or two years. About the year 1840 he purchased ninety acres of land, now owned by H. McCullick and George Eli. The land was all in the woods at that time, but he managed to have it all cleared up. August 27, 1860, he purchased a part of the farm where the subject of this sketch now lives, and at a later period purchased more adjoining land. Stephen Spaulding was married September 2, 1849, to Phoebe (Godfrey) Spaulding, born April 2, 1829. He died October 29, 1877, and his wife, November 16, 1874.

Stephen Spaulding, after leaving Blackford county, settled in Wells county, Indiana, where he remained until his death,

which occurred on the farm where H. McCullick now lives. At the time of his death he owned three hundred and twenty acres of land. He was twice married, and to his first union seven children were born, of whom three are living: An infant died October 6, 1851, and another, December 16, 1865; John, born September 12, 1867, died September 7, 1870; Marinda, born January 15, 1856, died in the spring of 1898; Levi, born January 30, 1853; Stillman, born August 19, 1858; and Mary, born June 27, 1862. Two children were born to his second marriage: Jennie, May 5, 1876, and William, October 4, 1877.

Levi Spaulding was born on the first piece of land his father bought, and attended public school in Chester township, Wells county, until he was twenty-one years of age. In the meantime he also attended normal school at Bluffton, Hartford City and Montpelier, Indiana. He then took charge of his father's farm of three hundred and twenty acres, in which his brother Stillman also assisted him. During this time he had purchased the farm where he now lives, and on October 25, 1875, he moved onto this place. He continued to farm his father's place until the death of the latter in 1877, when the land was divided. He now has eighty-three acres of fine land, which has on it twelve oil wells, producing about forty barrels a day.

December 2, 1875, Mr. Spaulding was married to Maggie M. Helm, born March 20, 1855, in Darke county, Ohio, a daughter of Charles and Matilda (Bates) Helm. Charles Helm was born in Darke county, Ohio, August 5, 1828, and died in Hartford City, Indiana, December 26, 1901, at the age of seventy-three years, four months and

twenty-one days. November 25, 1852, he married Matilda C. Bates, who was born July 4, 1833. Eleven children, five sons and six daughters, were born to their union, all of whom are living except one daughter, who died in 1892. Their names are as follows: Alonzo, Maggie M., Orlando, Daniel, George, Emma, Frances, deceased, Elizabeth, John, Laura and Effie. All were mature men and women before there was a death in their ranks. Levi is the father of one child, Bessie, born February 14, 1882; she married Roy M. Shadle, son of James B. Shadle. Roy is the father of two children, Beatrice, born May 28, 1900, and Charles, born August 29, 1901.

Mrs. Spaulding is connected with the Methodist Protestant church, of which she is a consistent member, an amiable and exemplary Christian lady. She is also a member of the Woman's Relief Corps of Montpelier, Indiana. Her husband is a member of Lodge No. 410, I. O. O. F., of Montpelier. He is a Republican in politics, having cast his first vote for U. S. Grant for President and has continued to vote the ticket since that time. He has taken an active part in politics and has frequently served his party as a delegate to political conventions. He was one of the delegates who selected a district delegate to the national convention that nominated McKinley for his second term to the presidency of the United States. Mr. Spaulding has been a general stock farmer and has devoted his life to the vocation of a farmer. He has also opened two gravel pits on his farm, out of which more than five thousand cubic yards were taken at one time. He is an upright, energetic citizen, keenly alive to every interest which affects the welfare of the com-

munity in which he lives and, being in the prime of life, he has the expectation of many years of future usefulness to his fellow men.

WILLIAM O. TERHUNE.

William O. Terhune was born September 27, 1862, in the state of Illinois, and is a son of Garrett and Mary Ann Terhune, both of whom are deceased. William O. attended school in the "Red School House," in Chester township, Wells county, Indiana, until he was eighteen years old, and remained at home with his father working for his board and clothing until he was twenty-one years of age. He then began to cultivate his father's farm, receiving one-fourth of the crops for his labor, continuing to farm on those conditions until his marriage, which occurred March 4, 1886. On this date he was united in wedlock with Nancy Catherine Jones, who was born about 1867 and is a daughter of Isaac and Sallie (Huffman) Jones, both of whom are yet living in Jackson township and who were among the first settlers of Wells county, Indiana. Isaac Jones is the father of nine children: Henry, at home with his father; Susan, the wife of A. E. Terhune; Mary, the wife of Ira Brown, living in Warren, Indiana; Daniel, a farmer in Jackson township; Eliza, the wife of Jacob Sills, now living in Chester township; Nancy C., wife of the subject; Ella, wife of John Alspach; Nora, wife of Charley Stimson; Amy, the wife of Frank White, and Minnie, who is the wife of Willard Grover.

The subject, after his marriage, continued to farm the old home place, living

with his parents and receiving one-third of the crops. He continued in this manner until within two years of his father's death, when he obligated himself to support his father, pay taxes, keep up repairs, etc., and received all the proceeds of the farm. After the death of his father he remained in possession of the old home place, a farm of one hundred and twenty-six acres. The subject is a general stock farmer, and breeds Poland China hogs and a general stock of cattle. He is a believer in the system of feeding his grain and forage on the farm and driving it to market on the hoof. He has on his farm six producing oil wells and prospects for more, which gives him a neat monthly royalty.

Mr. Terhune is the father of eight children, seven of whom are living: Henry, born June 4, 1887; Nellie, born October 26, 1888; Perry, born July 10, 1890; Neva, born April 11, 1892; Dessie, born July 3, 1894; an infant son that died unnamed; Goldie, born October 24, 1898; Ralph, born January 21, 1901. The subject has always lived on the farm and devoted his life to agricultural pursuits. He has been successful and is now enjoying the results of his industry and frugality in the possession of a well stocked and well cultivated farm, a pleasant country home, surrounded by sons and daughters who are being educated for future usefulness as citizens of the state. In politics the subject has always been a Republican and takes a lively interest in the success of his party in their recurring campaigns. He is regarded as a successful and substantial tiller of the soil, possessing the esteem and confidence of his neighbors, and by his character and standing adds dignity to the class which he represents. His home life is typical of the millions of homes of

our country, in which resides a silent strength that wields a powerful influence in the affairs of state, and contains in the sons and daughters thereof a bulwark of future strength for the perpetuity of the principles of the republic.

SAMUEL I. NEHER.

The discovery of natural gas and oil in Indiana opened up a vast field for the operations of working men in that region. When oil was discovered in Wells county, Indiana, Samuel I. Neher, of Nottingham township, the subject of this sketch, was working at his trade, that of a carpenter. Very soon after oil well operations began he dropped his hammer, saw and plane and took to drilling wells, which he found far more remunerative and from which, coupled with a few fortunate investments in leases, he has derived a very comfortable competency.

Samuel I. Neher was born October 18, 1873, in Allen county, Ohio. His parents were Samuel and Rebecca (Nevel) Neher, a sketch of whose lives appears in another part of this volume. When only three years old Samuel I. Neher came to Wells county with his parents. He attended the public schools of Nottingham township until he was nineteen years old and remained with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age. During his minority he learned the trade of a carpenter and when he started to make his own way in the world he worked for a number of years at that calling. In the spring of 1900 he laid down his carpenter tools, took up the work of drilling wells in the oil field and has devoted his time to that business ever since. On attaining his

majority his father presented him with three hundred dollars with which to make a start in life. In 1900, in company with C. E. Dyson, he purchased a set of drilling tools and they operated them jointly that year. He had had about six months' experience in operating a drilling machine before making the purchase. In 1901 they took into partnership W. B. Kirkwood and J. P. Lockwood, each owning a quarter interest, and soon they were the owners of two sets of tools which they kept going constantly.

March 18, 1899, Samuel I. Neher was united in marriage to Miss Louella Lockwood, who was born on March 7, 1879, a daughter of J. E. and Frances (Blackledge) Lockwood. (For a sketch of their lives the reader is respectfully referred to another part of this volume.) After marriage the young couple established themselves at housekeeping in Petroleum, where they remained six months, then moved to the J. E. Lockwood farm and remained there until March 1, 1902, when they moved to their present home. They are the parents of one child, Hugh, born March 19, 1900.

Immediately on the formation of the partnership above referred to the firm began procuring leases and developing oil territory. They procured leases from Katherine Kinnels, H. E. Johns, Cynthia Bowers and C. E. Dyson, sunk their first well in February, 1902, and continued until four wells were completed and were just finishing the fifth, in July, 1902, when they sold out to Alena & Thomas for sixteen thousand dollars. They are now in the employ of that firm and are engaged in sinking wells on the property they had leased. As indicating the success Mr. Neher has achieved, it is worthy of note that, although he has been

in business for himself less than eight years, a fair valuation of his personal property alone would be not less than six thousand dollars.

In politics Mr. Neher always votes the Republican ticket, and although making no pretensions to being a politician and never perniciously partisan, he takes considerable interest during political campaigns. He is a member of Lodge No. 721, I. O. O. F., at Petroleum and is deeply interested in lodge work. Barely beginning a business career, of prophecy to hazard even a guess as to what the result will be, but judging by the character of the man, the splendid business methods he brings to his aid and the invariable success he already has achieved, there is little doubt, if he lives the allotted period of man, that the closing years of his life will be blessed with ample means to supply every want.

G. H. SNOW.

The subject of this review is a representative of one of the old families of Wells county and inherits many of the sterling characteristics of a long line of sturdy ancestors. The Snow family in America appears to have originated in New England, the subject's grandfather, Sewell Snow, having been a native of Rutland, Vermont. He was born in the year 1807 and in young manhood married Miss Mariel Gates, a native of Boston, Massachusetts. In 1835 he moved to Ohio and six years later came to Wells county, Indiana, accompanied by his sons George and Henry, settling in what is now Chester township. He located on what

is known as the Gruver farm, which he cleared and otherwise improved and on which he spent the remainder of his life, dying there a number of years ago at a ripe old age.

Henry Snow, one of the two sons of Sewell, was born in Wayne county, Ohio, on the 15th of August, 1833. He was a lad of eight years when his father came to Indiana and from that time until death his life was very closely interwoven with the growth and development of Wells county. In 1858 he was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Booth, who was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, September 8, 1835, the daughter of Thomas and Rebecca (Lethero) Booth, who were among the pioneer settlers of Chester township. Henry Snow began life for himself as a farmer and experienced all the hardships and vicissitudes peculiar to the early period in a new and densely wooded country. Purchasing a tract of unimproved land, he built a little pioneer cabin for the reception of his bride and spent the first winter after taking possession of his place deadening timber and fitting for cultivation a small area to which the term field could hardly be applied. The following spring he returned to his father's farm, which he cultivated on the shares during the ensuing two years and then returned to his own place, which he never again left until called from earthly scenes. He made a fine farm, accumulated a liberal share of this world's goods and earned the reputation of an honest, upright man and enterprising citizen. His relations with his fellow men were characterized by a high sense of honor and in his death, which occurred on the 31st of March, 1896, the community lost one of its most valuable neighbors and the

county one of its representative men of affairs.

Mr. Snow left to mourn his loss a widow and three children, besides a host of friends who had learned to appreciate him for his true manly worth. His oldest child, Mollie, married Joseph Stahl and lives in Liberty township; her husband is one of the prosperous farmers of that section and at the present time is serving as a member of the board of county commissioners. Mr. and Mrs. Stahl have two children, Edith S. and Homer A. G. H. Snow, of this sketch, is the second in order of birth and after him comes Giffon, whose sketch will be found elsewhere in these pages.

G. H. Snow was born in Chester township, Wells county, on the 22nd day of August, 1862, and his early life on the farm was marked by no event of especial note. At the proper age he entered the district schools, which he attended of winter seasons until his twentieth year, meantime devoting the spring and summer months to the varied duties of the farm. On attaining his majority he and his younger brother rented the home place and in this way continued to run the same until the father's death, since which time the two have farmed their respective parts of the estate, paying the mother two-fifths of the proceeds.

Mr. Snow was married on the 27th of September, 1883, to Miss Matilda A. Moorman, daughter of Eli and Lavina (Arnold) Moorman, natives respectively of Tippecanoe county, Indiana, and Medina county, Ohio. Mr. Moorman came to Wells county a number of years ago and after his marriage moved to the county of White, where he lived for a period of four years, returning to Wells at the expiration of that time and

settling in Jackson township. He died some years ago at the residence of his daughter in Blackford county, since which time the widow has lived among her children. Mrs. Snow was born February 18, 1865, and received her education in the district schools of Wells county.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Snow began housekeeping on the Snow homestead, where they have since lived and prospered and they are among the best known and most highly esteemed people in the township of their residence. Mr. Snow has devoted his attention almost exclusively to agriculture and his success has resulted in a competence of sufficient magnitude to place him in the front rank with the enterprising and well-to-do men of his community. Of the ten producing oil wells on the old farm, four have been drilled on his share of the estate and from this source alone he derives a very handsome income, with the prospects of still more liberal returns in the future. Mr. Snow is a good mechanic and of recent years has done considerable in the way of carpentering, although his principal pursuit is and always has been agriculture, for which he has a natural liking and the dignity of which in his opinion compares favorably with any other vocation. In the matter of stock farming he has met with the most gratifying results, his breeds of Chester White hogs, Galloway cattle and South Down sheep being among the best animals of the kind in this part of the state. Mr. Snow is a gentleman of taste as well as progressive ideas, as is evident from the fine condition of his farm and the various attractive features of his residence. By no means a partisan in the sense the term is usually understood, he is a staunch supporter of the

Democratic party and keeps himself well informed upon current political questions and industrial topics. His family belong to the Christian church, to the belief of which religious body he also subscribes and for the support of which he lends his influence and contributes material aid. He has lived an active, useful life, encouraging, the meanwhile, all movements looking to the moral as well as the material good of his township and county and those who know him best speak in high praise of his many sterling qualities of manhood. As a citizen he has ever had the interests of the people at heart and the rectitude of his intentions in all relations whatsoever have been above cavil or criticism.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Snow consists of three children, whose names and dates of birth are as follows: Charles L., June 13, 1885; Bessie L., October 13, 1886, and Von E., June 14, 1891.

GEORGE DYSON.

This native of Hocking county, Ohio, was born October 9, 1839, and is one of the most prosperous retired agriculturists of Reiffsburg, Wells county, Indiana. His father, who also was named George, was a native of Guernsey county, Ohio, and was a son of Thomas and Rosanne (Myers) Dyson, the former of whom was a native of Guernsey county, Ohio, where George, his son, was reared to maturity and useful manhood.

In the county named the younger George of the two immediate predecessors of the George of this sketch married Eliza

Styles, daughter of Freeman Styles, and after marriage settled in Guernsey county, Ohio, where he engaged in farming until about 1832, when he removed to Hocking county and there passed the remainder of his life, dying on his farm in 1854, his wife Rosanne having died in 1845. To George and Eliza (Styles) Dyson were born eight children, of whom four are still living, namely: Mary, Martha, George, whose name opens this record, and Matilda.

George Dyson, with whom this biographical sketch has the most to do, attended the schools of Hocking county, Ohio, until he was almost seventeen years of age, when, soon after the death of his father, he went to live with his uncle, Elijah, with whom he remained until he attained the age of twenty-one years. February 29, 1861, George Dyson married Miss Melissa Nutter, who was born February 28, 1844, and is a daughter of Levi and Sarah A. Nutter, and after this happy event they went to housekeeping with a cash capital of one hundred and fifty dollars and a horse to boot. For some eighteen years after his marriage Mr. Dyson was employed in mining and to some extent in farming, near Gore, Hocking county, Ohio, where he eventually purchased a farm, for which he went in debt to the sum of nine hundred dollars. This sum he paid off within one year, having received seventy-five dollars per month as his earnings during that brief period. Mr. Dyson then sold his place in Hocking county, Ohio, and after some prospecting in Kansas, in 1883 decided that Indiana was as good a state as he cared to live in and accordingly purchased one hundred and three acres of good land in Nottingham township, Wells county, for which tract he paid twenty-three hundred dollars,

but found it necessary to clear up at least one-half of it. He has erected all the buildings, which are substantial and tasteful, the dwelling being new, his former residence having been destroyed by fire, and has his land well drained and ditched. His live stock consists of Galloway cattle principally, but his hogs are of mixed character. He also works three oil wells, which net him a handsome income. All that Mr. Dyson owns has resulted from his industry and good management, and for the proper use of these good qualities he cannot be too strongly commended.

To the marriage of George and Melissa (Nutter) Dyson have been born nine children, of whom six still survive, namely: Charles E., who is married to Ida Near, who has borne him three children, Ida, Virgil and an infant, and all of whom live at present at the home of Mrs. Dyson's father; Levi, who married Lydia A. Mowery, has a family of three children, Clarence, Velma and an infant, and lives in Harrison township, Wells county; Laura, married to Amos King, is also the mother of three children, Levi, Earnest and Jennie, and resides in Nottingham township; Cynthia, still beneath the parental roof; Frank, who married Irene Myres, and has likewise a family of three children, Josie, George and one unnamed, lives in Harrison township, his wife being a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at that place; Alice, the youngest of the family of six, is married to Cyrus Hoppes, lives near Petroleum and they have four children, Grace, Pearl, George and an infant as yet unnamed.

Fraternally Mr. Dyson is a member of Lodge No. 721, I. O. O. F., at Petroleum, and politically always voted for the Demo-

cratic party while he took an active part in politics, but of late he has voted as his judgment dictates, or, in other words, for the candidate he judges to be best fitted for the office to be filled. Mr. Dyson, although now living in respected retirement in Reiffsburg, still keeps a general supervision over his farming interests, being a business man from Alpha to Omega.

AMOS R. WILLIAMS.

Amos R. Williams is a native of Wells county, Indiana, and was born in Nottingham township, December 1, 1849, a son of J. S. and Harriet (Bolenger) Williams. J. S. Williams was a native of Pennsylvania and removed from that state to Pickaway county, Ohio, with his widowed mother while he was still young, there grew to manhood and for some years worked by the month or day at farm work. He married in Pickaway county Miss Bolenger, a native of that county, and after marriage settled on a farm, which he cultivated two years and then came to Wells county, Indiana, and settled in section 1, Nottingham township. He had no property at that time, but his wife fell heir to forty acres of land, and by his own industry Mr. Williams eventually earned the money with which to purchase forty acres adjoining. This was all in the woods, but he worked hard and succeeded in clearing it off and continued making purchases until he owned three hundred and thirty acres, all in Nottingham township. He continued to reside on his original place until his death, which occurred September 14, 1901, when he left his widow with thir-

teen children, viz: Martha, wife of H. C. Melick; George, who resides in Coventry, Indiana; Amos R., of whom more will be said further on; Mary, wife of Frank Powell, a resident of Lincoln, Nebraska; Emma, deceased wife of John Bowman; Sarah, deceased; Frank, deceased; Ada and Ida, twins, of whom Ada is married to Al-infancy; Hiram is a resident of Reiffsburg; Thomas Stine, of Petroleum; John died in infancy; Hiram is a resident of Rieffsburg; Alice is a wife of Henry Markley, and Amanda is the wife of Thomas Duncan, a resident of Nebraska.

Amos R. Williams attended school in Nottingham township until he had attained the age of twenty-one years, and at the age of twenty-two took a one-third interest in a saw-mill in partnership with his brother George and Henry Kirkwood. This firm operated the mill for three years, when Amos R. and Kirkwood bought out the interest of George Williams; six months later Amos R. Williams bought out Kirkwood and conducted the mill on his own account for six months, when he traded it for eighty acres of land in section 9, this being the east half of the quarter section on which he now resides, and of which but a small portion had been cleared. He had previously owned the forty acres now belonging to Amos Gehrett, but he sold this tract and bought the west half of his present farm and now owns one hundred and sixty acres in one compact body. On his original tract of eighty acres there were no improvements, save a small frame house and an old log barn, very little fencing and no tiling. Mr. Williams, however, set strenuously to work to make his place worth living on, but his health gave way and in 1882 he moved to Bluffton, In-

diana, where he resided two years and then returned to his farm, his health having been restored. In 1893 Mr. Williams built one of the finest barns in his neighborhood, and in 1897 erected a palatial residence. Besides his farm, Mr. Williams has an interest in a string of drilling tools, and his personal assessment for 1902 reached sixteen hundred dollars.

March 25, 1875, Amos R. Williams was united in marriage with Miss Mary Kirkwood, daughter of William and Susan (Gehrett) Kirkwood, natives of Ohio, but early settlers of Wells county, Indiana. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Williams has been blessed with nine children, namely: Oliver J., who was born March 27, 1876, died September 3, 1877; William A., born March 11, 1878, married Mary Foreman, and resides in Nottingham township; John F., born November 20, 1879, died August 2, 1880; Verne, born August 4, 1881; Pearl, born November 3, 1883; Delbert, born September 15, 1885; Clem, born April 28, 1887; Samuel, born September 11, 1889, and Anna, born September 3, 1892.

Mr. Williams is a member of Lodge No. 752, I. O. O. F., at Poneto, and has filled the chairs in Petroleum Lodge No. 721; his grown daughters are members of Rebekah Lodge No. 571. In politics Mr. Williams is a stanch Republican and has several times served as a delegate from his district in the county convention. He and family are among the most highly esteemed residents of Wells county, and well deserve the respect in which they are held. Mr. and Mrs. Williams have in their possession an old parchment sheepskin deed, bearing the signature of President Martin Van Buren and executed November 10, 1840.

SAMUEL NEHER.

If one desires to gain a vivid realization of the rapid advance in the civilization which the last few decades have brought, he can listen to the stories that men who are still living among us can tell of their early experiences when the country was new and social conditions in this part of the Hoosier state were in their formative period. The township of Nottingham is the abiding place of a number of old settlers who, having spent the vigor and strength of their manhood in carving from the wilderness homes for themselves and their posterity, are now in the evening of life, when the shadows are growing dim and the past gradually receding from view, spending their declining years in rest and quiet, surrounded by neighbors and the results of the work they did in laying broad and deep the foundation upon which the community's prosperity has been builded. Conspicuous among these silver-haired veterans of a time long past is the venerable and highly respected citizen to a brief review of whose career the following lines are devoted.

Samuel Neher was born on the 18th of January, 1833, in Clark county, Ohio, and is the son of John Neher, whose parents were John and Magdalena Neher. The subject's father was a native of Pennsylvania, born December 9, 1792, but in early youth he removed with his parents to Virginia, where he grew to manhood. In that state, on the 12th of May, 1816, he was united in marriage with Miss Anna Miller, a native of the Old Dominion, born May 18, 1797, the daughter of David Miller. After his marriage John Neher engaged in farming in Virginia, but in 1818 and 1819 re-

moved to Clark county, Ohio, settling on a tract of one hundred and sixty acres and going into debt for part of the purchase price. Subsequently he sold a portion of this tract, retaining the improved part, and then applied himself to the task of clearing the south eighty acres. Selling this after a while, he bought his father's old homestead in Clark county, a condition of the sale being that he was to care for his parents during the remainder of their lives, which stipulation he faithfully carried out. John and Anna Neher remained upon this place the balance of their days, his death occurring in August, 1846, and hers in September of the same year. They were the parents of nine children, of whom the subject is now the only survivor. These children are briefly mentioned as follows: Magdeline, born April 29, 1817, died May 17, 1883; David, born June 20, 1818, died August 13, 1841; Catherine, born December 16, 1819, died March 29, 1895; Mary, born January 22, 1822, died August 15, 1881; Jacob, born May 10, 1823, died April 17, 1845; Joel, born February 3, 1825, died September 29, 1827; John, born May 6, 1827, died August 16, 1830; Anna, born December 25, 1829, died September 15, 1851; Samuel, the immediate subject.

Samuel Neher is indebted to the common schools of Clark county, Ohio, for his educational discipline, but because of his early environments his school days were necessarily limited. His parents died when he was but thirteen years old and one year later he chose for a guardian his cousin, John Neher. The later hired the subject out to David McMillon, the conditions being that he was to remain with the latter until he was eighteen years old and to receive for

his services his board, clothing, schooling and seventy-five dollars in money, which contract was faithfully executed by both parties. At the end of the stipulated period Samuel Neher began working by the month and soon learned and followed the trade of a carpenter. Two years later he was employed on a shingle machine, at which he worked during two seasons. In 1856, shortly after his marriage, Mr. Neher settled on an eighty-acre tract of land in Allen county, Ohio, for which he had paid eight hundred dollars cash. The land was heavily timbered, excepting ten acres, and the only building was a log house. Mr. Neher possessed two horses, two pigs, and a cow. At that time he had no neighbors within sight and the condition of things generally was dreary and uninviting in the extreme. However, Mr. Neher had abundant faith in the future possibilities of the land, and entered bravely upon the task of clearing the land and fitting it for cultivation. He remained upon that place nine years, during which time he succeeded in clearing up forty acres of land and erected a commodious and substantial bank barn. Selling that place for three thousand dollars cash, he removed to Mercer county, Ohio, and purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, for which he paid three thousand nine hundred dollars. He remained upon that place about two and a half years and for two years and three months of that time he was afflicted with the ague. Finding the country there did not agree with him, Mr. Neher traded that farm for five hundred dollars and fifty-three acres of land in Allen county, Ohio, and lived upon the latter place four years, recovering his usual health the meantime. The first year there he devoted part of his time

to the raising of potatoes, meeting with phenomenal success, some of the land yielding a bucketful of tubers to the hill. Selling that place, he then purchased one hundred and seven acres of land near Beaver Dam, in the same county, for which he paid three thousand six hundred dollars, going into debt for a part of the purchase price. He sold seven acres of this land, thus enabling him to erect a good two-story house. After abiding on that place four years he disposed of it for five thousand dollars, and in 1876 came to Wells county, Indiana, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land known as the Ferguson farm, paying for it four thousand nine hundred dollars. About sixty-five acres of this land was cleared, but other improvements were conspicuous by their absence, there being a few poor fences, no ditches and the buildings were in very poor condition. By dint of hard and consecutive toil he cleared all but about fifteen acres of this land, put up substantial and commodious buildings and brought the place up to a high standard of excellence. When the town of Petroleum was organized Mr. Neher sold off ten acres of his land and later sold seventy-two acres to Cyrus Hoppers, retaining seventy-four acres of as fine and productive land as can be found in Nottingham township. For the past eight years he has rented this farm, but it is now managed by Mr. Neher's son-in-law, Charles Dyson, who lives on the place. Mr. Neher has upon this place nine producing oil wells, which net him a comfortable income. He has all his life been a hard working man and by his perseverance and indefatigable industry has accomplished his full share of redeeming this part of the country from its original wildness.

On the 20th of January, 1856, Samuel Neher was united in marriage with Miss Rebecca Nevel. She was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, April 4, 1838, the daughter of John and Sokoonda (Bartholomew) Nevel. Her father, a native of Pennsylvania, was born May 12, 1796, and died in 1886, and her mother, a native of Germany, was born June 10, 1808, and died February 11, 1879. The union of the subject and his wife was blessed by the birth of eight children, briefly mentioned as follows: John married Lucinda Warner and they have two children, Erwin and Ora; Amos is deceased; David married Alice Warner and is the father of three children, Oscar, Ethel and George; Mary became the wife of S. N. Burket and is the mother of these children: Ollie, Estella, Effie, John, Charles, Raymond and Ralph; Sarah became the wife of Clinton S. Ferguson and they have three children, Clara, Samuel and Roy; Jacob is deceased; Samuel I. married Ella Lockwood and has one child, Hugh; Ida is the wife of Charles Dyson and the mother of three children, Iva, Virgil and Ethel.

Politically Mr. Neher has throughout his life been a firm supporter of the Republican party, but at the last election, feeling that the suppression of the liquor traffic was the most vital question before the American people, he cast his vote for the Prohibition candidates. While residing in Ohio he was elected to the position of supervisor and at one time declined to run for trustee in the face of the expressed wish of his friends. The religious principles of the subject and his wife are embodied in the creed of the German Baptist church, of which they have for many years been active and influential members. Mr. Neher has continuously

since 1863 held a license to preach and is still deeply interested in the material and spiritual welfare of his church. During his connection with the church in the capacity of a minister he has had pastoral oversight of as many as four charges at one time, though never receiving much compensation. Besides his ministerial labors, he maintained a careful supervision of his farming interests and in all the varied activities of life he has demonstrated a large capacity for hard and consecutive work, both physical and mental. He lives a quiet, peaceable life, consecrated to his fellow man, and his words as well as his example have inspired others to noble deeds and greater activities in right living. To say that Mr. Neher is a good man and upright citizen and a devout Christian is to express a fact of which his neighbors and fellow citizens are fully cognizant. His aim has always been to do the right and it is to such as he our country is indebted for the stability of its institutions and for the large measure of prosperity which it enjoys.

GIFFON SNOW.

The gentleman whose life history is embodied in this review enjoys distinction as an enterprising farmer and successful stock raiser, while his standing as a worthy citizen, with the good of the community ever at heart, is second to that of no other resident of the township in which he lives. Giffon Snow was born on the farm which he now owns and cultivates, August 8, 1865, being the son of Henry and Elizabeth (Booth) Snow, of whom appropriate reference will be found on another page of this

volume. Reared in the country and early taught the lessons of industry and thrift with which the majority of farm lads become familiar, young Snow grew up a sturdy youth, strong in his determination to become an honest and useful man and to make the world better by his presence. His acquaintance with practical life began at an early age and until his eighteenth year he assisted with the labors of the farm and contributed his full share to the maintenance of the family. His educational privileges were such as the district schools afforded and these he attended until his seventeenth year, making the most of his opportunities the meanwhile. At the age of eighteen he entered into partnership with his brother to cultivate the home place, each to receive one-third of the proceeds of their labor, the father furnishing the stock and necessary implements for the prosecution of the work. Subsequently, on the death of the father, the two brothers took the farm on equal shares and in this way continued to run it until the place was divided and each received his part of the heritage.

Mr. Snow prospered as a farmer and in due time was in a situation to set up a domestic establishment of his own; accordingly, on the 3rd day of September, 1892, he was united in marriage with Miss Sarah E. Goodin, daughter of J. D. Goodin, a well known citizen of Chester township. Mrs. Snow was born in Wells county, Indiana, January 21, 1873, and was an infant two weeks old when her mother died. She is a child by her father's first marriage and has two sisters living, viz: Elizabeth, wife of Thomas McGeath, and Nettie, wife of Dillon Hall, her only brother, Madison, dying some years ago. By the second marriage Mr.

Goodin had two children, Lawrence and Herman Goodin.

For about eight months after his marriage Mr. Snow lived on the home farm and during the succeeding year rented the Wilson place in Chester township, which he cultivated with a fair measure of success until again taking up his residence on the old family homestead. He has brought his share of the farm to a high state of tillage, devotes his attention to general agriculture and by industry and successful management has accumulated a sufficiency of this world's goods to place him in very comfortable circumstances. As a breeder of live stock, especially Galloway cattle, he has materially increased his income, as he raises for the market nearly every year quite a number of these animals and always receives for them the highest price which the best grade of cattle commands.

Mr. Snow has voted the Democratic ticket ever since old enough to cast a ballot, but he cannot be called a politician, never stepping aside from his chosen calling to take a very active interest in party affairs. He is a gentleman of quiet, unassuming demeanor, attends strictly to his own business and wherever known has always been unassailable. Honest in all of his dealings and exceedingly sociable in his relations with his fellow men, he is esteemed an excellent neighbor and a loyal friend, and as a citizen no one stands higher or discharges his duty in a more praiseworthy manner. Mr. Snow is an intelligent gentleman and in matters of business is characterized by soundness of judgment which makes his opinions and advice valuable to those who ask for them. Mrs. Snow is a consistent member of the Christian church; while not identified with

any religious organization himself, Mr. Snow has profound respect for sacred things and to the extent of his ability contributed of his means for the moral and spiritual advancement of his kind. He is a liberal provider for his family, believes in using the good things of this world and to this end has supplied his home with many of the conveniences and comforts which make rural life pleasant and desirable. Mr. and Mrs. Snow have one child, Vertner A., who was born on the 6th day of November, 1894.

EDWARD TERHUNE.

Edward Terhune is a son of Garrett and Mary A. Terhune and was born in Miami county, Indiana, January 11, 1854. He attended the common school in district No. 4, Chester township, Wells county, Indiana, until he was eighteen years of age, after which he remained with his father working for his board and clothes until he was twenty-one. He then continued to live with his father, working by the month for about five years. He spent some time in Illinois and in 1878 was in the state of Missouri. June 12, 1879, he was married to Ellen McCullick, a daughter of Henry, Sr., and Susan (Truby) McCullick, and who was born August 29, 1858. The father, Henry, Sr., was a native of Virginia and the mother of the state of Ohio, and they were among the first settlers of Wells county, Indiana. After his marriage the subject remained at home for one year, and then, in the fall of 1880, settled on the farm where he now lives. Then the land was all in the woods, but has now about sixty-five acres of cleared

land. His farm is in the oil field and contains nine very good wells. He is a general stock farmer and breeder, principally of Poland China hogs and shorthorn cattle. He has been on the farm where he now lives since he first settled on it and has devoted his time wholly to his farming interests. He is the father of eight children, seven of whom are living, viz: Edith, born August 13, 1879, married James M. Mitchell, now a resident of Chester township, Wells county; Charlie, born March 21, 1881, died February 26, 1899; Clayton, born December 22, 1882, at home with his parents; William O., born November 1, 1884; Henry, born August 17, 1886; Bertha, born July 27, 1889; Edward R., born December 21, 1893, and Grace, born January 31, 1900.

The subject is the owner of eighty acres of fine farming land and a pleasant country home, where he resides surrounded by all the comforts attending successful farm life. His wife is connected with the Disciples church, to which he is a liberal contributor. He is a member of the Mt. Zion Lodge No. 684, I. O. O. F., also of Oil City Encampment No. 182, at Montpelier, Indiana. He with his wife also belong to Paradise Rebekah Lodge No. 83, at Bluffton, Indiana. He has passed through all the chairs of the subordinate lodge and has twice been a representative to the grand lodge. Mr. Terhune has been a Republican all his life and is an active party worker in all campaigns, national, state and county. The subject of this sketch is a worthy representative of that class who stand midway as it were between the hardy pioneers, who first broke the primeval solitude of our virgin forest with intent to found homes for themselves and posterity in its vast areas, and the

present generation who are so abundantly reaping the fruits of their labors—a class who in their half century of existence have ably supplemented the labors of their predecessors by a continuation of the reclamation of the remaining tracts of forest land, which stood as mute witnesses of the unfinished labor of a passing generation and an invitation to the ambitious and energetic of their sons to carve out for themselves homes beside those of their sires. After availing himself of the common schools, the subject settled on land in the woods and by his own efforts has builded a home which is an honor to himself and a credit to his vicinage. In doing this he has also found time to take an active and intelligent interest in public affairs and a participation in the social amenities as exemplified in the fraternal orders of his locality. He is an active and intelligent citizen, possessing the confidence of his neighbors and with an aptitude for the transaction of public business. All honor to the class of whom Edward Terhune is a worthy representative.

GEORGE W. CAPS.

It is a fact patent to all that the United States can boast of no better or more law-abiding class of citizens than the great number of Germans who have found homes within her borders. Though holding dear and sacred the beloved fatherland, they are none the less devoted to the fair country of their adoption and should necessity require it would be willing to go forth to battle for the maintenance of its institutions. Among this large and highly respected class is the

subject of this sketch, who for a number of years has taken precedence as one of the leading citizens of Harrison township, Wells county, Indiana.

George W. Caps is the son of Christopher and Edna (Wertenberger) Caps and was born at Newsteadt, near Darmstadt, Germany, on the 13th of July, 1825. On the maternal side the subject is descended from several families of France who, because of religious persecution, were driven from that country and settled in Germany. The parents of the subject remained in the fatherland all their lives and there reared a family of six children, of whom George W. was the youngest. The latter was reared in his native land and learned the trade of a barber. In May, 1854, becoming convinced that larger opportunities awaited him in the new world, he emigrated thither and upon landing in New York city at once went to work at his trade, at which he continued for a short time. Subsequently he came to Wells county and worked at the blacksmith trade, being in the employ of his brother for some time. He was energetic and ambitious and when out of regular employment worked at anything he could find to do. For a while he worked at common labor and then for some years was a renter. He went to Allen county and for some time carried on farming operations in connection with his brother. In 1878 he returned to Wells county and purchased the farm on which he now resides and has continued since to operate it with success and financial profit. When he obtained the land it was cleared, but he has erected the present comfortable and commodious buildings and has otherwise in many ways improved the place, until it now stands as one of the best farms for



MRS. GEORGE L. CAPS.



GEORGE L. CAPS.

its size in the township. He has always been a hard-working man, has exercised sound judgment in the management of his business affairs and has been able to save of his means so that today he is considered fairly well off.

In 1855 Mr. Caps was united in marriage with Miss Mary E. Marks, a native also of Germany, and to this union were born nine children, of whom eight still survive, as follows: John E., Rine, Tilla, Lydia, William, Dora, John C., George L. P., Amos died in infancy. Of these children, the following facts are noted: John E., a resident of Kansas City, Missouri, is, in company with three brothers, Rine, William and John C., engaged in the manufacture of printers' special machinery. He married Miss Myrtle Boger and is the father of one son, Joseph E. He also has two daughters by a previous marriage, Maud and Hortense. Rine, of Kansas City, married Miss Bertha Tusterson and they have two children, Arthur and Genevieve. Lydia is the wife of F. W. Paulsen, of Ft. Wayne, who is connected with the Western Gas Company, and they are the parents of three children: Harold, Freddie and Arthur E. William, a resident of Kansas City, wedded Miss Alice Taylor and by her has two children, Donald and Thelma. John C., of Kansas City, who married Miss Florence Fowler, has one son, Dean. Tilla was the wife of Moses Sawyer, deceased, and has one son, William Martin. Dora is the widow of John Ratliff and the mother of three daughters, Alice, Ina and Evelyn. George L. is mentioned at length further on in this review. Religiously George W. Caps has for many years been a member of the German Reformed church and since residing in this country has affili-

ated with the Democratic party in politics. He received a thorough education in his native tongue and is well read and thoroughly informed on all the leading questions of the day, taking at all times a keen interest in all things affecting the best interests of the community or nation.

George L. Caps, son of the gentleman whose name forms the caption of this article, was reared upon the home place and in the common school received a fair education. He was early taught the secrets of successful agriculture and all his life has remained at home. He is now operating the farm and by the exercise of sound judgment, wise management and a thorough understanding of the advanced methods of agriculture has achieved a pronounced success in his calling. He is well known among the people of Harrison township and has won for himself a legion of warm personal friends who esteem him for his personal worth.

For a helpmate on life's journey Mr. Caps chose Miss Louisa Linn, the daughter of Levi and Caroline Linn, and to them have been born two daughters, Gladys and Helen. In politics he is a firm and uncompromising Democrat, ready at all times to defend his honest convictions on all matters affecting the public welfare. Religiously he is a faithful and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, belonging to the congregation at Bethel. He is at present one of the trustees of his church and at the time of the erection of the present handsome brick structure he took an active interest in its building and was one of the most liberal contributors towards its erection. He has served as superintendent of the Sunday school and in many other ways has shown a keen interest in the success of the various

church activities. His methods are in keeping with the progressive spirit of the twentieth century and his present prosperity is a monument to his thrift and well-directed efforts. He is a man of broad humanitarian principles, of earnest purpose and upright life, is widely known and is esteemed by all for his genuine worth.

EDGAR C. WILLIAMS.

Prominent among the successful farmers and stock raisers of Wells county is Edgar C. Williams, who was born in the township of Nottingham on the 10th day of February, 1862. His father was Thomas Williams, a native of West Virginia, and his mother, who bore the maiden name of Mary A. Taylor, was born in Old Virginia. These parents were taken to Ohio when quite young and grew to maturity in that state, marrying near the town of Bell Brook, Warren county. There Thomas Williams engaged in farming, but three years after his marriage moved to Wells county, Indiana, settling in March, 1856, on the farm now owned and occupied by the subject. His original purchase was wholly timber land and when he reached the site of his future home the snow lay twenty inches deep on the ground and a more gloomy and uninviting prospect than that which greeted the newcomers would be difficult to imagine. He selected his place some time previous to the above date and erected thereon a log cabin, eighteen by twenty-four feet in size, the floor of which consisted of rough boards made with a whip-saw. Mr. Williams and family occupied this humble dwelling for three

years, during which time he cleared a goodly portion of his land besides making a number of other improvements. At the expiration of the third year he changed his abode to what is known as the Whiteman farm, consisting of four hundred acres which he rented during the ten years following, returning at the end of that time to his own place where he continued to reside until his death, on the 15th day of July, 1897, at the age of seventy-nine. Mrs. Williams preceded her husband to the silent land by nearly twenty years, departing this life on the 15th of June, 1877, when fifty-four years old. Seven children were born to this excellent couple, three of whom are living at this time, namely: John, a farmer and stock raiser of Nottingham township; James F., also a resident of Nottingham township, and Edgar, whose name introduces this review. The deceased members of the family were Eliza, wife of Solomon Shoemaker, Thomas C. and Theodore, twins, and Eber.

The early life of Edgar C. Williams was similar in most respects to that of the general run of country boys, having been devoted to labor in the woods and fields in the summer time and to study in the district schools of winter seasons. His first educational experience was in the school at Domestic, which he attended at intervals until his twentieth year, and it is but just to state that he made commendable progress and became a good practical scholar. Reared on the farm, he early learned the equally, if not more valuable, lessons of industry, thrift and self-reliance, so that before attaining his majority he found himself in a situation to support and properly care for a companion on life's journey. On the 25th day of February, 1882, he was joined in wedlock with

Miss Susannah Sawyer, a native of Nottingham township and daughter of Beniville and Sarah (Reiff) Sawyer, natives of Pennsylvania who came to Wells county about the year 1865. After his marriage Mr. Williams rented the home farm, which he cultivated with his father's assistance until the latter's death. He received two-thirds of the proceeds of the place and made a home for his father as long as he lived, looking carefully after his interests and ministering to his necessities and comfort with the most earnest and loving consideration.

Mr. Williams now owns eighty-five acres of the old homestead which he has brought to a successful state of tillage, and since taking possession of the same he has devoted his time and attention to agriculture and stock raising with handsome financial results. He raises fine varieties of short-horn cattle and the Poland China breed of swine and of recent years has given considerable attention to thoroughbred Shropshire sheep, which he raises and sells solely for breeding purposes. His reputation as a sheep raiser is second to that of no other stock raiser in the county and such is the high repute of his animals that there is always a much larger demand for them than he can possibly supply. As a general farmer he easily ranks with the most enterprising and successful men of his part of the county, as the condition of his buildings, fences, finely cultivated fields and other accessories abundantly attest.

Mr. Williams has not failed to reap his share of the benefits resulting from the discovery of oil in this part of Indiana; his farm lies in one of the best producing fields of the county and from the six wells which have been drilled thereon he receives no in-

considerable part of his income. He is deeply interested in this large and growing industry and hopes, with every reason of fulfillment, for still greater financial returns at no distant day.

Mr. Williams is a progressive, wide-awake man of the times, and takes a pardonable pride in the advancement of his township and county along agricultural and industrial lines. He is an excellent neighbor and a praiseworthy citizen, assists to the extent of his ability all enterprises having for their object the moral and social welfare of his community and is invariably found on the right side of every question or issue of any public moment. In politics he is a Republican on state and national issues, but when it comes to matters of a purely local nature he generally votes for the man instead of obeying the dictates of party leadership. Mr. Williams is a firm believer in the revealed religion of the Bible and wishes to be known simply as a Christian or Disciple. Firmly convinced that the sacred scriptures are sufficient as a rule of faith and practice without the aid of man-made creeds or statements of doctrine, he united with the Christian church and is now one of the most active and influential members of the congregation worshipping at the village of Domestic. He has served as deacon for a number of years and is an ardent worker in the Sunday school, where his services have been utilized both as teacher and official. He has also held the position of trustee ever since the present house of worship was erected and in this as in other capacities proves his value and efficiency as a loyal disciple of the Christ.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams are the parents of one child, a daughter by the name of

Amanda, who was born December 15, 1883; she is now the wife of Peter Coffman and the mother of two children, Leona P. and Lenora. Mr. Coffman is a prosperous farmer and at the present time manages his father-in-law's place. Mrs. Williams was born in Nottingham township on the 2nd day of November, 1862, and is one of the eight children comprising the family of Beniville and Sarah Sawyer, to whom reference is made in a preceding paragraph. The names of her brothers and sisters are as follows: Emeline, wife of Jerry French; George; John; Amanda, wife of Benjamin Green; David, Noah, and Eliza, now Mrs. Edward Baker. Mrs. and Mr. Sawyer moved from Wells county to Kansas in 1885 and after living four years in that state changed their residence to Carthage, Missouri; where Mr. Sawyer spent the remainder of his days and where his widow still resides.

ALBERT E. TERHUNE.

Wells county is proud to number among its enterprising farmers and progressive men of affairs the well known and highly esteemed gentleman to a brief review of whose life and achievements the reader's attention is here directed. Albert E. Terhune is a native of Miami county, Indiana, and the son of Garrett and Mary Ann (Davison) Terhune, the father born in Kentucky and the mother in the state of Pennsylvania. The maiden name of Mrs. Terhune was Davison. She was brought to Indiana when young, as was also Mr. Terhune, and their marriage was solemnized a number of years ago in the county of Wells.

Subsequently they removed to Miami county and after living for some time in that part of the state, returned to Wells and located on the place now owned by William Terhune, where they spent the remainder of their lives, Mrs. Terhune dying November 27, 1900, and her husband on the 23rd of April, 1898. They reared a family of five children, all but one still living, the subject of this sketch being the first born; the others are Edward, a farmer of Chester township, this county; Elizabeth, the wife of Peter Speece, of Wells county; Alice, deceased, was the wife of Robert Murray, and William, who, as stated above, owns and cultivates the family homestead in Chester township.

Albert E. Terhune was born on the 22nd day of July, 1851, in Miami county, Indiana, and at the age of nine years was taken by his parents to Illinois. After spending two and a half years in that state, the family returned to Indiana and settled on a farm near McCullick Ford, Wells county, and it was on this place that the subject grew from youth to young manhood. Mr. Terhune's first educational experience was in Miami county and later he attended three terms of school in the state of Illinois. After moving to Wells county he continued his studies in the winter time until about twenty years old, attending his last term at the Five Point school house in Chester township. On attaining his majority Mr. Terhune worked as a farm hand during the greater part of one year and then returned home for the purpose of looking after his parents' interests. He remained with his father until about twenty-five years of age, when he took to himself a companion and helpmeet in the person of Miss Susan Jones, the ceremony

by which the two were made husband and wife being solemnized on the 28th day of December, 1876. Mrs. Terhune was born in Wells county, August 8, 1858, the daughter of Isaac and Sarah (Huffman) Jones, natives of Ohio and early settlers of Jackson township, this county, where they are still living. Isaac Jones came to Indiana when Wells county was a wilderness and took an active part in the material development of the country; he reared a family of ten children, whose names are as follows: Susan, wife of the subject of this sketch; Mary, wife of Ira Brown; Daniel; Eliza, now Mrs. Jacob Sills; Mary C. married W. O. Terhune; Nora, wife of Charles Stinson; Amy, wife of O. F. White; Ella, who married J. A. Alespaugh, and Minnie, who became the wife of Willard Grover.

Immediately following his marriage, Mr. Terhune settled on a part of his father's place and during the succeeding three years followed agricultural pursuits there with gratifying results, at the expiration of that period moving to the Shull place, where he lived about the same length of time. He then cleared up a tract of wood and swamp land in Chester township on which no improvements worth mentioning had been made and addressed himself to the task of clearing away the timber and draining the parts too wet for tillage. To redeem this land and transform it into one of the finest and most productive farms in Chester township required a prodigious amount of hard labor, but in due time the forest disappeared and what was originally a wilderness of miry swamp and marsh is now the richest of black loam soil, producing abundantly all the grain and vegetable crops grown in this latitude. Mr. Terhune has good substantial

buildings on his place, fine fences and everything pertaining to the premises indicating the home of an intelligent, progressive farmer who keeps in touch with modern agricultural methods.

In addition to the income from his crops and the fine grades of live stock which he raises, Mr. Terhune realizes considerable money each year from the four producing oil wells on his farm, his place lying in one of the richest oil districts of Indiana. In all that constitutes the enterprising, up-to-date farmer, the true and loyal citizen, the subject of this review is the peer of any resident of the county; he maintains an abiding interest in whatever concerns the welfare of the community, takes an active part in its material and moral development and is ever ready to lend his influence or aid in a more substantial way any movements with these objects in view. He is a member of Odd Fellows Lodge No. 684 at Mt. Zion, having filled all the chairs in the same, besides representing the organization in the grand lodge during the session of 1898. In politics he has always been a Republican and in religion his belief is in accord with the plain, simple teachings of the Christian church. He and wife have been identified with this communion for a number of years and are among the most zealous members of the congregation to which they belong.

Mr. and Mrs. Terhune have had twelve children, of whom nine are living at this time, namely: Cora, born June 15, 1879, is the wife of Irvin West and the mother of one child, Ota; Isaac, whose birth occurred August 10, 1881, lives on the home farm; Della was born March 10, 1883, married James Hunnicutt and has one daughter, Ethel N.; Ada A. was born October 6, 1885,

and is the wife of George C. Neff; Daniel E. was born on the 8th day of April, 1887; Lela E., May 20, 1890; Ethel, March 15, 1892; Effie G., August 28, 1892; Ora, born on the 1st of April, 1894, and Gladys, the baby, aged four years. The names of those deceased are Homer, born August 12, 1888, died June 13, 1899; Nora H., born February 12, 1896, and died September 14, 1897.

LOUIS A. NUTTER.

One of the prosperous and steadily thriving farmers of Wells county, Indiana, is Louis A. Nutter, who is also largely engaged in stock breeding, especially hogs. Mr. Nutter was born in Hocking county, Ohio, December 9, 1848, and is a son of Levi and Sarah A. (Martin) Nutter.

Levi Nutter, a native of Virginia, was a boy when he came to the Buckeye state with his widowed mother, and there he grew to manhood and met and married Miss Sarah A., daughter of Patrick and Cynthia Martin, and reared near Canton. Levi went to housekeeping on a farm in Hocking county, where he lived about ten years, and then came to Wells county, Indiana, and entered eighty acres of land in Nottingham township. Two years later he returned to Hocking county, where he passed the remainder of his life, and at his death left his widow with nine children, named as follows: Cynthia A., a widow now residing in Nottingham township; Margaret, wife of Thomas Dyson, of Athens county, Ohio; Melissa, wife of George Dyson, of Nottingham township, Wells county, Indiana; Louis A., the subject proper of this sketch; Lydia,

wife of Elijah Dyson, of Athens county, Ohio; Levi D., a resident of Reiffsburg, Indiana; Charles M., deceased; Calista Slocum, of Grant county, Indiana, and Jane, wife of Robert Kennedy, of Dixonton, Ohio.

Louis A. Nutter attended the public schools and lived with his father until twenty-one years old and then began coal mining, at which he worked eleven years, during which period he married and located in Hocking county, Ohio. While mining he accumulated sufficient money to enable him to purchase a tract of eighty acres of farming land in Nottingham township, Wells county, Indiana, a portion of which was cleared. This land had belonged to an uncle, from whom Mr. Nutter purchased it, but at the death of this uncle it was discovered that the title was clouded and he lost his land, which is now owned by the Rhea family. Mr. Nutter, however, filed a claim against the estate of William Nutter and was awarded the eighty-acre tract on which he now lives, and to which he has since added twenty acres and now owns one hundred acres, all in one body. Of this property he took possession in 1881, and in 1890 erected a very handsome dwelling and an excellent barn in 1901. He gives a great deal of his attention to the breeding of Duroc hogs and red polled cattle, as well as Oxford Down sheep, and feeds his corn mostly to his hogs.

Louis A. Nutter was united in marriage in Hocking county, Ohio, June 11, 1874, with Miss Louisa Burgess, who was born in Wells county, Indiana, August 20, 1856, and is a daughter of Henson and Catherine (Haines) Burgess, the latter deceased. The Burgess family were old settlers of Adams county, Ohio, but Henson is now a resident

of Hocking county. At the time they located in Wells county, Indiana, Bluffton contained one or two houses only, and Mr. Burgess maintained himself and family as a professional deer hunter. To Mr. and Mrs. Burgess were born ten children, viz: Mary, Gabe, Richard (deceased), John (deceased), Philemon, Mark, Emanuel, George, Lavina and Louisa (now Mrs. Nutter). To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Nutter have been born seven children, viz: Charles, deceased; Stella M., married to Allen Spoeheger, and now residing in Harrison township; Brenton F., at home; Bertram, deceased; Gardner, deceased; Alva H. and Luta V. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Reiffsburg and Mr. Nutter is a member of Lodge No. 752, I. O. O. F., at Poneto, in which he was initiated in 1873. He has filled all the chairs of his lodge and has twice represented it in the grand lodge. In politics Mr. Nutter is a Democrat and takes an active part in the work of his party locally, and in society circles he and wife stand very high.

JOHN A. ALSPACH.

John A. Alspach first saw the light of day in Jackson township, Wells county, Indiana, March 10, 1869. He is a son of Daniel Alspach, a native of Perry county, Ohio, who came to Wells county with his parents, Amos and Elizabeth Alspach, natives of Ohio, when he was twenty-one years of age. Amos, the grandfather of the subject, is still living at the ripe old age of eighty-five years. Daniel Alspach died May 2, 1893. His wife, Henrietta, a daughter

of Reason and Catherine Bevington, natives of Ohio, was born in Wells county and is still living. Daniel Alspach was the father of four children, all of whom are living: John A., subject of this sketch; Asa B., an oil pumper in Jackson township; Orval, an oil pumper in Blackford county; Daniel A., at home.

John A. Alspach attended the public schools in Jackson township until he was fifteen and remained with his father until he was twenty-one years of age. April 18, 1888, he was married to Sarah E. Jones, born in 1870, a daughter of Isaac and Sallie Jones, both of whom are yet living. After his marriage the subject settled on the Abigail Shadle farm in Chester township where he remained for one season, then locating on Daniel Jones' farm in Jackson township, on which he remained for two years. He then moved on to Jane Bevington's farm in Jackson township which he cultivated for two years, when he removed to his mother's farm, remaining there until April, 1900. He then gave up farming and began as a pumper for the Ohio Oil Company on the G. Terhune lease. He is the father of five children, four of whom are still living: Delphos E., born May 2, 1890, died December 29, 1890; Fred H., born December 29, 1896; Raymond E., born January 3, 1898; Mabel D., born June 19, 1899, and Nelson D., born November 7, 1891.

Politically Mr. Alspach is an ardent Republican, and during the campaign times, like a war horse, he "sniffs the battle from afar" and when the contest rages he is in his element and by his efforts for the success of his party does honor to his early teaching.

The subject has the proud honor of being the son of a veteran of the Civil war,

his father, Daniel Alspach, having enlisted soon after the beginning of hostilities in that splendid fighting regiment, the Forty-seventh Indiana, and was connected with it all through its glorious history of fifty-two months of arduous service for our country. Like thousands of others, he contracted disabilities in the service and his constitution was shattered, from the effects of which he died of consumption. John A. Alspach is a representative of the class which constitutes the bone and sinew of the country. Educated in the common schools and inheriting from a patriotic sire a hardy constitution and an innate love of his country's institutions, he has the brawn and muscle to wrest a livelihood either as a cultivator of the soil or as a member of the great army of workers in the industries of the country, coupled with the mental capacity and inclination to a participation in the political activities which shape and determine our civic status in the sisterhood of states.

LOUIS G. LANCASTER.

Weak and futile is the effort of parents of foreign birth to keep their children as zealously German, Scandinavian, Bohemian, Italian or other nationality as they themselves are. The first generation that comes across the water herd to themselves and may influence to some extent the first generation born in America, but even the first generation is as intensely American as the Daughters of the Revolution. The average citizen of the United States, tracing back his family history, is surprised to discover how much German, Irish, Scotch, English and

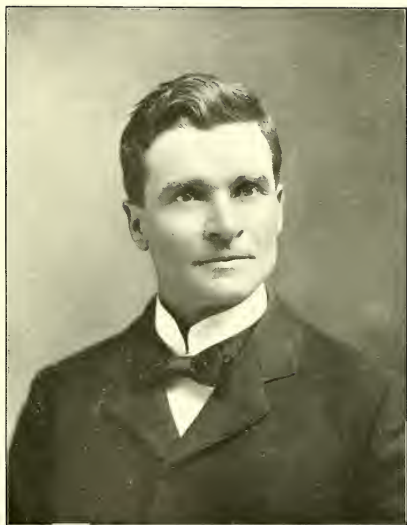
other blood it takes to make one good American. Louis G. Lancaster, the subject of this sketch, is just such an American. He is a resident of Keystone, Chester township, Wells county, Indiana, and in that township he was born on October 28, 1863, the son of Nathan and Mary (Starr) Lancaster.

The paternal grandparents of Louis G. Lancaster were John and Ruth (Shields) Lancaster. She was of Irish parentage and was born in Virginia. He was born near Lebanon, Warren county, Ohio, and was of English-Scotch ancestry, being, it is said, a descendant of the house of Lancaster which figured so prominently in English history, particularly during the wars of the Roses. In 1833 John and Ruth Lancaster settled in Grant county, Indiana, about where the soldiers' home is now located, the following year went to housekeeping, and in 1836 moved to a point near where Van Buren now stands. In the fall of 1837 they settled in Wells county, purchasing the land which is now owned and occupied by Nathan Lancaster, father of the subject. In 1890 John and Ruth Lancaster moved to Hartford City, and there resided until his death, June 29, 1900. His widow still lives, at the age of eighty-seven years, making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Miranda Cox. The subject had, a few years ago, his four grandparents all living, the youngest of them being eighty-four years of age.

Benjamin and Matilda (Popejoy) Starr, the maternal grandparents of Louis G. Lancaster, were Virginians by birth, but were among the earliest settlers of Wells county. He was born December 27, 1814, and died January 20, 1899; his wife was born December 6, 1814, and died July 29,



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LOUIS LANCASTER.

1898. From a very small beginning they were quite prosperous and successful. The best years of their lives were spent in Wells county and there they remained until their deaths.

Nathan Lancaster, father of Louis G., was born in Van Buren township, Grant county, Indiana, October 25, 1836, and grew to manhood in Wells county. December 18, 1862, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Starr, a native of Wells county, born February 5, 1837. Their home was on a tract of land, eighty acres, which he purchased of his father, and they cleared it, improved it and made a farm of it, and this has been the home place ever since. They are now owners of five hundred and ninety acres of land, all in Chester township, of which two hundred and forty acres constitute the home place. To Nathan and Mary (Starr) Lancaster seven children were born, viz: Louis G., the subject of this sketch; Harvey B. received a liberal education and followed teaching for two years; Jennie L., wife of George A. Mason, a lawyer of Montpelier, Indiana, taught school a number of terms early in life; John E. died at the age of twenty-six years; Matilda E. died at the age of seven years; an infant died unnamed soon after birth; Orley L., who still makes his home with his parents, is a teacher of much success and considerable prominence.

Louis G. Lancaster grew to manhood in Chester township, Wells county, attended the public schools until he was eighteen years of age and profited well by his opportunities. He attended the normal four terms and studied under the instruction of Professors P. A. Allen, W. H. Ernst and Samuel McCrea. He began teaching at the age of eighteen and continued as an edu-

cator for eight years. All those years he was devoting what time he could spare from his duties in the school room to the assistance of his father on the farm. On July 3, 1887, he was united in marriage to Miss Sarah S. Williams, who was born March 4, 1864. She was a daughter of Andrew B. and Mary (Bugh) Williams, both natives of Ohio, and early settlers of Blackford county, Indiana. The mother, who was born September 24, 1834, died November 29, 1874, when Mary, the daughter and wife of the subject, was only ten years of age, the father, who was born October 6, 1822, dying on the 8th of October, 1881. They were the parents of ten children, viz: Henry, deceased; Joseph resides in Blackford county; Oliver is a resident of Blackford county; Jennie, wife of Scott Swartz, of Newton, Kansas; Sarah, wife of the subject; Andrew B., a resident of Chester township; Mary, the wife of Charles McGeath; Emma, deceased; James, deceased.

After marriage the young couple went to housekeeping on his father's home place, but remained there only one year. They then took up their abode at Montpelier, where he engaged in teaching, but subsequently they moved to their present home. When this land was purchased by them it was wild, heavily timbered and wholly unimproved, but it is all cleared now, excepting ten acres which is reserved for timber. On it Mr. Lancaster has dug all necessary ditches, built fences and the place is splendidly cultivated. There are four producing oil wells on the place, yielding about a tank a month.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis G. Lancaster are the parents of four children, viz: Mary Pearl, born April 6, 1889; Grace, born November

15, 1892; and infant daughter who died unnamed; an infant son, born May 20, 1902. The parents are members of the Friends church of Keystone, Indiana, and are active in church as well as in all other works. He is a member of and has filled all the chairs in Lodge No. 410, I. O. O. F., at Montpelier, having joined the order in 1883. In politics he is a Republican and is always sufficiently interested in the success of his party to take part in the campaigns as they come around. He has served as delegate in many conventions, county, district and state, and has seldom failed to make his influence felt upon the proceedings. In 1900 he was commissioned a census taker and discharged the duties of the office with promptness and efficiency.

General farming and stock raising is the business which Mr. Lancaster follows. He always aims to keep sufficient stock on his premises to consume the crops, Poland China hogs, Shropshire sheep and shorthorn cattle being the breeds he prefers on his place. His personal property, at a fair valuation, amounts to not less than twelve hundred dollars. He is a man of bright intellect, acknowledged ability and, being still young in years, gives promise of a future of which his relatives and friends will be proud.

DAVID OCHSEN RIDER.

One of the thriving native-born farmers and successful educators of Wells county, Indiana, is David Ochsenrider, who is just entering upon the prime of life. He was born November 15, 1854, on the farm which he now owns and occupies in Nottingham

township, a son of Elias and Mary A. (Britegam) Ochsenrider, the former of whom was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, December 14, 1825, and the latter also a native of the Keystone state.

When Elias Ochsenrider was still a young man he sought a home further west, locating in Fairfield county, Ohio, where he met and married Miss Britegam. He was engaged in farming until about 1846, when he came to Indiana and bought eighty acres of land from the McClish Brothers in Nottingham township, Wells county. Three houses had already been erected on this land, one of which was utilized as a school house, but there had been but three acres cleared off; however, Elias and his sons cleared up the whole place, with the exception of six acres on which a grove was left standing. On this new farm Mrs. Mary A. Ochsenrider passed the remainder of her life, and there Elias still resides at the age of seventy-seven years and is being filially cared for by his son David.

To Elias and Mary A. Ochsenrider were born nine children, namely: John H., a resident of Nottingham township; William, living in Tazewell county, Illinois; Sarah A., deceased wife of Thomas Lyons, of Kansas; Jacob, in Bluffton, Wells county, Indiana; David; Abraham, of Grant county, Indiana; Emma, who was married to Joseph Reaser, but is now deceased; Lavina, who died at the age of twelve years, and a daughter who died in infancy.

David Ochsenrider was educated in the district schools of Nottingham township, Wells county, primarily, and attended them until he was eighteen years of age, and then attended for two terms in the public schools of Bluffton. He then attended a normal

school taught by Prof. Goodwin, a Baptist clergyman and the county superintendent of education, after which he taught two consecutive terms at the home school in Nottingham township, and the next year served as school trustee and while acting as trustee taught in Harrison township. During the summer months Mr. Ochsenrider worked on the farm, except for two summers, which he spent in Poneto, conducting an ice cream parlor and a barber shop. In the spring of 1894 he taught his last term of school, and since then has devoted his time to farming and threshing.

Mr. Ochsenrider was married April 28, 1875, to Miss Sarah M. Foust, a native of Madison county, Indiana, born May 25, 1856, and a daughter of Israel and Elizabeth Foust, natives of Pennsylvania. After marriage Mr. Ochsenrider settled on the old home place, on which he has since lived with the exception of the two years spent in Poneto. To Mr. and Mrs. Ochsenrider have been born eleven children, to-wit: Elias, who married Lillie Leist and now resides in Montpelier, Indiana; William, who married Theress M. Kreps and resides on D. Ochsenrider's farm; Mary, deceased; Martha, at home; Clara, also at home and a teacher in Nottingham township; Johnnie, deceased; Levia, at home, as are also Lillie, Sherman, Dessie and Flossie.

Mr. Ochsenrider is a member of Lodge No. 752, I. O. O. F., of Poneto, and in politics is a Democrat. He has been honored by his party by being elected constable; next, trustee of Nottingham township; in 1898 he was appointed truant officer for one term, and was then elected county commissioner from district No. 3, for a term of three years, and has always been very popular with his

party and with his people in general. As a commissioner he at present is exercising his influence with the board to induce it to erect an orphans' home for the county.

ELI C. BIERIE.

Versatility is said to be one of the first requisities of genius. Many a man has been considered versatile in one or more callings and hence laid claim to be considered a genius. The genius of Napoleon is generally conceded. He was versatile, but his versatility was almost wholly confined to planning military movements, the winning of the battles and the subjugation of those rulers who incurred his displeasure or did not readily yield obedience to his dictation. Phillips says of Napoleon, "He was through all his vicissitudes the same indomitable, inflexible self—the man without a model and without a shadow." Of Oliver Goldsmith, the poet, historian and dramatist, Dr. Johnson said: "He left no species of literature untouched and touched nothing that he did not adorn." There is no doubt that he was a genius, whose versatility was amply demonstrated.

But true genius, indeed a better and more unquestionable type of genius, may be and often is displayed in the humbler walks of life. The man who can turn his hand to almost any calling may be a genius, but of this class the man who makes a success of all things to which he turns his hand is the real genius. Such a man is the subject of this sketch, Eli C. Bierie, an honored and well respected citizen of Bluffton, Indiana. Though still comparatively young, during

his brief business career he has engaged in something like a dozen different lines of business. He has also been a farmer, meat dealer, general merchant, postmaster, notary public, undertaker and minister. In each and all of these various lines those who know him best will testify that he not only acquitted himself most creditably, but that in the pursuit of each he demonstrated a familiarity with the requirements that would require years of patient study from most men to acquire conception of. Success in any calling is to make it remunerative. Measured by this standard, the success of Mr. Bierie in every line of business he has thus far undertaken is beyond cavil or dispute.

Eli C. Bierie was born in Nottingham township, Wells county, Indiana, June 28, 1867. He is the son of Christian and Anna (Sutter) Bierie. Christian Bierie was born June 25, 1820, in Switzerland, and died November 10, 1899, near Domestic, Indiana, at the advanced age of seventy-nine years, four months and ten days. Mr. Bierie came to this country when but four years of age, his parents settling in Wayne county, Ohio, where he grew to manhood, and was married at the age of twenty-eight years to Anna Sutter. About this time he removed to Indiana and settled in Adams county. Later he removed to Wells county, where he was among the early settlers of the county. Seventeen years ago Mr. Bierie's companion was taken from him by death, after having brought up a family of fifteen children, six of whom have since died. Nine children remain, four daughters and five sons. They are John, Anna, Abraham, Mary, Emanuel, Sarah, Susanna, Eli C. and Jacob. John resides on the old home place; Mary is the

wife of Marion Shinn; Emanuel lives in Nottingham township, Wells county; Sarah is the wife of Earnest Heche, a carpenter and joiner at Bluffton; Susanna is the wife of Fred Blocher and Jacob resides in Nottingham township. All are prosperous and well-to-do citizens who are highly respected for their worth and integrity. There also survive twenty-one grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

The opportunities for acquiring an education were not as plentiful away back in the 'seventies here in Indiana as they are today. Eli C. Bierie attended the district schools of his township year after year until he was sixteen, that comprising the full extent of the education he received. At that time his services upon the farm were very much in demand. Reluctantly he relinquished his books and turned to the multiplicity of duties always waiting the busy hand of the industrious agriculturist. For the next four years he devoted his entire time to the work of the farm, pursuing his labors with that penetration, intelligence and good judgment that has characterized his work in all the various callings he has undertaken to pursue.

October 28, 1887, Mr. Bierie was married to Miss Elizabeth Beeler, the daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Ashlaucher) Beeler and born April 30, 1870. The mother of Mrs. Bierie is dead, but her father still lives, one of the respected patriarchs of Harrison township. Soon after their marriage Mr. Bierie and his bride settled in Linn Grove, where for two years he very successfully conducted a meat market. Considering the place too circumscribed and his business not sufficiently abundant in opportunities, the family moved to Domestic

where Mr. Bierie opened up a general store. In connection therewith he became postmaster, was appointed notary public, engaged in conveying, drafting contracts, writing oil leases and such other work as is usually done in that particular line. Besides this, he was the undertaker of the locality.

From away back in ante bellum days Wells county has been considered hopelessly Democratic. The result of each successive election was considered fully and completely determined when the Democratic county convention had expressed its choice of candidates. Occasionally strifes, dissensions and soreness in the ranks of the opposition inspired a little hope in the breasts of the Republicans that they might elect at least a part of their county ticket, but the result was always the same—solidly Democratic. In 1898, in casting about for some one to lead the forelorn hope of the Republicans as a candidate for county treasurer, the eyes of the party leaders were at once centered upon Eli C. Bierie, and after some persuasion he was induced to accept the nomination. The canvass that followed was warm, even to the boiling point, but it resulted in the triumphant election of Mr. Bierie, the first Republican ever elected to that office in that county. His administration of the office, like all of his other undertakings, was all that could be desired. Having disposed of his mercantile business on becoming a county official, he invested his funds in a well improved farm of one hundred acres of fine land, all under cultivation except a sugar orchard of twelve acres that is so well cared for and managed that it is a delight to look upon.

At the end of his term, when relieved of the cares, responsibilities and confinement of

official life, he felt the necessity of outdoor exercise, hence he engaged for a time as a traveling salesman for Cline & Zimmer, extensive implement dealers of Bluffton. In this vocation, also, success crowned his efforts, but being quite domestic in his tastes the days and nights spent away from home and family became very distasteful to him. After one season he gave up the business and moved his family to the farm, where they have taken up their abode and give attention to the rearing of pure bred stock. Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs are favorites with him. At present it is his intention to take up the undertaking business at his farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Bierie are the parents of three bright, interesting little daughters: Orilla Pearl was born April 28, 1888; Glena Leona, April 18, 1890, and Florence Alice, February 9, 1893. The family is connected with the Methodist Episcopal church, of which denomination Mr. Bierie was the local minister at Bluffton, but is now a member of Salem Evangelical church. He is also a member of the board of directors of the State Sunday School Association, and district president of the association for the counties of Wells, Adams, Huntington and Allen. He is an active member of Lodge No. 683, I. O. O. F., of Linn Grove, a member of Encampment No. 114, of Bluffton and a zealous Knight of Pythias of the same place. He and his wife are members of the Rebekahs and she belongs to the Rathbone Sisters, of Bluffton. From 1900 to 1902 Mr. Bierie was president of the Wells County Sunday School Association.

From the foregoing it may readily be inferred that Eli C. Bierie is one of those

who has lived and is living a life that may well be characterized as strenuous. The ardor with which he enters upon all of his undertakings bespeaks for each of them most gratifying success. Always ardent, never half hearted, when he once decides upon the course to be pursued, there is no letting up or slowing down until the design has been fully and completely accomplished. The story of his life is a lesson to the youth of the land, a practical illustration of what may be accomplished by pluck, perseverance and energy, when properly directed and controlled by intelligent discernment.

In connection with this sketch the following extract referring to the life and death of Mrs. Elizabeth Beeler will be of undoubted interest:

Mrs. Elizabeth Beeler, nee Ashbaucher, wife of Daniel Beeler, died at their home two and one-half miles south of Vera Cruz. For almost seven months she had suffered severely and during that time underwent an operation for an abscess, but found little relief. Her demise was due to a complication of diseases which finally developed into dropsy.

Mrs. Beeler was born near Berne, Switzerland, October 18, 1842, and in 1855, when thirteen years old, came with her parents to America. They first settled in Wayne county, Ohio, and moved to Adams county, Indiana, in 1866. In 1868 she was united in marriage to Daniel Beeler and lived on their farm, near Kreps, until her death. To this union were born seven daughters and one son, Mesdames Minerva Studabaker, Ida Studabaker, Elizabeth Bierle, Mary Boyd, and Nancy Huffman, Misses Emma and Lillie Beeler, and Edward Beeler, all of whom, with the husband, remain to mourn her departure. The Ashbaucher brothers of this city are brothers of the deceased. She leaves six brothers, three sisters, nine grandchildren and a large number of relatives and friends. Her father and mother have preceded her to the spirit land. When but a girl she united with the Reformed church in Wayne county, Ohio, and later transferred her membership to the First Reformed church of Vera

Cruz, and remained a faithful member until her death. She loved her church as she loved her home.

Mrs. Beeler endured her long sickness with great patience and fortitude and was never heard to complain during her most intense suffering. A short time before her death she called her family to her side and bade each good-bye, imprinting the kiss of love and affection of a wife and mother on the lips of each. The children were asked to take good care of their father and live right so that they might meet her in the heavenly world. Soon afterward she sank into unconsciousness and peacefully passed to her rest in heaven. As a neighbor she was beloved by all who knew her, being at all times in perfect peace and harmony with them. No one knew her but to love her and she loved her family as her own life.

PETER SCHOTT.

The war of the Rebellion left its impress deep and lasting upon the life of many a youth who, when it broke out, was yet in his teens. The call to arms found tens of thousands only too ready to respond. For the first time in their lives they found themselves no longer restrained by parental control. Rigid military discipline held them in check to some extent, but it did not prevent many from contracting dissolute and profligate habits, of which some have not been able to divest themselves even unto this day. Few, indeed, were as fortunate in this as Peter Schott, now of Domestic, Indiana, who entered the service when only nineteen years of age and who followed the fortunes of war until peace once more reigned throughout the land.

George and Margaretta (Bowman) Schott were the parents of Peter Schott, the subject of this sketch. They were natives of Byron, Germany, but emigrated to America

early in life and located in New York city, where they were married. Soon after they moved to Logan county, Ohio, where their children were born and where they continued to reside until they took up their permanent residence in Lorain county. September 20, 1844, the eyes of Peter Schott first looked upon the light of day. At the new home of his parents in Lorain county he grew to manhood, attending the public schools of the locality and acquiring a fair education in all of the common school branches then taught. In December, 1863, he enlisted in Company D, One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Regiment Ohio Volunteers, and served faithfully until the close of the rebellion. Occasional attacks of inflammatory rheumatism, which come around with recurring frequency as age advances, are the only ill-effects he experiences of the service he rendered his country during the days of her peril, when her destiny was poised, as it were, in a balance.

For the first three years after leaving the United States service Peter Schott occupied himself with the usual labors on the father's farm. Then, in company with his brother George, who had been a soldier in the same regiment, he located on a tract of land in the dense woods of Wells county, each taking eighty of the one hundred and sixty acres comprising the tract. While George attended to the clearing, improving and cultivating of the land, Peter devoted himself to carpentering and building, a calling in which he had become skilled during and after the war, his earnings furnishing the brothers with the means necessary to procure provisions and other supplies. By this arrangement the land was gradually cleared, ditched, fenced and greatly enhanced in value.

October 25, 1868, Peter Schott was united in marriage to Martha Watson, who was born April 25, 1847. She is the daughter of John M. and Eleanor (Winfield) Watson. They are natives of Ohio, but moved to Wells county, Indiana, when their daughter Martha was only a year old, settling upon a farm on which their son John now resides. Eleven children were born to John M. and Eleanor Watson, viz: Mary J., William, Lawrence, Mark, Sarah E., Martha Ann, John R., Thomas, George, Amanda, Elizabeth and John. Of these, Mary J., William, Sarah E., John R. and Thomas are dead.

At the time of their marriage only about twelve acres of the eighty-acre tract of land which they owned was cleared. A log cabin, eighteen by twenty-four feet, was built, a short distance south of the one owned by his brother George. Here the young people took up their abode and here they experienced all of the trials and hardships, mingled with the joys and happiness that comes into the lives of all youthful pioneers. About this time the brothers began to realize the possibilities for profit there might be in a good saw-mill, well operated. The shameful waste of fine timber, which was daily being consumed by fire in the clearings, first diverted their attention in this direction and soon they interested their brother John in the matter. They pooled their issues with the result that within a short time they were operating a mill of good capacity and realizing their most sanguine expectations as to the matter of profit. Soon afterward Peter and George purchased the interest of John in the mill and continued to operate it until about a year ago, when they suspended operations, though they are still the

owners of the machinery. While engaged in operating the mill Peter was obliged to keep hired help on the farm, but in due time the necessity for that was obviated, as his son had grown and was able to conduct the affairs of the farm far more satisfactorily than it ever was done by hired help.

Of the original eighty acres in the farm all is now cleared land with the exception of about ten acres. Upon this tract there are now ten producing oil wells; eight were drilled by Mr. Schott and his sons, so that they control the entire output, from which they realize five hundred dollars per month. At one time the income from them ran upwards of seven hundred dollars per month. With such an income, to say nothing of that which is realized from several other lines of business in which Mr. Schott is engaged, it would appear that he ought to experience but little difficulty in "keeping the wolf from the door."

In 1882 Mr. Schott erected a large and commodious barn upon his farm, which is well adapted to the line of farming in which he is engaged, general stock raising. A splendid home was erected on the farm in 1889, much of the work on both house and barn being done by Mr. Schott himself. He is the father of two children, John, born July 13, 1871, who is married to Sarah Terrell, lives on his father's farm and is directly interested in all the business affairs; Amanda E., who was born May 8, 1875. But two grandchildren, Nattla Lurene and Mildred Inez, have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Schott.

Although never aspiring to political preferment, Mr. Schott takes much interest in politics. He is a loyal Republican—one of those who believes in proving his loyalty

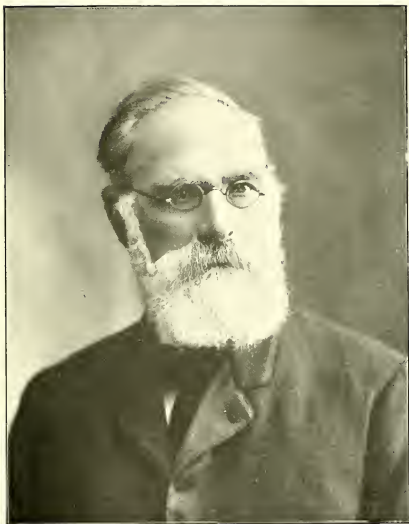
by his activity when the campaign is on. His first vote was cast in 1864, while he was at the front helping to suppress the rebellion. Naturally he is very proud of that vote, for it was given for the great emancipator, Abraham Lincoln. From that time to the present he has never wavered in the faith. He is also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, his post being at Geneva. He has frequently served his party as delegate to various conventions, always considering time and money well spent when it is devoted to Republican success. He and his wife are members of the Christian church and are very popular and highly respected in all religious circles.

FERDINAND BEBERSTEIN.

Of all the emigrants who reach the United States from the countries of Europe none show a greater aptitude in adapting themselves to our peculiar institutions than those who come from Switzerland. Having themselves lived in a country where one citizen is as good as another if he behaves himself as well, they almost immediately understand our political methods and customs and appreciate the advantages which are offered by our laws. The result is that they are at once contented and straightway proceed to make the most of their new surroundings. After their home is established and they have attained some degree of comfort, they look around and soon take a warm degree of interest in our form of government, in our schools, in our churches, in the affairs of our county administration, and so forth. People who come from some mon-



MRS. FERDINAND BEBERSTEIN.



FERDINAND BEBERSTEIN.

archy require a considerable time to adjust their old ideas to the new conditions. Not so with emigrants from Switzerland, as was shown by the parents of the subject when they came here. They at once understood our form of government and at once were acting in conjunction with all our customs and laws.

Ferdinand Beberstein is the son of Benedict Beberstein, who, with his wife, was born in Switzerland. In 1834 the father came to this country and at once bought a piece of land in Wayne county, after which he returned to his native land and brought back his wife and children. He was an active and energetic man of sterling honesty, and soon acquired a splendid reputation because of his many fine qualities. He remained upon the original farm in Wayne county until his death. He was a member of the German Reformed church, in which faith he died. He was twice married. His first wife, who died in the old country, bore him two children, who both died young. For his second companion he chose Miss Rosanna Ritter, a native of Germany, and to this union there were born children as follows: Julia, Jacob, Ferdinand, Alexander, David, Rosanna, Louisa, May A., Lena, William, Philip and Emanuel. Of these, five are still living; David died in the service of his country in the war of the Rebellion, and Alexander is buried in California.

Ferdinand Beberstein was reared upon his father's farm, but was so situated that he was deprived of the advantages of schooling, so that at the time he attained his majority he was comparatively ignorant of book learning. However, he has always been a keen observer of men and things and

this, coupled with a naturally sharp intellect, has enabled him to acquire a fair knowledge of business methods and current events. At the age of twenty-one years he commenced to learn the carpenter's trade, at which he became very proficient. He came to Wells county, remaining here until 1854, when he returned to Wayne county and was married, remaining in that county two years. His financial condition was at that time at a low ebb and in 1857 he returned to Vera Cruz, this county, and resumed work at the trade of carpenter. He built quite a number of residences in this section and was also engaged to some extent as a painter. By strict application to his business, wise judgment in conducting his affairs and rigid economy he was enabled to get ahead in the world so that in 1864 he was enabled to purchase a half interest in a saw-mill. He conducted this business for thirty-three years and was so successful that he was enabled to purchase a one-hundred-and-sixty-acre farm. In 1897 the saw-mill was destroyed by fire and Mr. Beberstein thereafter devoted his attention to his farming interests. He is up-to-date in his methods and is winning an enviable reputation as a successful and enterprising farmer.

On the 8th of April, 1855, Mr. Beberstein was united in marriage with Miss Louisa Lydia Stoker and to them have been born the following children: William, born July 13, 1857, is a millwright and is employed in a factory in Michigan; Lena, born March 27, 1860, is the wife of Peter Neiswander, of this county; Louisa is deceased; Frances, born December 6, 1864, is unmarried; John, born April 28, 1866, married Blanch Laptad, of Kansas, and is employed as a stationary engineer by the

Koran-Krup Company, at Battle Creek, Michigan; Edward, born May 6, 1867, is a carpenter residing at Berne, Minnesota; Calvin, born March 6, 1870, is deceased; Duleg, born October 9, 1875, is the wife of Frank Muesbaum, a barber at Lynn Grove.

Politically Mr. Beberstein is a Democrat and is one of the leaders of his party in this section of the county. He is an indefatigable worker in the interest of the party, but has never asked for public office, content to do his part as a private citizen. Religiously he and his family are members of the German Reformed church, of which he has been a trustee for a number of years. They are active workers in the Sunday school and take a keen interest in advancing all departments of the church. Mr. Beberstein has always been an honorable, upright man, industrious, temperate, economical, and in every way exemplary in his daily life and conduct. He has performed well his part as a factor of the body politic and no one questions his standing as one of the leading farmers and enterprising citizens of the township in which he lives.

THEODORE TAYLOR.

Theodore Taylor, farmer and stock raiser and a representative citizen of Wells county, was born July 3, 1859, on the farm in Nottingham township which he now owns. His parents, Theodore and Hannah (Silvers) Taylor, were natives of Ohio, the former the son of Joseph and Beulah Taylor, whose respective families were among the early settlers of that state. Theodore Taylor, Sr., moved to Indiana about the year 1849 and lived in Jay county until he could

build a cabin on the land which he had previously purchased in the county of Wells. This land was covered with a dense forest growth at the time and much hard labor was required to reduce it to a state of tillage. The original dwelling occupied by the family was a log cabin about eighteen by twenty-six feet in size, supplied with a few articles of furniture such as the pioneers of the early times used. Mr. Taylor cleared the greater part of his land and in the course of a few years became one of the most prosperous farmers of Nottingham township. He was a gentleman of intelligence and sterling worth and in a quiet and unobtrusive way did much to promote the material, social and moral welfare of the community in which he lived. His death occurred in November, 1879, his wife dying in the year 1888. Theodore and Hannah Taylor had seven children, namely: William H., deceased; Beulah, deceased; Joseph C., deceased; Sarah, wife of John Shoemaker, of Adams county, this state; Arbella, wife of Daniel Shoemaker, of the same county; Theodore, of this review, and Robert Y., a farmer and stock raiser of Wells county.

Theodore Taylor, the direct subject of this sketch, was reared on the home place in Nottingham township and until about eighteen years old divided his time between working on the farm and attending the district schools. He remained with his father until the latter's death, after which he rented the farm, his sister Arbella becoming his housekeeper and his brother Robert boarding with him. In this way the three lived until 1881, on September 18 of which year the subject took to himself a wife in the person of Miss Clara A. Gensel, who was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, August 14, 1862.

the daughter of Samuel and Catherine (Schoch) Gensel. The year following his marriage Mr. Taylor rented the home place and at the expiration of that time bought the other heirs' interests in eighty acres of the farm, going in debt for the entire amount of the purchase price. This heavy obligation resting upon him proved an incentive to greater effort and he labored with might and main until it was discharged, meanwhile clearing and draining his land until in point of productiveness and value it compared favorably with any like area in the township. Nearly all of his farm was cleared from the green by his own hands, in addition to which labor he has also made quite a number of good improvements, his buildings of all kinds, fences, indeed the general appearance of the place, indicating the presence of a man who has followed agricultural pursuits with the greatest possible success. Like the majority of progressive farmers, Mr. Taylor devoted much attention to the raising of live stock, especially shorthorn cattle, a fine breed of hogs and Shropshire sheep, his success in this industry being commensurate with that achieved by tilling the soil. He is also in receipt of a liberal income from the four producing oil wells on his place, which, with that derived from other sources, has made him one of the financially strong men of his community. He possesses good business qualifications and has had considerable dealings with his fellow-men, all of which have been characterized by an integrity and high sense of personal honor that have won for him the confidence of all with whom he has come in contact. Mr. Taylor's political views are in harmony with the Republican party, in which he has been an active worker ever since old enough to cast

a ballot. He has served a number of times as delegate to county and other conventions and in his own township is looked upon as a safe and conservative leader when campaigns are in progress. In matters religious the Christian (or Disciple) church represents his creed. For some years he has been a member of the congregation meeting at Domestic, being one of the trustees of the church as well as one of its leaders in good works. His wife and their oldest children also belong to the same religious body, which fact demonstrates the interest he has taken in bringing up his family in the way they should go.

Mr. and Mrs. Taylor are the parents of eight children: Oliver C., born August 20, 1882, is a student in the high school, but devotes the time when not at his studies to work in the oil fields; Ora E. was born May 15, 1885; Oscar, April 20, 1887; Cora A., August 9, 1889; Robert F., November 6, 1891; Eva B., July 28, 1893; Fern, November 13, 1897, and Victor was born on the 2nd day of April, 1900.

Samuel and Catherine (Schoch) Gensel, the parents of Mrs. Taylor, were married in Ohio and a few years thereafter moved to Wells county, Indiana, settling in the township of Harrison about the year 1860. After spending twenty years there they went to Campaign county, Illinois, in which state their deaths subsequently occurred, Mrs. Gensel January 25, 1894, and Mr. Gensel August 30, 1901. They had six children, all living at this time, whose names are Mrs. Margaret J. Connet; Zacharias; Evaline, wife of John Coffum; Mrs. Clara Taylor; Martha E., who married Fred Survey and Chas. F., who wedded Mattie McFarland. Mr. Taylor possesses an old parchment deed,

bearing the signature of President Martin Van Buren and dated November 10, 1840, which bore title to land transferred to Joseph Taylor, the subject's grandfather.

MARK WATSON.

It must be very gratifying to a man who has advanced beyond the meridian of a well spent life to look back and contemplate the good work which, by patient industry and unremitting toil, he has accomplished. The men who, "back in the 'sixties," in the bloom of youth, settled in the dense forests of Indiana, are now on the shady side of life. Many of them still live on the farms which by their labors have taken the place of the forests. Much of the work which the change, necessitated by their own hands. They have not made as much stir, strife or tumult in the world as some others, but the world is far better for their modest efforts than it is for the blatant zeal of some who believe themselves entitled to the laurel wreath of fame.

Mark Watson, the subject of this sketch, is one of those who devoted his early manhood to the subjugation of an Indiana forest, with a degree of success that must be very pleasing to his mature years. He was born in Warren county, Ohio, December 26, 1843, the son of John M. Watson, a native of Ireland, who emigrated to America, with his parents, in the early part of the last century. The family settled in Virginia, where they remained until John grew to manhood, when they moved to Warren county, Ohio, where John married Miss Ellen Winfield, who had been born and reared in that

county. Having become well skilled in iron and steel working, he opened a shop for the manufacture of articles in that line and prospered from the very first, at times shipping his wares in car-load lots. In April, 1851, he closed out his business and with the proceeds moved his family to Nottingham township, Wells county, Indiana, where he purchased a farm, the one on which John Hecker now resides. Here he lived for four years, when he moved to the one now owned by his son, John Watson, where he remained until his death, his beloved wife having preceded him through the portal of eternity.

John M. and Ellen (Winfield) Watson were the parents of twelve children, six of whom are yet living. During his lifetime he accumulated considerable property and at his death left quite a valuable estate, owning some four hundred acres of valuable land, all in one body. Had he lived in times like these, that afford so much better opportunities for the display and operation of such talents as he was known to have possessed, there is no doubt that he would have left the impress of his abilities upon the state, perhaps on the nation. As it was he passed away respected and beloved for the many virtues of head and heart with which he was endowed.

The education of Mark Watson was neither as elaborate or complete as he would like to have had it. The best of the public schools of those days could stand no comparison with the worst of the present. The terms were brief, usually two or three months in the year, and were open only during the months of most severe winter weather. Under those circumstances the student life of Mark Watson may readily be understood to have been brief. However, possess-

ed of good memory, an abundance of native wit and a fund of good, sound common-sense, he managed to acquire enough learning, not wholly from books, to subserve every purpose. With the exception of one year spent in the army, during the war, the first twenty-five years of Mark's life were placed at the disposal of his father and most industriously employed in the strenuous labors of that day on the farm. His military career was only one year's duration, but during that period the youthful soldier saw more real service than some who had been in the ranks from the beginning to the close of the war. He was with Sherman on the famous march to the sea and was in the thick of the fighting in front of Atlanta. At different times his clothing was shot through, but he seeming to bear a charmed life, escaping without a scratch. The closest call he had was during a warm engagement when a rebel bullet passed so near his head, just above his left ear, as to give him a part of a very artistic hair-cut. The force of the bullet was sufficient to knock him down and James Hunter, a comrade, who was doing some splendid fighting near by, cried out, "God, Watson, are you dead?" Finding himself uninjured, he soon arose, resumed his place in the ranks and continued until the battle was won. He was mustered out in September, 1865, and returning home resumed work on his father's farm, where he remained until the fall of 1869.

Mark Watson was married to Matilda Dunwiddie on the 1st day of September, 1868. She was a native of Warren county, Ohio, where she was born October 25, 1844, and was the daughter of Peter and Eunice (Haines) Dunwiddie, also natives of Ohio. They settled in Wells county, Indiana, about

1858, where they lived, honored and respected by all who knew them, until their deaths, which occurred a number of years ago. Mrs. Watson, their daughter, died June 13, 1896, after having lived the life of a devoted, faithful wife and mother for a period of eighteen years.

One year after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Watson took up their abode upon a tract of forty acres of land, thirty acres of which was woods that had been recently purchased by the husband and on which he had erected a log cabin, fourteen by twenty-eight feet. This, with two colts, one cow, twenty young hogs and a limited supply of the rudest kind of household furniture, constituted the entire worldly possessions of the young couple. From this humble beginning they continued to increase their possessions year by year until today Mr. Watson finds himself the owner of one of the most productive and best improved farms in eastern Indiana. Stockraising is the particular species of farming to which he devotes his time. A delightful home, commodious barn and substantial outbuildings add to the comfort, convenience and value of the premises. The loss of his beloved wife, six years ago, is the great sorrow of Mr. Watson's life.

Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Watson, Luella, who remains at home, skillfully managing the household affairs of her father, and George W., who also remains at home, assisting his father in all necessary farm work. He is a carpenter and builder and devotes much of his time to work in the oil fields. Mr. Watson is a member of John Porter Post No. 83, G. A. R., of Geneva, and is an ardent Republican in politics, but sufficiently liberal to prefer the man to the

party when it comes to local affairs. He is a man of good judgment, unswerving integrity and enjoys the confidence and esteem of all who know him. His life has been a busy one, and while at times he feels that he has not accomplished a great deal, when he comes to traverse the past again in memory, he cannot help but feel that, for the opportunities afforded him, he has done much. He lives in the consciousness of having faithfully discharged every duty assigned to him as a worthy man and good citizen.

Mr. Watson has in his possession an old parchment sheepskin deed, bearing the signature of President Van Buren and executed February 12, 1838.

WILLIAM A. KUNKEL.

William A. Kunkel was born in Lancaster township, Wells county, Indiana, January 31, 1868. He remained on the farm with his parents until the age of sixteen years was reached, attending the public schools and rounding out his education at the Bluffton high school, from which he graduated at the age of eighteen years, when he began looking about for an opportunity to acquire practical knowledge of business life through personal contact. Securing employment with a Bluffton clothing firm, he remained with them but a short time, the opportunities in that class of business being not sufficiently encouraging to come up to his ambitions. His next engagement was with the engineer of the Clover Leaf Railroad as a rodman, in which his duties were of a responsible character. After returning from a day's work with a crew of men, he

was one day retained in the office to attend to some reports of considerable importance bearing upon the work in progress upon the road. So thorough and satisfactory was his work in this respect that Mr. Kunkel was thereafter retained in the offices of the company, discharging his duties in a manner eminently satisfactory and at the same time developing remarkable business qualities which soon resulted in his promotion to the office of chief clerk to H. T. Porter, resident engineer to the Clover Leaf Railroad. During this period of employment Mr. Kunkel had acquired considerable knowledge of civil engineering, being an apt and observant pupil, and this resulted later in the tender of a position in charge of an engineer corps engaged on the road, which was accepted, the young man at the same time being accorded the honor of being assistant to the resident engineer. Resigning this important position in October, 1889, at twenty-one years of age, he became deputy surveyor of Wells county, the year following being elected to the office of county surveyor on the Democratic ticket, his popularity being shown in his re-election to the same office in 1892. During his term of office there was made in the county over six hundred thousand dollars worth of improvements, principally upon the highways, which remain as an evidence of the business ability of the young man.

Meanwhile the petroleum developments had begun in the Hoosier state and the young man was attracted to them by reason of the great inducements held out for quick returns to fortunate investors, and while in the county surveyor's office he, with other parties, dabbled to some extent in production of Trenton rock oil in different por-

tions of the surrounding country. The fall of 1890 marked his induction into the oil business, though for the first four years his operations were not the most successful, owing to the lack of time in connection with his official duties to properly attend to his own business. In the fall of 1894 he gave his entire attention to his producing interests, and during the next two years did a great deal of wildcatting, opening up several pools in Wells county, among them the Ogle pool, his investments netting him some profitable returns. In 1896 he accepted a responsible position with the Cudahy oil interests, having charge of the right of way and pipe line departments, holding that position until May, 1898, when he was given complete charge of the field producing interests of the pipe lines of the Cudahys, retaining this position one year after the entire Cudahy properties were sold to the Standard Oil Company, since which time he has been in the producing business in the Indiana field for himself. He is now stockholder and director in the Midway, Senior, and Illinois and Indiana Oil Companies and a number of other oil properties in Indiana.

Mr. Kunkel is a member of the Masonic order, being a Knight Templar. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias and a charter member of the Elks Lodge No. 796, also Bluffton Commercial Club.

Mr. Kunkel was married June 24, 1891, to Miss Minnie A. Morgan, of Bluffton, Indiana, and to them three children have been born, William A., Jr., Kenneth M. and Marjorie. Mr. Kunkel makes his home in Bluffton, and in that place is regarded as one of the most prominent and progressive citizens.

LOT McCULLICK.

Lot McCullick was born in Chester township, Wells county, Indiana, April 24, 1855. The parents of Lot emigrated to and were married at an early date in Chester township, Wells county, where his father is still living at the ripe old age of seventy-five years. The subject attended school in Chester township until he was about seventeen years of age and remained at home with his parents until he was twenty-five. The year preceding his marriage he received one-third of the crops which he raised on his father's farm. December 25, 1879, the subject was married to L. M. Ashbaugh, who was born in Ohio, December 9, 1855, the daughter of Andrew and Martha Ashbaugh, both of whom are now deceased.

Lot, after his marriage, settled in Chester township about one mile from where he now lives, renting a farm where he remained about one year. He then moved onto Mr. Bell's farm in Chester township and remained there for about two years. He then rented the Mollie Hall farm for money rent, where he remained for one year and then removed to the Kilander place in Chester township and was there for one year. In 1855 he removed to Harland county, Nebraska, where he remained for about two years, going then to Thomas county, Kansas. After remaining there about eight months, he returned to his first love, Chester township, moving onto the place where he now lives and owns a fine farm of fifty acres of good land. The one well on his place proves its value as oil territory, but the possibilities in that line of his farm are yet undeveloped. When the subject was twenty-two years of age he made a trip into

and through the state of Minnesota for eleven months. He is a wide-awake, general stock farmer. He is the father of seven children, five of which are still living: Harry, born October 7, 1880, now an oil pumper in Grant county; Ollie, born July 26, 1883, at home, graduated this year from the common schools; an infant, deceased, born July 12, 1884; Clarence, born in Thomas county, Kansas, September 24, 1886; Edna, born January 17, 1891; Mary, born August 17, 1894.

In a religious way the family of the subject are connected with the Christian church. In politics he is a Democrat and an active worker in the party. Mr. McCullick was elected trustee of Chester township in 1900 and has also held the office of justice of the peace for four years. He is a sample of the bright, energetic and restless American farmer, a class who honor the profession of husbandry.

FRANK W. MOSURE.

The office of biography is not to give voice to a man's modest estimate of himself and his accomplishments, but rather to put upon record the verdict establishing his character by the consensus of opinion on the part of his neighbors and fellow citizens. In touching upon the life history of the subject of this sketch the writer aims to avoid fulsome encomium and extravagant praise; yet he desires to hold up for consideration those facts which have shown the distinction of a true, useful and honorable life—a life characterized by perseverance, energy, broad charity and well-defined purpose. To do

this will be but to reiterate the dictum pronounced upon the man by the people who have known him long and well.

Frank W. Mosure is the son of Jonathan and Elizabeth (Krill) Mosure and was born at Bluffton, Wells county, Indiana, February 8, 1861. Jonathan Mosure was a native of Ohio, but in the early 'fifties came to Indiana and located in Bluffton. He was a blacksmith and, in partnership with John Shoemaker, ran a blacksmith shop, the one now owned by Josiah Freeser. He followed that occupation until 1865 and then moved to Vera Cruz, where he followed his trade and in connection therewith ran a buggy and carriage factory. He remained thus engaged for about twenty years, when he sold out and retired to a forty-acre farm which he had purchased in Adams county, where he still resides. He is widely known and by all is highly esteemed. To him and his wife have been born six children, as follows: Frank is the immediate subject; John A. is a farmer and resides in Adams county; Edward is a blacksmith at Newville, Indiana; Ella is the wife of William Spade, a farmer living in Adams county; Mary is the wife of William Selby, of Adams county; Lulu is unmarried. All these children were given the benefit of a good common school education and have grown into strong and sturdy manhood and womanhood, an honor to their parents.

Frank W. Mosure remained at the home at Bluffton until he was four years old, when he was taken to Vera Cruz, where he has since continued to make his home. He received a very good education, attending first the village school and later the county normal at Bluffton. In 1882 he commenced teaching school, an occupation which he fol-



FRANK MOSURE.

lowed for two terms, and then entered Union Christian College. He pursued his studies in that institution for one year and also attended Antioch College for two terms. His studies had all been directed towards his intended induction into the ministry, which he subsequently realized, being ordained as a minister of the Christian church and taking up special work as an evangelist. He was devoted to his work and maintained an active connection with the pulpit until 1901. In 1892 he was elected to the office of justice of the peace and served until 1900, discharging the duties of the office in such a manner as to win the hearty commendation of all. He was also commissioned a notary public and is still serving in that capacity. During his ministry he was active in his efforts to carry the gospel tidings of salvation to all within his reach and the good he has done in the world can be only definitely measured in "that last great day." Of a pleasing personal presence, ready command of language, enthusiastic in his work, he wielded a powerful influence and was the means of inducing many to forsake the ways of sin and follow in the footsteps of the man of Nazareth.

Mr. Mosure was united in marriage on the 1st of March, 1884, to Miss Rosa Gehring, of Fort Wayne, Indiana. She possesses a good common school education and has proven to her husband a faithful and devoted companion. To this union has been born one child, Dessie, the date of her birth being January 25, 1890. In politics Mr. Mosure is a firm and uncompromising Democrat, but aside from the exercise of his right of franchise he takes no very active part in political matters. He is now actively engaged in the real estate business and is

known as one of Wells county's most active and energetic business men and is achieving for himself an enviable reputation for sterling honesty and a desire to do by others as he would be done by. His support has ever been given to all measures for the public good, he is a man of broad humanitarian principles, of earnest purpose and upright life, and does all in his power for the uplifting of his fellow men and the promotion of the moral welfare of his community.

WILLIAM RALSTIAN.

The years of the Civil war are often referred to as "the days which tried men's souls." The men who went to the front to fight for the preservation of the Union, know that these years were indeed what they are characterized to be in the above saying. But not all of those who were soldiers of the great Civil war were obliged to go through the fiery ordeal. Some saw active, constant service almost from the moment of enlistment until peace was declared. Others, more fortunate, were only permitted to acquire a knowledge of military tactics and of camp life, without even a remote acquaintance with the odor of rebel powder. It will be readily seen by a perusal hereof that William Ralstian, of Geneva, Indiana, was not one of the latter species of soldier.

Mr. Ralstian is a native of Lawrence county, Ohio, where he was born in September, 1844. His father was James Ralstian, of Adams county, Ohio; his mother's maiden name was Mary A. Grubb, a native of the same state. After marriage they settled in Lawrence county, where William and his

brothers and sisters were born and where they continued to reside until the death of the father, James Ralstian, which occurred about 1854, when the subject of this sketch was ten years old. James and Mary Ralstian were the parents of seven children, only two of whom are still living. Alexander, Angaline, Adaline and Ellison died comparatively early in life, Smith passing away later. Of the seven children, only William and his brother Augustus, a resident of New Cordin, are the survivors.

For some time after the death of her husband Mrs. Ralstian remained a widow, caring for her children to the best of her ability and sending them to the public schools of their native county. About the time William was thirteen years of age his mother married again, taking for her husband a man named Washington Katon. The family, about 1857, moved to Jay county, Indiana, but the mother did not remain long. She returned to Ohio, leaving the two older boys, William and Smith, to make their home in Indiana. William was entrusted to the guardianship of Wm. McDowell, a man who seems to have been kind and indulgent, for his ward was permitted, most of the time, to work out by the month. This he continued to do until October 6, 1861, when the call for volunteers caused him to enroll himself among the defenders of his country. He enlisted as a private in Company A, Forty-seventh Regiment Indiana Volunteers. This was the regiment of Col. Jas. R. Slack and at different times during the war the youthful volunteer served under Captains McLaughlin, Sturges and Huff. The five months following his enlistment were devoted to the acquisition of that knowledge which is considered essential to the trained soldier. The

1st of March, 1862, found the regiment well to the front and a few days later it was confronting the enemy in battle array. From that time on to the cessation of hostilities the gallant Forty-seventh knew nothing of peace or quietness and experienced but little of rest or repose. Ardent, active, untiring and intrepid, young Ralstian, but little more than seventeen years of age, never shirked or lagged behind. As may be seen by the list of battles, the regiment was always in the thick of the fight and the youthful Ralstian was with it in every engagement. Here is the list of battles: Fort Thompson, March 14, 1862; Riddles Point, Mississippi, March 18, 1862; Fort Pillow, May 19 to 23 and June 3 to 5, 1862; Brown's Plantation, August 11, 1862; Fort Pemberton, March 11 to 16, 1863; Port Gibson, Mississippi, May 1, 1863; Champion Hill, May 16, 1863; siege of Vicksburg, May 22 to July 4, 1863; Jackson, Mississippi, July 7 to 16, 1863; Grand Gulf, October, 1863; Alexander, May 5, 1864; Marksville Prairie, May 16, 1864; Atchafalaya, Louisiana, July 28, 1864; Fort Spanish, Alabama, April 1 to 5, 1865; Fort Blakely, April 2 to 9, 1865; Mobile, April 12, 1865. After an experience upon many fields of carnage, such as seldom falls to the lot of men during the period of a long life, William Ralstian, yet scarce twenty-one years old, was mustered out of the service. While there was yet a shot to be fired he had remained, serving four long and trying years, only ceasing to be a soldier when his country had no further use for his services in that capacity. His honorable discharge from the service was placed in his hand at Baton Rouge in the fall of 1865.

Returning home to Adams county, after sojourning a short time in Indianapolis, the

sword became a plow-share, the bayonet, a pruning hook. In other words, the bone and sinew and muscle that for four years had been devoted to the suppression of rebellion were now turning to the more agreeable calling of industry. From 1865 to 1871 he actively engaged in the usual work of that period on the farm, including the clearing of land, making rails and erecting new fences. Those who had predicted that the soldier boys who had been schooled in war for four long years could never again content themselves with the monotony of peace, were woefully mistaken. Hundreds of thousands like William Ralstian—the best soldiers that ever brought victory to an army—quietly settled down to the habits of peace with all the easy grace of men who had only been off the farm for a brief vacation.

On March 18, 1871, William Ralstian was married to Miss Frances Fields, the daughter of Andrew and Clarissa Fields, both natives of Tennessee who had moved to Adams county, Indiana, where Frances was born. Mr. and Mrs. Fields are still living, making their home with their daughter and her husband, and are the oldest settlers of Adams county now living, Mr. Fields being eighty years old, his wife, seventy-six years. They are the parents of eleven children, five of whom are still living: William is a resident of Oklahoma; Joseph resides in Sturges, Michigan; Sarah is the wife of Daniel Shoemaker, of Portland, Indiana; Frances is the wife of William Ralstian; Lydia A. is the wife of John Updegraph; Hilinda, Alexander, Daniel, Julia, Andrew and Lovinda are dead.

By his labors of the farm and his pay from the government in the field Mr. Ralstian had saved enough money at the time

of his marriage to pay for an eighty-acre tract of land, which he improved and on which he erected a residence. There he now resides, enjoying all of the happiness that good health, contentment and domestic felicity can bring. When this tract was bought only about ten acres were improved land, his first home upon it being a cabin, erected by himself, eighteen by twenty-four feet. With this home, a team of horses, a cow and a few pigs the young couple started to make their fortune. Now, seventy of the eighty acres are cleared and forty acres more of cleared land have been added to the tract, making a farm of one hundred and twenty acres. Upon this they have six producing oil wells which are daily adding to their stock of wealth. Mr. Ralstian now devotes his entire time to the cultivation of this farm and to the rearing of fine stock. All his life, except while in the army, he has devoted to farming, in every branch of which he has been eminently successful.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralstian are the parents of ten children, six of whom are now living. The oldest, Ruetta, was born December 28, 1871, is married to Joseph Wilson, of Adams county, and they are the parents of three children, Ora, Ottie and William; Emmet was born July 15, 1874, and married Ida Runyon; they also live in Adams county and are the parents of three children, Edith, Wesley and Mary. The other children of Mr. and Mrs. Ralstian are Anthony, born March 18, 1877, died September 18, 1878; Amanda, born February 17, 1879, died January 7, 1881; Andrew, born November 19, 1880, died September 6, 1881; Luther, born September 28, 1882; Clifton, born September 16, 1884; Alice, born January 18, 1886; Blanche, born December 31,

1888; Alta M., born March 15, 1890, died December 10, 1894. Luther, Clifton, Alice and Blanche all live with their parents.

Mrs. Ralstian is a member of and a zealous, active worker of the Friends church of White Oak. She is very solicitous as to the spiritual welfare of her family and never loses an opportunity of doing good in the interest of Christianity and for the welfare of humanity. Mr. Ralstian is an active member of John C. Porter Post No. 83, G. A. R., Geneva. He is a firm believer in the principles of the Republican party, and a liberal contributor to the dissemination and advancement of those principles. In every walk of life he has acquitted himself most creditably. As a soldier, husband, father and citizen he has proven himself a man of whom any community may well be proud.

GEORGE F. MCFARREN.

The history of a county or state, as well as that of a nation, is chiefly a chronicle of the lives and deeds of those who have conferred honor and dignity upon society. The world judges the character of a community by those of its representative citizens and yields its tributes of admiration and respect to those whose works and actions constitute the record of a state's prosperity and pride. Among the prominent citizens of Wells county who are well known because of the part they have taken in public affairs is George F. McFarren, of Bluffton.

Mr. McFarren was born in Salamonie township, Huntington county, Indiana, May 30, 1844. His parents were Jacob and Rachel McFarren, of the same township.

Jacob was a prosperous, intelligent, well informed farmer, who was careful to see that his son received a good education. The early life of G. F. McFarren was spent upon the farm where he was born, employing his time when not in school in the usual farm work and making diligent use of his time in the winter months with his studies. In 1857 his parents moved to Wells county where he continued to pursue his studies in the public schools, eventually qualifying himself for teaching. He taught several terms with gratifying success, never relinquishing his diligence in the pursuit of his own studies. Before he gave up the calling he was recognized as one of the ablest mathematicians in Wells county.

In 1865 Mr. McFarren entered the Iron City Commercial College, at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, where he took the regular course and became an expert bookkeeper. On returning to Bluffton he was offered, in 1866, the position of deputy county auditor, which he accepted and discharged the duties of the position with marked ability. However, the enforced sedentary habits of an official position were not suitable to a person of his active temperament and he decided to embark in the mercantile business. He established a grocery store in Bluffton and conducted it with such signal ability as to secure the patronage of the best people and to extend far beyond the expectations of his most sanguine friends. This he continued until 1880, when, having in view an entrance into another branch of business, he sold out and at a fair profit. At that time an old building stood on the corner of Main and Market streets. Finding the property could be purchased at reasonable figures, he bought it, tore down the old structure and

replaced it with a large brick block that at present adorns that corner. In this building he established himself in the clothing business, in which he has continued ever since, each succeeding year finding him with an increased patronage. Success seems to have attended every effort he has made in life. Some may attribute his achievements to good luck. Those who know best place the credit where it is justly due. Nothing is undertaken by him that is not first figured out according to well-established mathematical principles.

George F. McFarren was twice married. On December 25, 1866, he was joined in the holy bonds of wedlock to Miss Martha J. Miller, and to this union one daughter was born, Winnettie M., May 9, 1869. She is a graduate of the Bluffton high school in the class of 1886, and is now the wife of William S. Smith, of Bluffton. June 14, 1874, Mrs. Martha (Miller) McFarren departed this life. When time had assuaged his sorrow Mr. McFarren was, on the 28th of December, 1875, again united in marriage, this time to Miss Martha J. Bennett, born in Bluffton, September 1, 1849. She was the daughter of Robert C. and Harriett Bennett, who were among the early pioneers of Wells county. To this union were born two sons, Harry, April 2, 1877, the junior member of the firm of G. F. McFarren & Son, and Earl, born May 15, 1884.

When the Wells County Bank was being organized George F. McFarren was a stockholder, became a director and is still retained as a member of the board. In the Adams and Wells county oil fields he invested largely and profitably. Politically he is a Democrat, but neither active nor partisan. He is a careful observer of the trend of the

times and rarely misses a guess as to results. Religiously he and his family are members of the Baptist church, regular attendants upon its services and liberal contributors to all worthy causes, religious or charitable. All legitimate enterprises having for their object the benefit of the city find in him a faithful friend and promoter. He has ever been the implacable foe of all schemes and jobs, and people with measures of that kind soon learned to give him a wide berth. Such enterprises as the asphalt pavements and the city water works received his hearty support and endorsement.

The number of those who, with the limited opportunities afforded, have accomplished as much as George F. McFarren are very few. Beginning a poor boy on the farm, earning his bread by his daily toil, later teaching that he might obtain the money wherewith to pay the expense of being taught, and eventually, practically without capital, becoming one of the prosperous merchants of the city of Bluffton, is an achievement that justly swells with pride the breasts of his relatives and friends. Many of the young men of his early acquaintance, with brighter prospects and opportunities many fold better, he has far outstripped in the race of life. With means to supply every want, he and his good wife may now pass their declining years in ease and comfort.

Harry McFarren secured his education in the graded schools of Bluffton, and also took the regular course at the Valparaiso (Indiana) Commercial College. While still young he entered his father's store as clerk and assistant and readily absorbed a knowledge of the business. This occupation, however, was not permitted to interfere with

his studies or encroach upon the time that should be employed in the school room. When he had completed the course at the Valparaiso Commercial College his father for a time employed him in the store, and later, when he had disclosed an aptitude for business rarely met with in one so young, made him a partner in the business. The firm is now styled G. F. McFarren & Son.

On the 21st of September, 1898, Harry McFarren was united in marriage to Miss Flo Morris, daughter of John and Etta (Powell) Morris, of Bluffton. Mr. Morris is an alderman of the city. To this union one child has been born, Harriet, the date of her birth being March 3, 1900. Mr. and Mrs. McFarren are members of the Baptist church and are liberal contributors to its support, as they are of all worthy objects. In politics he is a member of the Democratic party, but has evinced no thirst for political preferment. He is a model young man, of domestic tastes and good habits. Now starting on the verge of a most promising business career, well equipped by nature and education for whatever may be required of him in the line he has undertaken, it remains to be seen whether or not he will equal or surpass the achievements of his worthy father.

JOHN M. BUCK.

This prominent manufacturer and head of one of Bluffton's leading industrial enterprises is a native of Indiana, born at Alexandria, Madison county, on the 2d day of June, 1853. His father, Henry Buck, formerly a land owner and farmer, of the above county, was of German descent, and the

mother, whose maiden name was Jemima Chamness, comes from a long line of Quaker ancestors. For many years Henry Buck was not only one of the leading agriculturists of Madison county, but also achieved prominence as a local politician of the Republican party, having been one of the first men in his part of the state openly to avow and defend what was then the political heresy of abolitionism. He acquired some property, was twice married, and departed this life in the year 1867. His second wife, the mother of the subject of this sketch, is still living.

John M. Buck was the oldest of the children born to his father's second marriage. He was reared to maturity in close touch with nature and as a farm hand early learned by experience the true meaning of honest toil. His means for acquiring an education were such as a few months' attendance each year at the public schools afforded, consequently he is not a learned man in the sense of the term as generally understood, although possessing a fund of valuable practical knowledge such as schools and colleges do not impart. Young Buck assisted in cultivating the home farm until his twenty-fourth year, when he started into the world for himself, first directing his attention to buying and selling lumber and later taking up the trade of wood turning. He started, in 1890, a small establishment of his own in the town of Geneva. He spent about five years at the above place, when he found it necessary to secure a more favorable location, consequently he moved his establishment to the city of Bluffton.

Since moving to the latter place in 1895 Mr. Buck has built up an extensive business and, as stated in the initial paragraph, the enterprise has become one of the largest and

most important of the city's industries. In addition to the plant at Bluffton, which gives employment to about twenty-five men and from three to five teams every working day of the year, he operates a branch factory at Auburn, this state, which, under his direction, has steadily increased its output and grown in public favor. Mr. Buck manufactures wooden tool handles. His weekly pay roll at Bluffton alone will average about two hundred and fifty dollars, in addition to which he pays each week to the farmers in the vicinity who furnish him, very satisfactorily, with raw material the sum of four hundred dollars.

Mr. Buck began manufacturing in a very small way and the large measure of success which has attended him is due entirely to his own energy, superior management and wise business foresight. At the outset he encountered many difficulties and numerous obstacles calculated to impede and discourage, but with an inborn determination which hesitated at none of these impediments to his progress, he persevered, gradually removing everything in his pathway and gaining favor until he found himself upon a well established basis which made ultimate success a certainty. That he has achieved his aim is abundantly attested by the place his plant occupies among the industries of Bluffton, in the business circles of the city and throughout the state. The constantly increasing demands for his products necessitates the running of his several establishments at their full capacity, and, judging by present prospects, their enlargement or the building of additional plants is only a matter of time.

Few men in Wells county stand higher in the esteem of their fellow citizens than

Mr. Buck and none have better records for energy, honesty and sterling integrity. He is a man of actions rather than words, attends strictly to his own affairs, at the same time being not unmindful of the duty which every citizen owes to the public. He is essentially a business man and as such ranks with the most enterprising and progressive of his contemporaries, deserving of great credit for what he has done for this city in the way of giving employment to labor and providing a good market for the farmers with timber to dispose of. Mr. Buck supports the Republican party, but aside from voting for the regular nominees takes little interest in political matters, having no ambition to gratify in the way of public distinction or official honors. He owns a beautiful and attractive home on the corner of Wabash and Market streets, where he welcomes and entertains his friends with a genuine hospitality.

Mr. Buck was married in 1880 to Miss Caroline Pugh, of Alexandria, Madison county, this state, a union blessed with three children: Roland C., the eldest, was born on the 20th day of June, 1881, served with Company M, Twenty-eighth Regiment United States Infantry, in the Philippines, and was shot and killed from ambush by native robbers on July 13, 1902; Clyde, the second of the family, was born December 7, 1883; Alline, the youngest, is a student in the Bluffton high school. Mrs. Buck is a member of the Methodist church and well known in the best social circles of the city. While not identified with any religious organization himself, Mr. Buck believes in the church as a great moral force among men and is liberal in his contributions to its support.

JONAS MEYER.

Jonas Meyer is a son of Peter and Elizabeth (Mosure) Meyer, of whom mention is made on another page of this volume, in the sketch of Albert Meyer. Jonas Meyer is the fourth child of a family of eight children and was reared to manhood on the home farm in Harrison township, where his birth took place November 28, 1869. He was educated in the district school, which he attended until sixteen years of age, but worked on the farm industriously throughout his school days when not engaged in study, continuing so to work until he was twenty-one years old, when he began working out at ditching and such other work as he could find to do, appropriating his earnings to his own use, but saving by far the greater portion. In 1894 he engaged in partnership with Daniel Gilliam in well drilling, working in 1896 with his brother David and in 1897 with Wm. Engler, having saved during that time about two thousand five hundred dollars.

Jonas Meyer was united in the holy bonds of matrimony with Miss Mary Rich, a daughter of Joseph Rich, of Adams county, and about the same time he invested his means in an eighty-acre tract of land, for which he paid in full. This farm he has improved with a fine dwelling and also a well built barn, forty by seventy-six feet in dimensions, together with other farm buildings of equally substantial construction. To the marriage of Jonas and Mary (Rich) Meyer have been born four children, namely: Joseph, February 21, 1895; Peter, November 21, 1897; Lillie, April 14, 1900, and Chance, born August 8, 1902. Though not active in politics, Mr. Meyer is of Demo-

cratic proclivities and usually votes as suits his judgment, irrespective of party nominations. He looks at both sides of a question, weighs the matter carefully and with deliberation, and having thoroughly digested it mentally, arrives at a conclusion decisive and permanent, and this conclusion becomes the rule for his future action. He thus weighs political issues and never permits his prior predilections to interfere with or bias his judgment.

As a farmer, the success of Mr. Meyer has been phenomenal for so young a man, and this fact is but another evidence of the thoroughness with which he studies and weighs everything which comes under his control or his observation. His integrity has never been questioned, and he stands before his fellow citizens the peer of all.

MICHAEL LONG.

The career of the gentleman whose name introduces this review illustrates most forcibly the possibilities that are open to a young man possessing sterling business qualifications, supplemented by the requisite amount of energy to direct the same in their proper channels. It also proves that ambitious perseverance in the face of opposing circumstances, steadfast purpose and untiring industry, combined with sound judgment, will eventually be rewarded and that true success is the legitimate result of individual effort. Although a recent accession to the population of Wells county, Mr. Long has already gained recognition and prestige as a shrewd, farsighted business man in one of the leading



M. Jones

industries of the state, while his standing as a prominent and influential citizen is none the less honorable and assured. Mr. Long was born of poor but respectable parents May 30, 1852, and claims New York as his native commonwealth. The father came to this country from Ireland and, possessing but little worldly wealth, was unable to furnish his son with the advantages which the majority of American lads enjoy. The subject's educational training was limited to a few months' attendance at the common school during his youth and while still a mere boy he was obliged to rely upon his own resources for a livelihood. At the age of fourteen he went to the oil fields of Pennsylvania, where he worked in various capacities during the ensuing four years, retaining only enough of his wages to meet living expenses, contributing the greater part to the support of his parents and younger members of the family. The year following his arrival in Pennsylvania he engaged with Capt. J. T. Jones, the largest oil producer of that day, and spent about fifteen years in his employ, during ten of which he served as foreman of a large force of workmen in the Bradford district. In this way Mr. Long soon became conversant with the oil industry in all its details and his valuable practical experience finally led him to embark in the business as a producer instead of spending all of his time and knowledge acquiring wealth for others. Before severing his connection with his employer, he began operating in a modest way and in due time succeeded in obtaining quite a substantial start, accumulating, beside a complete outfit, considerable valuable oil property. By a sudden and unfortunate experience he learned what so

many long before his day had learned, that material wealth rests upon a very insecure foundation and is liable at any moment to take wings and vanish. This was very forcibly brought to his mind by a fire which gained such headway that within a very short time his hard earned savings of several years disappeared in flames and smoke, leaving him as poor as when he began life's struggle. Considerably cast down, but by no means discouraged, he at once set about to retrieve his fortune and the better to carry out his plans decided to try the Indiana fields, which at that time held out many promising inducements. He first came to Geneva, Indiana, where he drilled six dry holes. In 1892 he came to Wells county, poor in purse but animated by a determination to win success if it could be done by energy, backed by previous experience as an operator. For some time he labored against a formidable array of opposing circumstances, losing considerable of his means in ineffectual drilling. Later he made a judicious investment in Nottingham township where matters soon began to assume a more encouraging aspect. In due time he struck oil in that promising field and since then his success has not only been sure but rapid, his wells now being among the most prolific producers in this part of the state. By close attention to business and thorough management he has steadily come to the front as one of the leading oil men of Indiana, having accumulated within the last ten years through his own efforts a fortune considerably in excess of seventy-five thousand dollars, while his future prospects point to still larger and longer continued returns.

Mr. Long is conservative in his meth-

ods, calculating with the greatest care before embarking in an undertaking, but when once he addresses himself to an enterprise it is prosecuted to successful issue with energy and dispatch. He possesses the rare power of foreseeing the end from the beginning and since commencing operations in the Indiana fields his labors have seldom miscarried and his judgment has rarely been at fault. In the year 1896 he moved his family to Bluffton and now owns an elegant and well appointed home on West Cherry street, his place being one of the finest residence properties in the city.

While residing at Bradford, Pennsylvania, Mr. Long was happily married to Miss Anna Flaherty, whose parents came to this country a number of years ago from their native home in Ireland. To this union five children have been born, all of whom are living and still members of the home fireside. In social life Mr. Long is a pleasant gentleman of agreeable presence, winning friends wherever he goes and standing high in the esteem of those with whom he mingles. His domestic habits are pure and strong and his home is the center of a generous hospitality. There, surrounded by family and friends, he enjoys that repose which comes from cordial interchange of kindly deeds with those near to him and without which life would lose much of its charm. He also delights to meet with companions and kindred spirits in the fraternal organizations to which he belongs, viz., the Pythian brotherhood, Lodge No. 92, and Lodge No. 796, B. P. O. E., being a charter member of the latter society. His standing in the business world rests upon a sure foundation, as he is regarded today among the leading oil men of the country.

Mr. Long has borne well his part in life, as his rise from poverty to his present position of affluence and prominence abundantly attests.

HENRY C. MCCOLLISTER.

The career of the subject of this sketch forcibly illustrates the old axiom, "Where there is a will, there is a way." Becoming an independent factor in life at the early age of fourteen, with an empty pocket and no one to give him friendly counsel or advice, he resolutely faced the world and after a long and hard struggle, before which most young men would have retired in defeat, he finally succeeded in gaining a sure foothold and in time rose to the respectable position he now occupies. The name by which he is now known is not the one given him by his parents, but was assumed for a special reason. The family patronymic was Beabout and by such he went until a youth in his teens. His father, Moses Beabout, was a native of Pennsylvania and his mother, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Smallie, was born and reared in Mercer county, that state. The subject was born in the county of Mercer on the 28th of February, 1832, and remained under the parental roof until reaching the age of fourteen. Like many other youths, he became impatient of home restraint and for reasons which he cares not to explain decided to sever these ties and make his own way in the world. He carried this resolution into effect between two days and for fear his parents might apprehend him, changed his name to McCollister and by this he has since been known. Making his way to Pittsburg, he there took a

boat for Cincinnati and after working at various vocations in the latter place made his way to Clinton county, Ohio, where he worked for several years as a farm hand. He also found employment for a while in a saw-mill and later entered the service of a railroad as brakeman. He continued rail-roading for quite a while in various capacities and in this and other kinds of work finally earned sufficient money to enable him, as he supposed, to support a wife. Accordingly, on the 23d of December, 1855, he was married in Clinton county, Ohio, to Elizabeth Smith, daughter of James T. and Lydia M. (Wait) Smith, the father a native of Delaware and the mother of the Buckeye state.

After his marriage Mr. McCollister settled down in Clinton county for a couple of years, but being quite poor in this world's goods he experienced considerable difficulty in making a livelihood, to say nothing of laying aside the little surplus for the proverbial rainy day. His principal work during his residence in Ohio was sawing lumber, but this kind of employment not proving remunerative, he finally moved with his father-in-law to Jay county, Indiana. There he rented land and followed agricultural pursuits until 1866, at which time his wife's father purchased forty acres of land in Wells county and to this place the subject moved in February of the same year. The only improvement on the place at that time was a small log cabin and into this Mr. McCollister moved his little family, after which he addressed himself to the work of clearing the land. One year later he returned to Jay county, but continued to devote his spare time working on his own place until he had all but ten acres in cultivation. At the end

of three years he again took up his residence on his own soil and bent every effort to make a comfortable home for those dependent upon him. He worked in a saw-mill to pay for the lumber for a new house, later built a fine barn and, being blessed with health and strength, his progress from that time on was altogether satisfactory. In the course of ten years he not only brought his own little farm to a fine state of cultivation, but purchased eighty acres of good land in the county of Jay, which in due time became quite valuable in that it lies within one of the richest of the Indiana oil fields. Subsequently he transferred the latter farm to his son, but he still owns forty acres in Jay which, with his home in Wells, leaves him an estate of eighty acres, more than sufficient for his needs seeing that he received every year a handsome income from the five producing oil wells on his land.

Mr. McCollister has always been an industrious, hard working man and many times the world looked dark and the future held out nothing in the way of promise. Of a sanguine temperament and inclined to make the most of circumstances, he never allowed himself to be cast down or become discouraged, but always looked on the bright side in the firm belief that the goal of success would eventually be reached. The sum total of his earthly possessions at the time of marriage was a very limited supply of inferior household goods and a cow, but with the assistance of his brave hearted, faithful wife, who was his sunshine in days of adversity and firm support under all circumstances, he patiently endured the frowns of ill fortune, gradually surmounted unfavorable environment and at last reaped the reward of his labors and waiting in the com-

fortable fortune which has placed him in independent circumstances for the remainder of his days. Of recent years Mr. McCollister has rented his land and lived a life of honorable retirement on the liberal income which he now receives. He enjoys his well earned rest as only such as he can and with his good wife is now bent upon filling up the measure of his days by helping his fellow men and making the world better. Politically he is an earnest supporter of the Republican party and takes an active part in local and general public affairs, though never asking official position at the hands of his fellow citizens. Religiously he is a devout member of the United Brethren church, in which his wife is also a zealous and faithful worker.

Mr. and Mrs. McCollister have had four children, only one of whom is living. The oldest of the family, James M., was born October 12, 1856, and died on the 26th of September, 1878; William, born May 16, 1858, married Jane Straley and is the father of two sons and two daughters, viz: Martha M., James L., Wilber and Esther; Rebecca, whose birth occurred on the 14th of December, 1860, married Allen Wall and departed this life August 8, 1887, leaving six children, namely: William, Moses, John H., Hattie, Oscar and Francis, the last two deceased; Ella was born on the 26th day of February, 1863, and died November 18, 1887. She was the wife of Samuel Alberson and the mother of three children, Sophronia A., Nellie J. and Lulu M., the second and third twins.

In the foregoing brief account are embodied the salient features in the career of a man whose life abounds in many practical lessons for the young and rising genera-

tion. He is essentially a self-made man and his success has resulted from industry, indomitable perseverance and the habit of doing well everything which he found to do. Integrity and a high sense of honor are among his more pronounced characteristics, to which may be added good judgment, keenness of perception and a desire always to do as he would be done by, without which principle no man's life can be called successful. He has lived according to his high standard of manhood and is ready when the time comes to enter that mysterious bourne to which all humanity is tending.

WILLIAM L. ENGLE.

A stranger traveling through Wells county, noting how largely the people are interested in the oil business and the number of producing wells to be encountered in any direction he might turn, would naturally suppose that it is through them that it received its name of Wells county. Such, however, is not the case. Wells county acquired its title long before any of its inhabitants ever thought of becoming oil producers. Nevertheless, the industry has added much to the wealth, comfort and happiness of that locality. One of the first to engage in the production of oil in Wells county was William L. Engle, of Geneva, Indiana, the subject of this sketch. He was born in Nottingham township, Wells county, September 19, 1860. His father was Isaac Engle, a native of Warren county, Ohio. His grandparents were William and Lutitia Engle, natives of New Jersey, who, early in the last century, moved to Randolph

county, Indiana. At this time Isaac Engle, father of William, was a child of some eight years. The family resided in Indiana only about six years, when they again moved, this time locating in Warren county, Ohio. About the time he attained his majority, Isaac Engle was united in marriage to Miss Anna Hopkins, a native of Jay county, Indiana, and daughter of Hezekiah Hopkins. They went to Randolph county, Indiana, and, after a residence there of two years, moved to Wells county, where they purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in the woods. A log cabin was their first home and the clearing and cultivation of the land was their life-work. Here they continued to reside up to the time of their deaths. Mrs. Engle died March 7, 1891, and her husband survived her some five years, dying September 20, 1896. They were the parents of thirteen children, seven of whom are living. The dead are Prudence, Emma, Hannah, Charles, Amanda and Richard; the living, William L., R. M., James A., Martha A., Daniel, Joseph C. and Arthur.

William L. Engle attended the public schools of his native township until he was twenty years of age. He then took a course at the normal school at Bluffton and later attended school at Valparaiso. Having laid a good foundation by procuring a good liberal education, he sought and readily procured a license to engage in the profession of teaching. The next four years he spent in the schoolrooms of the township of his birth, engaged as an instructor. In this calling he was eminently successful, but soon found that the compensation was by no means commensurate with the care, labor and responsibility required.

On September 28, 1883, William L.

Engle was united in marriage to Mary A. Hilton, also a native of Nottingham township and daughter of Daniel Hilton. Immediately thereafter he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of choice land, much of it cleared, and some of it under cultivation. Upon this he erected a comfortable home, a commodious barn and substantial outbuildings and began to devote himself to the calling of a husbandman and breeder of fine stock. Prospecting for oil about this time becoming fashionable, Mr. Engle was not long in catching the fever, in which he was abundantly favored by fortune. Well after well was sunk upon his premises, until at this time he has eight splendid producers and is now making arrangements for drilling a number of others. His income from this source was such as to justify him in getting out of the stock business, and he now breeds Shropshire sheep exclusively, his oil interests not admitting of his doing more. In the fall of 1891 he invested in a fine flock of thoroughbred Shropshire sheep and it is his purpose to engage quite extensively in the breeding of these animals, already having met with much success. Within a short time he hopes to be able to supply any reasonable demand which may be made upon him for choice specimens of these animals. To this business, as to every other in which he has engaged, Mr. Engle has given much patient study and there is little doubt that he will be as successful in this as he has been in each of the others.

February 9, 1896, Mr. Engle married his second wife, Effie J. Judy, a native of Adams county, Indiana. He and his wife are members of the Church of Christ, in which Mr. Engle is and has been for four years an elder. In politics he has always been a Re-

publican, but is especially zealous on behalf of his party during political campaigns. His career is ample evidence that, despite all we hear about trusts, there are still many avenues to fame and fortune open to the poor, but ambitious, persevering and worthy youths of the land.

G. B. SCHOTT.

The story of the life of men who from the smallest and most insignificant beginning have accomplished much in the way of accumulating property and rearing in comfort, even in luxury, large families, is always encouraging to others beginning at the bottom round of the ladder of life with little more than good health and a determined purpose out of which to carve success. Such a life story is that of G. B. Schott, of Domestic, Indiana.

Born in Logan county, Ohio, on the 12th day of April, 1841, of German parentage, the greater part of his busy life has been spent within a few hundred miles of his birth place. His parents were both natives of Byron, Germany, the father, George Schott, emigrating to America when he was seventeen years of age. He was by trade a baker and worked at the business five years in the city of New York, where he landed. The maiden name of the mother of the subject of this sketch was Margaretta Bowman, and she came to New York with her parents when quite young. Being from the same place in the Fatherland, the young people were not long in becoming acquainted and they were not long acquainted until they determined upon a closer and more sacred re-

lationship. After an industrious residence of five years in America, George felt that he had accumulated enough to justify him in taking the important step in life. He was married in New York city and immediately determining to anticipate the advice of Horace Greeley to "go west and grow up with the country;" he did so, settling in Logan county, Ohio. He there engaged in farming, prospering year after year, and in addition being blessed by the birth of a number of robust, healthy and vigorous sons. About the year 1844 he moved his family to Lorain county, Ohio, where he resided until his death, at the ripe age of eighty-four years, September 1, 1902. His good wife, Margaretta, continued to bless her family with motherly care and affection until 1861, when she bade farewell to earth and was gathered to her fathers.

George and Margaretta Schott were the parents of four children, all of whom are living: G. B., the subject; Peter, a resident of Wells county, Indiana; John B., who has lived for many years in Missouri, and Henry F., whose residence is in Lorain county, Ohio.

During the years of his boyhood G. B. Schott attended the district schools of Lorain county. He became very proficient in all the common school branches then taught, continuing in the task of acquiring an education until he was twenty years of age. The next year all his time was devoted to work on his father's farm, when he entered the employ of Dr. Underhill, of Lagrange, Ohio, taking entire charge and having full and unrestricted control of the Doctor's farm. At this time the war of the Rebellion was in progress in all its fury, and few youths with spirit enough to be worthy

of mention could content themselves at home, away from the scene of active hostilities. In the fall of 1862 G. B. Schott enlisted in Company D, Huffman's Battalion, which afterwards became the One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Regiment Ohio Volunteers. He saw much active service during the two years and nine months of his soldiering, continuing in the ranks until mustered out at the close of the Rebellion.

The life of the average soldier is not particularly favorable to the accumulation of money. On returning from the front to his home in Ohio, G. B. Schott found himself worse off financially than he was some three years before. Possessed of health and vigorous constitution, despite the exposure of his life at the front, he turned his attention to the first labor that offered itself. It was the season of the year when sheep were to be sheared and good wages were to be made by any one who could deftly and skillfully handle the clippers. While the season lasted the ex-soldier occupied his time in relieving sheep of their winter fleeces and when nothing more was to be done in that line he found himself in possession of a little ready money. With this he moved to Wells county, Indiana, settled in the woods, built a small log cabin and began the clearing of the fine, productive farm upon which he now lives.

December 1, 1865, Mr. Schott was united in marriage to Miss Hannah Keller, a native of Medina county, Ohio, and daughter of Daniel Keller, who had emigrated to America from Wittenburg, Germany. To his humble cabin in the woods Mr. Schott brought his blushing bride soon after their marriage. The market value of all their worldly possessions could then be covered

by a very few dollars, one horse being the sum and substance of their entire live stock. The furniture of their home was of the rudest and most primitive character. To illustrate: the bed upon which he slept was constructed of poles, fastened to the logs in one corner of the cabin. Upon these a straw tick was placed, which, with the usual covering, formed a couch that would not be entirely to the fancy of many young people of the present day. Yet, it is safe to say, Mr. and Mrs. Schott now look back upon those days of unrelenting toil and nights of refreshing repose and hail them as the happiest of their lives. About half an acre, which he planted in potatoes, was all he had cleared on his own place the first year, but he rented and cultivated land on the farm of a neighbor, Thomas Williams. This he continued to do for two years, by which time he had enough of tillable land on his own place to occupy his time and attention. About this time his brother Peter, who was a carpenter and quite handy with edge tools of all kinds, came to live with the young couple. He was possessed of a little ready money which did much to relieve the pinching poverty, and with two men in the woods, where only one had toiled before, the tract of land soon began to take on all the appearance of a productive, well-kept farm. At this time provisions of all kind were inordinately high. A fair quality of flour brought fifteen dollars a barrel and other articles were in proportion. It need not therefore shock the reader to learn that what constituted the staff of life for most people in poor or modern circumstances was nothing more nor less than good, old-fashioned, home-made corn bread. This, with genuine maple syrup, made in abundance by nearly every

family in the locality, formed the basis of quite palatable and enjoyable meals.

About this time the almost criminal waste of the finest timber, thousands of feet of splendid logs being rolled together in heaps and consumed by fire to get them out of the way, induced the Schott brothers to invest in and operate a saw-mill. This they did about 1869 and continued in the business of manufacturing lumber until a few years ago. During the years they were in business they turned out from their mill millions of feet of hickory, ash and black walnut lumber, for which they always found a most ready sale.

At the present time G. B. Schott is the owner of two hundred and forty acres of as fine land as can be found in the state. Eighty acres of this is the old home place on which he first settled, the other one hundred and sixty having been purchased since. Upon this land are eleven producing and productive oil wells, which alone make a very comfortable income for their owner. Back in 1883 a splendid home with modern conveniences was erected on the farm and in 1890 Mr. Schott built a large barn that is a model of convenience. This was necessary to accommodate the pure bred stock of cattle, hogs and sheep, in the rearing of which he is engaged.

Mr. and Mrs. Schott are the parents of three children, Henry C., Sarah and Lillie. Sarah has been a teacher in the public schools for a number of years and Lillie is the wife of Dr. Runnels, of Montpelier, Indiana. The latter are the parents of one child, a promising little daughter, named Grace. Mr. and Mrs. Schott are both members of the New Light church, and are active and zealous in all Christian work. Mr.

Schott is a member of John P. Porter Post, G. A. R., of Geneva, is a firm believer in the principles of the Republican party and always votes the way he believes. This year he was elected a delegate to the state convention of his party and on two occasions heretofore was honored with the nomination for county commissioner from his district. But Wells county is too well supplied with Democratic voters to permit many Republicans to feast at the official crib, so Mr. Schott, as he expected, was defeated each time. There are, without doubt, many men in this country who have accomplished more during the span of their business career than has Mr. Schott, but certainly there are not many who, with such limited resources as he had at his command in the beginning, have excelled or even equalled him.

JOHN M. BECK.

John M. Beck was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, May 17, 1839. His father, Mathias Beck, was a native of Wurtemberg, Germany, and the son of a furrier. He had received only a common German education, as his father was unable to give him the advantage of the higher training. Being a cripple, he was not compelled to serve in the army, as was his more able bodied associates, and was thus nurtured in a less hardy but purer atmosphere. He was married to Miss Rosanna Haley, and in order to secure a better home sold his possessions and came to America in 1830, settling in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, where he purchased a small farm. He remained in Pennsylvania eight years and then came to



Mrs J. M. Beck



John M. Beck

Indiana, settling at Fort Wayne. About 1841 he came to Wells county and bought two hundred and forty acres of land in the woods where he built one of the finest houses in this part of Wells county. This home, which was then considered little less than a mansion, was a large hewed-log house of three rooms below and one above. Mr. Beck was a man of energy and was among those to encourage improvements, lending his aid to all movements for the benefit of his community. He was a Democrat and a member of the German Lutheran church. He was the father of eight children, four of whom grew to maturity. John M.; and Anna M. wife of Henry Foreman, at one time a furrier of Adams county, but now a retired farmer, are the only ones living.

John M. Beck came with his parents to Wells county when he was two and one-half years old and has since spent his entire life in this section. He received a common education in the country schools and spent his hours out of school working for his father, whom he assisted until he was twenty-seven years old. In December, 1866, he married Miss Mary Miller, whose parents came from Stark county, Ohio, and established a home of his own. This lady died in 1874 and the following year he married Miss Melissa J. Bennet, of Washington county, Iowa. She was educated in the Washington Academy, had been a teacher in Iowa and also in Wells county. Mr. Beck worked his father's farm for some years and two years later bought the old homestead, containing one hundred and forty acres, in the northeast part of Wells county. Being a careful manager and a progressive farmer, he has made money, being now considered one of the successful

farmers and stock raisers of the community. By his first wife he was the father of four children, viz: William M., who married Miss M. N. Snarr, is a farmer in Jefferson township; Charles M., who married Miss Anna Bowers, is engaged in the hardware business at Fort Wayne; Rosa E. is the wife of Fred Tracy, of St. Joseph county, and Mary L. is the wife of M. E. Spencer, of Ossian. The present Mrs. Beck is the mother of two children, viz: Nora C. is the wife of Prof. I. C. Hamilton, a graduate of the State University at Bloomington and a student of the Chicago University, both having taught in the Wells county schools; Ira D. W., who is assisting his father on the farm.

The subject of this sketch was formerly a member of the Democratic party and in his younger days he was an active worker in its ranks, though he now holds warm sympathy for the principles of the Prohibition movement, which he supports with his ballot. He is one of the most progressive and influential farmers in Jefferson township and is known far and wide as an honest, upright, honorable citizen.

WILLIAM DUNWIDDIE.

Few of the men who joined the army during the Civil war and remained out any length of time returned very much improved financially. The precarious existence of a soldier, with the chance staring him in the face of having even that existence cut short at any moment, is not calculated to develop principles of either prudence or economy. Who that is daily facing death in various forms cares to lay away money that, per-

chance, strangers may have the pleasure of spending? Hence the soldier spent while he had it to spend and was just as happy when "broke" as when he had abundance. A few there were, however, who held to a firm hope of being able to live another day and at another time when the devastation of war would no longer ravage the land. They practiced the virtues of peace amidst the dissolution of war, and while most of their comrades returned poor indeed, they had oftentimes more than enough to supply immediate necessities. William Dunwiddie, of Nottingham township, Wells county, Indiana, the subject of this sketch, was such a soldier. He spent much as the others did, but he managed to save enough to enable him to purchase forty acres of land on his return from the front.

William Dunwiddie was born in Warren county, Ohio, December 29, 1842. His paternal grandparents were John and Ruth (Betts) Dunwiddie, the former born in Delaware in 1781 and the latter in New Jersey in 1785. His father was Peter Dunwiddie, a native of Greene county, Ohio, born April 5, 1816. His wife, the mother of the subject, was Eunice Haines, a native of Warren county, born September 20, 1817. They were married September 1, 1836, and continued to reside in the county of their nativity until 1855, when they moved with their family to Wells county, Indiana. He was a minister of the gospel, but was much as those to whom he administered spiritual and religious consolation, having little more than enough to provide material sustenance for themselves. Thus he was obliged to occupy his time during the week on the farm, preaching at least twice each Sunday. To them eleven children were born, viz: John

H., born September 12, 1837, died May 26, 1843; Hannah G., born August 1, 1839, deceased; Brook C., born August 24, 1841, died November 5, 1872; William, the subject, who will hereafter be referred to more particularly; Matilda, born October 25, 1844, deceased; John, born April 25, 1846, deceased; Jacob, born September 23, 1847, deceased; Harrison B., born June 16, 1849, a resident of Reiffsburg; Mary E., born August 5, 1853, deceased; David, born March 25, 1855, died in infancy; Susan B., born November 23, 1857, wife of Sylvester Pontius; Brooks C. served four years during the war in Company E, Fortieth Indiana Regiment; John served two years in the same company and regiment, and William was out three years, three months and five days during the same eventful period. John Dunwiddie, their paternal grandfather, served in the United States army during the war of 1812. The parents of these children are both dead.

William Dunwiddie received his education partly in Warren county, Ohio, and partly in Benton county, Indiana, whither he had gone and where he resided a number of years previous to the Civil war. When but nineteen years of age, in the early part of the war, in Oxford, Benton county, Indiana, he enlisted in Company C, Ninety-ninth Indiana Volunteer Infantry. Few regiments participated in more of the important battles of the war than did the Ninety-ninth Indiana. With his regiment, the subject followed the flag in the following engagements: Vicksburg, Jackson, Mississippi, Mission Ridge, the Knoxville campaign, Rocky Face Ridge, Resaca, Dallas, Kenesaw Mountain, Atlanta, July 22 and 28, Jonesboro, Lovejoy Station, Fort McAllister, Savannah, Co-

lumbia, Goldsboro and Raleigh. On the march to the sea William Dunwiddie was one of those detailed to do the foraging for the other members of the company. Food had to be gotten and it was at times so difficult to provide that his ingenuity was often taxed to the utmost to find the supply of live stock, grain and provisions which the owners had hidden away. He was always so successful that his admiring comrades gave him a number of pet names which were neither euphonious nor pretty and which it is unnecessary to mention here. During the entire term of his service he was not off duty more than three weeks and that was on account of sickness. At the close of the war the regiment went to Washington City, where they took part in the grand review and where they were mustered out. The old flag they bore through many a battle was so torn and rent by shot and shell and soiled by the blood of its brave defenders that a new one was procured in Washington on which was emblazoned a list of the battles in which the regiment took part, but when brought out it elicited no enthusiasm whatever, the boys preferring the old tattered banner they had followed so long and so faithfully. It was brought out amid the cheers of its defenders and it and the regiment formed a very conspicuous portion of that historic parade. During its time of service the regiment traveled thirty-three hundred and ninety-eight miles, which does not include the steps taken by the subject in his foraging expeditions. All this was accomplished on foot except a few hundred miles by rail and transport.

For two years after William Dunwiddie's return from the war he worked for his father, receiving as compensation only his

board and clothes. With what little he was able to save during the days of his soldiering he bought forty acres of land, the same on which his brother-in-law, Mark Watson, now resides. For a year he worked in a saw-mill in western Indiana, then returned to Wells county and began clearing his land. The last hundred dollars he owed on the place he paid out of his earnings in the saw-mill. September 3, 1868, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary J. Watson, a native of Adams county, Indiana, born February 19, 1846. Her parents were John and Margaret Watson, natives of England and early settlers of Adams county, but both are now deceased. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Watson, viz: Sarah, deceased; Wesley died in the army during the Civil war; Mary J., wife of William Dunwiddie, the subject; Joseph, now a resident of Adams county; Phoebe C., wife of S. W. Skeels, now resides in Michigan; Ruth, wife of William Heaston, of Geneva.

At the time of the marriage, a log cabin and fifteen acres cleared were all the improvements that had been made on the forty acres which Mr. Dunwiddie owned. However, they took up their abode in the log cabin and cultivated and improved the place for one year, when they rented the Josephus Marlin farm in Adams county. They remained there only one year, when they returned to Wells county, bought the west eighty acres of the old homestead, and proceeded to build a house thereon. In the meantime he had sold the first forty acres he had purchased, to his brother-in-law, Mark Watson, who is yet the owner and occupant thereof. On the new tract he had purchased he was obliged to incur an indebtedness of sixteen hundred dollars. At the time it

was bought the only improvements there were on the place was fifteen acres cleared. It is now all cleared but thirty acres, well ditched, fenced and provided with lasting and substantial improvements. He has purchased another eighty acres immediately adjoining, which gives him one hundred and sixty acres of fine farming land in one compact body. On this land are six producing oil wells, from which he now realizes about eighteen dollars per month, though there was a time when much more was realized on the output.

To Mr. and Mrs. William Dunwiddie five children have been born, viz: Clara E., born in Adams county, January 24, 1871, wife of Jacob Bierrie; P. W., born in Wells county, September 27, 1873, married Hattie Brown, has one son, Harry, and resides in Adams county; Margaret J., born in Wells county July 30, 1876, married Lawrence Watson and they are residents of Nottingham township; Ruth E., born in Wells county, August 8, 1879, resides with her parents; Benjamin H., born in Wells county, January 27, 1882, is at home with his parents. Each have received a good common school education. Clara is a graduate of the Geneva high school and taught a number of terms, until compelled by failing health to cease.

Mr. Dunwiddie has unlimited faith in the American hog. He believes that if properly handled it will pay more debts for its owner than any other animal. He asserts that its capabilities for swelling a bank account are unrivaled and devotes his entire time to farming and stock raising. With Poland China hogs, shorthorn cattle and a general class of sheep, his farm is constantly well stocked. All but two and a half years of his married life have been spent upon his

present farm and his present prosperous condition indicates clearly the success he has attained.

The family are all members of the Methodist Episcopal church, except the husband and father. While having no ill will whatever toward religion, he is not connected with any denomination. He is a member of John P. Porter Post No. 83, G. A. R., of Geneva. In politics he is a Republican, has always been an active worker in the party and is recognized as a man of standing and influence in his locality, being generally a delegate in the conventions of his party. From an exceedingly small beginning he has accomplished far more than many others with better opportunities, which speaks well for the native merit of the man.

WILLIAM E. BOWMAN.

The average yearly accumulation of the American working man, in dollars and cents, is not large. The great majority find it impossible to make any saving whatever. There are, however, a few who manage to lay aside a little and by its assistance, after years of privation, self-denial and the fortunate investment of their hoardings, manage to secure a competency. Few are able to accomplish what William E. Bowman, the subject of this sketch, did in seven years. With his own labor and that of a team of horses on a rented farm, he managed to pay expenses and save, in a period of seven years, the sum of three thousand eight hundred dollars, an average saving of about five hundred and forty-three dollars a year.

William E. Bowman was born Novem-

ber 22, 1861, in Stark county, Ohio. He is the son of Adam and Charlotte (Shick) Bowman, natives of Ohio, where they resided on a farm up to the time they moved to Elkhart county, Indiana. Later they moved into Harrison township, Wells county, where they have resided ever since. They were the parents of ten children, all of whom are living, viz: Charles, a resident of Elkhart; Samuel, a resident of Elkhart; William E., the subject of this sketch; Anna, wife of Philip Householder, resides in Harrison township; John, a resident of Bluffton; Henry, a resident of Bluffton; Frank, a resident of Elkhart; Adam, a resident of Cass county, Michigan; Ida, wife of James Cherry, of Bluffton; Edward, a resident of Bluffton.

When William E. Bowman was old enough to attend school he was more fortunate than many who preceded him, in having good schools, comfortable school buildings, model text books and efficient teachers. He attended school in Harrison township each winter until he was eighteen years of age and profited by the instruction he received. He then began working for wages, making his home, however, with his parents. Up to the time of his marriage he worked by the day, week, month or job as he was able to secure employment. He was prudent and provident. He knew how he got his money and very little of it escaped from him without bringing him some returns. On the day of his marriage he was the owner of a good team of horses, a wagon and one hundred and ninety dollars in money.

On the 22nd day of March, 1889, he was united in marriage to Miss Rachael Funk, a daughter of Absalom and Mar-

garet A. (Bower) Funk, well-to-do residents of Wells county. Immediately after marriage the young people took up their residence on the Funk farm, where they resided for six years. He worked with his team and at such jobs as he could procure, doing only enough farming to procure feed for his team. After trying this for six years he discovered that there was little in it more than a bare living. This determined him to change his policy. He rented the Sol DeLong farm in Harrison township and devoted himself assiduously to the management of that farm for seven years. At the end of that time he had saved enough money to justify him in purchasing an eighty-acre tract of land of his own. He selected a nice piece of land and bought it, paying three thousand eight hundred dollars cash for it, every dollar of which he accumulated during the seven years he had been living on rented farm. March 1, 1901, he took up his residence on his new purchase and began improving the land. Since then he has ditched, fenced and cleared this land, making it a most valuable farm. He carries on general farming, raising grain, hay, vegetables and stock of all kinds. He gives his preference to shorthorn cattle, but considers the cross between the Poland China and Berkshire the most desirable in hogs. The greater part of his farm is now under cultivation. To Mr. and Mrs. Bowman four children have been born, Carrie, Cora, Hugh and Bert. Mrs. Bowman is a member of the German Reformed church, a regular attendant upon its services and a liberal contributor to its support. Mr. Bowman is a member of Washington Council No. 5, Order of United American Mechanics, of Bluffton, is an active member and much in-

terested in the work. In politics he is a Republican, sufficiently liberal to accord to others the privilege he takes to himself, that of voting for whom he pleases. He and his brother-in-law, John Funk, have just returned from an extensive trip through the principal large cities of the east, where they saw much that was entertaining, instructive and amusing. They visited Atlantic City, Philadelphia, Jersey City, New York City, Brooklyn, Baltimore and Washington City, taking in all places of interest in each, returning by way of Cincinnati. The industry, prudence and thrift of Mr. Bowman is most commendable, all the more so because neither selfish nor parsimonious, but he wants to see proper, legitimate return for every dollar he expects. If all good citizens were equally careful in money matters, the latter days of many good men and women would not be, as they frequently are, embittered by poverty.

JOSEPH AWKERMEN.

One of the bravest ex-soldiers of the Civil war and now a respected resident of Liberty Center, Wells county, Indiana, is Joseph Awkerman, who was born in Wayne county, Ohio, October 1, 1839. His father, also named Joseph, was a native of Berne, Switzerland, came to America when still quite young, and married at a proper age Miss Mary Osenbaugh, a native of Northampton county, Pennsylvania. He was called away, however, when but twenty-eight years of age, leaving Joseph, the subject proper of this sketch, then but three months old, to the care of his mother, who died

when the son was only three and a half years of age.

Joseph Awkerman, Sr., at the death of his mother was placed in the care of a so-called guardian, who never even furnished the child with a pair of shoes nor clothing enough to cover him decently. The case was so aggravated a one that the boy was persuaded to run away from his guardian by a friend who had secured a home for him, where his services were rewarded with good board and clothes and five dollars in cash per year, that is, the equivalent of five American dollars. He was an industrious and faithful lad, always found plenty of work to do, and as he grew older his pay was increased proportionately. The last year he worked in Switzerland he received twelve dollars per month, but the next year, when he demanded thirteen dollars, his demand was refused. About this time he was informed that there was a party being made up for migration to America and he decided to join it. In 1817 he landed in New York, but for some reason he and his fellow passengers were reshipped on the same vessel to Philadelphia, where he was landed with no funds whatever. A kind stranger, becoming aware of the fact, furnished the young Switzer with four dollars and with this sum the latter paid his passage to Pittsburgh, near which city he secured work on a farm, and remained thereon for two years. From Pennsylvania Mr. Awkerman removed to Ohio and for a while worked on a farm in Columbiana county, and later in a grist-mill for the same employer. He had made up his mind to come further west, when a proposition was made to him to clear up a fifteen-acre tract, a certain quantity of land to be given him as pay for his

labor. But he heard that land could be had from the government further west at a much lower figure, and he accordingly gathered together all his available means and went to Wayne county, Ohio, where he entered eighty acres in the forest. There Mr. Awkerman built a cabin in which he lived alone four years, and then, about 1827, married Mary Osenbaugh, a daughter of Henry Osenbaugh, of Pennsylvania.

Mary Osenbaugh was but fourteen years of age when her parents came from the east and first located in Fairfield county, Ohio, whence they removed to Wayne county, Ohio, where Henry Osenbaugh and wife passed the remainder of their days. After marriage Joseph and Mary (Osenbaugh) Awkerman settled on the farm he had entered, and there had eleven children born to them, namely: A daughter, who died in infancy; Sarah, who died when seven years old; Elizabeth, who died at three; Catherine, widow of David Shreiner, of Medina county, Ohio; Susanna, deceased wife of William H. Funk, of Bluffton, Indiana; John, of Medina county, Ohio; Anna, deceased; Joseph, whose name opens this biography; Lovina, deceased; Rachael, wife of Levi Cross, of Michigan; and Henry, who has his residence also in Medina county, Ohio. Joseph Awkerman, the father of the above enumerated children, passed away November 23, 1863, and the mother November 15, 1877.

Joseph Awkerman, of this sketch, attended the district schools in Wayne county, Ohio, until twenty-one years of age and then worked at carpentering until the summer of 1862, when he enlisted, August 9, in Company E, One Hundred and Second Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in which he served

three years. He never had a part in any very severe battle, but participated in many lively skirmishes and was in one siege of four days' duration. He was honorably mustered out June 30, 1865, and Mr. Awkerman stoutly maintains that his company never was conquered until it reached Todd's Barrack, at Columbus, Ohio, where it was completely routed by bed bugs and compelled to sleep in the yard.

When Mr. Awkerman reached his home, he found that his father had passed away, and his mother was just preparing for harvesting. Joseph therefore passed the remainder of the season in working for her and her neighbors, and the next year worked at his trade all summer. In the spring of 1867 he came to Liberty township, Wells county, Indiana, and in just two years and four days after arriving here purchased the farm of eighty acres on which he now lives and for which he paid nine hundred dollars, of which amount three hundred dollars was in cash; for the balance, he gave three notes, of two hundred dollars respectively, at twelve, twenty-four and thirty-six months, two of which notes he paid promptly when due, but the third he was thirty-three dollars short just at the time, but made it all right in a few days. After purchasing his farm, Mr. Awkerman continued to work at his trade in summer and in a saw-mill and at other kind of labor in winter, and thus was able to earn the means with which to pay for his farm, continuing to work in the same manner for ten years.

Mr. Awkerman was united in marriage, February 1, 1877, at St. Mary's, Ohio, with Miss Cynthia B. Bireley, who was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, April 8, 1837, a daughter of Lewis and Mary Bire-

ley, the former of whom was born in Maryland, and the latter in Franklin county, Pennsylvania. Cynthia B., the daughter of this respected and honored couple, was but seven years of age when taken to Ohio by her parents, who settled in Miami county, where she grew to maturity. There were five children in the Bireley family, born in the following order; Elnora, now deceased; Rebecca; William, deceased; Susan, deceased, and Cynthia B., now Mrs. Awkerman. At his marriage, Mr. Awkerman began housekeeping in a log cabin, eighteen by twenty-four feet in dimension on the ground floor, with two rooms upstairs. They had made some bed clothing, on "the sly," and Mrs. Awkerman brought the bed, the chairs, a rocker, a cupboard, a table and several other little articles of household furniture. Mr. Awkerman had no team at that time, but in the following November bought two horses and a wagon and began farming, relinquishing carpenter work as much as possible. Two or three years after marriage, on one occasion, Mr. Awkerman found himself to be rather hard pressed for cash, but was told by his wife that it was absolutely necessary to have flour. The young husband was somewhat nonplussed, but put a bold face on and went to Poneta and secured some flour from John Penrod on credit, this being the only time in his life that he was really "hard up."

Mr. Awkerman continued farming until 1884, when he succumbed to ill health contracted in the army and was unable to do any work until the middle of October following. Up to this attack of sickness every thing on the farm had worked auspiciously, but he was compelled to rent his farm and retire to Poneto. His residence in the town

had a continuance of three years, but in the second year of this period he secured, in recognition of his military service, a pension of sixteen dollars per month and back pay for eighteen months, and this sum put him out of debt, nor does he owe any man a dollar. In 1887 Mr. Awkerman returned to his farm, over which he still keeps supervision, but rents out the arable portion to John Wineland. The farm is improved with a handsome dwelling, a good barn, and one thousand one hundred and fifty rods of tiling, and with the exception of seven acres is all cleared off and under cultivation.

Mr. Awkerman is a member of the Dunkard church and Mrs. Awkerman is a member of the Methodist Protestant, and of the former he is a member of the building committee and a trustee. In politics Mr. Awkerman is a Republican, but was reared a Democrat, and the change was brought by the first slave he ever saw and who preached Democracy out of him. Mr. and Mrs. Awkerman are among the most respected of the residents of Liberty Center, and for his present elevated position Mr. Awkerman does not hesitate to award to his faithful helpmate a full share of praise and credit.

JAMES H. KEEFER.

This young, talented and energetic editor and proprietor of the Weekly News, published at Ossian, Indiana, was born in Maysville, Allen county, Indiana, February 11, 1869, and is descended from parents in whose veins the blood of the Pennsylvania Germans largely predominated. He secured the elements of an



JAS. H. KEEFER.

education in Maysville at the common schools and the completion of his studies was accomplished through self application to books, travel and close observation of men and things as they passed before his mental and physical vision. He was of an inventive turn of mind in his youthful days and a year of labor in a printing office taught him the details of the profession, although he had intended to follow an entirely different line of life work. At the age of twenty he entered into the wholesale butchering and meat business at Maysville, but in 1885 Swift & Company, of Chicago, had monopolized the trade by underselling the local dealers. Mr. Keefer then turned his genius to newspaper work and how well he succeeded will be found in a sketch of the Ossian News. The Ossian Weekly Telephone was founded by DuBoise & Huffman, but dragged along a sickly existence of a few weeks only, when a Mr. Lipes started a job-printing plant with a view of founding another journal, which never materialized. In December, 1890, Mr. Keefer secured a meager five-hundred-dollar equipment and began the issue of the Ossian News. The quarters were too small and in February, 1891, he moved his establishment into the north room of the Ossian House. His determination to win overcame the doubts and prejudices of those who had been "gold bricked" by the Weekly Telephone, and soon subscriptions began to come in, and advertising to boom. In April, 1891, seeking larger quarters, Mr. Keefer moved into the upstairs rooms of the old postoffice building, where he had his living rooms as well. The News remained there until increased prosperity in-

duced the proprietor to build his present office, to which he moved in April, 1893. The paper at the start was a four-column quarto, but in three weeks its size was increased to a five-column quarto, two pages being printed at home, the rest being "ready-print" from the Fort Wayne Newspaper Union. This continued a year, when Mr. Keefer began to print four pages at home. January 1, 1898, the News changed dress to brevier and showed further improvements, making its appearance "pasted and trimmed" in its present neat and attractive form. Recently a large Jones-Gordon press and a serviceable low-power gas engine were added, the equipment costing about twenty-five hundred dollars. The job printing facilities of the plant are equal—indeed superior—to any other in the county. The News itself is a bright, tasty, readable weekly, a mirror which reflects the life of the community, its carefully prepared news columns being now considered authority on local matters. It finds its way into nearly every home in this section of Wells county and has become almost a household necessity. Its news and editorial articles are written in a crisp, catchy style, such talent as that of C. A. Carpenter adding zest and pith to its columns and making it the favorite paper in hundreds of families.

In December, 1902, The News added a zinc etching plant by which it is enabled to present to its readers a line of interesting cartoons that materially enhance the value of the paper both from a reading and an advertising standpoint. A 20th century souvenir volume of Ossian, with an edition of two thousand copies, was issued by the News

and received encomiums of praise from leading editors throughout the country.

In 1902 James H. Keefer was chosen by the building committee of the new Presbyterian church to superintend the erection of the fine sixteen-thousand-dollar edifice and so satisfactory were his efforts that the building is without a peer when compared with other church edifices of the same cost. Following is a list of the members of this committee: L. F. Wilson, chairman, Jas. H. Keefer, W. H. Rupright, A. F. Roe, G. A. Morton, Rev. E. P. Gilchrist. Jas. H. Keefer was tacitly looked upon as a man whose critical powers would be of service and indeed he was of much valuable assistance, for the entire committee deferred frequently to his judgment in weighty matters.

JOHN W. RINEAR.

The versatile man is not proven by the many callings to which he turns his hand. He is rather proven to be versatile by the number of which he makes a success. Hon. John W. Rinear, of Liberty Center, Wells county, Indiana, the subject of this brief sketch, has undertaken many vocations,—which in itself does not prove him to be versatile. He has undertaken nothing in which he has not been eminently successful,—that does. He has been a woodman, a farmer, a soldier, a dealer in real estate, a merchant, a member of the legislature and various other minor vocations, in all of which he acquitted himself not only with credit, but with marked honor.

John W. Rinear is a native of Ohio. He

was born near Cleveland, Cuyahoga county, March 4, 1842, the son of Charles and Jane S. Rinear. The father was a native of New Jersey, born July 7, 1816; the mother a native of New York, born May 16, 1820. The parents of Charles were John and Rebecca (Gaskill) Rinear, both natives of New Jersey. Jane S. was the daughter of Silas and Esther (Montgomery) Parker, Silas being a native of Connecticut, a thoroughbred, down-east Yankee, while Esther was a native of New York. Charles, the father of the subject, grew to manhood in Cuyahoga county, Ohio, having accompanied his parents to that commonwealth when he was only five years old. In this locality also the parents of Jane S. Parker had settled and engaged in farming. There they were married and resided until 1847, when they moved to Huntington county, Indiana, and seven years later to Liberty township, Wells county. That region was at that time dense woods, but there they purchased a tract of one hundred and twenty acres. Charles Rinear was at that time a large, powerful man, capable of doing much more work than the average man and rarely acknowledged a feeling of weariness. With little means other than their industry, they started in a log cabin and fought a winning fight against poverty and privation. Both the parents are now dead, the father dying December 26, 1887, at the age of seventy-one, and his faithful wife went to her reward April 6, 1894, aged seventy-four. At the time of their death they were possessed of the title to the land purchased by them when they first came to Wells county, besides much other valuable property. Their work was ended when they passed away and it was well done. He was a deacon of the

Baptist church and served in that capacity for forty years. In politics he was a stanch Republican, but there must have been something radically wrong either with his teaching or the cause he espoused, for all of his sons are Democrats. Perhaps it was in the atmosphere, as Wells county is a little peculiar in that particular. Charles and Jane S. Rinear were the parents of six children, five of whom are yet living. They are as follows: John W., the subject of this sketch; Elias M., who most efficiently served Wells county as commissioner; Emma S., wife of Eli Smith, of Liberty Center; Charles A. died at the age of twenty-four years; George F., a resident of Bluffton; Mary J., wife of H. J. Johnson, justice of the peace of Liberty township. Each received a good education and is comfortably settled in life.

John W. Rinear received his education in the common schools of Liberty township, which he attended until he was nineteen years old. Like many other youths of that period, his school days were prematurely abbreviated by the operation of the recruiting office. September 25, 1861, he enlisted in Company A, Forty-seventh Indiana Volunteers. After fourteen months' service he was obliged to leave the ranks on account of disability by reason of a bullet wound received in the right arm at the mouth of White river, Arkansas. Those fourteen months, however, were a period of much activity. He was stationed for a time at New Madrid, Missouri, and at Riddles Point, Missouri. He took part in the siege of Fort Pillow and his was the first Federal regiment in Memphis after the naval battle. It was with much regret that he was obliged to leave the service at a time when he felt most deeply interested in the success of the

Union cause. He received an honorable discharge at Memphis, Tennessee.

After returning from the war he was, on April 2, 1863, united in marriage to Miss Sarah C. First, a young lady of modesty and refinement and of an amiable disposition. She was born February 23, 1843, in Liberty township, Wells county, her parents being Jacob and Hannah (Stonebrook) First, natives of Pennsylvania. Her father was born March 5, 1811. He entered a tract of land in Liberty township, Wells county, in 1836 and took up his residence thereon in 1841. He resided upon this land until a few years ago, when he began making his home with his daughter, Mrs. John W. Rinear, wife of the subject of this sketch. He is now the only man in Liberty township who has retained his ownership of the land he originally secured from the government. He has at different times held every office in the gift of his township, except that of assessor, and filled each position creditably and well. Now, after a life of unremitting industry, in his ninety-second year, he is still hale and hearty. Jacob and Hannah First were the parents of eight children, viz: Israel, deceased; Solomon; Mary J., wife of Peter Frantz; George, deceased; Sarah C., wife of the subject; Salinda, wife of R. F. Taylor; Thomas and Caroline, who was the wife of Theodore Ewart, but has since died.

For three years after his marriage Mr. Rinear rented and lived upon the farm of Dr. Melshiemer in Liberty township. In the meantime, having saved some money, with it he purchased a tract of forty acres of land, which now forms a part of Liberty Center. The east half of the original plat of the town was laid out on this land by Mr. Rinear, and when purchased, this land

was dense woods. With his own hands the new owner erected upon this place a cabin eighteen by twenty feet. At this time his worldly possessions consisted of a team of horses, a cow and a few shoats. For the greater part of the purchase price he went in debt, but each and every note was paid by, or before, the time it became due. With his own labor and that of his faithful wife they cleared this land and made of it a farm and a home. In 1866 Mr. Rinear came into possession of his present farm, and on the 28th day of December, 1866, his home was gladdened by the birth of a daughter, Hannah S., who was the first child born in Liberty Center. She is now the wife of John B. Funk, a prosperous druggist and postmaster of Liberty Center, who at the expiration of his present term will have served the government in that capacity twelve years. They are the parents of three children, viz: John A. J., sixteen years old, is in the second year of high school and attended the Marion Normal School last spring; Sarah A. M., thirteen years old, a student of common school in the eighth grade; Charles Rinear, ten years old, also attending school.

A purchase of twenty acres of land was made by Mr. Rinear in 1874, adjoining his place on the north. In 1878 Liberty Center got a railroad, and the same year he laid out the east half of Liberty Center. He is today the oldest continuous citizen of the town. He served as justice of the peace for twelve years from 1873 and, during that time, did more business than had been done in the office by all of his predecessors combined, including the marriage of one hundred and four happy couples. In 1877 he engaged in the mercantile business at Liberty Center, was appointed postmaster and served

three years. He continued in the mercantile business until 1882, meanwhile looking after his agricultural interests. He is now the owner of three hundred and twenty-five acres of land, one mile east of Liberty Center, all in one body, well improved and under good cultivation, as fine a farm as can be found in Wells county. Besides he has thirty-five acres of his old home place in town and resides on lot 1 of the original plat of the town. His home is a most comfortable and commodious one, where he is most happy in his domestic relations, and where hospitality abounds and love and affection reigns supreme.

In 1894, at the session of the Democratic joint senatorial convention of Wells and Huntington counties, John W. Rinear received the nomination and after a spirited canvass was elected by a large majority. He served on the committees for corporations, railroads, public health and natural gas in the session of 1895. In 1897 he was accorded a place on the committees on finance, benevolent institutions, banks, military affairs, county and township business, railroads and city of Indianapolis. He was appointed by the judge of the circuit court, in June, 1899, a member of the county council for district No. 3, and in 1900 he was elected councilman at large by a popular majority of nearly one thousand one hundred. At the election of 1902 he was re-elected by a large majority for four years. He has served as president of the board ever since it was organized, being again elected for the ensuing four years. In 1887 he was commissioned by the governor a notary public and served in that capacity eight years. In every public position he has been called to fill he has been faithful and trustworthy. Even

his enemies, and there are few without them, political or otherwise, have never ventured even to insinuate that he has ever in the least betrayed any confidence, public or private, that had been reposed in him. At the present time Hon. John W. Rinear is devoting himself almost exclusively to the management of his agricultural interests. On his three-hundred-acre farm he raises astonishingly large crops of grain and the farm is well stocked with Poland China hogs, a general class of cattle and all necessary horses. He raises, buys, fattens and puts on the market each year quite an amount of stock and the returns from his agricultural operations have been gratifyingly profitable. He and his wife are members of the Baptist church, contributing liberally to its support and that of every worthy object. He is a member of Lew Daily Post No. 33, G. A. R., at Bluffton and Lodge No. 747, I. O. O. F., at Liberty Center, of which he is a charter member. That he is a good, even a model, citizen, at home and abroad, is best attested by the esteem in which he is held wherever he is known. Such a hold as he has upon the affections of the people of his own and adjoining counties can never be secured but by the most worthy.

G. W. G. MILLER.

George W. G. Miller was born June 18, 1857, in Chester township, Wells county, Indiana. He is a son of Henry G. Miller, a native of Germany, and Franciena (Morris) Miller, a native of the state of Pennsylvania. Henry came to America when a boy, running away to evade serving in the stand-

ing army of his native country, which is, by law, required of every citizen in Germany. After his arrival in this country, he located in Muncie, Indiana, where he remained for two years, working in a distillery. He then went to Montpelier, Indiana, where he went to work in a flouring-mill, and was there for about four years, then came to Wells county, and built another mill and commenced grinding wheat. He continued in this business a few years, when he bought the farm where George W. G. Miller now lives. Removing to this farm he remained there until his death, his wife, Francenia, also dying on this farm. Henry G. was the father of ten children, six of whom are yet living: Nancy J. was the wife of John Jellison and is now deceased; Sarah M. was the wife of William Walker, and is also deceased; Hannah E., deceased, was the wife of P. C. Shadle; Amanda M., the wife of William Miller; Mary Ann, the wife of Jesse Miller; Jonathan married first a Miss Julian and, second, a Miss Strupe; Charlotte married Eli Carney; Ellen, the wife of Levi Markey, deceased; George W. G., who now lives on the home place, and Rosa E., wife of John Bennett.

George was a pupil at district school No. 3, in Chester township, Wells county, until he was about nineteen years old, after which he remained at home with his father until he was of age. Soon after this he was married and built his first house within forty feet of his birth place on the old homestead. He still lives on a part of the old place, fifty acres of which he owns. On January 6, 1878, he was married to Florence Raymond, a daughter of Henry and Candis (Rogers) Raymond, both of whom are deceased. George W. and wife are the parents of five

children: Henry G., born October 30, 1879, married Ida Pearson; Andrew M., born March 13, 1882, at home with his parents; Newton B., born March 17, 1885; Lucretia B., born October 6, 1889; and Merla R., born March 13, 1892.

Mr. Miller is a general farmer, devoting himself to the cultivation of his farm and raising of stock. He and his family are connected with the Christian church, of which he has served as deacon for the past five years. In politics he has always been a Republican, until within the last two years, since which time he has advocated the Prohibition cause. G. W. Miller belongs to the younger class of that large army of bright, energetic and go-ahead sons of the soil, whose influence will so largely predominate in the future advancement and material prosperity of the country. He is the son of a sire who, in his young manhood, felt impelled, by a spirit of independence, to flee from the tyranny imposed by the military proclivities of his native land to the freedom of action vouchsafed under the waving folds of Old Glory. Animated by the same spirit of independence and love of freedom which caused the father to seek a home and larger liberty in the new world for himself and descendants, the son will, in the active performance of all the duties imposed upon a good citizen and neighbor, demonstrate his appreciation of the aspirations of his paternal ancestor. He is in the prime of life, and with the ambition to better his environments in life, which is the birthright of every American citizen, supplemented by the love of family and the high esteem and respect in which he is held in the community, will inspire him to many years of future usefulness in life. Mr. and Mrs. Miller are godly

people and it has been their aim to rear their children in the nurture and the admiration of the Lord. Their three sons are earnest devotees of the religion of the lowly Nazarine.

JOHN G. DETTINGER.

Many a man is unfortunate in having become skilled in a calling for which he never afterwards had any use. Years of time and unlimited patience have been expended to acquire a thorough knowledge of business, only to find, when it has been secured, that a machine has been invented which does the work better and many times faster than it can be done by hand. In such an emergency all that is left to the unlucky artisan is to turn his talent to something else in the hope of not being forestalled in that also. It often happens that what the poor victim of fate looked upon as real misfortune later proved to be only a blessing in disguise. It proved so with John G. Dettinger, the subject of this sketch. In early life he learned the business of a nailer, or manufacturer of nails (by hand). At the time it was a most flourishing and remunerative calling. Within a few years after he became thoroughly skilled in the business, machinery so completely superseded hand work and nails became so inordinately cheap that no one but a crank or imbecile would think of having nails made by hand. The result was that John G. Dettinger, skilled nailer, found himself out of a job. He came to America, turned farmer in the woods of Ohio and Indiana and now in his declining years finds himself one hundred fold better off than he would

have been if the business of making nails by hand had not completely collapsed.

John G. Dettinger was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, July 4, 1830. His parents were Samuel and Rosa (Frank) Dettinger, natives of that country. Samuel Dettinger was well educated and a skilled mechanic, the manufacturer of nails by hand. It was good business, in which there was at that time unlimited employment. The family was not rich, but in very comfortable circumstances. They were members of the German Lutheran church and were the parents of eight children, four of whom are living, three in the fatherland and one, John G., here. Both parents are dead, their entire life having been passed in their native land.

The benefit of a fair, common school education was accorded to John G. Dettinger. He attended school until he was fourteen years of age, and then went into the shop and worked with his father until he had learned the trade. At twenty-one he was forced into the military service of the country and required to serve for a period of six years. On being discharged he hastened across the waters to America, landing in New York July 1, 1857. Ten days after he landed he went over into the state of New Jersey and was united in marriage to Miss Mary Kile—rather a brief courtship, it might be thought, but not nearly so brief as on its face it seems. Miss Kile was a passenger on the same ship coming across the Atlantic and, as the voyage in those days was of many weeks' duration, there was ample time for getting acquainted and coming to an understanding. When the first flood of connubial happiness had subsided, the first thought of the young people was to

seek remunerative employment. Making nails by hand had then ceased to be a calling in New York and vicinity, so Mr. Dettinger turned his attention to something else. He had some money and so wisely determined to go west. They located in Ohio, where they remained until 1886, when they moved to French township, Adams county, Indiana. He invested in a farm of fifty acres which he cultivated for some time, when he added, by purchase, forty acres more, which gave him a very desirable farm of ninety acres. Through his experience in Ohio and Indiana, Mr. Dettinger became a very expert farmer. He was always favored by good crops, because he always saw that plowing, planting and cultivating was well done. No year was permitted to elapse without laying aside a little from the receipts of the farm. These sums, as soon as they had assumed sufficient proportions, were always judiciously invested, generally in property that afforded an income, investments which have all turned out well. In 1897 he sold his farm at a very gratifying figure and moved his family to Vera Cruz, being now retired from active labor. He has real estate and other property from which he derives a comfortable income, enough to supply his own wants and those dependent upon him.

To Mr. and Mrs. Dettinger fourteen children have been born, of whom twelve are living, viz: Maggie, Eliza, Christina, John, Jacob, Charles, Caroline, Samuel, Mary, Rosa, Wilson and Emma. Maggie is the wife of W. D. Markley and Eliza is the wife of John Lobsiger. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, regular attendants upon its services and contribute liberally to the support of religion

and charity. In politics Mr. Dettinger is a Democrat, but has the wisdom to know that most of the time spent in politics is time wasted. He is a man of very wide acquaintance, genial, liberal and companionable. Among people of his own nationality especially he wields a wide influence and always for good. Any way that his life may be looked upon, financially, socially or domestically, it must be pronounced a success. He has reared a large family of bright, intelligent, moral sons and daughters who are a credit to their parentage and to the community in which they live. Had the business of making nails by hand continued to flourish, it is quite likely that Mr. Dettinger would have stayed at his forge and anvil and never have accomplished the tenth part of what he has. The total collapse of that business proved in the end indeed a blessing in disguise.

WILLIAM McDOWELL.

Among what may be termed the early settlers of Wells county, Indiana, are the McDowell family, who came from Mercer county, Ohio, about 1837 and settled on the banks of the Wabash river two miles from Bluffton, where the father had already purchased and partially cleared a tract of land, on which he passed the remainder of his life, owning at the time of his death four hundred and twenty acres. Abraham McDowell, the pioneer alluded to above and the father of William, whose name opens the biographical notice, married Mary Higgins, who bore him eight children, of whom William of this sketch is the only survivor. One son, John, mar-

ried Catherine Blue, a sister of Hon. M. C. Blue, and went to live in Missouri, where he passed the remainder of his days. John, David and James, three of the eight children alluded to above, served in the Civil war and proved themselves worthy of the family name and the glorious cause in which they served.

William McDowell was reared upon the home farm and thoroughly learned his calling or vocation, through the instruction of his father, whom he faithfully assisted until his majority had been attained. His education was but limited, yet sufficient for all the purposes of a rural life and a successful career as a farmer. In due course of time Mr. McDowell succeeded by inheritance to eighty acres of the home farm, to which, through his industry, he has since added forty acres, and thus is the owner of a compact farm of one hundred and twenty acres.

Mr. McDowell was united in marriage October 11, 1866, in Wells county, with Miss Margaret Miller, daughter of Fielding Miller, a native of Perry county, Ohio. This union has been crowned by the birth of one daughter, Alice, who is now the wife of H. E. Shoemaker, of Bluffton.

Religiously Mr. McDowell is not a member of any particular denomination, but is a liberal contributor to the maintenance of all the churches of his neighborhood. Politically, he is one of the staunchest Democrats in Wells county and an ardent worker for the advancement of his party's interests at the polls as well as the promulgation of its principles throughout the state, county and township. As a farmer he is one of the most skillful and successful in Harrison township, and as a



WILLIAM McDOWELL AND FAMILY.

citizen he is substantial, reliable and useful, is widely known as an honorable man and one ready at all times to contribute of his means to the promotion of all projects designed for the advancement of the welfare of his fellow citizens. His farm is one of the best kept and neatest in Harrison township, being well drained and cultivated and improved with every modern convenience. His dwelling is an ornament to the neighborhood, and his farm buildings are equally creditable. Mr. McDowell conducts general farming and raises all the cereals usual to the section of the country in which he lives, besides large quantities of hay, which he feeds in a great measure to his live stock, which he raises in large numbers. Some of his animals are of choice grades, which he fattens and ships to the various markets, excepting, of course, those requisite for home use. Although his chief object in carrying on farming is for profit, yet he takes great pride in the vocation and loves it for its own sake, feeling it to be the most honorable and independent of all industries, as well as the fundamental calling of man, and it is a matter of gratifying commendation that he may be classed as among those who stand at its head.

ADAM ARNOLD.

There were very few white people in Wells county previous to 1830. Then they slowly drifted in from the settlements in Ohio and other parts of the country where government land could no longer be found to settle upon. By 1845 much of the land

was taken, but the country was still wild and little improved. In 1844 the progenitor of the Arnold family came and made settlement upon a quarter section in Harrison township.

Adam Arnold, the subject of this sketch, was born in Harrison township, Wells county, April 1, 1852. His father was Moses Arnold, who in the early 'forties located upon one hundred and sixty acres of land in the woods of Wells county. He came from Miami county, Ohio, where he was born, his parents being Jacob and Clotilda Arnold. When he first located in Wells county Moses Arnold was a young man of twenty-four years, married only a short time, and had come out into the wilderness to establish a home and make his fortune. Eagerly he set about the undertaking, working early and late in clearing and improving his land. The hardships of pioneer life, however, were not easily endured and his young wife sickened and died, leaving four little children to his care. To remain long a widower under those circumstances would have been cruel to his helpless offspring, so, after waiting a suitable period of time, he chose a wife from the daughters of his neighbors and was united in marriage to Miss Mary N. Bartelmy, daughter of John Bartelmy, a native of Pennsylvania who had located in Wells county early in its settlement. To Moses and Clotilda Arnold twelve children were born, of whom Adam, the subject of this sketch, is the oldest. They are Adam, of whom more will be said hereafter; Ellen, deceased; Sarah, deceased; Elijah and Eli, twins, of whom the latter is dead; the former married Clara Shock and they reside in Michigan; Henry married Carrie Sweney; Edward, deceased; Clotilda,

deceased; George married Ida Souch; Jennie is the wife of Albert Lenning; Ida is the wife of Charles Ealey; Allen married Sarah Beeler.

The original quarter section of land located upon by Moses Arnold was cleared and improved by him and his children and was held and resided upon by him until his death, which occurred February 8, 1897. He was a man of much firmness and determination, yet neither aggressive nor unkindly in disposition. He loved his family and respected his neighbors and acquaintances. Few men have passed away in his section of the country esteemed more highly or who were more deeply mourned. In politics he was a Democrat and although not a bitter partisan, never neglected an opportunity to vote his sentiments. He died as he had lived, at peace with all the world and perfectly resigned to abide by the will of the Superior Power.

Adam Arnold, the subject of this sketch, was reared upon the farm and learned early the details of the work to be done. When little more than a child he swung an ax with the energy of a man. He chopped down trees, trimmed them, measured and sawed the logs, dug roots, burned brush, and split rails under his father's direction with far more assiduity than many hired hands. In the winter he attended the district school and was as faithful in his studies as in the clearing of the field. The result was that before he had attained his majority he had acquired a fair knowledge of the common school branches. When twenty-one years of age he began working in the timber for wages and followed that calling during the winter months for a number of years, the other months of the year being employed as

a farm hand. His first agricultural labors on his own account was on his father's farm, which he rented. In his customary careful, methodical manner, he plowed and planted and reaped. With such success was his efforts attended that within a short time he determined to establish a home of his own. On December 24, 1876, he was united in marriage to Miss Julia Lanning, who was a native of Harrison township, born March 2, 1853. Her parents were Johiel and Susan Lanning, both old residents of Wells county. She was a young lady of good education, fair attainments and amiable disposition. He continued to rent the old home place after marriage and prospered. At his father's death and when the estate was divided, he added to his share by purchase until he now owns sixty and three-quarter acres of the original farm. To Adam and Julia Arnold eight children have been born, viz: Theodore, born September 3, 1877, married Zetta M. Masterson; Dessie Belle, born in 1879, deceased; Lulu May, born December 9, 1880; Samuel E., born November 1, 1882; Margaret E., born July 14, 1884; Myrtle, born February 16, 1888; Zina M., born May 7, 1889; Millie M., born June 12, 1891; Luster H., born January 1, 1895. Mrs. Arnold and members of the family belong to the Six Mile Christian church and are liberal supporters of that religious denomination.

In politics Mr. Arnold is a Democrat, but never has felt that he is either cut out or constructed on the lines of a politician. He has, therefore, neither aspired to nor held office, nor does he care to seek place at the hands of any party. He has no quarrel with people who have taste or inclination in that direction, but political pie is neither

palatable nor nutritious to him. In their section of the country Mr. and Mrs. Arnold and their children are well known and highly esteemed. Mr. Arnold has in his possession an old parchment deed dated November 2, 1837, and signed by President Martin Van Buren.

DANIEL SILLS.

Daniel Sills was born on the farm where he now lives, April 20, 1843. He is a son of Daniel Sills, a native of Pennsylvania, born November 12, 1804, who died September 4, 1873, and the latter was a son of Joseph Sills, a native of Germany. The mother of Daniel Sills, Jr., was Mary (Blackford) Sills, born November 9, 1806, a daughter of John Blackford. Blackford county, Indiana, received its name from its original settlers, the ancestors of Mary (Blackford) Sills. Daniel, Sr., was married to Mary Blackford June 22, 1826, and settled in Ohio, later coming to Indiana, and on March 1, 1842, moved onto the farm now occupied by Daniel Sills, Jr. The senior Sills devoted the greater portion of his life to farming and hunting, he and his sons clearing the farm where the subject resides. Daniel, Sr., was the father of ten children, five of whom are living: Elizabeth, born May 1, 1827; Katherine, born November 9, 1828, deceased; Sarah, born April 18, 1831; Margaret, born November 21, 1827, deceased; Joseph, born February 24, 1833, deceased; Michael, born July 15, 1838; Daniel, born April 20, 1843; James, born February 20, 1845; John, born June 5, 1847, deceased, and an infant, deceased.

Daniel, Jr., attended school at the Helm

Corner school house in Chester township until he attained the age of twenty years. The longest term of school in those times was three months, and he did not get to go more than half of that time at any one term. He remained with his father, who claimed his wages until he was twenty-one years of age. In 1865 he went to Iowa and remained there that year. Excepting this one year spent in the west, he remained working in the home neighborhood, making his home with his parents until he was about twenty-five years old. He was married February 13, 1868, to Mary C. Dick, who was born September 8, 1845, and died September 13, 1898. She was the daughter of Uriah Dick, a resident of Blackford county, Indiana, and a native of Virginia. After his marriage, Daniel Sills and wife settled two and one-half miles south of Montpelier, Indiana, where they lived for a period of eighteen months, then moving onto the farm where he is now living. He has remained on this farm continually since that time, it having virtually been his home ever since he was born, excepting the first eighteen months of his married life. He has been all his life what may be termed a general stock farmer. He has also owned and run a threshing machine in season for thirty-five years and has done some saw-milling. He is the owner of three hundred and fifty acres of land, eighty-eight of which are in the home place and the remainder in Blackford county, Indiana. He received six hundred dollars from his father as a start in life. He is the father of fourteen children, all of whom are living, as follows: Alvina, born January 29, 1869; Letta F., March 7, 1870; Rosa L. B., December 29, 1871; Uriah D., January 27, 1873; Jennie M., April 27, 1874; Wes-

ley H., November 16, 1875; Addie D., September 6, 1878; Charles C., March 18, 1880; Elijah B., November 15, 1881; Bertha M., June 30, 1883; Sue O., June 26, 1885; Eva A., August 13, 1887; Mary C., March 18, 1890, and Daniel N., March 18, 1893.

In his political views the subject has always subscribed to the doctrines of the Democratic party; he believes, however, in a man voting his sentiments regardless of party dictation. Mary C. (Dick) Sills, his wife, after having been a true and faithful helpmate to her husband for thirty-one years, passed to her reward September 13, 1898, mourned by her husband and children. Daniel Sills is one in whom the love of family, friends and country is largely developed. He has never had a desire to roam the wide world o'er, but has found contentment in the bosom of his family and his friends in the locality of his nativity. He is an industrious and exemplary citizen, who has found his highest happiness in the performance of his civic duties to the community in which he has lived, in providing for his family and securing a competency to meet the contingencies of the inevitable "rainy day."

JOSEPH STAHL.

A native of Bluffton, Wells county, Indiana, Joseph Stahl was born September 4, 1856, and is a son of Jacob and Mary J. (Grove) Stahl, of whom further mention will at once be made, both being now deceased. Jacob Stahl, Sr., a native of Bedford, Pennsylvania, was a son of Abram and Rebecca Stahl, who were also born in the Key-

stone state. Jacob was but twelve years of age when brought to Wells county, Indiana, by his parents, who settled on a farm in Nottingham township, and on that farm Jacob grew to manhood. He there married Miss Grove, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, and with her parents, Joseph and Elizabeth Grove, came to Wells county, Indiana, when she was but six years of age, about 1839, the family settling in Harrison township. At his marriage Jacob Stahl located in Bluffton, where he followed his trade as a carpenter for eight years, and then came to Liberty township and settled on the farm which his son, Joseph, now owns and occupies, and where he erected one of the first frame houses in the township. This farm had been entered from the government by Abram Stahl, his father, and when Jacob, Sr., settled on it it was one stretch of timber land, but Jacob succeeded in clearing it up and in converting it into one of the pleasantest homesteads in the township at that early day. Here he and wife passed the remainder of life, Jacob, who was born March 20, 1825, dying May 20, 1893, and Mary J., who was born May 12, 1835, dying April 9, 1898. They were the parents of two children, Charles and Joseph.

The younger of these two, Joseph Stahl, is the gentleman whose name opens this biography. He was educated preliminarily in the public school of Liberty township, which he attended until he was eighteen years of age, and then passed one term in the Bluffton high school. At the age of nineteen years, Joseph received a portion of his one-third interest in the estate, and at once invested it in a forty-acre tract of land, but continued to make his home with his father, receiving one-third of the prod-

ucts of the farm for his services until his marriage, when about twenty-two years old, and of which event farther mention will be made. He then erected a dwelling on his own land, but continued to work for his father until the latter's death; from first to last he worked on the one-third principle for about twenty years. Since the mother's death the property has been equally divided between Joseph and his brother Charles, putting the latter in possession of one hundred and fifty acres, one hundred and twenty of the old home place and thirty-eight acres in Chester township. Mr. Stahl is a general farmer and a breeder of live stock, and one of the most successful agriculturists of his age in the township.

November 28, 1878, Joseph Stahl married Miss Mary Snow, who was born January 24, 1860, and is a daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Booth) Snow. To this blissful union have been born two children, namely: Edith, married to Herbert Smith and now living on Joseph Stahl's farm, assisting in its cultivation during the summer seasons and teaching school during the winters; Homer Augustus, the younger of the two, is also a teacher and has his residence on the home place. Further information in relation to the Snow family may be gleaned from the biographical record of George Snow on another page of this volume.

Joseph Stahl, since he has been entitled to the exercise of his franchise, has voted with the Democratic party, and his first official position under the auspices of that organization was as superintendent of gravel roads for two years, having charge of seventy-three linear miles. In 1900 he was elected to the commissionership of the sec-

ond district of his county. He has never been without ample means, having always been wise enough to add to his possession through his industry and careful management and is today recognized as one of the most substantial and useful citizens of Liberty township. He is always ready to aid financially in promoting such improvements as may be of permanent benefit to his fellow citizens, and there is certainly not a more respected family in Liberty township than that of Joseph Stahl.

JOHN LOBSIGER.

The steady, plodding, persistent boy is the one who almost invariably makes the best success in life. The eager, dashing, brilliant lad may accomplish much by a single bold stroke, but there is too much of chance in such ventures. It is the youth who makes each period of time speak for itself and all of them to speak well in his behalf, who always has most to show for the days, weeks and months that have elapsed. John Lobsiger, of Harrison township, Wells county, the subject of this sketch, is steady, plodding and persistent. He has been twenty-nine years in America and has something of value to show for each year.

July 30, 1861, John Lobsiger was born in Switzerland, the son of John and Elizabeth (Waible) Lobsiger. They and their ancestors, for many generations, were natives of that oldest republic on earth. In his native land, John, the father of the subject, was a laborer, who by hard work established himself in comfortable circumstances and, as is generally the case, just

about the time he began to be prepared to enjoy life, died. His widow mourned her loss for a suitable period and cared for her little son, John, the subject, then consoled herself by accepting a second husband. In 1873 she came to America, bringing with her her little son, and settled near Vera Cruz, Wells county. Here the lad, although but twelve years old, began working by the month as a farm hand. In 1878 he entered the employment of John L. Steiner and after working for him by the month for a year, although then but eighteen years of age, he rented the farm, and did so well with it that it was leased to him year after year for eighteen years. In 1885 he was united in marriage to Miss Eliza Dettinger, a young lady of Van Wert county, Ohio, who was born July 4, 1861, but had moved with her parents to Wells county in 1873, where she resided up to the time of her marriage. In his wedded state, as during single blessedness, John continued frugal and provident, gradually increasing his yearly income and year by year adding to his material possessions. He and his wife are the parents of four children, viz: Rosa, born April 10, 1887; Harry, born April 30, 1889; Robert L., born October 6, 1890; Martin, born April 4, 1892. The children are all intelligent, apt in their studies at school, and give promise of being useful, worthy citizens.

In politics Mr. Lobsiger is a Democrat, a firm believer in the tenets of that political creed and during each and every campaign exerts himself for the advancement of the cause. He has never sought office for himself and desires no official position at the hands of his party, but generally there is some man upon his party ticket to whom his

special zeal is accorded and even if there should not be, he is none the less interested in the result. He has been a resident of Vera Cruz since 1896, is a member of the lodge of Knights of Fidelity and is generally regarded as a worthy and estimable citizen. He is a man of kind disposition and generous impulses, a faithful husband, kind father, a true and sincere friend. He is still, comparatively speaking, a young man, and those who know him best predict for him a most brilliant future. Mild mannered, calm and dispassionate, no judge ever set upon the bench who considers every question which arises with more cool deliberation than he does. Every feature of a proposition is looked at before he decides and when he does decide he is always true to his convictions. It is through the injection of such blood that the American is beginning to dominate the earth.

JOHN B. FUNK.

This popular young druggist at Liberty Center, Wells county, Indiana, is a native of Wayne county, Ohio, where he was born June 11, 1862, a son of Absalom and Anna (Bower) Funk, the former of whom was a native of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and a son of Benjamin Funk, and the latter, also a native of the Keystone state, a daughter of Jacob Bower. From Pennsylvania Absalom Funk was taken to Ohio, where he grew to manhood and married Miss Bower. He there followed farming and milling until November, 1866, when he came to Liberty township, Wells county, Indiana, and purchased three hundred and

twenty acres of woodland, on which, in 1867, he erected a saw-mill, which, in 1868, was destroyed by fire. Within two years, however, Mr. Funk had another mill running, and continued to operate it until 1874, when he removed to Lancaster township, Wells county, and engaged in farming and the nursery business. His death, which occurred July 9, 1875, was caused by exposure while at work in his nursery, the shock of the fatality being a severe one to his family and numerous friends. The children born to Absalom and Anna Funk were eight in number, and in order of birth were named as follows: Mary, who died in infancy, in Ohio; W. H., now in Bluffton, Wells county; Martin, a miller in Liberty Center; Benjamin F., a farmer in Wayne county, Ohio; Jacob A., a resident of Rock Creek township, Wells county, Indiana; Susan M., wife of Dr. Garrett, of Liberty Center; John B., whose name opens this biographical sketch, and Rachel M., wife of William Bowman. Absalom Funk was a Republican in politics and while living in Ohio served as a justice of the peace under the auspices of his party; his widow is now seventy-seven years old and is still quite active.

John B. Funk attended the public schools of Liberty township until twelve years of age and then entered the Bluffton city schools, in which his education was completed in its literary elements, and he next attended the normal school one term, to be the better prepared for the profession of teaching. The winter following his graduation from this institution Mr. Funk taught school, and the following July (1883) he was engaged by Dr. F. W. Garrett and Dr. Morrison as a clerk in their drug store. Within a short time thereafter Mr. Funk

purchased Dr. Morrison's interest in the stock, later bought one-half of the building, and finally, in 1888, purchased Dr. Garrett's interest and for a short time conducted the business alone. Mr. Funk's next partner in business was J. W. Rinear, father-in-law of Mr. Funk, who bought a one-half interest. This partnership was maintained for two years, when Mr. Rinear sold out to Dr. Edwin Rinear in 1892, but a year later Mr. Funk bought out the Doctor and has since had sole control of the business, of which he has made a thorough success. In 1895 Mr. Funk purchased a forty-acre tract of land in section 16, Liberty township, Wells county, to which, in 1901, he added thirty-two acres adjoining, and also purchased a one-and-three-quarter-acre lot, on which stood a barn. He rents out this land, but reserves the right of raising some stock for his own use.

John B. Funk's marriage was solemnized April 2, 1885, with Miss Hannah S. Rinear, who was born December 28, 1866, and is a daughter of Senator J. W. and Sarah Rinear, Mrs. Funk being the first white child born in Liberty Center. At their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Funk went to house-keeping in their present handsome dwelling in Liberty Center and here they have been blessed with three children, namely: John A. J., born May 22, 1886, now in his second year in the high school, having attended one term at the Marion Normal School; Mabel, born December 13, 1888, and now in her eighth year at school; and Charles Rinear, born February 2, 1892, in the fifth grade at school.

Mrs. Funk is an active worker in the Baptist church and Mr. Funk is a member of Liberty Center Lodge No. 747, I. O. O.

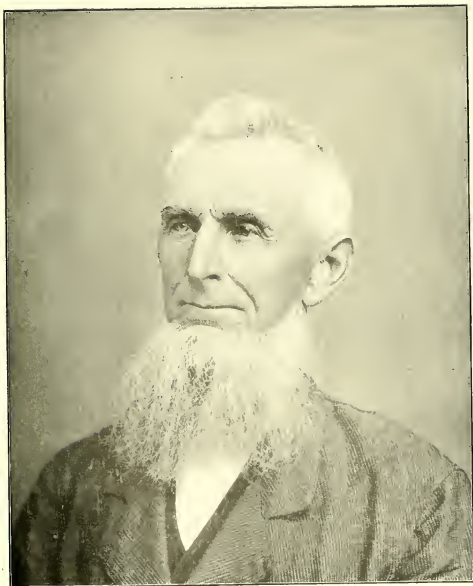
F.; he is also a member of the Bluffton Encampment No. 141. He has passed the chairs in the camp, to attend which ceremony he was compelled to travel eight miles. It may also be added that Mr. and Mrs. Funk are members of Rebekah Lodge No. 83 of Bluffton, in which lodge Mrs. Funk is particularly active.

In politics Mr. Funk is a warm Republican, and in 1889 was appointed postmaster of Liberty Center, a position he held for four years and two months to the entire satisfaction of the people and the postoffice department, the result being that he was retained by his successor, H. J. Johnson, as deputy, for another term of four years; he was then again commissioned postmaster of Liberty Center and still holds that responsible office, a continuous term of fourteen years in all, as either principal or deputy. It was through his strenuous efforts that the office at Liberty Center has been made a money order office. Mr. Funk has also been successful in his efforts to establish the rural postal route connected with Liberty Center. He has held a notary public's commission for four years, and in serving the interests of his party has been a delegate to numerous county and congressional conventions, in which his voice was always heard in the best interests of his party.

WILLIAM LIPKEY.

Prominent among the leading citizens of Union township, Wells county, Indiana, stands William Lipkey, who was born in Brooke county, Virginia (now West Virginia), May 26, 1822, a son of Charles

and Margaret (Crow) Lipkey, of remote German descent and of ante-Revolutionary citizenship. Charles Lipkey, father of William and a soldier of the war of 1812, was the only son in a family of six children born to Henry and Mary A. Lipkey, the former of whom was the first of the family to come from Germany to America. Henry Lipkey was but sixteen years old when he arrived in the colonies, but at once espoused the cause of freedom and served as a private soldier in the army of the patriots until the glorious end had been achieved. To Charles and Margaret (Crow) Lipkey were born three sons and three daughters, viz: Philip and Charles, deceased; Margaret, now deceased, was the wife of Edward Meacham, and left two sons; Elizabeth was the wife of George Clemmens; Rachel died unmarried; William is the subject proper of this sketch. In September, 1822, Charles Lipkey moved from Brooke county, Virginia, to Trumbull county, Ohio, where young William was reared on his father's farm, and where he acquired as fair an education as that early day afforded. At the proper age he went out to work by the month and found employment at various occupations until he had amassed a small sum of cash, and then started out on foot for the West. When he reached Wells county, Indiana, he entered the land on a part of which he still resides. He continued to add to his original tract until he became the owner of one hundred and eighty acres of well-improved property in Union township, and has here made his home continuously since 1856. He is today one of the most honored of the township's citizens, having devoted his best energies to the development



WILLIAM LIPKEY.

of the resources of the country and the prosperity of the community in which he has lived for more than half a century.

Mr. Lipkey has ever been among the foremost in advocating public improvements and was one of the first to agitate the project and petition for the building of the road that runs east and west through the center of Union township, from the Indianapolis pike to the George Glass farm, which petition was granted in March, 1849, the line being surveyed by the then county surveyor, George Mann. Mr. Lipkey has always interested himself in these affairs and his judgment is implicitly relied upon by his fellow citizens who time and again have selected him as administrator of very important estates.

February 1, 1854, William Lipkey was joined in marriage with Miss Belinda Lewis, daughter of Wheeler and Abiah Lewis, of Connecticut. Although no offspring has blessed this union, Mr. and Mrs. Lipkey's hearts warm toward the orphan and they have reared, or partly reared, six children, born to others, viz: Margaret Lipkey, who at the age of two years, was taken to their home, but who, at the age of fourteen was most untimely called away; Jennie Dick, at the age of fourteen, won the affection of Mr. and Mrs. Lipkey, and by them was reared until her marriage to Thomas Lepper; she died at twenty-nine years of age; James Lipkey was but ten years old when in the fall of 1865 he found a place in the hearts of Mr. and Mrs. Lipkey; he is still an inmate of the old homestead, operating the farm, and is married to Martha J. Longshore; they have two children, Jesse W. and Hattie A., and lost one, William H., in infancy; Frances McDer-

mott was taken by Mr. and Mrs. Lipkey in the fall of 1866, when she was about four years old, and is now the wife of Ira Longshore; Annie Fry was next adopted, at fourteen, but she, too, passed away aged twenty-one, and Frank McMullen lived with Mr. and Mrs. Lipkey six years, from the age of ten. To each of these children who were married Mr. Lipkey donated sufficient means for a start in life, and there probably exists nowhere in the township or county a similar instance of munificence.

Mr. and Mrs. Lipkey united with the Methodist Episcopal church in December, 1856, and have ever been earnest and active in their work for this denomination. They are liberal contributors financially toward its maintenance and rejoice in its prosperity and the spread of its teachings. Mr. Lipkey has been officially connected with the church as trustee since 1861 and class leader for forty-two years thus showing the sincerity of his faith and the kindness of his heart in acts innumerable. He has been a member of the quarterly conference since 1856, and for several years has served as Sunday school superintendent. Fraternally he is a member of Osian Lodge No. 297, F. & A. M., and politically he is one of the leading and most substantial Republicans of Union township and Wells county. Mrs. Lipkey, it is sad to add, was for many years an invalid, and Mr. Lipkey, with his usual patience and charity of disposition, cared for her until she passed into the silent land, November 7, 1886.

Mr. Lipkey in his youth did not have the opportunity of obtaining a very complete education, the ordinary grade of

arithmetic being the highest study in the school curriculum in his day and neighborhood. The school house was of the common type of the period, with slab benches, greased-paper windows and other rude accommodations. During his long life Mr. Lipkey has contributed toward the erection of eight church buildings, seven in Wells county and one in Allen county, and has in many other ways exhibited a lively interest in the welfare of those about him.

PROF. ARTHUR R. HUYETTE.

A gentleman of ripe scholarship and marked executive ability, whose life is being consecrated to the cause of humanity, in one of the most exacting of professions, it is eminently proper in this connection to revert briefly to the life career of Prof. A. R. Huyette, the efficient and popular principal of the Keystone high school. Prof. Huyette has become one of the leading educators in the county of Wells and in addition to his work here his labors have won him wide publicity in other parts of the state where his talents as a teacher have been exercised. As the name indicates, the Huyette family is of French origin, the subject on the maternal side inheriting the blood of a long line of Irish ancestry also. Joseph R. Huyette, the Professor's father, was born in Pennsylvania July 24, 1838, and when a young man was married, in that state, to Miss Louisa Gray, whose birth occurred on the 18th day of January, 1841. Mr. and Mrs. Huyette remained in their native commonwealth until the fall of 1861, when they disposed of their interests there

and moved to Huntington county, Indiana, settling in the township of Huntington where they lived the ensuing two years. At the expiration of that time they changed their abode to Clear Creek township, in the same county, and still live there. Mr. Huyette following the pursuit of agriculture as a vocation. Joseph R. and Louisa Huyette are the parents of six children, whose names are as follows: Anna, wife of James B. De Armitt, ex-superintendent of the Huntington county schools; Juniata, the wife of E. E. Dinius, a farmer of Huntington county, is a graduate of the State Normal School at Terre Haute and for a number of years prior to her marriage was considered one of the successful teachers of the Huntington city schools; Fanny, the third of the family, married William F. Rice and still resides in the county of Huntington, her husband being a prosperous farmer of Union township; Arthur R., of this review, is the fourth in order of succession, and after him comes Jessie A., who achieved considerable distinction as a teacher, having taught for some years in the district schools and now holds an important position in the city schools of Huntington; she was graduated from the Huntington high school and prepared herself for her chosen calling in the State Normal School at Terre Haute; Walter G., the youngest of the children, lives at home and assists his father in cultivating the farm.

Prof. Arthur R. Huyette is a native of Huntington county, Indiana, and dates his birth from the 3rd day of November, 1871. When old enough he became a pupil of the district school not far from his home and after completing the prescribed course, entered the Clear Creek township high school.

His was essentially a studious nature and he early decided that there was open before him a field of great usefulness in the teacher's profession. Accordingly he began preparing himself for his chosen work by a thorough course of intellectual and professional training. Leaving the township high school, he attended the spring term of the State Normal and the following winter (1890-91) taught successfully in his own native county. He divided his time between teaching of winter seasons and attending the spring terms of the State Normal until 1893, when he entered that institution with the object in view of continuing his studies, uninterrupted, until completing the full course. He was graduated two years later with an honorable record and in the fall and winter of 1895-6 taught a term in Huntington city schools, being elected the following year principal of the graded schools of Bristol, Indiana. After filling that position two years Professor Huyette had charge of literature and mathematics in the Huntington Business and Normal University, but in a short time resigned the place to accept the principalship of the Keystone high school, entering upon his duties in the latter capacity in the fall of 1898. He has held his present position for five years, during which time the school under his charge has made rapid advancement, ranking with the most efficient high schools of northern Indiana in its course of study and thoroughness of instruction. As a teacher Prof. Huyette has few equals in the county of Wells and his name is widely and favorably known in educational circles throughout the northern part of the state. He is a fine scholar, a polished gentleman and possesses the necessary traits of character to insure success in the noble

calling to which he proposes to consecrate his life and energies. A close and critical student, he keeps close touch with the trend of modern educational thought and his laudable ambition has ever been to make himself an efficient teacher and stand in the front rank of his profession. To this end he maintains a lively interest in his studies, which he prosecutes in addition to his regular duties in the school room, being at this time a senior in the work of the Indiana University, from which institution his degree will soon be forthcoming.

Prof. Huyette was married on the 9th of August, 1900, to Miss Anna S., daughter of Hiram and Rebecca (Briner) France, of Huntington. Mrs. Huyette is one of the three children born to these parents, she and her sister Emma being twins. They were both graduated at the same time from the Huntington high school, after which they engaged in teaching first in the country and later in the city of Huntington. Subsequently Emma became the wife of Charles Raymond, of Huntington county; Anna continued educational work until her marriage at the date referred to above, spending the last five years while thus engaged in the schools of East Chicago; meantime she had graduated from the Indiana State Normal at Terre Haute and achieved distinction as a scholar as well as a large measure of success as a teacher. Nettie, the third sister, also a well educated lady, is now the wife of Sherman Fetters, a railroad man living in Andrews, Indiana. The mother of Mrs. Huyette died when her eldest daughters were about nine years of age. The father lives at Huntington. Prof. and Mrs. Huyette's marriage has been blessed with one child, a son by the name of Kenneth H.,

whose birth occurred on the 25th of November, 1901. The subject and wife are active members of the United Brethren church and socially they move in the best society circles of the community where they live.

Politically Prof. Huyette is a zealous supporter of the Democratic party and speaks with no uncertain meaning when maintaining the soundness of his principles. He cast his first presidential ballot when Grover Cleveland was elected for the second time, and from that time to the present has taken a prominent part in local and general politics in the different places of his residence. He holds fraternal relations with Bristol Lodge No. 369, Knights of Pythias, and it has been his aim to make his life correspond to the beautiful and sublime principles which this excellent order inculcates. Prof. Huyette is regarded as one of the leading men of Keystone and his career professionally and as a citizen has gained him the confidence and high esteem of the public. He has hosts of warm personal friends and is making more every year by the urbanity of his kindly nature, while his advancement in his profession has won for him an honorable name among the leading educators in this section of the state.

GOTTLIEB ROLLI.

This well-known horseman of Harrison township, Wells county, Indiana, is a native of the impregnable and gallant little republic of Switzerland and was born July 10, 1859. His parents, John and Christina Rolli, were also born and were married in

that republic, where the father still lives and is engaged in the noble vocation of agriculture. To the union of John and Christina Rolli were born seven children, namely: John, still in Switzerland; Frederick, also residing in that republic; Gottlieb, whose name opens this biographical sketch and whose residence is in Vera Cruz, Harrison township, Wells county, Indiana; Elizabeth, deceased; Jacob, also in Vera Cruz, Indiana; Samuel is in Switzerland, and Onabarbra, deceased.

Gottlieb Rolli lived in his native land until 1882, when he decided to try his fortune in the grander trans-Atlantic republic, came to America and settled in Vera Cruz, Indiana. Here he engaged in his present business of breeding, for which he has a peculiar ability, being an expert. Among other valuable animals he is part owner of Cremeo, that has scored 2:40 in a trial heat and is the sire of Gold Bug, who has made a record of 2:19; he also owns two high bred fillies and two draft stallions in partnership. Mr. Rolli is also a famous dog fancier, and owns one of the best English pointer dogs in Wells county.

Fraternally Mr. Rolli is a member of Lodge No. 30, Knights of Fidelity, Bluffton, and politically is a Democrat. He is one of the most active members of his party in Wells county and a leader in its councils and has served as a member of the town council of Vera Cruz for several years, being still an active member of that honorable body.

Gottlieb Rolli was united in matrimony in 1888 with Miss Maggie Munger, who was born in Switzerland, but when only two years of age was brought to America by her parents. This union has been blessed with

six children, named as follows: Maurice, Frances, Ruth, Blanche, Harold and Harry.

Mr. Rolli is favorably known throughout the township of Harrison. He is recognized as a man of the strictest integrity, was never known to take an undue advantage of another or to make a misrepresentation in a trade of any kind, something which cannot always be said of men in his line of business. It is true that he is shrewd and knows full well what he is about, but he never oversteps the rigid rules of honesty. He and his amiable helpmate are rearing their children to lives of usefulness and to be ornaments to the community in which they have their being, and to society at large. Mr. Rolli may be termed a self-made man in the business sense of the phrase, and counts his friends by the hundred in Wells county and the surrounding counties as well as in more distant parts of the state.

NATHAN ROBERTS.

Kentucky, which in its early history was known as "The Dark and Bloody Ground," furnished Indiana with some of its pioneer settlers in the early days, but very few of them found their way as far north as Wells county. A few families, however, have been traced to that locality, among them the Roberts family, to which Nathan Roberts, the subject of this sketch, belongs. He was born in Rock Creek township, Wells county, October 17, 1851, but his father was a Kentuckian, having been born in that commonwealth February 23, 1811. Robert and Abigail (Redding) Roberts were the parents of the subject hereof.

In his native state of Kentucky Robert Roberts grew to manhood and on January 28, 1836, he married Miss Mary Brown. Two children were born to this union, but both are now dead. In 1837 he moved to Wells county, Indiana, where he entered one hundred and twenty acres of government land, in section 32, Rock Creek township, and upon this he built a home, cleared and improved the land and later added eighty acres, making him the owner of two hundred acres. August 10, 1840, he met his first great bereavement in the death of his faithful wife. He was again united in marriage, his second wife being a widow, Mrs. Abigail Sparks, whose maiden name was Redding, the date of her birth being December 12, 1815. To this union five children were born, three of whom are still living, viz: John, a resident of Rock Creek township; Nathan, of this sketch, and R. D., of Rock Creek township. Again the death angel visited the Roberts home and on April 8, 1862, Mrs. Abigail Roberts departed this life. Her loss was deeply felt and widely mourned. She was a kind, generous woman, of most amiable disposition, whose sole object in life was to do good. For a third time Robert Roberts entered the bonds of matrimony, his third wife being Mahala Redding, who is still living on the old homestead. Her former husband died February 5, 1880. He was a man who took an active part in all of the affairs of life, in politics was a Democrat and served a number of terms as township trustee, besides occupying other local offices. He was a member of the New Light church.

Up to the time he was twenty years old Nathan Roberts attended the public schools of Rock Creek township, when they were in

session, generally about three months in the year. In this way he secured a good common school education, to which he has added much since by extensive reading. Until he was twenty-one years of age, when not in school, he worked for his father on the farm. The five years next succeeding his majority were employed upon the same farm, cultivating it upon the shares, his part being one-fourth of all that was raised. On March 9, 1876, he was united in marriage to Miss Harriet Mossburg, who was born February 22, 1853. She was a daughter of Henry and Mary (Ware) Mossburg, natives of Henry county, Indiana, whose ancestors were natives of Maryland and Virginia and members of the Christian church. Henry Mossburg, grandfather of Mrs. Roberts, came to Wells county, Indiana, in 1837, was the third settler in Liberty township and was the first white man buried in the township. He was a soldier of the war of 1812 and died November 2, 1838. Henry Mossburg, the father of Mrs. Roberts, was twice married. First, August 2, 1845, to Rebecca Scotten. To this union five children were born, of whom only one child, Isaac, is living. His second wife, to whom he was married May 8, 1852, was Mrs. Mary E. (Nau) Wiley. Ten children were born to this union, viz: Harriett A., LaFayette, Ella May, William, Jane, Aramantha, Eddie, Lizzie, Walter and Milton, the latter dying when only four years old.

When Nathan Roberts was twenty-three years of age his father gave him forty acres of land in Rock Creek township. This he held for about two years when he sold it. The proceeds he used as a part payment on one hundred and sixty acres in Liberty township which he purchased, going in debt

for the balance, one thousand six hundred dollars. This land is located in section 3, was a wild and trackless forest at that time, but is now the well improved, productive farm upon which the Roberts family resides. Immediately after this marriage Mr. and Mrs. Roberts took up their residence on this place and it has been their home ever since. Their first home was a little frame house built of green cottonwood lumber, whose tendency to warp was so marked as to remind one of the "crooked house" of Mother Goose fame. In 1886 he built a barn thirty-six by sixty feet, that is one of the most commodious and substantial structures of the kind in the township. In 1890 he erected a handsome ten-room house, which is beautifully finished and has since been elegantly furnished, making a most enviable home. When he paid off the original indebtedness, he purchased another tract of forty acres adjoining his place on the east. This gives him two hundred acres, in one body, all choice farming land, well drained and under cultivation. By hard work, economy and thrift, Nathan Roberts and his faithful wife have accomplished this, besides putting together personal property of a value not less than two thousand dollars. The farm is well stocked with horses, cattle and hogs. From a very small and insignificant beginning they have evolved all this and have done it within a period of twenty-five years.

To Mr. and Mrs. Roberts two children have been born, viz: Rosa M. is the wife of William Johnson and they have one child, Harold N. X.; they reside on the Roberts farm; Nettie B. is well educated and accomplished in music, residing with her parents. Mrs. Roberts is a Quaker, her church

being in Liberty Center, but both her daughters are members of the Baptist church. Mr. Roberts is a member of Lodge No. 747, I. O. O. F., of Liberty Center, and of Atoka Tribe No. 226, I. O. R. M., at Rockford, Indiana. Whatever zeal he may lack in religion, he makes up in activity in lodge work. In politics he is a Democrat, but never held or desired to hold office, though a number of times he has represented his township in various conventions. Most flattering success has never banished the native modesty of Mr. Roberts. He is ever the same kind, genial and sympathetic man, one who loves his friends and treats his enemies with contempt. Mr. Roberts possesses an old parchment deed, signed by President Martin Van Buren.

PETER MEYER.

As far back as 1835 the Meyer family came from Switzerland to America. Peter Meyer was a native of the unconquerable little republic, having had his nativity May 22, 1831. He has since had his home in the grander republic of America, now being a resident of this country about sixty-seven years, or more than an ordinary life time. On coming to this country, Peter and Margaret Meyer, the parents of Peter, who is made the especial subject of this biographical notice, first located in Starke county, Ohio, where they lived about one year, and whence Peter, the father, in company with John Buler, came on foot to Wells county, Indiana, in 1836. From here he went to Adams county with an ox-team and located in French township and lived on a farm in

the midst of a forest for several years, sold the farm and came back to Wells county, where he died in the 'seventies, at the home of his son Abe.

Peter Meyer, of this sketch, until twenty-one years old worked on his father's farm, and then began learning the carpenter's trade. Having finished learning his trade, he came to Vera Cruz and here married a Miss Mary Sauers, of Newville, but a native of Switzerland, who bore him one child; the child and the mother were both called away sometime late in the 'fifties. In 1860 Mr. Meyer chose for a second wife Miss Elizabeth Mosure, who was likewise a native of Switzerland, and to this happy union have been born eight children, namely: Albert; Jonas; Sarah, wife of William Frauhiger; Betta, married to Philip Frauhiger; David, a business man in Bluffton, and of whom more may be learned by a perusal of his life sketch on another page of this volume; Jacob, married, Elizabeth and Ida, still single.

Although Peter Meyer was a poor man even until his having attained his majority and up to the time of his first marriage, he was always industrious and economical and a good manager of his earnings as they came to him. He used these earnings judiciously, and with unusual foresight invested them in such a manner that they were sure to bring him a satisfactory return. He was filled with energy and courage, and in 1860 made his first venture in real estate, buying eighty acres in an almost impenetrable forest in Wells county, but which he succeeded in developing into one of the best farms in Harrison township, taking into consideration its dimensions. But his industry and enterprise have not

been confined to this tract only, as he has owned as many as four hundred acres, which he has divided among his children as they grew to maturity and chose life partners for themselves. The fact stands forth as an evidence of his perseverance and he deserves the most commendable credit for the successful manner in which he has developed his own homestead.

The Meyer family belong to the German Reformed church, and in politics Mr. Meyer has always been a Democrat. As a farmer, he stands today among the foremost of Harrison township, and his strict integrity in all his dealings has made him one of the most honored men of his community as well as one of the most influential.

J. W. GOODYEAR.

The office of biography is not to give voice to a man's modest estimate of himself and his accomplishments, but rather to leave upon the record the verdict establishing his character by the consensus of opinion on the part of his neighbors and fellow citizens. In touching upon the life history of the subject of this sketch the writer aims to avoid fulsome encomium and extravagant praise; yet he desires to hold up for consideration those facts which have shown the distinction of a true, useful and honorable life—a life characterized by perseverance, energy, broad charity and well defined purpose. To do this will be but to reiterate the dictum pronounced upon the man by the people who have known him long and well.

The Goodyear family is an old one and

is traced back through several centuries to its original location in Cumberland, England, where, close to the borders of Scotland, the family flourished from the tenth to the thirteenth centuries. Eventually the members of the family became scattered, the name being found in many parts of England and, according to old records still extant, a number went to London. At least three branches of the family have migrated to America at different times, it being a matter of record that there arrived in America in 1637 Stephen Goodyear, who afterward became governor of New Haven colony. Another branch of the family went from England to Holland and Germany, their emigration being coincident with that of the Puritans. This German branch of the family later came to America and from it is descended the family to which belongs the subject of this sketch. The first emigrant ancestors settled in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and in that state, on the 4th of April, 1789, was born Samuel Goodyear, who lived a long and useful life, dying at the advanced age of ninety years. His son, William James Goodyear, was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, January 13, 1822, and accompanied his parents upon their removal to Ohio in 1832. Ten years later, 1842, he came alone to Indiana, locating in Bluffton, Wells county, a section of country which did not at that time give much promise of the marked prosperity which has since characterized both city and county. He worked at the carpenter's and cooper's trades several years. He was here united in marriage, on the 17th of February, 1850, with Miss Diana J. Sutton, a granddaughter of the Rev. Elijah Sut-



At Goodyear

ton, one of the well known early pioneers of Wells county. This worthy couple lived to celebrate the golden anniversary of the ceremony which united them, the event being the occasion of a large gathering of their relatives and friends who joined in their efforts to make memorable the day. Mr. Goodyear died July 10, 1901, on the old homestead near Murray where he had made his home for half a century. To William and Diana Goodyear were born two children, Rhoda Fidelia, born November 16, 1851, and Jacob Webster, the subject.

Jacob W. Goodyear was born July 13, 1862, was reared upon the old home farm near Murray and was early given the advantage of attendance at the common schools, after which, during the years 1877-9, he attended the normal school at Bluffton. In 1880 Mr. Goodyear entered Fort Wayne College, graduating in the commercial and business department the following year, and also graduating in the classical department in the same institution in 1883. In addition to pursuing his regular studies, he was engaged for two years in teaching bookkeeping and mathematics. After leaving school he was for a year occupied in canvassing for the sale of books and then passed four years upon the farm. In 1888, upon the organization of the Wells County Bank, Mr. Goodyear was elected to the position of cashier, in which capacity he has since served continuously. In 1903 he was elected to the position of vice-president of the institution and also made a member of the board of directors. He was still retained in the position of cashier and in these joint positions he has since had the active management of the bank's af-

fairs. The bank, though but fifteen years old, has had a most creditable history and from a small institution has developed into one of the largest and most influential state banks in Indiana. It has a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, a surplus of ten thousand dollars and assets amounting to over seven hundred thousand dollars. There are seventy-five stockholders, whose interests are looked after by nine directors. Mr. Goodyear has not confined his sole attention to his banking interests, as is shown by the fact that he is an officer in and a director of four other institutions that have for their object the welfare and improvement of the city and county. For a number of years he has been a director, and in January, 1903, was elected the president, of the Commercial Club, an organization that has accomplished much in building up the commercial interests of Bluffton, and he is also president of the library board, in the latter capacity being in hearty accord with the proposition to erect a new library in this city in the near future, one that will be in thorough harmony with the other recent improvements in the city. Mr. Goodyear helped to organize and for the long period of twelve years has been treasurer of the People's Mutual Loan and Savings Association and is also an incorporator and secretary of the new Elm Grove Cemetery Association, which has been started on most modern cemetery plans. In many ways not here mentioned Mr. Goodyear has exerted a silent, but none the less potent, influence upon the city's growth and development and among those best acquainted with the full scope of his efforts and accomplishments he occupies a

high position in their confidence and esteem. Much of the present prosperity of this section of the country is directly traceable to the impulse of the influence and efforts exerted by the subject. Mr. Goodyear is free in his expression of gratitude to his parents and his sister for their unselfish devotion to him, that he might obtain a good education and have a start in life. Through them the foundations were laid thoroughly and deeply and upon them he has builded wisely and well, so that today he occupies a position not only creditable to himself, but reflecting honor to those who so carefully looked after him in the primal days of his life career.

On the 26th of November, 1891, Mr. Goodyear was united in the holy bonds of matrimony with Miss Harriet Bennett, daughter of Robert C. and Harriet (Deam) Bennett. This union has been a most happy and congenial one and has been blessed by the birth of one child, Edith May, born May 23, 1896. Thus briefly have been set forth the salient facts in the life career of one of Wells county's intelligent men of affairs. His career and position illustrate most happily the fact that, if a young man possesses the proper attributes of mind and heart, he can attain to a position of unmistakable precedence and gain for himself an honored position among the men who are the foremost factors in shaping the destiny of cities, communities and states. His life proves that the only true success in this world depends upon personal effort and consecutive industry. It also demonstrates that the road to position is open to all who possess the courage to tread its pathway and serves as an inspiration to the young of the present and

future generations, teaching by incontrovertible facts that true success is ambition's legitimate answer.

HENRY CLAY McCULLICK.

One of the original pioneers to whom the present generation is indebted for the comforts and blessings which attend the denizens of a well improved and highly cultivated commonwealth is Henry C. McCullick, a son of Henry McCullick, a native of Maryland, but of Scotch parentage. The father of the subject married for his first wife Martha Twible, a native of Maryland whose parents, John and Elizabeth Twible, were natives of Scotland, John, the father, having come to America with the British army. His inherent love of freedom, however, later led him to desert the British and attach himself to the American cause and thereafter he fought in many battles for independence, passing through many narrow escapes, having at different times had five bullet holes shot through his clothing and one through his hat. After his marriage the elder McCullick settled in Tyler county, Virginia, where he remained until 1832 when he removed to Henry county, Ohio, remaining there until the fall of 1834, at which time he again removed to Wells county, Indiana.

February 11, 1835, when the subject was seven years of age, Henry, Sr., became one of the first settlers of Chester township, Wells county, a typical pioneer belonging to that class to whom too much honor can not be accorded by succeeding generations. Upon his arrival in the new country Henry, Sr.,

settled upon land which is still in the family, being the farm now occupied by Isaac McCullick.

At the first election held in Chester and Jackson townships there were but seven votes cast. Henry, Sr., was chosen for office and his oldest son was also elected to fill the office of justice of the peace. The oldest brother of the subject of this sketch was the first man who took out a marriage license in the new county of Wells. When the subject with his father's family came to Wells county, they moved into an Indian settlement of three hundred souls, with whom he run, played and slept and declares that they are the best class of citizens the United States ever had if they had only been let alone. Henry, Sr., was a soldier of the war of 1812, and died in 1863 at about the age of seventy-five years. His wife, Martha, died in 1847. The subject was three times married. To his first union nine children were born, John, deceased; Rachel, deceased; Josiah, deceased; Elizabeth, deceased; Lindy, deceased; Henry, the subject of this sketch; Mary J., the wife of St. Claire Raush, who is deceased; Penelope, the wife of Silas Jones; William, who is a resident of Michigan and married to Margaret Goodfrey. Henry, Sr., married the second time, and this wife dying, he chose for his third wife Susie Hunt, the widow of Harvey Hunt. To this third union was born one child, Ellen, who married Edward Terhune.

Henry Clay McCullick went to school but thirteen days, there being but few school facilities until after he had attained his majority. His parents being uneducated, he, by his own efforts, learned to read, write and cipher. The first lesson he learned to read as a whole was the third chapter of Matthew,

after which he soon learned to read well, an accomplishment which he cultivated through life. He remained with his father until he was nearly twenty-five years of age. The latter having been confined to the house for fourteen years a sufferer from white swelling, Henry C., aided by his sister, Lindy A., cleared the farm, she working with him every day. Just before he was twenty-five years of age he put out the first crop, of which he received a share, which was one-fourth of the product. The next year he went to work on his own land, having traded a yoke of oxen, a one-horse wagon and a colt for a tract of land in the woods. He went to work clearing it up, and the first summer had cleared thirteen acres, built a house and got himself a wife. He moved into the house before it had any windows. This farm was in section 30, Chester township, on which he lived until 1872, when he purchased the Hammer farm and moved on to that. This farm is now occupied by Isaac McCullick. In the year 1870 he owned three hundred and fifty-five acres of land, which he sold for ten thousand dollars, but owing to the failure of the parties to meet the payment either of interest or principal he was compelled to take back the land. He moved onto the farm where he now lives in 1880. His present home is a farm of sixty and three-fourths acres of finely improved land. The subject has devoted his time exclusively to farming, occasionally shipping stock, etc.

Mr. McCullick has been twice married. His first wife, to whom he was married November 23, 1850, was Elizabeth Anderson, daughter of Samuel and Rebecca (Cochran) Anderson, natives of Virginia. Elizabeth was born in March, 1827, and

died March 7, 1875. As a result of this marriage nine children were born: Jasper, deceased; Nun, a resident of Montpelier, Indiana, acquired a high education; Lot; Wyley, deceased; Isaac, a farmer in Chester township; William, a resident of Wells county; Sarah J., deceased; Lucy, the wife of William Alexander, of Fairmount, Indiana. For his second wife Mr. McCullick married Mandania McIntyre, the widow of Thomas McIntyre and daughter of Robert Hathaway, this marriage occurring August 18, 1876. To this union one child was born, Emma, now living at home with her parents. Mr. and Mrs. McCullick are both workers in the church of Christ. Politically the subject is a Prohibitionist, having never voted any other ticket save once when he voted for the Hon. A. N. Martin for congress.

RUFUS B. CLARK.

While in old England they boast of their ancestry back for twenty generations or more and in New England they lay claim to more than half as many, here in the west if we can look back upon our family tree a hundred years and see nothing to be ashamed of, we are liable to strut a little and feel some semblance of the aristocratic thrill that is supposed to bespeak the blue blood of nobility. There are many in the west possessed of such a family tree. Some it impells to put on airs and affect superiority. Others view it in the purely American sense, that a man's worth is neither increased or diminished by what those who preceded him have or have not been. Of the latter class is the Clark family of Wells and Hunting-

ton counties, one of whom is the subject of this sketch, Rufus B. Clark, of Liberty township, Wells county, Indiana. He has a family of which he might boast, but he is too much interested in the affairs of his own life to waste time with such foolishness. He is a young man, but a very successful one. He was born in the township where he now resides January 9, 1874, and, though only in his twenty-ninth year, is as capable and thorough a business man as one can encounter.

The paternal grandparents of Rufus B. Clark were Sargeant and Eunice (Irwin) Clark, natives of North Carolina, who came in the winter of 1838-9 from their native state to Huntington county, Indiana, traveling the entire distance in a wagon. They entered a tract of eighty acres of government land in Salamonie township, and here built a home, cleared the land and reared their family. They were the parents of eight children, viz: Martha J., deceased; John I., who was the father of Rufus R., the subject; Rachael, wife of John Radcliff, of Newark, Ohio; Roscoe L., a resident of Huntington county, Indiana, residing on part of the old homestead; Landona, wife of Amos L. Carl, of Beamer, Indiana; Hannah, Lewis and Jasper. Of all the early inhabitants of Huntington county, none are remembered with kindlier feelings than Sargeant and Eunice Clark. They were naturally unselfish, kind and generous, and to those gifts they added a benevolence and hospitality that is popularly supposed to be peculiarly prevalent in the south. They spent nearly as much time caring for neighbors in need as they did in looking after their own affairs, yet did not slight or neglect the latter. Mr. Clark helped to build roads,

bridges, churches and school houses, never exacting remuneration for his services; indeed, he would felt offended if asked what his charge was. His good wife was constantly, in her motherly way, on some errand of mercy or charity.

The maternal grandparents of Rufus B. Clark were George and Nancy (Hampton) Helm. They were natives of Tennessee, but came from that state, by wagon, in 1838, to Huntington county, Indiana, and settled on the bank of the Salamonie river about two miles below Warren. The most numerous inhabitants of the county at that time were Indians. There, in the depths of the wilderness, June 6, 1846, Nancy Helm, the mother of Rufus B. Clark, was born. Her birth place is now in the township of Jefferson. In the early days of the settlement the people were obliged to go to Preble county, Ohio, for supplies. It was a long, tedious journey, through the trackless woods. The round trip frequently required weeks in accomplishment, especially during inclement weather or when the streams were swollen. On one such trip the husband and father, George Helm, was away six weeks and his intrepid little wife with her three small children remained alone in the cabin, during the day in the mortal dread of the red savages with whom the woods were peopled, and at night almost equally in fear of the wild beasts of the forest. Mr. Helm cleared and improved this land and made it his home up to the time of his death. George and Nancy Helm were the parents of eight children, viz: Lorinda, widow of James Gill; John A. died on the old home place; William is a resident of Huntington, Indiana; Nancy, wife of John I. Clark; Sarah was the wife of Jacob Irwin, but is now de-

ceased; Jane died at the age of sixteen years; David at the age of seventeen and James died when he was but two years old. The parents were among the most enterprising, public spirited and prosperous of the early settlers. Nancy Helm died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John I. Clark, in the fall of 1874.

John I. Clark, father of the subject, grew to manhood on his father's farm in Salamonie township, attended the public schools and received a fair common school education. He worked by the day, week or job until he was twenty-three years of age, when he rented the farm of George Helm, making his home in the Helm family. For five years he continued on this farm, and was united in marriage to Miss Nancy Helm, a daughter of the family in which he had been boarding. He then purchased eighty acres of land in Liberty township, Wells county, Indiana, which was then unimproved, but now forms part of the farm owned by him and on which he still resides. The size of this farm has been constantly increased by purchase until it now comprises three hundred and twenty acres. It is well fenced, ditched and otherwise improved. In 1882 Mr. Clark built a barn, forty by eighty feet, which was added to in 1896 and it is now one hundred and five feet in length. In 1886 he erected a model home, large, commodious, well finished and handsomely furnished, among the best in the entire county, while the other buildings on the farm correspond well with those mentioned. John I. and Nancy Clark are the parents of four children, viz: Viola P., wife of Albert Minniear, a resident of Liberty township; Rufus B. is the subject; Garnet E., wife of John C. Smith, a resident of Huntington;

Lester E., the youngest of the family, is still unmarried and resides with his parents. In September, 1901, John I. Clark, the father of this family, was stricken with paralysis and has been helpless ever since. His good wife and youngest son, Lester, accord him every care and make him as comfortable and cheerful as possible in his affliction. Though still only a youth, Lester is much interested in the work of the farm and in the breeding and feeding of blooded stock. He is attending the graded school at Liberty Center and will finish the course this year. Both parents have been members of the Methodist Protestant church a number of years, at Beamer. During his entire career John I. Clark has been strictly a temperance man and was ever ready to advance the work of churches and schools in the interest of morality, religion and learning. In politics he was always a stanch Democrat, as was his father before him. Like the wise and provident man that he is, he has made ample provision for his children, as after laying aside a farm of one hundred and eighty-five acres for his faithful wife, each of their children will be presented with a tract of forty acres.

Rufus B. Clark attended the public schools of his native township until he was twenty years of age. He then, in connection with Albert Minniear, his brother-in-law, began the cultivation of his father's farm, receiving for their services a share of the crop and for four years they continued thus, steadily prospering. On the 4th day of December, 1898, Rufus B. Clark was united in marriage to Miss Zora A. Burman, a lady of intelligence and refinement, born in Franklin county, Ohio, October 4, 1874. She is a daughter of George W. and Lydia

(Trimmer) Burman, natives of Ohio. The parents of George were Daniel and Harriett Burman. George was twice married, his first wife being Sallie Hempy, who accompanied him to Indiana when he emigrated from Ohio. Two children were born to them, both of whom are now dead, as also is the mother. His second wife was Lydia A. Trimmer, a native of Ohio, where they were married and where they resided a number of years, when he returned with his wife to Huntington county, locating near Pleasant Plain. Both are still living, residents of Warren county, Indiana. Her parents were John and Sarah (Stumbaugh) Trimmer, natives of Pennsylvania, who moved to Fairfield county, Ohio, in the early 'forties. There they resided until the death of Mrs. Trimmer, when her husband came to Huntington county, Indiana, and made his home with his daughter, Mrs. Lydia A. Burman until his death, which occurred January 1, 1892. To this marriage two children were born, viz: Etta, wife of Elsie Thompson, of Liberty township, and Zora A., wife of Rufus B. Clark.

The place owned by Rufus B. Clark is known as the Hickory Grove Stock Farm. About the time of his marriage he erected a fine residence upon the place and in 1899 built a barn thirty-six by fifty-six feet, in 1892, increasing its size to fifty-four by fifty-six feet. He has cleared, fenced, ditched and otherwise improved the land until it is today one of the best kept farms in the county. The finest well in that locality is on the premises, always supplied with abundance of pure healthful water for man or beast. He has also a large orchard of fine, thrifty young trees of all kinds. He breeds the Ohio Improved Chester hogs,

Hereford cattle and a general class of sheep, most of the cattle being thoroughbreds. He carries on general farming and always aims to feed more grain than he raises on the premises, not that he wants to raise less grain, but that he aims to feed more stock. He is the owner of stock and other personal property that will easily reach in value two thousand dollars.

To Mr. and Mrs. Rufus B. Clark two children have been born, viz: Hazel F., born February 26, 1900, and Howard Russell, born August 14, 1902. The parents are members of the Methodist Protestant church of Beamer, having united with that denomination in May, 1902. He is a member of Lodge No. 747, I. O. O. F., at Liberty Center, and in politics is a Democrat, active and zealous in all campaigns. There are few men in this country of whom it can truthfully be said they never drank intoxicating liquor, chewed tobacco, smoked, played cards or indulged in any species of gambling. That statement, however, can truthfully be made regarding the subject of this sketch, Rufus B. Clark. He is a moral, model, manly man. If men of his kind were more numerous this country and this world would be greatly improved.

WILLIAM D. MARKLEY.

Among the prosperous native-born farmers of Harrison township, Wells county, Indiana, William D. Markley stands most prominent. He is a son of John and Malinda (Wilson) Markley, was born April 25, 1841, and Harrison township has always been his place of residence.

John Markley, the father of William D., came from Madison county, Ohio, to Wells county, Indiana, in 1836, and entered one hundred and eighty-five acres of forest land in section 18, Harrison township, where there had about half a dozen settlers preceded him, including Dan and Adam Miller, Thomas Van Horn and Higgins Gentry. Mr. Markley put up the inevitable log cabin for temporary shelter and set resolutely to work to clear up a farm, or rather to clear off the heavy timber surrounding his cabin. He added gradually to his possessions until he owned about six hundred acres, but continued to make a dwelling of his original cabin the remainder of his life. He was a very public-spirited gentleman and did all his means would allow in assisting financially the making of public improvements. He was well known throughout the county of Wells, although a quiet, unassuming man, and was recognized as a useful citizen and a good neighbor, being deeply mourned at his death, which took place in the faith of the Christian church, and his name is still kept green in the memory of his surviving relatives and friends. In politics he was a Republican, but never was officious or intermeddling in forcing his views upon others, and as a farmer was one of the most successful stock raisers in his township. To John and Malinda (Wilson) Markley were born eleven children, of whom eight grew to maturity, namely: Rachel, now the wife of Stephen Adsit; Rev. J. J., of Lancaster township; William D., with whose name this biographical record opens; Ellen, widow of Ben Studabaker; Matilda, married to Capt. E. Y. Sturgis; Lewis P., of this township; Samuel, of Elwood, Indiana; Wilson, still in this township.

William D. Markley was reared to farming on the old homestead, but was given an opportunity to attend school three months each year until he was eighteen years old. He was quite apt at his studies and on relinquishing these engaged in teaching school in Wells county until he was twenty-three years of age, when, in 1864, he married Miss Mary E. Dougherty, a native of Darke county, Ohio, and a daughter of William and Margaret (Studabaker) Dougherty, as well as a sister of the Hon. Hugh Dougherty. To the marriage of W. D. and Mary E. Markley were born five children, viz: Cora, who was a teacher in Wells county for several terms and was then married to Jules Meredith; Franklin, deceased; Carrie, wife of Earnest Morrow; Anna, married to Arthur Markley, and Jane, wife of Gus Baker. Mrs. Mary E. (Dougherty) Markley was called from earth in 1884, and Mr. Markley chose for a second helpmate Margaret Dellinger, whom he married in November, 1891, and this union has been brightened by the birth of one child, Marie, born June 27, 1895.

Mr. Markley is a member of the Christian church at Six Mile and is also one of the trustees. He is very active in his church work, contributes liberally toward its support and maintenance and lives strictly up to its teachings. In politics Mr. Markley is a stanch Republican in principle, but seldom takes an active part in advancing the interests of the party, excepting in the way of regularly casting his vote in its favor, as he has never felt any desire for holding a public office, although he is very popular in his township and he and family are among the most prominent and respected residents of Wells county and Harrison township.

J. B. GAVIN.

The man who makes the greatest success in life is not always he who starts with the greatest advantages and best opportunities. This is well exemplified in the case of J. B. Gavin, the subject of this sketch. He was born in the county of Galway, Ireland, August 10, 1845, but only the first two years of his life were spent in his native land. In 1848 his parents, with all their children, emigrated to America and located in Ross county, Ohio. They remained there six years, when, in 1854, they moved to Harrison township, Wells county, Indiana, where Mr. Gavin has since resided. The parents of J. B. Gavin were George and Mary (Benton) Gavin, natives of Ireland, as were their ancestors for many generations. In his early manhood, in his native land, George Gavin was a member of the Royal Irish constabulary, or government police force, and as such did duty in many of the cities of Ireland. On locating in America he devoted himself to farming. He was a man of good education and during the winter months found plenty of employment teaching. After moving to Wells county, for three years he rented land, but finding that unprofitable he determined to purchase a place of his own. A tract of eighty acres was bought in Liberty township and as soon as a home was prepared thereon the family moved and occupied it. It is the same land on which his grandson and namesake now lives, and a debt was incurred for the greater part of the purchase price. This land was cleared, improved and added to until it became a superb farm of two hundred and ten acres, all in one body. To George and Mary Gavin seven children were born, viz:

Robert, now a resident of Liberty township; Mary was the wife of Joseph Cobbum, but is now deceased; Sarah is the wife of Harrison Snow and they live in Kansas; J. B. is the subject of this sketch and will be more particularly referred to hereafter; Delilah died at the age of ten years; Henry J. died at the age of eight years; Henrietta died on the voyage from Ireland. The father of this family served a number of terms as township trustee. He was a Democrat, took an active part in politics and made his influence widely felt. His death occurred December 12, 1882.

J. B. Gavin attended the public schools of Liberty township until he was eighteen years of age. The yearly term was seldom longer than three months during the winter. George, the father, and Robert, the elder brother of J. B. Gavin, were both teachers and their attendance at school being considered much more important than that of the latter, he was often required to remain at home working when he should have been at school. His advantages for securing an education, therefore, did not equal those of the other children of the family. He, however, was an apt pupil and when he did attend, it was to some purpose. When he reached the age of twenty his father accorded him a share of the crop raised on the farm, and this arrangement was continued until his marriage and for five years thereafter.

On March 31, 1870, James B. Gavin was united in marriage to Miss Rebecca Hedges, who was born July 6, 1848, in Harrison township, Wells county, Indiana. She was the daughter of Robert and Sophia (Kirkwood) Hedges. The father of Robert was Elijah Hedges, a native of Virginia, but the

progenitor of the family came from England. Robert Hedges was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, where he married Sophia Kirkwood, a native of Pennsylvania, and there he devoted himself to farming for a number of years. He moved his family to Harrison township, Wells county, in 1846, and there he still lives at the age of eighty-five years. Sophia died in August, 1870. Robert and Sophia Hedges were the parents of thirteen children, all of whom were living at the time of their mother's death, though three have died since. These were the children: Mary J., wife of Alex. Lattimore; Luicinda was the wife of Daniel Tuttle, but is now dead; Jonas, deceased; Rebecca is the wife of J. B. Gavin, the subject; James married Eunice Neff; Elizabeth was the wife of Philip Ulmer, but is now dead; William resides in Whitley county, Indiana; Julia, wife of George Ulmer, superintendent of the Orphans' Home; Joseph; George resides in Kansas; Lewis resides in Pulaski county, Indiana; Samuel resides in Liberty township; John resides in Harrison township. Robert Hedges was three times married, a daughter, Alice, being born to him by his last marriage.

For five years after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Gavin resided on the Gavin homestead, in the family of his parents, he operating the farm for his father. In 1875 he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres where he now resides. The place was only partially cleared when purchased, and in buying it he incurred an indebtedness of one thousand six hundred dollars. Through his industry and good management he paid off the debt within a very short time and purchased eighty acres

more, adjoining his farm on the north and unimproved. In 1881 he erected a barn seventy by forty feet, large, commodious and substantial. The following year he added another eighty acres to his already extensive farm, joining it on the west and later he purchased the interests of the other heirs in the old home place. He is now the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of superb farming land, in one body, all well ditched and under cultivation. His three sons have each a portion of this land, which they cultivate, each having a comfortable residence on his portion, with good, substantial barn and outbuildings. In 1889 Mr. Gavin erected for himself and family a beautiful, spacious home of nine rooms, artistically finished and richly furnished. It is such a home as one rarely meets with in the rural districts.

From boyhood J. B. Gavin has devoted his life to farming and stockraising and has clearly demonstrated that a comfortable fortune can be amassed in that business in a few years. When he and his wife began housekeeping for themselves, in 1875, their home was a little two-room structure which it would be a misnomer to term a cottage. They were rich in nothing but health, strength, industry and perseverance. By coupling prudence and economy with other good gifts which nature had bestowed upon them, they have accomplished results that many would believe impossible. The latest assessment rolls of the county show the valuation of their personal property alone to be two thousand one hundred dollars. Mr. Gavin is one of Liberty township's heaviest taxpayers and also the owner of considerable property in Bluffton, the county seat.

To Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Gavin eight chil-

dren have been born, viz: George M., born May 23, 1871, married Lucy Huffman, and they are the parents of one child, James Frederick; Charles B., born July 29, 1873, married Lydia Bays, resides on part of his father's farm and has four children, Harry, Cecil, George and Garrett; William J., born October 22, 1874, married Anna Howard, resides on part of his father's farm, and has two children, Victoria and Mary; Mary A., born November 25, 1876, is the wife of Benjamin Buckner and they have one child, William J.; Francis F., born June 27, 1879, resides at home with his parents; Minnie and Ninnie, born July 20, 1882; Minnie died July 25, 1882, and Ninnie died September 12, 1887; Theopolis, born April 13, 1888. Mrs. Gavin is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, an active worker in all religious and charitable work and contributes liberally to every worthy cause. Mr. Gavin is a member of Lodge No. 747, I. O. O. F., at Liberty Center, and is much interested in lodge work. In politics he is a Democrat, and takes a deep interest in the success of his party, wielding an influence which aspirants for office are exceedingly anxious to secure. He is still practically in the prime of life. The weight of the fifty-seven years that he has seen sets lightly on his shoulders and his physical condition would indicate that existence had yet nearly half a century in store for him. Humanity is benefited by such lives as his.

JOEL KEMP.

The importance that attaches to the lives, character and work of the early settlers of

Wells county and the influence they have exerted upon the cause of humanity and civilization is one of the most absorbing themes that can possibly attract the attention of the local chronicler or historian. If great and beneficent results—results that endure and benefit mankind—are the proper measure of the good men do, then who is there in the world's history that may take their places above the hardy pioneer. To point out the way, to make possible our present advancing civilization, its happy homes, its arts and sciences, its discoveries and inventions, its education, literature and culture, its refinement and social life and joy, is to be the truly great benefactors of mankind for all time. This was the great work accomplished by the early settlers and it is granted by all that they builded more wisely than they knew. Admit that but few ever realized in the dimmest way the transcendent possibilities that rested upon their shoulders; grant it that their lives, except in certain instances, were somewhat narrow and that they realized but little the great results that ultimately crowned their efforts; yet there exists the supreme fact that they followed their restless impulses, took their lives in their hands, penetrated the wilderness and with a patient energy, resolution and self-sacrifice that stands alone and unparalleled, they worked out their allotted tasks, accomplished their destinies and today their descendants and others enjoy undisturbed the fruitage of their labors.

Prominent among the worthy representatives of the pioneer element in the county of Wells is the well-known gentleman to a review of whose life the attention of the reader is now directed. For many years

Joel Kemp has been a forceful factor in the growth and prosperity of Harrison township, and as such his name and reputation have extended far beyond the limits of the locality in which the greater part of his life has been spent. The subject's father was born in Maryland and his mother in Virginia. Their respective families emigrated to Clark county, Ohio, and there Solomon Kemp and Elizabeth Baker were united in marriage. The former owned a farm in Ohio, but in 1839 he came to Wells county and there bought of Abe Studabaker a farm of two hundred and twelve acres situated in section 3, Harrison township, paying for the same one thousand dollars. He entered actively upon the operation of this farm and made it his home until his death in 1850. They were the parents of eight children, three boys and five girls, of whom there are now but two surviving, the subject and Amanda, the wife of Abe Neuswander. The father willed all the land to the subject.

After his father's death Joel Kemp paid the other heirs for their interest in the home farm and he is now the owner of one hundred and sixty-two acres of the original farm. In his youth the only educational advantages he received were those to be obtained in the subscription schools of the neighborhood, but to the limited mental training he there acquired he has added by wide reading and close observation of men and events, so that today he is a thoroughly well-informed man and able to converse intelligently on all the leading questions of the day. At first the only habitation on the farm was a log cabin, but the subject later replaced that with the comfortable and commodious residence in which he now lives.

He made many improvements upon the place and by long years of earnest toil and wise management brought it up to a high standard of excellence. He has not confined himself strictly to one line of farming, but has been diversified in his operations, as all progressive agriculturists should be, and has found a comfortable competence in the products of the soil.

Mr. Kemp was united in marriage with Miss Mahala Deam, the daughter of John A. Deam. The Deam family came from Montgomery county, Ohio, to Wells county, in February, 1839, but Mrs. Kemp was born in the former county. This union was blessed with one child, Alice Olive, who is now the wife of George Studabaker, ex-auditor of Wells county. Politically Mr. Kemp is a Democrat, but, while taking a keen interest in the party's success, bears no active part in its campaigns, being content with the casting of an honest ballot. Fraternally he was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to the subordinate lodge at Bluffton. Mr. Kemp, by a life of right living and strenuous endeavor, has earned a warm place in the hearts of all who know him. He is a devout lover of all that is pure, true and good, and is ever ready to encourage that which is good and to support that which is best. All find in him a friend and helper. He is neighborly and brotherly, candid, frank, sincere and generous, as well as kind and courteous. By the exercise of these qualities he has been blessed with a large number of warm personal friends and even mere acquaintances respect him for his exemplary life. Mr. Kemp has in his possession two parchment deeds, executed November 7, 1835, and bearing the signature of President Andrew Jackson.

JACOB JEFFERSON TODD.

Among the distinguished jurists of Indiana the name of the late Jacob Jefferson Todd, of Bluffton, has long been accorded a prominent place. As an erudite lawyer his standing at the head of the Wells county bar was never questioned, and as a public spirited man of affairs his place in the history of his county and state is prominently and permanently fixed. Few so impressed their personality upon the people and in every relation of life he moved among his fellow men as one born to leadership.

In tracing the genealogy of Mr. Todd it is learned that he was descended from a long line of sturdy and honorable ancestors, which, both in the lineal and collateral branches, have been prominent in the history of the nation, the family having been identified with colonial affairs for many years antecedent to the war for independence. His father, Jacob Todd, was born in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, March 12, 1805, the youngest child of Samuel and Lucy (Shivers) Todd, who were the parents of seven sons and seven daughters. Samuel Todd's father was Alexander Todd, one of the earliest settlers of Baltimore county, Maryland, and a man of much more than local reputation. When a young man, Jacob Todd married Jane Thomas, whose birth occurred in Columbiana county, Ohio, on the 2nd day of January, 1807, she being the eldest of a family of twelve children, three sons and nine daughters, born to Enos and Margaret (Cameron) Thomas, the former a native of Chester county, Pennsylvania, and a son of Seth and Martha (Kirk) Thomas, and the latter the daughter of Lewis and Francis (Suter) Cameron. Briefly stated, the origin

of the several elements in the genealogical line are as follows: The Todds were of Scotch-Irish extraction; the Shivers of Scotch origin. Seth Thomas was a native of Wales, while the Kirk family was of Quaker descent, its first American representatives having come from England in 1682 as members of William Penn's colony, which settled in Philadelphia. Louis Cameron was born and reared in the highlands of Scotland, his wife, Francis Suter, having been a native of Linconshire, England. The marriage of Jacob Todd and Jane Thomas was solemnized January 14, 1830, and their union was blessed with eleven children, concerning whom the following is a brief record: (1) Samuel, the oldest son, was born October 24, 1830, married, May 11, 1853, Rebecca Isabelle, who bore him children, Lizzie J., wife of John C. Anderson, Samuel T., deceased, and two that died in infancy. Samuel T. Todd departed this life January 11, 1850. (2) John Wesley, the second in order of birth, was born April 19, 1832, married Abigail Glas, who died August 24, 1859, leaving a daughter, Mary Jane; the only son of this marriage died in infancy unnamed. John W. Todd married for his second wife Angeline Biddle, who became the mother of three sons and five daughters. During the war of the Rebellion John W. served as second lieutenant in Company G, One Hundred and First Indiana Infantry, and distinguished himself as a brave and gallant soldier. (3) Lucy was born February 11, 1834, and married Asa McDaniel, who died July 15, 1855, leaving one son, John T. Subsequently Mrs. McDaniel became the wife of Nathan Tobey and bore him four sons and two daughters. (4) Margaret Ann, born June 28, 1836, married

Calvin Biddle, to whom she bore two sons and two daughters. (5) Uriah was born on the 5th of August, 1838, entered the marriage relation with Lois Smitley and died April 14, 1880, leaving two sons and two daughters, three having died in infancy. Uriah Todd was a soldier in the late Civil war, entering the army in 1861 as private in Captain Barber's company, Fourteenth Ohio Cavalry, for the three months service. Later he became second lieutenant of Company K, Seventy-fifth Indiana Infantry, and was afterwards first lieutenant of Company H, First United States Regulars. It is a fact worthy of note that he was the first citizen of Wells county to enlist for service in the Union army. (6) Mary Jane was born September 26, 1840; she became the wife of Samuel Bowman, bore him nine children, three dying in infancy, and departed this life on the 24th of April, 1878. (7) Jacob Jefferson, whose name furnishes the caption of this article, was the seventh in order of birth. (8) Nancy, whose birth occurred October 9, 1845, married John V. Allen, a member of Company A, Thirty-fourth Indiana Infantry, in the late war, and became the mother of one son and one daughter. (9) Elizabeth Ellen, born December 22, 1847, married Ransom Allen, a union resulting in the birth of two sons and two daughters. Mr. Allen was also a soldier during the late Rebellion, serving as a private in Company A, Thirteenth Indiana Infantry. (10) Simpson was born August 5, 1851; he took to wife Harriet E. Hoover, who presented him with one son and one daughter. He departed this life in April, 1896. (11) Bathsheba Isodene, the youngest of the family, was born on the 18th day of September, 1885. By her marriage with

John A. Glass she had five children, of whom two sons and one daughter are living.

Immediately after their marriage Jacob and Jane Todd took up their abode on a farm in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, and continued to reside there until 1851. In that year Mr. Todd disposed of his homestead and joined the tide of emigration to north-eastern and northwestern Indiana. The long journey to the new home was made in the primitive manner peculiar to that period, the equipment consisting of a covered wagon and buggy and in this way, after encountering many obstacles and meeting with many interesting experiences in the dense and in many places almost trackless forests, the family finally, on the 12th day of October, 1851, unloaded their few effects at what was destined to be their future place of abode. Mr. Todd settled on the northwest quarter of section 19, township 28 north, range 12 east, in what is now the highly favored and prosperous county of Wells. The farm upon which he located was yet a portion of an unbroken forest and the prospect at the time was anything but encouraging. Nothing daunted, however, every member of the family capable of doing manual labor set valiantly to work to improve and reclaim from nature's grasp the rich and bountiful benefices she had in store. Coming here a poor man, Mr. Todd was enabled by industry, frugality and excellent management to develop a fine farm and attain a high degree of success in the pursuit of agriculture and the accumulation of wealth. He was a man of broad intelligence and progressive ideas and in many respects stood far in advance of the majority of men of his neighborhood. While the average farmer of that period was content to follow the drudge-

like work and give no thought to the future, his superior judgment far transcended such narrow and sordid limitation, his aim being to more than keep pace with progress and improvement in the community, and he moved among his neighbors and fellow citizens as a natural leader. He was always honored for his unswerving integrity in thought, word and deed, for his vigorous and forceful individuality and for his eminent spirit of justice and charity as exhibited in his daily intercourse with his fellow man. Mr. Todd was a symmetrically developed man, strong mentally, incorruptible morally and physically a prince among his fellows, being six feet one and a half inches and weighing about two hundred pounds. He lived a life of signal honor and usefulness, exerted a powerful influence for good in the community and upon all with whom he came in contact, and in his death, which occurred on the 3rd of November, 1861, the county lost one of its noblest pioneers and most intelligent citizens, while to posterity was bestowed the priceless heritage of a good name and an honorable reputation. Mr. Todd was a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church and exemplified in his daily walk the faith which he professed. He and his wife became identified with the denomination soon after their marriage, their respective parents having also been Methodists and noted for their piety and activity in disseminating the truths of revealed religion among those with whom they mingled. Mrs. Todd survived her husband a number of years, departing this life on the 5th of June, 1888, at the old homestead hallowed by so many tender recollections and sacred associations. To her were accorded the filial solicitude and veneration of her children and

her children's children. Her life was one of signal purity and beauty and her generosity and sympathetic character endeared her to all who came within the sphere of her gentle, loving influence.

Reverting specifically to the life of Jacob Jefferson Todd, it is learned that he was born on the old family homestead in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, March 12, 1843. When less than eight years of age he came with his parents to Wells county, Indiana, and grew to maturity amid the pioneer scenes of Jefferson township, lending in his youth effective assistance in clearing and improving the eighty acres which constituted the original farm. His preliminary educational advantages were such as the district schools afforded, after which he was enabled to prosecute his studies for a time in Roanoke Seminary, Huntington county, and still later in a college at Fort Wayne. His was not a nature to tolerate subjective inactivity, accordingly he forthwith proceeded to put his intellectual acquirements to a practical test by engaging in the work of teaching, a vocation to which he devoted his attention during the winter months from 1861 to 1866 inclusive, winning an enviable reputation as an able and popular educator. Essentially loyal and patriotic, Mr. Todd was one of the first of Wells county's brave sons to respond to President Lincoln's call for volunteers when the perpetuity of the government was threatened by the armed hosts of treason in 1860. The thundering of the rebel guns against Fort Sumter struck a responsive protest in his heart, and his courage was that of his convictions, for in August, 1861, he enlisted in Company A, Thirty-fourth Indiana Infantry. By reason of impaired health he was not able to pass

the physical examination prerequisite to admission to the service, which fact caused him no little disappointment and chagrin. Thus forced to limit his efforts to such assistance as he could render the cause aside from the scene of action, he was constrained to bide his time until he should have sufficiently recovered his health to go to the front. In April, 1864, he again enlisted, this time with better success, becoming a member of Company D, One Hundred and Thirty-seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry, which, during the summer of that year, served under Gen. Milroy at Tullahoma and Duck River Bridge in the railroad defense department. He served with distinction until the following October when he was honorably discharged, after which he returned home and again resumed the peaceful pursuit of civil life. Having attained his majority, he cast his first ballot that fall for Oliver P. Morton, the war governor of Indiana, and the following November had the satisfaction of depositing a vote for Abraham Lincoln, who that year was elected for the second time President of the United States.

In March, 1865, Mr. Todd was appointed assessor of Jefferson township, in which capacity he served one year, this being the beginning of his public and official career. On the 4th of April following he began the work of preparing himself for the law, for which exacting profession he had previously decided. Reading under the direction of competent instructors, he pursued his studies with so much earnestness and zeal that he was able to secure admission to the bar on the 22nd day of May, 1866. It is a significant fact that he studied law in the same office in which he afterwards practiced so successfully for a period of more than thirty

years, a case without parallel in the history of the Wells county bar. Opening an office in Bluffton in 1868, he gained prestige by rapidly successive degrees and soon built up a large and lucrative practice in the courts of Wells and neighboring counties, which always exemplified a clientele of representative order. The interim between his admission to the bar and the time of beginning the practice was filled by an incumbency as deputy internal revenue collector for Wells county, and in March, 1868, he was further honored by being elected clerk of the corporation of Bluffton, serving one year in the latter capacity.

In his political affiliations Mr. Todd was a stalwart supporter of the Republican party, and his services were enlisted to good effect in promoting and greatly furthering its interests. He early became a judicious counsellor and an industrious worker, while his leadership was duly recognized and fully appreciated during the many years of his active career as a forceful factor in local, state and national politics. He was appointed alternate delegate to the national Republican convention at Philadelphia in June, 1872, and was a delegate to the national convention at Chicago in 1880, which nominated Garfield and Arthur, being a member of the committee on permanent organization. In 1882 he was a member of the committee on resolutions at the Republican state convention and he urged with great earnestness and vigor the adoption of the resolution for the submission of the prohibition amendment, his advocacy of this measure being confined not only to the convention but continued upon the hustings throughout the ensuing campaign. In 1886 he was prominently and favorably mentioned as a most

eligible candidate for the office of lieutenant governor, but would not allow his name to go before the nominating convention.

By reason of his valuable services to his party Mr. Todd was tendered several important appointive offices by the national administration, which for various reasons he saw fit to decline. Among these was that of townsite commissioner of Oklahoma territory, tendered by President Harrison in 1890, a position of much importance and responsibility and for the duties of which his sound judgment and pre-eminent business ability peculiarly fitted him. In February of the same year he was tendered, at the hand of Governor Alvin P. Hovey, the appointment as member of the board of commissioners to construct and furnish the asylums for the insane at Logansport, Richmond and Evansville, which position he accepted and on which he served with signal ability and conscientious fidelity until the completion of the allotted work. On the 6th of April, 1895, Governor Matthews appointed him a member of the board of control of the state hospital for the insane at Logansport and subsequently he was made president of the board, discharging his official functions with credit and dispatch.

In June, 1894, Mr. Todd was nominated for judge of the twenty-eighth judicial circuit, comprising the counties of Blackford and Wells, and such was his great personal popularity as well as his recognized qualifications for the bench that he was so far enabled to reduce the overwhelming Democratic majority as to fail of election by the small margin of fifty-six votes, receiving the largest number of votes ever cast for a Republican candidate in Wells county, running four hundred and forty-nine ahead of the

party ticket. In October, 1890, he was given distinctive consideration by President Harrison, who tendered him the appointment as commissioner of allot lands in severalty to the Indians on the Puyallup reservation in the state of Washington, but the demands upon his time by other duties led him to decline the offer. Mr. Todd's last public position was as member of the Indian commission to the North West Centennial held at Toledo in 1902, to which he was appointed by Gov. James H. Mount and with which he was connected at the time of his death.

In his relations to the Wells county bar and in the legal circles of the state, Mr. Todd stood high, having acquired distinctive precedence as an able and scholarly lawyer, and an honorable, judicious and eminently successful practitioner. He was a man of pronounced intellectuality, broad human sympathies and tolerance and imbued with fine sensibilities and clearly defined principles. Honor and integrity were synonyms with his name, and he occupied a conspicuous place in the confidence and regard of the people of the city and county in which the greater part of his life was passed and his distinguished success achieved. The eminent distinction he attained at the bar offers the best evidence of his capability in his profession. Familiar with all the details of practice, to which may be added superior forensic abilities and remarkable influence over juries, he easily stood in the front rank of Wells county's jurists and as an all-round, symmetrically developed lawyer, had few equals among the eminent legal minds of the state. Much of the success which attended him throughout his professional career was doubtless due to the thorough preparation with which he presented his

cases in court and also to his absolute confidence in the justices of his client's cause. Basing his efforts upon these two considerations, from which there are unfortunately too many lapses in legal ranks, it naturally followed that he seldom lost a case in which his support was enlisted.

Mr. Todd first started in practice by himself, but soon afterwards became associated with Hon. B. G. Shinn, now of Hartford City. This firm was subsequently changed to Todd & Martin and still later to Todd and Rhinehart, Todd & Duglay, Wilson & Todd and finally Todd & Todd, his associate in the firm last named being his son, Nelson Kellogg Todd, a sketch of whom will be found elsewhere in this volume.

Referring to the domestic life of Mr. Todd, the record states that he was married on the 17th day of April, 1866, to Miss Rachel J. Kellogg, daughter of the late Nelson Kellogg, of Bluffton, the union resulting in the birth of the son whose name is mentioned above. Subsequently, August 12, 1876, he entered the marriage relation with Mrs. Mary J. Klink, widow of Dwight Klink, who was drowned on the illfated steamer Schiller, which went down while on a voyage to Europe on the 7th of May, 1875. Mrs. Todd is the oldest daughter of John and Rebecca (Angel) Studabaker, of Bluffton, the father a well known and highly respected citizen noted for the energy and success with which he prosecuted all of his undertakings. The mother was especially noted for her generosity and acts of kindness and for her faithfulness as a worker in the cause of temperance, humanity and Christianity. Mrs. Todd was educated in Bluffton and at Ft. Wayne College. She is

an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church, greatly interested in the work of the Sunday school, as teacher and official, and for a number of years has been untiring in her efforts to advance the standard of morals in the community and disseminate the truths of religion among those with whom she mingles. She is a lady of refinement and varied culture and, while domestic in her tastes, is a recognized leader in social, literary and religious circles. By her first marriage she had four daughters, Maggie, Bessie, Lucy and Mattie, the two older deceased; Maggie, who married David A. Walmar, died October 17, 1886; Bessie, who became the wife of James W. B. Sale, departed this life September 7, 1884; Lucy is now Mrs. Chester Thorp and Mattie is the wife of Luster E. Roush. The second marriage of Mr. Todd was blessed with two children, Mary, born August 9, 1878, and Ralph S., whose birth took place on the 5th of August, 1880.

Mr. Todd united with the Methodist Episcopal church when a mere youth and remained a loyal and devoted member of the same until called from the church militant to the church triumphant. For thirty years he held various official positions in the local congregation to which he belonged, notably among which were those of steward, trustee and Sunday school superintendent. He was a member of the Northern Indiana lay conference in the years of 1876 and 1880, and in 1884 served as a lay delegate to the general conference which convened at Philadelphia in May of that year. Until physical disability overtook him he was one of the main stays and active in the Bluffton church and contributed liberally of his means to its financial support.

In his fraternal relations, Mr. Todd had a state reputation. He was made a Mason in Ossian Lodge No. 297 and for a period of four years served as worshipful master of the lodge at Bluffton. In 1884 he was high priest of Bluffton Royal Arch Masons, in addition to which important office he was also elected eminent commander of Bluffton Commandery, Knights Templar, when that body was chartered in this city. In the order of the Eastern Star, he was worthy patron of Crescent Chapter and in the state organization served as grand lecturer, grand associate patron and grand patron. In the grand lodge of Indiana Masons he passed the different chairs and in 1890 was honored by being elected grand master, the duties of which exalted station he discharged for one year. Mr. Todd was a charter member of Lew Dailey Post, G. A. R., at Bluffton, which he represented in 1891 in the grand encampment at Detroit. As a member of the committee appointed by the Grand Army of the Republic he aided in revising the history of the late Civil war as outlined in the text books now used in the public schools, in this capacity rendering valuable service to the youth of the land in acquainting them with the underlying causes and wonderful results of that greatest of all rebellions against constituted authority. For five years Mr. Todd was quartermaster of the Fourth Regiment in the old Indiana National Guard and for some time served as a member of Governor Chase's staff with the rank of lieutenant colonel. His name adorns the charters of the Knights of Honor and the Tribe of Ben Hur in Bluffton and he filled the office of past dictator in the former organization. Mr. Todd was ever a friend and liberal patron of public improvements and aided

with his influence and means every enterprise having for its object the material advancement of Bluffton and Wells county. He was largely influential in securing the requisite encouragement and aid in building the Ft. Wayne, Cincinnati & Louisville and the Toledo, St. Louis & Kansas City Railroads through the county of Wells, in addition to which his alert and progressive spirit proved a potent factor in promoting various local interests and manifold industries. In every relation of life he was an enterprising, progressive, manly man, whose prominent aim was to do the right as he saw and understood the right. Of dignified but pleasant presence, he was easily approachable by the humblest of his fellows, and thousands the county over can tell of his many acts of kindness, of the cheery grasp of the hand, the pleasant greeting, of some aid or favor when most needed, of friendly advice that set their footsteps aright or of the words of cheer or comfort extended when the soul was bowed down in deepest sorrow. His was not only a useful life, but a full life, replete with all that was calculated to elevate and ennoble humanity, and he was easily the peer of any of his fellows in the essential elements of true, virile manhood and upright Christian citizenship. He adorned every station to which he was called and through many future generations his name and fame will be cherished by the people of his city and county as a jurist of pre-eminent ability, as an official whom no bribes could corrupt nor the tongue of flattery swerve from the path of duty, as a Christian without pretense and as a man who, seeing and understanding the right, strove by all means within his power to do the same as he would answer to his conscience and to his God.

The sickness which finally terminated in the death of Mr. Todd was of long duration, but he endured his sufferings with heroic fortitude and sublime resignation. In hope of regaining his health, he sought medical aid at the sanitarium at Battle Creek, Michigan, and again at West Baden Springs, Indiana, but without avail, and it was only by the exercise of his indomitable will he was enabled to baffle the fell destroyer during the last twelve months of his life. He was anxious and determined to live and did not give up the struggle until within a few days before the end came. On the street at various times in pleasant weather he maintained the cheery disposition which was always one of his pronounced characteristics and in spite of his sufferings kept in close touch with the trend of events and gave personal attention to his business affairs until the summons came and he yielded up his great but gentle spirit to the God who gave it. He departed this life on a beautiful Sunday in the most beautiful month of the year, May 13, 1900, dying as he had lived, a Christian, firm in the faith of the Redeemer and with a knowledge that his departure was only a transition from pain and suffering to a realm of eternal peace and triumph. When court was called the following Monday the bar of which he had long been an honored and distinguished member passed appropriate resolutions, containing complimentary references to his character and standing as a lawyer. Eliminating the greater part of the biographical mention, the resolutions adopted by the bar were as follows:

Jacob J. Todd was born in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, March 12, 1843, and died at Bluffton, Indiana, May 13, 1900, aged fifty-seven years, two months and one day. In early childhood he removed with his parents to Jefferson township,

Wells county, Indiana, where he lived upon a farm until after he attained his majority. In early manhood he taught country schools, but came to Bluffton in 1865, and became a student of the law. He entered upon the practice of his chosen profession in 1866 and continued a member of the bar thirty-four years. During all this time he enjoyed a large and lucrative practice. He became quite familiar with statutory law and devoted himself very largely to probate practice, collections and general office work. In all these specialties of his profession he excelled. In the history of the bar, no more reliable, trustworthy and competent attorney in this line of labor ever practiced in Bluffton. He was an ideal husband and father and alive to the wants and necessities of the community and an active, untiring supporter of every enterprise calculated to promote the best interests of the city and county. For more than a third of a century Bluffton has been his home. Here he has lived honored and respected as few men have ever been by his townsmen; here he died at one o'clock, on Sunday, May 13, 1900, mourned by all his neighbors. The private character and life of Jacob J. Todd were without stain and above reproach. He was a man of deep religious convictions, devotedly attached to his church, but he was too liberal to be a bigot, and too just to be intolerant. He was a man of excellent social qualities, and his courtesy and kindness were unailing. When such a man dies it is appropriate to mourn.

Resolved, That we deplore the death of Jacob J. Todd because of his great worth as a man, a citizen and a brother.

Resolved, That we present to the family of the departed our sincere sympathy and condolence in their bereavement.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread on record in the order book of the Wells circuit court.

JOHN K. RINEHART.
J. S. DAILEY.
LEVI MOCK.

The following are the resolutions adopted by the official board of the Methodist Episcopal church of Bluffton, with which Mr. Todd had long been prominently identified.

We, the members of the official board of the Bluffton Methodist Episcopal church, feel most keenly the great loss we have sustained in the

death of our Brother Jacob J. Todd. We find it difficult to realize that he is no more one of our number. He has been a member of this city for the past thirty-three years, and in that long period of usefulness his life has been before us as an open book. We can recall his many and valued qualities as a member of this board. Prominent among these was his intense loyalty to every interest of the church he loved so well. He was one prominent among us who held up the hands of the pastor and helped to lighten his burdens. As an evidence of this loyalty, every pastor who has ever served the Bluffton church has always felt the fullest freedom in partaking of the hospitality of Brother Todd's home. He possessed qualities which made him peculiarly valuable as a member of this board. How often has he infused his hopefulness and courage into our hearts and led us to look upon the bright side when we have been disposed to regard the future as dark and uncertain.

Our Brother Todd took a broad and practical view of the work of the church, and his highest wish was that Zion should prosper in every line. He always lent a willing and helpful hand to every enterprise of the church. He was always jealous for the good name of the church, and did his part toward bringing all the work up to his high ideal.

We shall miss his counsel and his help. In fact his death inflicts an irreparable loss upon the church and upon this board. We shall use due diligence in seeing to it that the influence of his life of devotion to a cause we all so much love shall not be lost upon us, but shall be treasured by us as one of the choicest memories of our service in the cause of the Master.

P. A. ALLEN.
JAMES P. HALE.
D. H. SWAIM.

The funeral of Mr. Todd, conducted after the beautiful and sublime ceremonies of the Masonic fraternity, was attended by a large concourse of his sorrowing fellow citizens of Bluffton and Wells county, while many friends and admirers from a distance were present to pay the last sad tribute of respect to his memory. The Warren, Ossian and Decatur Masonic lodges were present in a body, while notice was received that representatives of the lodges from

Hartford City, Ft. Wayne, Montpelier and Huntington were in attendance. Grand Master William Geake, of Ft. Wayne; Deputy Grand Master O. E. Halloway, Knightstown; Senior Grand Warden O. W. Brownback, of Pendleton; Grand Secretary Wm. H. Smythe, Indianapolis, and Past Masters Edward O'Rourke, of Ft. Wayne, and Calvin W. Prather were present and had the ceremonies in charge. The pall bearers were as follows: W. H. Bassett, J. S. Dailey, J. P. Hale, W. L. Kiger, J. K. Rinehart, L. B. Stevens, D. H. Swaim and J. W. Tribolet.

GEORGE L. SAUNDERS.

What a strange fascination the business of newspaper publishing has for all persons who have ever become skilled in the calling. Men have followed it for years, cried out in anguish at the incessant grind, yearned for an opportunity to let go, even at a sacrifice, and when it came and they let go, reveled in their coveted liberty for only a few short weeks, when they were just as insistent in their desire to get back into the harness as they had been in the first place to get unhitched. An old newspaper man who had followed the calling for more than fifty years prayed to be relieved of the tread-mill work that he had followed nearly all his life. His prayer was answered. He sold out at a figure that rendered him independent and then declared his intention of taking a good, long, well-earned rest. In less than six months he was pleading for the privilege of buying his old plant back again at an advance, and when it was denied him he went

into an adjoining county and bought another plant. In describing his feelings, he said, "A man suffers the pains of purgatory in the business, but he suffers the tortures of hell when out of it." That is not the experience of one or a dozen, but of the many who have ever become wedded to the tripod.

The subject of this sketch, George L. Saunders, of Bluffton, is still comparatively young. He was born September 1, 1866, in Muncie, Indiana, and hence is but little more than thirty-six years old. Nevertheless, ten years ago he was afflicted with the newspaper fever and only secured permanent relief by buying an interest in the Bluffton Banner.

William and Ellen Saunders were the parents of George L. Saunders. At the time of the birth of the latter they resided in Muncie, where they remained until 1868, when they removed to Green, Jay county, remaining there until 1876, when the family moved to Portland, where the father still resides. There were five children in the family, but two of them, both girls, with their mother, are dead. In the common schools of Portland George L. Saunders received his education. In securing it he had the wisdom to subordinate the ornamental to the useful. Realizing that his time in the school room must necessarily be brief, he endeavored to secure all the valuable knowledge he could in that time. On leaving school, he entered the office of the Portland Sun, for the purpose of learning the printing business. The paper was then edited by B. S. Gray, son of Hon. Isaac P. Gray, an ex-governor of Indiana and United States minister to Mexico under President Cleveland. In this office Mr. Saunders continued until he became a skilled printer and news-

paper man of recognized ability. In 1886 Mr. Gray retired from the publication of the Sun and upon his recommendation George L. Saunders secured a position in the government printing office at Washington. It speaks well for the native ability and aptitude of Mr. Saunders that after so brief a time in a country printing office he was able to secure and hold for more than eight years, and until it was voluntarily surrendered, a position in an establishment of such magnitude as that of the government printing office. On resigning his governmental position, in 1894, he returned to Portland and purchased a half interest in the Sun office, in which he had secured his knowledge of the printing business. His business partner was W. W. Timmonds, and for four years, or until 1898, this association continued. The Sun has always been a handsome, readable and interesting publication, but during this period it was especially welcome in the homes of its patrons. Upon dissolution of the partnership Mr. Saunders disposed of his interests to his partner and retired from the publication. At the time of his retirement from the Portland Sun, Mr. Saunders had been connected with the printing business for nearly twenty years. To say that he was greatly relieved on getting out and that he enjoyed for a time his freedom, expresses it only mildly. Like other publishers, he had wearied of the incessant, eternal grinding. Liberty was sweet and enjoyable, but it did not remain so. He engaged in different pursuits, in which he met with success and prospered, but there was that constant, unaccountable desire, that unreasonable yearning for the odor of the printing office. Forgetting that he had nothing to do with the news, except read what others published, he often caught himself outlining

matters which came under his observation and which deserved to be written up. He had the newspaper faculty and not to exercise it was painful to him. The result was inevitable. In January, 1902, he purchased an interest in the Bluffton Daily and Weekly Banner, a publication that has been regularly conducted for more than half a century. From its earliest infancy, in 1850, it has been recognized as one of the leading Democratic newspapers in eastern Indiana and at different times its publishers have been some of the foremost men of the state. To write its history would be like writing the history of the Democratic party of the state. It is a splendid, prosperous publication with hosts of friends throughout the northern and eastern part of Indiana.

On October 10, 1889, George L. Saunders was united in marriage to Miss Belle Evans, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. J. J. Evans, of Winchester, Indiana. She is a lady of refinement, many accomplishments and good education, being a graduate of the Winchester high school. To them have been born three daughters, one only of whom is living, the others having died in infancy. In their domestic relations Mr. and Mrs. Saunders are most happy, their home being a model American home. With a prosperous, perhaps a brilliant, business career before him, there is no reason why it should not continue to be all that it is at present.

CHARLES M. MILLER.

Charles M. Miller was born on a farm in the vicinity of the village of Murray, Wells county, Indiana, on the 20th of May, 1851, being the sixth in order of birth of the ten

children of Jacob and Mary A. (Sutton) Miller, the family comprising five sons and five daughters, of whom four of the sons and five of the daughters are living at the present time. Jacob Miller was born in Pennsylvania, of stanch German ancestry, the name having been identified with the annals of the Keystone state from an early epoch in its history. He became one of the pioneers of Wells county, Indiana, whither he came as a young man in the year 1837. In his native state he had learned the trade of millwright, and to this he devoted his attention until after his marriage, when he took up his abode on a quarter section of land in Lancaster township, this county, effectually reclaiming the same and developing a valuable farm, upon which he continued to reside for many years, the old homestead being the birthplace of all his children. In his declining days Jacob Miller retired from the farm and passed the golden evening of his life in the home of his eldest daughter, where he received that deep filial solicitude which was so justly due him. Here he died at the age of eighty-two years. The mother of the subject was a woman of noble and gracious attributes. She was a daughter of Rev. Elijah Sutton, a pioneer clergyman of the Baptist church in this section of the Union, and who is said to have preached the first sermon ever delivered in Wells county. His descendants assembled each year in reunion on the old homestead farm, one and one-half miles north of Murray, this county, the twenty-fourth annual reunion having been held in the month of June, 1902.

Charles M. Miller, whose name initiates this review, received his preliminary educational training in the common schools of the village of Murray and continued to as-

sist in the work of the old home farm until he had attained the age of about seventeen years. During the ensuing four years he devoted his attention, through the winter months, to teaching in the district schools of Lancaster township, while through the results of such effort he was in the interim enabled to defray his expenses while continuing his personal study in the graded schools of Bluffton. In the spring of 1873 he entered into a partnership association with James Sewell and opened a general store at Murray, the enterprise being conducted under the firm name of Miller & Sewell until the autumn following, when the junior member was succeeded by L. F. Shreve, and the business was continued successfully under the title of Miller & Shreve, until April, 1879, when Mr. Miller sold his interest to his partner and removed to Bluffton, where he accepted a clerkship in the dry goods establishment of H. C. Arnold, with whom he remained consecutively until January, 1883, when he effected in this city the purchase of the stock and business of Killerman Brothers and established himself in the grocery and queensware business, which he continued until his election to public office. Ever according a stanch allegiance to the Democratic party, Mr. Miller became an active and efficient worker in its ranks within a short time after taking up his residence in Bluffton, and his zeal in the cause, as well as his unmistakable eligibility, received recognition of definite and gratifying order when he was made the nominee of his party for the office of county auditor, to which he was elected by a satisfactory and flattering majority in November, 1886. After his election he disposed of his grocery business and in the interim of a year

which elapsed before his induction into office he devoted his attention to buying grain for H. C. Arnold. In November, 1887, Mr. Miller entered upon the discharge of his duties as auditor, and served in this capacity for the ensuing four years. The important work of constructing the fine new court house was consummated during his regime.

With the discovery of natural gas in Indiana Mr. Miller became financially and actively interested in the development of the gas fields, and thus was led to later identify himself with the concomitant industry of developing the oil wells of the state. He was one of the original members of the directorate of the Bluffton Light & Fuel Company and for two years was secretary of the company. In 1893 he had engaged in the drug business in Bluffton, but in 1896 he disposed of this enterprise to devote his entire attention to his oil interests, which had greatly increased in scope and importance. Since the year last mentioned he has operated extensively in the oil fields of the state, both individually and as an interested principal in various corporations, and his energy, discrimination and administrative ability have been the potent factors in insuring him a high degree of success in this important field of productive enterprise. He was actively concerned in the organization of the Midway Oil Company, his interests in which he subsequently sold at a good profit, and he is now actively identified with a number of fine properties and the exploiting of new prospects of distinctive promise.

On the 27th of September, 1877, Mr. Miller was united in marriage to Miss Lizzie L. Burgan, daughter of George F. Burgan, now deceased, one of the first settlers of

Bluffton and one of its most honored pioneers. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have three children, namely: Guy B., who was born July 18, 1878, is a traveling salesman for a wholesale drug house in Kansas City, Missouri; Dwight C., born April 29, 1887, and Edith, born January 28, 1891, remain at the parental home, which is recognized as a center of gracious hospitality. Fraternally Mr. Miller is identified with the time-honored order of Freemasons, in which he takes a lively interest, being fully appreciative of the noble teachings and beneficent values of the fraternity.

J. H. HENLINE.

This gentleman, although reared to agricultural pursuits, is now one of the most active and prosperous business men in the town of Ossian, Jefferson township, Wells county, Indiana. He is a native of the county and was born in Lancaster township, November 11, 1859, a son of Tobias and Rebecca (Kreigh) Henline, natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent. Both the Henline and the Kreigh families, on leaving the Keystone state, first located in Ohio, from which state the Henlines came to Wells county, Indiana, in 1845, and the Kreighs shortly afterward, probably about 1847.

Tobias Henline and Rebecca Kreigh were married in 1857 and made their home on the old farm in Lancaster township, where Tobias passed his life. He is deceased, but his wife has been spared and now lives in Tocsin, Wells county. Of their family of seven boys and three girls, five



J. H. HENLINE.

sons and three daughters still survive, and all have been reared in the faith of the Presbyterian church, of which the mother is still a devoted member and not only believes in and faithfully follows its teachings, but contributes liberally of her income to its support.

J. H. Henline passed his boyhood days on the homestead and assisted on the farm as farmers' lads do, but during the inclement weather attended school at Eagleville, where he acquired a good English education. He was but a lad when his father died, but he possessed a great deal of energy and pluck and vigorously attended to his farm duties until he attained his majority when he purchased a threshing machine and entered upon the activities of life on his own account, and, as the sequel will show, made a gratifying success. For four years this thresher afforded him profitable and certain employment each harvest, but being naturally a man of enterprise and business ability, he sought a more permanent line of business and established a tile factory in Jefferson township, which he conducted with unvarying success for five years, when he sold out to John Beck, Jr. He afterward opened a new factory, covering eleven thousand five hundred and fifty-five square feet of ground, equipped with a forty-horse-power engine and boiler, and was engaged in manufacturing tile, sawing lumber and making shingles, and also having a fully equipped planing mill and cider mill. September 1, 1894, the entire plant was completely destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of over six thousand dollars, leaving Mr. Henline three thousand dollars worse off than nothing. He had many friends, however, and they did not desert him, so that through their assistance he

was able to start up again, though on a smaller scale. But misfortune still clung to him, as in the following January he was severely injured in his saw-mill, suffering a broken leg and other injuries.

March 14, 1881, J. H. Henline was happily united in marriage with Miss Rosa D. Wagner, a native of Jefferson township and of German descent. This union has been favored with three children, namely: Martin S., born December 9, 1882, is a practical engineer in Wells county, is still unmarried and makes his home under the parental roof; Lester R., who was born July 14, 1887, has been well educated for a lad of his age, and Floyd, who was born January 16, 1889.

Beside the tile factory above alluded to, Mr. Henline also conducted a portable saw-mill and a fully equipped saw and grist-mill, for about six years. In May, 1901, he located in Ossian, where he now owns a number of town lots and is doing a general mercantile business. Although Mr. Henline has met with several reverses, he is naturally a money maker and is very persistent in whatever he undertakes, being now in comfortable circumstances.

Mr. and Mrs. Henline are members of the Evangelical church, in which he has been a class leader for over three years, and was a Sunday school teacher for several years, and of the same church Mrs. Henline is a steward and the Sunday school superintendent. In politics Mr. Henline is a Democrat, as were his ancestors as far back as his recollection extends, but, as far as he is personally concerned, he cares but little for political work. He has a pleasant home in Ossian, where he carries on a general trade in agricultural implements, and also owns

five acres of quite valuable land in Jefferson township. The Henline family is one of the most respected in the town of Ossian and the township of Jefferson, and Mr. Henline is well known in the business circles of the county as a man of the strictest integrity.

ABNER S. ELZEY.

Few young men in Wells county and the town of Ossian, Indiana, have become so prominently identified with the business interests of the community in which he lives as has Abner S. Elzey, who was born in Adams county, Indiana, October 3, 1868, a son of Elisha and Rebekah (Pausle) Elzey. The Elzey family came from Maryland to Ohio and are of Scotch-Irish descent, and after some years' residence in the Buckeye state, the father moved to Adams county, Indiana, located on a farm north of Decatur, where he passed his life in moderate circumstances, and was highly respected by his neighbors as a quiet, unassuming gentleman. To him and wife were born seven children, of whom A. S. Elzey is the only survivor.

Abner S. Elzey was, as far as his tender years permitted, instructed in the noble pursuit of agriculture on the old homestead and also attended the district school until he was eight years of age, when he was taken by his father to Decatur, where he attended the common schools, and, being quick at acquiring knowledge, improved himself as far as his advantages would permit. But his thirst for knowledge was insatiable and he devoted his time and means to a large extent to the accumulation of books, soon possess-

ing himself of a large and valuable library, made up of standard works on many branches of human knowledge. But a desire to make money early became paramount with Mr. Elzey, not for the sake of gold itself, but for the advantage it would afford him in doing good to others and in amplifying his power to carry out this laudable object. Therefore, while still young, and his mother having passed away, Mr. Elzey left the paternal roof and formed a partnership with another young man in Decatur, and soon proved to the world that, although but fifteen years of age, he had a knowledge of business far superior to that possessed by most lads of his own age. A favorable opportunity presenting itself, Mr. Elzey withdrew from the partnership he had formed and entered the employ of Shaffer & Brother. In 1892 Mr. Elzey was sent by his employers to Ossian with a stock of hardware well adapted to the wants of a rural community and an agricultural population, and within a year built up a very prosperous trade. With his usual foresight, Mr. Elzey perceived his opportunity and formed a partnership with John Rex, and together they purchased the stock. Some time later Mr. Elzey bought out Mr. Rex, and continued the business solely on his own account, adding materially to his stock in trade, but later engaged in the furniture and undertaking business, which he found to be better adapted to his inclinations and more remunerative.

Mr. Elzey is a public spirited gentleman as well as an enterprising citizen. He has made three additions to the town of Ossian and has built two business blocks, as well as remodeled others, and, taken altogether, his push and enterprise have been most

commendable. Too much credit can hardly be awarded him for the great progress Ossian has made under his auspices. In 1901 Mr. Elzey erected his present two-story and basement brick warehouse and salesroom in which he carries the best assorted stock of furniture, buggies and undertakers' materials to be found in Wells county. His funeral cars are of the latest design and are fully up to date, and besides the two he owns in Ossian he holds an interest in six others at different towns in the country. By his courtesy and unvarying affability, which always mark the true business man, Mr. Elzey has secured a permanent trade that in itself assures him a competency.

Abner S. Elzey was united in marriage with Miss Siddle E. Linn. This lady was born in Indianapolis in 1866, and is the daughter of Solomon Linn, a prominent and wealthy contractor and builder, now residing in Decatur, Indiana. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Elzey took place in Decatur, August 27, 1889, and this union has been blessed with two children, viz: Ilow Ruth, born December 27, 1894, and Dale Edmond, born July 27, 1896, and it may be added that Mr. Elzey attributes much of his success in business and all of his domestic happiness to the influence of his amiable and accomplished wife. Mr. Elzey and his family are members of the Evangelical church, in which they are true and earnest workers and to the support of which they are liberal contributors. Fraternally Mr. Elzey is a Knight of Pythias, of which he is the present efficient prelate. In politics he is a Republican, but is too wise a man to sacrifice his business interests in the vain pursuit of office. He has passed much of his life in acts that were sure to accrue to the benefit of

his neighbors and of the community in which he has passed so many years of his useful life.

MAHLON I. PAXSON.

In the general conduct of life, as well as in specific vocations, intelligence, energy and honorable motives are essential to the highest success. With the two former qualities, a man may succeed in a certain sense, but that life is not a full or complete one into which the moral element does not enter as a controlling factor. The career of Mahlon I. Paxson, of Lancaster township, one of the largest land owners and most successful farmers of Wells county, is a forcible illustration of this fact, and it is a pleasant duty on the part of the publishers to present a brief review of his life and achievements. It is not known who was the founder of the Paxson family in America, but it is a well authenticated fact that the name was familiar in various parts of Virginia at a very early period in the history of that commonwealth. Joseph Paxson, the subject's grandfather, was born in that state, but in early life was taken by his parents to Ohio where he married, subsequently moving to Indiana and entering land in Penn township, Jay county. He was one of the earliest settlers in the township of Penn, settling there in the year 1836. He cleared and developed a good farm there and died on the same a number of years ago at about the age of seventy-two. Among the children of Joseph and Martha Paxson was a son by the name of Joshua, whose birth occurred in Columbiana county, Ohio, about the year 1820.

When a youth in his teens he accompanied his parents to Jay county where he subsequently married Mary Irey, daughter of Phineas Irey, one of the pioneers of Jay county and later a resident of the county of Wabash. After his marriage Joshua Paxson settled on a farm in Penn township and in due time became a successful agriculturist and substantial citizen. He was an honest, hard working man and belonged to that large and eminently respectable class of yeomanry who in a quiet way add to the stability and moral tone of the community. He lived a useful but uneventful life and finished his earthly course in November, 1878, his wife surviving until the year 1891. Eight children were born to Joshua and Mary Paxson, the subject of this sketch being the second in order of birth; the names of the others are Martha, wife of Morris Thompson; Philip, a resident of Pennville, Jay county; Eli lives at Winona, this state; David, the next in order of birth, was last heard of in Missouri and it is not known whether he is now living or dead; the oldest and youngest members of the family died in infancy unnamed.

Mahlon I. Paxson was born in Penn township, Jay county, Indiana, November 11, 1842. To him was accorded the privilege of growing to manhood on a farm, from whence has sprung not only the moral bone and sinew of the body politic, but also the majority of leaders in our industrial life and many men of eminence in the affairs of state. Inheriting a robust constitution and superb health, young Mahlon grew up a finely developed lad and, being the oldest son, upon his shoulders early fell a large share of the family support. By reason of his services being required on the farm he had little op-

portunity of acquiring an education, the sum total of his schooling consisting of only four or five terms and that before he had reached the age of seventeen. This deficiency he has largely made up in after years by reading and observation, while his contact with the world in various business capacities has given him a wide practical knowledge of much greater value than the learning ordinarily derived from books.

Mr. Paxson was a young man of nineteen when the great Civil war broke out and, like thousands of other patriotic sons of the north, he tendered his services to the government in the hour of its greatest need. On the 30th day of July, 1862, he was mustered into the service as a member of Company F, Seventy-fifth Regiment Indiana Infantry, and from that time until his discharge, in June, 1865, he did his duty as a brave and loyal soldier on a number of bloody battle fields. He first met the enemy at Hoover's Gap, Kentucky, and later was with General Thomas in the various campaigns which that intrepid commander conducted, participating in many engagements, notably among which was the terrible battle of Chickamauga, where so many brave men laid down their lives in defence of the Union. During Mr. Paxson's military experience he was never in the hospital a day as a patient and, being ever ready for duty, he earned the good will of his officers and comrades. After his discharge he returned home and on February 27 of the following year was united in marriage with Miss Matilda E. Keese, of Penn township, daughter of Stephen and Sarah Keese, who moved to Jay county, from Vermont, as early as 1838. Meantime Mr. Paxson had come into possession of a small farm of sixty acres

which he purchased with money saved while in the army, and to this place he moved his bride and set up his first domestic establishment. Within a short time he exchanged this farm for eighty acres of woodland on which he built a modest log dwelling, sixteen by eighteen feet in dimensions, and shortly after installing his wife therein he put up a blacksmith shop which proved a great benefit to the farmers of the vicinity. When not engaged in clearing his land he worked in the shop and soon had more than he could do, his earnings from this source constituting by far the larger part of his income. After clearing and reducing to cultivation about fifty acres of his land, Mr. Paxson again made a good trade, exchanging the place for one hundred acres in Nottingham township, Wells county, to which he moved about the year 1883. On February 2, 1876, prior to moving to Wells county, he suffered a grievous bereavement in the loss of his wife, who died after bearing him four children, namely: Florence, now Mrs. David Kelly; Nathan, deceased; Nealy P., wife of George Lanning, of Kansas, and Adrian, who died in infancy. Later, on the 13th of October, 1878, Mr. Paxson chose a second wife in the person of Mrs. Rebecca Paxson, widow of the late Miles Paxson, of Jay county, and daughter of Isaac and Rebecca Walker, who were among the early settlers of that part of the state.

Mr. Paxson's original farm in Nottingham township lies about one mile and a half southwest of the village of Petroleum and for many years was locally known as the Robert Smith place. He made many improvements on this farm, including among others one of the largest barns in the town-

ship and a beautiful two-story modern dwelling costing twenty-five hundred dollars. He brought the land to a high state of cultivation and by his energy, foresight and successful management added continually to his possessions until within a comparatively few years he was numbered among the wealthiest men in his part of the county. In 1896 he purchased a fine residence in Bluffton, to which place he removed the same year, but after a short time there he returned to the country, subsequently trading his city property for a farm in the township of Lancaster. In 1898 he moved to the latter place and has since made it his home, although still retaining possession of his farm in Nottingham township.

Mr. Paxson has been exceedingly fortunate in his farming interests and business affairs, as witness the fact of his owning at this time seven hundred and fifty-two acres of valuable land, three hundred and twenty-four acres of which are in Lancaster township, one hundred in Nottingham, one hundred, and sixty-eight in Jay county and one hundred and sixty in Stafford county, Kansas, and also six valuable lots in Pennville, Jay county. He is now looking after his large landed and agricultural interests, but does little manual labor himself, devoting considerable of his time to the raising of fine live stock in which his success has been most encouraging. He is a large breeder of Galloway cattle, of which he now has one hundred and twenty-three head, several of them thoroughbreds, while his herd of Jerseys cannot be excelled by any like number of animals in this part of the state. He also buys and ships stock quite extensively and in this, as in his other business affairs, realizes handsome profits from his efforts.

Mr. Paxson is a man of expedients, resorting to many different enterprises to increase his fortune. He owns a fine threshing outfit, which yields him a liberal profit on the investment, and also operates a shredder at certain seasons of the year. He still keeps his blacksmith shop open, doing all of his work and as much for his neighbors as the capacity of his establishment will admit. Mr. Paxson never addresses himself to an undertaking without careful considering the consequences, but once engaged never stops short of successful completion. Thrown upon his own resources at an age when most boys are still under their father's care, he has made his way in the world unaided and is indebted to nobody but himself for the large fortune which he now commands. He is probably as good a specimen as can be found of the extraordinary uplifting and rebuilding process which American institutions seem so well calculated to foster in the case of clever young men who in the midst of humble circumstances are not afraid to dare and do. There have been many hard knocks and rough experiences in his career, but from the beginning he has been controlled by those high, manly principles which, while according to every one his just dues, holds on to the right regardless of consequences and in the end seldom if ever fails to reach the goal of success.

Mr. Paxson is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic post at Bluffton and is also identified with the Improved Order of Red Men, joining the latter organization at Keystone. In matters political he is absolutely independent, giving his allegiance to the party whose principles in his judgment work for the best interest of the people. He supported the Greenback party

while it was in existence and later became a Populist, but in local affairs he is free, voting for the man regardless of his political affiliation.

By his second marriage Mr. Paxson is the father of four children, namely: Telfer, who married Miss Elva Eihorn and lives on the farm in Nottingham township; Sherman married Clara Gregg, and lives on a part of his father's farm in Lancaster township; Orval, also a member of the home circle, and Ernest, who was accidentally shot and killed at the age of eleven years. Mrs. Paxson has been a member of the United Brethren church ever since her childhood and is one of the active members in the congregation to which she now belongs. Mr. Paxson is not identified with any religious organization, but appreciating the value of the church to a community, gives liberally of his means to its support. His hand is ever open to a friend in need and his generous hospitality is free to all who claim it. He is indeed one of the county's most energetic and enterprising men and his right to be classed with its representative citizens is cheerfully conceded by the public.

THOMAS M. WASSON.

A man whose days have been devoted to honorable endeavor and who has attained a high degree of success in life, it is peculiarly appropriate that attention be directed to one who has long been identified with the material and educational interests of Wells county. Thomas M. Wasson is a worthy representative of one of the oldest families in this part of the state and the township

in which he lives can boast of few older citizens in point of continuous residence. On the 10th day of January, 1845, his birth occurred in the township of Lancaster and from that date to the present time, a period of nearly fifty-eight years, his career has been very closely interwoven with the history of this particular section of the county. His parents were George and Sarah (Ash) Wasson, who came to Wells county as early as the year 1841 and settled in Lancaster township, where they spent the remainder of their days. Thomas M. grew up in a comparatively new and undeveloped country and easily recalls the early days when the land was covered with a virgin forest into which but few pioneers had penetrated. An eye witness of the remarkable transformation which has taken place between that period and the present, he is perhaps as well or better acquainted with the growth of the country and its advancement along all lines of development than any other man now living. Not only has he witnessed the many radical changes which have taken place within the last half century, but in many ways he has contributed to bring them about, having been an influential factor in the country's progress since old enough to exercise the functions and duties of citizenship. Reared on a farm at a time when hard work was the common lot of all, it is not strange that he early developed a capacity for labor of which boys of the present day have little or no conception and that he also learned while still a mere lad to rely upon himself in the great battle of life, proving the sound physical and mental make-up of a boy who knew how to take advantage of every opportunity for his improvement. When old enough, he entered such schools as his neighborhood afforded and such was his progress

that in a few years he stood at the head of all his classes and as a general thing greatly distanced the boys of his own age in study. In the summer time he helped run the farm and otherwise looked after the interests of his widowed mother, proving a full hand at all kinds of manual labor long before reaching his majority.

The fall of 1868 marked the beginning of Mr. Wasson's long and useful career as a teacher in the public schools of Wells county. He had taught a term that year and the following summer attended a normal school with the object in view of preparing himself for greater efficiency in this noble field of endeavor. He continued educational work without interruption until the year 1876, meanwhile establishing much more than local repute as a capable instructor and efficient disciplinarian. Many of the boys and girls who received from him their first insight into the mysteries of learning are now among the substantial men and women of this and other states, but they still retain fond remembrances of their teacher and think of him as one of their warmest friends and greatest benefactors. In 1876 Mr. Wasson abandoned teaching for a time and turned his attention to the improvement of his farm. On the 1st day of August, 1877, he took to himself a wife and helpmate in the person of Miss Angie Vail, a native of Allen county, Indiana, and daughter of Thomas and Martha Vail, who moved to this state in an early day from Ohio. Originally the Vails settled in Allen county, but later changed their abode to the county of Wells, locating near the village of Ossian, where the father's death subsequently occurred, the mother being still in the land of the living.

Immediately following his marriage, Mr.

Wasson moved to his present farm in Lancaster township and began a systematic course of improvement, which in due time resulted in one of the most valuable and attractive homes in this section of the country. He cleared much of his land and by a successful system of drainage added greatly to its productive capacity as well as to its value in a financial point of view. He labored continuously with success and profit for seven years, when an event occurred which not only interfered very materially with his plans, but for a time broke up his home and caused him the deepest sorrow a devoted husband can know. This was the death of his faithful and loving wife, which occurred on the 8th day of February, 1885, after she had presented him two sons, Clifton, born in April, 1882, now a resident of the city of South Bend, and Clem V., whose birth took place on the 16th of December, 1884, and who still lives on the home place.

Breaking up housekeeping after the death of his companion, Mr. Wasson rented his land and again entered the educational field, in which he continued until his second marriage in 1891. On November 5, of that year, was solemnized the ceremony which bound him in the bonds of wedlock with Louisa Gephart, who was born in Allen county in the year 1855, her parents, George and Louisa Gephart, having long been residents of this state. This marriage witnessed the termination of Mr. Wasson's career as a teacher and since 1891 he has devoted his attention exclusively to the pursuit of agriculture. He owns a fine farm of one hundred acres, of which seventy-five are in cultivation, and everything on the place, notably the well cultivated field, tile drainage, etc., bespeak the presence of a

man of progressive ideas who has indeed elevated husbandry to the dignity of a science. Mr. Wasson has made a careful study of soils and understands thoroughly their adaptability to the different crops raised in this latitude. He seldom fails to reap bountiful harvests and from the sale of the fine cattle and hogs which he raises he receives a liberal share of his yearly income.

Mr. Wasson is a gentleman of much more than ordinary mental capacity and by keeping himself in close touch with the times on all the great questions before the public, has become to a large degree a leader of thought in his community. He is progressive in all the term implies, assists to the extent of his ability every measure for the material and moral advancement of his kind, and for a number of years past his activity in religious work has done much to build up the cause of Christianity in the locality where he resides. He is one of the pillars of the Christian Union church in Lancaster township, holding at this time the office of trustee, besides being one of the most efficient teachers in the Sunday school connected with the congregation. Mrs. Wasson is also a member of the same body of worshipers and, like her husband, is deeply interested in religious work both in her own community and elsewhere. Politically Mr. Wasson is a staunch Democrat, but he is not narrow in his views, according to everybody the same right of opinion which he claims for himself. He served four years as precinct committeeman and upon a number of occasions has represented his township in county and other conventions. He has never been an aspirant for public office, the only office he ever held being that of assessor, the duties of which he discharged in an able and busi-

ness-like manner for a period of five years, besides serving two years as deputy assessor. Mr. Wasson's second marriage has been blessed with one child, a son, John L., who was born on the 21st day of August, 1893.

JAMES WASSON.

For over sixty years the name of Wasson has been familiar throughout the county of Wells, belonging as it does to one of the oldest and most highly esteemed families in this part of the state. The history of the family here has been closely intertwined with the history of the county, especially that part embraced within the present limits of Lancaster township, where the subject's father settled as early as 1841. The Wasson family is of Irish origin. Alexander Wasson, the grandfather of James, was born and reared in the Emerald Isle and there married and reared a family. Among his children was a son by the name of George, who grew to maturity in his native country and married Sarah Ash. About the year 1829 George Wasson emigrated to the United States and settled in Wayne county, Ohio, where he took a lease to clear a certain amount of land, after which he worked by the day at different vocations, principally farming. In the fall of 1841 he moved to Wells county, Indiana, and entered a quarter section of land in what is now the township of Lancaster, being one of the first settlers in this part of the country. Subsequently he purchased an eighty-acre tract now owned by the widow of John Wasson and, erecting a little log cabin, eighteen by twenty feet in size, containing a single room, began in good earnest the work of carving out

a home, an undertaking of great magnitude considering the almost impenetrable forests which up to that time but few white men had penetrated. For a year or two Mr. Wasson's humble home and the few acres of cleared land surrounding it looked like a mere niche in the dense wilderness and the difficulties and privations which the family endured were numerous and trying. By long continued toil, the forest gradually fell before the woodman's sturdy blows, the swamp lands were reclaimed by artificial drainage and in the course of time a fine farm and a comfortable home rewarded the efforts so heroically and patiently put forth. Mr. Wasson became a successful agriculturist and added to his possessions until at one time he owned in the township of Lancaster two hundred and forty acres of excellent land, every foot of which was earned by the labor of his own hands. He was a splendid manager, seldom failed to carry to successful completion anything which he attempted, and in due time accumulated a sufficiency of this world's goods to entitle him to a place in the front ranks of the county's well-to-do farmers and successful men of affairs. He was a man of strong personality and made his presence felt in this community, being respected for his honesty and integrity as well as for the enterprising manner with which he managed his business interests. He was an active member of the United Presbyterian church and carried his religion into his secular concerns, proving by a life singularly free from fault the high practical value of applied Christianity. He lived a strenuous but useful life, and died in 1855, in the hope of a blessed immortality, leaving a widow and five children, the former following him to

the grave in 1895 at the advanced age of ninety years. The following are the names of the sons and daughters born to George and Sarah Wasson: John, Eliza J., widow of Uriah Nash, Isabella, James and Thomas M., all but the oldest living.

James Wasson, the fourth of the above children, was born April 2, 1841, in Wayne county, Ohio, and was about six months old when his parents moved to their new home in the wilds of northeastern Indiana. He literally grew up in the woods and his earliest recollections are of the modest cabin home, the primeval forest by which it was surrounded and the wild, free life, unhindered by artificial restraint and unretarded by conventional usage. When a small boy he became experienced in all manner of woodcraft, and by wielding the ax and other implements used in the early day, developed a strong physique which enabled him to perform with alacrity and ease his share of the farm work. His educational training was such as the indifferent subscription schools of the day could impart and at best he was permitted to attend these backwoods colleges only a few months in the winter time until his eighteenth year.

Mr. Wasson was in the full strength of vigorous young manhood when the war cloud darkened the national horizon and feeling it a duty incumbent upon him to aid the government in its extremity, he joined, in 1862, Company G, One Hundred and First Indiana Infantry, which a short time thereafter was attached to the army under General Rosecrans. Subsequently he served under Generals Nelson and Thomas and took part in a number of campaigns which those three commanders conducted, receiving his first baptism of fire on the 20th

day of March, 1863, at Milton, Tennessee, in an engagement with a Confederate force under General Morgan. In this battle he was struck in the leg by a musket ball, which necessitated his lying in the hospital for nearly two months. When sufficiently recovered he rejoined his command, after which he saw much active service in the Tennessee campaign, participating in numerous engagements, the most noted being the battle of Chickamauga, where he was again wounded, this time receiving a ball in the shoulder from the effects of which he was a long time recovering. With many of his comrades, he fell into the enemy's hands at Chickamauga and from there was taken to Richmond, Virginia, where he remained a prisoner until his exchange, forty days later. After his release Mr. Wasson received hospital treatment at Annapolis, Maryland, until his wound was partially healed, after which he was sent to Indianapolis, thence came home on furlough until the middle of February, 1864. Returning to Indianapolis, he remained in the barracks there about one month and then went to Camp Chase, near Columbus, Ohio, where he remained until the following June, when he was honorably discharged from the service with a record of which any soldier might well feel proud.

On quitting the army Mr. Wasson returned home, but the condition of his injuries was such as to preclude the possibility of manual labor; accordingly he entered that fall a school at Bluffton, taught by Prof. J. S. McClery, which he attended one term with the object in view of fitting himself for teaching. The following winter he had charge of the Daily school in Lancaster township and the next fall again found him

prosecuting his studies at Bluffton under the direction of competent instructors. So successful had been his first attempt at teaching that he was chosen his own successor the following year and during the ensuing eight years he devoted his time largely to educational work, meeting with the most encouraging success. Meanwhile he made his home with his brother on the old homestead, assisting to the extent of his ability with the work of the farm, besides doing considerable clearing and making various improvements on his own land.

On the 16th day of November, 1870, Mr. Wasson and Miss Sarah E. Sweeny were united in the bonds of matrimony. Mrs. Wasson was born in Wayne county, Ohio, on the 12th day of February, 1845, the daughter of Robert and Sarah Sweeny, both parents natives of Lycoming county, Pennsylvania. Mr. Sweeny moved from Pennsylvania to Ohio a number of years ago, and spent the remainder of his days in the county of Wayne, following agriculture and carpentry for a livelihood. He died July 30, 1858, his wife's death occurring in the year 1860. They had a family of thirteen children, namely: William, deceased; Mary, deceased; Margaret, widow of David Clark; Robert C.; Alexander R., deceased; Edith, deceased; John W.; Alfred, deceased; Matilda, wife of J. P. Harris; Mariah, wife of Ezra D. McIntyre; Joseph, a soldier in the late Civil war, killed in the battle of Shiloh; Sarah E., wife of Mr. Wasson, and Rachael, deceased. Mrs. Wasson was educated in the schools of her native county and at the age of nineteen began teaching, which work she continued about six years in the counties of Wayne and Knox. Having a sister living in Wells

county, Indiana, she came here in 1868 on a visit and during the ensuing three years taught in the schools of Lancaster township, meantime meeting the gentleman who afterwards became her husband. A fact worthy of note in this connection is that the district in which Mrs. Wasson taught, their oldest son taught three terms in the same district, and Mr. Wasson three terms in the same school house; still later the youngest son took charge of a school in the district, but resigned by reason of ill health before the expiration of the term. Mrs. Wasson is a lady of culture and wide reading and as a teacher earned a reputation which placed her in the front rank of the county's successful educators. In the matters of domestic economy she is equally skilled and in all that constitutes a high type of American womanhood she stands on a plane which the majority do not reach.

In the year 1871, Mr. Wasson moved to his present place in Lancaster township, and by industry and systematic management has made it one of the most productive as well as one of the most beautiful and attractive farms of its size in the county. By the labor of his own hands he cleared and reduced to a fine state of tillage fifty acres, besides enhancing the fertility of the entire farm by a thorough system of tile drainage. His first dwelling, a frame structure, erected in 1874, was destroyed by fire in 1895 and in the fall of the latter year he built his present residence, also a frame building of beautiful design and well supplied with the comforts and conveniences of life. In 1889 he built a large barn, thirty by forty-eight feet in area and correspondingly high, a substantial and commodious structure which will answer the purposes for which intended as

long as the present owner sees fit to utilize it. Mr. Wasson is a progressive farmer and stock raiser, as the present fine conditions of his place and the handsome fortune now in his possession abundantly attest. In the domain of citizenship he is easily the peer of any of his fellows, taking an active part in the material advancement of his township and county and maintaining a lively interest in all enterprises looking to the moral good of the community. In politics he is pronounced in his allegiance to the Democratic party and few men are as well informed as he upon current events and the great public questions of the day. In 1874 he was elected trustee of Lancaster township, and as such served three and a half years to the satisfaction of all concerned, having previously served four years as assessor. Fraternally he is a member of the G. A. R. post at Bluffton and religiously subscribes to the creed of the United Brethren denomination. He and his entire family belong to this church, the wife and one son being teachers in the Sunday school, Mr. Wasson holding a place on the official board of the local congregation with which he is identified.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Wasson consists of three children, the oldest of whom is Maggie A., now the wife of Frank Garton; she was born December 18, 1871, and has three offspring, Holdie, Harry and James Donald; George R., was born July 6, 1875, and is still a member of the home circle, being a teacher of recognized ability and one of the popular young men of the township in which he lives; Irvin W., born November 23, 1878, has also taught school, but at the present time devotes his attention to agricultural pursuits, owning a fine farm

of eighty acres in the township of Lancaster. He is a married man, his wife, whose maiden name was Etta Sowards, being a native of this county.

As stated in a preceding paragraph, Mr. Wasson is a representative of one of the oldest families of Wells county and few men can claim a longer residence in Lancaster township than himself. Sixty-two years have dissolved in the mists of the past since he was brought to Indiana, years fraught with momentous consequences, in that they have witnessed the most signal industrial developments and the most wonderful advances in civilization the world has ever known. In his own community he has been no passive spectator of these changes, but in numerous ways has been an influential factor in bringing them about. What his hands have found to do, he has done with his might, while his strong brain and resourceful nature have contributed not a little to the moral and intellectual improvement of those with whom he has had relations. He is a splendid type of the symmetrically developed western man, and a notable example of intelligent and enterprising American citizenship.

CALVIN KUNKEL.

Wells county has every reason to feel proud of the large and eminently respectable class of people who constitute her agricultural element. In each of the several townships are broad minded, energetic men whose names have added honor to the communities in which they live and perform their allotted work besides giving additional luster to the reputation which Wells enjoys

among her sister counties of the state. Holding worthy prestige in this class and deserving of specific mention in these pages is the well known gentlemen to a brief epitome of whose life these lines are devoted. Calvin Kunkel is an Indianian by adoption, having been born in Crawford county, Ohio, on the 1st day of February, 1846. His father, Michael Kunkel, was a native of Pennsylvania and his mother, whose family name was Mason, first saw the light of day in Ohio. Michael Kunkel became a resident of the latter state when a young man and was married in the county of Crawford. Four children resulted from this union, namely: Samuel, who lives in Wells county; Sophia, the deceased wife of John Weesner; Lovisa, deceased; and Calvin whose name introduces this article. For his second wife, Michael Kunkel married Mary Ann Klineight, who bore him five children: John O.; Horton; Matilda, now Mrs. Thomas Sowders; Rebecca, wife of Henry Masterson, and William.

Michael Kunkel continued to live the life of a farmer in Crawford county until 1848 when he disposed of his interests there and moved his family to Adams county, Indiana, where he purchased eighty acres of land which he cleared and reduced to cultivation. Later he sold his place and bought one hundred and twenty acres in Lancaster township, Wells county, where the subject now lives, the country at the time being new and but little developed. Owing to a doubt as to where the road would eventually run, he built his house as he thought in the most suitable place, which accounts for its distance from the highway at the present time. Mr. Kunkel worked hard, cleared a good farm and, while not becoming wealthy,

he provided well for his family and succeeded in accumulating a sufficiency of this world's goods to place him in very comfortable circumstances. He lived on the place where he originally settled until about two years prior to his death, when he retired from active life and moved to the city of Bluffton, where he purchased a good residence property. Some years after his death, which occurred in Bluffton, his widow married Ephraim High and the two still live at the county seat.

Calvin Kunkel was reared on the place which he now owns and cultivates and, being one of the oldest of the family, was obliged, when a mere youth, to assume no inconsiderable share of the labor necessary to keep the domestic machinery in motion. Owing to this responsibility, he was not permitted to attend school as much as he desired, his educational discipline being limited to a few months of each winter season from about his eighth year to the early teens. He assisted his father with the farm work until his marriage, which was solemnized in the month of March, 1868, with Miss Sarah Plummer, and then moved to his father-in-law's place and began the pursuit of agriculture upon his own responsibility. After a short time there he took up his residence in the town of Ossian and entered the employ of Dr. J. I. Metts, with whom he remained about five years, during which time he purchased the several interests in the old Plummer estate. Moving to the latter place, he cultivated it during the ensuing three years, but at the expiration of that period again took service with Dr. Metts and continued in his employ during the five years following. When his father moved to Bluffton, Mr. Kunkel rented the

home farm which, with his own ninety-five acres of cultivable land, gave him all he could do in the way of agriculture. Subsequently he sold his farm of ninety-five acres for twenty-five hundred dollars and purchased of his step-mother the old homestead which for various reasons he now desired to own. He now has a beautiful farm of eighty acres, seventy of which are in cultivation. While his place is not as large as some in the neighborhood, it is doubtful if there is a farm of the same area in the township which shows greater evidence of thrift and prosperity. Mr. Kunkel is well situated to enjoy life, in that his home is unencumbered and he can look the world in the face with the satisfaction of owing no man. His comfortable surroundings and everything else in his possession have been earned by the joint efforts of his good wife and himself and today that he has made a success of life, seeing that he began the struggle with no property other than a horse and a single set of harness, is to state what is cheerfully conceded by those at all acquainted with his circumstances.

Mr. Kunkel is recognized as possessing a strong sense of truth and justice and in every relation with his fellow men he has endeavored to shape his life according to these principles. Industry is the key with which he unlocked the door to prosperity and his success has been commensurate with the energy and good judgment manifested in all of his undertakings. He has labored diligently to provide the necessary creature comforts for those dependent upon him, at the same time obtaining from life much satisfaction, being optimistic in his ideas and always inclined to look on the sunny side of things. Mr. Kunkel is a man of considerable personal force and impresses all with

whom he comes in contact as a gentleman by nature and training, consequently enjoying in full measure the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens. The family of which he is a representative is one of the oldest and most highly respected in this part of the country, and thus far in life he has done nothing calculated in the slightest degree to bring discredit upon the good name and reputation which his ancestors for so many years bore. His integrity has never been questioned and, wherever known, the word of Calvin Kunkel is as good as his signature to a written obligation.

Mr. Kunkel is a member of the Masonic lodge at Ossian and in politics supports the Democratic party. He has no political aspiration and is by no means narrow or intolerant in his views, respecting the opinions of others as he expects his own to be received in good faith. In religion he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and holds the office of trustee in the local society to which he belongs; he is also a worker in the Sunday school and nothing but sickness or unavoidable circumstances are permitted to prevent his attendance at the house of God during seasons of worship. Mrs. Kunkel is the daughter of John Plummer, one of the pioneer settlers of Wells county, and in every way is fitted to be the companion and helpmeet of the husband whose name she so worthily bears. She is the mother of five children, all living but the oldest, who died in infancy; John E. married a Miss Tillman and at the present time holds an important clerical position in a large business house in the city of Marion; his wife has borne him two children, one of the name of Marine, who makes her home with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Kun-

kel, and the other, a son, that died when about one year old. The mother of these children is also deceased. Charles W., the third of the family, married Miss Cora Wise and is a farmer and stock raiser of Jefferson township, this county. Frank is also a married man and a resident of Wells county, his wife being formerly Miss Bessie Bender. He was a soldier in the Spanish-American war and saw two years of active service in the Philippines. Nellie, the youngest of the family, has never left the home fireside.

ADOLPHUS CARRYSOT.

As the first blow is usually conceded to be half the battle, so beginning right is the surest precursor of success in life. The right start almost invariably makes the best finish. The truth of these statements is well exemplified in the case of the subject of this sketch, Adolphus Carrysot, of Lancaster township, Wells county. His eyes first opened on the light of day in Switzerland, August 22, 1848. Henry L. and Mary Ann (Girod) Carrysot were his parents and they and all of their ancestors were natives of the beautiful little mountain republic. Henry was by trade a shoemaker and followed that calling in his native land. In 1854 the family emigrated to America and located in Mount Eaton, Wayne county, Ohio, where the father found employment on a farm at the munificent salary of ten dollars per month, a somewhat slender allowance on which to support a family. In July of that same year, while at work in the harvest field, he was overcome by the heat, rendered unconscious and died from the ef-

fects of what is popularly termed "sun-stroke," before he could be removed from the wheat field. He left a widow and three little children, whose condition was really pitiable. Only a few months in America, unfamiliar with the language of the country and without any knowledge of the ways or customs of the people, the outlook was indeed gloomy to the sorrowing mother with her three helpless little orphans, the oldest of whom was less than six years old. The sorrow of parting with her little ones was little less than the misery entailed by the original loss and she determined at all hazards to keep them together. The field of woman's work in those days was far narrower than it is at present, but she found employment, at a slender income, but sufficient to supply actual necessities for herself and children. She was young, comely, intelligent and attractive, and when Peter Bourlier solicited the favor of her hand in marriage, she accepted him for her children's sake and upon his promise to prove a kind father to them. The children of the first marriage were Adolphus, the subject hereof, of whom more particular mention will be found hereafter; Mary L. died at the age of thirteen years; Eugene, deceased; Paulina died in infancy.

At the time of the second marriage the new husband moved the family to Holmes county, near Millersburgh, and there they lived until Adolphus was twelve years old. Mr. Bourlier then sold out and moved the family to Williams county, where the subject grew to manhood. Meanwhile he had attended school during the winter months until he was fifteen years old. He was an apt pupil, readily gained and retained knowledge and has a much better education

than others with better opportunities. His first worldly possessions were two calves, presented to him by his stepfather when he was sixteen years of age. They represented the total amount of compensation he was to receive for one year's work. With these he made his start in life. It was an excellent beginning for a boy and was a sure precursor of the success he has attained. For his next year's work he got a colt, and after selling the calves he bought a colt with the purpose of having a team, but having the opportunity of selling one at a good figure he secured enough cash with which to purchase his stepfather's team and at the age of eighteen years began farming on his own account. When twenty years of age he made his first investment in real estate. He purchased forty acres of land adjoining his step-father's farm, incurring an indebtedness of nine hundred dollars. He chopped wood during the winter months and cultivated his step-father's farm in summer, year by year steadily increasing his supply of ready money. After four years and after having cleared about half of his land, he got a chance to sell the place, receiving more money than he had ever owned up to that time. He immediately invested in another farm, going in debt two thousand dollars, and after two years sold that at a good profit. Having an ambition to be a merchant, he went to Archibald, Ohio, and, in partnership with his brother-in-law, A. L. Pierson, branched out in the grocery business. Six months sufficed to convince him that his talents were not intended for that vocation. He closed out and engaged in threshing grain the remainder of that season.

February 19, 1870. Mr. Carrysot was

united in marriage to Miss Samantha Febuary, a native of France, born in that country June 15, 1848. Her parents were Isadore and Jeannette (Burnett) Febuary, both natives of France. Samantha was only one year old when her parents brought her to America. They settled in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, where the father, Isadore, engaged in farming. Later they moved to Holmes county, where Isadore was killed by the falling of some timbers at a barn raising, in 1858. He left a widow and three children, viz: Mary, widow of Alexander Pierson; Henry, a resident of Pennsylvania, and Samantha, wife of the subject. Left almost at the verge of destitution, the children were obliged to seek employment wherever they could get it. At the age of fourteen Samantha began working out by the week and continued doing so up to the time of her marriage. Her mother died in May, 1880.

In the fall of 1875, Mr. Carrysot went to Kansas and purchased a quarter section of land, and in the following spring moved his family out, and took up his abode in a vacant house near by. He broke the entire quarter section and put it in cultivation, but never settled on it. In the meantime, he had bought a claim from a man by the name of David, near his other farm. This property had little improvements upon it and a fairly good house, and here he moved his family. His wife was not contented in the land of sunflowers and gentle zephyrs, so he moved to Indiana, located at Fort Wayne and engaged in the wholesale meat business. He liked this business no better than selling groceries and remained with it no longer. By a little diplomatic dickering and a number of shrewd deals he succeeded

in getting rid of his Kansas possessions and in return therefor became the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of choice Wells county land, the same upon which he now resides. At the time of making his removal to Kansas he was accompanied by his wife's mother and brother. His step-father died in Williams county, Ohio, in 1878, and he then went there to settle up the estate, and after closing matters there, he returned to Kansas, bringing his mother with him. She died in that state, April 3, 1880.

When Adolphus Carrycot moved to his present farm, those living in the vicinity predicted that he would starve to death on it. Those people evidently did not know the manner of man they were talking about. He had been in the woods before and served an apprenticeship in getting rid of swamps. He applied himself assiduously to clearing, ditching and fencing and so far from starving has he been that his financial condition has been growing better every day since. He now has one hundred and forty acres cleared and in a fine state of cultivation. In 1888 he built a bank barn thirty-eight by sixty-four feet, which cost him nineteen hundred dollars, and in the spring of 1901 he erected a farm residence of nine rooms at a cost of seventeen hundred dollars. The money that went into these structures simply represents the industry, economy and thrift of Adolphus Carrycot and his faithful wife, Samantha.

To Mr. and Mrs. Carrycot five children have been born, viz: Mary A., born February 20, 1871, is the wife of Israel Raver; they reside in Rock Creek township and are the parents of four children, Vivian B., Leona V., Martha L., and an infant son, unnamed. Sarah died at the age of five

weeks; Lena L., born May 28, 1879, is the wife of James W. Dowty, a resident of Lancaster township, and they are the parents of two children, June M. and Paul Adam Adolphus; Henry L., born September 18, 1881, has a splendid business education and is now employed as bookkeeper and stenographer with a firm in Seattle, Wash. He married Iva E. Crook in September, 1902; Edith L., born February 14, 1892.

During the "good roads era" in Indiana, when the bottomless mud roads of the state were in the process of conversion into fine turnpikes, in partnership with James Crosby, Sr., Adolphus Carrycot secured a number of gravel road contracts. They built portions of the following gravel roads: the Lee Davis road in Union township, the Myers road in Harrison township and the Garrett road in Nottingham township, and Mr. Carrycot was superintendent of construction of the "Bush" gravel road. In every public enterprise he has always been a leader and through his push, energy and tenacity many worthy improvements have been forced to completion that otherwise might have failed.

During all the life of the Republican party Adolphus Carrycot has been a firm believer in that political faith. In 1898 he was a candidate on the Republican county ticket for county commissioner. He has served as a delegate in many of the Republican county and state conventions and in 1900 was census taker for Lancaster township. For eight years he represented his township in the county central committee. Beginning life humbly at the foot of the ladder of success, he has, by a course of manly and persistent endeavor, mounted to the

top and now he can review his past record with the consciousness of having done his very best under all circumstances. He began active life in the right manner and to this fact and the gifts of head and heart of which he is possessed, he and his wife owe the splendid success they have attained.

MARION GARTON.

This young agriculturist and stock raiser and one of the most enterprising residents of Lancaster township, Wells county, Indiana, was born November 22, 1860, on the farm his grandfather, Jonathan Garton, had entered many years ago in this township and which is now owned by the widow Bowman.

Marion Garton is a son of Henry J. and Anna Maria Garton. He was reared on the farm alluded to above until sixteen years of age, when he began clerking in a general store in Pugney, Indiana, where he passed some time, gaining a fair insight into mercantile affairs. He there married, December 11, 1878, Miss Nancy M. Wilkin, a daughter of William and Mary (Trenary) Wilkin, and a native of Lancaster township, born September 19, 1860. After marriage, Marion Garton and his bride went to live with his father, for whom they kept house and assisted in farming the place for about five years, after which he engaged in the manufacture of tile for about ten years. Later he for three years employed himself in farming in conjunction with tilemaking, having in the meanwhile, in 1883, taken possession of the farm on which he now makes his home. The farm comprises eighty acres,

sixty acres of which he has cleared and well ditched and on which he has erected a substantial barn and other necessary out-buildings for the accommodation of his stock and other purposes. Mr. Garton devotes the greater part of his attention to the breeding of thoroughbred shorthorn cattle, Shropshire sheep and Chester White hogs, and is ready at all times to furnish buyers with thoroughbred breeding stock. To keep his graded animals well up to the mark, Mr. Garton purchased in 1902, a cow and calf for two hundred and twenty-five dollars and a bull for one hundred and fifteen dollars, and with these it is his hope to keep his graded animals in good supply and fully up to the mark.

To Mr. and Mrs. Marion Garton have been born five children, in the following order: Chloe M., May 2, 1880; Emma D., January 26, 1882; Hiram F., July 19, 1884; Hazel A., April 25, 1891, and Anna Fay, August 8, 1894.

Fraternally Mr. Garton is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Tocsin, Indiana, and politically he is a Democrat of the most stalwart kind. He has served as delegate from his district to various conventions of his party and in 1899 was his party's candidate for sheriff of Wells county, but with the rest of the ticket was defeated by a small majority. He has also served as a grand jurymen.

Mr. Garton, it will have been perceived from the foregoing, has always been an active man of business, ready to turn his hand to anything that promised to bring him satisfactory returns, and as a rule he has been very successful in all his undertakings. If he has not altogether made all he possesses, he has at least made good use of everything

that has come into his hands and increased it in value. He has led a strictly upright life and has won the esteem of all who know him. He is honored not only for his industry and practical business methods, but for his many personal merits and in this general esteem his wife and children have a full share. In the social circles of Lancaster township the Garton family stand deservedly high, the name is duly respected wherever known, and no men of Mr. Garton's years can claim a higher standing among their fellow citizens.

DAVID CROSS HUFFMAN, M. D.

This already eminent, but still rising physician and surgeon of Craigville, Wells county, Indiana, was born in Clark county, Ohio, October 29, 1855. His father, Jacob Huffman, Jr., was also a native of Clark county, Ohio, and was born in Mad River township in 1830, and died in 1877, of apoplexy. The grandfather of the Doctor, Jacob Huffman, Sr., was born in Lancaster, county, Pennsylvania, a son of Henry Huffman, and emigrated to Ohio in 1800, before the then territory was admitted to the Union as a state, later receiving a grant of two hundred and twenty-five acres of land, the title deed to which was signed by President Thomas Jefferson. Jacob Huffman, Jr., married Sarah Tennant, who was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1833, and now resides in Springfield, Ohio, and who bore her husband the following named children: Mrs. Emily H. Beavis, of Detroit, Michigan; Dr. David C.; Jacob, deceased; Charles, a merchant in Dayton,

Ohio; Mrs. Martha Van Bird and Mrs. Laura Stickney, both of Springfield.

Dr. David C. Huffman acquired his literary education in the grammar and high schools of Springfield, and in 1876 entered Miami Medical College at Cincinnati, from which he was graduated in 1876. For the following seven years he was actively employed in the practice of his profession in Springfield, winning a high position among his fellow practitioners of that city, and consequently a fair remuneration for his service. He then came to Indiana and located at Mount Zion, Wells county, whence he moved in 1894 to Craigville, where he has since been busily engaged with his numerous patients and where he stands at the head and front of his profession.

Dr. Huffman was united in marriage at Yellow Springs, Ohio, January 20, 1882, with Miss Anna Landaker, a daughter of Gideon Landaker and Hester (Stratton) Landaker, the former a merchant from Virginia and an ex-soldier, and the latter from College Hill, Cincinnati, Ohio. The union of the Doctor and his wife has been graced with three children, namely: Worden D., born April 20, 1887; Pansy, born January 2, 1889, and Gideon, born November 5, 1890. Mrs. Huffman is a member of the United Brethren church, in the good work of which she takes an energetic and deeply interested part and to the maintenance of which both she and husband freely contribute financially. In politics the Doctor is a Democrat. Of the medical fraternities the Doctor is a member of the Clark County (Ohio) Medical Society, of which he is secretary, and also a member of the board of censors while practicing in Springfield; he is also a member of the Wells

County (Indiana) Medical Society, and to both of these associations he has contributed many valuable papers on professional subjects. The Doctor has a very pleasant home in Craigville and in social circles he and wife fill a conspicuous position. They are especially esteemed for their many personal excellencies and deserve all the respect that is paid them

HENRY J. GARTON.

One of the prominent farmers of Lancaster township, Wells county, Indiana, is Henry J. Garton, who was born in New Jersey, January 28, 1835, a son of Jonathan and Elizabeth (Souders) Garton, also natives of New Jersey and of Irish and Dutch descent. Jonathan and Elizabeth (Souders) Garton were married in New Jersey, and there made their home until 1837, when they removed to Franklin county, Indiana, and rented land for about five years, after which they came to Wells county, Indiana. He had come here the previous year and entered one hundred and sixty acres of government land in Lancaster township, from which he developed an excellent farm on which he and his wife died some years ago, in the Universalist faith. They were the parents of eight children, namely: Catherine, who died at the age of twelve years; Eliza, deceased wife of Lennel Paynter; Louis, a resident of Lancaster township; Lydia, deceased wife of James Dailey; Oliver P., deceased; Andrew J., deceased; Henry J., to whose interests this sketch is principally devoted, and a daughter that died in infancy. Jonathan Garton, the father of

the above named children, was judge of the common pleas court for four or five years, and also served for several years as county commissioner, and likewise for a long time as justice of the peace.

Henry J. Garton was but seven years of age when his parents settled in Lancaster township, Wells county. Here he attended school until twenty-one years of age and later supplemented the education thus acquired by study at home during the winters for some considerable time. At the age of nineteen he had begun to work for himself, and at the same time made an agreement with his father, under which there was fifty dollars a year to be turned over to that gentleman as long as this agreement remained mutually satisfactory. Under such circumstances, Henry J. worked out at farm work by the day, or month, for three years or longer, and then rented the homestead, paying for its use and occupancy one-half the products annually. This arrangement held good until 1864, but in the meantime, in 1861, Henry J. had purchased eighty acres of the farm on which he now lives, but bought it on credit; yet he worked at clearing it up during the winter months, and in 1864 had earned sufficient means from his labors on his father's place to pay for his own property. In 1865, Henry J. Garton moved upon his own place, eight acres of which he had cleared off. He at once erected his present dwelling and put up a shanty for his horses and cattle and the same year he built his first frame barn; subsequently he put up another barn, and has since kept adding to his improvements until at the present time he has as neat and tidy a place as there is in Lancaster township. Of his own eighty-acre tract, secured by purchase, Mr.

Garton has cleared seventy-five acres and has placed it under cultivation and thoroughly ditched it. He also owns eighty acres of the old home place, seventy acres of which have been cleared, and thus has a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, all in one compact body.

H. J. Garton was united in marriage January 5, 1860, with Miss Anna M. Trullender, who was born in Lancaster township, this county, October 2, 1842, and was a daughter of Hiram and Ruth Trullender, who came from New Jersey and settled here in an early day. Mrs. Anna M. Garton was a most amiable lady and a true helpmate to her husband, but was called hence July 31, 1878, having borne her husband six children: Marion, Ida, Adella, Robert, Lucinda and Frank. Of these children Marion married Nancy Wilkins, who has borne him five children; Chloe, Emma, Hiram, Hazel and Fay. The father of these children, Marion Garton, lives on and cultivates the southern eighty acres of the old homestead. Ida, the second child, Della, the third child, and Robert, the fourth child of Henry J. Garton and wife, as mentioned above, are all deceased; Lucinda, the fifth child, is the wife of Harvey Diehl, of Marion, Indiana; Frank, the sixth child, is married to Margaret Wasson, who has borne him three children: Haldie, Harry and Donald, and all make their home on the old home place.

H. J. Garton is a Universalist in religion and in politics he is a Democrat. Socially he stands very high in the community, as he descends from one of the oldest families in the county, and his own personal merits have won for him an esteem which is seldom accorded spontaneously to any citizen.

JOEL FRY.

In the daily laborious struggle for an honorable competence and a solid career on the part of a business or professional man there is little to attract the casual reader in search of a sensational chapter; but to a mind thoroughly awake to the reality and meaning of human existence there are noble and imperishable lessons in the career of an individual who, without other means than a clear head, strong arm and true heart, directed and controlled by correct principles and unerring judgment, conquers adversity and, toiling on, finally wins, not only pecuniary independence but, what is far greater and higher, the deserved respect and confidence of those with whom his active years have been passed.

Back in the early 'fifties there came to this country a sturdy Frenchman, Albert Fry by name, who was convinced of the possibilities and opportunities awaiting the man of ambition, pluck and energy, in this land of freedom. He located in Wayne county, Ohio, and about 1856 was united in marriage with Susan Ashbaucher, the daughter of Peter Ashbaucher, a prominent farmer of Wayne county and a native of Switzerland. To this union there was born, on the 31st of March, 1858, a son, Joel, the immediate subject of this sketch. While the latter was yet a babe, the war of the Rebellion was precipitated and Albert Fry was among the first of the brave volunteers from his county to offer their services, and lives if need be, that the integrity of the national government might be maintained. In 1864, after several years of active and arduous service, he was granted a furlough and started for home, but, like many others, was

stricken with sickness and died before reaching his loved ones.

Shortly after her husband's death Mrs. Fry and her son came to Indiana, locating in Adams county where, in 1869, Mrs. Fry was married to John Yost. Joel Fry remained with his mother until attaining manhood, in the meantime attending the district schools of the neighborhood and acquiring a fair education. Until he was eighteen years of age he worked on his step-father's farm and acquired a thorough knowledge of agriculture. At the age mentioned he started out to earn his own living, possessing no capital other than a determination to succeed and an energy and capability for work which was bound to result in his favor. For a year he struggled, doing any work he could find to do, turning his back upon nothing that promised him an opportunity to earn an honest dollar. By strenuous endeavor and rigid economy he was at length enabled to purchase a threshing machine in partnership with his uncle, Albert Yeager, and continued in the operation of this machine until he was twenty-one years of age, when he sold his interest in the business to his partner. The following year he moved to Wells county and purchased a portable saw-mill and followed the lumber business for two years with a fair degree of profit. He had acquired a good working knowledge of business methods and had won for himself a reputation for honesty and fair dealing which assisted him materially in his future operations. Feeling that the pursuit of agriculture offered the most independent life and the surest returns, if properly managed, he, in the fall of 1882, purchased the farm in section 31, Lancaster township, upon which he now resides. This farm

comprises one hundred and five acres and has been developed and improved by the subject until it now ranks with the best farms of the township. Mr. Fry continued to operate the saw-mill in connection with his farm until the spring of 1902, when he ceased the operation of the former and has since devoted his entire attention to his farm. He bestows great care upon his fields and by closely studying the adaptability of the soil to the different crops has brought his place up to its highest producing capacity, never failing to realize abundant returns for the time and labor devoted to his chosen calling.

On the 22d of February, 1880, Mr. Fry was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Stauffer, the daughter of Christian Stauffer, of Adams county. This union has been a most congenial one and Mrs. Fry has in many ways proven herself a helpmate in the truest sense of the word. They are the parents of six children, briefly mentioned as follows: Della Belle, born April 7, 1881; Arley Hiram, born December 26, 1882; Meadie, born April 4, 1887; Ada Pearl, born February 18, 1890; Homer Franklin, born August 4, 1893, and Walter Edward, born March 23, 1899. Mr. and Mrs. Fry are endeavoring to give their children good educations and rear them in such a manner as will result in the highest standard of manhood and womanhood.

From the attainment of his majority Mr. Fry has been actively identified with the Democratic party and has always taken a keen interest in the advancement of his party's interests. In the fall of 1900 he was nominated for the office of township trustee and at the ensuing election was successful at the polls and is now serving in this re-

sponsible position. He is giving to the duties of this office the same careful attention to details as characterized his conduct of his own affairs and the wise discrimination and sound judgment evinced by him have already won for him the hearty commendation of all people, regardless of party. Fraternally Mr. Fry is a member of the Knights of Pythias, having joined the order in the fall of 1902, in Bluffton Lodge No. 92. In 1897 the subject united with the First Reformed church of Bluffton and has since been a faithful and devoted member of that congregation. He gives liberally of his means to all worthy objects and all movements having for their object the betterment of his fellow men receive his earnest support. He is a man of quiet, gentlemanly demeanor, highly esteemed by his neighbors and fellow citizens of the community and no one occupies a more conspicuous place in the minds and hearts of the people by whom he is known. His private character is above criticism and he has always aimed to keep his name and reputation unspotted. His has been an earnest life, fraught with much that tends to benefit his kind and his career in the humble sphere of private citizenship, as well as in public position, has added to the character and stability of the community in which he lives.

A. S. ABBOTT.

To be successful it is necessary that the person be adapted to the calling in which he engages. There are some people possessed of sufficient versatility to be seemingly successful in all they undertake, but the average man must be fitted for his calling. Some

people flounder around half their lives, shifting from one vocation to another, before they discover what they are fitted for; others strike, seemingly by accident, the business best suited to them, while still others almost intuitively take up the work in which they are destined to excel. A successful merchant might be a rank failure as a mechanic, and instances where good mechanics are spoiled to make poor politicians are numerous in nearly every community. When Alfred Sherman Abbott, the subject of this sketch, quit his grandfather's home in Shelby county, Ohio, and came to Craigville, Wells county, Indiana, to engage in the general mercantile business with his father he struck a calling for which he is well fitted, as his experience of the past twelve years has disclosed.

Alfred S. Abbott was born in Shelby county, Ohio, February 28, 1865. When he was seven years old his father, Daniel W. Abbott, who was a United Brethren minister, was given a circuit in Jay county, Indiana, and thither the family was moved. In the district schools of Indiana young Abbott laid the foundation for a good, liberal education. Having taken the regular course there, he attended the high school at Ada, Ohio, acquiring a very thorough knowledge of all the branches there taught. On completing his school course he for a time traveled about Ohio, seemingly undecided what would be best for him to engage in. In the summer of 1886 he turned up at the old home in Shelby county, Ohio, where his grandfather still lived, and was prevailed upon by the old gentleman to take up work on the farm. He was industrious and provident, his crops and stock thrived and harvests were abundant.

April 15, 1888, he was united in mar-

riage to Miss Laura C. Rhoads, of Rockford. She was a lady of good education and many accomplishments, a teacher in the public schools of Mercer county. He continued cultivating his grandfather's farm until the fall of 1890, when he was invited by his father to come to Craigville and engage with him in the mercantile business, as clerk and assistant, and, with some misgivings, he accepted the invitation. The move proved to be a wise one. Rev. Abbott was postmaster under the Harrison administration, and most of the labor of the office devolved upon the subject. His experience in the store and in the postoffice he found most beneficial, being a sort of commercial education in itself. Under the administration of President McKinley, in 1898, Alfred S. Abbott was appointed postmaster, and in 1900 he purchased the store of his father and since then has conducted it alone. Under the present administration he has been reappointed postmaster, and his conduct of the office has given very general satisfaction. The business of the store continues steadily to increase, trade being drawn from a large area of territory each successive year. Business is conducted in a prudent, systematic manner that cannot but win the favor of patrons, and prosperity is the inevitable result. Few young men beginning in the mercantile line without experience, as A. S. Abbott did, have been as eminently successful as he has.

In January, 1893, Mr. Abbott experienced his first real misfortune. His young wife bade farewell to earth, entrusting to her young husband the care of their two babes, Minnie M., who had been born August 26, 1890, the other Laura J., an infant of but a few days, born January 20, 1893, but

who survived her mother only about six months. These bereavements were most keenly felt by the young business man. He, however, applied himself only the more closely to business, endeavoring to forget his sorrows by smothering them with business cares. After a period of nearly two years he was again united in marriage, this time to Laura C. Reed, daughter of David and Elizabeth Reed, of Lancaster township. His present wife was also a school teacher, having taught a number of terms in the vicinity of their present home. To this latter marriage three children have been born: Bertha May, September 13, 1895; Loyd Allen, April 11, 1899, and Helen Margaret, January 12, 1901.

Twice appointed postmaster, each time under a Republican administration, it seems superfluous to mention that Mr. Abbott is a Republican. Politics, however, is not in his line, business being the first consideration with him. He is a member and a regular attendant at the services of the United Brethren church, has been one of its trustees for a number of years and is now superintendent of the Sunday school. His standing in the community is above reproach and there is scarcely a person in town or country surrounding that is not his personal friend.

B. F. HOWER.

The largest general store in Lancaster township, Wells county, Indiana, is that owned and conducted by Benjamin Franklin Hower in Craigville, of which town he was formerly the postmaster. He was born in Kirkland township, Adams county, Indi-

ana, May 6, 1859, a son of Joseph and Rachael (Proctor) Hower. Joseph Hower, the father, a native of Champaign county, Ohio, was born in 1836, was reared a farmer, married Rachael Proctor in the spring of 1858 and in the fall of the same year settled in Kirkland township, Adams county. There he purchased a farm, on which he resided until his death, which occurred in January, 1873, and was caused by that fell and insidious disorder, consumption. Notwithstanding the weakened condition of his system, brought on by this fatal disease, Joseph Hower bore its ravages with Christian resignation, and when he was called away the community sincerely mourned his loss, while to his family it was irreparable.

Benjamin F. Hower attended the district school of his native township until he reached the age of fourteen years, at which age he lost his father. Benjamin then undertook the management of the homestead for his mother and operated it in her interest until his marriage, which took place September 24, 1881, to Miss Susan Baum, a daughter of Benjamin and Susan Baum, of Adams county. Mr. Hower continued to reside on the old homestead for six years after his marriage, when in 1887 he removed to Craigville and embarked in his present business, which, considering the limited number of inhabitants in the township, has reached mammoth proportions. He has shown himself to be a shrewd business man, keeping in touch with the people and clearly anticipating their needs. His stock in trade is invariably well selected and equally well assorted, so that the most fastidious patron may be thoroughly satisfied. Mr. Hower is also an accomplished salesman, a qualification that seems to be natural to him, and affability and courtesy are equally innate.

When he once meets with a patron he, through his straightforward dealing and avoidance of misrepresentations of any kind, secures him for all time, and this is the true secret of all successful merchandising.

The Hower family of children number seven, to-wit: Minnie Pearl, born June 18, 1882, and married to Martin Kaufman, of Lancaster township; Gertha M., born March 26, 1886; Sarah Elizabeth, born February 15, 1890; Ada Belle, born February 16, 1892, and died September 7, 1892; Hattie Mabel, born October 11, 1895; Raymond, born April 6, 1897, and Herbert, born July 4, 1899. Mr. and Mrs. Hower and their children of suitable age are members of the C. U. church at Craigville, to the maintenance of which they are most liberal contributors financially, and in whose doctrines they are sincere believers, being desirous that others, outside its pale, shall be brought within the fold. In politics Mr. Hower is a staunch Democrat and in the interests of his party never fails to make any reasonable sacrifice of his time and labor. In partial recognition of his devotion to his principles and party, he was appointed, during President Cleveland's second administration, postmaster of Craigville and for four years filled the office with ability and to the entire satisfaction of the postoffice department at Washington and to the gratification of the public of Lancaster township.

PHILEMON A. ALLEN.

Philemon A. Allen is a native of Whitley county, Indiana, and was born near Coesse on the 29th day of January, 1853.

being the eighth in order of birth of nine children of Nathaniel and Eliza (Force) Allen, both of whom were born in Akron, Ohio, representatives of honored pioneer families of the Buckeye state. They were reared in their native state, and in the year 1843 moved to Whitley county, Indiana, which section at that time was almost entirely unreclaimed from its primitive wilderness condition. The father at once located on a heavily timbered tract of land, which he began to clear and make ready for cultivation. He erected a saw-mill, which was the first in the county, and was for that reason very much appreciated by the settlers. The family abode was at first a modest log cabin, typical of the place and the period, but the intelligence and progressive character of Nathaniel Allen was such as to secure advancement in temporal affairs, and he contributed his full share of effort toward the development of the county. He and his wife were both active members of the Methodist Episcopal church and often in those days, before the erection of church buildings, their home was opened for religious services, conducted by the pioneer circuit riders, and the preacher of that period was sure of a welcome in the home whenever his long journey brought him in their vicinity. Of the nine children born to Nathaniel and Eliza Allen, three died in infancy, while the parents resided in Akron, Ohio. Those who lived to mature years were as follows: William A., Wesley W., H. Wallace, Cynthia J., Philemon A. and Mary E. Cynthia became the wife of Isaac Hull and moved to Kansas, where she died, leaving several children. Mary E. became the wife of John W. Waugh and died in 1893, leaving five daughters and a son. William and

Wesley both served in the war of the Rebellion and are still living in Whitley county. Wallace went to Kansas in the '70s and still resides there.

Philemon A. Allen grew to manhood in his native county, and the days of his boyhood and youth were passed as the life of the average boy reared on the farm. He attended the common schools during the short terms they were in session each year and the rest of the time was spent in helping to cultivate the farm. At the age of seventeen years he was qualified to teach and was first licensed by that pioneer educator, I. B. McDonald. He taught two years in what was called the "Log London" school and one year in the Snyder school. He then took a course of study in the normal school at Lebanon, Ohio, after which he went to Mason county, Illinois, where he taught for two years. In the spring of 1875 he took some special studies in the Fort Wayne College and a few months later was called to take charge of the normal department in that institution, which he conducted very successfully for two years. In the fall of 1877 he took charge of the schools at Ossian, Indiana, which position he held for four years and brought the school to a high standard of excellence. It was during his administration that the excellent high school at that place was organized, which has each year since then sent out fine classes of graduates. In the summer of 1881 Mr. Allen took an extensive European trip, and among other things, made a study of the school system in the countries he visited. On his return from Europe he took the superintendency of the schools at Bluffton, Indiana, which position he held for ten years. On taking charge of the schools of that city he at once organized

the high school, which graduated its first class in June, 1883. Early in his administration the Bluffton high school was commissioned and the entire school system of the city was brought to such a state of efficiency that it was recognized as one of the best in the state. At the close of an entire decade of service as superintendent of the Bluffton schools, Mr. Allen resigned the position, having negotiated for the purchase of a half interest in the Bluffton Banner. The board of education was reluctant to accept his resignation and endeavored to prevail upon him to continue in the position. But having for some time been desirous of engaging in journalism he adhered to his purpose, and in May, 1891, he assumed editorial charge of the Banner and continued in that position until January, 1902, when he sold his interest in the paper to the present editor. Under his management the paper advanced rapidly in circulation and influence, and was noted for the high tone which characterized its editorial and news columns. Having always been identified with the best and highest interests of the community and county in which he has resided for twenty-five years, he has never hesitated to make bold and effective attacks upon whatever was at war with those best interests. During the eleven years of his connection with the Bluffton Banner he maintained a lively interest in educational affairs, all school enterprises receiving ample and most complimentary notice in his columns. In politics Mr. Allen has always been an uncompromising Democrat and under his direction the Banner led the party to victory in several very closely contested local fights.

On December 25, 1884, Mr. Allen was united in marriage with Miss Georgiana Swaim, of Ossian, Indiana, a native of Troy,

Ohio. To them were born two children, Forrest, now in his eighteenth year, who will graduate from the Bluffton high school this year, and Lucile, who died February 6, 1891, at the age of two years and four months. In fraternal relations Mr. Allen is identified with the Masonic order, being a member of Bluffton Lodge No. 145, F. & A. M., and also of the Royal Arch chapter. He has been from young manhood a zealous member of the Methodist Episcopal church, serving for many years on the board of trustees of the Bluffton church. He has been for a long time superintendent of the Sunday school of that church, having recently been elected to that office for the twentieth year. Mrs. Allen and their son Forrest are also members of the same church.

JOHN C. FULTON, M. D.

The man who bears numerous relations to the public and in each of them acquits himself not only with credit but with honor, is deserving of much at the hands of his biographer, far more than is the worthy subject of this sketch, Dr. J. C. Fulton, of Bluffton, liable to receive from the writer hereof, or in a work of as limited a scope as the present volume. The eminent Irish orator, Charles Phillips, described Napoleon Bonaparte as "a man without a model and without a shadow." The compliment is distinctively Irish, because it includes the evil as well as the good. Of Dr. Fulton no evil has been or can be said. His virtues are so many and so predominant over all of the weaknesses attributable to human nature that to mention them would be to insult the intelligence of

thousands of worthy citizens of Wells county, where for more than thirty-two years Dr. Fulton has practiced his profession as a physician and surgeon. Eulogy in his case is wholly superfluous. The old and the young, the feeble and the bold, the maimed and the sound, all alike, sing his praise.

The Fultons are of Irish ancestry. The family in America sprang from four brothers who left their native land for America previous to the war of the Revolution, in 1765. The brothers were James, Joseph, Robert and Abraham, the former being the great-great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch. Their two sisters, Margaret and Polly, accompanied them on that important trip to America. Here in America, Margaret became Mrs. Quinn and Polly became Mrs. Boyde. Four of the sons of the latter, John, James, Benjamin and Abraham, entered the Presbyterian ministry, and to their eloquence, religious earnestness and zeal much of the grand work accomplished by Presbyterianism in America is due. The Fulton family in Ireland were among the early members of that denomination in that country.

James Fulton, the great-grandfather of Dr. J. C. Fulton, was the father of five sons and one daughter, viz: James, Abraham, Robert, Cochran, Benjamin and Sarah, of whom Abraham is the grandfather of the subject hereof. His wife was Miss Anna Smith and they were the parents of seven sons, all of whom grew to manhood. James, the eldest of these seven brothers, died at the age of eighty-four years, without issue. Robert died at the age of seventy-eight years, leaving seven children. Abraham died when ninety years old, leaving seven children. John, who died at the age of forty-five

years, was the father of eight children. David, who died aged eighty-two years, left a family of six children. Cochran died at the age of seventy-six, leaving a son and a daughter. Andrew passed away at the early age of thirty-three years, leaving five children. John, above mentioned, the father of the subject, was attacked with a malignant form of milk sickness, which caused his death in 1855. In certain sections of Indiana this disease was quite prevalent in the early days, but is now seldom heard of. John Fulton was married in Wayne county, Ohio, in 1838, to Miss Sarah Egbert and in 1840 they removed to Wells county, Indiana. The names of their eight children are as follows: Milton S., Martha A., John C., Mary E., Rachael A., Clara A., George E. and James C. With the exception of the last named, who died in infancy, the children all reached maturity, married and have children.

Dr. J. C. Fulton, the subject of this review, was born in Stark county, Ohio, on the 22d day of February, 1845, whilst his parents were temporarily spending the winter in that state. He was reared on a farm, attending school about three months of each year until the war of 1861-5, after which he attended Bluffton high school and later attended Miami Medical College of Cincinnati, Ohio. He began the practice of medicine in Murray, Wells county, Indiana, in 1870. The Doctor was married on the 11th day of January, 1872, to Miss Jennie Belle Hanna, who died January 26, 1887, and on March 8, 1888, he was married to Mary J. (Routh) Lesh. John C. Fulton and Jennie Belle (Hanna) Fulton were the parents of four children, viz: Minnie U. Lesh, Mabel D., Allie A. and Jennie B. M.

From the firing on Ft. Sumter, in April, 1861, until the following October, Dr. Fulton was making his arrangements to enter the service of his country. When the Twelfth Indiana Regiment was organized he became a member of Company G, and served until May 12, 1862, in the Army of the Potomac. He was mustered out in the city of Washington by reason of the expiration of his term of enlistment. His brief term of service convinced him that the rebellion was not to be crushed in the limited space of time predicted by many. He would have re-enlisted immediately, but desired to return home and make his arrangements for a much longer period of absence. In August, 1862, he joined Company G, One Hundred and First Indiana Regiment, and served until the close of the war, being mustered out in June, 1865. Upon the organization of the regiment it was taken by rail to Cincinnati, thence to Louisville, where the line of march to Perrysville was taken up. The subject was one of a detail supplied to guard the wagon train, a position he desired, as involving more peril and excitement. The battle of Milton, Tennessee, occurred March 20, 1863, and in this engagement the One Hundred and First Indiana took a prominent part. With his regiment, Dr. Fulton took part in the Rosecrans campaign of Chattanooga, Tennessee, which included also the campaign of Chickamauga, Georgia. In the hot fight at Mission Ridge Dr. Fulton participated and later did his whole duty in the Atlanta campaign. He was with the regiment until it reached Goldsborough, North Carolina, where he was taken ill. In the march through Georgia, from Atlanta to Savannah, the army was much in need of horses and mules.

Dr. Fulton was one of the number detailed to forage along the line of march for animals of this species. At one time they turned over to the government four hundred and eighty equines, many of them valuable animals. At another time they encountered, in the dark, a company of twelve Confederates having charge of over one hundred head of horses and mules. The southerners were ignorant of the location of the rebel camp and the Doctor and his company kindly volunteered to show them. When they landed with their animals in the Federal instead of the Confederate camp they felt that they were indeed "from Missouri" and had been "shown." The lieutenant in charge of the Confederates was greatly chagrined. He was a bright young fellow and felt mortified at being so easily tricked. In all of his army experience the Doctor was wounded but once, and then only slightly.

For a period of thirty-two years Dr. Fulton has been engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery in Wells county, having been so engaged longer than any other man of his calling in the county, except Dr. J. I. Metts, of Ossian. That he has been most eminently successful is conceded on every hand. At his time of life he would like to be less active, to have more time that he might call his own, and has a number of times determined to retire from the more exacting duties of his calling. But old patrons to whom he has ministered for thirty years will not be turned away. He feels that he owes it to himself to take life easier, but those old friends—patients of a life-time—also feel that some obligation is due to them, with the usual result in Dr. Fulton's case, that self is sacrificed. Away

in the dim past, when the various counties of the state knew nothing of a medical society, Dr. J. C. Fulton was one of the first to take the initiative in perfecting such an organization in Wells county. He is now president of the Wells County Medical Society, a member of the State Medical Association and of the American Medical Association. Personally he is one of the most genial and companionable of men, one whose principles need never be questioned. In religion he is too broad in his views to be hemmed in, bound or circumscribed by any denominational limits. He therefore belongs to no religious society, despite his Presbyterian ancestry. He is a member of Lew Dailey Post No. 33, G. A. R., and was for many years its surgeon. While he never held and never could afford to hold a public office, he acknowledged his allegiance to the Republican party, believing that the policy advocated by that party regarding governmental management the most conducive to the welfare of the American people. If, however, it transpired that a policy which he considered pernicious was advocated by that party, neither a jack-screw nor a derrick would be required to change him. He has always been a lover of life in any form and the useful domestic animals especially commend themselves to his favor. When the breeding of shorthorn cattle became the rage a number of years ago, he was one of the organizers and for a number of years president of the Wells County Shorthorn Breeders' Association. It is now defunct, but it was a worthy movement and subserved a good purpose. He has a superbly improved farm of two hundred and twenty acres, six miles from the city. The barn alone on the premises cost twenty-five hundred dollars. While

never neglecting what is due from him, as a medical practitioner, to the general public, he is deeply interested in agriculture and stock raising. In all of the numerous relations he bears and has borne to the public, as citizen, soldier, physician, agriculturist and man, he has acquitted himself in a manner not only to merit and receive popular approbation, but is held in the highest esteem for a kindness and generosity that is inexhaustible and purely his own.

HUGH D. STUDABAKER.

The name of Studabaker is one which has been prominent in the annals of Wells county from the early pioneer era of its history up to the present time, and of this fact numerous evidences are given within the pages of this publication, where will be found specific mention of various members of the old and honored family. In the case at hand we have to do with the present incumbent of the office of county clerk and one who is an able, representative young business man, commanding the high regard of the people of his native county, where he has passed practically his entire life.

Hugh Dougherty Studabaker was born on a farm on the banks of the Wabash river, in Lancaster township, Wells county, Indiana, on the 10th of September, 1869, being a son of Major Peter and Sarah (Morgan) Studabaker. Major Studabaker was born in Darke county, Ohio, on the 26th day of February, 1833, being a son of Abraham and Elizabeth (Hardman) Studabaker. In 1847 the Major came to Wells county, and in 1851 entered into partnership with

his half brother, John Studabaker, in the dry goods business in Bluffton. On the 28th of October of the following year, was solemnized his marriage to Miss Sarah Morgan, a daughter of John Morgan, who came from Lancaster county, Ohio, and who was extensively engaged in the milling business. In 1858 Major Studabaker was elected treasurer of Wells county, and was chosen as his own successor in 1860. On the 15th of August, 1862, he responded to the call for volunteers to aid in suppressing the Rebellion, and was commissioned captain of his company, while on the 1st of June, 1863, he received his commission as major. He enlisted as a member of Company B, One Hundred and First Indiana Volunteer Infantry, with which he rendered most valiant service, continuing at the front until victory crowned the Union arms and participating in the grand review in the city of Washington, in May, 1865, while on the 24th of the succeeding month he was honorably discharged in Louisville, Kentucky, arriving at his home on the 4th of the following July. In the battle of Kenesaw Mountain he received a severe wound in his left foot, and from the effects of this injury, which resulted in bone erysipelas, his death eventually occurred. He passed away on the 19th of May, 1888, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Anna Thornburg, of Farmland, Indiana. In 1866 he accepted a position in the First National Bank of Bluffton, and two years later, in company with John Studabaker and Hugh Dougherty, in honor of the latter of whom the subject of this sketch was named, he became concerned in the organization and establishing of the Exchange Bank, and he continued to be actively identified with this institution until

his death. In 1874 he was elected to the office of county commissioner, and was re-elected in 1876 and 1880. No man in the community held more uniform confidence and esteem, for he ordered his life on a high plane of rectitude and honor and had the kindness and urbanity which ever make for the securing of warm and abiding friendships. His wife survived him by about a decade, passing away on the 24th of October, 1899, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Anna Thornburg, in Bluffton. Mrs. Studabaker was born on the 4th of September, 1835, so that she was nearly sixty-four years of age at the time of her demise. Of this union were born four sons and two daughters, the subject of this review having been the sixth in order of birth. Of the other children we incorporate the following brief record: George W., who married Olive Kemp, in 1876, is now a resident of Bluffton; James M., who married Emma Ervin, in 1881, is now residing in Colorado; David was drowned in the Wabash river, on the 10th of June, 1868, at the age of eleven years; Anna E. married John H. Thornburg, in 1882, and they now reside in Bluffton; and Alice S. married Charles E. Lacey, in 1887, and they reside in Crawfordsville, Indiana.

Hugh D. Studabaker received his early educational discipline in the public schools of Bluffton, being graduated in the high school as a member of the class of 1886, notable as having been the largest class ever graduated in the high school, its membership numbering thirty-six, while the superintendent at the time was Professor Philemon A. Allen, who is still an honored resident of Bluffton. Mr. Studabaker was seventeen years old at the time of his gradu-

ation, and during his school days he continued to reside on the home farm, near Bluffton, while from the age of eleven years until that of nineteen he incidentally conducted a milk business, supplying a representative line of patrons in the city. After the death of his father he went to the city of Chicago, where he was engaged in the basket business from December 1, 1889, until the 1st of the following June, being associated in this enterprise with his cousin, William Studabaker, and his brother James M. He then returned to Bluffton, and in November, 1890, he here associated himself with William A. Lipkey, under the firm name of Lipkey & Studabaker, and established himself in the meat market business, from which he withdrew in November, 1892, and became a stockholder in the North Furniture Company, of Bluffton, simultaneously becoming actively identified with its operations in the manufacture of furniture. The enterprise, owing to the financial panic, was forced into the hands of a receiver in the latter part of the following year, entailing a loss of about two thousand dollars to Mr. Studabaker, while the other stockholders met with similar relative losses. Thereafter the subject was again associated with Mr. Lipkey in the meat market business until March, 1895, when he turned his attention to the timber business, in which he became associated with Israel T. Allen, under the firm name of Allen & Studabaker. The firm furnished the timber utilized in the Indiana oil fields and continued until the depreciation in the prices of the local oil product, in 1896, when the venture proved no longer profitable, Indiana oil at that time being sold at as low a figure as forty cents a barrel. In the fall of 1896 Mr. Studabaker entered into partner-

ship with Forrest Cummins and engaged in the insurance business, under the firm name of Cummins & Studabaker, and he was thus placed until the summer of 1897. At the fall election of 1898 Mr. Studabaker was defeated by Clem Hatfield for the office of county clerk, his opponent receiving a majority of only two votes, and this result being accomplished by extraordinary political exigencies, involved in general dissatisfaction with the long continued power of the Democratic party in Wells county and through popular clamor for an investigation of the county records. On the 1st of February, 1899, Mr. Studabaker engaged in the grocery business in the Bennett store, on Market street, but in August of the same year he was forced out of business by a fire which practically destroyed his entire stock of goods. In November following he again engaged in the meat market business with his former partner, Mr. Lipkey, and this association continued until December, 1900, when Mr. Lipkey's interests were purchased by the subject's brother, George W., and the latter continued to be actively identified with this enterprise until the 4th of August, 1902, when he withdrew from the firm.

In the meanwhile, on the 18th of the preceding January, Mr. Studabaker was re-nominated for county clerk, as candidate on the Democratic ticket, securing a plurality of one hundred and thirty votes in the nominating convention, while at the November election he received a gratifying majority over the Republican candidate, Samuel P. Roush, his plurality being one hundred and ninety votes. From this fact it will be seen that the political status of the county had again become practically normal and that the popular disaffection had been overcome.

Mr. Studabaker entered upon the active discharge of the duties of his office on the 1st of January, 1902, and it is certain that his administration will be a careful and painstaking one and one that will meet with popular endorsement. Mr. Studabaker has ever been a staunch supporter of the cause of the Democratic party and has taken an active interest in local affairs of a public nature. Fraternally he is identified with the National Union, an insurance organization, is also a member of the Baptist church, while his wife holds membership with the Methodist Episcopal church.

In the city of Bluffton, on the 4th of August, 1891, at the residence of Henry Thomas, on East Cherry street, Rev. J. H. Jackson, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church, solemnized the marriage of Mr. Studabaker to Miss Mary Rebecca Cook, who was named in honor of Mrs. John Studabaker, a particular friend of her parents. She was born in Bluffton on the 31st of March, 1870, being a daughter of John Henry Louis and Eliza (Deaver) Cook, the former of whom was born on the 22d of February, 1817, while his death occurred in Bluffton, on the 2d of January, 1879. His wife, who was born at Deavertown, Ohio, on the 1st of June, 1833, still survives and makes her home with her daughter, the wife of the subject.

Mr. Cook was born in the town of Rinteln, province of Hessen, Prussia, his father being a government prosecutor and a man of influence and prominence. The son was educated in the University of Leipsic, and was a silk merchant in the fatherland prior to coming to America, in 1850, being thereafter engaged in mercantile business during the balance of his active life. Of his chil-

dren three sons and two daughters are still living, namely: Dr. Luzern H., who is engaged in the practice of his profession in Bluffton; Henry Douglass, who is a grocer in Bluffton; Arthur L., who is engaged in the furniture business in the city of Chicago; Bertha, who is the wife of Prof. William A. Wirt, of the Bluffton public schools, and Mary R., the wife of the subject. Mr. and Mrs. Studabaker have three children, namely: Alden Koch, who was born July 31, 1892, at the old Studabaker homestead, in Lancaster township, near Bluffton; Mildred Eleanor, who was born in the same home, on the 1st of February, 1894, and Hugh Dougherty, Jr., who was born at the northeast corner of Miller and Williams streets, Bluffton, on the 19th of September, 1896.

JOHN HENRY DURR.

The business of cultivating the soil is looked upon as a calling that may be embraced by any one, and it is currently believed that no amount of brains, intelligence or skill is necessary to be a successful farmer—he need only to put the seed in the ground and nature does the rest. These views are entertained by people who have no conception of either the labor required or the experience and intelligence necessary to conduct the affairs of a farm successfully. Their view of the farmer is well expressed by the author of "The Man with the Hoe" in the poem of that title. Those who have followed agriculture as their life vocation know better, and those who, in their youth, got their first lesson in industry in the woods, the clearing and the field are better posted. To be suc-

cessful on the farm a man must have more industry, as much intelligence and at the very least an equal amount of experience as is required of men in other walks of life.

There are few counties in Indiana possessed of better or more successful farmers than Wells county. The townships of Jefferson, Lancaster and Harrison are particularly well supplied with this class of farmers. Prominent among those of Lancaster township was John Henry Durr, deceased, who for more than fifty years lived in the same locality. He saw the region gradually change from wood and swamp to fertile fields and green pastures, and contributed his full share in time, labor and means, toward bringing about the important change.

John Henry Durr was born in Lancaster township, Wells county, Indiana, February 18, 1851, and was a son of Jacob and Mildred Durr, who were among the early pioneers of Wells county. Upon the farm where he was born John Henry Durr spent the first twenty-six years of his life. Aside from the few brief months each year devoted to school, his entire time was occupied in the labor of the farm with his father. His education was about the same as that of other boys of that time and locality. The few months spent in the school room each winter sufficed to give him an education that subserves every purpose. All of the common school branches were thoroughly mastered by him and with these as the key to the vast storehouse of learning, during his leisure hours he absorbed an amount of information possessed by few persons in his position.

On July 28, 1877, he was united in marriage to Miss Angeline Bowman, daughter of Gideon and Alvina Bowman, of Adams county, Indiana, and to this union were born

five children, four of whom are living. Minnie and Carley (twins) were born August 20, 1878, the latter dying November 1, 1880; Nettie, born February 11, 1880; Olie, born May 23, 1882; John Willard, born August 22, 1885. The wife and mother, Angeline Bowman Durr, died May 26, 1890, at the early age of thirty-three years.

At the time of his marriage John H. Durr and his brother Ed were each presented with eighty acres of woodland by their father. Anticipating his marriage, John selected a nice building site on his tract, cleared it and erected a comfortable home to which to take his bride. Settling down to the realities of pioneer life, he began clearing and improving his land with the result that within a very few years he had a well improved farm. In 1881 he purchased an additional forty acres from his sister, Mrs. Patterson. It also was woods, but having now acquired taste for the subjugation of the forest, Mr. Durr lost no time in reducing it also to fertility and productiveness. He owned, at the time of his death, one hundred and twenty acres of as fine land as Indiana could boast of, ninety-five acres of which were cleared, drained and fenced by his own hand and constitutes a farm, whose superior, acre for acre, cannot be found in Wells county.

Politically Mr. Durr was a Democrat, well posted in the principles of his party and always firm in the advocacy thereof. He took a deep interest in the work of each campaign and always did much, personally and with his means, to advance the interests of the ticket. He was a genial, kind, good natured gentleman, who loved his friends and never lost an opportunity of doing a kind turn even to a stranger. His death,

which occurred December 8, 1902, was mourned by his many friends, and was looked upon as the loss of one from their midst, whose life had been an example of all that was good and noble.

JOHN E. STURGIS.

The gentlemen to a brief review of whose life and characteristics the reader's attention is herewith directed is among the foremost business men of Bluffton and has by his enterprise and progressive methods contributed in a material way to the industrial and commercial advancement of the city and county. He has in the course of an honorable career been most successful in the business affairs with which he has been identified, and is well deserving of mention in a book of this character.

John E. Sturgis is a native of Ohio, having first seen the light of day in Wayne county, that state, on the 22d day of May, 1844. His father, Thomas Sturgis, was born near Lough Neagh, county Armagh, Ireland, December 25, 1802, and was a son of Rev. William and Elizabeth (Gratz) Sturgis. In 1812 William Sturgis and family emigrated to America, landing at New York city on the 25th day of June of that year. Shortly afterwards they removed to Pennsylvania and settled at Shippensburg, where the father died soon afterward, leaving a widow and eight small children to mourn his loss. Thomas Sturgis, the father of the subject, when about eighteen years of age, began learning the hatter's trade, which he completed and followed for a number of years. He was married in Pennsylvania,

August 5, 1826, to Elizabeth Brasier, who was born at Chambersburg, that state, and was a daughter of Rev. Jacob Brasier, a United Brethren minister. In 1834 Thomas Sturgis and family moved to Dalton, Ohio, where he followed his trade until 1853, in which year he moved to Wells county, Indiana, and purchased a partially improved farm in Lancaster township. On this place he settled and was there engaged in farming until his death, which occurred March 24, 1882. His demise was preceded but a short time by that of his wife, hers occurring on February 5, 1882, after a happy wedded life of over fifty-five years. They left ten children, fifty-one grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Both had lived long and useful Christian lives and were among the highly respected citizens of the county. Mr. Sturgis was a man of strong convictions and took great interest in the political issues of the day. He was a firm believer in the principles of the Democratic party and cast his first presidential ballot for Andrew Jackson in 1824. In 1840, during the exciting contest between Van Buren and Harrison, rather than lose his vote, as was threatened, he, with his brother Joseph, walked twenty-five miles to New Philadelphia the evening before the election, secured their papers and returned home the next morning prepared for business at the polls. He was the father of eleven children, of whom one died in infancy, the others all growing to maturity. They were all well educated and became useful and respected members of society. Of the ten children who gained their majority, brief mention is made as follows: Charlotte, deceased, was the wife of W. T. White, of Bluffton; William is a resident of Missouri; Joseph re-

sides on the old homestead in Dalton, Wayne county, Ohio; Elizabeth is the wife of John Whitaker and resides in Wells county; Elmer Y. is a resident of Bluffton; Lemuel D. also resides in Wells county; Catherine is the wife of Jonathan Markley and lives in this county; Thomas J. is a successful dentist of Bluffton; John E. is the subject of this review and Mary is the wife of Andrew Shoemaker, of Geneva, Adams county, Indiana.

John E. Sturgis came to Wells county with his parents, being at the time but nine years old, and has practically made this his home ever since. In 1861, when the somber cloud of war hung over the country and the President called for volunteers to assist in the suppression of the rebellion, young Sturgis, though but a little past seventeen years of age, was among the first to tender his services to his country, enlisting in October, 1861, in Company H, Forty-seventh Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry, under Capt. S. J. Keller, of Bluffton, and Col. James R. Slack, of Huntington. This company was organized at Huntington and immediately went to Indianapolis, where, in December, 1861, it was sworn into service and soon afterward went to the front. They were first sent to Camp Wickliff, Kentucky, and their first engagement of any note was at Island No. 10, on the Missouri river. Mr. Sturgis had a part in all the engagements in which his regiment participated, and was neither sick, wounded nor taken prisoner, being always ready for duty. They who are familiar with the history of the Rebellion know what the Forty-seventh Indiana went through and can see readily that young Sturgis performed his full share in the defense of his country's flag

in her hour of peril. He was fearless and brave and served gallantly until the close of the struggle, receiving an honorable discharge in December, 1865.

Upon quitting the army Mr. Sturgis returned to Wells county and in the following spring he entered the Eastman Business College, at Chicago, where he pursued the regular course, after which he again returned to Bluffton. In 1867 he went to Mendon, Mercer county, Ohio, and, in company with Dr. Daniel B. Roether, engaged in the drug business. In October of the same year he returned to Bluffton and was married, the lady of his choice being Miss Emeline E. Sander-son, who was born at Carlisle, Ohio, June 25, 1847, the daughter of Lemuel and Lucinda (Kinert) Sanderson. In 1868 Mr. Sturgis disposed of his drug business at Mendon, Ohio, and removed to Bluffton, where he engaged as clerk in the drug store of Stockton & Johnson, with whom he remained until 1872, in which year he opened up a drug store on his own account in Bluffton, conducting this successfully until 1886, at which time he was elected to the position of treasurer of Wells county. Disposing of his business, he took charge of the office, the duties of which he faithfully and efficiently performed for four years. At the close of his term of office, Mr. Sturgis again established himself in the drug business, in which he has since continued. He also served as city treasurer of Bluffton from 1877 to 1885, filling this position also with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of his constituents. In his political views Mr. Sturgis is a staunch Democrat and takes an active interest in the success of his party. In matters religious he and his wife subscribe to the Presbyterian faith, to the sup-

port of which he contributes liberally of his means and in the local congregation of which he is one of the trustees. He is also a worthy member of Lodge No. 147, I. O. O. F., Bluffton.

To Mr. and Mrs. Sturgis have been born three children, Nina L., Estella E. and Ruby. Nina is unmarried and still makes her home under the parental roof; Estella is the wife of M. A. Stout, a prominent business man of Bluffton, and Ruby married Dr. Homer Robinson, one of Bluffton's most skilled and successful dentists. The Sturgis family was established in Wells county many years ago and has always been looked upon as one of the most enterprising and respected families in the county. The members of the family may look back with just pride to their ancestors, knowing that thus far no member of the family has been connected with any dishonorable transaction by which the family 'scutcheon might be marred.

JOHN McAFEE.

This native-born and respected farmer of Rock Creek township, Wells county, Indiana, was born January 6, 1854, and is a son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Lesh) McAfee, of whom mention of greater length will be found on other pages of this volume. He was educated in the district school of his neighborhood, which he attended until about seventeen years of age, and then began working on a farm by the month, the father absorbing whatever compensation was granted to the son. At the age of twenty-one years, John McAfee was presented with a horse, as a capital with which to begin his business

career in life, and, as the sequel will show, he did not misapply this small means toward advancing his future progress. In 1875 he took a third interest in a saw-mill with his father and George Riley, but after a few months the father and son bought out the interest of Mr. Riley in this mill and for some time ran it on their mutual account. John, Jacob and Peter McAfee then bought the mill and conducted it for thirteen years, buying and cutting their timber, taking such contracts for custom sawing as they could secure, and disposing of their own outfit at a very fair profit. The father and son John each owned a one-hundred-and-sixty-acre tract of wooded land, valued at five thousand dollars per tract; but John was rather improvident at that time and gave his obligations for his investment, all of which he promptly met as they fell due.

John McAfee next moved upon his present farm in section 17, Rock Creek township, on rural route No. 3 from Bluffton, the greater part being then in the forest, but this portion he has since cleared up and improved and added to it until he owned four hundred and twenty acres. He later disposed of eighty acres, so that he now owns a trifle less than three hundred and forty acres, which is valued at twenty-seven thousand dollars. He deals largely in hogs, but is also a farmer who looks well to what pays him best, and figures on about two thousand dollars net profit per annum from his farm produce, most of which he invests in additional land. He is a scientific agriculturist and keeps himself well posted by reading the best farming journals. He also is quite regular in his attendance at farmers' institutes and is a good listener, but not an orator. He has never wandered far

from the spot where he was born and now lives within a mile of his birth place, of which he in fact owns a part.

March 31, 1877, John McAfee was united in marriage with Miss Isabella Light, who was born in Jackson township, Wells county, November 12, 1856, and is a daughter of Isaac W. and Phebe (Pouless) Light. The father was called away, however, and the mother became the wife of George Spraks. The marriage of John McAfee to Isabella Light has been crowned with four children, viz: Lillie, born August 25, 1878, who is now the wife of Charles W. Decker, a farmer in Rock Creek township; Earnest, born March 28, 1882, still unmarried; Winnie, born August 21, 1885, is assisting in caring for the household; John, born June 12, 1887, is attending the district school.

Mr. and Mrs. McAfee are members of St. Paul Lutheran church of Rock Creek township, of which Mr. McAfee is a deacon. He has always been a liberal supporter of this church financially, and on its being rebuilt contributed very freely to the building fund. In his political views he is in sympathy with the Democratic party, but has never felt any ambition as to filling public office. Mr. and Mrs. McAfee are both very pleasant and affable, and their advice upon farming and many other subjects is freely sought by their neighbors, far and near, as it can be implicitly relied upon as being honest and sincere.

Samuel McAfee, the father of the gentleman whose name opens this record, and who now has his residence in Liberty township, Wells county, was one of the patriots who gallantly went to the front during the dire need of the nation for defenders at the time of the Civil war. August 20, 1862, he

enlisted in Company G, One Hundred and First Indiana Volunteer Infantry, under Captain Wilson, and took part, among others, in the following named serious engagements: Perrysville, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and Chattanooga; he was also all through the Atlanta campaign and at the siege and fall of that fated city; was at the battle of Peach Tree Creek, Georgia; Bentonville, North Carolina; was present at the surrender of the rebel general, Johnston, and was honorably discharged at the close of the war at Louisville, Kentucky.

Elizabeth (Lesh) McAfee was a native of Berks county, Pennsylvania, was married to Samuel McAfee in 1851, and died at her home in Rock Creek township in September, 1894, truly honored by all who knew her.

J. H. HOLCOMB, M. D.

This eminent and still rising young physician and surgeon of Rock Creek township, Wells county, Indiana, is a native of Yadkin county, North Carolina, and was born on the banks of the Yadkin river, September 2, 1867, a son of John D. and Sarah A. Holcomb. The Holcomb family originated in Ireland and toward the close of the sixteenth century several of its members came to America and settled in North Carolina and from one of these colonists Dr. Holcomb, of this sketch, is a lineal descendant. The embryo physician passed his young days amid the hills and dales of the northwestern part of the Old North state in assisting his father on the homestead during the summer months and in attending school during the winter when the weather was too inclement for

farm work. At the age of sixteen he was graduated from the common school and next attended the high school for two years. After his graduation from the latter he taught school for two years, and then entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Baltimore, Maryland, took a full course as a student of medicine, and was graduated from that famous institution in the spring of 1892. He commenced the active practice of his profession in his native state, where he met with flattering success, his abilities being at once recognized, and continued to retain his patrons until he sought what he considered to be a broader and more remunerative field in Wells county, Indiana, coming hither in 1894. On reaching Wells county, Dr. Holcomb selected Barber's Mill as his place of residence and practice, and in the latter has met with a success that in some respects may be termed phenomenal. He has not only been most fortunate in his treatment of his numerous patients, but through his affability and genial disposition has drawn to himself a host of sincere personal friends.

Dr. J. Holcomb was united in marriage in 1889 with Miss Charity A. Swain, a native of North Carolina and a lady of good family and well educated. To this happy union have been born two children, viz: Bertha, in May, 1890, and Effie May, in March, 1892. The parents are members of the Baptist church at Liberty Center, and the Doctor is a member of Bluffton Lodge No. 145, F. & A. M., and is likewise a Royal Arch Mason. He is also a member of the Red Men's lodge at Barber's Mill, in which he has filled all the offices and which he has represented in the grand lodge. Dr. Holcomb is one of the substantial Democrats of Rock

Creek township and Barber's Mill, but while he is sincere in his political convictions he takes little active interest in his party's work, outside of the exercise of his franchise. He is very popular personally and is widely known in Rock Creek township, as well as in Bluffton and throughout the country, to nearly all parts of which his practice has extended. The Doctor is a member of the Wells County Medical Association and is medical examiner for the State Life Insurance Company and the Meridian Life & Trust Company of Indianapolis, and also for the Escanaba (Iowa) Life Insurance Company.

Because of his extensive private practice and his official professional duties, the Doctor's time is pretty well filled in, but he finds opportunity to pass many felicitous hours in the domestic circle, to which he is warmly attached, being an affectionate husband and an indulgent father. While the fortunate and successful professional man in many instances attains an enviable reputation through fortuitous circumstances and empirical practices, it is the observant and reflective practitioner, who mentally digests every clinical and even surgical case that comes within his observation or cognizance. He weighs all symptoms, which are often deceiving, diagnoses each case as it develops itself, and invariably reaches a conclusion that fully justifies his treatment of his patient, irrespective of the practice of his scientific brethren who have had experience in similar cases in past time. While as a general rule, the combined experience of many exceeds that of a few, the discriminating judgment of such a man as Dr. Holcomb will at times strike facts that prove to be of wonderful influence in the profession,

otherwise why have Eustace, Harvey and Jenner become immortal?

WILLIAM SHEETS.

While a gentleman of most unassuming habits, William Sheets is one of the very popular residents of Rock Creek township, Wells county, Indiana, where he owns three hundred and twenty-eight acres of good farming land, now worth at least twenty thousand dollars. He was born in Huntington county, Indiana, August 4, 1848, is a son of John and Julia A. (Wyatt) Sheets, and is now in the prime of life.

John Sheets, the father of William Sheets, was a native of Pennsylvania, whence he went to Ohio, and a few years later came to Indiana and entered a tract of land, in 1836, in Rock Creek township, Huntington county, of which he took possession in 1838. On this farm he lived for a number of years and then removed to Huntington, where he resided thirteen years, then returned to his farm and passed the remainder of his life at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Mary C. Leavell, dying February 17, 1902. John Sheets was a remarkably enterprising man and through his own industry had acquired at the time of his death three hundred and twenty acres of good land, all in Huntington county, Indiana.

As a matter of retrospect, it may be stated that John Sheets was twice married. His first marriage took place July 12, 1838, and the second July 12, 1884, there being a space of forty-six years between the two marriage ceremonies. To the second marriage no children have been born, but to the

first there were six, who were named and are now conditioned in life as follows: Frederick, residing in Salamonie township, Huntington county, Indiana; Sarah, who is married to Eli McCallister; Margaret married William Cariger, and is now deceased; William is the subject of this record; Mary C., wife of Frank Leavell, of Rock Creek township, Huntington county, and John M., deceased.

William Sheets, of this sketch, was reared on his father's farm in Huntington county, received a very good education in the district schools and the Roanoke Seminary, and for some time taught school in Huntington county. On May 9, 1872, he married Miss Malissa J. Thompson, who was born in Huntington county, Indiana, December 29, 1854, and is a daughter of George S. and Lydia (Helton) Thompson, who were among the early pioneers of Huntington county. To Mr. Sheets' union with Miss Thompson seven children have been born, namely: Mary A., now the wife of John O. Redding; Minnie K., who was married to Irwin Guldin, but who, with her husband, is now deceased; Charles F., who is still unmarried; Stella married Oliver B. McAfee and resides in Wells county; Julia, Bessie and Josie are still single and reside at home. Mr. and Mrs. Sheets are also rearing a grandchild, Charley J. Guldin. Mr. and Mrs. Sheets are members of the Disciples' church at Buckeye, Huntington county, to the support of which they are most liberal contributors and in the work of which they are among the most active partakers. In politics Mr. Sheets is decidedly a Democrat and is a hard worker for his party in all its operations in Rock Creek township. He has served as a member of

the advisory board, but has never sought an office for the sake of honor or emolument. He is, nevertheless, very popular as a citizen and a party man, and but few residents of Rock Creek township are held in higher esteem by the general public than is the subject.

LEWIS GESLER.

As an instance of the unvarying success which follows intelligent industry, that of Lewis Gesler, of Rock Creek township, Wells county, Indiana, is quite notable, as the reader will glean from the facts which are detailed in the following paragraphs. The parents of the subject were of German descent. Lewis Gesler was born October 30, 1851, but the father was summoned to another world when the son was about six years old. The mother, being in straitened circumstances, placed the lad out at work when he was about twelve years of age, but continued to provide him with clothing and other necessities of minor character, retaining for her own use his small earnings. At the age of sixteen years Lewis Gesler came to Wells county, Indiana, and found employment with Henry Edris, for whom he worked two years at fourteen dollars per month, and in this time saved considerable money. He continued to work out by the month for other parties until he had acquired five hundred dollars, which he invested in eighty acres of his present farm in Rock Creek township, although he was obliged to go in debt to some extent. He worked for Wierly Lamb three years, then bought land until he owned at one time two hundred acres, all of which he

paid for out of his own earnings with the exception of five hundred dollars received from home.

In March, 1876, Lewis Gesler married Miss Calista Johnson, daughter of Jonas Johnson, and to this happy union four children have added to the felicity of the home of the parents, and are named, in order of birth, as follows: Homer C., who had his nativity in 1879, is still unmarried and makes his residence with his parents, as do the younger three, Eva I., Wilma and Virgil. Mr. Gesler has been one of the most enterprising men of his township, and from almost impecuniousness has raised himself to affluence, being now worth at least twelve thousand dollars in land alone. He and wife have led a most happy life since marriage and are honored and beloved wherever known.

Jonas Johnson, the father of Mrs. Lewis Gesler, deserves especial mention in this connection as being one of the oldest residents of Rock Creek township. He was born in Wayne county, Indiana, October 14, 1825, and is a son of Solomon and Sarah (Sanders) Johnson, who came from North Carolina, where the family had lived for generations, and, as was customary at the time, were slaveholders. The Johnson family reached Indiana prior to 1821, about three or four years after the state had been admitted to the union, and lived in Wayne county about five years. They then removed to Delaware county, where they resided until the fall of 1835, when they came to Indiana and located where Montpelier now stands in Blackford county. They thence came to Wells county, at a time when there were no roads, they being obliged to cut their way through the woods in order to reach

their destination. The previous spring, however, the father of the family had visited Wells county and had entered one hundred and twenty acres of wild land across the road from the place on which his son Jonas now lives; at that time Jacob Miller and David Snyder were the only residents of the neighborhood, as well as of the township. On coming here, Mr. Johnson first put up a temporary shanty and shortly after built a log cabin and cultivated a patch of ground. He thrived and finally bought one hundred and sixty acres of wild land in Salamonie township, Huntington county, which he and his sons cleared up and converted into a fine farm, but later sold. Mr. Johnson became one of Wells county's most prominent and influential citizens. A Democrat in politics, he served on the first board of county commissioners, which was composed of David Bennett, James Scott and himself, after whom three streets in Bluffton have been named, Johnson street running north and south past the jail and engine house.

Mr. Johnson was the father of twelve children, of whom five are still living, namely: Isabella, wife of John Cook, of Barber's Mills; Ermina, wife of George Strother, of Huntington; Sarah, wife of John Haggert, of southern Missouri; Henry M., of Oklahoma, and Jonas.

Jonas Johnson was a lad of but nine years when brought by his parents to Wells county, Indiana, of which county he has ever since been a resident. When twenty-one years of age he rented the home farm for a few years, and in 1849 married Miss Urania Barber, daughter of Hallette Barber, after whom Barber's Mills were named, as he had the first grist and saw-mill at this place,

having come from Darke county, Ohio. Mr. Johnson was poor and for three years rented a farm and then his father-in-law's mill for seven years, after which he bought the eighty-acre farm on which he now resides. Here he erected a two-room house in the woods, which frame has been replaced by a modern and commodious dwelling.

To Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were born five children, namely: Levetta, now the wife of James Knudson; Deliscus, unmarried and living in Oregon; Glessner, who lives on the old farm; Calista, wife of Lewis Gesler, and Norah, wife of Adam Korn. Mr. Johnson was among the first members of the Seventh Day Adventist congregation of his township, was a Granger, and in politics was a Democrat until 1875, when he became independent, and for the past few years has abstained altogether from voting. It is now sixty-seven years since Mr. Johnson came to Wells county, and it may well be conceded that no resident is more sincerely honored.

WILLIAM HAIFLICH.

The gentleman whose name opens this biographical notice is a member of one of the oldest settled families of Rock Creek township, Wells county, Indiana, being a son of Isaac and Catherine (Pletcher) Haiflich, but was born in Richland county, Ohio, April 12, 1837. The paternal grandfather as well as the parents of William Haiflich were natives of the Buckeye state. The Pletcher family came from Pennsylvania and early settled in Richland county, Ohio, also, and were agriculturists of the better class.

Isaac Haiflich, after marriage, rented a farm in Ohio, on which he resided until about 1848 or '49, when he came to Wells county, Indiana, and settled in Rock Creek township, there being at that time but two houses in Murray and one house in Markle, the intervening distance between the two villages containing a solitary farm, that owned by Jacob Miller, but now occupied by William Coover. Isaac Haiflich here entered one hundred and sixty acres of wild woodland, which he lived upon and cleared up and developed it into one of the best farms in the township. In politics Mr. Haiflich was one of the leading Democrats of Rock Creek township, and his religious faith was that of the German Baptist church. He had led a pure and industrious life and through his personal labors acquired a fortune of eight thousand dollars. To Isaac Haiflich and Catherine (Pletcher) Haiflich there was born the large family of twelve children, of whom there are five still living.

William Haiflich was reared in the woods of Rock Creek township, and was early inured to hard work, which has redounded eventually to his pecuniary benefit, as well as to his physical and mental development. Whatever may be said of the malarial conditions of the atmosphere in certain portions of the state of Indiana, it may safely be said that Rock Creek township is blessed with an invigorating circumambient belt of ozone, or oxygen, very conducive to health and longevity, and under these favorable circumstances Mr. Haiflich developed into the prominent and influential gentleman he now is.

As the early services of Mr. Haiflich were called into requisition in clearing up

the home farm, he had but few opportunities of attending school, yet the time he was permitted to devote to this purpose was not abused and he succeeded in acquiring an education adequate for all practical purposes. He has done as much work, in all probability, in making Rock Creek township the paradise it now is as any man of his age within its boundaries. He managed the home place after leaving school until he had attained his majority and at the age of twenty-two found himself with a wife and forty dollars in cash, with which to start in business as a renter of his father-in-law's farm.

Mr. Haiflich was married, March 3, 1859, to Miss Sarah E. Sparks, daughter of Aaron and Huldah Sparks. She was born in Wells county, Indiana, February 14, 1843. To Mr. and Mrs. Haiflich have been born eight children, of whom six still survive and are named as follows: Eli C., Almeda Ann, William A., Samuel H., Charles E. and Rosetta.

After Mr. Haiflich's marriage he settled on the Sparks homestead, which he subsequently purchased, and on which he resided until moving to his present farm in November, 1897. Mr. Haiflich owns at present three hundred and twenty acres of good, well improved land and is considered one of the well-to-do and substantial farmers of Wells county. In 1864 he responded to his country's call to arms and enlisted in Company E, Twelfth Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He took part in several battles, served nine months, and was then honorably discharged, being now the recipient of a pension of twelve dollars per month.

The Haiflich family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Sparks

Chapel, of which Mr. Haiflich has been a trustee for several years. He has served as class leader and also as Sunday school superintendent. In his political affiliations he is a Democrat, but although he is a faithful worker in his party's interests he has never sought an office. Mr. and Mrs. Haiflich, as may well be inferred, are among the most highly respected residents of Rock Creek township, and it may be a gratification to the reader to refer to the biography of Eli Haiflich, to be found on another page of this volume, for further information concerning this old-time family.

JACOB McAFEE.

One of the most extensive stock raisers and farmers of Rock Creek township, Wells county, Indiana, is Jacob McAfee, a native of this township, born February 26, 1851, and a son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Lesh) McAfee. The McAfee family is of Irish origin and the American branch from which Jacob McAfee descended were early settlers in Virginia, where Samuel McAfee, father of Jacob, was born and reared, though he subsequently settled in Pennsylvania. Subsequently both the McAfee and Lesh families came to Indiana and located in Rock Creek township, Wells county, where Samuel McAfee spent the greater part of his life after moving to the county, though in later years he lived in Liberty township. The family of Samuel and Elizabeth McAfee comprised five sons and three daughters, of whom six still survive, viz: Jacob, John, Peter, Catherine, wife of Chester Scotton, Prescilla, wife of James Gordon, and Hattie, married to William D. Gordon.

Jacob McAfee was reared to agricultural pursuits on the farm on which he had his nativity, and received a very good common school education. At the age of twenty-two he was first married, selecting for his helpmate Miss Jane Logan, daughter of the late John Logan, and to this union was born one child, Mollie, a resident of Toledo, Ohio. Mrs. Jane (Logan) McAfee was called away soon after the birth of her child, and Jacob McAfee in due course of time married Miss Amanda A. Lamm, daughter of Waverly Lamm, of Lancaster township, and this marriage has been crowned by the birth of five boys and three girls, of whom five are still living, and all single.

At the age of twenty-one years Jacob McAfee was a poor young man as far as this world's substantialities were concerned. But he was possessed of robust health, a clear and comprehensive intellect and an indomitable spirit of enterprise, united with indefatigable industry. He first found a means of earning money by working out by the job at ditching, chopping and clearing, from which labor he realized about three hundred dollars, of which amount he was the possessor at the time of his first venture on the sea of matrimony. For two years after marriage Mr. McAfee engaged in farming, a pursuit to which he had been well trained, and next went into the saw-mill business, having by this time acquired a capital of seven hundred dollars. This mill, known as the McAfee Brothers' mill, was located near Rock Creek Center, in Wells county, and here Mr. McAfee did custom work, and also bought, cut and sold lumber for thirteen years, at the close of which period he was worth six thousand dollars and the owner of one hundred and forty

acres of good land, to which he has since added one hundred and eighty acres, and is now worth twenty-four thousand dollars. Mr. McAfee has also been largely engaged in stock raising, in which he has been very successful, as he has been, indeed, in all his undertakings, being what is usually known as a "hustler" and naturally a shrewd business man.

In politics Mr. McAfee is one of the reliable Democrats of Rock Creek township and is active in his support of his party, but has never sought to advance his personal interests by aspiring to public office. Mrs. McAfee is a member of the German Reformed church, to the support of which both she and her husband are liberal contributors. As the reader will naturally infer from the fact that Mr. and Mrs. McAfee are both natives of Wells county, they are widely and favorably known, and their upright walk through life has augmented the great respect in which they are held throughout the community in which they have their residence.

JACOB LESH.

Jacob Lesh is a native of Pennsylvania and was born in Berks county, September 25, 1835, but has lived in Wells county, Indiana, since he was thirteen years old, when he was brought hither by his parents.

The Lesh family is of German origin, but the ancestors of the family from which the gentleman whose name opens this sketch descends, were among the early settlers of the Keystone state. It may be added, as a matter of honor to the Lesh family, that the

grandfather of Jacob Lesh, Peter Lesh, was a participant in the war of the American Revolution. John Lesh, the father of the subject, was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, in the year 1800. He married Miss Mary Snavelly, who was a native of Lebanon county, the same state. She bore him six children, namely: Elizabeth, John, Jacob, Peter, Jonas and Daniel, twins, all of whom are now deceased except the subject. The mother of this family died when the subject was a small boy, and the father subsequently married Harriet McAfee, who bore him eight children, viz: Sarah, Catherine, deceased; Prescilla, deceased; Samuel, deceased; James, Susan, Matilda and George W. After his father's death, John Lesh bought the old homestead, which he subsequently sold, and in 1848 moved to Indiana. He came by wagon, and was twenty-one days on the road, finally reaching Union City, whence he came to Rock Creek township, Wells county. Here he settled on eighty acres of land which he had purchased the year previous for nine hundred dollars and on which was a hewed-log house. Thirty acres had been placed under cultivation, and it was on this farm that he passed the remainder of his life, dying in 1864, in the faith of the Lutheran church. He was a Democrat in politics and always took an active interest in the success of his party, though never aspiring to public office. He was an honest, enterprising and hard working man, and was highly respected by all who knew him.

Jacob Lesh was educated in the district schools of Wells county and assisted on the home farm until twenty-one years old. He then worked at the carpenter's trade, which

he thoroughly learned. Later he purchased a threshing machine, and still later bought eighty acres of land, the farm on which he now resides.

At the age of twenty-five years, Jacob Lesh married Miss Mary A. Gregg, a sister of the late W. H. Gregg, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. Mr. Lesh, at his marriage, erected a small house, in which there was born to him one daughter, Mary L., now the wife of A. J. Miller, and in which Mrs. Lesh died. The second marriage of Mr. Lesh took place November 9, 1872, to Miss Elizabeth Gilbert, a daughter of Martin and Lydia A. (Houtz) Gilbert, and who was born in Rock Creek township, Wells county, Indiana, October 6, 1852. To this union have been born six children, namely: Charles E., born April 3, 1875, but now deceased; George L., born August 8, 1877, is married to Clara Farling and is farming in Rock Creek township; Fred C., born June 22, 1881, received his preliminary education in the district schools and was subsequently graduated from the Northern Indiana Normal School and Business College at Valparaiso; Henry A., who was born March 29, 1884, was graduated from the common schools in 1901, and is now a teacher in Chester township; Maggie C. was born September 29, 1887, and Jessie Esther, July 5, 1893. Mrs. Lesh is a member of St. Paul's Lutheran church in Rock Creek township, and in politics Mr. Lesh is a Democrat. No family is more highly respected than that of Mr. and Mrs. Lesh, and if an upright and useful life entitles them to the high regard in which they are held, it may truthfully be said that no family is better entitled to it. Such people are a credit to any community.

ANDREW J. MILLER.

This well known business man, farmer and ex-assessor, whose residence is in Rock Creek township, Wells county, Indiana, was born in this township, June 8, 1859, a son of Isaac and Mary A. (Bachtol) Miller, who came from Stark county, Ohio, but whose parents came from Pennsylvania and were of German descent. Isaac Miller was born, reared and educated in Ohio, and married, about 1850, in Stark county, the same state. He first came to Wells county, Indiana, in 1853, and purchased land, but returned to Ohio, where he resided a short time, and then moved his family out, settling on the land which he had purchased during his previous visit. In politics Isaac Miller was a Democrat and was a justice of the peace for several years. He cleared up his farm and made all the improvements, which are still standing, and here he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives and died in the faith of the Lutheran church. To them were born nine children, in the following order: David H., who resides in Markle, Huntington county, Indiana; Helen J., wife of W. H. Herron, of Wells county; Mary E., deceased; Andrew J., the subject of this sketch; Uriah, who makes his home with Andrew J.; Charles E., of Rock Creek township; Elmer I., a resident of Huntington, Indiana; Alice L., wife of Sherman Johnson, a resident of Grant county, and Cora F., deceased.

Andrew J. Miller was a child of but three years when his parents settled on the farm on which he now resides. He was educated in the district school and reared on the homestead, which he assisted in cultivating until he was nineteen years old. At the age

of twenty-two he engaged in the lumber business with J. H. Preskey, their saw-mill being located three miles east of Markle, Indiana. This partnership business continued eight years, and realized them quite a handsome profit. Mr. Miller first rented the old homestead of eighty acres in the fall of 1891, but later on purchased it.

Andrew J. Miller was united in marriage, November 1, 1883, with Miss Luella M. Lesh, a daughter of Jacob Lesh, of Rock Creek township, by his first wife, and who was educated in the district and Bluffton schools. The marriage of Andrew J. Miller and Luella M. Lesh has been crowned with five children, namely: Herman L., born August 22, 1884, and now in his senior year in the common school; Lizzie, born August 20, 1886; Edna E., born February 15, 1889; Vera, born November 17, 1892, and Roy J., born November 18, 1901.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller are members of the Lutheran church at Horeb, to the maintenance of which they liberally contribute and otherwise aid, Mr. Miller having officiated as elder for many years, and also as superintendent of the Sunday school. Fraternally Mr. Miller is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is recording secretary of his lodge; in politics he is one of the leading Democrats of Rock Creek township and Wells county. In 1894 he was elected township assessor and served with credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of his party and his fellow citizens until 1900. He has also served as township committeeman for years, and likewise as delegate to several important Democratic conventions. Mr. and Mrs. Miller are among the prominent and influential residents of Rock Creek township, and Mr. Mil-

ler is honored as a public-spirited citizen, ready at all times to aid with his advice and means every project designed for the increase of the happiness and comfort of the community. He has recently been selected and served as a juror in the United States federal court for this district at Fort Wayne.

JONATHAN J. MARKLEY.

Each business or calling, if honorable, has its place in human existence, constituting a part of the plan whereby life's methods are pursued and man reaches his ultimate destiny. Emerson said that "All are needed by each one." And that is as true in one avenue of life's activities as in another. However, the importance of a business or profession is in a very large measure determined by its beneficence or usefulness. So dependent is man upon his fellow men that the worth of each individual is largely reckoned by what he has done for humanity. There is no class to whom greater gratitude is due than to those self-sacrificing, sympathetic, noble-minded men whose life work has been the elevation of their fellow men to a higher conception of God, their duty to him and their duty to their fellow men. There is no known standard by which their beneficent influence can be measured, but it is certainly safe to say that to no class of men is the country today indebted for the present high moral and spiritual standard of the community in as large a degree as to the early ministers of the gospel, those earnest and consecrated men who, disregarding personal comfort, spread abroad a knowledge of the Christ

and taught the great truths of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. The subject of this sketch for many years labored faithfully in the cause of the Master and by a long life of earnest and self-denying toil accomplished great good in this community and now possesses the confidence and respect of all who know him.' Because of the prominent part he took in the development of this region he is justly entitled to representation in a volume of this character.

The first ancestor of the subject of whom anything definite is now known was his great-grandfather, probably Gabriel Markley by name, who was driven by religious persecution from Holland in the year 1720. With a number of his fellow countrymen, he emigrated to America and settled first in Maryland. His son, Jonathan Markley, grandfather of the subject, was born in Maryland in 1760. In 1815 he emigrated to Pennsylvania and after residing there a few years went to Madison county, Ohio, where he remained until his death. The subject's father, John Markley, was born near the city of Baltimore, Maryland, March 10, 1809, and died December 19, 1870. His wife, who in her maidenhood bore the name of Melinda Wilson, was born in Madison county, Ohio, January 12, 1816, and died April 20, 1888. John Markley remained upon the home farm during his boyhood, assisting his father in the clearing and development of the land, receiving in the meantime but little education. On the 2d of March, 1834, he was married to Melinda Wilson, the daughter of Valentine Wilson, reputed to be the wealthiest man in Madison county, Ohio. In 1835, accompanied by his young wife

and his brother Gabriel and wife, he emigrated to Wells county, Indiana, and located on the north bank of the Wabash river, five miles above where the city of Bluffton now stands. He entered there two hundred acres of land and proceeded at once to the task of clearing and developing it. He at first erected a rude log cabin, in which they made their home for a number of years and in which the subject was born. Subsequently Mr. Markley was enabled to purchase five hundred acres of additional land, which he cultivated with marked success for a number of years. He always followed the pursuit of farming, in which he was prosperous, was honorable and straightforward in his intercourse with his fellow men and enjoyed the respect and esteem of a large circle of friends and acquaintances. When he first went to that locality there were not enough settlers there to fill a jury and officer a court. In politics he was a Republican and took a keen and active interest in all things affecting the interests of his county. He and his wife were members of the Christian church and were consistent and faithful in the performance of their religious duties, bringing up their children in the light of the gospel and of their own examples. They were the parents of eleven children, briefly mentioned as follows: Valentine is deceased; Rachael Ann is the wife of Stephen Adsit, of Hoopeston, Illinois; Jonathan J. is the subject; William D. lives at Vera Cruz, Harrison township, this county; Hester is deceased; Matilda J. is the wife of Capt. E. Y. Sturgis, of Bluffton; Amanda, deceased; Ellen is deceased; Louis P. lives at Vera Cruz, this county; Samuel T. resides at Elwood, Indiana, and Wilson A., of Harrison township, this county.

Jonathan J. Markley, the immediate subject of this biographical sketch, was born in Harrison township, Wells county, Indiana, on the 7th of March, 1839, his birth taking place in the little log cabin which his father first erected on the clearing he had made there. The subject remained at home until he attained his majority, faithfully assisting his father in the arduous task of clearing the land and cultivating the soil, and developing at the same time that strength of body and those sturdy qualities of character which served him so well in the after years of his life. During his teens he received the advantages of such mental training as was to be obtained in the common schools of the neighborhood. Not being satisfied with such education as he had received, after attaining his majority he secured a position as teacher in the schools of Vera Cruz, holding this position for three years and also teaching one year in another school. In this way he earned enough money to enable him to enter Liber College in Jay county, this state, where he spent three years in earnest study. During his attendance at college he found it necessary to work out on Saturdays and in evenings in order to defray his expenses. He selected his studies with a view to entering the ministry and all his ambitions and efforts were centered upon that purpose. Upon leaving college he returned home, but after remaining there about two years he, in 1871, came to Lancaster township and occupied forty acres of land which he had previously purchased. He was a member of the Christian church and in 1869 he began preaching, his first charge being the Christian church at Murray, Lancaster township. That his services in the capacity of a pastor and minister of the gospel were

satisfactory is evidenced by the fact that he was retained in this one charge for the remarkably long period of thirty-one years, a period in which his influence in the community was constantly manifest and acknowledged by all who were conversant with his labors. In 1900 Mr. Markley resigned his ministerial work and retired from active pastorate, much to the regret of many who had sat under his preaching and been the recipients of his ministrations. During this long pastorate he labored earnestly and indefatigably for the uplifting of those with whom he came in contact and by an exemplary life influenced many to turn from sin and follow the teachings of the Nazarene.

In 1898 Mr. Markley erected a handsome large brick house and in 1900 he erected a fine new barn, being now the owner of one of the finest pieces of farm property in Wells county. From the original tract of forty acres he has, by thrift, economy and enterprise, been enabled to increase his holdings to two hundred and forty acres of as good land as can be found in Wells county. Mr. Markley enjoys the distinction of being one of the oldest ministers in the county and also of having married more couples and preached more sermons than any other preacher in the county. In politics he has been a lifelong Republican and has always taken a keen interest in the trend of public events, though at no time an aspirant for public office. A bit of early history is connected with Mr. Markley's home in the fact that where his house now stands occurred the first marriage ceremony performed in the county, a minister from Ft. Wayne officiating. The couple then married are yet living at Buena Vista, the wife having celebrated her eighty-fourth birthday during

the first week in July, 1902. Another noteworthy fact is that Mr. Markley officiated at the funerals of eight of his neighbors within two years, all residing within sight of his home and their aggregate ages being six hundred and forty-three years.

On the 18th of January, 1871, Mr. Markley was united in the holy bonds of matrimony with Miss Mary M. Huffman, who was born August 18, 1840, the daughter of Philip and Margarite Huffman, of Bluffton. This union has been a most happy and congenial one and in many ways Mrs. Markley has proven her devotion and faithfulness to her husband's best interests. A devout and consecrated Christian, she has always so lived as to cast no discredit upon the religion which she professes and by her many acts of charity and kindliness has endeared herself to a host of warm and loyal friends.

WILLIAM WILKIN.

Sixty-six years' continuous residence in one county ought to be sufficient to entitle a person to fame, and when coupled with a most exemplary life, interspersed with much good work and the achievement of some success in all that was undertaken, it certainly does. William Wilkin, of Lancaster township, Wells county, Indiana, may justly lay claim to all this. He was born in Harrison county, Ohio, April 5, 1833. His father was Thomas P. Wilkin, who moved his family, consisting of two children and his mother, in 1836 from Harrison county, Ohio, to Wells county, Indiana. His wife had died in Harrison county, Ohio, in October, 1834. He settled upon two

hundred and forty acres of government land in Lancaster township and afterward acquired three hundred and twenty acres in Jefferson township. For the first year and a half of his life in the Hoosier state he made his home at Murray, when he built upon his land in Jefferson township a comfortable log cabin, into which he moved his family and began life in regular pioneer style. After coming to Wells county he married Rhoda Sutton, but had no children by this lady. He proceeded to drain, clear and fence this land and as his means permitted erected suitable buildings. Up to the time of his death, which occurred November 19, 1873, he continued to improve this farm, and made it one of the best in that part of the county. He was a native of Virginia and was born January 9, 1800. His father died while he was still an infant in their Virginia home. His widowed mother was a woman of much force of character and unusual courage, and with her infant son she braved the perils and hardships of the long journey over mountain and stream, through forest and swamp to Harrison county, Ohio, where she continued to reside thereafter. Here Thomas P. grew to manhood, acquiring such education as could be had in those early times and tenderly caring, until her death, for the brave mother who had been so devoted to him. When he was thirty-one years of age he married Mary Poland, daughter of James Poland, of Muskingum county, Ohio, and to them were born two children, William and Mary, the latter the widow of John Kleinknight, of Lancaster township, Wells county. In politics Thomas Wilkin was a Democrat, and took an active interest in the success of his party, though never aspiring to public office.

William Wilkin, the subject of this review, was reared in his father's log cabin on the farm in Jefferson township. When sufficient strength had come to him it was utilized by his father in the clearing or in the field. He swung an ax in the forest, pulled a cross-cut saw in the clearing, wielded a spade in the ditch or followed a plow in the field. Thus he was trained in habits of industry and thrift which he has ever found useful during the course of his long and active life. The opportunities for mental culture were, unfortunately, by no means equal to those offered for the development of the body in the times to which reference is made. Schools were then few and far between and books were esteemed almost priceless treasures. The era of numerous printing presses had not yet set in and individuals were born, grew to maturity, passed to old age and died without ever experiencing the ecstatic delight of even once seeing their name in print. It may, therefore, be inferred that where people were depending for their education upon what fugitive pieces of printed matter might find their way out on the borders of civilization, they could hardly be expected to become particularly ripe scholars. By nature young Wilkin was passionately fond of letters. Every scrap of paper that looked as if it had even a remote acquaintance with a printing press was carefully treasured up, and by the light of the light of the log fire in the big hearth, at night, was carefully gone over until its utterance became familiar. This was a hard way of getting an education, but it was a way that was quite likely to impress the possessor with the value of the education thus obtained.

William Wilkin was united in marriage,

on February 21, 1856, to Mary F. A. Trenary, daughter of Richard Trenary, of Jefferson township. This lady was born in Allen county, Indiana, July 4, 1838. A year previous to his marriage Mr. Wilkin had purchased his father's farm, and taking up his residence there he continued to care for the old gentleman until the latter's death. To Mr. Wilkin's first marriage were born nine children. They were Richard D., born January 14, 1857; Mary E., January 2, 1859; Nancy M., September 19, 1860; William A., April 4, 1862; Emma J., February 12, 1864; Alonzo D., March 8, 1867; Clarence V., April 19, 1869; Nelson S., February 7, 1872; Grace A., May 3, 1874. Richard, Mary, William and Grace are dead; Nancy M. is the wife of Marion Garton, and Emma is the wife of Charles Gillon. They all reside in Wells county except Emma, who lives in Michigan. Mary T. Wilkin, mother of this interesting family, departed this life November 19, 1874. On July 13, 1884, Mr. Wilkin was united in marriage to Rachael A. Norton, daughter of Harvey W. and Sarah A. Norton, of Liberty township. Rachael (Norton) Wilkin was born May 12, 1850, in Chester township. Both are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mr. Wilkin has been a trustee for over thirty years.

Politically Mr. Wilkins is a very pronounced Democrat, working energetically for the success of the ticket in each successive campaign. Defeat to his party is looked upon by him almost a personal calamity and his joy is correspondingly great over each success. It may be noted that the calamities have been monotonously frequent in recent years. He is a generous, kind hearted man, with a strong disposition to look carefully

after his own affairs and allow other people to do likewise. Every one who knows him is his friend, his popularity not being confined to any sex, class or calling.

MATTHEW J. PARK.

Among the most enterprising and successful agriculturists of Rock Creek township, Wells county, Indiana, is found Matthew J. Park, who was born in county Donegal, Ireland, January 26, 1853, a son of Matthew and Jane (Buchanan) Park, farming people and quite well-to-do. Matthew Park, about 1850, having heard glowing descriptions of the success which attended a number of his fellow countrymen who had made their homes in the United States, determined to follow their example. Accordingly he left his family behind him and came to America and lived two years in Wooster, Ohio, where he engaged at mason work with his cousin. He then returned to Ireland, and, in 1853, came back with his family to America, worked in Wooster three years and then came to Wells county, Indiana, settling in section 30, Lancaster township, on forty acres of wild land he had purchased in the woods. He cleared up a farm and there passed the remainder of his life. He was educated in a high school in the old country, and was an elder in his church. The latter fact implies that he was a moral man, and as his walk through life was modest and unassuming, it is inferable that he was deeply imbued with the teachings of his Divine Master. His death took place in April, 1893, and he was mourned by all who knew him. His widow still sur-

vives and makes her home with the subject, being in her ninety-first year. To the marriage of Matthew and Jane (Buchanan) Park were born nine children, of whom the following attained mature years: Rebecca, now the widow of Joshua Perkins, of Murray, this county; James A., who resides in Bluffton; Ellen, deceased wife of John Burnett; Joseph W., a blacksmith in Murray; Rev. Robert H., a graduate from the National Normal University of Lebanon, Ohio, and from the Xenia Theological Seminary, and now officiating in Valencia, Pennsylvania, and Matthew J., of this review, the next to the youngest member of the family and the youngest one who grew to maturity.

Matthew J. Park was a child but ten weeks old when his parents started for America and not quite four years of age when brought to Wells county, Indiana. He was educated in the district schools and when old enough and strong enough was set to work as an assistant to his father on the home farm. He attended school, however, until completing the graded school course of Bluffton and at the age of seventeen years was licensed to teach, a vocation he followed in the winters of 1871 and 1872 in Harrison and Liberty townships. He then entered the National Normal University at Lebanon, Ohio, where he took a teacher's course, the better to qualify himself for the profession he had chosen, and for ten years afterward met with eminent success in his calling in Wells county. On the 29th day of December, 1881, Mr. Park was joined in marriage with Miss Rachel O. Lee, a daughter of John Lee, a well known resident of Rock Creek township. She was born in Wells county, Indiana, April 5, 1860. Mr. Park had no money nor any other capital

save good health, energy and a determination to win in the battle of life. He therefore rented a farm, and, thoroughly understanding the management of this line of industry, was able, at the close of fourteen years, in 1895, to purchase his present place of one hundred and four acres, but which place at that time was cleared off to the extent of thirty acres only, with no buildings whatever. In 1896 Mr. Park erected his present substantial and handsome dwelling and in 1902 built his convenient barn, sixty-six by sixty-six feet in its ground plan, with a cement floor, and finished in a style unsurpassed by that of any other barn in the county, the cost of erection reaching about sixteen hundred dollars.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew J. Park has been blessed with three children, namely: John C., who was born April 24, 1883, attended the common schools until about 1899, and in 1900 attended the high schools of Murray and is now in Purdue University; Harold M., born September 27, 1887, will graduate from the common schools this year, and Archie Glenn, the youngest of the three, was born August 24, 1892.

Mr. and Mrs. Park are members of the United Presbyterian church at Murray, of which Mr. Park is an elder and a trustee. In politics he is a Republican, but has never been a seeker after office. Mr. Park has long been an active member of the Farmers' Institute and was its secretary in 1901, and in 1903 was elected president. He is at present the solicitor for the Rock Creek Township Mutual Insurance Association, which was organized in 1875 and has a real estate capital worth three million dollars. Mr. and Mrs. Park are classed among the

most intelligent of the residents of Rock Creek township and consequently enjoy the respect and esteem of their neighbors to an unusual degree, and no words of commendation that can here be added could enhance the esteem in which they are held.

JOSEPH FALK.

This gallant ex-soldier of the late Civil war, but now one of the most peaceful and industrious residents and farmers of Rock Creek township, Wells county, Indiana, is a native of Richland county, Ohio. He was born June 29, 1838, and is a son of Albert and Catherine J. (Pfaff) Falk, who were married in their native country, Herholtz, Germany, and shortly afterward immigrated to America, and for some time lived in Richland county, Ohio, and in 1849 came to Wells county. Albert Falk first bought a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of land in Rock Creek township, later purchased an additional tract of one hundred acres, and still later, purchased forty acres more, then fifty acres, and finally added ninety acres more, making in all four hundred and forty acres, which was considered to be quite a fortune in Wells county half a century ago, the first tract being that which Eli Houtz now owns. To Albert and Catherine J. (Pfaff) Falk there were born nine children, of whom seven are still living, viz: Joseph, Catherine, Mary, John, William, Peter and Henry. Jacob, the eldest member of the family, and Susan are deceased. Mrs. Catherine Falk was called hence by death about 1857, and subsequently Albert Falk married Mrs. Rachel Fulton,

but to this union there have been no children born.

Joseph Falk, the gentleman with whom this biographical record has the most to do, was educated in the district school and was reared to hard labor on the home farm. He was thus employed at work when the fierce alarm of war was sounded throughout the country, and, inspired with patriotism, he at once offered his services, and life if need be, in his country's cause. He enlisted, August 18, 1862, in Company B, One Hundred and First Indiana Volunteer Infantry, Capt. Peter Studabaker, and among the other actions in which he took part were the following: Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Resaca and Dalton; he was on the march through Georgia to the sea, and fought at Bentonville, North Carolina. He was honorably discharged June 24, 1865, and returned to his home in Rock Creek township and resumed his work on the farm.

Joseph Falk was united in marriage November 12, 1868, with Miss Catherine Bender, who was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, May 23, 1844, and is a daughter of John and Barbra (Mast) Bender, who were among the early settlers of Wells county, Indiana. This union was crowned by the birth of three children, namely: Eliza J., born January 30, 1870, and now the wife of Archie W. Gordon, a stock dealer in Liberty Center, this county; William S., born February 23, 1878, married Ida V. Ludwig, and is a resident of Rock Creek township, and Philip S., who was born September 5, 1880, and died December 12, 1882. Mr. Falk was bereaved in the loss of his wife February 21, 1899.

Mr. Falk in his boyhood was very hard working and economical and was early able

to purchase a farm of eighty acres, but the land was wet and situated deep in a forest. Although a plasterer by trade, Mr. Falk had had considerable experience in his early life in agricultural pursuits and well knew what he was about when he purchased his farm. He cleared and ditched his place, which is in section 27, to which he added another tract of eighty acres in section 26. He had erected a handsome residence and substantial barn, forty by seventy-six feet, but had the misfortune to lose the latter by lightning. He at once replaced it by an equally good one, and in May, 1897, he had the misfortune of losing his house by fire, which he replaced by his present fine dwelling the same year.

Since being bereft of his wife Mr. Falk has been living alone. Mrs. Falk was a member of the Lutheran church, while Mr. Falk is a member of Lew Dailey Post, G. A. R., at Bluffton. In politics he is a Republican, but is not very active as a politician. He is a well read gentleman, of rare intelligence, and is one of the most public spirited citizens of Rock Creek township, where he is widely known and greatly respected by all classes.

JOHN H. HOGG.

One of the most diligent and enthusiastic young farmers of Rock Creek township, Wells county, Indiana, is John H. Hogg, a native of the place, born April 27, 1877, and the second of the three children, two sons and one daughter, that have graced the marriage of James and Elizabeth (Torrence) Hogg, the former of whom was born in Ireland, whence he came to America when a young man. Mrs. Elizabeth (Torrence)

Hogg was also born on the Emerald Isle, but may almost claim America as the land of her nativity, as she was but one year of age when brought to the United States by her parents, who settled in Wooster, Ohio. James Hogg and Elizabeth Torrence were joined in matrimony in Wells county, Indiana, their union resulting in the birth of three children, alluded to above, who, in order of birth, were named as follows: Sarah, who is now the wife of W. D. Woodruff, of Liberty township, Wells county; John H., whose name stands at the head of this brief biographical record, and Francis W., an unmarried son, on his father's farm.

John H. Hogg was born and reared on his father's farm, which he, at the proper age, began to assist in cultivating during the summer seasons, while his winters were devoted to attending school and acquiring a sound education. This was the life he led until his marriage, December 27, 1900, to Miss Gertrude Lee, a daughter of J. A. and Delia (Goodyear) Lee. She is also a native of Rock Creek township, this county, and was born April 13, 1880, and is the only child of her parents. Her mother is still living and resides in Bluffton with her own mother. Mr. and Mrs. John H. Hogg are members of the United Presbyterian church at Bluffton, of which Mr. Hogg is one of the elders and members of the Sunday school. Both take great interest in the affairs of the church and are liberal contributors toward its support.

In politics Mr. Hogg is a stalwart Republican as to national affairs, but in local matters exercises his franchise in favor of the candidate best fitted in his judgment to perform the duties of the office which is to be filled, seldom making a mistake in selecting his candidate.

Although still a very young man, Mr. Hogg has made a phenomenal success of his agricultural pursuits, and has proven himself a scientific and up-to-date agriculturist. He deals quite extensively in live stock, in which he handles only the best grades and has made a success in this line of business. Mr. and Mrs. Hogg, though still young in years, stand very high in the esteem of their neighbors, among whom they have lived all their days, and among whom they are looked upon with no small share of pride as being native born.

CYRUS WALTERS.

One of the youngest ex-soldiers of the late Civil war, but now a citizen of Rock Creek township, Wells county, Indiana, is Cyrus Walters, who was born in Kentucky, March 20, 1848. His parents, John C. and Elizabeth (Womer) Walters, were natives of Pennsylvania, where they were married and where they reared all their children with the exception of Cyrus. After the arrival of the family in Kentucky, the father engaged in his calling of an agriculturist, and here lost his wife, who died when their son Cyrus was quite small and while she was there on a visit, the family having moved to Indiana some years previous. John C. Walters again married and the early training of Cyrus was under the oversight of the step-mother, with whom he did not agree very well, deeming her to be unkind in many respects. However, he remained under the parental roof until he reached the age of sixteen years, when he ran away and, filled with an ardent love for his country, enlisted, in Allen county, Indiana, in Company G, Thirtieth Indiana Cavalry, under Capt. J. C.

Wilson. This was in the spring of 1864 and he, young as he was, proved to be a brave and gallant soldier, serving two years, principally with Gen. George H. Thomas, and taking part in many battles, including those of Huntsville, Alabama, Decatur, Alabama, and Nashville, Tennessee.

The Walters family were residents of Adams county when Cyrus entered the army, and after an honorable discharge from the service, with a pension of six dollars per month, Cyrus returned to his father and step-mother and lived with them a few months in Adams county, when, in June of the same year, he located in Allen county, Indiana, where for about eight months he was employed in cutting wood by the cord, and then worked out by the month for awhile.

In 1867 Cyrus Walters was happily married to Miss Mary A. Wisehaupt, a native of Adams county, but at the time of the marriage ceremony a resident of Wells county, where the young couple rented a farm for about a year, or until November, 1868, They then lived on the James Metts farm about three years and then moved to the Oldfather farm, on which he lived about one year, thence to Ossian, where Mr. Walters was employed by Dr. Crouse for some time on his farm. Later Mr. Walters moved to the northeast part of Jefferson township and lived on the Snarr farm for three years, and next went to Bluffton, in 1882, and engaged with John Studebaker on a farm for a short time, in the meantime carefully saving his earnings. In 1890 Mr. Walters traded what property he owned for his present farm of forty acres in Rock Creek township, the tract then being deep in the woods and possessing no improvements. This farm

Mr. Walters has since cleared up and improved in every respect, including five hundred rods of tile ditch.

To Mr. and Mrs. Walters have been born eleven children, of whom eight are still living, namely: Alfred; Ella, wife of George Bull; Frank; Eva, wife of William Sheets; Charles, Millie, Ray and Wayne. The family attend the Methodist Episcopal church, of which the parents have long been members, and of which Mr. Walters is one of the trustees. Both Mr. and Mrs. Walters are active workers in this religious body, and fraternally Mr. Walters is a member of Lew Dailey Post, G. A. R., at Bluffton. In politics he is a Republican and does faithful work for his party whenever his assistance is required, but has never sought a reward of any kind. He is a gentleman of retiring habits and respected by all for his unswerving integrity, for his industrious attention to his own affairs and for his kindly and equable disposition.

HARVEY B. LANCASTER.

Harvey B. Lancaster, born February 17, 1864, one-half mile south of Keystone, Wells county, Indiana, is a son of Nathan Lancaster, a native of Indiana, born in November, 1836, and Mary Starr, born on the old Starr farm in Chester township, Wells county, Indiana, both of whom are yet living in Chester township. Nathan is a son of John and Ruth Lancaster, both natives of Ohio who settled in Grant county, Indiana, in an early day and later came to Wells county, Indiana, where John died in June, 1899. Ruth is yet living with a daughter, Mrs. Mollie Cox, in Hartford City, Indiana. Nathan Lancaster

is the father of seven children, four of whom are still living: L. G.; H. B., the subject of this sketch; Jennie, who is now the wife of G. A. Mason; J. E. Lancaster, deceased; M. E., deceased; and O. L. Lancaster, now at home with his father. The subject of this sketch attended the schools of Keystone in Chester township until he was sixteen years of age, when he entered the normal school of Bluffton, Indiana, in which he remained for three years. He then taught two terms of school in Chester township, at schools Nos. 3 and 4.

The subject remained with his father, working for his board, clothes, etc., until he was twenty-one years of age, when he began farming for himself. He spent one season on his grandfather Lancaster's farm and the next year, March 13, 1886, he married Miss Sarah Jarrett, born in November, 1866, a daughter of John and Mary (Sells) Jarrett. The parents of Sarah were both old settlers of Chester township, Wells county, and are now deceased. After his marriage the subject settled on the farm where he now lives, which was then all in the woods. At the time of his purchase there were no improvements whatever on his land, but he now has seventy acres of it cleared, in a high state of cultivation, and improved with good buildings. Mr. Lancaster has been a breeder of common-grade stock and, being located in the oil fields, has devoted some time to his interests in that line. There are two wells on his farm which are producing five inches (tank measure) per day.

Mrs. Lancaster is a member of the Friends' church in Keystone, and an amiable, intelligent Christian lady, devoted to her husband, home and children. The subject is a Republican in politics and an active

worker in the ranks of his party and especially interested in all matters politically pertaining to his own county and township. The foregoing record of the subject establishes the fact that the old pioneers and first settlers cannot appropriate all the credit for subduing the wilderness and clearing up the country, and proves that a worthy descendant of that class to whom the present population owes so much even of the third generation, after availing himself of the opportunities by obtaining an education, had the ambition, energy and force of character to carve out for himself a farm and home from the virgin forest. His achievement and success in that line, as well as his efforts to improve the live stock interests of his locality, with his intelligent interest in public affairs, should prove an inspiration to the young men of his vicinage to emulate his example in his aspiration to a higher citizenship. Such men as Harvey B. Lancaster are an honor to the state and wield an untold influence in moulding that higher commonwealth toward which we are tending.

WILLIAM H. RUPRIGHT.

Among the men of the northern part of Wells county who deserve special mention in this work is William H. Rupright, who was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, January 19, 1849, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Daugherty) Rupright, natives of Pennsylvania, where the paternal grandfather was also born, being of German extraction. The Daugherty family were of Irish origin and were among the pioneers of Ohio, where the parents of William H. Rupright were mar-

ried. Shortly afterward, in the fall of 1852, being in but indifferent circumstances, they came with their personal effects in the same wagon with another family to the eastern part of Jefferson township, Wells county, Indiana. They lived in an old barn until the father was able to secure eighty acres of land in Preble township, Adams county, and build a cabin. This was deep in the woods, but he was hopeful and industrious, and as the neighborhood began to develop he found plenty of work to do in clearing up his own place and in working as a carpenter, in which capacity he erected nearly all the frame dwellings in his vicinity. Though at first in debt for his land, he prospered and as he was able he added to his purchase until he now owns five hundred acres in Wells and Adams counties. During the Civil war he was an extensive buyer of horses, finding ready sale to the government at a reasonable profit. John Rupright and wife still live on their original farm in Adams county, where he is widely and favorably known as a man of sturdy integrity, whose advice is considered worth having by his fellow citizens, who repose the most implicit confidence in his experience and judgment. In politics he was a Democrat and served for some years in earlier life as county assessor of Adams county. In 1883 he was elected county commissioner, and, meeting with no opposition, at the expiration of his term, was unanimously re-elected, thus giving the public six years' service. The present court house and jail were erected under his watchful supervision, and many other important public improvements inaugurated.

Mrs. Rupright is a member of the Christian church, to the support of which Mr. Rupright is at least a liberal contributor, if

not a communicant. To them were born seven children: William H.; Granville W., who is one of the most extensive farmers in Adams county and is the present trustee of Preble township; Mary A., wife of Alexander White; Elizabeth, married to Samuel M. Kreigle; Susannah, wife of John W. Rex, of Decatur, Indiana; Matilda, now Mrs. F. J. Summers; and Ida, wife of Sylvester Mills, of Lancaster township.

William H. Rupright helped to clear up his father's farm and to perform such other duties as his strength and age permitted, though he was given the privileges of the common schools during the winter months. He remained on the home farm until twenty-one years old, being married August 11, 1870, to Miss Francina Archibold, a native of Jefferson township, and a daughter of Thomas Archibold. Mr. Rupright then assumed charge of the old homestead, also purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of swamp land, for which he went into debt. This he ditched, converting it into fine farming land. He added to this property until he owned five hundred acres, but this he eventually sold and purchased one hundred acres southeast of Ossian and several properties in the village itself.

To the marriage of Mr. Rupright and wife have been born five children, of whom one died in infancy and one at four years of age. The survivors are G. W.; Nellie, still at home; Lola M. was graduated from the Ossian high school in 1901 and is now the wife of Harry Beaty.

Mr. Rupright is one of the leading Democrats of Wells county, and for years has been retained on the county central committee of his party. He served as county commissioner for seven years, during which per-

iod the present court house was erected, three hundred miles of pike road constructed and an immense amount of public drainage done. He proved one of the most active and efficient commissioners Wells county has had and, like his father, was ever an advocate of such improvements as will not only enhance the money value of Wells county property, but make it a more desirable place of residence. In 1886 Mr. Rupright purchased a half interest in the Ossian Grist Mill and ran it for two years, when he sold out and returned to his farm. In 1895, however, he again came to Ossian and purchased the fine residence on Mill street which is the center of a generous hospitality. Mr. Rupright has been repeatedly called upon to administer important estates, an evidence of the confidence of his fellow citizens, and in every instance has ably and conscientiously executed the trust confided to him. He has devoted much of his time and attention to the buying and shipping of stock since 1875, and since 1895 has devoted his energies almost exclusively to this line of business, no man having a wider or warmer acquaintance and business relation in this particular sphere of action. He is a member and treasurer of Ossian Lodge No. 297, F. & A. M.

WILSON A. WOODWARD.

Among the prominent stockmen of Ossian and northern Wells county is found ex-postmaster Wilson A. Woodward, who was born in Jefferson township, August 2, 1866, and is a son of Abraham and Mary (Brickley) Woodward, natives of Trumbull county, Ohio, and who settled in Jefferson town-

ship in 1850, where the father purchased a farm and in time became an extensive agriculturist and stock breeder. They had ten children, who were born in the following order: An infant, deceased; Loretta, wife of George Wasson; Olive, deceased wife of William Beaty; Laura J., the present wife of the same gentleman; George T., a prosperous farmer in Jefferson township; Samantha E., wife of L. T. Fryback, of Warren, Indiana; William A., a thriving farmer and trader of Jefferson township; John W., a stockman of Ossian; Wilson A., and Allie, wife of Captain E. E. Derr.

Wilson A. Woodward was reared on his father's farm and acquired a good common school education. He remained with his father until he had attained his twenty-first year, at about which time he was united in marriage with Miss Luella Summers, also a native of Jefferson township and a daughter of William Summers, a respected farmer. For a few years Mr. and Mrs. Woodward resided on the farm, when they removed to Ossian, where he operated a grist-mill for a year and then opened a meat market, which he carried on for two years. Being a Democrat in politics, Mr. Woodward was appointed, during the second term of President Cleveland, postmaster, a position he filled with credit to himself and the entire satisfaction of the public for four years, during that same period being associated with A. B. Davis in the drug business. Retiring from this partnership at the expiration of his official term, Mr. Woodward associated himself with G. A. Morton and A. M. Gibson in buying and shipping live stock, in which business he is still engaged and with flattering success.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Woodward

are five children: Goldie, Garth, Dana, Forrest and Vada. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Ossian, and fraternally Mr. Woodward is a charter member of the Knights of Pythias lodge, of which he is a past chancellor and representative to the grand lodge. He is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, being a trustee of his lodge, as also of the insurance department of the Knights of the Maccabees. He is one of the most active men in his line in Wells county, is a good neighbor, a broad-minded and progressive citizen, and enjoys to the fullest extent the esteem of every member of the community in which he lives. His life has been one of untiring industry and his fortune is of his own making, and he is generally regarded as one of the more substantial citizens of Wells county.

CAPT. E. E. DERR.

Capt. E. E. Derr, of Ossian, is the son of H. B. and Clarinda Derr and was born in Wabash county, Indiana, September 30, 1866. The Derr family formerly lived in Pennsylvania, and are natives of that state. Years ago they migrated to Ohio and later to Indiana. They lived for a time in Wabash and Allen counties, eventually taking up their permanent residence in Wells county, though the greater part of the first six years of Capt. Derr's life was spent in Allen county. About the year 1872 the family moved to Wells county, locating at Ossian. Here he attended school, acquiring an education that has been most useful to him in his career of usefulness. Having passed through the high school with well earned

honors, he took up the profession of teaching and, although quite successful, his experience was such as to make the vocation distasteful to him for many reasons, not the least of which was the meager compensation granted for the enormous amount of work required. For eight years he worked in Nimmon's factory, becoming skillful in the work required of him and popular with his employers and his fellow workmen. Meanwhile he had acquired a knowledge of the barber's trade, and on June 5, 1886, he opened a barber shop at Ossian. In March, 1897, the individual who would predict that this country, in little more than a year, would be involved in war with one of the leading European powers, was liable to be brought before a commission of lunacy to have his sanity inquired into, and yet it must have been something in the nature of a prophecy that induced E. E. Derr, at that time, to organize a military company from among the young men of the town and surrounding country. He was made captain of the company, and when not actively engaged in the duties of his shop, devoted himself to the study of military tactics. The result was that, in February, 1898, when the battle ship "Maine" was treacherously destroyed in the harbor of Havana, and when the country from one extremity to the other was clamoring for war, Captain Derr, so far as drill and military discipline were concerned, had his company of vigorous, athletic youths on prime war footing. Most of the members of this company enlisted and were mustered into the United States service, May 12, 1898, as Company F, One Hundred and Sixtieth Indiana Regiment. As might have been expected, it proved to be one of the best behaved, best drilled, and most efficient com-

panies of volunteers that entered the service during the Spanish-American war. After a sojourn of some time in the South, the regiment was transferred to Cuba, where it did valiant service until the close of the war. It was mustered out at Savannah, Georgia, April 25, 1899. Returning to his home in Ossian, Captain Derr engaged for a time in the livery business at Warren, Indiana. Finding that calling not wholly to his taste, he embraced an opportunity of selling out and, returning to Ossian, resumed his old business of barber, in which calling he is now engaged and meeting with that degree of prosperity which his abilities, judgment and genial disposition so well deserve.

In 1890 Captain Derr was united in marriage to Miss Allie Woodward, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Woodward, and they are the parents of two sons, Dale and Russell, aged nine and six years respectively. Politically Captain Derr is a Republican, and on a number of occasions has been selected as a delegate to various county and state conventions. He has served two full terms as clerk and treasurer of his township. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to Ossian Lodge No. 297, and of the Scottish Rite Masons at Fort Wayne, Indiana. He is also a Knight of Pythias and a Knight of the Maccabees.

JOHN REX.

Among the oldest living representatives of the pioneer period in Wells county is John Rex, who has been an honored resident of this part of the state for over fifty-one years. Like many of the first settlers of the county,

he is of Ohio birth, his parents, William and Susan (Sluss) Rex, having moved to Stark county, that state, from Pennsylvania, early in the last century. Mr. Rex is of German descent and inherits many of the characteristics of an ancestry long noted for industry, thrift and a high sense of personal honor. He was born in Stark county on the 25th day of January, 1828, and at the age of sixteen accompanied his parents to the county of Seneca, where he grew to young manhood on a farm. The lack of proper school facilities prevented him from acquiring any educational training beyond a knowledge of the elementary branches, but a naturally bright mind and a desire for reading subsequently enabled him to make up for this deficiency. Young Rex assisted his father on the farm until reaching the years of manhood, when he severed home ties and engaged in farming upon his own responsibility. He began poor, but, with an inborn determination which hesitated at no obstacles, he resolutely faced the future, resolved to win success if it could be done by energy, hard work and well directed thrift. The better to enable him to fight this world's battles, he chose a companion and helpmeet in the person of Miss Abigail Love, of Tiffin, Ohio, to whom he was married April 12, 1849, and in September, 1850, reached Wells county, Indiana, settling on an eighty-acre tract of unimproved land in the township of Jefferson. He built a small log cabin and for several years experienced all the hardships and vicissitudes incident to life in the backwoods. Wild game of all kinds was plentiful and afforded the family an abundance of the choicest meats. Deer would frequently come close to the house and but little skill was required to kill one when it became necessary to replenish the larder.

Wild turkeys were also numerous, while smaller game, such as ducks, rabbits, squirrels, pheasants, quail, etc., were hardly worth the ammunition. Mr. and Mrs. Rex worked early and late, in the woods, felling trees, burning logs, and doing the hundred and one other things to fit the land for tillage. In due time he had sixty acres in cultivation and later added to his original purchase until he owned a quarter section, one-half of which lay across the line in the county of Adams. By industry and good management he made other additions from time to time, finally becoming the owner of three hundred and twenty acres, all of which is admirably situated and adapted for successful farming. Of this land Mr. Rex cleared and developed, something like one hundred and forty acres himself, a task of sufficient magnitude to test the strength and endurance of the most vigorous physique. In addition to cultivating the soil, he early turned his attention to the raising of live stock, and in this way realized more liberal returns than the income from his crops. Later he bought and shipped cattle for a time by the car load, which business also proved remunerative. As a farmer Mr. Rex always ranked with the first and as a business man he has few equals and no superiors among the agriculturists and stock dealers of Wells county. His judgment has seldom been at fault, and his fore-thought often enabled him to take advantage of circumstances which proved greatly to his financial advantage, without in the least compromising his honor or interfering in any way with the good of those with whom he dealt. In all of his transactions his course has been open and straightforward, and no shade of suspicion has ever attached to his good name.

In the year 1889 Mr. Rex left his farm and moved to the town of Ossian, where for one year he was associated with A. Moodward in the manufacture of flour. Shortly after remodeling the mill and installing the modern roller process, he purchased his partner's interest and continued the business as sole proprietor until Mellin Harsh became his associate in 1896. In January, 1903, he purchased his partner's interest, thus again becoming sole owner of the Rex Roller Mill, which has a capacity of sixty-five barrels of excellent flour. The mill is operated by an expert miller, a Mr. Kimbrook. Mr. Rex was also engaged in the hardware trade at Ossian for three years, with success and profit, selling his stock at the end of that time for the purpose of looking after his large agricultural and live stock interests. For the last year and a half he has been living in retirement, though still managing his business affairs, which, in addition to his farm of ninety acres, includes a large tile factory in west Ossian, operated by a skillful foreman, the demand exceeding the capacity.

Mr. Rex comes from an old Democratic family, but ever since old enough to cast a ballot he has been a pronounced Republican in his own political views. He has been active in the support of his principles and keeps himself informed upon the leading questions and issues of the day. He is never absent from an election when able to get to the polls and his influence has done much to strengthen the cause of the party in the township of his residence. In religion he subscribes to the United Brethren creed, of which body he has been an earnest and devoted member since early manhood. At this time he is steward and class leader of the Zion church, and for many years has been

one of the substantial and liberal supporters of the congregation.

Mr. and Mrs. Rex are the parents of four children, namely: Wilson, deceased at twenty-three years; Israel, a farmer of Jefferson township; John W., dealer in live stock at Decatur, and Susie, who was the wife of Ed. Numbers, of Texas, and died at the age of thirty-eight years. There are also twelve grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Few men in Jefferson township are as well known as "Uncle Johnny Rex," the name by which he is familiarly called. As a neighbor he is the soul of liberality and good fellowship, and as a citizen no man in the county stands higher in the esteem of the public. All who know him honor him for his many estimable traits of character and his friendship is most prized by those who meet him in the social circle around his own hospitable fireside. He has lived to a noble purpose, has made the world better by his presence and his example has been the means of influencing many young men to choose a proper course of life and conduct.

DR. A. H. METTS.

The practice of medicine in northeastern Indiana immediately succeeding the war of the Rebellion was by no means the lucrative and pleasant profession it has since grown to be. In the country districts especially the lot of the practicing physician and surgeon was particularly trying. Bad roads, a sparsely settled country, inclement weather and a class of patients whose financial condition precluded the possibility of their being liberal, or even just, to their conscientious

medical attendant, rendered the practice of medicine and surgery by no means the desirable calling it now is. Dr. A. H. Metts, of Ossian, Indiana, is the fifth son of James W. and Miranda (Sutton) Metts, and was born in Lancaster township, Wells county, December 18, 1837. The family consisted of nine children, one of whom is dead. Those living are: William, John I., Rev. M. S., A.H., Norvel, E. B., Mary E., wife of T. A. Doan, Druzilla, wife of Archibald Serepta. Dr. Metts spent the years of his boyhood and those of his early manhood on his father's farm. From early youth his devotion to duty and assiduity to every work undertaken gave promise of the useful and honorable life he has unselfishly devoted to ameliorating the condition of his fellow creatures. He attended the district schools to so good purpose that while still a youth he was granted a license to teach and for some time followed that calling in Allen and Adams counties. When he was twenty-three years of age he began the study of medicine with his brother, Dr. John I. Metts. He, however, had not progressed far in his medical studies, when they were interrupted by the excitement incident to the breaking out of the Rebellion. He enlisted in Company G, One Hundred and First Indiana Volunteers, and was given little time for military training before the practical part of a soldier's life was thrust upon him. With his regiment, he took part in many of the hottest and most decisive battles of the war. Besides numerous skirmishes and several less important battles, he was at Perryville, Kentucky, at the mill on Stone river, at Chattanooga and at Mission Ridge, where he was severely wounded and rendered incapable of further active service. Greatly to his regret, he was

obliged to accept of his discharge in the latter part of 1864. He returned to Ossian, but his physical condition did not admit of immediate resumption of his medical studies. When he did, however, it was with characteristic zeal and energy. He took a course at that leading technical institution, Rush Medical College, Chicago, and, returning to Ossian, began the practice of his profession in 1866, and has followed it uninterruptedly until a short time since, when he retired from active practice. He has a wide and merited reputation for his thorough and practical knowledge of medicine. His professional brethren are ever ready to avail themselves of his ability, and many an anxious parent, son, daughter, brother or sister has been greatly relieved when his advice is sought in consultation by their regular attendants.

In June, 1866, Dr. Metts was united in marriage to Miss Harriet Burne. One daughter, who died in infancy, was born to this marriage, and was not survived long by the mother, who died in 1868. The Doctor was subsequently married to Miss Jennie L. Swaim, daughter of Col. William Swaim, of the Thirty-fourth Regiment Indiana Volunteers, who had gone to the war as captain of Company A, which he organized, was made major and lieutenant-colonel, and in leading the regiment at Champion Hills was wounded, dying on the way home, near Memphis, on board a transport. The widow of Col. Swaim was, in her maidenhood, Miss Hannah Tog, a native of New Jersey, and she survived her husband until February, 1895. The family were three sons and a daughter, viz: James, a farmer of near Ossian; David H., editor of the Chronicle at Bluffton, and Thomas T., who was also associated with his brother in the publication

of the Chronicle at his death at the age of thirty-six years. The daughter, Mrs. Metts, was reared in Ossian, and for several years was engaged in the millinery trade.

Early in life Dr. Metts became a member of the Masonic fraternity, and he and Mrs. Metts are members of the chapter of the Eastern Star. He is also a member of William Swann Post, G. A. R., of which he is past commander. Mrs. Metts is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and she is highly respected for her work in charitable fields, and for her liberality and Christian zeal. Dr. Metts is a zealous Republican and has served as trustee of his township. His devotion to his profession has prevented his accepting or undertaking more responsible or exacting public position, and he has preferred to let less busy people devote themselves to political work. Despite his sixty-five years of active, strenuous life and his injury in the cause of the Union, he is still a well-preserved man, with unimpaired mental faculties. Had he engaged in a less trying and exacting profession he might have remained in the harness many years to come. May his declining years be all that the labors of his youth and middle age have richly earned for him.

JACOB FATSCHER.

The story of the life of Jacob Fatscher is an illustration of what may be accomplished in America by a man of German birth and parentage. After all, the great majority of us are creatures of our surroundings and environment. Had Jacob Fatscher been taught early in life that money

was made only to be spent, that industry was something to be practiced only when forced upon him by necessity, and that economy was something intended solely for the mean, parsimonious and miserly, the story of his life would be far different. Fortunate in the possession of parents conversant with the value of money, the necessity of close application in all business undertakings, and the essential truth that without industry success is doubtful, the lessons taught him were in themselves a most valuable capital with which to start out in life.

Jacob Fatscher was born July 8, 1850. When he was two years old his parents emigrated to America, landing in New York city and taking up their abode in Brooklyn. His father was a skilled merchant tailor, and so was not long in procuring employment at remunerative wages. Fully cognizant of the value of an education, he took particular care to see that his children attended school regularly. He was also energetic in fortifying himself with a knowledge of the language, habits, ways, customs and tastes of the people in the midst of whom he was destined to spend the remainder of his life. In 1865 he had accumulated sufficient capital, educational as well financial, to justify him in branching out in business for himself. His business steadily grew and before many years he was gratified to number among his patrons some of the very best people. Meanwhile the youthful Jacob had acquired a knowledge of the business. He entered his father's establishment, first as an apprentice, next as a workman and, disclosing such keen business foresight and thorough knowledge of the requirements of the calling, his father soon offered him a partnership,

which was readily accepted. In this way the business was conducted successfully until the parents died. Both parents were members and workers in the German Reform church and died in the faith of its teachings. The father was a man of many sterling qualities, provident and thrifty, who husbanded his means, was prudent in his investments and at his death left an estate valued at fifteen thousand dollars. They were the parents of three children, one of whom, Minnie, is dead. The others are Jacob and Maggie, who is the wife of George Schoener, of Brooklyn.

Remaining in Brooklyn after the death of his father in 1887 only long enough to wind up the affairs, Mr. Fatscher in 1889 emigrated westward with his family, taking up his residence at Ossian. He is the pioneer tailor, being the first to locate and conduct that business there. His business is most satisfactory and constantly growing. He has invested in property in the town and identified himself with all its various interests. In 1873 he was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Bauman, and they are the parents of four children: Henry, who is associated with his father in business; Mamie, who is the wife of Adam Turner; George, a blacksmith in Bluffton, and Augusta M., at home.

Mr. Fatscher is a member of the Knights of Pythias and of the endowment rank of the same order; he is past chancellor and has been a representative to the grand lodge. He is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the encampment at Bluffton, and represented the subordinate lodge in the grand lodge. Both he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church. In politics he is a straight Republican and at the present time holds the office of clerk of the town of Ossian. While fixed

in his political convictions, he does not aspire to official distinction. Personally he is a genial, affable, whole-souled man, a faithful husband, an indulgent father, kind friend, good neighbor and a liberal, patriotic citizen.

JOHN S. KREWSON.

The gentleman whose name heads these paragraphs is widely known as one of the honored citizens of Ossian, Indiana, where he has lived nearly all his life and for a number of years has been actively identified with the varied interests of the community. His efforts in the practical affairs of life, his capable management of his business interests and his sound judgment have brought to him prosperity, and his life demonstrates what may be accomplished by any man of energy and ambition who is not afraid to work and has the perseverance to continue his labors in the face of any discouragements which may seem to arise. In all the relations of life he has commanded the respect and confidence of those with whom he has been brought in contact, and a biographical history of Wells county would not be complete without a record of his career.

John S. Krewson, who for almost twenty years has occupied the position of notary public, is well known in the community, not only by reason of his professional services and the part he has taken in social and industrial affairs, but also because of his many excellent personal qualities. He was born in Sarahsville, Noble county, Ohio, on the 4th of March, 1846. In his veins there flows both German and Irish blood, one of his grandparents having been a German who

settled in New Jersey during the Revolutionary period, while the other was a native of Ireland. His parents, Simon and Margaret Krewson, with their three small children, Clarissa J., Thomas G. and John S., emigrated to Wells county, Indiana, in November, 1846, and settled in the woods on what was then called the Indian Reserve. A portion of this land still remains in the possession of the family and is known as the Krewson homestead. The mother with her small children spent the first two winters alone in their little cabin home, in the midst of the almost trackless forest, wild animals being their only visitors, while the father was employed at Fort Wayne, then a mere village. In the hope of bettering his condition he made two trips (1850 and 1853) to California, going each time by the way of New York, as the overland route was considered too dangerous because of Indians and the lack of means of conveyance. At the outbreak of the war of the Rebellion he enlisted in Company G, One Hundred and First Indiana Volunteer Regiment, and sacrificed his life on the altar of his country, as he died at Gallatin, Tennessee, in March, 1863, and was buried in the Southland. Shortly afterwards, however, his body was brought north and interred in Prospect cemetery, near his old home, where, on January 23, 1896, the wife and mother was laid to rest beside him. Upon his death she had nobly taken up the extra responsibility imposed upon her and bravely devoted her life and energies to the care and training of her children.

The subject of this sketch was in early youth surrounded by almost insurmountable difficulties, conditions that would have utterly discouraged one less determined than he. At the age of fifteen he was afflicted with white

swelling, which left its effects upon him throughout life. At the age of twenty he had so far recovered as to be able to obtain a partial education. His preliminary education was obtained at the Ossian public schools after which he attended the Methodist Episcopal College at Fort Wayne and at Oberlin, Ohio. He was of a studious disposition and made such progress that he was granted a license to teach, which profession he followed for eleven terms in one district, thus demonstrating his peculiar fitness for this most exacting of callings. Subsequently going to Kansas he served in the capacity of deputy county recorder, after which he clerked for a time in a store. He then became the proprietor of a general store in Ossian, but in 1894 disposed of this business and purchased a stock of furniture. He later disposed of this, also, and retired to a small farm adjoining Ossian on the north, where he resides, enjoying the rest and quiet which is the reward of his former activity. Though comparatively retired from active commercial pursuits, Mr. Krewson's disposition will not allow of his remaining entirely impassive. He is engaged in notarial work, including special work in preparing and adjusting evidence in pension claims, acting in conjunction with Todd & Todd, of Bluffton. He is at the head of a collection agency, is a dealer in real estate, a speculator in commercial paper, executor and administrator of many estates, and newspaper correspondent. He raises poultry, fine stock, fruits, berries and vegetables, finding pleasure and profit in thus getting in close touch with dame nature.

Mr. Krewson was united in marriage, in November, 1883, to Miss Mary E. Roe, the daughter of Ezekiel Roe, of near Ossian.

This union has been a congenial one and has been blessed by the birth of three children, Fern, a graduate of the Ossian high school and still remaining under the parental roof, and twin boys, dying in infancy. Mr. Krewson is an adherent of the Methodist Episcopal church and was secretary of the building committee when the new church and parsonage were erected. In politics he has always been a staunch Republican, but at the same time possesses strong and well-grounded convictions in favor of prohibition. He is ready at all times to lend his aid to the support of any measure designed to advance the moral or material prosperity of his town or county, as well as to promote the welfare of mankind in general. As a business man he has been successful, the result of his prudence, foresight, industry, natural business sagacity and his unswerving integrity.

JOHN I. METTS, M. D.

The searcher for data to be used in preparing a history of the Indiana school system and its educational institutions must go back to the original log cabin and trace the evolution through various stages to the imposing, commodious, well lighted, well ventilated structures that are now the pride of cities, towns, villages and rural districts. Such a history can never be properly written until full justice is done to a band of men who are seldom mentioned in connection with educational work, and yet who have done more to shape the public school system of Indiana than any other element. Reference is made to those humble officials, mercilessly criticized, scandalously abused, vilely vilified, the township trustees of the early days of this

commonwealth. An account of the grievances, difficulties and obstacles they had to encounter, surmount and overcome in the development of the schools would alone form a volume. A few of these old time trustees are still living, but they are content to let their work alone speak of the good that they have done. One of them is Dr. John I. Metts, of Ossian, Wells county. Few of these humble officials were under fire longer or acquitted themselves more creditably than did he. For twenty-one years he held the office of trustee in the township of Jefferson, at a time, nearly fifty years ago, when much was to be done and there was little to do with.

Dr. John I. Metts was born in Licking county, Ohio, June 16, 1832. His grandparents on both sides, became residents of Wells county and made it their home until their deaths. His grandfather was John C. Metts, who came to near Murray September 10, 1837, and there settled. The Doctor's maternal grandfather was Rev. Elijah Sutton, an old-school Baptist minister, and was one of the pioneer preachers through this section of the state. The Doctor's parents were James W. and Miranda (Sutton) Metts, who, September 10, 1837, moved the family from Licking county, Ohio, to Wells county, locating on government land just east of Murray. The only person then living in that section, and who still maintains his residence in the locality, was Jacob Haug. Such schools as were available in those early days were attended by the subject, and he improved his opportunities so well that at the age of seventeen he was enabled to begin teaching. His experience as a teacher covered a period of four winter terms. With the means thus secured he attended school in the Methodist College at Fort Wayne, and

then entered the office of Dr. Davis, at Murray, as a medical student, later taking a course of lectures at the Miami Medical College, Cincinnati. In the spring of 1855 he located at Ossian. At that time the greater part of Wells county was sparsely inhabited and the towns were only straggling hamlets, Ossian containing but a few cabins, which it were base flattery to call houses. The outlook was by no means promising for a young physician, but Dr. Metts felt himself equal to the emergency and determined to hang out his shingle. The entire Wabash valley, from the headwaters of the stream to where it empties into the Ohio, was notorious as the seat of billiousness, the home of fever and ague, and the later was the genuine old shaking kind at that. It is said that they had no use for the dentists in those times, for if teeth were to be extracted a well developed case of ague and two or three summary shakes of those times were sufficient to rattle out the finest and most deep rooted set of teeth that ever grew in the human jaw. Old settlers still residing along the Wabash assert, in all seriousness, that even the dogs have been known to shake with the disease. The treatment of malaria and malarial fevers was by no means as well understood then as it is now. The young physician, knowing the prevailing malady he would have to encounter, made the treatment a special study, with the result that he was soon able to break the most obstinate case, and eradicate the disease from the system. Before he had been in practice many months his services were in demand over a wide range of country. By frugality, economy and industry, he has accumulated a handsome competency, two hundred and eighty fertile acres of Wells county soil being owned by him, besides

which he is the possessor of much other desirable property and is interested in a number of promising investments. He has now partially retired from the more active practice of his profession, devoting more detailed attention to the conduct of his farm, upon which he has resided the greater part of the time.

June 18, 1859, Dr. Metts was united in marriage to Miss Nancy C. Cartright, the daughter of John and Margaret Cartright, who located in Wells county in 1852. She received a good education and for years had been a teacher in the Wells county schools. To them were born five children, three of whom are living. Josephine is the wife of D. A. Walmer, of Bluffton. She was a graduate of Fort Wayne College, and has taught in the country schools of Wells county and in the city schools of Ossian and Bluffton, Indiana, and Winfield, Kansas; J. W. is a graduate of the same college, taught school also, but relinquished the calling for the more remunerative, though more laborious, one of farming; Fred chose the profession of his father, graduated from the Fort Wayne Medical College and is now actively engaged in the practice at Ossian.

Dr. John I. Metts is a member of Ossian Lodge No. 297, F. & A. M., of which he was a charter member and for a time its worshipful master. He is a member of the Methodist church and has served almost continuously for forty years as one of its trustees.

It often occurs that men receive least credit for the best work done. It is so with Dr. Metts. He is a Republican and has been from the earliest days of the party; but this did not prevent his acquaintances, neighbors and friends from thrusting upon him the

office of township trustee as early as 1858 and retaining him in it for a period of twenty-one years, nineteen of these being continuous service. His experience as a teacher was valuable, making him cognizant of the crying needs of the early schools, his own sympathies being in full accord with the more progressive teachers. When he became trustee the school houses were mere hovels. He constantly strove for better conditions and though progress was slow he soon had able supporters and a better line of buildings was secured, more competent teachers employed, greater interest aroused on part of pupils and patrons and suitable foundation laid for the present advanced ideas of educational progress. Before leaving office he had the satisfaction of having given to the township a graded school, among the finest of such in the state and the very first in Wells county. This work alone is worthy of Dr. John I. Metts. The people of today do not fully realize the grandeur of the work, but the rising generation and those yet unborn will do justice to men like Dr. Metts, who endured criticism and abuse in their efforts to endow with learning the youths of their generation. Paying for every improvement as he went and never incurring debt without having the funds to pay it, he gave to Jefferson township a class of school buildings and class of schools that were unequaled in any other township in the county.

Possessed of a disposition quiet and unassuming, courteous and kind in every relation of life, nevertheless Dr. Metts is a man of great firmness and determination. He prizes the approbation of his fellow citizens, but, as is well attested by the salient features of his life, he will not sacrifice truth or honesty to secure popular approval. His recog-

nized probity and integrity have won for him that exalted esteem and confidence that mark him as one of the worthy builders and developers of this favored section of the state, his impress upon its civilization not only now being strongly apparent, but of that permanent nature as to have its molding force upon those generations who will live in the future and learn of the personality of such men only from the pages of such volumes as this.

SAMUEL M. KREIGH.

It is always pleasant and profitable to contemplate the career of a man who has made a success of life and won the honor and respect of his fellow citizens. Such is the record of the well-known farmer whose name heads this sketch, than whom a more whole-souled or popular man it would be difficult to find within the limits of the township where he has his home.

Samuel M. Kreigh, one of the prominent and influential residents and farmers of this township, was born to Samuel and Magdaline (Beck) Kreigh in Jefferson township, October 16, 1851. He is a descendant of a sturdy race of Germans, his father's family being native Pennsylvanians, while the mother was a native German, having come to Pennsylvania as a child. The Kreigh and Beck families lived as neighbors in Jefferson township and in the course of time their children grew to maturity; little playfellows became sweethearts and the marriage of Samuel Kreigh and Magdaline Beck was the culmination of many years of friend-

ship. The young couple first settled on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, where their family was reared, the husband becoming one of the first threshers of this part of Wells county. In 1881 his wife died and he later removed to Walkerville, Michigan, where he still lives at the advanced age of seventy-seven years. Their family consisted of eight children, five girls and three boys.

Samuel M. Kreigh was early employed in his father's saw-mill, soon learning the business and became head sawyer. Being closely confined to his post at the mill, his education was limited to about six years' study in the county schools, necessitating his learning his arithmetic after he had reached the mature age of twenty-one. His wages amounted to two dollars and a half a day and on this salary he ventured into matrimony, being married November 17, 1872, at the age of twenty-one, to Miss Elizabeth S. Rupright, a daughter of John Rupright and sister of W. H. Rupright. She was born September 20, 1865, and received a fair education in the common schools. Soon after his marriage Mr. Kreigh quit the mill business, which had been removed to Williamsport, and rented the old farm and settled down to the life of a tiller of the soil. He later bought forty acres of it and, inheriting forty acres more, began in a modest way to accumulate property. He has made many improvements on the place, building substantial structures and putting his farm on a plane with the best in the county. For fifteen years he operated a threshing machine and made most of his living in that way.

Of the subject's ten children, nine are

living: Albert A. married Alice Hoover and lives in Ossian; Estella E. is the wife of John Souards, of Lancaster township; Joseph Vernon is employed in the tile mill at Echo, Indiana; Wilson W. is teaching in the Jefferson township schools; Chancy C., Jerald Glenden, Ida A., Laura L. and Dale D. Mrs. Kreigh is a member of the Prebyterian church at Elhanan and has reared her children in that faith. Mr. Kreigh has served as supervisor of the township, and as a delegate to Democratic conventions. Being a genial, big-hearted man, he is able to sway the thoughts of his associates and his party is well cared for when her affairs are put into his hands. Mr. Kreigh suffered a great misfortune in the loss of his left hand, which was crushed in a corn husking machine some eight years since, the loss placing upon him a severe handicap in the conduct of his farming operations.

JOHN GLOCK.

With German blood flowing in our veins and German courage surging in our hearts, we are in no wise surprised that the American nation is coming to the front with a bound. The massive intellect of the German and his stoic determination, blended with the keener, finer perceptions of other races, has made of the Americans a people not to be surpassed, and of whom John Glock, of Jefferson township, Wells county, Indiana, is a typical representative.

John Glock, the son of Conrad and Rosena (Beck) Glock, first opened his eyes to the light of day in Jefferson county,

March 9, 1844. His father was a native of Wurtemberg, Germany, as was also his mother, both coming to this country with their parents when young. The Glock family settled in Jefferson township about 1838 and lived there until the death of the parents. The Glocks and Becks were neighbors in this new land and friendship soon grew into a stronger regard and Conrad Glock and Rosena Beck were soon married. They entered the farm, which is at present owned by their son, and began immediately to put it in condition for cultivation. When Conrad Glock first entered his land from the government it was nearly all under water and his friends laughed at the idea that it could ever be made to produce anything. However, he was not discouraged, but went to work with a will and soon had his land so well drained that it was made to produce some of the best crops in the country. He was a quiet, unassuming man, but nevertheless he was able to gather around him a host of friends. Six children were the result of the marriage of Conrad Glock and wife, viz: Fred, deceased; John; Eliza, the wife of J. M. Archibold; Martin, a resident of Roanoke, Indiana; Rose, the deceased wife of John M. Archibold, and Mary, the wife of William Schmitz, of Roanoke, Indiana.

The early life of John Glock was spent on his father's farm, where he remained until he was twenty-one years old. He received a common school education and afterward learned the plasterer's trade, which he followed for thirty years. In 1869 he married Miss Caroline Miller, who was of German descent, being born near Canton, Ohio, the daughter of Jacob Miller, of Allen county, Indiana. She had only a common education, having received her training in

the country schools. Their two daughters are Rose A., who is the wife of John Shuey and lives on a farm in this township; Florence E., the wife of Lewis Nicklas, of Fort Wayne, Indiana. John Glock started out in life as a poor man, but by his energy and thrift has gained a comfortable position in life, at the present time being the owner of the old homestead, eighty acres of fine farm land, five miles east of Ossian. He never received any help from his family and it is owing to good management and hard work that he enjoys comparative ease today.

Mr. Glock is a member of Ossian Lodge No. 719, I. O. O. F., being one of the charter members, and has filled every office in the lodge in successive order. In politics he is also active, being one of the substantial Democrats of Jefferson township. He is an influential member of his party and has been a member of Wells county central committee, also serving on several occasions as inspector on the board of election. He is not only well known in Jefferson township, but throughout Wells county, and he has a host of enthusiastic friends. He is prominent both politically and socially and, besides being a good neighbor and excellent citizen, is a man of much thought and intellect, enjoying the highest regards of the residents of the community in which he has spent his entire life.

WILLIAM P. TAYLOR.

There is no positive rule for achieving success, and yet in the life of the successful man there are always lessons which might well be followed. The man who gains prosperity is he who can see and

utilize the opportunities that come in his path. The essential conditions of human life are ever the same, the surroundings of individuals differing but slightly, and when one man passes another on the highway of life to reach the goal of prosperity before others who perhaps started out before him, it is because he has the power to use advantages which probably encompass the whole human race. Today among the prominent citizens and successful agriculturists of Jefferson township, Wells county, Indiana, stands William P. Taylor. The qualities of keen discrimination, sound judgment and executive ability enter very largely into his make-up and have been contributing elements to the material success which has come to him.

William P. Taylor is a native of the Buckeye state, having first seen the light of day November 21, 1859, in Mahoning county, Ohio. His parents were Levi D. and Keziah (Callahan) Taylor, and were well-known and highly respected people. Levi D. Taylor was born in Pennsylvania on the 29th of June, 1823, and on the paternal side was descended from English ancestry. In 1832 he accompanied his parents upon their emigration to Mahoning county, Ohio, where they settled upon a farm. Upon the home Levi D. spent his youth and was early inured to the hard and incessant toil incident to a frontier farm in an early day. He attended the common schools of the neighborhood and acquired a fair training in the ordinary branches of learning. He loyally remained upon the home farm, assisting his father until he had attained his majority, when he learned the carriage and wagonmaker's trade, fol-

lowing that occupation until 1861. In that year he sold his business and also disposed of a farm which he owned, and came to Wells county, Indiana, purchasing a farm in Jefferson township, one and a half miles south of Ossian. He remained upon this place until 1892, when he removed to the town of Ossian where he has since made his home, being retired from active participation in business. By the exercise of sound judgment in all his business transactions, he has accumulated a plentiful share of this world's goods and is now enabled to live in comparative ease in the enjoyment of the fruit of his former toil. Throughout his life Levi D. Taylor has borne a well-merited reputation for honor and probity of character, and has been at all times deeply interested in the material and moral welfare of the communities with which he has been identified.

Mr. Taylor has been twice married, his first companion, whom he wedded in Ohio, died in this county, July 26, 1882, after having borne him three children, mentioned as follows: Mary is the wife of W. J. McAfee and resides in Ft. Wayne; Enoch M. married Ella Newhart and resides in Union township, and William P. For his second wife Mr. Taylor wedded Miss Lizzie Cunningham, of Lordstown, Ohio, but no children have been born to this union. Levi D. Taylor was progressive in the fullest sense of the term, and among other enterprises with which he was identified was the erection of the first grist-mill at Ossian and he also assisted largely in the erection of the First Presbyterian church of that place. In politics he is a stalwart and uncompromising Republican, but has never taken an active part in the

campaign work of his party. From his childhood he has been a member of the Presbyterian church and has been faithful and consistent in the performance of his religious duties.

William P. Taylor was a lad of but two years when brought by his parents to Jefferson township and his youthful years were spent upon the parental homestead. He was early initiated into the mysteries of agriculture and upon starting out in life for himself chose that occupation for his life pursuit. In the graded schools of Ossian he gained a good training and at the time of attaining his majority was fairly well equipped mentally for his life career. Desiring to commence operations in as favorable a location as possible, he went on a trip through the west looking for a suitable place, but at the end of a year returned to the old farm in Jefferson township. His attention has been almost entirely devoted to agriculture, that most honorable of all employments, and by the exercise of those splendid qualities with which he was endowed he has been fairly successful in his calling. Starting out comparatively empty handed, he now possesses a splendid farm of eighty acres, besides an interest in the homestead. He is thoroughly in touch with modern ideas touching the care of the soil, rotation of crops, etc., and that he gives careful attention to the details of his business is indicated to even the casual observer by the splendid condition of his property and the abundant harvests which reward his efforts.

Mr. Taylor has been twice married, his first companion being Miss Rachael Hoover, the daughter of Levi Hoover, a

prominent farmer and stock raiser of Jefferson township. This lady died after a three years' union, and for his second wife Mr. Taylor chose Miss Hattie Quackenbush, the daughter of Peter Quackenbush, of Jefferson township, the marriage occurring December 24, 1889. To this union have been born two daughters, Ethel L. and Bertha M.

Mr. Quackenbush was born and reared in New York city and as a young man came to Trumbull county, Ohio, coming to Wells county in 1887, and secured land from the government. He was married in Allen county in 1855 to Miss Mariah McLaughlin and both are still living, aged eighty-three and sixty-nine years respectively, on the farm that he had improved from the wilderness. His parents, William and Mary Quackenbush, had spent their last years with him, his mother's death being the last to occur in the family, the circle, consisting of the parents and two children, not being broken for nearly forty years. All but one of the children are married and all reside within an hour's drive of the old home. Twenty-two grandchildren are living to honor their ancestors.

Politically Mr. Taylor is affiliated with the Republican party, believing the principles embodied in that platform to be those most conducive to the best interests of the American people. He takes a deep interest in the general trend of public events, but does not aspire to public office of any nature. Mrs. Taylor is an active and consistent member of the Christian (or Disciples) church, of which society he is a liberal supporter. Mr. Taylor is an unassuming man, yet he wields a quiet

but strong influence in his community on the side of right living and for all that tends to promote the best interests of his neighbors. He is widely known and by all is esteemed for his genuine worth.

GEORGE W. LECHNER.

Among the prominent citizens and thriving farmers of Wells county, Indiana, is George W. Lechner, who was born in Stark county, Ohio, October 27, 1847, a son of Jeremiah and Pollie (Chapman) Lechner, the former of whom was a native of Germany and was brought to America in 1834 by his parents, who settled in Stark county, Ohio, where Jeremiah Lechner was reared to manhood on a farm. He there married Pollie Chapman, who was born in Pennsylvania, of English descent. He was a carpenter by trade, but made agriculture his calling, and followed the two lines of business in conjunction until his death, which occurred in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, at the age of seventy-one years.

The family of Jeremiah and Pollie (Chapman) Lechner comprised four children, namely: John M., who lost his life in defense of his country's flag in 1863, and whose remains were interred in the national burying ground at Nashville, Tennessee; George W.; Elizabeth, wife of Asa King, a prominent farmer in Allen county, Indiana, and Joseph who died in childhood.

George W. Lechner was but four years of age when, in 1851, he was brought from Ohio to Indiana by his parents, who lo-

cated in Allen county, where the mother died two years later. George W. was then taken in charge by his maternal grandfather, George Chapman, and reared by him in Allen county, Indiana, and was educated in the district schools primarily, later entering Ft. Wayne College, where he was an industrious student and supplemented his school training by self instruction. When his mother died the three children were all taken by the grandparents, where all grew to maturity and from where John entered the service. Jeremiah Lechner returned to Ohio and resided in Tuscarawas county until his death. He resided in Allen county for a period of about seven years.

At the age of nineteen George W. Lechner was qualified as a teacher, and entered the schoolroom as such, continuing to follow that profession for thirteen years in Allen and Wells county.

December 25, 1870, George W. Lechner was united in marriage with Miss Sarah J. Gibson, daughter of John and Deborah (Cartwright) Gibson, of Allen county, where they settled in 1854 when she was two years old. The family are John A., who was graduated from the Ossian high school in 1890, has himself taught three terms in Wells county and has his home under the parental roof; Nellie D., wife of A. E. Springer, a farmer in Allen county, Indiana; Bertha, married to Charles Kreigh, a store keeper at Echo, Indiana, and Arthur F.

Mr. Lechner is a Freemason in his fraternal relations and is a member of the lodge at Ossian, while his religious connection is with the Little River Christian church. In politics he has been an active

Democrat ever since he was entitled to exercise his franchise, has always been popular with his party, and has served as a member of the Wells county Democratic central committee from Jefferson township for many years. In 1902 he was nominated for county commissioner, and was triumphantly elected, and his tenure of office has been most satisfactory up to the present time. He is an earnest advocate of public improvements, believing that good roads, good schools and comfortable county buildings are essential factors in the advancement of a community.

Mr. Lechner, although he began life in comparatively poor circumstances, has through his own unaided efforts become independent, now owning one hundred and sixty-five acres of productive land in Wells and Allen counties, the greater part of which is under a high state of cultivation. The esteem of his fellow-citizens is altogether due to his personal merits, and certainly no family in Jefferson township is more sincerely honored than that of George W. Lechner.

LEWIS F. SNYDER.

In the respect that is accorded to men who have fought their own way to success through unfavorable environments we find an unconscious recognition of the intrinsic worth of a character which not only can endure so rough a test, but gain new strength in the fire of discipline. The gentleman to whom the biographer now calls the reader's attention was unfavored by fortune, for both inherited wealth and the assistance of influential friends were denied him, but in spite

of these discouragements, by perseverance, industry and wise economy, he has attained a comfortable station in life.

Lewis F. Snyder, one of the prominent farmers and residents of Jefferson township, Wells county, Indiana, is a son of Henry and Mariah (Fertie) Snyder. He claims Allen county, Indiana, as his birth place and first saw the light of day February 23, 1849. The Snyder family were natives of Germany, where the grandfather, John Snyder, was born and reared. He came to America with a party of friends and settled in Pennsylvania, where he married Elizabeth McDannel, of Scotland. John Snyder and family came to Jefferson township in 1839, improved a farm and both died at the home of a son-in-law in Allen county, aged eighty-three and sixty-eight years respectively.

Henry Snyder learned the cabinetmaker's trade in Ohio, where he worked until he came to Wells county in 1837. He settled in the northern part of Jefferson township and again took up his trade. He afterward returned to Ohio, where he remained but a short time, and returning to Allen county, Indiana, he purchased a farm in 1842 and began the life of an agriculturalist. He lived on this farm for some years and then went to Elkhart county, Indiana, where he died in 1883. He was one of the best farmers in Allen county, but adverse circumstances caused him to lose heavily and he died as he had started, a poor man. He was the parent of ten children, of whom Lewis was the seventh.

Lewis F. Snyder was the youngest boy in a large family and at the age of seven, owing to the death of his mother, was put out among strangers to make his own way, living with four families, mainly with Caleb Prible

of Allen county, until past fifteen. Then he was two years with his father. At the age of about seventeen, his father's family being broken up, Lewis was thrown entirely upon himself and worked at farm work in Allen county until the winter of 1867, when he was again with his father, who had married again and was living in Wells county. In the spring of 1868 he went to Iowa, spending three years in that state at farm labor. In 1871 he and his brother Charles went to California, spending that season at farm labor, and joined a prospecting tour with a Los Angeles party to Arizona. After eight months thus spent he was left with nothing, having lost all his savings. The two left for Nevada with all they had left, a pack horse, where he made about one thousand dollars within ten months, working in a quartz mill. Again fortune smiled and after an absence of two and one-half years he returned to Allen and Wells counties in 1873. In 1875 he settled on a farm in Jefferson township, and in 1894 purchased his present farm of one hundred and twenty acres, three and one-half miles northeast of Ossian. He has made extensive improvements, now having a large and imposing residence and suitable out-buildings. He has laid upwards of two thousand rods of tile, and his farm is now considered one of the most desirable in the township. He also owns other rental property in the vicinity.

Mr. Snyder was married to Miss Mary A. Caston, a resident of Wells county and a farmer's daughter. Seven children were born to them, one of whom, Celia J., is married, being the wife of John Shultz. The others are Harland V., Dora A., Leary L., Dollie, Chloe Ann, and Charley, who died in 1881, aged fifteen months. Mr. Snyder is one of

the substantial Republicans of Wells county and Jefferson township, but has never taken a very prominent part in political affairs. He is an intelligent and trustworthy man and one of the best citizens of the county.

EZEKIEL ROE.

It is generally considered by those in the habit of superficial thinking that the history of so called great men only is worthy of preservation and that little merit exists among the masses to call forth the praises of the historian or the cheers and appreciation of mankind. A greater mistake was never made. No man is great in all things and very few are great in many things. Many by a lucky stroke achieve lasting fame, who before that had no reputation beyond the limits of their communities. It is not a history of the lucky stroke that is of the most benefit to humanity, but the long study and effort which made the lucky stroke possible. That which serves as a guide for the success of others is the preliminary work, the method, and it is that which should be praised and commended by the historian. Among those in this county whose success was achieved along steady lines of action is the subject of this memoir.

Ezekiel Roe, one of the oldest and most prominent settlers of Jefferson township, was born in Fayette county, Ohio, May 3, 1823, his parents being Ezekiel and Elizabeth (Funk) Roe. The grandfather of the subject was a native of Ireland. The father and mother of the

subject were both born in Pennsylvania, and there grew to maturity. Eventually they were married and walked to Indiana, where they lived for several years. Finally becoming tired of frontier life, they returned to Fayette county, Ohio, and took up their residence.

It was on this farm in Randolph county, Indiana, that the subject, Ezekiel Roe, was reared. The scenes of rural life became familiar to him and it is small wonder that he followed the life to which he had been born. His education was received in the subscription school, which was held in an old log building, totally devoid of even the semblance of comfort. The seats were benches hewed from logs, unplanned and minus the backs; each student took care of his books, which consisted of a slate, spelling book and arithmetic, by placing them on the bench beside him during the day and at night piling them up on the common desk around the wall. This common desk, or rather shelf, for it was no more than a shelf held to the wall by large pegs, was known to the students by the dignified name of "writer's bench," and, armed with a quill pen and a copy book, each scholar laboriously fashioned the letters as the teacher dictated each day. Despite such disadvantages, young Ezekiel stored his brain with much useful knowledge, which served him well in after years. He worked on the farm until he was of age, and then was hired by his father for a year at seven dollars per month. After working for his father for a year, he began to hire himself out to other farmers, receiving as a compensation for his labors the paltry sum of seven and nine dollars per month. Even with so small a salary, he was able to lay

aside some money and in time invested his earnings in an eighty-acre tract of land, which he entered in Union township, Wells county, Indiana, and which is now owned by John A. Walker.

On the 4th of July, 1852, Mr. Roe was united in marriage with Miss Catherine Puterbaugh, a daughter of Jacob and Rebecca Puterbaugh, of Elkhart county, Indiana. Mrs. Roe was born in Elkhart county, her parents having moved from Darke county, Ohio, at an early date. The father died in Elkhart county and the mother and young daughter were left to face the world alone. The mother did not long survive her husband and at the age of six years Catherine was left an orphan. She was then taken by an older brother, who reared her. Her opportunities being limited, she was forced to neglect her education and at a tender age, just when other girls were being anxiously cared for by fond mothers, she went out into the world to make her way. This she did by working by the week, receiving but seventy-five cents per week, and was able even with so meager a compensation to eventually save thirty-two dollars by the time she was married. Shortly after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Roe moved to a farm in the woods of Union township, where the young husband set to work to clear enough ground to enable him to make a living. In 1859, after he had succeeded in clearing his land until it was in good condition for cultivation, he sold his farm and bought one hundred and sixty acres of uncleared land one-half mile north of Ossian. This land he improved and here he reared his family until, one by one, the birds left the nest, and now only the parents are left in the old home. Eight

children, seven of whom are living, were born to them: Addison died at the age of eighteen years; Andrew is a farmer in Jefferson township; Mary is the wife of J. S. Krewson; Maggie is the wife of Allison Bowman; Arthur F. is a farmer of Jefferson township; Anna is the wife of Joel Hunter; Ama is the wife of D. C. Gorrell, and Hampton is a merchant of Ossian, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Roe are members of the German Baptist church and are active in church work. His entire life has been spent in active work and politics has for many years opened an avenue for this activity. The Democratic party has always profited by the subject's political efforts and he is counted by the party as one of its most faithful followers. Mr. and Mrs. Roe are among the best citizens of Jefferson township, where they have resided most of their lives. They are a worthy couple, and no fitter compliment can be paid them than that given by their neighbors, who join in bestowing upon them their highest praise.

NICHOLAS W. SHORTS.

One of the respected of the younger generations of Jefferson township is Nicholas W. Shorts, the present township trustee, who was born in Lucas county, Ohio, May 19, 1855, and is a son of Hubert and Mary M. (Luther) Shorts. The father was born in Metz, Alsace, France, but to avoid service in the army of Louis Napoleon he turned his eyes toward the republic of America, coming hither in 1843.

Hubert Shorts was a pianomaker by

trade and had worked as a journeyman for four years prior to coming to America, but on arriving in this country engaged in farming. On the breaking out of the war with Mexico, Mr. Shorts enlisted in the Fifteenth Regiment, United States Volunteers, and served under Gen. Zachary Taylor until the war closed, when he was honorably discharged, with a pension of twenty-four dollars per month on account of disabilities sustained. He then settled in Ohio and learned the stonecutter's trade. He was married at Clyde, Sandusky county, Ohio, his bride being a native of that state, but of French parentage. In politics Hubert Shorts was a Democrat and in religion was a Catholic and in this faith he was called away at the age of sixty-five. Hubert Shorts and wife were blessed with ten children, of whom two died in infancy. The survivors all live in Ohio with the exception of Nicholas W. and a sister who has residence in Allen county.

Nicholas W. Shorts was educated in the schools of his native village and began his business life in a general country store, whence he went into a slack barrel factory, in which he worked until he was twenty years of age. He then, in 1875, came to Indiana and lived in Allen county until 1886, when he came to Wells county to make his home. He was married in Allen county, April 26, 1877, to Miss Mary A. Kreigh, daughter of Samuel Kreigh, a pioneer and now residing at Walkerville, Michigan. She was born in Jefferson township, Wells county. Being in but indifferent circumstances at the date of his marriage, Mr. Shorts went to work in a saw-mill and succeeded in accumulating a

little money, and was then appointed a mail-carrier on a star route, which position he held for three years. When he settled in Wells county he began farming, but subsequently sold his farm in Jefferson township and, in November, 1901, purchased his present farm of eighty-five acres, one and a half miles northeast of Ossian. Here he has since conducted general farming and has devoted considerable attention also to stock raising, in which he has been very successful, and his farm is one of the most productive, according to its size in the township. He has improved it with all modern conveniences and it presents an attractive appearance to the passer-by or the welcomed guest, yet its chief interest lies in the products reaped from its well tilled fields. To Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas W. Shorts have been born six children, of whom one died in infancy, the survivors being Zulu, wife of D. B. Davidson, who lives in Jefferson township, Earl, Fern, Hilma and Mary.

Mr. and Mrs. Shorts are members of the Elhanan Presbyterian church, in which he is an elder. Fraternally he is a Knight of Pythias and politically he is a Democrat. He was elected trustee of Jefferson township in 1900 and has since filled the position with great credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of the community. Jefferson township has thirteen school houses, with eighteen teachers, six being in the township graded school at Ossian. All the houses are brick, one being erected by Mr. Shorts in district No. 1, at a cost of three thousand dollars and includes all modern conveniences. He is giving special attention to the betterment of the roads, the township

now having twenty-one miles graveled and turned over to the county and five miles in process of construction.

Mr. Shorts is a quiet, unassuming gentleman, but is public spirited, and ever ready to aid with his means all improvements conducive to the comfort and welfare of his fellow citizens, by whom he and family are held in the utmost esteem.

JOHN D. DETTMER.

There is nothing that interests one more than to observe how different men begin and continue the duties of life. Hesitation marks the beginning of some and every obstacle which they encounter seems to them insurmountable. Others begin boldly, but after a time some defect in execution stamps them as unfit for the task to which they have set themselves. Others, again, commence with a steady grasp of the situation and show by their subsequent accomplishments that they have mastered the problem of life; to this latter class always comes success, and they are the men who leave behind them good names and large properties honorably won in life's battles.

Of the old citizens and residents of Jefferson township, Wells county, Indiana, none are more respected than John D. Dettmer, who was born to John D. and Sophia (Bachman) Dettmer, in Germany, August 15, 1823. The Dettmer family were farmers in their native land and their son was given a thorough training in farm work before he came to America. He attended the common schools of his mother

country until he was fourteen years old, having succeeded in that time in obtaining a fair education, and at this age he began to work out by the year, receiving six dollars per year and his clothes. Later his wages were increased to eight dollars and he continued to work in this way until his salary amounted to eighteen dollars per year. When he was twenty-eight years old he concluded to come to America and try his fortune in the new land. He reached New York in September, 1851, and soon obtained employment on a dairy farm. He stayed on this farm for five months, receiving twenty dollars per month as a remuneration for his labors. Later he left the dairy farm and again found employment as a farm hand in New York at nineteen dollars per month, working for such wages for fifteen years. In March, 1855, he married Miss Mary Englehart, who was also born in Germany and came to America in 1852. After his marriage he worked by the month and saved a considerable amount of his wages. In 1867 he came to Wells county, after having saved fourteen hundred dollars, which he immediately converted into farm land where he now lives, part of which was then in the woods. He cleared and improved his property, adding to it until he owned two hundred and twenty acres of fine farm land, all of which he made himself. Of this he now has one hundred and four acres in the home farm, three miles northwest of Ossian; the remainder he gave to his son, John E. Dettmer, who now has a very desirable farm. Four girls and one son were born to him and his wife: Mary, wife of Leonard Springer; Anna, wife of Charles Larman; Julia, de-



JOHN D. DETTMER AND WIFE.

ceased; Maggie, wife of Andy Springer, and John E., the only son, who was born in Orange county, New York, married Ida Maky and has eight children.

St. Mark's German Lutheran church of Allen county enrolls the Dettmer family among its members and more faithful workers she can not boast. Mr. Dettmer has been trustee and elder and discharged his duties honorably and to the entire satisfaction of the congregation. His political allegiance has always been given to the Republican party, which has been much benefited by his ardent work. With him politics comes second only to religion and he can always be found actively engaged in political work when his party is in need of his assistance. He is known as an honest, genial citizen with whom it is a pleasure to have business dealings, and he is held in the highest respect by the residents of Jefferson township.

JOHN NIRITER.

When the eyes of a child open here on earth for the first time, it would require a very potent spirit of prophecy to predict where, upon the face of the earth, it will be when the time comes for it to close its eyes in death. The subject of this sketch, John Niriter, was born in Hesse, Germany, September 21, 1827. At that time nearly every one of his ancestors for perhaps twenty generations had been born, lived and died in that country and there seemed little doubt, at that time, that the life of the infant would be spent very much as had been spent the lives of

nearly all of his predecessors. But fate had a far less monotonous career in store for him, which began to develop when the lad was but seven years old.

The parents of John Niriter were George and Elizabeth (Pepler) Niriter. Nine years of the life of George Niriter had been spent as a soldier, fighting the battles of people in whom he had little if any interest. The latter part of the eighteenth and early part of the nineteenth century were fertile and prolific of wars. It includes the period of our own Revolution, the French Revolution, the Napoleonic wars, our second encounter with England and numerous other minor events of sanguinary strife. During the fifty years included in this period the world seemed to think of nothing but war and bloodshed. Rulers appeared to think that men were made for no other purpose than to bleed and die in the settlement of trivial grievances of state. It was the misfortune of George Niriter, the father of the subject, to live during this period and to be obliged to take part in much of the strife. Part of the time of his military life was spent in the ranks of the legions who fought under Napoleon. During the peace which followed the decisive battle of Waterloo, he returned to his home with purpose of marrying and settling down to domestic happiness. He married Elizabeth Pepler, went to housekeeping and reared a family. But the spirit of adventure that had been bred within him during the wars could not be suppressed though he fought against it valiantly. He finally decided to move his family, which then consisted of a wife and five children, to America and seek his fortune in the new republic. Ac-

cordingly, in 1834, they crossed the ocean and without much delay penetrated into the middle of the wilderness, locating in Allen county, Indiana, near Ft. Wayne. There was very little in the place then to indicate that it would ever be a city. John Niriter, although but seven years old at the time, well remembers that the town then consisted of three stores, a few mean looking dwellings, a log jail and a small court house that, judging from its appearance, few would accuse of being a temple of justice. At that time the Wabash & Erie canal was in course of construction and most of the early settlers availed themselves of the opportunity of making a little ready money by working on the canal. George Niriter had a wife and seven children to support, hence, although an ex-soldier of Napoleon, he was not above wielding a shovel and pick in the interest of the inmates of his home. He continued in the work, making fair wages, until he had saved enough to purchase forty acres of land nine miles south of Ft. Wayne. On it he built a cabin in which to live and had partially cleared it when he got an opportunity of selling out, which he did, and with the proceeds bought one hundred and sixty acres of land farther out. This he cleared, improved and occupied until his death. He and his wife were the parents of six children, only one of whom was born in America. Of these only three, Jonathan, Hartman and John, now survive, the latter the only one who resides in Wells county.

John Niriter was a small boy when his father located in Fort Wayne. He had never attended a school in his native land, and Indiana had not at that time acquired

a reputation as an educational center. Occasionally a term of school was held at Ft. Wayne, but the diffident and backward children of George Niriter did not get over their timidity at the strangeness of the new country until they had moved away from the little town. Hence the education of the children was limited, but they were apt and intelligent and made up in observation, experience and common sense what was denied them in book learning.

When John Niriter was twelve years old he was taken by Hartman Smith, a farmer of Wells county and a friend of the Niriter family. He remained in the family of Mr. Smith until he was twenty-one years of age when, as a part of his wages, he was given forty acres of land situated in Jefferson township, which now constitutes a part of his present farm. On this tract only four acres were then cleared, but it has been added to until the farm now comprises one hundred two and a half acres and is as well improved as any tract of land in the vicinity.

In 1857, when he was thirty years of age, John Niriter was united in marriage to Miss Caroline Rapp. She lived only long enough to present him with two children, both of whom are still living, married and enjoying domestic happiness of their own. They are Rosa, wife of Walter Clark, and Charles, who married Lizzie Keigh. The second wife of Mr. Niriter was Miss Ellen Ferguson, daughter of Thomas Ferguson, and they were united in marriage October 20, 1870. She was born in Jefferson township, March 23, 1840. Her father had settled on that farm in 1838, coming from Canada, though a

native of Scotland. He was married at Ft. Wayne to Jennette Youie, a native of Glasgow, Scotland. Two children have also been born to this marriage of the subject: Andrew J., who married Miss Margaret Woodside and resides on the old farm, and his two children, Florence and an infant; and Jeanette, a student of education in Ft. Wayne.

In politics John Niriter is a Democrat and, while a believer in the Democratic doctrine of "a tariff for revenue only," he is by no means one of those who take part in politics "for revenue only." The only public office he ever filled was that of road supervisor for two terms, and even that was not sought but thrust upon him. In religion he and wife are Presbyterians, belonging to the church at Elhanan, and liberally contributing to the support of that denomination. In Jefferson township the greater part of the life of John Niriter has been spent and there the people know him as an honest, upright citizen, a man whose word is never questioned. Here he is spending his declining years in ease and comfort, having accumulated enough to keep him far above want. As to the land of his nativity, he knows little and cares less. Every interest that he has is centered here in America and no doubt when his final summons comes it will find him here and ready.

FREDERICK RAPP.

Reared in the earlier days, when schools were few and an uncleared farm stared the settler in the face, it is little

wonder that the majority of our pioneers had little time for school or books. But after the woodland had been converted into fields of waving grain and the little family had grown away from the grinding hardships of early life, then it was that the father set himself assiduously to work to rectify the neglect of his boyhood and in most cases he succeeded beyond his expectations. Frederick Rapp was born to Frederick and Rosanna Rapp in Wurtemberg, Germany, August 21, 1839. The Rapp family came to America and settled in Erie county, New York, where the father bought forty acres of land. Later he sold this and in 1853 brought his wife and children to Jefferson township, where he took one hundred acres of land in section 1, which was partially cleared. He and his family lived on this farm until the death of the parents. Mr. Rapp was a quiet, unassuming man, who had a good education in German and believed that each man could take care of his own business better than could his neighbor. Acting on this principle, he won many friends, whom he was able to assist with his advice. Eight children were the fruits of this union, four of whom are now living.

Frederick Rapp was reared in Germany, in New York and in Indiana. At an early age he helped clear their farm and later to cultivate it. His attendance at school was irregular, owing to the necessity of his being at work in the fields, his early education being thus much neglected. He remained beneath his father's roof until after he was twenty-one, having farmed the place for a few years. Miss Sarah Stites became his wife January 22, 1869. She was born to Peter and Chris-

tena (Hickler) Stites in Summit county, Ohio, March 12, 1844, and came with her parents to Wells county when she was a young girl. Four children blessed their union, namely: Effie A., Edna A., deceased, Jennie L., and Maud Pearl, deceased. Both Effie and Jennie were given the best advantages of the county schools and are living at home. Sometime after his marriage Mr. Rapp purchased eighty acres and established a home where he has since resided. He and wife and family are members of Bethlehem Evangelical church, the father being a trustee of the church, while the daughter, Miss Jennie, is the present organist, which position she has held for several years. In politics Mr. Rapp is a Republican, though before the war he voted with the Democratic party. The family are well and favorably known in this part of Wells county and have the highest esteem of their acquaintances and neighbors.

LUDWIG MYERS.

To the ranks of the noble and useful belongs the subject of this sketch, Ludwig Myers. Reared on the frontier, without the advantages of a fine education, he has come to the front, not with the blare of the trumpets of fame, but with the milder tones of genuine nobility. Ludwig Myers, one of the old residents of Jefferson township, Wells county, Indiana, is a son of Christian V. and Elizabeth (Leibrandt) Myers and was born in Seneca county, Ohio, April 13, 1836. He is of sturdy German descent, both parents having been born in the old country. Christian Myers

was reared in Germany and came to America after he had reached manhood. He had a thorough knowledge of German and Latin, having been educated for the ministry, but he had no heart in his calling and later learned the cooper's trade, at which he worked until 1830, when he came to America. He first brought his wife and little family to Ohio and settled in Seneca county on a small farm, where he lived until 1838, when he came to Wells county, Indiana, and entered land from the government. This land lies in section 6, range 13, and at the time of his entering it it was covered with timber. The neighbors were few and lived miles away and the family lived a lonely life in their new home. He cleared his land with the aid of his boys, who were left to do most of the work, while their father worked at his trade. By hard work the family managed to get on in the world and as time passed really came to love the isolation of their life. The children had excellent home training and the family grew to be one of affluence. The father was a member of the Albright Evangelical church. To Christian and Elizabeth Myers were born seven children, only one of whom, Ludwig, lives in Wells county.

Ludwig Myers was reared on his father's farm and attended the subscription schools, thus getting a limited, but practical education. He was given all the advantages which the limitations of the country would permit and made the best of his means. Although his knowledge of books was not very extensive, he was thoroughly versed in the ways of farm life and knew just how to clear the land and make rails. At this he was an expert,

but mechanical work had more fascination for him and he learned the cabinetmaker's trade in Noble county, devoting himself to carpentering after the death of his father in 1855.

December 15, 1859, Mr. Myers was married to Miss Agnes Ferguson, daughter of James and Eliza (Hume) Ferguson, who was born near Quebec, Canada, February 23, 1838. When she was three months old she came to Indiana with her parents, who first settled in Fort Wayne, and later, in 1840, moved to Jefferson township, Wells county, Indiana, where they lived until their deaths. She received her early training in the subscription and common schools and had sufficient education to teach one term. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Myers went onto the home farm, but in May, 1869, they moved to their present farm, which was only partially cleared. He has made some improvements, run ditches and by dint of hard work has made of his one hundred acres one of the model farms of the township. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Myers, five of whom are living: William, though farming near by, is still at home; Charley, who is married to Josephine Morton and operates the old home farm, has four children, Forrest Ludwig, Charles Everett, Cora Agnes and Opal May. Luella is the wife of Charles Ball and lives in Fort Wayne; Edna, wife of Richard Morton, also lives in Fort Wayne, and Edith is the wife of Joseph Steinbacher. In political issues Mr. Myers has always voted independently in local affairs, but in national affairs he is a Republican. Mr. and Mrs. Myers are old and respected residents of Jefferson township, where

they have spent most of their lives, and, being members of the Presbyterian church at Elhanan, are much esteemed,

JOHN M. SPRINGER.

A native of Germany, born January 27, 1828, John M. Springer is now one of the prosperous farmers and prominent citizens of Jefferson township. He is a son of George L. and Maria C. (Mince) Springer, who were agriculturists, although he was also a blacksmith. They were the parents of six children, who in order of birth were named as follows: George L., John M., George M., Christina Barbara and Catherine, of whom Catherine is the wife of Conrad Theely and lives in Allen county, Indiana.

John M. Springer received a fair education in his native land and there also learned the weaver's trade, at which he worked as a journeyman three years, serving, like all German young men, the required six years in the regular army. In 1858 he came to America and reached Pleasant township in June. He was ten dollars in debt, and worked at any thing he could find to do for four years, when he resumed his trade of weaver. August 1, 1858, he married Miss Eva M. Fuchsluber, who was also born in Germany and came to Wells county with her parents in 1831. To secure his marriage license Mr. Springer was compelled to borrow money, which he paid from his earnings at the looms. He now owns two hundred and ninety-four acres in Allen and Wells counties, worth at least twenty thousand dol-

lars, and thus presents another instance of what industry and persistent effort can accomplish under free institutions and by men who have a will of their own and ordinary intelligence.

To John M. and Eva M. Springer have been born six children, of whom two died young, the survivors being Frederick, who is a farmer in Jefferson township and is married to Margaret Springer; Daniel, who is married to Rosa Laringler and lives in Allen county; Maria, wife of Henry Helsmael, of Fort Wayne, and David, who is still at home. Mr. Springer is a devout and consistent member of the Lutheran church in Pleasant township, is an elder and has held some offices of more or less importance in the church for the past forty years. He takes no active part in political affairs, but his proclivities are decidedly Democratic. He has never felt any ambition to hold public office, but has devoted himself to the industrial pursuits which have resulted in placing him in the foremost rank of the agriculturists of Wells county and in making him one of its most substantial citizens. Although Mr. Springer never thrusts himself forward as an intermeddler in public affairs, he is public spirited and is ever ready to aid financially in promoting such public improvements as will conduce to the benefit of all his neighbors, by whom he is held in the highest possible esteem. His farm, while one of the largest, is also one of the best cultivated and one of the best improved in Wells county and is the pride of the neighborhood. Mr. Springer has led a straightforward and industrious life and has ever had in view some useful purpose. Frivolities have never had a charm for

him, though he is a good natured gentleman, a genial companion and a charitable, open-handed, open-hearted citizen, and well deserves the high respect in which he is held by old and young, rich and poor.

JOHN C. DEAM.

Prominent among the farmers and citizens of Jefferson township is John C. Deam, son of James and Ruth (McDowell) Deam, who was born on a farm one mile south of Ossian July 9, 1847. James Deam was a descendant of John A. Deam, who was a pioneer settler in Harrison township, Wells county, in 1836. He was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, in 1820 and came to Wells county when he was but sixteen years old. He lived on the old farm with his father until 1844, when he was married. His father gave him one hundred and sixty acres of land in Wells county which he had entered from the government and to this home he brought his bride. He built a log cabin, cleared a small patch and entered upon the life of a frontiersman. On this farm he lived until his death, in 1883. At that time he owned four hundred and twenty acres of land, besides considerable other property, as he was a natural financier. He was an active man in public affairs and ever ready to promote all public improvements. He cast his vote with the Democratic party and was a staunch supporter of its platform. Both he and his wife were members of the Presbyterian church. Mrs. Deam lived but two years after the demise of her husband, her death occurring in 1885. They were the parents of

nine children: Elizabeth, John C., Catherine, Belle, George, Mary, Emma, Adam and Madison.

John C. Deam attended the county schools and assisted his father until he was twenty-three years old. September 1, 1870, he became the husband of Miss Amanda Beardsley, who was the daughter of Calvin and Elizabeth (Wilch) Beardsley, and was born in Bluffton, Indiana, July 8, 1853. Her education was received in the graded schools and for some time she was a teacher in the schools of Jefferson township. Her father, a wagonmaker by trade, served during the Civil war in the Seventy-fifth Indiana Regiment.

Mr. Deam started with but forty acres of land, but by careful management and industry he has added one hundred and sixty more acres to his farm. Most of his money was made from hogs, they being his principle source of income. Mr. and Mrs. Deam are the parents of nine children, eight of whom are living: Grace is the wife of Bert Archbold; Lulu, the wife of A. Wilson Hoopengartner, was a teacher in the Wells county schools for eight years; Warner graduated from the Ossian high school, taught for a time and was sergeant of Company F, One Hundred and Sixtieth Indiana Regiment, during the Spanish-American war. At present he holds a responsible position with a telephone company in the South; Charles was a corporal in the same company and is now at home assisting in the operation of his father's farm; Marion, a graduate of the Ossian high school, is teaching in an adjoining district; Augusta, who graduated from the Ossian high school with the class of 1902; Areta and Hugh. They

are members of the Presbyterian church at Ossian, both Mr. and Mrs. Deam being workers in the church and exerting a healthy influence upon their associates.

Politically Mr. Deam is a Democrat and has always been an active worker in his party, serving it as committeeman and delegate to conventions, and holds the respect and confidence of his associates to a high degree. Mr. and Mrs. Deam are among the progressive and influential people of Jefferson township and take a prominent part in both the social and political affairs of this community. They are excellent neighbors and superior citizens, being held in the highest esteem by all within a wide circle of acquaintances.

GEORGE R. NEVIUS.

George R. Nevius, son of James and Nancy (McClelland) Nevius, was born in Lewisburg, Greenbrier county, Virginia (now West Virginia), December 22, 1842. James Nevius was a native of Rockbridge county, Virginia, but was of New Jersey parentage, the family having settled in Virginia in an early day where his father was a slaveholder and by trade a blacksmith. He died in the Old Dominion in 1840, his widow surviving him for ten years. In 1842 James Nevius removed to Charleston, West Virginia, where he was employed at his trade of blacksmith. He was a man of great physical strength and for a number of years was accustomed to work nineteen hours per day. He was of the strictest integrity and for half a century was a member of the Presbyterian

church, in the faith of which he died in 1882. His family numbered nine children, of whom five are still living, George R. being the only resident of Wells county.

George R. Nevius was educated in the military school at Charlottesville, Virginia, after an attendance in an academy at Washington Court House, Ohio. In 1861 he came to southern Indiana and September 23, 1862, enlisted at Brookville in the First Indiana Cavalry and fought in the Missouri campaigns under Gens. Fremont and Curtis. He was a true soldier, never shirking his duty, and took part in all the marches, skirmishes and battles in which his regiment was engaged, his service expiring while stationed at Helena, Arkansas. On his discharge, in 1864, he located in Franklin county, Indiana, where he was engaged in farming for a short time and then for two years was a grain dealer at Oxford, Ohio, and then embarked in the same business at New Castle, Indiana, where he had an extensive trade.

In 1869 Mr. Nevius came to Greenwood, Wells county, and conducted a lucrative lumber trade until 1896, operating a saw-mill here for nearly thirty years. Mr. Nevius was united in marriage December 24, 1863, with Miss Emma Murphy, of Franklin county, Indiana, and to this union four children have been born, namely: Ida, who is the wife of C. W. Eastman, of Winchester, Indiana; Burton B., the present marshal of Huntington, Indiana; Minnie, wife of Woodson Archbold, and James D., who is a fireman on the Erie railroad.

George R. Nevius held allegiance for many years to the Republican party,

though exercising his own common sense and right to think for himself, he decided, in 1896, to support the Democratic party, though he today is what may be termed an independent. He is plain and straightforward in expressing his views and is thus termed a plain-spoken man; but what he says is based upon sound, logical reasoning. He judges for himself and is willing to grant the same privilege to everybody else, but never indulges a sense of animosity on account of a difference in honest convictions.

THOMAS W. ARCHBOLD.

It is always pleasant and profitable to contemplate the career of a man who has made a success of life and won the honor and respect of his fellow citizens. Such is the record of the well known farmer whose name heads this sketch, than whom a more whole-souled or popular man it would be hard to find within the limits of the township in which he resides. He is one of the old settlers of Jefferson township, Wells county, Indiana, and was born to Joseph and Elwyla (Van Horn) Archbold, in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, October 4, 1834. The Archbold family are of Irish descent, the grandfather, Patrick Archbold, having been born and reared in that country. In early manhood he emigrated to America, the Mecca for all expanding young life, and settled in Harrison county, Ohio, where he met and married Miss Francina McClain, a fellow country-woman. Becoming dissatisfied with his life in Ohio, he brought his wife to

Jefferson township, Indiana, in the spring of 1848, remaining here until his death at upwards of eighty years old. Joseph Archbold had come to Jefferson township in October, 1847, just one year before the emigration of his father, and entered land in section thirty and immediately began to improve it, residing there until his death. He had always been a hard working man and it was owing to his industry that during his life he was able to accumulate a comfortable fortune, being the possessor of one hundred and fifty-two acres of fine farm land. He was a Presbyterian of strict belief and died in the faith which in life he had supported. His children numbered fourteen, nine daughters and five sons, namely: Isaac, Patrick, William J., Thomas W., Rachael, Lucinda and Malinda (twins), Francina, Lucina, Catharine, Elizabeth, Ellen and Barbara. Barbara was the most fortunate member of this large family of children. Being the youngest, she was able to obtain many educational advantages which were denied the others and it was through the efforts of her brother, Thomas, that her education was cared for. For some time she followed the vocation of teaching with success and always looked to her brother who had been the means of obtaining for her the advantage of an education, as her best friend and guide. She is now the wife of John Engle.

Thomas W. Archbold was reared on his father's farm and, owing to a large family of which he was one of the eldest, he received almost no education. In those days the older boys were kept at home clearing the farm and tending the crops in order that the family might ex-

ist in the great wilderness and he was no exception to the rule for he kept steadily at work on the home place, carefully nurturing his longing for the knowledge that had been denied him, until he was twenty-six years old, when he took a short term with M. C. Blue as teacher and later entered the Roanoke Academy, where he attended three terms, getting a sufficient education to enable him to teach in the common schools of Wells county. He continued to teach in the Jefferson township schools for ten years.

March 14, 1867, Mr. Archbold was married to Miss Matilda C. Miller, daughter of Henry and Nancy (Kunkel) Miller. Mrs. Archbold was born in Crawford county, Ohio, in 1850 and had received a common school education. They were the parents of seven children: Alonzo H., resides at Markle, Indiana; Nancy, wife of N. Q. Hildenbrand; Lydia, wife of Charles Crowel; Clayton, William, Stella and Clifton.

Mr. Archbold was poor when he married, having only a small farm of one hundred and twenty acres which he sold and later purchased the old Johnson farm two and one-half miles south of Ossian where he now resides. His advancement was due not to a lucky stroke of fickle fortune, but by his own untiring efforts and his determination to win. He was a teamster for one year during the Civil war. In the early days he had been a great hunter and trapper in Wells county, especially along the Eight Mile. He is a most moral man and, while not a church worker, having never united with any denomination, yet he commends all good works be they of a religious or secular nature. In political

affairs he has ever been identified with the Democratic party, being an active and ardent worker for the cause, although never having been an office seeker. He was at one time a member of the Wells county central committee and has also served on the election board for twenty-five years. He is not only well and favorably known in Jefferson township but throughout Wells county. He is known as a man of unimpeachable honor and integrity, honest motives and intelligence. He is one of the best citizens of the county and enjoys the highest regards of his acquaintances.

EVAN L. CHALFANT.

This prominent and widely known young agriculturist, journalist and teacher, is now considered one of the most prosperous and successful farmers in Jefferson township. He was born in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, March 22, 1859, and the first eight years of his life were spent amongst the hills and streams of that state. In 1867 he came with his parents, James and Amanda H. (Barber) Chalfant, to Wells county, Indiana. After completing the common school studies, and some of the higher branches in the Ossian graded schools, he began to teach, which occupation he followed in Wells county for nineteen years, meantime being engaged in his father's saw-mill and being familiar with all departments, especially that of head sawyer. He then settled down to what he considers his life occupation, farming. He takes great interest

in this, his chosen calling, reads many farm journals and books on agricultural subjects and is also a contributor to several farm papers. At the present time he is chairman of the Wells County Farmers' Institute Association. He is also a justice of the peace, having been elected the second time to that position as the nominee of the Republican party.

In the month of May, 1886, Evan L. Chalfant was united in marriage to Miss Flora E. Benedict, daughter of Luther and Julia Benedict, and who also for eleven years had been a teacher in the public schools. They have one child, Beth E. Mr. Chalfant and wife are members of the Kingsland Presbyterian church, of which he is an elder and trustee, clerk of the session and secretary of the congregation. They are both likewise teachers in the Sunday school, of which he was superintendent for some years, Mrs. Chalfant of the primary class and he of the young ladies' Bible class. Of fraternal orders Mr. Chalfant is a member of the Uniondale Lodge, K. P., and of the Ossian Lodge K. O. T. M.

Mr. and Mrs. Chalfant mingle with the best people of Jefferson township and Wells county, by whom they are greatly esteemed and with whom his graphic and trenchant pen wields a potent influence. His habits of close observation and his retentive memory are valuable aids in the preparation of his numerous contributions to the press. These articles are read with interest by all on account of lucidity of expression and valuable information which they impart to the reader and seeker after agricultural knowledge, and are also widely quoted.

WILLIAM G. ARCHBOLD.

Among the prominent farmers of Jefferson township, Wells county, Indiana, is William G. Archbold, who was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, July 6, 1839, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Gibson) Archbold, who came respectively from Ohio and Pennsylvania families. They were married in Tuscarawas county, coming subsequently to Indiana and locating in Adams county, where John Archbold purchased two hundred and five acres of wild land, which he partially cleared and to a great extent improved, but later removed to Decatur, Indiana, where they passed the remainder of their days.

William G. Archbold was reared on the farm on which his parents settled and was well trained in the details of agriculture, though his opportunities for a scholastic training were somewhat meager. Nevertheless he acquired a sufficient knowledge of books to qualify him for a good position in society and for the understanding of everything that books could impart touching his calling and the current events of the day as recorded by the press.

Mr. Archbold was first married, in 1863, to Miss Elmira Ruby, a native of Ohio, but who was early brought to Indiana by her parents. To this union were born two children, namely: James W., who married Minnie Mills, and lives in Union township, and Mary E., now the wife of A. E. Ormsby, of Union township, and has four children living, Ralph, Argus, Brice and Dale. The second marriage of Mr. Archbold was with Mary C. Sommers, born in Adams county, May 9, 1843, who has borne him three children, viz: David A., who is married to Grace Deam, daughter of John C. and Amanda

(Beadsley) Deam, and has one son, Lawrence, who assists his father in operating the farm; Sylvester, who died in infancy, and Ioda, who is still with her parents. The parents of Mrs. Mary C. (Sommers) Archbold removed from Adams county to Allen county, Indiana, whence they came to Wells county, and here the father died at Ossian in 1898, his death being greatly deplored by all who knew him.

Mr. Archbold in his political affiliations is a Democrat, but he has never been a strong partisan, much less an office seeker. He started in life poor, and has made all he has by indomitable persistence and skill. His farm is one of the best of its size in Jefferson township and everything about it denotes thrift, enterprise and good management. All or nearly all the improvements on the place have been made by himself, and all are of the most modern and substantial character. He is widely and favorably known throughout his township and is recognized as a public-spirited and liberal-hearted gentleman, ready at all times to promote every project designed for the good of the public. He is one of the best of neighbors, his name being synonymous with truth, fidelity and charity.

ARTHUR F. ROE.

The world bows to the young and enthusiastic; humanity is swayed by their dictations. It is the young man who moves the world forward and places each succeeding decade of her history on a higher pedestal than she has ever before occupied; it is the young man who causes the older generation to wonder at the

present and the present to stand in awe of the more glorious future. His environments make this possible, for as each generation nears the meridian, and then the close of life, the burden of the world's destiny is shifted, almost unconsciously, from their shoulders to those of the succeeding generation, which takes up the march and steadily proceeds to a higher goal. Of the present progressive generation, Jefferson township can boast no better than Arthur F. Roe, who is the son of Ezekiel and Catharine (Puderbaugh) Roe. He was born in Jefferson township, April 9, 1862, and was reared on the old Roe farm, one half mile north of Ossian. His early education was received in the graded schools of Ossian, after leaving which he began to teach. He taught his first term at Lancaster Center, and at the same time studying the Latin course of the Ossian high school, from which he graduated with the class of 1882. In 1884 he entered the Methodist Episcopal College at Fort Wayne, after having taught two more terms at Lancaster Center. He graduated in the literary course from that institution in 1886. After spending one year in the West on account of health he returned to Wells county in 1887 and learned telegraphy at Ossian during the fall and winter of that year. He was given charge of the office of the Lake Erie & Western Railroad, at Hamilton, Indiana, for one year, when he was transferred to Ossian. After retaining this position three years he accepted the office of the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad at Decatur, Indiana, and after nearly a year there was transferred to Wayland, Michigan, at which place he was stationed

three years. He resigned this position in April, 1893, and, in company with John S. Krewson and N. W. Newman, opened a general stock of merchandise at Ossian. H. O. Stine then became a partner, Krewson and Newman retiring after the first year, and two years later he sold his interest to E. H. Roe, the firm becoming Roe Brothers, whose department store is justly considered the leading mercantile establishment of this thriving little city. Roe Brothers carry a stock valued at about four thousand dollars, in departments devoted to dry goods, notions, boots and shoes and groceries, and do an annual business of fifteen thousand dollars. In the fall of 1897, owing to a delicate state of health, Mr. Roe bought the old William Somer's farm, one-half mile south and one half mile east of Ossian, where he finds congenial employment in the attention demanded by the many details of a successfully conducted farm.

Mr. Roe was married April 28, 1886, to Miss May Stine, the daughter of William and Nancy (Spence) Stine. She was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, April 21, 1863, receiving her education in the Ossian high schools, from which she graduated in 1882. She then taught in the district and high schools for three years. Both husband and wife are members of the Presbyterian church, in which he has been an elder for several years. He is also superintendent of the Sunday school, of which he has had charge for nearly thirteen years, and takes commendable pride in the schools, ranking with any in the county. To this couple five children were born, namely: Opal, a student in the freshman class of the Ossian high school;

Harold, Orin, Mary and Helen. In politics, although reared a Democrat, he has given his own support to the Republicans, being one of the most active and enthusiastic workers of the party in Jefferson township, being one of the precinct committeemen of the township. He also served one term as councilman of Ossian just after its incorporation, in which position he earnestly advocated such public improvements as would benefit the community. He is a man of intelligence, is an excellent citizen, a good neighbor and enjoys the highest esteem of his acquaintances.

WILLIAM EHRET.

To the pioneer let us offer due credit, especially to the pioneer farmer, who cleared the wilderness and suffered the many privations of frontier life. The subject of this sketch is one of these, having come to this country with his parents when a babe, helping to clear his father's land when a young man and assisting in the growth of the community until interrupted by the call of his country, which he faithfully served for three years. Having discharged his duty as a soldier, he again took up the laborious work of developing his community and how well he has fulfilled his charge let this sketch proclaim. William Ehret was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, March 30, 1826. His parents were Simon and Catherine (Miller) Ehret, and sprang from a sturdy race of ancestors whose strength and courage have been transmitted to the present generation. Simon Ehret was born, reared and married in Germany, where he served his apprentice-

ship at the blacksmith's trade. He came to America in 1829 and joined the German community at Zoar, Tuscarawas county, Ohio. He remained there, working at his trade nine years, going next to Chillicothe, Ohio, where for five years he worked at the anvil. He then returned to Bolivar, but later moved to Canal Fulton, Ohio. In the spring of 1848 he brought his family to Wells county and purchased eighty acres of land in section 23, Jefferson township, where he established a rude home in the woods. As the country was new the Ehrets were obliged, until their own cabin could be erected, to move into the house of a neighbor, Jake Burns, where they remained for five weeks. He had decided to ply his trade even in the wilderness and for that purpose erected a shop, working as a smith while William, his son, did the clearing.

William Ehret was then twenty-two years old and was a man of rugged appearance. He was a rail splitter of no mean repute and held his own at the log rollings in the neighborhood. He continued to work on his father's farm until 1857, when he was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Niblick, of Adams county, and established a home of his own. His wife was ten years his junior, having been born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, in 1836. At the age of nine months she was brought to Adams county by her parents, Robert and Syden Niblick.

While Mr. Ehret was thus getting a start in life, our country was tottering between freedom and slavery, and, imbued with patriotism, he felt that he was needed in the defense of Old Glory, and, leaving his young wife and four children, he offered his services and enlisted in Company G, One Hundred and First Indiana Regiment, under Captain

Trusedale, being mustered into service at Indianapolis, in August, 1862. He served three years and was mustered out in July, 1865. The regiment left for the South soon after its organization and was soon in active service, the first engagement being at the battle of Perryville, Kentucky. He also participated in battles at Hartsville, Milton, Hoover's Gap, Tullahoma, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Missionary Ridge, Graysville, Ringgold, Tunnel Hill, Rocky Face Ridge, Dalton, Resaca, Adairsville, Cassville, Aukworth, Picket Mills, New Hope Church, Big Shanty, Culp's Farm, Lost Mountain, Pine Mountain, Marietta, Kenesaw Mountain, Smyrna, Peach Tree Creek, Chattahoochee River, Atlanta, Ezra Church, Utoy Creek and Jonesboro. He was in Sherman's march to the sea, at Savannah, Ebenezer Church, Barnwell Court House, through the Carolinas, Fayetteville, Averysboro, Bentonville and Smithfield. During his service Mr. Ehret was confined in the hospital two nights and a day, besides being obliged to spend a short time in the convalescent camp. He had many narrow escapes, and for his services receives a pension of twelve dollars per month. After an absence of three years from his family he returned home and resumed life on the farm, where he has continued to reside. He has become a farmer and stock raiser of some note. He is a lover of fine stock and in his county is an authority on good horses, having bred several fine animals which took premiums at the county fairs held in Wells and adjoining counties. In politics he has always voted with the Democratic party and in his younger days was an active and ardent worker in his party. As a member of the Grand Army of the Republic he is popular with his comrades

in the William Swaim Post at Ossian, Indiana.

Mr. and Mrs. Ehret are highly respected in Jefferson township, where they have spent all their married life. They are the parents of fourteen children, eight of whom are living. They are good neighbors, excellent citizens and are held in high esteem by all who know them. They are Presbyterians in faith, being members of the church at Elhanan, and are much respected by their associates. Mr. Ehret is a whole-souled, genial man and is so known far and wide in Wells county, while his wife also has the love and respect of all.

MARTIN HECKLEY.

The present solid prosperity enjoyed in this country may be attributed largely to her pioneers. In the days of her maidenhood, when the only welcome tendered a stranger was a wilderness, those who settled here had little to encourage them and much to discourage them in their enormous undertaking. But the sturdy settlers came not only with the determination to succeed, but to succeed honestly, and worked persistently until, late in life, they became prosperous and honorable citizens of their locality.

Martin Heckley, who is one of Jefferson township's prominent and prosperous farmers, was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, September 15, 1836. He was the son of Martin and Mary (Beck) Heckley, poor but respected German citizens. As a boy he attended the schools of Germany and, while his education was not polished,

yet it was sufficient to enable him to make his way in the world without much difficulty. When he was seventeen years old he was apprenticed as a ropemaker, at which trade he worked until he came to America, in 1855, at the age of nineteen.

He came directly to Jefferson township and for some time made his home with his uncle, Mathias Beck. At the time of his arrival in Wells county he was indebted to his uncle to the amount of seventy dollars, which had been sent him for the purpose of defraying the expense of his passage to America, and being of an energetic disposition he immediately went to work to repay this money. He worked fourteen months for his uncle in order to discharge his indebtedness and when freed from this load hired himself out to a farmer for a period of five years, receiving one hundred and twenty-five dollars per year as a remuneration. During that time he managed to save five hundred and twenty-five dollars and, after sending twenty-five dollars to his people in Germany, he bought eighty acres of woodland, his present homestead, which he proceeded at once to clear and improve.

In 1861 Mr. Heckley was united in marriage with Miss Eliza Moyer and took her immediately to the new home in the woods. This house was later remodeled and is the present home of the family. He is now the possessor of three hundred and sixty-five acres of as fine land as the county affords, it being divided into six farms estimated to be worth about twenty thousand dollars. In March, 1889, his first wife died and he was again married, September 16, 1891, to Mrs. Eugenia McDowell, who

was born in Bluffton, Indiana, in April, 1858. His first wife bore him seven children; Malinda, wife of Dan Miller; Mary, wife of Jacob Shoe; John married Clara Kleineigh; Sam, the husband of Zoe Judd; Rosa, wife of Charles Isnogle; Martin, Jr., married to Agnes Hunt; and Frank, whose wife was Catherine Judd.

Mr. and Mrs. Heckley are both highly respected church members, he being a member of the Presbyterian faith, while the wife is enrolled with the United Brethren. They are active and enthusiastic church workers and are depended upon by their fellow workers in all church affairs. Mrs. Heckley is also a member of the Order of Eastern Star, in which institution she is quite prominent. Mr. Heckley has all his life voted the Democratic ticket. The Heckleys are well respected citizens of Wells county, where they have a host of acquaintances, and their influence, which has been felt by friends and strangers alike, can be said to be uplifting.

Mr. Heckley's home is pleasantly situated four and one-half miles east of Ossian and its doors are ever open in genial hospitality to rich and poor alike. Mr. Heckley never forgetting the days of his own struggles and privations when the kind words and welcome of others were highly appreciated.

WILLIAM F. KLEINKNIGHT.

Of German descent, William F. Kleinknight was born in Reading, Pennsylvania, February 28, 1830, but is now one of the

prominent farmers of Jefferson township, Wells county, Indiana. His parents were John M. and Anna (Isenhart) Kleinknight, the former of whom, a native of Wurtemberg, Germany, was born October 24, 1794, and the latter, a native of the same country, was born in 1788. These parents were married in Pennsylvania and were in but indifferent circumstances as far as the goods of this world were concerned, although there existed a legendary rumor in an early day that one or both had been left a small legacy. John M. Kleinknight received an excellent education in his native land. He was reared to the blacksmith's trade, was a man of prudence and from his savings paid his passage to the United States about the year 1819, but on the way over, a fellow passenger, a young lady, Miss Anna Isenhart, was taken sick, and in her fate Mr. Kleinknight became greatly interested. His attentions to this young lady created a warm friendship between the two which culminated in a still warmer feeling, of the nature of which the reader will readily surmise. On the arrival of their gallant bark at Baltimore, Maryland, Mr. Kleinknight found employment at his trade and Miss Isenhart secured a position as a domestic in one of the German families of the Monumental city and for some time the young lovers became separated, but were finally restored to each other and about 1821 were united in marriage. For a few years the young couple continued to reside in Baltimore and then changed from place to place until Mr. Kleinknight purchased a small piece of land in Middletown, a hamlet lying between Galion and Crestline, Ohio, where he built a shop and followed his trade until 1849, in the spring of which year, in company with Michael Kunkel, of whom further

mention will be made, he came to Wells county, Indiana, and entered a tract of land in section 31, Jefferson township, one-half mile north of Tocsin. These gentlemen then returned to Crawford county, Ohio, where they liquidated their debts, disposed of their various interests and came back to the wilds of Jefferson township, Wells county, Indiana.

On reaching Wells county, Mr. Kleinknight had a capital of about two hundred and seventy-five dollars in cash, realized from his earnings when he lived in Ohio, and from this amount he invested one hundred and twenty in land in Jefferson township. In the fall of 1849 he loaded up his household goods in two covered wagons, of which one team belonged to himself and the other was hired. To the east of the point of destination was a large swamp, but, nothing discouraged, the party made a long detour to the south and in a roundabout way eventually reached the new home. As no preparation had been made here for their shelter, they were hospitably welcomed to the neighborhood by David Myers, who opened the door of his one-roomed cabin and entertained them until they could prepare a patch of land on which to erect a cabin, a task that required about two weeks time. The usual frontier experiences were gone through and on this farm his wife died in 1859, his own death occurring at the home of his son-in-law, Michael Kunkel, in the fall of 1867.

The family born to John M. and Anna Kleinknight comprised the following named children: Jacob and Peter (twins), born January 20, 1822, and both now deceased; John, born January 22, 1825, deceased; Mary A., born December 31, 1827, was married first to Michael Kunkel and after his

death became the wife of Eph. High, of Bluffton; William F., whose name opens this biographical record; Lydia J., born April 6, 1832, and now the wife of Charles S. High, of Bluffton. In 1854 Mr. Kleinknight turned over the management of his farm to his son, William F., with the understanding that the latter was to pay fifty dollars to each of the other heirs and retain the property. While still a resident of Baltimore, Mr. Kleinknight had joined the United Brethren church and soon after his arrival in Wells county, Indiana, organized Salem class, a society which is still in existence, as the Tocsin church. Of this class the following persons constituted the members: John M. Kleinknight and wife, J. C. Johnson and wife, David Gilliland and wife, Nancy Miller, Christopher Graham and wife. Mr. Kleinknight was the first class leader and officiated in some capacity in the church until the day of his death, revered and beloved by all.

William F. Kleinknight had assisted his father in the shop in Ohio until nineteen years old, when the two came to Wells county, Indiana, and here he attended school and thus acquired a fair education. On reaching Wells county he continued to assist his father for about two years in clearing up the farm and in cultivating it, and was then united in marriage, at the age of twenty-two years, with Miss Nancy Amrette Richey, who was born in Licking county, Ohio, October 25, 1833, and in 1836 came to Wells county, Indiana, with her parents, who settled in Lancaster township, near Murray. Here the little girl had but few opportunities to attend school, but she was blessed with a retentive memory, was a constant reader and became well versed in biblical knowledge and

current history. This marriage has been crowned with children as follows: John M., who was born December 20, 1854, and died January 1, 1875; Ivan O., born January 6, 1858, married Serena Smith, and is one of the leading farmers of Lancaster township; Albert C., born November 11, 1859, died June 17, 1881; Norville J., born January 17, 1863, was educated in the district schools and in the Ossian graded schools and at the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso, was a teacher of high repute in Wells county for many years and is now a well-to-do farmer in Lancaster township, and married to Sade Wasson; William M. married Minnie Sowards and is a prosperous farmer in Jefferson township; Lydia A., born in November, 1867, is the wife of Milton Reed, and Anna, who was born September 14, 1873, is the wife of Henry Schoch.

W. F. Kleinknight has been a member of the Tocsin United Brethren church since 1870, but his wife joined as far back as 1854. Both are ardent and untiring in church work and are well known throughout Jefferson township for their piety and excellent personal qualities. The Kleinknight homestead now contains sixty-seven and one-half acres, and it is all cleared, well tiled and well improved with substantial buildings and makes one of the desirable homes of the township. Mr. Kleinknight is a Republican, though formerly a Democrat; however, his greater activity in political work was in earlier life.

URIAH MAST.

One of the leading farmers and an ex-business man of Rock Creek township,

Wells county, Indiana, is Uriah Mast, who was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, February 26, 1847, and is a son of Abraham and Elizabeth (Albert) Mast, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania, born in Lebanon county, and who, when about twenty-three years old, migrated to Ohio and located in Montgomery county, where he renewed his friendship for the Albert family, with whom he had been acquainted before leaving Pennsylvania, and, although a poor young man at that time, was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth. About 1853 Abraham Mast brought his family to Wells county, Indiana. He had previously been to Wells county and purchased a tract of land in Rock Creek township, in section 22, but did not then settle on this land. He first moved in with his mother-in-law, Mrs. Albert, who resided in Rock Creek township, on section 14, and at first rented her farm, which he afterwards purchased and on which he resided until moving to Bluffton, where his death took place in June, 1891, his wife having passed to the other world three weeks previous. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Mast comprised eight children, named as follows: David, who is now a resident of Iowa; Uriah, whose name opens this biographical record; Amanda, deceased; Eliza, widow of John Eichhorn; Laura, unmarried; Lucinda, wife of Edward Souers, of Bluffton; Jennie, wife of Abe Simmons, of Bluffton, and Ida, wife of Benjamin Ashbacher.

Uriah Mast was a child of about six years of age when he came with his parents to Wells county, Indiana, and here, at the proper age, he was placed in the

district school, which he attended during the winter seasons until twenty-one years old, but in the summer seasons dutifully assisted in caring for the home farm, and for a year after attaining his majority he worked for his father on the same conditions as would a hired hand, after which he went to Illinois and remained some time. On his return to Wells county, Indiana, he rented the home farm, which he conducted for a couple of years.

In 1874 Uriah Mast was united in marriage with Miss Maggie Eichhorn, a daughter of Philip and Margaret (Hostler) Eichhorn. She was born in Ohio and when about eleven years old was brought to Wells county, Indiana. She did not, however, long survive the ceremony which made her a wife and within one year thereafter was called to rest. The second marriage of Mr. Mast took place November 4, 1878, to Mrs. Lucetta Brehm, widow of John Brehm, but who had borne the maiden name of Cassel. No children, however, were born to either of these two marriages. Mr. and Mrs. Mast are devoted members of the Reform church at St. Paul, in which Mr. Mast had officiated as elder and deacon for many years. In politics Mr. Mast is a Democrat in principle, but has never been particularly active in the affairs of his party. Fraternally he is a member of the Improved Order of Red Men at Bluffton.

The doctrine or theory that agriculture is the veritable source of wealth has been exemplified in the experience of Mr. Mast. About the year 1887, he left his farm and went to Bluffton, and for eighteen months was identified with the Studabaker, Sale & Company warehouse,

then also for eighteen months was with Jacob Brown. Next, he rented the H. Frieze feed barn for five years; but although he did a fairly paying business, he was not as well satisfied as when farming, and so returned to his home place in Rock Creek township, where he is now one of the leading farmers and most respected citizens.

LEVI SCHWARTZ.

The Schwartz family of Rock Creek township, Wells county, Indiana, is of German extraction and its most prominent representative in this county is Levi Schwartz, one of the well-to-do farmers of Rock Creek township. The grandfather of Levi Schwartz was the founder of the family in America, being one of the early settlers in Pennsylvania.

Levi Schwartz, son of Michael and Mollie (Houtz) Schwartz, was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, June 14, 1846. Michael, the father, was reared on a farm and was educated in the German schools of the Keystone state, where he lived until 1850, when he came to Indiana and first located in Shelby county, remained there until the spring of 1852 and then came to Rock Creek township, Wells county, purchased eighty acres of what is now the Eichhorn farm, which was deep in the forest, and there passed the remainder of his life, dying in 1860. To him and wife were born two sons and three daughters, of whom the following named still survive: Levi, whose name opens this biographical record; Eli; Caroline, wife of William Rarhar, and Elmira, wife of Samuel Crum.

When a lad of about six years of age, Levi Schwartz was brought to Rock Creek township, Wells county, Indiana, by his parents and there attended at the log school house for three terms, acquiring a very good education for pioneer days, and also assisting his father in the cultivation of the home farm. About one year after the death of his father Levi began to work out by the day on a farm in his neighborhood and continued to follow this class of labor until he had attained his twenty-first year, when, in 1867, he was united in marriage with Miss Harriet Farling, a daughter of Jacob Farling, this marriage resulting in the birth of eleven children: Ida, deceased; Jacob; Thomas; Ann, wife of Elmer Price; John, deceased; Edward, Effie, Margaret and four that died in infancy, unnamed.

At the time of his marriage Mr. Schwartz had but seventy-five dollars, but he was industrious and frugal, continued to work out as a farm hand and is now the owner of a good farm of fifty-five acres on which he lives, and also owns a business room at Murray, and a saw-mill at Murray, which he ran for one year. He likewise owns one of the best stone quarries in his part of the country, all of which property he has secured entirely through his personal exertions. In fact, Mr. Schwartz is a natural born mechanic, has erected several substantial buildings, and is able to turn his hand to anything requiring skill and ingenuity in its construction.

Mr. Schwartz is a member of the Lutheran church, in the faith of which his wife, who was also a devoted member, was called away October 28, 1902. Fraternally Mr. Schwartz is a member of Red

Men's Lodge No. 82, at Bluffton. In politics Mr. Schwartz is one of the substantial Democrats of Rock Creek township, and although he is a faithful worker in the interests of his party and a strong advocate of its principles, he has never sought a favor at its hand, as he has always found himself too busy with his own affairs to devote his time to the precarious pursuit of office.

The active life led by Mr. Schwartz is but another instance of the success that ever attends industry, economy and the skillful application of means to secure an end, coupled with strict integrity. These virtues are possessed in an eminent degree by Mr. Schwartz, and the high standing he now occupies in the community in which he has passed so many years of his busy life is but a just recognition of his personal worth.

L. E. DEAM.

Agriculture has been an honored vocation from the earliest ages, and as a usual thing men of honorable and humane impulses, as well as those of energy and thrift, have been patrons of husbandry. The free outdoor life of the farm has a decided tendency to foster and develop that independence of mind and self-reliance which characterize true manhood and no greater blessing can befall a boy than to be reared in close touch with nature in the healthful, life-inspiring labor of the fields. It has always been the fruitful soil from which have sprung the moral bone and sinew of the country, and the majority of our nation's great warriors, wise

statesmen, renowned scholars and distinguished men of letters were born on the farm and are indebted to its early influence for the distinction which they have attained. Among the enterprising, influential and well-known agriculturists of Wells county, Indiana, is the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this brief review.

The subject's grandfather, John A. Deam, was one of the early settlers in Wells county, having come here from Montgomery county, Ohio, in February, 1839. Upon arriving here he at once entered a tract of land bordering on the Wabash river, about one-half mile east of Bluffton. This tract consisted of over thirteen hundred acres of land and on this place he later erected a large and comfortable brick house which is still standing. In connection with farming, he was also extensively engaged in stock raising, and found both branches of industry very profitable. He was a public-spirited man, was at the head of many enterprises of a public nature and was highly esteemed by all who knew him. He was twice married, and by his first wife had three children and by his second five. The lady to whom he was last married was in her maidenhood Catherine Booher, and of the children born to this union with her, John H., the youngest, was the father of the subject.

John H. was reared upon the home farm and in his youth was given the advantages of a good common school education. Upon attaining his maturity he was united in marriage with Martha Welcheimer, a union which was blessed by the birth of two sons. The eldest, Charles C., was born August 30, 1865, and attended the common schools of his neighborhood, after which he graduated from the Bluffton high school in the class of

1884. Entering DePauw University, he took a thorough course in pharmacy and is now one of the leading druggists of Bluffton. He was granted a license to teach and taught two terms of school in this county. He was united in marriage with Miss Stella Mullen, of Valley Mills, Indiana.

Lewis E. Deam, the immediate subject, was born June 20, 1867, and spent his boyhood days upon the paternal homestead. He attended the common schools and the graded schools at Bluffton, and upon the completion of his education chose farming as his life occupation. That this was a wise choice is evidenced by the pronounced success which has accompanied his subsequent operations. He is thoroughly up-to-date in his methods and has kept his property up to the highest standard of excellence, having now one of the best and most highly improved farms in Harrison township.

In August, 1892, Mr. Deam was married to Miss Clara A. Sawyer, the daughter of John A. Sawyer, a farmer and stone-mason. She is a native of the township in which she now resides, her birth dating from July 27, 1873, and she received the advantages of a good common school education. Their marriage has been blessed with one daughter, Leota L., born December 28, 1896. Mr. Deam and his wife belong to the Six Mile Christian church and are useful and influential members of the organization. In political matters the subject is affiliated with the Democratic party and takes an intelligent interest in the trend of public events, though never taking an active part in the campaign work of his party.

Mr. Deam has met with flattering success as a farmer and raiser of live stock. In his business relations he keeps in accord with

the ethics of life, and the correctness of his motives has never been questioned by those with whom he has had any dealing. Personally he stands high among his neighbors and fellow citizens and no one has more warm friends or fewer enemies than has he. Eminently warm hearted and generous, he discharges all his duties with fidelity and zeal, and to the best of his ability lives up to his highest conception of what constitutes true manhood.

D. W. ABBOTT.

In these days of strenuous exertion one often hears the ministry spoken of as "a lazy man's job." While there is a vast difference of opinion on this subject at the present time, there was, in the history of Indiana, a time when the ministry required, if not much learning, certainly more in the way of health, physical endurance and strength of purpose, body and mind than any of the learned professions. Reference is made to the time when the "circuit rider" was the popular preacher in Indiana. Rugged in nature and often uncouth in manner, he it was who administered consolation to the sick and hope to the dying. His circuit comprised a number of local congregations, each separated many miles from the others, the distance being generally covered by the minister on the back of a horse rarely noted for the smoothness of his gait. The circuit had to be ridden in all kinds of weather, so that the bodily soundness of the minister was a necessary accompaniment to the soundness of his doctrine. One of these early ministers was Daniel

William Abbott, the subject of this sketch, who was born in Shelby county, Ohio, September 19, 1841, the son of William H. Abbott, who was born in the Lehigh valley, Pennsylvania, January 18, 1818. His mother was Susannah Woodring, a native of Fairfield county, Ohio. William H. Abbott was a man of remarkable ability. Even before he had attained his majority he was elected supervisor of Dinsmore township, Shelby county, and discharged the duties of the office very satisfactorily to his constituents. He was a man whose advantages for education had been limited, but he was sagacious, intelligent, observant, and by home study he so improved his mind that many of those with far better advantages were by no means his equal either in learning or ability. He was only seven years of age when the family moved from Pennsylvania to Ohio and located in Dinsmore township, on a piece of government land. Very soon after the organization of the Republican party William H. Abbott became a warm advocate of the principles of that party and he never afterward wavered in the faith. The violation of the Missouri Compromise and the Kansas-Nebraska trouble determined him in his choice. He and his wife were both members of the German Reform church of Dinsmore township and among the most regular attendants thereof. Their home was about eight miles from the church, with the roads of those early days scarcely ever in an inviting condition, yet they rarely missed a service though frequently it took them all day to make the trip and return home.

The grandfather of the subject of this sketch was also named William Abbott.

At his home in Pennsylvania, on the banks of the Lehigh river, he was one of the pioneer tavern-keepers of the latter part of the eighteenth century. He was a man of wide acquaintance and unbounded hospitality. He had faith in God and the promise that he would provide. Truly, therefore, did he lend to the Lord by ungrudgingly giving to the poor. The children of William H. and Susannah (Woodring) Abbott were six in number, four girls and two boys. Catherine is the widow of the late Robert Botkin, of Ada, Ohio; Sarah is the wife of Rev. David Morgan, of Macy, Indiana; Daniel W. is the subject of this sketch; Eli is a teacher and farmer of Maplewood, Ohio; Mary Jane, deceased wife of Robert Turner; Margaret, wife of Demus Swim, of Botkin, Ohio. All those living are prosperous and well-to-do people of standing and worth in the respective communities where they reside.

The early years of Daniel W. Abbott were spent on the farm. He received the benefits of a common school education, applying himself assiduously to his studies with a view to qualifying himself for a teacher. He applied for and received a certificate to teach, but the breaking out of the war of the Rebellion greatly altered his plans. He was destined to carry a musket instead of wielding a birch and the prospective teacher was evolved into the soldier. August 13, 1862, at Sidney, Shelby county, Ohio, he enlisted as a private in Company H, Ninety-ninth Ohio Volunteers, and continued in the service under Capt. Wyman, until discharged for disability. Returning to his home in Ohio about the time the draft was in progress,

he was declared subject to it and although desiring the privilege of re-enlisting, it was denied him for some cause. He was enrolled in Company K, Twenty-ninth Ohio Regiment, and served until the close of the war.

December 31, 1863, Daniel W. Abbott was united in marriage to Jane Lambert, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Lambert, of Shelby county, Ohio. On the return of Mr. Abbott from the war, at the close of hostilities, he turned his attention to farming, which he continued successfully and with profit until 1872, when he entered the ministry of the United Brethren church, where he was granted a quarterly conference license to preach. In 1872 he was appointed by Rev. William Bay, to fill a vacancy that occurred on the Pleasant circuit and in 1873, upon the recommendation of Rev. William Bay, presiding elder of the West district, and Rev. J. L. Luttrell, presiding elder of the East district, where Mr. Abbott held his membership, he was received into the annual conference and was given his first charge, the Wabash circuit in Jay county, Indiana. Five years after his entrance into ministry he completed his studies and was regularly ordained as an elder in the church. For the next seventeen years he was almost continuously engaged in the work of the gospel. December 15, 1900, on account of failing health, he was obliged to retire from the work. During active service in the ministry he had charge of various circuits both in Indiana and Ohio and in every instance his ministry was blessed by the accomplishment of much good. In most instances when a change was made his people were very reluctant to part from him and on many occasions he was dele-

gated to hold quarterly conference for the presiding elder.

Mr. and Mrs. Abbott are the parents of eight children, six sons and two daughters: Alfred Sherman resides in Craigville; Elmer lives in Lancaster township; Emma Ellen is the wife of Charles Warthman, of Lancaster township; Rosa Arretta is the wife of Amos Hetrick, Jr., and also resides in Lancaster township; Nelson Wallace; Arthur Newton, of Bluffton; Merritt Calvin, of Craigville, and Edgar Clark, still living at home. About 1890 Mr. Abbott engaged in the mercantile business in Craigville, though he continued his chosen calling, allowing his sons to look after the store. His popularity and fair dealing soon established for him good trade and he continued in the mercantile business, being fairly prosperous, until two years ago, when he sold the store and turned the business over to his son, Alfred S. Abbott. In every undertaking of his life Mr. Abbott has been quite successful. He is the owner of several acres of land in Wells county, is possessed of an elegant home in Craigville and a number of profitable investments add materially to his yearly income. In politics he is a Republican and, although liberal and conservative in his views, is, nevertheless, very firm in his convictions. He likes to do good for the sake of that which is good, is kind and gentle in disposition, and charitable almost to a fault. He loves his home and family, his friends and neighbors, and is never happier than when he is benefitting others, even at an outlay of time, trouble or money to himself. There is no kinder father, more loving husband or better citizen than Rev. Daniel W. Abbott, the name of whose friends is legion.

SIMON B. BICKEL.

Among the well known citizens of Harrison township, Wells county, Indiana, is Simon B. Bickel, who was born in Darke county, Ohio, June 27, 1848, and is a son of John and Margaret (Moyer) Bickel, the former a native of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and the latter of Butler county, Ohio. John Bickel was reared to farming in his native county, receiving the education usually imparted to farmer's lads. From Pennsylvania he removed to Butler county, Ohio, with his parents, and was there married to Miss Moyer. He later moved to Darke county, Ohio, where he purchased a tract of five hundred acres of land and for some years was engaged in agricultural pursuits, but later in life conducted a hotel at Hill Grove, Ohio, where his wife passed away, at the age of seventy-five years, and where his own death occurred when he had reached the good old age of eighty-eight. Mr. Bickel was a member of the Masonic fraternity and his earthly possessions were quite extensive, he being considered one of the wealthiest men in his part of Ohio. To John Bickel and wife was born a family of eight boys and four girls, viz: Lewis, deceased, John W., Susan, deceased, Henry, Mary Catherine, Simon B. and Alexander (twins), Franklin, William, Minerva J., deceased, and Harrison.

Simon B. Bickel was reared to farming on the family homestead, receiving in the meantime a district school education. On February 23, 1871, he married, in Darke county, Ohio, Miss Sarah J. Dougherty, the accomplished daughter of William and Margaret (Studabaker) Dougherty, and sister of Hugh Dougherty, president of the Studa-

baker Bank. In March, 1875, Mr. Bickel brought his young family from Ohio to Wells county, Indiana, and here agriculture and stock raising have since occupied his attention, in both of which he has met with abundant success in the townships of Lancaster and Harrison.

The children born to Simon B. and Sarah J. (Dougherty) Bickel are numbered four, Hugh D., Margaret E., deceased, Bessie E. and Gertrude E. Of these, Hugh married Carrie Swisher; Bessie is the wife of Charles Porter, and Gertrude is still single; she was graduated from the Bluffton high school and also from the Huntington Business College, of Huntington, Indiana.

Mr. Bickel is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, in which he holds an insurance policy on his life for two thousand dollars, believing in the wisdom of making ample provisions for his family at a minimum cost. Mr. and Mrs. Bickel are devoted members of Six Mile Christian church, to the maintenance of which they are liberal contributors and in the promulgation of whose doctrines they feel an earnest interest. In 1902 Mr. Bickel represented his congregation as a delegate to the Eel River conference at Goshen, and is at all times ready to devote his time and means to the promotion of the welfare of the Six Mile church in particular, as well as that of the church in general. The political creed of Mr. Bickel is to be found in the platform of the Democratic party, and he is as active and as energetic in caring for and promoting its interests as he is in advancing to a prosperous consummation every thing he undertakes.

Mr. Bickel's farm is situated in sections 2 and 11, Harrison township, Wells

county, and on this place are several sand and gravel pits, from which has been dug the material necessary for the use of the city of Bluffton for the past twenty years, and since he settled here, in 1892, he has sold the product of his pits to the amount of sixteen thousand dollars. Mr. Bickel cannot and does not complain of the manner in which Dame Fortune has treated him since he has been a resident of Wells county, but he must be awarded the credit of having to a great extent been the directing genius which pointed out to the gentle goddess the course she should take in seeking the road to ultimate success.

JOHN A. MILLER.

The man who was in the business of raising stock at the breaking out of the war of the Rebellion was in a position to realize handsomely upon his possessions. An immense army had to be raised, equipped and supplied. Beef, pork and mutton were in such demand that the animals out of which to convert the meat at once enhanced greatly in value. Horses and mules, too, were necessary and their value appreciated with a rapidity that furnished a most agreeable surprise to the owners. The father of John A. Miller, the subject of this sketch, was at that time an extensive farmer and a large stock raiser. He was already wealthy when the war broke out, but the advancement of prices then added greatly to his possessions.

John A. Miller was born in Darke county, Ohio, August 15, 1836, the son of Daniel and Elenore (Graves) Miller. His father was an Ohioian by birth, but his

grandfather was a native of Germany. Daniel Miller was only a boy when his parents moved to Darke county, Ohio, taking the lad with them. There he grew to manhood, married, and was preparing to enjoy domestic life when his wife died, leaving him childless. Miss Elenore Graves was his second wife. The family moved from Darke county to Adams county and in about 1838 moved to Wells county, Indiana, entered one hundred and sixty acres of government land, built a home and proceeded to carve a farm out of the trackless wilderness. To this farm piece after piece was added until it became a tract of eight hundred acres. Seven children were born to Daniel and Elenore Miller, of whom John A. was the oldest. He was only two years old when his parents moved to Wells county, and has since made this county his home. His father died in 1864, a rich man, his estate being valued at more than thirty thousand dollars. He was shot by a horse thief while trying to arrest the latter, and died about six hours later from the effects of the wound.

The education of John A. Miller was received in the district school of Wells county. He attended regularly when there was school during the winter months, was studious and attentive and profited by the instruction received. When not in school he worked on the farm for his father until he was twenty-two years old, when he began dealing in stock on his own account. To this branch of business he took very kindly, learned early to form a correct estimate of an animal or number of animals and was always prepared to accept or refuse any proposition that might be made by a prospective seller, without bringing

to his assistance the use of scales. While yet a young man, he was one of the leading stock buyers and shippers of Bluffton, and it is needless to say that under those circumstances he accumulated money rapidly.

In 1867 Mr. Miller was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Martin, daughter of Josephus Martin, a native of Adams county, Indiana. To this union were born eight sons, six of whom are living. They are Frank, Robert, John, Josephus, Rufus and Harry. All of the boys have received good liberal educations, though Robert and Harry have taken especially to books and learning, attending school in Indianapolis. At the time of his marriage Mr. Miller was possessed of but little property. He bought a quarter section of land and kept adding to it until he is now the owner of a farm of four hundred acres, estimated to be worth twenty-one thousand dollars, his entire estate footing up more than twenty-three thousand dollars.

Personally Mr. Miller is an honest, candid man. What he has to say is always said with the most commendable frankness, pretences and subterfuges being to him most odious. He makes money easily and rapidly and is liberal and generous with it. His home is one of the most hospitable places in the county, and no man ever leaves his threshold hungry or in want. He is a member of Lodge No. 114, I. O. O. F., at Bluffton. In politics he has always been an unswerving Republican, but in local affairs he always recognizes the man above the party. Throughout the county his acquaintance is quite extensive, his honesty, candor and fairness in all his dealings having established for him a pop-

ularity throughout the county that few possess. He is a model man in every relation of life, and is highly esteemed by all who know him.

JOHN R. DITZLER.

The biographies of enterprising men, especially of good men, are instructive as guides and incentives to others. The examples they furnish of patient purpose and steadfast integrity strongly illustrate what it is in the power of each to accomplish. Some men belong to no exclusive class in life; apparently insurmountable obstacles have in many instances awakened their dormant faculties and served as a stimulus to carry them to ultimate success. The instances of success in the face of adverse fate would seem almost to justify the conclusion that self-reliance, with a half chance, can accomplish any reasonable object. The gentleman whose life history is herewith outlined is a man who has lived to good purpose and achieved a much greater degree of success than falls to the lot of the average individual. By a straightforward and commendable course he has made his way to a respectable position in the world, winning the hearty admiration of the people of his county and earning a reputation as an enterprising, progressive man of affairs which the public has not been slow to recognize and appreciate.

John R. Ditzler, the present superintendent of the Wells county infirmary, was born in Galion, Crawford county, Ohio, October 9, 1853, and is the son of

George and Elizabeth (Saurbaugh) Ditzler. The Ditzler family is from Reading, Pennsylvania, and there George Ditzler was reared. Upon attaining maturity he learned the trade of a carpenter and also carried on farming. He was married in his native state and afterward moved to Crawford county, Ohio. He had run a grist-mill in Pennsylvania, but upon his removal to Ohio he sold the mill and at Galion he was engaged in farming and also worked at the carpenter's trade. In 1863 he emigrated to Rock Creek township, Wells county, Indiana, bought a farm and made that his home during the remainder of his life, dying May 6, 1892. He was the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land and on this he made most of the improvements and achieved an enviable reputation as a progressive and successful agriculturist. He was the father of the following children: George married Lillie Teeple and now resides near Markle, Indiana; Frank married Lula Sechler, daughter of Benjamin Sechler; Susana is a resident of this county, and the wife of Henry Biggans; Mary, now Mrs. Samuel Schoch; Sarah is the wife of Jacob Alshouse; Belinda is the wife of Lemuel Lyons; Elizabeth is the wife of John Haiflich, and Alice is the wife of John Taylor.

John R. Ditzler was reared upon the home farm and was early inured to the toil and incessant labor incident to the life of the average farmer. He was given the advantage of such educational facilities as were afforded in the common schools of the neighborhood. Upon attaining his maturity he was married and at once commenced to farm for himself, which occupation he followed until his appointment

as superintendent of the New Lancaster and Markle gravel road, a position which he very satisfactorily filled for twelve years. At that time the state law was changed so that the county was divided into three districts and in the spring of 1895 he was appointed to the oversight of one district, filling this position for about eighteen months. His performance of the duties of these positions was eminently satisfactory and reflected great credit upon him. So strongly did he intrench himself in the confidence of the people that, in 1898, he was appointed by the county commissioners to the responsible position of superintendent of the Wells county infirmary, being chosen over thirty-five other applicants for the position. So wise and discriminating has been his management of the institution that he has been successively reappointed to succeed himself and is still occupying the position. He is good natured, kind hearted and sympathetic and accomplished much towards the alleviation of the condition of the inmates of the institution over which he presides, and by his sound judgment, wise discrimination and careful economy has kept the expense account down to the minimum, at the same time taking proper care that the inmates are properly provided for in all their requirements.

John R. Ditzler was united in marriage September 14, 1873, with Miss Malinda Brickley, daughter of Alfred Brickley, ex-trustee of Rock Creek township. This union has been a most happy and congenial one and has been blessed by the birth of the following children: Etta is the wife of John A. Miller; John C. married Miss Mary Hawkins and resides in Rock Creek

township, this county: Nora and Pearl are unmarried and still have their home under the paternal roof. Besides these children Mr. and Mrs. Ditzler are rearing an orphan child, Inez Guardnour, and are giving to her the same loving care and attention they gave to their own children.

Politically Mr. Ditzler has always affiliated with the Democratic party and has been an active and influential worker in the interest of the party. Religiously he and his wife are faithful and consistent members of the Lutheran church, of which he has served as elder. Mr. Ditzler's character is endowed with many noble qualities that contribute so much to his eminent usefulness and the esteem in which he is held by the citizens of Wells county. His kindness of heart, his unvaried cheerful disposition, his wisdom as a counselor and advisor among his neighbors and friends and his modest, unassuming manner in every relation of life are among the most distinguished characteristics which have attracted to him the many warm friends whom he prizes so highly and whose warm personal regard he will always retain.

C. L. BLUE, M. D.

In the present essentially utilitarian age the life of every successful man is a lesson which, told in contemporary narrative, is productive of great good in shaping the destiny of others. There is, therefore, a sense of satisfaction and importance in presenting, even in brief resume, the life and achievements of such men, and

in preparing the following history of the scholarly young physician of whom this sketch is written, it is with the hope that it may not only prove interesting and instructive, but that it may also serve as an incentive to those who contemplate making the profession of medicine their life work.

Dr. C. L. Blue, the rising young physician of Tocsin, Wells county, Indiana, is the son of the Hon. M. C. Blue, of Lancaster township. He was born in Jefferson township, Wells county, December 16, 1868, and received his early training on his father's farm and in the district schools. Later he attended the Ossian graded schools and also took a three-years course in the Ossian high school. Before completing his high school course he entered the Northern Indiana Normal School and Business College at Valparaiso, Indiana, where he took the course assigned to teachers, and also graduated from the business department of that institution February 24, 1891. He then returned to his father's home and after teaching two terms entered the School of Pharmacy at Chicago, graduating with the class of 1895. He then entered the Fort Wayne Medical College and after three years' study in that institution graduated with the degree of M. D. in the spring of 1898, in the same class with Dr. Fred Metts, of Ossian, Indiana. Immediately after completing his medical education Dr. Blue located in Tocsin, Indiana, where he succeeded in building up a large and lucrative practice. His knowledge of medicine not being satisfactory to himself, he went to Chicago in 1901 and took a post-graduate course in the Chicago Clinical

School. The Doctor is a close student of his profession and spares no pains to keep in touch with the latest theories advanced in medical science. His reading is extensive and his knowledge of his profession is thorough. He is a member of the Wells County and Indiana State Medical Societies and the American Medical Association, and Fort Wayne Academy of Medicine. He has been vested with the privileges of notary public and also holds the office of deputy health officer of Wells county. He has always given his support to the Democratic party, but owing to his duties as a physician has never taken a very active part in the political affairs of his community.

Dr. Blue is a Mason and a man of many friendships, and stands well in the community in which he has labored since the completion of his education. He is well versed in his profession and makes an excellent citizen of Wells county as well as Jefferson township.

JEREMIAH ROE.

One of the most experienced and respected farmers of Union township, Wells county, Indiana, is Jeremiah Roe, who was born in Fayette county, Ohio, April 4, 1828, and is a son of Ezekial and Elizabeth (Fonk) Roe. Jeremiah Roe was a child of but three years when he was brought by his parents from Ohio to Indiana. Ezekial Roe entered land in Randolph county and settled down to farming. On the land thus entered young Jeremiah was reared to manhood, in the meantime

attending school during the winter months and assisting in the work on the farm until he was twenty-three years old. At the early age of eighteen, however, he began to trade and made some money. At twenty he borrowed twenty dollars, and entered eighty acres of land, but continued to work for his father until the summer of 1850, when he came to Wells county and began clearing the timber from his property, and in winter returning to Randolph county. This practice he followed several years and kept on adding to his holdings until he now owns three hundred and twenty acres.

Jeremiah Roe was joined in marriage with Miss Mary Garnand, who was born near Reiffsburg, Indiana, in 1841, and is a daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Peterman) Garnand, natives of Virginia, but who were reared in Ohio, whence they came to Wells county, Indiana, and settled in Nottingham township. Jeremiah Roe and his wife settled on the old farm at marriage, and here have been born ten children, namely: Prof. J. N. Roe, who was graduated from the graded schools of Ossian, afterward from the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso, in which he is now in charge of the department of pharmacy; John W. married Sadie Hamilton, who died ten years later, and he is now assisting his father in the operation of the farm; Emma J. is the wife of H. Hercules, a prosperous farmer of Union township; Alice is the wife of George Young, of Markle; Charles C. married Jennie Haflich and is farming in Rock Creek township; George A. married Minnie Lawver and is in Huntington county; Etta M. is the wife of Lawrence Set-

tlemeier; Dora E. is the wife of Aaron Duff; Vernie L. died in childhood, and Maud, at home.

Mrs. Roe is a member of the Church of God, to the maintenance of which she freely contributes, and in this her husband is in no respect backward. As to his political inclinations, Mr. Roe has always been a Democrat and has never found occasion to change the opinions impressed upon him in early manhood. Although a hard worker in his labors for the success of his party at the polls, he has never pushed himself forward as a candidate for office, leaving it to younger men to do the hustling, reserving the right to cast his vote at the proper time. The social standing of Mr. and Mrs. Roe and family is with the best people of the township, and, notwithstanding their advanced age they are still recognized as useful citizens, their sage advice being often sought by persons of less experience.

HERCULES H. NEFF.

An ex-school teacher and present farmer in Union township, Wells county, Indiana, Hercules H. Neff, a son of Jacob and Isabella (Garovick) Neff, was born in Crawford county, Ohio, January 16, 1863. From that locality the father removed with his family to Cambridge City, Wayne county, Indiana, where he died, and his widow re-married, becoming the wife of David R. Grubaugh. She then moved to Marshall county, Indiana, whence she went to Huntington county and in 1872 came with her second husband

and her son to Wells county, where they have lived and prospered ever since.

Hercules Neff was reared under the care of his mother and step-father on a farm, and has lived in Union township, Wells county, for thirty years. Here he was primarily educated in the district schools and in the normal schools of Huntington and Wells counties. He taught two terms of school and although he had met with eminent success as a teacher, he became wearied of the profession and abandoned it for the purpose of resuming agricultural pursuits. Mr. Neff is engaged in general farming and stock raising, but gives especial attention to Polled Durham cattle and Cotswold sheep, in the breeding of which he has met with more than usual success and from the sale of which he has realized his largest profits. This farm contains one hundred and twenty acres, which is well cultivated and improved with good buildings, tiling, etc.

March 13, 1888, Mr. Neff was united in marriage with Miss Emma J. Roe, the daughter of Jere Roe, of Union township, and a highly educated and accomplished young lady, who has blessed her husband with one child, Ola M., born December 16, 1889. In their religious connection Mr. and Mrs. Neff are members of the United Brethren church and are liberal contributors of their means to the maintenance of this religious organization. For a number of years Mr. Neff has filled the position of superintendent of its Sunday school. In politics he is one of Union township's most active and ardent Republicans and has devoted much of his time to the service of the party and in other capacities. He is popular, both as a Republican and as a

citizen, and at one time was the nominee of his party for the office of county surveyor, but his indifference as to public position and his innate modesty were not conducive to his taking any active part in forwarding his own interests during the canvass.

As a citizen Mr. Neff is broad minded and liberal. He is an advocate of free schools and, when necessary, of compulsory education, and good roads are among the other conveniences and comforts he deems absolutely necessary for the use of the farming population especially, but he does not believe in over assessing those who do not require such conveniences simply because others do require them. He believes in even-handed justice, but, as an individual, is always ready to make a sacrifice of his means for the benefit of the general weal, even though he may not reap the full benefit of such contributions toward promoting the well-being of the general community.

JESSE CRITES.

Sixty years ago Indiana was by no means the inviting place to bring a young and blushing bride that it is today. In the towns some of the comforts of civilization might be procured, but in the timber the rudest kind of fare was what the hardy settler lived on. It was to a home in the woods of Indiana, more than a half-century ago, that Jesse Crites, of Union township, brought his wife. The maidens of those days were not so fastidious and exacting as those of the present. They were content with little and were happiest

when their husbands permitted them to bear their share of the burdens of pioneer life, and doubtless they were all the better for it.

Jesse Crites, the son of John and Mary (Walters) Crites, was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, December 2, 1824. His parents were natives of Pennsylvania, but in their youth emigrated with the families to which they respectively belonged to Ohio, and settled on adjoining tracts of land. Both families were of German ancestry, and the intimacy between them led to a closer relationship between the children. John and Mary were married and set up housekeeping on a piece of land they bought from the government. He was by trade a cabinetmaker and set up a shop near his residence, from which he turned out many handsome, substantial pieces of furniture. Many of the best tables, stands, bureaus and bedsteads that adorned the homes in the neighborhood where he lived were of his handiwork. The union of John and Mary Crites was blessed by the birth of five sons and five daughters. Nine of these still survive, namely: Rebecca, Jesse, Catherine, Elizabeth, John Cyrus, Eli, William and Sarah. The father of this family prospered and accumulated money. He followed his business of cabinet-making many years and continued to reside upon his farm up to the time of his death at sixty-eight years of age.

Jesse, the oldest son, was reared upon his father's farm and helped to clear the land, much of the clearing devolving entirely upon him as he grew older, for his father was frequently quite busy in his shop. The boy was ambitious and desirous of being in the possession of land of his own, so when he attained his majority he looked about for a piece of government land in his native coun-

ty, but there was none to be had. It was not quite so scarce in Indiana, however, so to that state he proceeded and in Union township, Wells county, he found a tract of eighty acres which suited him and after making his entry upon it in 1848 he returned to Ohio.

In February, 1849, Mr. Crites was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Myers, a native of Tuscarawas county, Ohio, born in 1829. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania, where they were born, reared and married, and soon afterward located in Tuscarawas county. Two years afterward she accompanied her husband to the woods of Wells county, and in the fall of 1849 her parents followed to Allen county, going to Wisconsin four years later, where her father died and her mother moved to Kansas, where she continued to reside until her death. Mrs. Crites was blessed by nature with vigorous health and strength and in her girlhood days she frequently assisted her father in the clearing and in the fields. Hence, when she came into the woods of Wells county with her husband, she proved a valuable assistant to him. They first took up housekeeping in a little log shanty on the farm of a neighbor, Isaac Roe, while Mr. Crites was building a log cabin on his own place. When it was completed they moved into it and began the laborious task of converting the woods and swamps into a productive farm. It took time, muscle and energy, but it was eventually accomplished, as is amply attested by the well-kept, well-improved farm upon which he resides in section 20. To the original eighty acres he has added, until he was the owner of two hundred and four acres. This he has since divided and given a good portion of it to his children, leaving one hundred and forty-four

acres in the homestead. When he came to Wells county, he had just fifteen dollars in money, and it was stolen from him within a short time after his arrival, and he never got even the satisfaction of knowing the thief.

Mr. and Mrs. Crites were the parents of seven children, only three of whom are still living. They are John, who married Amanda McGoogan, resides at Uniondale; Jesse F. married Vianna Shaw, and resides in Charlevoix county, Michigan; Isa, wife of G. F. Platt, resides on the old homestead, which he operates. In religion Mr. and Mrs. Crites are members of the Church of God at Trinity Chapel, and he has been a worshipper in that society for sixty-one years, joining the church when he was only eighteen. For several years he has been a church official. The first meeting held in this vicinity by the adherents of this faith was held in Mr. Crites' cabin about fifty-two years ago, and the first society was organized there, there being six members, himself and wife, Daniel Fisher and wife and Daniel Hostetler and wife, the later having come at the same time as did Crites, and of these six four are still living, Mrs. Fisher and Mr. Hostetler being deceased.

In politics Mr. Crites is one of the old-line Republicans in Union township, but never sought or held any official position at the hands of his party. His business of farming and stock raising has occupied too much of his time to afford him the chance of dabbling in politics. He is a man of kindly disposition and strong sympathy and every impulse of his nature is for the betterment of his fellow men. Hence, he is not only well liked, but exceedingly popular, a man whose friendship is highly valued and whose influence is sought and appreciated.

JOHN A. WALKER.

John Walker, the grandfather of the gentleman whose name opens this biographical sketch, was born in North Carolina and descended from a very ancient English family. Rev. John Walker, the grandfather, was married in his native state, and about 1833 came to Indiana and settled in Rush county, where he officiated as a clergyman of the Baptist church until he felt a change in heart and belief and became a minister in the church of the Disciples. He was twice married and was the father of twelve or thirteen children. Leonard S. Walker, father of John A., was the youngest of the children born to his parents, his mother being his father's first wife. He was reared on a farm in Rush county, Indiana, and was a farmer by vocation. He married Malinda Davis, a native of Ohio and for five years rented a farm in Rush county. In the fall of 1846, in company with a brother, he came to Wells county, Indiana, and entered one hundred and sixty acres of land in the woods where Zanesville now stands. He laid out this prosperous little town, in which his brother James was the first merchant and where he resided five or six years, removing to another farm in the township, where he remained until about 1874. He returned to Ft. Wayne, where he died at the age of seventy-seven years.

John A. Walker was born on this Zanesville farm March 1, 1847, on which he was reared and was educated in the schools of his native district. He began to teach at the age of twenty years and later attended the seminary at Roanoke, and a commercial college at Toledo, and for ten years followed his profession of

teacher in Wells county. January 1, 1874, Mr. Walker was married to Miss Alforttah Austin, who was born in Preble county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Rev. Dr. C. B. and Sarah A. (Burnau) Austin, who came in 1868 from Ohio to Indiana and first located in Henry county, and later lived for several years at Noblesville where she grew to maturity. Mrs. Walker was educated in the schools of Noblesville where she became a teacher and afterward taught in Allen county, devoting about ten years to the schoolroom. Dr. Austin represented Allen county in the state legislature one term, about 1876, when he resided at Zanesville. The latter part of his life was as a minister and physician at Veedersburg, Indiana, where he died at about sixty-five years of age. One brother of Mrs. Walker, T. B. Austin, served through the war in the Eighth Indiana Cavalry. He became a teacher and dentist and was engaged in the practice at Ft. Wayne at the time of his death.

The first farm owned by Mr. Walker comprised forty acres in section 17, but selling this, he bought the old Samuel B. Caley farm. He has added to this until he now owns one hundred and seventy acres in one tract which is known as the Pleasant Grove farm and is located three and a half miles north of Maple.

To Mr. and Mrs. Walker has been born one son, Earl J., who was born February 20, 1880. He graduated from the district schools in 1894 and from the Huntington high school in 1898. He then attended the State University, graduated in 1902 with the degree of B. A., and was chosen valedictorian by the class. He is now principal of the Ossian high school.

Mrs. Walker is a member of the

Church of the Disciples, at Markle, Indiana, and is president of the C. W. B. M. In company with a number of other ladies of Huntington and adjoining counties, she organized, in 1900, what is known as the Ladies' Home Maker Association, an auxiliary to the Farmers' Institute work and which was designed to give suitable training to the home makers, and she was selected as the first president, a position she filled for two years, during which time the interest and membership were flattering. Mr. Walker is a Democrat and served three terms as trustee, covering eleven years, during which time most of the finest school buildings were erected.

GEORGE HOOPENGARNER.

The Hoopengarner family had its origin in Germany, but for five generations members of the family have been residents of America. George Hoopengarner, whose name opens this biographical sketch and now a representative citizen of Wells county, Indiana, had his nativity in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, March 12, 1835, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Walters) Hoopengarner. When the great-grandparents of George Hoopengarner came from Germany to America they settled in Pennsylvania, where there was born to them a son who there grew to manhood, was married and became the progenitor of the Wells county family. The Walters family also came from Germany and the great-grandparents of Mrs. Hoopengarner were the founders of the family of that name in the Keystone

state. The great-grandparents were married in Pennsylvania, whence they emigrated to Tuscarawas county, Ohio, where great-grandfather Hoopengarner purchased a farm, although he was a shoemaker by trade, and in inclement weather, which precluded outdoor work, worked at his calling under shelter. These great-grandparents reared a family of eight children and passed the remainder of life in Tuscarawas county.

George Hoopengarner was reared on his father's old farm and was educated in the schools of his district, but had the misfortune, when but three years old, of losing his father. At the age of twenty-one years he began working out by the month. December 22, 1857, he was united in marriage with Miss Emily Smuts, a daughter of Jacob and Mary (Fleming) Smuts, of German descent but natives of Pennsylvania, who settled in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, where Mrs. Hoopengarner was born and reared. Jacob Smuts was a son of John and Anna (Thomas) Smuts, both born in Pennsylvania, but whose parents came from Germany, and they both lived and died in Fayette county, Pennsylvania.

In 1859 Mr. Hoopengarner came to Union township, Wells county, and purchased ninety-two acres of woodland, for part of which he went into debt and on which he has resided ever since. But the debt he incurred has long since been liquidated and he now stands among the most substantial and well-to-do agriculturists of Union township.

To the felicitous marriage of George and Emily (Smuts) Hoopengarner have been born four sons and one daughter. Of these, Clarence E. married Miss Lydia

Neff, who was early called away, and he next married Miss Christine Elich, and still retains his home in Union township; Joseph N. married Mary Robinson and lives in Markle; George F. married Nevada Graubaugh; Ralph V. married Miss Ella Edmondson and still lives on the old homestead which he has cultivated with success; Elmira is the wife of Riley M. Caley and also lives in Union township. The family are members of the United Brethren church, of the liberal branch of which he has been connected forty-seven years and for many years has been a trustee and class leader.

Mr. Hoopengartner may not only be termed a Republican in his politics, but an ardent and faithful member of his party. He is a Republican from conviction and not from persuasion, being capable of judging for himself in politics as in all things else, and of this fact his progress through life has given ample proof. He has probably done as much in developing Union township as any man of his age who has resided in the township for the same length of time. He and his family, as has already been intimated, are among the most highly esteemed people of the township and none are, it may be truthfully asserted, more deservedly entitled to the esteem in which they are held.

JOHN JONES.

Among the oldest settlers of Union township, Wells county, Indiana, is John Jones, who was born in Wayne county, Indiana, May 9, 1831, a son of Samuel

and Nancy (Walker) Jones, who came to Indiana from North Carolina, in which last named state Samuel Jones was born and reared.

John Jones was but five years of age when death deprived him of his father, at which time he went to live with an uncle, John Felts, with whom he remained until he had attained his majority. In the meantime, however, in 1847, Mr. Felts came to Wells county and settled on the farm on which young Jones was reared to manhood and assisted in developing. Owing to the constant demand for his labor in accomplishing the task of clearing up this place, the opportunities of attending school were but few, and at the age of twenty-one he found himself to be not only without an education, but without cash. But at his majority Mr. Jones was possessed of a robust constitution and his general health was all that could be desired. Moreover he was filled with ambition and determination, and he worked hard to earn the money he knew he needed when the time for his marriage should come about. This happy event took place January 29, 1857, when he led to the altar Miss Sarah J. Kohr, a native of Ohio. This union has resulted in the following named children: Rosa, now the wife of Stephen D. Caley; Mary J., who is married to Ephraim Nicholson; William, who married a daughter of John M. Waters; Frank, who is married to Elma Lawrence; John A., who married Minta Hill; E. S., unmarried, and Della, who is the wife of Waldo Sater. The family of Mr. Jones have been reared in the faith of the Christian church, of which he has himself been a member ever since childhood and

to the support of which he and his children have been and still are liberal contributors financially. All are sincere in their profession of the faith and live strictly up to its teachings.

In politics Mr. Jones is an enthusiastic Democrat and is one of the most active workers for his party in Union township. Notwithstanding the fact that he has never been habitually an office-seeker, he has, on account of his personal merits and undeniable qualifications, been selected by his fellow citizens to fill the office of supervisor for Union township, the duties of which position he performed in a most satisfactory manner, and he has also served as school director and on the election board.

Having been a resident of Wells county since childhood, or for more than half a century, Mr. Jones is fully acquainted with the needs, wishes and desires of the people of his township and county and is therefore well qualified for aiding in framing and administering such measures as redound to the benefit of the community. His life has been one without reproach, and in all his business transactions he has been straightforward and upright. Without being parsimonious or niggardly, he has succeeded in acquiring a fair share of this world's goods as a reward for his industry and judicious manner of living, has an open hand to those in need or who have been less fortunate than himself and was never known to turn away from his door unassisted any person who applied to him for relief. He has reared his children in respectability and is himself one of the most honored citizens of Union township.

CHRIST STOGDILL.

One of the leading young farmers of Harrison township, Wells county, Indiana, and one of the most successful, is Christ Stogdill, who was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, August 25, 1845, and is a son of Anthony and Catherine Stogdill. The ancestors of these parents were farming people as far back as can be traced and this calling is still the favorite pursuit of the surviving descendants. Anthony Stogdill removed from Pennsylvania to Ohio with his family and first located in Mahoning county, where he resided some time, but in September, 1850, he moved to Adams county, Indiana, where his death occurred in 1860. He was a leading member of the Methodist Episcopal church of his neighborhood and was prominently identified also with the Democratic party, and under its auspices served as trustee for a number of years and also as a justice of the peace. His industrial efforts were largely devoted to the raising of stock, from which he realized handsome results, having become one of the principal breeders in Adams county.

Christ Stogdill, the subject of this sketch, is the only surviving member of his father's family. He was reared on a farm and naturally enough chose agriculture for his life vocation. He had, however, received a good common school education and in his early days had become competent to teach, a profession he followed for some time before he settled down to farming. He maintained his residence as a renter on the old homestead until 1898, when he purchased a part of

the place and continued to rent the remaining part until later in the same year.

Mr. Stogdill married, January 1, 1869, Miss Mary Crist, who was born in Wells county, October 5, 1847, and a daughter of Leonard and Barbara Crist, of Wells county. Mr. Crist was an excellent business man, and was one of the leading farmers and stock raisers of his county. Mr. Stogdill sold his farm in Adams county in 1898 and purchased the old Hopkins farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Harrison township, Wells county, and is now recognized as one of the best agriculturists in the neighborhood. To Mr. and Mrs. Stogdill have been born eight children, as follows: William F., born September 28, 1869, died September 27, 1875; Ulala, born August 11, 1871, died January 20, 1903; Elizabeth, born March 19, 1873; William F., born December 7, 1874; Victor, born October 26, 1877; Clarence, born September 17, 1879; Bertie, born August 8, 1881, died June 24, 1900, and Mary Viola, born July 8, 1884.

Fraternally Mr. Stogdill stands high as a Mason, holding membership in Bluffton Lodge. Politically he is a Democrat, with which party he is prominently identified. He is a most useful and public-spirited citizen and is ready at all times to contribute his full quota of cash to the maintenance of the public works in the township, and the introduction of others when their necessity becomes apparent. Since his residence in Wells county, Mr. Stogdill has established a fine reputation as a citizen and Harrison township is all the better off by his residence here. Although still a young man, he has shown an adaptability to his calling that has surprised many old-

er farmers and his views on agricultural matters are greatly respected wherever expressed.

MRS. JACOB B. MARKLEY.

Wholly devoted to home and domestic duties, doing through all the best years of her life the sacred work that comes within her sphere, there is not much to record concerning the life of the average woman. And yet what station so dignified, what relation so loving and endearing, what office so holy, tender and ennobling as those of the home-making wife and mother? A celebrated writer has said that the future destiny of a nation depended upon its wives and mothers. In a biographical compendium such as this, woman should have no insignificant representation. As man's equal in many respects, and even his superior in the gentle, tender and loving amenities of life, she fully merits a much larger notice than she ordinarily receives. The foregoing was suggested after a perusal of the leading facts in the career of the worthy and respected lady whose name forms the caption to this article, a lady who has done well her part and whose career has been a simple, but beautiful poem of rugged, toilsome duty faithfully and uncomplainingly performed as maiden, wife and mother.

Mrs. Martha Markley, widow of the late Jacob B. Markley, is a daughter of Samuel and Susan (Jackson) Wallace, and was born in Rock Creek township, this county, on the 12th of April, 1852. Samuel Wallace was a native of Ireland and in that country was reared and educated. He

remained there until he was twenty-eight years old, when, in 1833, he came to America, where he believed better opportunities existed. He landed in Philadelphia, where he worked as a laborer for a short time, and about 1837 came to Wells county and entered a tract of land in Rock Creek township. The land was wild and unimproved, but he was strong, energetic and ambitious and in course of time succeeded in creating for himself a comfortable home and a valuable farm. He was united in marriage, in 1840, with Miss Susan Jackson, a native of North Carolina, but whose parents were among the first settlers in Liberty township, this county. To them were born thirteen children, as follows: Fannie, Rachael, Anna, James, David, Elizabeth, Catherine, Martha, Mary, Thomas, Matthew, Finley, and one that died in infancy unnamed. Samuel Wallace was a firm and uncompromising Republican in politics and in religious belief was a Presbyterian.

Martha Wallace was early taught the lessons of successful housekeeping, growing into a well developed and graceful womanhood, and was given the advantages of as good an education as the schools of that day afforded. On the 24th of April, 1872, she was united in marriage with Jacob B. Markley, who was a resident of Harrison township, though born in Ohio and coming to Wells county in 1864. To this union were born the following children: Arthur Wallace married Anna Markley and resides in Lancaster township; Bessie Florence, who was educated in the Northern Indiana Normal School and subsequently taught four terms. She became the wife of Archie Norton and re-

sides in Winters, Michigan; Lora Jane attended the normal schools at Danville and Valparaiso and then taught three terms of school at Newville, Indiana; she was married April 1, 1902, to Arlie Thompson and now resides in Ft. Wayne, Indiana; Carl Boyd; Ruth Agnes. Mr. Markley was a staunch Republican and took a keen interest in the trend of passing events. He was a man of more than ordinary energy, sound judgment and superior business abilities, and as a farmer took high rank, being regarded as an up-to-date agriculturist, a man of broad intelligence and a leader in enterprises for the general prosperity of the community.

Since her husband's death Mrs. Markley has manifested business abilities of a high order in the management of the estate. She is of a sincerely religious nature, belonging, with her children, to the Presbyterian church, and her life has abounded in good works in the church and among the deserving poor in the world outside. She is held in the highest esteem and numbers warm-hearted friends by the score in the community where she has spent so many years. She has experienced many of life's vicissitudes, and sorrows, but she has also enjoyed many of its triumphs and is now surrounded by those who have long known and respected her.

EDWIN R. DAVIS.

One of the most prominent young native-born farmers of Harrison township, Wells county, Indiana, is Edwin R. Davis, who had his nativity October 14, 1854, on

the farm of his parents, Josiah and Harriet (Grove) Davis. Josiah Davis was born in Hocking county, Ohio, July 12, 1825, acquired more than a usually good common school education in his native county, and there was reared to farming and followed the vocation there until about 1852, when he came to Wells county, Indiana, and purchased a tract of land in Harrison township, where he passed the remainder of his life, dying in 1886, his widow being still a resident on the original purchase. Mr. Davis was a devout and consistent member of the United Brethren church, and in politics was a staunch Republican, although he never had any desire for office holding. To Josiah and Harriet (Grove) Davis were born two sons and two daughters, and of these four children three still survive, namely: Edwin R., in whose interest this biographical notice is chiefly prepared; Emma A., wife of Lewis Cobbum; Henry S., who is married to Grace Wolf and resides in Chester township, Wells county.

Edwin R. Davis was reared on the parental farm in Harrison township, was educated in the common schools of his district and was thoroughly disciplined in the vocation of agriculture. He continued to live on the old homestead until his marriage, which took place January 16, 1879, to Miss Sarah E. King, daughter of George W. and Catherine King and born December 24, 1860. This union had been crowned by the birth of four daughters, namely: Wyomah, who was born December 11, 1880, was graduated from the common school of Harrison township in 1895 and later attended the Angola Normal School, and then taught in Wells county

for four terms; Winnonah, who was born January 16, 1882, graduated from the common schools in 1896, attended the Angola Normal School six terms and has been teaching in Wells county four terms; Nettie, who was born April 26, 1886, was graduated from the common schools in 1902, and is now a student at the Poneto high school. Mrs. Davis and her daughters are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Poneto, to the support of which they are most liberal contributors, and quite active in its work for the general good.

In politics Mr. Davis is a Republican in his proclivities, but is not offensively partisan. He is, nevertheless, well and favorably known in Harrison township and other parts of Wells county, and doubtless would make a good race were he ever to become a candidate for public position. He is highly esteemed for his many personal qualities, and in the social circles of Harrison township he and his wife maintain exalted positions and are highly esteemed by all who know them.

LEWIS M. JOHNSON.

Of the many influential families of Wells county, few have resided there longer, made a deeper or more lasting impression on the history of the county or wielded more influence for good than has the Johnson family of Harrison township. It is now more than sixty-five years since the progenitors of the family came to Wells county. On the 24th day of September, 1837, Abraham W. Johnson lo-

cated in the upper valley of the Wabash, entering one hundred and sixty acres of government land. He was then twenty-three years old, having been born in Darlington township, Beaver county, Pennsylvania, July 14, 1814. Settlers in this locality were not numerous and if the land he selected was not all that he could desire, it must have been his own fault, for he had many thousands of acres to select from. For one year thereafter he vibrated between his claim and Huntington, the nearest approach to a town in that part of Indiana. After clearing and improving his claim for two or more years, he, on the 7th of May, 1840, was married to Miss Jennie S. Henderson, daughter of Daniel and Sarah Henderson, who were natives of Fayette county, Ohio. One of the children born to this union was Lewis M. Johnson. Abraham Johnson, the great-grandfather of Lewis, was Scotch-Irish, as was his wife, Rachael McCammon. Their son, Robert Johnson, was born and reared in Washington county, Pennsylvania, but was married in Beaver county to the daughter of Edward Bradford, a native of Wales, and Mary Bartly, of English parentage, who was born in Norfolk, Virginia. Robert resided in that county until 1847 when he came to Wells county that he might be near his son. Here he resided, surrounded by his children and children's children, until death, in the eighty-sixth year of his age, having survived his companion about ten years. To Abraham W. Johnson and wife ten children were born, viz: Isaac N., Rebecca J., Catherine E., Harriet A., Mary M., Lewis M., John W., Maggie B., Walter B. and Roscoe C. Isaac entered the

service of his country during the Civil war and participated in many of the hottest engagements, receiving a wound that has rendered him a cripple for life.

In 1840 the Johnson family moved to Bluffton, but three years later secured a tract of one hundred and ten acres just outside the city limits. In 1850 Abraham W. Johnson was appointed real estate appraiser for the county, serving as such with fidelity and honor. For many years Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were consistent members of the Baptist church, remaining true to the faith until the close of life. He died July 6, 1899, and his wife July 25, 1900.

Lewis M. Johnson is the second son and tenth child of Abraham W. and Jennie Bradford Johnson and was born January 30, 1858. He was reared upon the old farm and was trained in the honorable calling of an agriculturist. At an early age, in addition to doing much of the work on the farm, he worked for neighbors, often using his father's team. On April 10, 1883, he was united in marriage to Miss Rachael Shimp, a native of Ohio. She died of consumption September 10, 1890, and he then married Miss Dora Ratliff on September 17, 1893. She also died from the same disease May 24, 1895, and July 13, 1896. Mr. Johnson married his present wife, her name being Nancy E. Summers, of Jefferson township, this county, who was born April 14, 1867, and the daughter of Joseph and Victoria Summers. One child was born to this union, Garth A., born July 9, 1899, and died September 12th of the same year.

Starting in life poor and depending chiefly upon his own exertions for ad-

vancement, with limited opportunities. Mr. Johnson has achieved well merited success, being the owner of ninety-four acres of good land adjoining the city limits of Bluffton, as well as several valuable residence properties in the city, all of which materially contribute toward a handsome income. He is a member of Lodge No. 92, K. P., of Bluffton, and politically he is a Republican. His genial personality has won and retained for him a host of warm and true friends.

W. K. SHOEMAKER.

This ex-soldier of the Civil war and a prosperous farmer of Harrison township, Wells county, Indiana, was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, December 20, 1842, and is of English extraction. When twelve years old, he was brought by his parents, John and Rachael Shoemaker, to Wells county. He attended schools in Bluffton until the family removed to a farm near town, when, being then sixteen years old, he was set to work clearing and doing such other work as he was capable of. February 1, 1865, he enlisted in Capt. B. F. Wiley's company, One Hundred and Fifty-third Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and was mustered out with his regiment in September, 1865, when he returned home and resumed work on his father's farm, until April, 1873, when he settled upon his present farm, which now contains two hundred and seventeen acres. It is well improved with commodious and substantial buildings, well adapted to the intended purpose.

Mr. Shoemaker has been twice married,

the first time, April 2, 1868, to Mrs. Lydia A. (Ewing) Heckathorn. Her son was reared by Mr. Shoemaker and, adopting his name, grew to manhood as D. E. Shoemaker, and is now master engineer for the American Strawboard Company at Anderson, Indiana. Mrs. Shoemaker died July 24, 1885, and his second marriage occurred April 19, 1888, when Mrs. Jane (Pence) Higgins, a daughter of James and Lydia (Chalfant) Higgins, became his wife. This marriage has been crowned with two children, Lizzie H. and George W. The great-grandfather of Mr. Shoemaker came from England to Maryland, where his grandfather was born, while his father was born in Ohio.

Mr. Shoemaker, in his political affiliations, has ever been a Republican, and has never hesitated to advocate the principles of his party on suitable occasions. He believes in the all-comprehensive mercy of the Deity "who doeth all things well," and is a man of energy, thrift and enterprise, enjoying the respect and confidence of all who know him.

GEORGE LEIST.

George Leist, who stands among the up-to-date farmers of Wells county, is a native son of the Hoosier state, having been born in Harrison township on the 2d of February, 1843. His parents, Henry G. and Leah (Loy) Leist, were natives of Pickaway county, Ohio, and were there married. In 1842 they came to Wells county and entered a tract of land near Reiffsburg, the place on which Reuben Stout now resides. The land was at that time covered with a heavy growth of

timber, which he succeeded in clearing away and creating for his family a comfortable home. He and his wife resided on this place until their deaths and during their long residence there they retained the warm friendship and regard of a large circle of friends. Politically he was affiliated with the Democratic party. His religious creed was that of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he was a loyal and consistent member. He was the father of six children, Jacob, Sarah, Elizabeth, Catherine, Mary, deceased, and George.

George Leist was reared upon the parental homestead and in the subscription schools of the neighborhood attained his education. He bore his full share in the cultivation of the farm and remained at home until he was thirty-seven years old, farming for his father as well as on his own land. In 1893 he bought the farm west of Bluffton, on which he now resides, and has since been solely engaged in its cultivation.

On the 11th of March, 1880, Mr. Leist was united in marriage with Miss Susan Myers, the daughter of Michael Myers, and to their union have come six children, Lulu, Arlia, John, Gracie, Laura and Clara, deceased. In political matters Mr. Leist's vote and influence are cast in favor of the Democratic party, though he does not seek official distinction. He is a man of pleasing presence, genial in manner and conversation and his social qualities as well as his sterling characteristics have made him popular with a large class of citizens. Mr. Leist is a reader and thinker, is well informed on general topics and spares no pains to keep himself in

touch with the trend of modern thought. A close observer of current events, he has well defined opinions upon political, economic, sociological and kindred subjects. He is an honest, straightforward and conscientious man in all his dealings, and it is with pleasure that this brief synopsis of his life and tribute to his worth as a factor in his community is given a place in this volume.

JOHN N. NEFF.

This prosperous farmer and stock raiser, with his residence in Harrison township, Wells county, Indiana, was born in Athens county, Ohio, January 29, 1858, and when six years of age was brought by his parents, Levi and Rebecca (Goodspeed) Neff, to the township and county in which he still has his home. Mr. Neff is one of the most extensive farmers and successful stock raisers of his day, and his earliest ambition, to become a first-class agriculturist and to own one of the best farms in the county, has been fully realized. He was educated in the common schools of Wells county, and Harrison township has always been his abiding place. Mr. Neff started in his business career by purchasing a forty-acre tract of land with money he had saved from his earnings at ditching, but by careful and prudent investment and wise and judicious management, as well as untiring industry, is now the owner of a good farm, improved with fine buildings, unexcelled by any others in the county in appearance, convenience of construction and substantiality.

In politics Mr. Neff has always affiliated

with the Democratic party, with which he actively co-operates on all occasions. Although he has ever held himself aloof from office seeking, against his own wishes he was elected by a large majority to the office of trustee of his home township in 1890, and filled the position for five years, to the satisfaction of all parties concerned. A number of fine improvements were made during his term as trustee, introducing modern methods in handling all matters pertaining to the office. As trustee Mr. Neff was a firm upholder of good roads and substantial school houses, a number of which stand to his credit.

Fraternally Mr. Neff is a member of Bluffton Lodge No. 92, Knights of Pythias. Religiously he is a Methodist and for many years has been a trustee in his church and has been very ardent in the promotion of its interest. He contributes freely in a financial way to its support, lives strictly in accordance with its teachings, and his neighbors all know him to be kind and benevolent, as well as public spirited and ready at all times to do anything in his power to help along such enterprises as will redound toward the betterment of the community.

John N. Neff has been twice married, his first wife, whom he married February 27, 1884, being Miss Louisa Shoemaker, who was born April 14, 1861. She bore him one son, Samuel, born July 23, 1887, but was herself most untimely called away September 9, 1887. Samuel is an exceptionally bright and kind lad and a great aid to his father. Although but fifteen years of age, any person seeing him going over his own farm of eighty acres, in which he takes pride, would imagine him to be an agriculturist of vast experience, and with a little more instruction from his father there can

be no doubt that Samuel will make as good a husbandman as John N. himself. The second marriage of Mr. Neff was with Rachael E. Linn and took place July 20, 1889. This union has been crowned with five children, viz: Edson, born June 2, 1890; Cora, born January 7, 1892; Vesta, born March 31, 1895; Evart, born August 18, 1897, and Frank, born July 10, 1899. The home of Mr. Neff is delightfully happy, as Mrs. Neff is a most excellent housekeeper and Mr. Neff a liberal and cheerful provider. The children are among the most respected residents of the township and county. Mr. Neff is noted for his promptitude in business engagements, and his bare word is as good with those who have dealings with him as his note. His greatest interest in his farming operations is centered in breeding Chester White hogs.

BENJAMIN P. SMITH.

The present trustee of Harrison township, Wells county, Indiana, and one of the most popular and able of the township's officials is Benjamin P. Smith, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, October 25, 1839, and is a son of Simon B. and Martha A. (Hoskinson) Smith. Simon B. Smith was a native of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and came west with his mother and step-father, who located in Ohio. He then came to Wells county, Indiana, and purchased a tract of land in section 31, upon which he settled in 1844. This tract was covered with hard timber and comprised a quarter section, which he developed into a first class farm

and resided upon until his death, which occurred in 1888, his wife surviving until 1891. In politics Mr. Smith was a Democrat and for many years served as a justice of the peace. He was a shrewd business man and by trade was a blacksmith, a vocation he followed in conjunction with farming, being well-to-do at the time of his death, which took place in the faith of the United Brethren church, of which he was an ardent and active member. The children born to Simon B. and Martha A. Smith were ten in number and were named in order of birth as follows: Sarah, deceased; Benjamin P., whose name opens this biographical notice; Michael, who is farming in Jennings county, Indiana; William, deceased; Phebe, wife of John McKim; Louisa, married to William Metty, an old soldier residing in Kane, Pennsylvania; Freddie, deceased; and Minerva, Elzina and Simon, also deceased.

Benjamin P. Smith was nearly five years of age when brought to Wells county, arriving here October 18, 1844. He was reared on his father's farm and was also employed considerably in lumbering, receiving in the meantime a district school education, which was augmented by an attendance at a subscription school. After attaining his majority, he rented his father's and his father-in-law's farms, having married, in 1870, Miss Eliza Davenport, a sister of Dr. E. P. Davenport and born in Wells county in 1851, of English and Dutch descent. Miss Davenport was a highly educated young lady and for four terms taught in graded school with eminent success in this township and at other places. To the happy union of Mr. and Mrs. B. P. Smith have

been born two children, viz: William R. is married to Lizzie Huffman and rents the home farm, and Martha, who died at the age of five years. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are members of the Baptist church. In politics Mr. Smith is a Democrat and has been prominently identified with the party ever since he has been entitled to exercise his franchise. He is very popular with the party as well as with the public at large. In the spring of 1900 Mr. Smith was nominated by the Democrats as their candidate for township trustee, and in the November following was elected by a handsome majority to fill that responsible office. He has filled the office with credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of the people. A cardinal principle of his is the maintenance of good roads and good schools and the imposition of light levies, and in the carrying out of this principle he is an unceasing worker.

Mr. Smith's farm comprises seventy-four acres, on which he conducts not only general farming, but makes a specialty of breeding Chester White hogs, of which he makes an annual exhibit and sale, which is patronized by many stockmen of northern Indiana. He has proved himself to be one of the most successful agriculturists and stock breeders in the county of Wells, and no family in the township and county is more respected than his.

S. E. SHEPHERD.

S. E. Shepherd was born in Harrison township, Wells county, Indiana, January 29, 1848. His parents, Harrison and Eliza-

beth Shepherd, were natives of Ohio. His grandfather was a soldier of the war of 1812, and located in Ohio soon after peace between the United States and Great Britain was declared, but he did not long survive, and the bereaved mother, considering that the newer field of eastern Indiana might give to her and her children a better opportunity of making their way in the world, moved to Wells county and entered land, north of the county infirmary in Harrison township, where she afterwards made her home until death. Mrs. Shepherd was a woman of dauntless courage and it required women of that kind to brave the perils and hardships of pioneer life. However, her son Harrison, the oldest of the family, was a youth who could be relied upon. He was a tireless worker, sincere and conscientious in all that he did. He cleared and developed the land into a good farm and home, became interested in the work of education and religion and devoted much time from his own private affairs for the public good. On this farm he lived and labored and here his brave, good mother, after years of toil and privation for her children, died in the sanctity of her Christian faith. Here he married Miss Elizabeth Richels; here his children were born, reared, educated and given their first lessons in good citizenship, and here, eventually, after a well spent life, he was gathered to his fathers at the age of sixty-six years. At the time of his death he was financially well-to-do and was the owner of two hundred acres of choice land. To Harrison and Elizabeth Shepherd were born nine children, four of whom are dead. They are: Reason, deceased; Daniel, deceased; S. C., the subject of this sketch; Sylvester, deceased; Arminda, wife of Wallace Ripple; Ellen G., wife of Lewis H. Col-

bert; Rosetta, wife of Hiram A. Folk, a farmer living upon the old homestead; Hannah, deceased; Bertha, wife of E. N. Corey, a merchant at Pennville, Indiana.

Upon the farm, hewn out of the wilderness by the industry of his father, S. E. Shepherd was born and reared and during the fifty-five years of his life he has never had a residence outside of Harrison township. In his youth and early manhood he worked by the side of his father, and under the care and direction of that good man received the advantages of a good common school education and later the benefits of a knowledge of the higher branches of learning in the schools of Bluffton under the tutorship of Colonel McClerry. When old enough, he became a teacher in the public schools of the county and followed that calling for a number of years. His license was always of the highest grade, few in the county equalling and none excelling it. When in his twenty-fourth year, October 26, 1871, he was united in marriage to Minerva C. King, daughter of Adam and Elizabeth (Bolander) King, who were natives of Ohio, but had emigrated to Indiana and located near the present site of Craigville, Lancaster township. Mrs. Shepherd is a lady of good education, amiable disposition and many accomplishments. For a year after their marriage they resided upon and cultivated part of the old Shepherd homestead, but then purchased one hundred acres in Harrison township, where he now resides. It then consisted principally of woods, but did not remain long in that condition under its new owner. He immediately erected a substantial and commodious barn, forty by seventy feet, and a well arranged residence. This farm is now well drained, fenced and

splendidly improved, and is recognized as one of the most productive farms, for corn, in the county. In favorable seasons Mr. Shepherd has raised as high as eighty-five bushels to the acre. His favorite products are corn, hogs and clover and out of these he has made the greater part of the competence which he now enjoys. To Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd have been born three children, as follows: Leora E. was born February 23, 1873, received a good education and is now the wife of Walter L. Feters, of Bluffton; Alma E. was the wife of Dr. H. W. Markley, but died August 13, 1901; Rosanna E. lives at home.

Politically Mr. Shepherd has always affiliated with the Democratic party, in the success of which he has always taken an active part. For seventeen years he has served his township as justice of the peace and notary public. For some years he has been employed as a general agent for patent rights, and in this capacity has travelled over many states, among them Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama and Kentucky. During these travels he has acquired a fund of information about each locality and its people. With the qualities mentioned it is needless to say that he has been most successful in every line of business he has undertaken.

ROBERT F. GAVIN.

A single statement will sometimes give a far better insight into the character, disposition and mental trend of a person than would the contents of a volume. In these days of party strife, when the political

organization is supreme, to say of a man or to have a man say of himself that he "never voted a straight ticket in his life" is to say that he is a man of independence, a man with the courage of his convictions, a man of marked and pronounced individuality. Robert F. Gavin, of Liberty township, makes that assertion regarding himself, and in doing so inadvertently pays himself a very high compliment. It is such votes as his that "turn the rascals out" of office and keep them out. Whatever the partisan politician may say, there is no question but that the independent voter is the true patriot.

Robert F. Gavin was born in the city of Galway, Ireland, December 11, 1838. His parents were George and Mary (Benton) Gavin, he of Kings county and she of Queens county, in the province of Leinster, Ireland. His parents were James and Mary Gavin, while her father was Henry Benton, who for many years was connected with the customs department of the government in Ireland. February 23, 1838, George and Mary were united in marriage in the cathedral in the city of Galway, and for ten years thereafter he was connected with the royal Irish constabulary. The family emigrated to America in 1848, landing in the city of New York. They did not tarry long in New York, but came to Ross county, Ohio. There he engaged in farming until 1854, when they moved to Wells county, established themselves upon a rented farm in Harrison township. There they remained until 1857, when they moved to Liberty township, having bought eighty acres of land in the woods. When he arrived in America he possessed some five hundred or six hundred dollars,

but by industry and economy he succeeded in accumulating a handsome property, so that at his death he was recognized as one of the most substantial farmers of the county, being the owner of two hundred and ten acres. He died December 11, 1882, being survived by his wife about three years.

To George and Mary Gavin eight children were born, viz: Robert F.; Mary A., deceased; Sarah, wife of Harrison Snow, resides in Marshall county, Kansas; Henrietta died on the voyage across the Atlantic and was buried at sea; James B. is a resident of Liberty township, Wells county; Henry J., and Eliza, both deceased.

Even as a child Robert F. Gavin was imbued with ambition and thirst for knowledge, and although but ten years old when he arrived in America, he was by no means a novice in the common school branches. In mathematics he especially excelled, for it is a current belief in Ireland that a man who pretends to learning without a thorough knowledge of figures, is either an impostor or an ignoramus. Problems in the "voster," the Irish arithmetic, that were quite easy of solution to him, would puzzle many an older head. Here he attended the district schools and had the benefit of one term in the seminary at Murray, Indiana. In 1859 he entered the school room as a teacher and continued that occupation each year during the winter months until 1871.

March 4, 1866, Mr. Gavin was united in marriage to Miss Martha McFarren, daughter of Jacob and Rachael (Foust) McFarren. Jacob McFarren was a native

of Pennsylvania, the son of John and Elizabeth McFarren, also natives of that state. When Jacob was a small boy his parents emigrated to Highland county, Ohio, where he grew to manhood and married Rachael Foust, March 4, 1841. That same year the young couple moved to Huntington county, Indiana, and there Martha was born, February 27, 1842. In 1857 Jacob moved to Liberty township, Wells county, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their days. She died October 10, 1873, his own demise occurring August 24, 1895. To them were born ten children, viz: Martha A., George F., John, deceased, Andrew, Sarah, Jonathan, William, Mary, Emma and Joseph M. Soon after marriage the subject and his wife settled on the place now owned by M. Johnson. He had one horse, and his wife a cow, but he cleared some thirty acres and in 1871 sold to Absalom Funk and purchased one hundred and fifty acres of the farm upon which he now lives. The land was wet, wild and wooded when he got it, but it is now a most desirable, productive farm of three hundred acres. He also owns one hundred and sixty acres in section 24. In addition to managing his big farm and other interests, he has been interested in a grain elevator at Poneto for several years, his partners being H. A. Man, Frank Kizer and William Walker.

To Mr. and Mrs. Gavin eight children have been born, viz: George; Rachel A. married C. B. McAdam and they are the parents of two children, Arthur E. and an infant daughter, deceased; Mary J. married Charles P. Eaton and died December 14, 1891; John F.; Winona married W. H. Weinland, May 22, 1895, and they have

one child, Iantha Ann; William; Austin, and James H., who died at the age of five years. John and Austin have attended the Marion Normal School, the former teaching for a time. Mr. Gavin is a member of the Methodist Protestant church, holding membership at Blanch chapel, of which he is trustee. His wife belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church at Poneto. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., being treasurer of Poneto Lodge No. 752. In politics he is as free and independent as the breezes of the plains, being bound by no party ties or hedged in by any organization. His vote is his own, not being influenced by any man, set of men, circles, clique or political party.

LEWIS A. MINNIEAR.

The subject of this sketch is a native of Huntington county, Indiana, and the son of Joseph and Rachael A. (Searles) Minniear. Joseph's parents were Isaac and Lydia Minniear, natives of Virginia and Ohio. They moved to Huntington county as early as 1838, but after a residence there of about twelve years changed their abode to the county of Wabash, where they spent the remainder of their lives, Isaac dying May 9, 1855, his wife surviving him until about the year 1870. To this couple were born fourteen children, whose names are as follows: Lucinda, Charity, Minerva, Nancy, Tabitha, John, Isaac, Charles, Frances, William, Mary, Blufford, Joseph and Lydia.

Joseph Minniear, the thirteenth of the family, was reared to maturity in the counties of Huntington and Wabash,

and by reason of the death of his father was early in life obliged to assume the responsibility of caring for his widowed mother and provide means for his own support. On the 4th day of July, 1861, he was united in marriage to Miss Rachael Ann Searles, who was born near Lebanon, Ohio, June 6, 1841, the daughter of William and Charlotte Searles, the father a native of England, the mother of Ohio. William Searles was born about one hundred miles from London and grew to young manhood in the land of his nativity. His mother having found a home in the United States, William and his brother Thomas decided about ten years after she had left England to join her in the new world. Accordingly they made their way to the harbor from which they were to sail and on applying for passage found all but one berth engaged for the voyage. Which of the two should have this berth was now the question. The brothers had a long and bitter controversy over the matter and would perhaps have settled it by a resort to fisticuffs had not the captain interfered by persuading Thomas, who was the older, to wait for the next vessel. In due time he took passage, but was ship-wrecked and for some time the passengers and crew were without food, other than a mere pittance of tallow candle allotted to each as his day's rations. The vessel was finally sighted and towed to harbor, but the sufferings endured by the immigrants had almost reduced them to living skeletons. William Searles settled near Lebanon, Ohio, and for a number of years thereafter worked at the shoemaker's trade. His first wife was Anna Dehaven, who bore him three children: Theophilus, Alpheus and John, the last named deceased; by his second wife, whose maiden name was Charlotte

Parker, a native of Ohio, he was the father of children as follows: F. M., Jasper, Jonah, Joseph, David and Rachael. Mr. Searles finally ceased working at his trade and moved to Huntington county, Indiana, where he entered a tract of government land, from which in the course of a few years he developed a good farm. He and his wife died on this place a number of years ago and their memories are still cherished by their descendants and by the people of the community who formerly knew them. Ever since his marriage Joseph Minniear has lived in Huntington county and is today regarded as one of the enterprising farmers and progressive men of his township. He is the father of nine children.

Lewis A. Minniear was born October 10, 1869, on the farm which his maternal grandfather purchased from the government and it was there that his childhood and early youth were spent. He entered the district schools at the proper age, continued to attend them at intervals until his twenty-first year and after attaining his majority took a course in the Central Normal College at Danville. Subsequently, in the fall of 1889, he entered the Bluffton Normal School, where he prosecuted his studies one term, at the end of which time he again took up the public school work, in which he was graduated the following year. Meantime he became acquainted with the more practical affairs of life by beginning to work on a farm when but thirteen years of age, receiving fifty cents a day for his services. Subsequently he labored about three years at fifteen dollars per month, during which time he turned over to his mother the greater part of his earnings, retaining for himself barely sufficient to pay for his clothing and to meet a few other necessary ex-

penses. In the fall of 1886 his wages were increased to sixteen dollars per month and during the succeeding six years he worked diligently with the object in view of ultimately purchasing land and becoming an agriculturist upon his own responsibility. Meantime, on the 10th of December, 1893, he was united in marriage to Miss Viola P. Clark, daughter of J. I. and Nancy A. (Helm) Clark, and in the latter part of the same month moved into a little old log cabin which stood on the farm he now owns and cultivates. In due time this primitive structure gave place to the comfortable modern dwelling which the family now occupies, Mr. Minniear the meanwhile bringing his place to a successful state of tillage by careful cultivation and a thorough system of tile drainage. He has studied closely the science of agriculture, understanding the nature of soils and their adaptability to the different products, and by a judicious rotation of crops never fails to realize abundant returns from his labors. Like other successful farmers of the county, he has not been backward in the matter of stock raising, his breeds of Hereford cattle and fine hogs being among the best in the township, in addition to which he also devotes considerable attention to domestic fowls, being especially fortunate in raising Plymouth Rocks and Rosecomb Leghorn breeds. Mr. Minniear is indebted to his own energy and superior management for what advancement he has made, as he began life for himself with no aid from any other source. His well directed industry has been crowned with a large measure of success, and this, too, when confronted by conditions calculated to discourage one of less will power. He has always looked upon the bright side of life and is optimistic enough

to believe that honest toil, when directed by sound judgment, cannot fail in the end of rewarding those by whom it is exercised. Mr. Minniear reads much and is one of the well-posted men of his community. He believes in education and moral training, uses his best endeavor to promote these interests in his neighborhood and also lends his influence to all movements having for their ends the material prosperity of the township in which he lives.

Mr. and Mrs. Minniear have three children, namely: Elmer V., born September 1, 1894; Lloyd, born June 7, 1899, and Clarence H., whose birth took place on the 21st day of December, 1901. Since his twenty-second year Mr. Minniear has been a faithful and consistent member of the Methodist Protestant church, filling a number of important official positions in Beemer Chapel, with which he is identified, including among others those of steward, class leader and superintendent of the Sunday school. He is an active church worker and a liberal contributor to the support of the gospel both at home and abroad. Mrs. Minniear united with the church when eighteen years old and has lived an earnest, devoted Christian life from that time to the present.

At the age of seventeen Mr. Minniear was initiated into the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Warren, but at this time his membership is with Liberty Center Lodge. He has passed all the chairs in the latter organization and has the reputation of being one of its most earnest and zealous workers. Politically he was born and reared a Democrat and has always remained loyal to the old historic party of Jefferson and Jackson, defending its principles at all times and laboring earnestly for its success when campaigns

are in progress. He has never asked nor desired office, but takes an active interest in the selection of candidates and spares no reasonable effort in working for their success at the polls.

GEORGE M. GAVIN.

George M. Gavin was born May 23, 1871, in Liberty township, on the farm upon which he now resides. He is the son of J. B. and Rebecca (Hedges) Gavin, to whom an independent article is herein devoted. His grandfather was George Gavin, who in his native land was a member of the royal constabulary (governmental police), but who became an educator in Ohio and later in Indiana and is so remembered by the older citizens.

Early in life George M. Gavin developed a talent for learning. He attended the public schools, securing such benefits as they could confer until he received a certificate to teach, though he continued the better to prepare himself by attending the State Normal School at Terre Haute. He taught six successive years in Liberty, Harrison and Chester townships and attained a high standing among the valued educators of the county. Realizing that the financial return was not commensurate with the ability demanded, he opened a hardware and undertaking establishment at Poneto in 1898, which he conducted successfully for about two years, then selling the hardware department and continued the undertaking practice. In 1900 he was elected township trustee, largely in recognition of his interests in the schools, and, placing his mercantile

business in other hands, he moved to his farm, the same that was owned by his grandfather nearly twenty years before he was born. He does general farming and stock raising, finding the celebrated Poland China hogs the most profitable source of income.

December 24, 1892, Mr. Gavin was united in marriage to Miss Lucy E. Huffman, a daughter of Frederick and Mary (Ruse) Huffman, natives of Darke county, Ohio, he being a son of Henry and Catherine Huffman. Frederick Huffman now lives at Warren, though he formally lived in Jackson township. Mr. and Mrs. Gavin have one son, James Frederick, born July 25, 1894. They have also opened their hearts and home to two orphan children, Mathae and Ralph Irick, they being but eleven months old when they became inmates of the Gavin home. These are the children of Mrs. Gavin's sister, Phebe Catherine, who married George H. Irick, both of whom died of typhoid fever and within twelve hours of each other, and were buried in the same grave in Lawn cemetery at Warren.

Mr. Gavin is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, while Mrs. Gavin affiliates with the German Baptist, or Dunkards, each enjoying the privilege of worshiping God according to the dictates of his own conscience. Mr. Gavin is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge at Poneto, of which he is secretary. He has ever been a Democrat and it was upon that ticket he was elected township trustee and has the distinction of being the youngest man ever elected to that office. As trustee his interest in education and theories regarding conduct of

school have more ample scope than when a mere teacher only. Believing in the centralization of school effort, he endeavors to give his township the benefit of the most advanced and tried experience in that line. Liberty township now has eight schools with fourteen teachers, four of them being in the Liberty Center high school and four in Poneto. The buildings are all in a first class condition and this capable corps of able instructors affords the youth of the township facilities equal to any in the county.

JACOB J. SMITH.

Jacob J. Smith was born June 19, 1841, in Fairfield county, Ohio, his parents being Bartholomew and Mary (Eversole) Smith, natives of Virginia and Ohio respectively. He had come with his parents when they moved to Fairfield county, Ohio, in the early part of the last century and always lived on a farm, both dying in Fairfield county at advanced ages.

The youth and early manhood of Jacob J. Smith were spent in his native county of Fairfield and he received a fair education in the public and subscription schools. For two years he had cultivated his father's farm, previous to September 2, 1861, when he entered the United States service as a volunteer soldier, joining Company F, Seventeenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving under Captain Rickett, Colonel Collins and General Cook. He was out two years and four months and participated in numerous important and sanguinary battles, among them being Wild Cat, Kentucky, Mill Spring, Ft.

Donelson and Shiloh. In the latter part of 1863 his left arm was fractured and for this and other disabilities he was discharged at Nashville, Tennessee. While in the hospital at Huntsville, Alabama, all of the sick not able to be moved were taken prisoners when Cook's brigade abandoned that territory. All were kept there, treated by rebel surgeons, and in three months he was exchanged and sent to the Federal hospital at Nashville, from which he was discharged six weeks later, and on his way to Louisville he called upon his regimental commander, then stationed at Gallatin, Tennessee. As a Democrat he entered the service, fought as a Democrat and has continued to vote as a Democrat ever since. When he had recovered sufficiently he resumed the cultivation of his father's farm.

August 3, 1865, Mr. Smith was married to Miss Elizabeth J. Morris, born July 22, 1844, in Fairfield county, Ohio. Her parents were Mitchell and Elizabeth (Hardesty) Morris. Her father was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, December 28, 1812, and resided on the farm where he was born and where his parents originally settled, from his birth to his death, a period of eighty-seven years. His wife, Elizabeth, who was born November 4, 1818, died on the same farm some years previous. After marriage the young couple found that their united fortunes consisted of a horse, a cow and four hundred dollars, the cash and the cow belonging to the wife. They rented in Ohio and also in Rock Creek township, Wells county, coming to it in October, 1865. After some time they bought forty acres in the woods, for a portion of which they went in debt. After building a house and clearing and improving the place

they sold it for seven hundred dollars more than what the land had cost them, and with the money they bought eighty acres, all in the woods, in Liberty township. Upon this they built a good house and barn, cleared, ditched, fenced and improved the place and made of it a most valuable and desirable farm. On this place they resided twenty-seven years, when, in 1901, they sold and bought one hundred and twenty acres in Lancaster township. This was sold in three months and another eighty acres in the same township purchased, but in four months they sold again and returned to Liberty township. Here they bought the Joseph Rose farm, within one mile of their old place, but this also has been sold and a farm of eighty acres in Harrison township was purchased. He has also residence property in Bluffton where he proposes to take life with more leisure.

To Mr. and Mrs. Jacob J. Smith six children have been born, viz: Rosetta is the wife of Peter Souerwine, of Rock Creek township, and they have three children, Virgil, Vesta and Daisy; Mary E., who taught two years, is now the wife of Hugh W. Fate, of Liberty township, and they have three children, Ethel, Clarence and Lola; Morris B., a constructor for the Indiana Bridge Company; Anetta is the wife of Jonathan Falk, of Harrison township, and they have three children, Guy, Justine and Howard; Virginia, who married Jacob Eckhart, of Liberty township, died aged twenty-two years; James resides with his parents.

What Mr. and Mrs. Smith possess today has all been made by industry, backed by prudence, good judgment and economy. He does general farming, including live stock growing, and gives preference to Poland China hogs and Red Polled cattle. Mr.

Smith, wife and daughters are members of the Friends' church at Pleasant View. He belongs to Lewis Dailey Post, G. A. R., at Bluffton. His political creed is Democracy. The underlying principles of that party, opposed to the centralization of power in the general government, has 'overshadowed every minor issue, in his estimation, and wedded him to the party of Jefferson and Jackson. In that, as in all other matters, he is sincere and consistent, believing in the widest latitude and fullest liberty of the individual, consistent with the good of society. It is a matter of regret that more voters of this land of freedom do not study those important questions of state, and his example in this line, as indeed in most others, may be safely followed.

JOHN W. SPROWL.

This ex-soldier of the Civil war, but now a peaceful agriculturist in Liberty township, Wells county, Indiana, and as broad-minded in the time of peace as he was patriotic in the time of war, was born in Lancaster township, Huntington county, Indiana, July 15, 1845, a son of James A. and Elizabeth (Wagner) Sprowl. James A. Sprowl was born in Virginia, and when young was brought to Indiana by his parents, who settled in Lancaster township, Huntington county. Joseph Sprowl, father of James A., purchased wild land when he reached the country, before the Indians had been expelled therefrom, and in that comparative wilderness James A. grew to manhood, the country in the meantime becoming settled up and modernized. James A. there passed the

remainder of his life, with the exception of four years spent in Iowa, and was famous among the Indians as a hunter. He lived until the ripe age of eighty-six years. The children born to James A. and Elizabeth Sprowl numbered nine and in order of birth were named as follows: Mary A., the wife of James Barton; William, a resident of Bluffton; John W.; Achasa Jane, widow of Mr. Collins, lives in Iowa; Susan, the wife of Frank Horner; Joseph, a resident of White county; Sarah, married to John Huff; Francis resides in Bluffton; Miner, wife of John Horner, and Christina, who died in childhood.

John W. Sprowl was reared in Lancaster township and at the age of eighteen enlisted in Company F, One Hundred and Thirtieth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, under Colonel Perrish and General Sherman. He served two years, being honorably discharged at Charlotte, North Carolina, in 1865. He had taken part in several skirmishes and twelve regular battles, including those of Pea Ridge, Kenesaw Mountain and Atlanta.

At the cessation of hostilities Mr. Sprowl returned to his father's home and assisted on the farm until his marriage, July 25, 1867, to Miss Isabel Edgar, who was born in Pennsylvania July 13, 1843, a daughter of Atkinson and Mary Ann (Mounsey) Edgar, natives of England, who came to the United States about 1842. They engaged in farming in the Keystone state until 1844, when they came to Wells county, Indiana, remained here about one year and then went to Huntington county, where Mr. Edgar bought forty acres of farming land, to which he added until he owned one hundred and sixty acres. This he subsequently sold and bought one hundred and sixty acres near

Warren, which he also sold, and next purchased two hundred acres near Kelso, Huntington county, on which he resided until ten or twelve years prior to his death, when he went to live with his son John, at whose home he passed away in 1891. The mother of Mrs. Sprowl died when she was but three weeks old, and her father then married Jane Mounsey, sister to his first wife, and who had come to Indiana with him. Atkinson Edgar and first wife had a family of six children, viz: Mary, Sarah and John, deceased; Jane, widow of Jefferson McElhany; Elizabeth, wife of Jonathan Lowery, and Isabel. To the second marriage of Mr. Edgar were also born six children, namely: Martha, widow of Napoleon Williams, Atkinson, Thomas and three who died in infancy.

John W. Sprowl, for two years after his marriage, lived with his father-in-law and cultivated the farm. He then settled on his own farm of eighty acres, which he still occupies, but which was then in a swamp deep in the woods. Seventy acres of this place Mr. Sprowl has cleared up and drained and has put under cultivation. When he settled here he had two horses, two cows, a few pigs and some sheep, and the cabin of logs was twenty by eighteen feet, with a framed kitchen attached, these improvements having been made by himself.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Sprowl have been blessed with five children, viz: Lucinda, who was born in February, 1869, is now the wife of Daniel Masterson, of Liberty township, and has two children, Raymond L. and Jason; James A. died at the age of twenty-two years; Henry N. is married to Etta Medrets and is the father of four children, Dora B., John W., Lottie M. and Roy; Jon-

athan E. married Celestia Fudge, who bore him one child, Otis Elmer, but the father is now deceased, being killed by an engine while pumping oil; Rosa B., the youngest of the five, was married to Allison Melling, but was called away in February, 1896, leaving two children, Ora O., who has been reared by Mr. Sprowl, and Gus M., who died when five months old. Mr. Sprowl, who is a gentleman of the kindest impulse, has also reared Melvin Lucky, whom he took in charge when but three weeks old and who will soon arrive at his majority.

Mr. and Mrs. Sprowl are members of the United Brethren church at Mount Zion and in politics Mr. Sprowl is a Democrat. He is now superintendent of fourteen and three-quarters miles of gravel road and has at different times filled various township offices. He is one of the most public spirited men in his township and is widely and favorably known, being ready and willing at all times to aid with his means and advice all projects designed to promote the convenience and happiness of his fellow citizens.

JOSEPH B. MOORE.

The man who has accumulated most in the way of worldly wealth is not always the man who has accomplished most in life. While wealth is desirable, there are other things much more so, because of being more conducive to happiness. A moral, intelligent, well educated and thrifty family is far more desirable than great wealth. The combination of both, like most other happy combinations, is to be most desired. The subject of this sketch, Joseph B. Moore, is one whose

life has been blessed in this regard. He was born in Hamilton county, near Strawtown, Indiana, September 11, 1838, and here his childhood, youth and early manhood were spent. During the 'forties there were few schools in Indiana, but most neighborhoods had a subscription school a number of months each year, and it was in these schools that the subject received his education. It was not what would be considered liberal, but was thorough as to the common branches.

The parents of Joseph B. Moore were Cornelius and Elizabeth (Lash) Moore. The latter was a native of New Jersey and emigrated, when quite young, with her parents, to eastern Ohio where the family resided for some time, then moved to Athens, Ohio, where she met and married Cornelius Moore. After marriage they settled down to farming near Athens, where they continued until 1834, when they moved to Hamilton county, Indiana. There they entered a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of government land, erected a humble home and proceeded to carve a farm out of the wilderness. When they had been away from their relatives and friends in Ohio a number of years, and when Joseph B. Moore was an infant of only a few months, they decided to make a visit to their old Ohio home. They traveled by wagon, taking with them their bedding, and stopping at night at farm houses on the way, when they would lay their bedding on the floor and repose comfortably through the night. One morning one of the men of the house where they stopped, desiring to help them get ready for their journey, picked up the bedding and dumped it into the wagon. Later Mrs. Moore missed her baby, which was nowhere to be found. The child was too young to

even crawl away, hence what had become of him was a mystery. Diligent search finally disclosed the little fellow almost smothered to death under the pile of bedding that had been dumped into the wagon, and he made several gasps before he succeeded in regaining his breath.

Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Moore were the parents of nine children, viz: Isaac married Sarah A. Kelley and is now a resident of Kansas; Morilla died in early womanhood; Eli died in infancy; Joseph; Mary is the widow of James Coster and resides on the old Moore homestead in Hamilton county; George married Rebecca Nance and lives in Hamilton county; Cornelius married Catherine White and lives in Madison county, Indiana; William resides in Hamilton county, on the old homestead; Anthony married Sarah Cuillip and also resides in Hamilton county. The father of this family continued to reside upon and cultivate the farm entered by him, until his death, which occurred many years ago. The mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Moore, died in 1899, at the age of eighty-five years.

Joseph B. Moore worked for his parents until he was twenty-one years of age. Starting out in life to work for himself, he made a trip to Illinois and worked there at farming six months. Returning to Indiana, he worked for a number of years by the day or month for those who had work to do until November 15, 1867, when he was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Kelly, born in Carroll county, Ohio, April 7, 1847. She was a daughter of Aaron and Susan (Stern) Kelly, who were natives of Ohio, but who had moved to Hamilton county, Indiana, in 1849, when their daughter, Elizabeth, was only two years old. It is said that

Mrs. Kelly and her two children, with all their household goods, were conveyed from Ohio on the back of one horse, Mr. Kelly making the journey on foot. During the first few years of their life in Hamilton county they lived on rented farm. When Mr. Kelly had accumulated sufficient money he purchased a tract of eighty acres, land being then not nearly as expensive as it has since become. This he improved and built a home upon it, adding occasionally to the dimensions of his farm, by purchase, until at the time of his death he was the owner of two hundred and seventy acres, splendidly improved and thoroughly cultivated. He was born January 30, 1820, died February 22, 1873; his wife, born July 4, 1823, died February 10, 1901. They were parents of twelve children, viz: Sarah N., wife of Isaac Moore, a resident of Kansas; Elizabeth; Catherine, deceased; Anthony married Sina Awker, and resides in Hamilton county; William, who married Emma Brooks, resides in Hamilton county; John, deceased; Charlotte, deceased; Douglass married Mina Awker and resides in Hamilton county; Caroline, the wife of Fletcher Summers, is now dead; Mary J. is the wife of David Musselman and resides in Liberty township; Delilah is the widow of William Cenders, residing at Strawtown, and Aaron, deceased.

The possessions of Joseph B. Moore at the time of his marriage consisted of one horse, an interest in some cattle and an interest in the growing crop on the home place. The first two years he cultivated the farm of his father-in-law and then rented another place for two years more, when he moved to Wells county, Indiana, where he purchased eighty acres of land for eighteen hundred dollars. As part payment he turned over a

team of horses, valued at three hundred dollars, and gave three notes of five hundred dollars each, payable in one, two and three years. As these notes became due he did not have money to meet them, but borrowed it, paying ten per cent. interest. It was more than twelve years before the last of this indebtedness was liquidated. When he took possession of this land it was practically unimproved, but it is now well ditched, fenced and upwards of seventy acres are cleared. In 1884 he built a large barn and has recently completed a fine residence. He is a farmer of the progressive type, raising lots of cattle, horses and hogs and plenty of grain, hay, straw, fodder and vegetables to feed them. He has a number of very fine brood mares and always has several promising colts on the place. He attends strictly to his own business and therefore makes it remunerative and profitable.

To Mr. and Mrs. Moore five children and many grandchildren have been born, viz: Celia is the wife of Edward Harris, and they are the parents of seven children, William, Charles, Otis, Henry, Evert, Rosie and Edna; Cora is the wife of George Sheets and they are the parents of three children, Elizabeth, Lloyd and Raymond; Aaron, who married Gertie Jones, resides in Liberty township, and they are the parents of three children, Loretta, Lela and Belle; Susan and Elizabeth Ann were twins, both dying in infancy. Mrs. Moore is a member of the church of the Disciples, being a liberal contributor to its support and a regular attendant upon its services. Mr. Moore is an active member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Liberty Center, has passed the chairs twice and twice been representative in grand lodge. In politics he has always

been a Democrat and rather active, particularly during campaigns, having represented his township and county in state and congressional conventions a number of times. Because of his courteous manners, genial disposition and genuine worth, Mr. Moore has won and retains the regard and esteem of all who know him.

DAVID T. MATLACK.

Sixty years ago, in the new settlement of Indiana, the man with an education was treated with a great deal of consideration. In those days, in the country, about the only use there was for an education was to employ in it the school room in teaching. William Matlack, father of David T. Matlack, was a native of Chester county, Pennsylvania, and a man of learning and ability. His father was Thomas Matlack, who was born, lived and died in the Keystone state. In 1840, William Matlack came west and, finding himself in Wayne county, Indiana, with nothing to do, resolved to employ his talents in teaching. As an instructor he was efficient and popular and not only won his way to the hearts of his pupils, but also to the heart of a pretty girl over across the state line in Preble county. On November 22, 1844, he was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Stamback, a daughter of David and Mary J. (Kelly) Stamback, natives of Pennsylvania, who were among the earliest settlers of Preble county. At the instigation of his wife and her relations, he took up his abode in Preble county and devoted himself to farming. He remain-

ed there for thirteen years, when, in 1857, he moved to Salamonie township, Huntington county, Indiana, where he purchased a tract of one hundred and forty acres of land, partly in Wells county. This tract he cleared and improved, making it a valuable, productive farm. He also taught several terms of school in Huntington county. He and his wife were the parents of four children, viz: David, Mary, wife of Thomas Mounsey; Martha E., wife of Thomas Weekley, and Mahala, wife of Sylvester Lounsbury. The family continued to occupy their Huntington county home until the death of the parents. The mother died December 6, 1877, aged sixty-two years, eight months and five days and on September 7, 1891, the father died, aged seventy-seven years, five months and five days.

David T. Matlack was born in Preble county, Ohio, August 23, 1845. His father, appreciating an education, did not neglect that of the boy. He attended school in Preble county, Ohio, and in Huntington county, Indiana, until he was twenty years of age. On attaining his majority he rented land on the shares, ploughing, planting, cultivating and reaping the crops for one-third of the gross amount gathered, working for about ten years in this manner up to the time of his marriage. November 23, 1876, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Priddy, born March 4, 1846, in Salamonie township, Huntington county, Indiana, the daughter of James W. and Lydia E. (Irwin) Priddy. He was born in Fayette county, Indiana, July 3, 1821, was the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Priddy, who were of Irish parentage. The Priddys moved to Huntington county, Indiana, in 1840, and here James

W. met Lydia E. Irwin and married her. She was the daughter of Samuel and Abi Irwin, who were natives of North Carolina, but among the first settlers of Huntington county. James W. and Lydia E. Priddy were the parents of seven children, viz: Mary E.; Sarah E., wife of William Loudenback; Thomas A., a resident of Alexandria, Indiana; Asenith A., was the wife of Henry Stroup, but has been dead some years; Samuel resides on the home place; John L. is a resident of Warren, and William, who lives in Huntington.

The parents continued to reside upon the same place where they originally settled, until their deaths. He died June 2, 1881; she was born January 28, 1821, died October 17, 1889. They lived for fifty years upon the same farm and during that time there were only three deaths in the family, two of these being aged people.

For ten years after his marriage David T. Matlack lived with his father and cultivated the farm on the shares, receiving one-third of the gross crop gathered. In the meantime he accumulated some money, with which he purchased eighty acres of land in the woods in Jackson township. He cleared forty acres of this and otherwise improved the place, until it became a desirable piece of property, when he sold it. A part of the proceeds he invested in fifteen acres in Liberty township, Wells county. To this he kept adding, as the opportunity offered and means afforded, until he was the owner of one hundred and forty acres, part of which was included in the old homestead. A one-story cabin, sixteen by twenty feet, was erected on this land and into this Mr. Matlack moved his family in 1886. There was lit-

tle other improvement on the place when he took up his residence upon it, but it is now cleared, fenced, ditched and otherwise improved, having a first class set of buildings, comparing favorably with any in the township, the house being erected in 1890, and in 1900 he built a well-appointed, commodious and substantial barn. He is engaged in general farming and stock raising, giving preference to Poland China hogs and Galloway cattle. That he has been industrious, a good manager and eminently successful, the facts above set forth amply attest. To him and his wife two children have been born, viz: George A., born September 18, 1877, taught his first term of school when he was fifteen years of age and has taught eight terms since, being principal of the schools at Poneto and at Craigville, meantime taking a three-years course at the Indiana University. He was admitted to the bar on his twenty-fourth birthday and is now associated with Henry Eichborn in active practice at Bluffton, being deputy prosecutor of the county; Lewis E., born October 28, 1880, is a graduate of the Liberty Center high school and Purdue University and taught two terms. Mrs. Matlack is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church, is a liberal contributor to its support, and is also a member of the lodge of Rebekahs. Mr. Matlack is a Mason and Odd Fellow, a member of the encampment and belongs to the lodge of Rebekahs at Warren. He has passed the chairs in the encampment and is now noble grand of the subordinate lodge. In politics he is a Democrat and quite active in work for the party, especially during exciting political campaigns. He is a man

of influence and worth, not only in his own township, but his ability is recognized in all parts of the county.

JAMES P. MOUNSEY.

A fortune may be attained in numerous ways. The two most common are by a sudden lucky venture and by steady plodding and trivial accumulations, requiring years, perhaps a life time, to bring about the desired result. Where one fortune is secured in the first way, hundreds of thousands are acquired in the other manner. The first is the most popular, that is, it is the way most people would prefer to get it, but the second is by far the surest way of compassing the desired result and in every community comfortable fortunes are being acquired by that process. One of those who has secured a competency in this way is James P. Mounsey, of Mt. Zion, Wells county, Indiana. He was born in Liberty township, February 4, 1855, and was the son of John and Eliza (Merri-man) Mounsey. The parents were married in Wells county, Indiana, but the mother was a native of Wayne county, Ohio, the father being English by birth. He came to America when he was eighteen years of age, going to Pennsylvania and later located in Grant county, where he married, his first wife being Caroline Stratton. In 1840 he located in Wells county, Indiana, settling on a tract of land in Liberty township, on which he continued to reside up to the time of his death. In the latter years of his life John Mounsey was in the habit of telling numerous anecdotes of his experiences in the early settlement of Wells county. The win-

ter of 1844 will long be remembered by "the oldest inhabitant" as the coldest in the memory of man in this latitude. Mr. Mounsey stated, and other early settlers vouched for its truth, that on the 10th of April, that year, he crossed the Mississinewa river on the ice, in a big sled, on his way to Grant county for a load of corn. To show his extreme poverty in those early days, he told of salt being fourteen dollars a barrel and that he did not have money enough to buy salt enough to season the butter that he ate. His first year in America he earned one hundred dollars, paid sixty-five dollars of it for a mare which he kept long enough to get a colt, when she died, leaving him to raise the colt by hand. This was one of his hard-luck stories. From such a beginning, and that, too, during times of great financial depression, he accumulated a great deal of property. At one time he owned three hundred and sixty acres of fine land in Wells county and every foot of it was earned by his own labor. Caroline Stratton, his first wife, bore him four children, all of whom are living. They are Thomas, who resides in Liberty; Miami is the wife of Lewis Hoffman, of Mt. Zion; Hiram, a resident of Liberty township, and J. B., a resident of the same place. His second wife is yet living at the age of eighty-one years, in fairly good health and sound mental condition. Five children were born to this union, four of whom are living: Elijah, killed by accident in a well; James P.; George R., of Chester township; William B., a resident of Liberty Center; Mary Ann, wife of J. B. Osborne, a resident of Liberty township. The father of this family was an ardent Democrat and zealous church member.

James P. Mounsey attended the public

schools of his native township until he was twenty-one years of age, when he entered the employ of his father on the farm at eighteen dollars per month. In this way he worked for two years, when his father presented him with a tract of eighty acres of land, the same upon which he now resides. It was wild, heavily wooded and unimproved, without fences, ditches or buildings of any kind, and for the next few years he applied himself to clearing this land, prosecuting the work with energy.

On April 19, 1878, Mr. Mounsey was united in marriage to Miss Sarah A. McNatt, a native of Guernsey county, Ohio, daughter of Joseph and Mary A. (Hutchison) McNatt. She accompanied her parents as a child, from Ohio to Wells county. After marriage he settled on the farm owned by his brother, Elijah, and remained there three years. He then bought an old, hewed-log house and moved it to his own farm. In this he lived until 1895, when he erected his present handsome, substantial dwelling of nine rooms, all well finished and beautifully furnished. Three years previous he built a fine, commodious barn, forty by seventy feet. He is now the owner of two hundred and twenty acres of fine land, one hundred and sixty of which comprise the home place. On a tract of sixty acres, near Keystone, he has two producing oil wells, from which he realizes a fair income.

To Mr. and Mrs. Mounsey seven children have been born, of whom five are now living. They are Lilia, wife of George Helams, of Huntington county, parents of one child; Inez; Lula B., wife of C. A. Payne, of Chester township, parents of one child, Ruth; Floyd, deceased; Charles C., Claude L. and Victor V. are at home, and Mabel A. died

at the age of two years. The family attend the Christian church, of which the parents are members and active workers in the cause. He has served as trustee of the church and has been deacon for fifteen years. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Liberty Center. In politics he is a Democrat, but in local affairs is liberal enough to vote for the man. He has always been an industrious worker, provident and thrifty. It is a source of much gratification to him that at his time of life he finds himself in possession of enough of this world's goods to insure him and all whom he loves against every contingency of want and privation. He is a good citizen, whose ability and worth are well appreciated by his neighbors.

SILAS POLING.

This gentleman, who has been a resident of Wells county, Indiana, since 1866, was born in Jackson township, Perry county, Ohio, April 7, 1823. His father, Martin Poling, was a native of Pennsylvania, born October 18, 1781, and was a son of William Poling. He grew to manhood and was married in Pennsylvania, choosing for his bride Hester Reaver, also a native of the Keystone state and born April 7, 1786. Martin Poling removed from Pennsylvania to Perry county, Ohio, while he was in the vigor of his younger manhood and for some few years employed himself in farming in the woods. After having developed a farm of no mean proportions he sold out his property and removed to Hocking county, in the same state, purchased an eighty-acre tract, also

woodland, and wrought out another farm, which was his home until his death, which occurred January 18, 1855. Mrs. Hester Poling survived until June 14, 1867, when she was summoned to join her husband in the unknown land, taking her departure from the home of her son, Silas. The children born to Martin and Hester (Reaver) Poling numbered fourteen, of whom three only are now living. These children were born in the following order: Jacob, Richard, Katherine, Pollie, Elizabeth, Elijah, Silas, Isaiah, Jefferson, Anna, three whose names cannot be recalled or who died in infancy unnamed, and Matilda. Of the survivors of this family of fourteen Eliza is the widow of John Confare, of Wells county; Silas, whose name opens this record, and Matilda, wife of Peter Prough, who has his home in Missouri.

Silas Poling grew to manhood in Hocking county, Ohio, and lived with his father on the home place until he attained his majority. At the early age of thirteen, however, Silas began working out for the neighboring families, but finally turned over the proceeds of his labor to his father. Upon attaining mature years, he was married, December 10, 1843, to Miss Margaret Goss, a native of Hocking county, Ohio, and a daughter of Henry and Hester Goss, the former of German and the latter of English descent. Mrs. Margaret (Goss) Poling, however, was called to rest June 26, 1875, having borne her husband ten children, namely: Zelka, who was born April 18, 1845, is now the widow of John Edgar and the mother of six children: John, Edgar, Alice, Atkinson, Minnie and Ruth; Almeda, born May 13, 1847, is the wife of Harvey Irick and has two children,

Effie and Pearl; Hester, born December 10, 1849, is the widow of Nathan Lewis and the mother of seven children, Ollie, Francis, Zetta, Frank, Mollie, Gertie and Bertha; Emily, born March 6, 1852, is the wife of Thomas Clampit and has two children, William and Eldora; Jefferson, born July 7, 1854, married Sarah Stenson, who has borne him three children, Effie, Earnest and Charley; Amos, born April 25, 1856, married Sarah Evans, who has become the mother of four children, Harriet, Mabel, Emmett and Ora; Mary M. died at three years of age; George D. died aged four years; Athalinda, born May 7, 1863, is the widow of Oliver Lewis and has one child, Blanche; Anna E., born February 3, 1866, is married to Jacob Shafer.

At his marriage Silas Poling located on a farm in Hocking county, Ohio, where he lived until the fall of 1864, when he came to Indiana and rented land in Huntington county, on which he lived until 1866 and then purchased the tract of one hundred and thirty acres in Wells county, on which he still lives. This land was in a swamp in the woods and covered with water that would reach his neck had he attempted to wade through its depths. Mr. Poling, however, hewed down some timber, built a cabin and furnished it with a split-log or puncheon floor, with which he was contented until he had time to get to Warren and secure some planking. For the reason that he was unable to drain his land unassisted, he went three miles to Huntington county and worked for Israel Black on a farm now owned by John Huffman, and also for several years worked for the farmers until his own land could be drained. To show the condition of the

country at this time, it may be related that when Wilbie Barton came to survey the first ditch through Mr. Poling's place he was compelled to roll up his trousers as high as he possibly could. Mr. Poling now has his farm as well drained as any tract in the township, having tiled into the public ditch. The farm comprises seventy acres, of which Mr. Poling owns fifty and Mrs. Poling twenty.

After the death of his first wife, Silas Poling married, June 26, 1875, Lucinda Petty, widow of Joseph Petty and daughter of John and Elizabeth Stiveson, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania and the latter in Hocking county, Ohio, and in the latter county were married and there passed the remainder of life. John Stiveson and wife had a family of twelve children, namely: Catherine, deceased; Emanuel, deceased; Zoel, Lemuel, Susan, Sarah, deceased; Elizabeth, Mary, Lucinda, Johnnie, Eliza, deceased. To a second marriage there were two children, namely: Dessie, who had her nativity March 23, 1864; Mary A., born September 18, 1866, and married to William Hadden; Josephine, born July 25, 1868, is married to A. T. Merriman and has three children, Jeston, Dawn and Floyd. Joseph Petty was called away June 20, 1868, or about seven years prior to the second marriage of his widow. To the second marriage of Silas Poling have been born two children, viz: Halleck, September 21, 1880, and married to Jennie Mounsey, but makes his home with his father, and Curtis Eugene.

Silas Poling still maintains supervision over his farm, on which he has six oil wells which produce a handsome income. He

and wife are members of the Mount Zion United Brethren church, of which Mr. Poling has been a class leader for forty years and also Sunday school superintendent. He has been a Republican in politics ever since the organization of the party and cast his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont. Mr. Poling signified his patriotism, April 1, 1864, by volunteering in the Union volunteer infantry and serving ninety days against the rebel general Early. He was then honorably discharged, having fought in West Virginia and Maryland with Company H, One Hundred and Fifty-first Ohio Volunteers. He is one of the honored residents of Wells county, and his straightforward and useful life fully entitles him to all the respect which is shown him.

ALFRED T. MERRIMAN.

The gentleman whose name introduces this review enjoys worthy prestige as a successful farmer and stock raiser and as a neighbor and citizen is held in the highest esteem by the people of the township in which he lives. Mr. Merriman is the scion of an old Maryland family whose history in this country antedates the Revolutionary period. His great-grandfather, William Merriman, was born in Maryland about the year 1756 and there married Elizabeth Gooin, whose ancestors were also among the earliest settlers of that colony. From Maryland William Merriman moved his family to Union county, Pennsylvania, thence, about 1850, migrated to Wayne county, Ohio, where he

entered six hundred and forty acres of land which he subsequently divided among his eight children. He became a prominent farmer and leading citizen and departed this life a number of years ago in the county of Wayne. Among the children of William and Elizabeth Merriman was a son by the name of Elijah, whose birth occurred in Maryland in the year 1788. He married Mary McCoy, who was born in 1792 in the same state, and in 1816 moved to Wayne county, Ohio, where his father had settled the previous year. This couple reared sons and daughters, one of the former being James Merriman, whose birth occurred in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, on the 23d of December, 1814. When two years old James was taken by his parents to Wayne county, Ohio, and it was there that he grew to manhood amid the hard work and stirring scenes of pioneer times. On the 6th of April, 1837, he was joined in wedlock to Miss Anna Tracy, daughter of George and Leah Tracy, early settlers of Wayne county, Mrs. Merriman having been born there on the 8th day of February, 1818. One year prior to his marriage James Merriman entered eighty acres of land in Huntington county, Indiana, but for some reason he never moved to this place, returning to his home in Ohio immediately after making the purchase. In October, 1839, he moved his family, consisting of a wife and one child, to Wells county, entering one hundred and sixty acres in section 20, in what is now Liberty township, there being no township organization at that date. The country at the time was a dense wilderness, uncheered by the slightest presence of civilization, and for several years following the pioneer

family experienced their full share of the vicissitudes and hardships incident to life in the backwoods. Mr. Merriman built a log cabin which answered the purposes for which intended until a more comfortable dwelling took its place and in due time cleared a fine farm, which became one of the best cultivated and most valuable places in the township of Liberty. He continued to reside on this farm until about 1889, when he became an inmate of the household of his son, the subject of this sketch, where his death occurred on the 27th of February, 1896. Mrs. Merriman preceded her husband to the grave, departing this life May 15, 1889. They were the parents of eleven children, namely: Samantha, widow of Ruel Wright; Mahala, deceased wife of George McElhaney; Bruce, a resident of Smith county, Kansas; John, a farmer of Liberty township, Wells county; Tracy, who also lives in the township of Liberty; Anna, widow of Asberry Luce; Dallas, who lives in Huntington county; Mary L., deceased, was the wife of William Heckman; Joseph H., a farmer of Wells county; George O., of Pulaski county, and Alfred T. James Merriman was for many years prominent in the public affairs of Wells county and in his immediate neighborhood was to a large extent a leader among his fellow citizens. He served three years as magistrate, was always an active worker in the Democratic party and contributed much to its success in an early day. Mrs. Merriman was a devout Christian, having been a member of the Disciples church from early womanhood.

Alfred T. Merriman was born on the old homestead in Liberty township, De-

ember 20, 1865. From the age of six to his seventeenth year he attended winter seasons the district schools near which he lived, spending the other months assisting his father with the labors of the farm. In his eighteenth year he entered a normal school at Bluffton and after attending one term was sufficiently advanced in his studies to pass successfully the required examination for a teacher's license. During the next five years he divided his time between teaching and attending school and from the expiration of that period until 1894 devoted the greater part of his attention to teaching. With the exception of one term, Mr. Merriman's educational work was confined to Liberty township and his retention year after year in the same district speaks louder than words in praise of his efficiency and success as an instructor. While engaged in teaching he spent his vacations at home helping with the farm work until 1894, when he abandoned the educational field for the purpose of engaging in agricultural pursuits upon his own responsibility. In 1892 Mr. Merriman purchased the farm of eighty acres on which he now lives, going in debt to the amount of two thousand dollars, the greater part of which he has since paid, besides buying forty-eight acres of the home place, making the sum total of his real estate at this time one hundred and twenty-eight acres, all but sixteen being in cultivation. He has made many improvements on his farm and is justly considered one of the most enterprising agriculturists of the county, as well as one of its representative men.

Mr. Merriman was married December 31, 1888, to Miss Josephine Petty, who

was born in Hocking county, Ohio, on the 25th of July, 1868, the daughter of Joseph and Lucinda Petty, and their home has been brightened by the advent of three children: Justin, born June 6, 1891, Don G., born September 3, 1893, and Floyd V., who first saw the light of day on the 18th of December, 1896. In his political views Mr. Merriman is a Democrat, but in local affairs he pays little heed to party claims, voting for the man best qualified for office. In matters religious he subscribes to the belief of the Methodist Protestant church and for a number of years has been one of the pillars of the congregation worshipping at Liberty Center. In 1899 he was elected secretary of the quarterly conference, which position he still holds, and since the year 1894 he has been the efficient superintendent of the Liberty Center Sunday school. He is also superintendent of the Liberty township Sunday school convention and as such has been instrumental in promoting the work in this part of the county. Like her husband, Mrs. Merriman is a Sunday school worker. Socially both are popular with a large circle of friends and their wholesome moral influence has added much to the high standing of the community in which they reside. It is to such people that the body politic is indebted for its moral tone and stability and the hope of every good citizen is that men and women of this type may ever increase in number.

ROBERT C. IRWIN.

We are often told that the child is father to the man. At first thought the as-

sertion seems an absurdity, but when we consider how the inclination of the youth foreshadows the disposition and trend of mind which the man afterwards displays, we are reconciled more to the truth of the statement. From early childhood Robert C. Irwin, of Liberty township, had a passion for trees and for grafting and budding them. He had watched the operation of grafting until he felt perfectly familiar with every detail and at the first opportunity that offered concluded to try his hand. His mother had a nice patch of gooseberry bushes and these he proposed to convert into fine fruit trees by the trimming process. When the operations of the young horticulturist were discovered the wrath of his parent was intense. The use of the maternal slipper was called into requisition and he was made to feel that the path of the true scientist in horticulture was, as in other matters, not uncommonly strewn with thorns. His gooseberry bushes have not yet become bearing fruit trees, but the early inclinations of the child have made the man one of the most successful fruit raisers in Wells county.

Robert C. Irwin was born May 18, 1855, in Salamonie township, Huntington county, Indiana, his parents being Cornelius and Elizabeth (Swaim) Irwin. The father was a native of North Carolina, born May 21, 1827. At the age of eighteen he accompanied his uncle, Robert Irwin, on foot, from North Carolina to Huntington county. Sargeant Clark, a relative, had preceded them and it was through his representations that the arduous trip was made. For years afterward Cornelius worked by the month for farmers. He was married, when about twenty-

four years of age, to Elizabeth Swaim, also a native of North Carolina, and a daughter of Simeon and Nancy Swaim, who were natives of North Carolina, as they were also early settlers of Indiana. Soon after his marriage Cornelius Irwin bought forty acres of Salamonie township land, all in the woods, going in debt for the greater part of the purchase price. He sold it in a short time at a profit and purchased sixty-five acres in the same township, the same constituting a part of the farm upon which he now resides, at the age of seventy-five years, one of his daughters, Nancy, being his housekeeper. His wife died in May, 1897. To Cornelius and Elizabeth Irwin seven children were born, viz: Eunice, wife of William H. Helm; Nancy; Samuel, killed by a falling tree; Robert C.; Ruth, who married David F. Payne, and is now deceased; William, a resident of Huntington county, Indiana, and Elizabeth, who died in infancy.

A good common school education was accorded Robert C. Irwin as he grew to manhood in his native township. At the age of eighteen his labor on the farm was considered more valuable than anything further he might learn at school and he was put to work, at which he remained for his father until he was twenty-five years old. Occasionally he was permitted to rent a field and plant, cultivate and gather a crop of corn. He also occasionally worked by the day for neighboring farmers, and when he was twenty-four years old he rented a field from his father and planted it in corn, but it required two-thirds of the crop of corn to pay the rent.

April 7, 1881, Mr. Irwin was united in marriage to Miss Mary Kyle, a native of

Philadelphia, born July 5, 1857, a daughter of Samuel and Phoebe (Black) Kyle. Samuel Kyle died at the age of twenty-four, when his little daughter was but two years old, and five years later the child was left an orphan, indeed, by the death of her mother. She was taken by her aunt, Mrs. Belle Irwin, and reared in that family until she was fifteen, when she began working out by the week. She remained four years in one place, at the home of Dr. Hupp in Warren, and as an evidence of the virtue of thrift and economy which she possesses in a marked degree, it is cited that at the time of her marriage she had saved out of her wages the sum of fifty dollars, notwithstanding much of the time her wages were only seventy-five cents a week. At the time of their marriage the subject and his wife possessed but one horse, but they soon procured another one and were not long in establishing themselves comfortably at housekeeping, renting for three years. In 1884 they purchased forty acres from John J. Preble, incurring an indebtedness of fifteen hundred dollars to be paid in four annual payments, each being paid before it was due. On their little farm they had thirty acres cleared, a house that was neither sightly nor commodious and a barn that was built of poles. When he started on this place Mr. Irwin gratified to the fullest extent his taste for the cultivation of fruit. His knowledge of grafting and budding he exercised without any fear of interference on the part of an angry parent. The result is that he has today a most superb little fruit farm of sixty acres, the fruit from which yields him a very satisfactory income. He has about five acres set to

fruit, with about seven hundred bearing trees of every variety, pears and plums being the principal line, the small fruits affording a full share of the orchard's income. In 1897 Mr. Irwin erected an attractive new home, well finished and substantially furnished, and three years later he added a large, substantial barn. The owners are in easy, comfortable circumstances and enjoy the sweets of prosperity in the knowledge of having accomplished it all by their own labor, good management and thrift. For four years he has bred the Ohio Improved Chester White hogs, and keeps a general line of cattle and sheep, the returns from his stock adding materially to his income.

To Mr. and Mrs. Irwin but one child has been born, viz: Seth H., born January 6, 1882, a student in the Liberty Center high school.

In religion Mr. and Mrs. Irwin are members of the Salem Methodist Episcopal church. He has served a number of times as superintendent of the Sabbath school and was a class leader for a length of time. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows lodge at Warren, and of the encampment at Bluffton, at which place he is a member of the Maccabees. He and his wife also belong to the lodge of Rebekahs at Bluffton. In politics he is a Republican and has always been an active worker in the ranks of that party. He never essayed to run for office but once, that being for assessor, and no candidate ever accepted defeat with better grace. He is a man of wide acquaintance and is universally admired and respected because of his many excellent personal qualities and characteristics.

WILLIAM C. ARNOLD.

William C. Arnold was born February 15, 1853, in Vera Cruz, Wells county, Indiana, and is a son of August and Augusta (Jan) Arnold, who were natives of Saxony, Germany, where they were married and whence they came to America in 1846. The father, who was a tailor, followed his trade for a short time in Ohio, as he did also for five years at Vera Cruz, Indiana. In 1853 he traded for forty acres of woodland in Adams county, paying a small difference in cash, and there he passed the remainder of his life, dying in April, 1865, leaving a widow (who died in 1899) with seven children, viz: Frank, a farmer in Adams county; Malinda, widow of Christopher Ashbacher; Charles, a resident of Wells county; William C; Sarah, wife of Robert Case, of Adams county; Louis, a resident also of Wells county, and Ella, who was married to George F. Markley, but is now deceased.

W. C. Arnold attended the public schools until he was seventeen years of age, but, his oldest brother being in the army, the care of the family fell chiefly on him and his brother Charles. At the age mentioned he began to work in the saw-mill of Hull & Blackstone, in Harrison township, and for four years performed his duty faithfully and to the satisfaction of his employers. He was next employed by Charles Cole in a saw-mill in Liberty township, holding the position nineteen years. He purchased property in Liberty Center in 1881 and built for himself a neat dwelling. In 1886 he purchased thirty acres, besides which he owns a valuable tract adjoining the village. February 15, 1901, Mr. Arnold bought the half interest of A. B. Tinkle in the hardware store in Liberty Cen-

ter, since when he has been associated with James W. Jackson in a lucrative trade in a general stock of assorted hardware.

October 13, 1876, Mr. Arnold was married to Miss Isabella Higman, a native of Wells county, born June 23, 1858, a daughter of Clem and Martha Higman, natives of Virginia but both now deceased, the mother having passed the closing years of life at the home of Mr. Arnold. Mr. and Mrs. Arnold have two children: Martha, who is married to George Russell, a farmer of Wells county, and has two children, Gerold and Ruth Irene; and Louis. Mr. and Mrs. Arnold are members of the Baptist church, of which he is trustee and to the support of which they freely contribute. He is also a member of the Odd Fellows lodge at Liberty Center, of which he has served as treasurer during his entire membership, and he is likewise a member of the encampment at Bluffton. He is a life-long Democrat. For five years he served as assessor of Liberty township, and was then elected trustee, a position he also held for five years. During his incumbency of this office the school-houses at Liberty Center and Poneto were erected, and these schools, being graded, are considered among the best in the county. In every position he has performed his duty conscientiously and with credit to himself as well as to the satisfaction of all.

SILAS G. LEAVENGOOD.

One of the prominent young farmers of Union township, Wells county, Indiana, is Silas G. Leavengood, a native of this township, born December 21, 1871,

and a son of Peter C. and Martha A. (Zimmerlee) Leavengood. Jacob Leavengood, great-grandfather of Silas G., was a native of Germany and prior to the war of 1812 between the United States and Great Britain brought his wife to America and settled in Union township, Pennsylvania. They were in somewhat indigent circumstances, and, in accordance with the custom of the time, Jacob and his brothers and sisters were "apprenticed" or bound out to work until they had earned sufficient money to pay for their passage across the ocean. Jacob Leavengood and his brother Daniel enlisted in the American army and in one of the sanguinary conflicts with the Indian auxiliaries of the British forces Daniel lost his life. Jacob Leavengood and his wife then fled across the Susquehanna river and sought a more densely populated district, in which they passed the remainder of their lives. Christian Leavengood, grandfather of Silas G., was apprenticed to the blacksmith's trade and before his marriage had become master of his own shop. He moved from Pennsylvania to Tuscarawas county, Ohio, in 1830, having purchased a tract of land in the woods. He readily accommodated himself to the surroundings, learning to sleep in deserted Indian wigwams and to endure many other hardships and inconveniences, but lived to see the heavy timber cleared away and a fine farm substituted, and there passed the remainder of his life. Peter C. Leavengood was reared in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, but was united in marriage in Huntington county, Indiana, March 28, 1868. He had purchased his farm in Union township in 1849, and on this he passed

away March 20, 1889. The union of Peter C. and Martha A. (Zimmerlee) Leavengood was graced with five children, namely: Malinda E. died in 1878, aged nine years; Delphina; Silas G.; Salome A., now the wife of Frederick Platt, of Union township, and Celesta O.

Silas G. Leavengood was reared to agricultural pursuits on his father's farm, but was given every opportunity to attend school in the winter seasons, when farm duties did not require all his attention. He ably and dutifully assisted his father until the time came about for his own marriage, when he chose for his bride Miss Lydia Roudebush, a native of Union township, to whom he was married October 1, 1893.

Peter C. Leavengood was one of the most substantial citizens of Union township and was greatly honored by all who knew him. Of the Zimmerlee family, Jacob, the father of Mrs. Peter C. Leavengood, was born in Virginia, yet little is known touching his ancestry, save the fact that his parents died when he was a boy, and he then made his home with a brother-in-law, Jacob Miller, until his own marriage. At the age of fourteen he came to Wells county with this brother-in-law and was here employed by the latter to drive a team between Bluffton and Cincinnati, and in this occupation he was engaged at the time of his marriage, December 25, 1845, with Miss Clara Brown, of Wilkes county, North Carolina. This lady is of German descent and a daughter of Elisha and Elizabeth (Redding) Brown. At the time of this marriage Mr. Zimmerlee had but about five dollars, but four years later he purchased on credit forty

acres of land in Union township, and in order to pay for this land he worked out by the month, while his wife stayed at home and kept herself busy at weaving, thus adding to their mutual income. After the land had been paid for, Mr. Zimmerlee cleared, sold it and purchased the farm now owned by Thomas Powell, on which he lived until his death. His widow survived him about eighteen years, dying at seventy-six years of age. Mr. Leavengood still resides on the old farm, a part of which constitutes the farm of Silas G.

DANIEL FISHER.

Probably there cannot be found in Union township a more venerable man and venerated and respected citizen than Daniel Fisher, a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Crites) Fisher, of Pennsylvania birth and German extraction. Daniel Fisher, however, was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, and the date of his nativity was June 14, 1826. His paternal grandfather was the founder of the family in America, having landed in New York when a young man. Henry Fisher married a Miss Crites in Tuscarawas county. The lady was also of German parentage and bore her husband ten children, viz: John, Daniel, Joseph, George, Henry, Solomon, Anna, Elizabeth, Lydia and one that died in infancy. Of the three members of this family who still survive, Daniel is the only one living in Wells county, Indiana. Although his father was a poor man when he settled in Ohio, he was a man of indomitable will and untiring industry, and at his death, which took place in the

Buckeye state, he was worth at least twenty thousand dollars.

Daniel Fisher was reared to farm life and was educated in the common schools; being an apt scholar and possessing a retentive memory, he succeeded in securing a good education and at the age of twenty-one years, on quitting school, he began learning the cooper's trade, at which he worked one year, when, having saved sufficient funds, he came to Wells county and entered eighty acres of wooded land on the site now occupied by Jesse Crites. He returned to Ohio and remained at his trade two years longer.

Mr. Fisher was united in marriage in 1850, with Miss Sophia A. Myers and the young couple lived on the farm alluded to for seven years, when Mrs. Fisher was called to rest July 17, 1857, leaving to mourn her loss, beside her husband, three children, named Henry, Elizabeth and Margaret A. At the death of this, his first helpmate, Mr. Fisher returned to the home of his father in Ohio and remained on the old homestead, until his second marriage, which took place March 25, 1859, to Miss Sarah J. Shull. In April, 1859, he returned with his wife to Wells county, Indiana, and resumed the occupancy of his original farm, on which he resided until 1862, when he sold it and bought one hundred and twenty acres of his present farm, to which he has since added forty acres, having now a compact farm of one hundred and sixty acres of as good land as can be found in Wells county.

To the second marriage of Mr. Fisher have been born nine children, eight of whom are living: Emmett, Matilda, Clara C., George A., Rachel, Elmer, Ellsworth, Daniel B. and Della M. Mr. Fisher and all the

members of his family, save one, belong to the church of God, in which he has officiated as deacon and elder for several years. Mrs. Fisher died August 25, 1890, after being an invalid, confined to her bed for twenty-four years, and an almost constant sufferer from rheumatism.

In politics Mr. Fisher is a stalwart Republican and has been a zealous supporter of the party ever since its foundation, having probably cast more presidential votes than any other man in Wells county, at least in Union township, including candidates nominated by both Whigs and Republicans. Mr. Fisher thinks for himself and is possessed of strong convictions, but is not obtrusive and is a kindly neighbor, and has lived to witness Union township developed from a genuine wilderness into a blooming garden. His only neighbor, in fact, when he first settled here, was Jesse Crites, each owning a horse and wagon, and when necessary to go to mill, the two would hitch the animals together, thus making a double team, and while one of them carried an ax with which to hew a road through the woods, the other would drive the horses.

LAWSON POPEJOY.

The Popejoy family of Wells county, Indiana, and pioneers of Union township, came from Ohio in the winter of 1840, about fifteen years prior to the adoption of the state's present constitution. Christian Popejoy, the father of Lawson Popejoy, was a native of Virginia, whence he removed to Kentucky and later to Ohio, where he married Nancy Bowers, a native of the last named state, and who was

his ^{2nd} wife. Their children who reached maturity were named, in order of birth, as follows: Eliza A., Susan, Margaret, Lawson, Joseph, Edward C., and two who died young.

Lawson Popejoy was born in Fayette county, Ohio, March 26, 1838, and was about two and a half years of age when his parents settled in the northeast quarter of section 24, Harrison township, Wells county, Indiana, which quarter section the father entered from the government. The land was covered with a dense forest of timber and since becoming the property of the Popejoy family has had but three owners. The father of Lawson Popejoy cleared up their tract from its primeval condition, working night and day to accomplish his purpose, and there made his home until his death. In religion he was a licensed local preacher in the Methodist Episcopal church, as well as class leader for many years, and in politics was a staunch Democrat.

Lawson Popejoy, until twenty-two years of age, lived on his father's farm, in the meanwhile attending a subscription school, later a public school and still later became a teacher in the schools of his township. He began his business career by working out by the job at splitting rails, ditching, clearing off timber and at such other work as aided the neighbors in developing the country and in making it worthy of being the abode of civilized man, such as it is today, of which class of work he has done his full share. Through his labor he accumulated six hundred dollars, and then married Miss Orpha Davis, daughter of Elias Davis and a native of Wells county.

At his marriage Mr. Popejoy rented the homestead in partnership with his brother, Edward C., but a few years later purchased the property, and still later sold it and bought his present farm of ninety-six acres. To the marriage of Lawson and Orpha (Davis) Popejoy have been born the following named children, who still live to adorn the home of the parents: Louisa, Alice, Hattie, Sherman and Lawson.

In politics Mr. Popejoy is a Democrat and has served as assessor of Harrison township six years and as township treasurer four years, leaving the treasury in first-class condition in 1876, and in 1878 was nominated for county treasurer, to which he was elected and in 1880 re-elected, thus serving a continuous period of four years. In 1883 Mr. Popejoy erected his present brick residence, of which he at once took possession and which he has since occupied. He and wife are widely known throughout Wells county and are highly respected for their amiable personal traits of character and their upright lives. They are good neighbors, charitable of thought and action, and Mr. Popejoy is especially public spirited and ready at all times to aid with his funds and his influence all those improvements which tend to elevate their condition and advance the happiness of his fellow citizens.

ANDREW J. HAFLICH.

Agriculture, the source of all wealth, finds in Wells county, Indiana, a representative in the truest sense of the word in the person of Andrew J. Haflich, a resident of

Union township and one of the present county commissioners. He was born in Crawford county, Ohio, October 31, 1843, and came to Wells county, Indiana, with his parents, Isaac and Catherine (Fletcher) Haflich, when he was but eight years of age. The family settled in Rock Creek township on a farm, in the cultivation of which young Andrew J. was early called upon to assist, and was thus, to a great extent, deprived of opportunities to secure an education in youth. However, he secured a robust and healthy physical constitution through his labors on the homestead, and at the time secured a thorough knowledge of the noble and honorable calling of agriculture. He was sufficiently well educated, however, to become a teacher in a rural school, although he did not follow that vocation as a profession. He continued his labors on the home farm until he had attained his majority, when he started in business on his own account. April 1, 1865, he married Miss Amanda Beil, who came with her father, Jacob Beil, from Ohio when the daughter was quite young, and settled in Rock Creek township, Wells county, where she was educated and where she afterwards taught school for several terms. To them have been born ten children, of whom nine still survive and are named Ida, Sylvia, Reuben, Jacob, Mary, Viola, Bessie, Eva and Hattie.

At marriage, Andrew J. Haflich rented the Haflich homestead, which he cultivated and lived upon until April, 1872, when he purchased seventy acres of the farm he now occupies, but which was then without improvements of any kind. This he has since cleared, ditched and improved in all respects, thus developing one of the finest homesteads in Union township.

Mr. and Mrs. Haflich are faithful work-

ers in the Methodist Episcopal church at Uniondale, of which Mr. Haflich is a trustee and Mrs. Haflich a steward. Mr. Haflich in past time served as superintendent of the Sunday school, and is now assistant superintendent, while Mrs. Haflich is a teacher. In politics Mr. Haflich has been a life-long Democrat and at the present hour is one of the leading men of his party in Wells county. His experience as a politician is extended and varied, and his managing ability has been tested in many a hard-fought campaign. In primaries and in conventions his voice is always listened to with profound respect and his advice eagerly sought and followed. Although he has never felt any special desire for office holding, he has nevertheless felt it to be his duty as a matter of patriotism to respond to the party call to serve in any capacity, and hence it is that he is now filling his second term as county commissioner from the third district of Wells county. His duties have been performed during over six years as a member of the board of commissioners in such a manner as not only to redound to his personal credit, but to be a subject of hearty congratulation by the Democratic party.

As a farmer Mr. Haflich has treated his vocation from an intellectual as well as a practical standpoint. From his earliest days he has recognized the all-important bearing agriculture has upon the fate of any nation, and is well aware of the fact that an agricultural people is the happiest and, as a whole, the wealthiest on the face of the earth. As a citizen Mr. Haflich is useful and public spirited, is widely known and respected, and his family share with him the unfeigned esteem of the entire population of Union township.

WILLIAM ELICK.

The Elick family of Union township are of German descent and are among the most respected citizens of the township, in which they settled when William Elick was an infant. He was born in Van Wert county, Ohio, October 28, 1856, a son of Frederick and Mary (Wetzel) Elick, the former of whom, when a small boy, was brought from Germany to America by his parents, who ultimately settled in Ohio, where Frederick was reared to manhood and was married. In 1856 Frederick Elick brought his bride and infant son to Rock Creek township, Wells county, and there the father followed the calling of farmer and blacksmith until his death, which occurred when William was but a boy, while that of his mother occurred some fourteen years ago. They were the parents of sixteen children, of whom fourteen are still living.

William Elick was reared on his father's farm and was thoroughly trained in all the details of agricultural pursuits. He received a common school education and when twenty-one years old began working out by the month. He was industrious and economical and was united in marriage July 25, 1880, to Miss Elizabeth Rarar, who was born in Rock Creek township, of Pennsylvania parentage. This union has been crowned by the birth of three children, of whom two have been called away, the only survivor being Jennie Elsie, who was born in 1890.

At his marriage Mr. Elick rented a farm for a short time and then engaged in the manufacture of tile, near Markle, a business he followed about eight years,

when he resumed farming, in which he has met with the most flattering success.

Fraternally Mr. Elick is a charter member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Markle, of which he is a past chancellor and which he has represented in the grand lodge of the order. In politics he is one of the substantial Democrats of Union township and under the auspices of his party has served his fellow citizens as justice of the peace for six years. Very few of his decisions have ever been appealed from and when he pronounces judgment it is as a rule considered to be final. Although an unassuming and modest gentleman, who never thrusts himself forward or in any respect makes himself officious in the affairs of others, he has won the respect of all his neighbors, who have the most implicit confidence in his judgment and integrity.

From what has been already written concerning William Elick, the reader will readily infer that he is what is usually termed "a self-made man," and that he is the "architect of his own fortune." He was but in moderate circumstances at the time of his marriage, but he now stands among the well-to-do and influential residents of Union township, all he has being the result of his own honest labor and skillful management. He cannot be too highly complimented for the excellent manner in which he has played his part in life's drama nor congratulated too strongly upon the success which has attended him. Still upon the entrance of the prime of life, Mr. Elick gives promise of many years of usefulness among his friends and neighbors and with them of developing the resources and industries of Union

township and Wells county, being possessed of the courage and intelligence that fully fit him for this task.

ALBERT ORMSBY.

The Ormsby family of Union township, Wells county, Indiana, were originally from Ireland, George Ormsby, the grandfather of the subject, having come from the Emerald Isle to America when about twenty-one years of age, settling in Mahoning county, Ohio. There he married a Scotch lady and then made a visit to Ireland, remained there about three years, and then returned to his home in Ohio, where he died at the age of ninety-seven and a half years.

Albert Ormsby was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, January 4, 1832, a son of Joseph and Martha (Wolfeale) Ormsby. Joseph Ormsby was reared a farmer and, although he had but a common school education, was an eloquent orator and an earnest advocate of the principles of the Democratic party. Joseph and Martha Ormsby were both born in Mahoning county, Ohio, lived there all their days and died there at the respective ages of sixty-seven and sixty-three years. To Joseph and Martha Ormsby there were born ten children, of whom seven still survive, although Albert is the only representative of the family living in Wells county, Indiana.

Albert Ormsby worked on his father's farm until twenty-one years old, attending the district school in the meanwhile. After reaching manhood's estate he began working out by the month, but continued to live on the home farm until he was twenty-five.

August 27, 1856, Mr. Ormsby was united in marriage with Miss Mary Goldner, daughter of a highly respected couple of Mahoning county, Ohio, and quite well educated in the German and English languages. In April, 1857, Mr. and Mrs. Ormsby came to Indiana and made their first stopping place at Ossian, Wells county. Shortly afterward they moved into a cabin one mile north of the present site of Uniondale, where Mr. Ormsby purchased an eighty-acre tract of land, to which he has since added forty acres. The hard labor of clearing off the superabundance of timber that incumbered these acres was almost all performed by Mr. Ormsby himself, but he has developed one of the finest farms of its dimensions in the township of Union and is well satisfied with the result of his efforts.

Mr. and Mrs. Ormsby have had born to them two children, viz: Lois A., who is the wife of Cyrus Wert, of Union township, and Llewellyn Hays Ormsby, who operates the homestead. The family attend the Lutheran church at Uniondale, of which the parents are both members, Mrs. Ormsby having been a communicant since girlhood and of which Mr. Ormsby has been a deacon for twenty-four years, and one of the first elders. The parents take a deep interest in this church and its progress and contribute most freely to its financial support. In his political affiliations Mr. Ormsby is a Democrat, and although ever active in his work for his party and punctual in casting his vote for its candidates, he is never officious, nor has he ever sought office. He has always been an industrious citizen and, as will have been seen by the foregoing paragraphs, has earned by his own labor nearly all he is now worth. He and his wife are greatly re-

spected by their neighbors for their many good qualities and personal merits and their social standing is with the best people of Union and surrounding townships.

JONATHAN SEAMAN.

This is an age in which the farmer stands pre-eminently above any other class as a producer of wealth. He not only takes advantage of time, but also of the winds, the warm air, the bright and wholesome sunshine and the refreshing rains, and applying his own hands and skill to nature's gifts, creates grain, hay, live stock, etc., all of which are necessities to the world's inhabitants. The commercial world has come to recognize him as an important factor and has surrounded him with conveniences not thought of one hundred years ago. The inventor has put his shoulder to the wheel and given him the self-binder, the riding plow, the steam thresher and many other labor-saving devices and the farmer has not been slow to see the advantage of such improvements, of which he has availed himself.

Jonathan Seaman, a son of Joseph and Mariah (Bailey) Seaman, was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, February 13, 1843. His father was born in Pennsylvania, of German parentage, and at an early age was left an orphan. He was taken in charge by an uncle, with whom he lived until a young man of nineteen years, when he came to Trumbull county, Ohio. He was without means when he first came west and, being entirely de-

pendent upon his own resources, he at once set to work to learn the carpenter's trade, at which he worked until his marriage to Miss Mariah Bailey, a native of Ohio. Immediately after his marriage he bought forty acres of land in Trumbull county, for which he paid one thousand dollars, the full amount of his savings. He soon sold this farm and moved to Union township, Wells county, Indiana, in 1856, and began looking about for a farm. He decided on the farm now owned by H. H. Lassiter, but which was not then in its present well groomed condition, for farms in those days were little less than forests. The subject's father erected the buildings which are the present home of the Lassiter family, but since their first erection they have been remodeled and made more comfortable. Here he lived until the death of his wife, but after a short time he again married and removed with his second wife to Zanesville, Wells county, Indiana. He was one of the leading Democrats of Union township and served as trustee of the township and also as township assessor. To him were born four sons and five daughters, four of whom are living: Jonathan; Mary, wife of Lewis Raver; Eliza, wife of Noah Blosser, and Adaline, wife of Jacob Keiser.

Jonathan Seaman came to Wells county as a boy and worked on his father's farm, at the same time attending the common schools and receiving an education which was good for the time. At about the age of twenty-one years he was married to Miss Elizabeth McBride, who was of Scotch-Irish descent, being the daughter of Robert McBride. She was born in Rush county, Indiana, and had received

such education as was at that time possible. In 1863 they moved to their farm, where they resided until the spring of 1902, when he bought the Christmore farm. He formally owned one hundred and twenty acres, but sold forty acres to Ed Platt, thus reducing his farm to eighty acres, which he still cultivates. One son was born to them, but the young parents were not long permitted to enjoy the little blossom given into their care and in 1864, only a year after he first smiled into a fond mother's face, little Burwell was again taken to his home beyond the cares of earth. Being left without children, Mr. and Mrs. Seaman fostered Edward Platt, whom they soon grew to look upon as their own. These prominent people are members of the Evangelical church and have spent much time in the work of the congregation. Mr. Seaman is at present one of the trustees of the church and discharges his duties in an honorable and upright manner and to the entire satisfaction of the parishioners. The Democratic party has always received his vote and in the affairs of his party he has been instrumental in their advancement in many ways. He served one term as trustee of Union township, during which time he took an active interest in educational affairs and was instrumental in obtaining the advancement of a sum of money sufficient to build several new school-houses which were erected under his direction and supervision. He is well and favorably known among the residents of the township and county in which he resides and is looked upon as one interested in the advancement of the interests of his community.

NOAH JOHNSON.

This gallant ex-soldier and at present a resident of Union township, Wells county, Indiana, was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, April 27, 1826, a son of James and Rebecca (Baxter) Johnson, also natives of the Keystone state. Solomon Johnson, grandfather of Noah, was a native of Wales and, with two brothers, came while young to America and settled in Pennsylvania, where he married Fannie Warren, and where he and wife passed the remainder of life. Solomon, who was born January 3, 1765, died July 24, 1843, and Fannie (Warren) Johnson, who was of German descent, was born August 1, 1772, and died June 15, 1838. They were the parents of fourteen children, namely: Pattie, born December 23, 1791; Joseph, born February 15, 1793; Jacob, born July 17, 1794; Rebecca, born June 3, 1796; Dorcas, born February 28, 1798; Eliza, born February 27, 1800; James, born January 18, 1802; Abram, born January 8, 1804; Eliza, born December 7, 1805; Anna, born September 29, 18—; J. B., born April 18, 1810; Sarah B., born October 28, 1812, and William, born November 22, 1820. James Johnson was reared a farmer in Pennsylvania, was married in that state, then removed to Ohio and in 1853 came to Indiana and settled in Allen county, where his death took place. To James and Rebecca Johnson were born fourteen children, of whom Noah was the first born and of whom eleven still survive.

Noah Johnson was also reared to agriculture, and educated in the district schools and married Miss Sarah Thomas, a daughter of Enos and Margaret (Cameron) Thomas. Sarah Thomas was educated in Ohio and

came from Columbiana county, Ohio, to Wells county, Indiana, with her husband in a wagon. Here Mr. Johnson purchased the farm he still continues to occupy and cultivate and which he wrought out from a dense forest. Although Mr. Johnson went in debt for the greater part of his purchase, he eventually succeeded in liquidating the incumbrance and is now in good circumstances. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson has been crowned with eight children, namely: Emmett, born in 1847; Amizet, born May 13, 1850; Rebecca, born August 14, 1852, and now the widow of Zeph Babcock; Margaret, born December 5, 1855, and now the wife of Frank Detier; Elizabeth, born April 23, 1860, and now the widow of W. W. Greek; Bethena, born July 14, 1858, is still at home; Albert L., born October 17, 1862, and Ella, born July 7, 1866.

After his marriage and when he was well settled on his farm the great Civil war broke out, and Mr. Johnson, filled with patriotism and indignation, tendered his services, and his life if necessary, to the government, enlisting in Company E, Thirty-fourth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, October 17, 1862, under Capt. Harry Deam, at Bluffton. He took part in the Vicksburg campaign, the battle at Port Gibson, the fight at Champion Hill, back of Vicksburg and at Jackson, all in Mississippi, and after the last campaign he was transferred to New Orleans, Louisiana, where he did garrison duty until December, 1863. He also took part in the Red River expedition, and the fight at Brownsville, Texas, and was honorably mustered out after the close of the war in 1865, but with the partial loss of eyesight, for which catastrophe the government allows him a pension of one dollar per day. In politics

Noah Johnson was first a Whig, but on the founding of the Republican party joined its ranks. Mrs. Johnson is a devout member of the United Brethren church, in the radical branch of which she is an ardent worker.

Enos Thomas, the father of Mrs. Johnson, was one of the earliest justices of Columbiana county, having been appointed to his office by President George Washington. Seth Thomas, Mrs. Johnson's grandfather, was a native of England, married Martha Kirk, also a daughter of Albion's isle, and this couple were the progenitors of the present family bearing their names in the state of Indiana. The Johnson family are among the most respected residents of Union township, Wells county, and, having been married for more than half a century, may be well considered as among the patriarchs of the county to which they have contributed so much of their labor and enterprises in redeeming it from the wilderness and in making it the pleasant abode that it is today.

HENRY H. LASSITER.

Agriculture has been the true source of man's domain on earth ever since the primal existence of labor and has been the pivotal point of industry that has controlled for the most part all the fields of action to which his intelligence and energy have been devoted. In a civilized community no calling is more certain of yielding a compensatory return than that which is culled from a kindly soil, albeit the husbandman at times is sorely taxed in coaxing from old Mother Earth all that he desires or even expects; yet she

is a kind mother, being only desirous of bringing out whatever there is of good in her children, and seldom chastens with disappointment the one whose diligence and frugality she deems it but just should be rewarded. The subject of this sketch has found a benefactress in his planetary mother, for at an early age he was thrown upon his own resources and without the warmth of her smile he must needs have suffered, even though his courage was of the greatest.

Henry H. Lassiter was the son of William and Eliza (Wood) Lassiter, who were descended from a long line of English ancestors. The great-grandfather and grandfather of the subject were born and reared in England and came to America when the grandfather was a young man, settling in North Carolina, where they became husbandmen of the soil. The Wood family, which boasts of having a descendant in the person of the subject, were natives of New Jersey, where his mother was born. Both father and mother were reared in North Carolina, where they lived until their deaths. Great wealth came to bless their home, the father becoming the possessor of three mills, one thousand acres of land and numberless slaves. Later the slaves were sold and the family were no longer troubled with the care of their bondmen. Thirteen children came to this home of peace and wealth, but of one only will this sketch attempt to deal.

Henry Lassiter as a boy showed a disposition to trade and traffic and was thus tempted to neglect his education to such an extent that in later years he wished he had been less mercantile and more

studious. He first began his life of trading by running a six-horse team, selling general merchandise and buying and selling horses during the time of the war. He made plenty of money and was on a fair road to a position of wealth had not the war broken him up, leaving him nothing with which to face the world. Miss Caroline Allred, of Randolph county, North Carolina, became his wife in March, 1862. At this time his fortunes were beginning to look somber and before the end of the war he was again a poor man. To their marriage were born William M., James T., Delina J., Nathan P., Alvira C., Wiley M., Patia I. and Henry A., all of whom are married but the two last named. Henry H. Lassiter came to Knightstown, Henry county, Indiana, May 11, 1864, with but five cents in his pocket and a wife in the South dependent upon him for support. Being a carpenter, he soon made money and came to Wayne township, Huntington county, Indiana, where he remained until 1865, when he moved to a farm in Wayne township near Mount Elvia. In the meantime he was joined by his family, his wife having to take the oath of allegiance, and after a short residence in Wayne township he removed to Wabash county and engaged in the butchering business, finally taking up farming again in Dallas township, where he lived for thirty years. He finally sold his farm in Dallas township and came to Union township, where he bought a quarter of section 3, the original Seaman farm, where he now lives.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Lassiter have been members of the Methodist Episcopal church for many years and are actively

connected with the church, Mr. Lassiter being a steward. The Republican party has always received his vote and all his life he has taken part in the political affairs of his community. Mr. Lassiter is a man of much travel, having visited the greater portion of the United States, and has profited much by his experiences. He is a breeder of Percheron and Patchen horses and also of Polled Durham cattle, having some of the finest stock in the country. He also has a great reputation as a veterinary surgeon, having been a practitioner for thirty years, during which time he has made the study of animals a specialty. He holds a license to practice in the state of Indiana, where he has done a large business since beginning his practice. He has always been a lover of horses and it is probably to that love that he can point as an incentive to him in taking up the profession of veterinary surgery and no animal has had so ardent a student as this farmer has proven himself to be of the horse, of which he is familiar to the minutest detail. As a non-professional man Mr. Lassiter is an up-to-date farmer, a good citizen and an excellent neighbor and enjoys the highest regard of the community.

E. H. BOTTS, M. D.

In the following sketch it will be seen how a man with a sufficient amount of courage can make of his life what he will. No matter what the ambitions, what the longings of the human heart, courage and perseverance will ultimately win the goal, and no difference what the disadvantages, they can

be overcome if only a man's will and courage remain undaunted. Dr. Botts, being one of those who would not acknowledge failure, won, after many years of patient endeavor, the success for which he sighed.

Dr. E. H. Botts, of Zanesville, is the son of David and Ellenor (Fordyce) Botts, both now deceased. He was born in Clinton county, Ohio, May 20, 1858, and was reared amid the scenes of rural life. He attended the graded schools at Genntown, Ohio, and came to Huntington county, Indiana, in 1881, securing employment on a farm in order to have the benefit of outdoor life. Two years later, in August, 1883, he was united in marriage with Miss Ida Young, a daughter of John Young, of Huntington county, Indiana, who was born in that county in March, 1864. When a boy he had a liking for the medical profession, which was shown even in his play. Being poor and with nothing but his strong will and indomitable courage to carry him through the world, he rented a farm with the intention of making enough money to enable him to take a course in medicine. For two years he borrowed books and after working all day in the fields would read until far into the night, thus acquiring a rudimentary knowledge of his profession. He further pursued his studies for six years under the preceptorship of Dr. Ira E. Lyons, of Huntington, and later with Dr. E. S. Fisher, of Markle, Indiana. In the fall of 1889 he entered the Fort Wayne Medical College, in which he took a three years' course, graduating in March, 1893. Immediately thereafter Dr. Botts located at Zanesville, where he began his profession encumbered with a heavy debt. His practice soon became lucrative and exceeded his anticipations. Besides now owning an eighty-

acre farm in Huntington county, he enjoys a large and lucrative practice. The Doctor has not had children of his own, but has taken into his family his brother's son, Vernon, whom he is educating. Owing to his profession he has held aloof from political work, but has kept himself informed on the issues of the day, being a supporter of Democratic principles. He conscientiously performs his professional duties, taking pride in keeping abreast with the times.

ROBERT CLARK.

The present competent postmaster of Zanesville, Wells county, Indiana, Robert Clark, is a son of Daniel and Elizabeth (McGoogan) Clark, and was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, February 13, 1839. Daniel Clark was a native of New Brunswick and early came to the United States, locating in Ohio where he was subsequently married. From Ohio Daniel and Elizabeth Clark removed to Allen county, Indiana, in 1848, but later settled north of Zanesville, Allen county, in the same year purchased a farm and there passed the remainder of life. He was a gentleman of fine education, was an eloquent speaker and was favorably known as an advocate of Republican principles throughout Allen and Wells counties, having united with the Republicans on the disintegration of the old Whig party, of which he had previously been a member. Mr. Clark was a most public spirited citizen and a strong friend of the common schools. His death took place in the faith of the Baptist church, in which he had long been a dea-

con. The children born to Daniel and Elizabeth Clark were six in number and in order of birth were named as follows: Charles, Sarah J., William, Robert, Benjamin and Sophia, of whom three are still living.

Robert Clark was a lad of about ten years of age when brought to Indiana by his parents. He was early inured to hard labor and passed his boyhood days in assisting his father in clearing up the Indiana farms. He secured a very good common school education, became a teacher in the public schools, later learned the carpenter's trade, but was engaged in farming when the tremendous civil strife broke out between the North and the South. Robert Clark was a patriotic youth and a lover of freedom, and at once offered his services in defense of his country's flag by enlisting, in August, 1862, in Company G (Capt. Truesdale), One Hundred and First Indiana Volunteer Infantry. At the battle of Milton, Tennessee, March 20, 1863, Mr. Clark was badly wounded and incapacitated from further active service. After recuperating sufficiently, he was honorably discharged from the army and returned to his home.

In September, 1864, Mr. Clark was united in marriage with Miss Amanda Diffendorfer, who was born in Pennsylvania and came to Wells county, Indiana, in 1861 with her parents, Henry and Elizabeth (Silvers) Diffendorfer. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Clark have been born nine children, in the following order: Lizzie died in childhood; James C.; Minnie W., wife of Heber Wagner, of Columbia City, Indiana; Theodore, who married Mary Shepler, is a barber at Fort

Wayne, Indiana; William H., who married Myrtle Fults, also resides in Fort Wayne; Charles married Clara Cline and lives in Zanesville; Markley married Effie Flack and also resides in Zanesville; Chase and Alma. The family attend the church of God, in which Mr. Clark is an elder, and fraternally he is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic at Roanoke, Indiana. In politics he is a substantial Republican and in January, 1898, was appointed postmaster of Zanesville, under the administration of President McKinley, although he had filled the same office under President Benjamin Harrison. In conjunction with conducting the affairs of his official position, Mr. Clarke carries on the harness business, and is regarded not only as an obliging and affable official, but as an upright business man and is highly esteemed for his many fine personal qualities.

JAMES L. McBRIDE, M. D.

Among the eminent and rising young medical men of Zanesville, Wells county, Indiana, stands Dr. James L. McBride, who was born in Lancaster township, this county, September 8, 1865, a son of J. L. and Jennie (McNary) McBride, of Scotch-Irish descent. The future doctor was reared upon the home farm and received the rudiments of his education in the district school, and at the age of eighteen years was granted a license to teach in Wells county. He reviewed his studies in the normal schools and later became a leading teacher and was appointed principal of the graded schools of Zanesville,

holding the position during the winters of 1887 and 1888. He then entered the office of Dr. L. A. Cook, Bluffton, under whose judicious instruction he made rapid progress and was soon prepared to enter the Indiana Medical School. This event took place in the fall of 1889 and in March, 1892, he was graduated. At this period of his career, the young doctor found himself heavily in debt, but the incumbrance had been secured by the guarantees of his friends and he felt that a brilliant future was awaiting him. He at once entered into a competitive examination for the position of assistant surgeon at the National Military Home at Marion, Indiana, and secured the appointment in 1892 and immediately took a post-graduate course in Chicago. The position he had secured enabled him to liquidate the debts for which his friends had gone security and he was soon on his feet again. After serving one year as assistant surgeon of the National Military Home, Dr. McBride withdrew from the position on account of failing health and located in Zanesville, where his superior abilities as a physician met with a speedy recognition and where he has secured an extensive and remunerative line of patronage in both Wells and Allen counties.

Dr. McBride was united in marriage October 8, 1892, with Miss Almissie Michaels, a native of Allen county, Indiana, and who was educated in Zanesville. This happy union has been crowned with three children, namely: Donald, born April 11, 1894; Justine, January 27, 1895, and Bonnie, December 23, 1897. Mrs. McBride is a member of the Lutheran church, to the support of which the Doctor is him-

self a liberal contributor. He is a member of the Masonic order and of the Modern Woodmen of America, as well as the Brotherhood of American Yeomen. In politics the Doctor is a sound Republican, and at one time was chairman of the Republican central committee of Wells county. He is a fluent speaker and a trenchant writer, as well as a brilliant conversationalist, and he is moreover a high-minded and public spirited citizen and a most agreeable neighbor and his frankness in treating his patients is commended by all who give him their professional patronage. The Doctor owns a fine ten-acre tract of land in Union township, which he has acquired through his fees as a physician, and he keeps it in a high state of cultivation.

Jonathan Michaels, father of Mrs. Dr. McBride, was born in the village of Sultz-am-Neckon, Germany, November 16, 1832, a son of John G. and Mary (Smith) Michaels, who came to America in 1834. For about eight years the Michaels family lived in Williamsport, Maryland, and in 1863 came to Zanesville, Indiana. January 29, 1855, Jonathan Michaels was joined in marriage with Miss Sarah A. Cline, who bore him six children, namely: John B., Amanda V., Juniata, Arbelan M., Almissie H. and Sarah J. The mother of these children was called from earth October 1, 1865.

There are but few physicians young as Dr. McBride who have gained so eminent a standing in the profession, and much of his popularity without a doubt, regardless of his acknowledged ability, is due to his cheerful and enlivening conduct in the sick-room, through which he secures at

once the confidence of his patient and arouses faith in his skill.

AUGUSTUS W. HAMILTON.

Prominent among the young attorneys of Wells county, Indiana, is Augustus W. Hamilton, who was born in Union township, August 30, 1873, and is a son of William M. and Mary E. Hamilton. He graduated from the public schools of his township at the age of sixteen, then, in the winter terms of 1892 and 1893, attended the normal school at Marion, Indiana. The following summer he worked for his father on the home farm and during the winter succeeding taught school in Union township. In the spring of 1894 Mr. Hamilton matriculated at the Indiana University, after a three-year course in the North Manchester College, and the next summer he passed at Winona Park, where he was employed in scientific work. The year following he taught school in Union township, and during the succeeding spring and summer passed his time at the Indiana University and the winter following again taught in the same township. The spring of 1896 he again attended the Indiana University, and the summer was spent at Wawasee Lake biological station. About 1897 Mr. Hamilton was appointed principal of schools at Edgerton, Indiana, then spent another summer at the Wawasee station and the next year was principal of schools at Hoagland, Indiana. The spring and summer following he again passed at the university, then went back to Hoagland and passed the summer sea-

son, the latter part of the summer at the university, and at Todd & Todd's law office at Bluffton. He again became principal of the schools at Hoagland and later spent a spring and summer in the study of law at the Indiana University, the latter part of the summer in Eichhorn's law office in Bluffton. The next year he spent at the university, where he completed his law course, and was admitted to practice in the Wells county circuit court in September, 1900. In May, 1902, Mr. Hamilton opened his office in the Odd Fellows' building at Bluffton, where he has since had the good fortune of meeting with a steady and lucrative patronage.

In politics Mr. Hamilton has always been a sound Democrat, and at the convention of his party held at Bluffton in 1902 was placed in nomination for the office of joint senator for the counties of Wells, Blackford and Grant, though not elected, as the normal majority of the Republicans was three thousand, yet he carried his party strength with a large complimentary vote. He is a fair example of the self-made man, and as a politician and party manager has few equals in this county.

Mr. Hamilton is a member of a very talented family and of five brothers who finished their education at Indiana University, three are college professors and one is teacher of science in the Bluffton high school.

He has always been a studious young man and has never been frivolous in his conduct or prodigal of his time. His industry, integrity and energy have won the approbation of hosts of appreciative friends. No man can peer into the depths

of the mysterious future, but if coming events are at all foreshadowed by those which have passed away, analogy would indicate a bright career for Mr. Hamilton in the years yet to come.

JACOB SMUTS.

Many natives of the state of Ohio are now residents of Wells county, Indiana, and are among the most prominent citizens and agriculturists of the county, which they have in a great measure wrought out from a wilderness of wood and swamp and converted into a blooming garden of flowers, fruit and grain. Among these is Jacob Smuts, who was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, June 3, 1845, and is a son of Robert and Elizabeth (Kohr) Smuts, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania and of German extraction. From Pennsylvania Robert Smuts removed to Ohio and thence came to Wells county, Indiana, in 1848 and here entered the land on which Hiram Lantz now resides. This property in due course of time he cleared up from the forest and changed into a fruitful and profitable farm, realizing a satisfactory competence and eventually retired to Huntington, and there passed the remainder of his life in peace and comfort, dying honored and respected. Of the twelve children born to Robert and Elizabeth Smuts, nine are still living.

Jacob Smuts was reared on the farm and was thoroughly trained in agriculture. He was educated in the district

schools of his neighborhood and began making a livelihood by working out as a farm hand by the month. He married Lavina Kessler, who was born in Ohio, but was reared in Wells county, Indiana, by Jacob F. Barnett. To Jacob and Lavina (Kessler) Smuts have been born seven children, of whom six are still living, namely: Ulysses G., Ira C., John M., Homer V., Cora B. and Jennie P. Mr. Smuts was possessed of but little wealth when his marriage took place, but he has since been a hard worker and through his industry has earned for himself a fine farm of one hundred and four acres in Union township, on which he erected, in 1894, a handsome brick dwelling and has improved the place in every respect that makes farm life profitable, respectable and comfortable. He is a member of the Progressive Brethren church, in which he has been trustee and is now treasurer, and Mrs. Smuts is a member of the Church of God. Both are sincere and consistent church workers and lead a life that is beyond reproach.

In politics Mr. Smuts is an active and leading Republican and makes his influence felt in his party's councils. He is popular as a party man and as a citizen and has served as supervisor of the township.

The industrious habits of Mr. Smuts are well worthy the emulation and imitation of the rising generation, for he has certainly led a life that points a way for the youth of the land to tread in and make rapid progress through the intricacies of life and avoid the obstacles that usually beset the way of the inexperienced and unsophisticated. The social standing of Mr. and Mrs. Smuts is all that could pos-

sibly be desired by the most ambitious of citizens and they are held in high esteem by their neighbors. Mr. Smuts, it will be seen from the foregoing, is what is usually termed a self-made man and too much credit cannot be awarded him for persisting in following the habits he formed when young, which persistency has culminated in placing him in his present exalted position. Blessed with robust health throughout life and an equal temper, he now, in his mellow middle-age, enjoys existence only as it can be enjoyed by those who have been temperate in all things.

JAMES M. SETTLEMAYER.

Very few men of wealth or prominence interested themselves in the early settlement of eastern Indiana. Government land was so plentiful all over what had formally been the Northwest territory that it was no object for land syndicates to get possession of and control it, even if such a thing as a land syndicate had existed in those days. In most instances the government and the settler made their transactions direct, and they were always satisfactory. Even then, however, there were a few who realized that eventually the land would become valuable and strained every nerve to get possession of as much as their means would allow. To them the usual reward of foresight has been meted out. They increased their material wealth many fold. One of these was William Settlemeier, father of John M. Settlemeier, the subject of this sketch, who at one time in the early days of the settlement was the

owner of many hundred acres in Indiana and Ohio. At his home in Warren county, Ohio, he owned a fine farm of two hundred acres and he also had a clear title to some fifteen hundred acres in Indiana and Ohio.

James M. Settlemeier, was born in Wayne county, Ohio, December 30, 1845. The family of his father were natives of Virginia, though of Scotch ancestry. His mother's maiden name was Ann Wilkerson and she was of a Lexington, Kentucky, family. Mr. Settlemeier had served as a soldier in the war of 1812, being stationed at Fort Recovery, Ohio. His family consisted of four sons who reached maturity, three of whom are still living, James M., Bayless N., of the old homestead, and John, of Roanoke, Indiana. The father died in his Ohio home September 7, 1876.

James M. Settlemeier grew to manhood on his father's farm. He secured a good education in the district schools, and made his home beneath his father's roof until he was twenty-five years of age. He then rented a tract of land owned by his father in Union township, Wells county, and with an assurance that the place would some day be his, he came out to Wells county in 1869 and entered upon the task of clearing the land, making a farm of it and a home upon it. September 22, 1872, he was united in marriage to Miss Ellen Jacobs, a native of Dekalb county, Indiana, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Jacobs, early settlers of Wells county, coming here when she was but a child. The young people, soon after their marriage, established themselves in house-keeping upon the farm, and thereafter it was noticed that the clearings, the drainage and the fencing progressed with much more

energy and zeal than theretofore, further evidence of the fact that matrimony is always productive of industry and thrift. At the present time the farm is splendidly improved, being cleared, well drained and fenced. A large, handsome, well finished residence has been erected and a substantial and commodious barn and all necessary out-buildings give comfort and convenience to the place.

Mr. and Mrs. Settlemeier are the parents of one son, Lawrence, born August 19, 1876. He attended the district school and acquired a good education, later attending some three terms at the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso. He was married on the 27th day of April, 1895, to Miss Etta M. Roe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Roe, of Union township. One son has been born to them, Kenneth W., born June 20, 1902. His life has been devoted to the farm in association with his father. He is interested in breeding Poland China hogs and in this line has met with commendable success. The farm has three flowing wells, offering an abundant supply of water for the stock.

In politics James M. Settlemeier is a Republican, sincere and consistent. He believes in his party and in its principles and makes every effort to compass its success, not particularly for his own good or that of the party, but for the good of the country. He interests himself in politics purely from patriotic motives. The great questions of state which are constantly arising can be handled and disposed of, in his opinion, better by the Republican party than any other. He has served as committeeman from his township a number of times, was a delegate to the last Republican state convention and is at present a member of the advisory board of

the county. Mrs. Settlemeier is a member of the United Brethren church at Zanesville, that congregation being identified with what is termed the "radical wing" of that denomination.

For over thirty years Mr. Settlemeier has resided in Union township and during all that time no public enterprise has been brought to the front in which he has not taken a leading, active part, public improvements of all kinds having always found in him a steadfast friend and promoter. He is never afraid, in public affairs or in private matters of his own, of the expenditure of a few dollars when the resultant good promises to overbalance the outlay, being never actuated by what is known as "a penny-wise policy." Strictly conscientious, fair and honest in all of his dealings, he believes in the full application of these principles to matters in which the public is interested and well deserves the success which he has attained.

JOHN F. ROE.

The youth who remains close to the parental roof will not see as much of the world or its people as will he who roams about; but it is safe to predict that at the end of a given period gold pieces will be jingling in the pockets of the first when pennies will not be sufficiently numerous in the pockets of the second to make a noise. This thought is very forcibly expressed in the saying, which is almost of sufficient antiquity to be referred to as a proverb, "A rolling stone gathers no moss." There are, however, exceptions to all rules and one of the exceptions to the above is J. F. Roe, of Union town-

ship, Wells county, the subject of this sketch. He spent ten years of his early manhood at various points in the great west, employed in various positions, contracted no very bad habits and returned to the county of his nativity, with money in his pocket. He might have had a good deal more money if he had never traveled, but certainly he would not be possessed of a tittle of the information that is his regarding this wonderful country in which we live and the remarkable people who inhabit it.

John F. Roe, familiarly called Frank, is a son of Isaac and Catherine (Thomas) Roe and was born in Union township, Wells county, Indiana, July 8, 1859. His father was a native of Ohio, where he grew to manhood. In 1826 he came to Indiana and settled on land near where the city of Indianapolis now stands. He remained there three years, then in disgust returned to Ohio. Soon afterward the paternal grandfather of the subject decided to look over Indiana for himself. He rode on horseback from his home in Ohio to Randolph county, Indiana, a distance of one hundred and thirty miles, selected a tract of eighty acres of land, then went to the land office at Fort Wayne, made the official arrangement regarding his entry and returned to his home in Ohio. Within a very short time the family had packed up and were on their way overland in a big wagon to their new home. While the father was building his cabin the family camped on the ground where the town of Ridgeville now stands.

In 1846 Isaac Roe was united in marriage to Miss Nancy Renbarger and a little later they moved to Union township, Wells county, where he entered a quarter section of government land in section 17. He built

a home, the typical log cabin of that period, and applied himself with zeal and energy to the clearing and improvement of his land. By the end of the first year his young wife died, leaving his home desolate. After remaining a widower for more than ten years, he was for a second time united in marriage. On this occasion his bride was Miss Catharine Thomas, and one child, J. F. Roe, the subject of this sketch, was born to this union. The young mother was permitted to care for her little son but one year, when death claimed her. The maternal grandmother, Mrs. Thomas, then took the boy and reared him until he was nine years old when he was taken by an uncle, Benjamin Roe, at Ridgeville, Randolph county, which remained his home until he was sixteen years of age. During his residence in Ridgeville he attended the public schools and made rapid progress in his studies. He especially excelled in penmanship and mathematics, which secured for him a position in one of the local mercantile establishments, which he held for three years. A desire to see more of the world then took possession of him and he went west, where he remained for ten years, engaged in different kinds of employment at various points. He worked in an express office for a time, then in a hardware store, finally making the trip to California, where he worked on the Southern Pacific Railroad. Later he took a position for the Lake Hemett Land and Water Company, of Lakeside county, California. It was a very responsible position and he held it for a number of years. Like the lamb that had wandered from the fold, he at last yearned to come home, and arrived in Wells county in April, 1889.

In November of the following year,

1890, Mr. Roe was united in marriage to Miss Della Young, a daughter of Samuel and Christina Young, of Allen county, Indiana, who had moved to Wells county in 1876 and settled on a farm in Union township. She was born in 1868, and was a young lady of intelligence, refinement and fair education. Their married life of twelve years has been most happy, although no children have come to bless their union. His farm of one hundred and sixty acres lies three and one-half miles north of Markle and is one of the most desirable farms in the township, consisting of a tract entered and improved by his father and has never been transferred by deed. In politics he confesses to being a Democrat, but he is never a partisan. Like all men who have traveled much, he has broad and liberal views on all questions which arise, whether religious, political or social. While rather steadfast in his views on questions to which he has given consideration, he always exhibits a hearty respect for the opinions of others. Having few domestic cares, he and his wife employ their leisure time in the perusal of good books, with the result that it would be difficult to find a household every member of which is as well informed on nearly every subject and as well versed on current questions and the topics of the day. They are a model couple, loving and respecting each other and warmly admired by their neighbors and friends.

THOMAS B. MORRIS, M. D.

Back to that cradle of much of our national history, the Old Dominion state, must we turn in tracing the genealogy of Dr. Mor-

ris, and at a later period the family name and that of the collateral line became prominently identified with the history of Kentucky, whose annals have been dignified by the lives and labors of those with whom our subject is linked by consanguinity. Personally he is numbered among the representative members of the medical profession of Wells county, being established in practice in the attractive village of Mount Zion. Devoted to the noble and humane work which his profession implies, faithful and indefatigable in his efforts, he has not only earned a due reward in a temporal way, but has also proved himself eminently worthy to exercise the important functions of his calling, by reason of his ability, his abiding sympathy and his earnest zeal in behalf of his fellow men. His understanding of the science of medicine is broad and comprehensive and the profession and the public have accorded him the high esteem and confidence justly due under such conditions and with such attributes as are his.

Dr. Morris is a native of Bracken county, Kentucky, having been born on a farm near the town of Augusta, on the 6th of August, 1848, and being a son of John P. and Mary Ann (McClennahan) Morris, both members of old Kentucky families and both natives of that state. Capt. Philip Buckner, the maternal grandfather of John P. Morris, was born in England, on the 13th of May, 1747, and as a young man he emigrated to America, being here married, in 1772, to a Miss Daniels, of Port Royal, Virginia. At the outbreak of the war of the Revolution he espoused the cause of the colonists and served in the Continental line, while for commissary supplies which he furnished from his home in Virginia he received at the close of

the war land warrants, on which he made selection of lands in Kentucky and Ohio. He brought his family and his negroes down the Ohio river on flatboats, disembarking at Louisville, which was then a small village, and later returned to Virginia and organized a company of families who came to Kentucky and under his supervision organized a colony at Augusta, Bracken county, of which town he was thus the virtual founder. He acquired an extensive landed estate, having erected his first dwelling in the year 1797, and it is interesting to note in the connection that the foundations of this ancient building are still standing. Captain Buckner donated large tracts of land to the town of Augusta, and it was through his progressive spirit that the colony and town flourished to so notable a degree. He was the first representative from that county in the legislature of Kentucky and was one of the framers of the constitution of the commonwealth, having been a member of the first constitutional convention, while his sons-in-law were the first officers elected in Bracken county after its erection. He was a man of fine mentality, genial and hospitable and a true type of the old-school gentleman. He assisted many persons in securing farms and establishing homes and no man in the locality had a firmer hold upon public confidence and esteem. When well advanced in years he retired to a distance of fourteen miles in the wilderness in order that he might have access to more game, having been an enthusiastic nimrod and an expert shot. He died at his home in Bracken county on the 24th of October, 1820, in the fullness of years and well earned honors. His son-in-law, Dickinson Morris, grandfather of Dr. Morris, was the first sheriff of Brack-

en county, and one of the influential citizens of the locality. He became an able surveyor and as such had charge of the surveying of the greater portion of Bracken county, where he was engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death. His eldest son, B. S. Morris, became a distinguished member of the bar, was the second mayor of the city of Chicago, Illinois, and for a number of years was judge of the circuit court in that state. The third son, Philip B., was an extensive farmer in Kentucky, where he passed his entire life.

John Pickett Morris, father of the Doctor, was reared and educated in Bracken county, where he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, in which he was engaged from his youth until his death, in October, 1895, at the venerable age of eighty-three years, having resided continuously on one farm for the long period of sixty years, while the old homestead is still in the possession of the family. His devoted wife, who was born in Farquhar county, Virginia, accompanied her parents on their removal to Kentucky when a child, and there was reared and educated, and she died on the old homestead on the 5th of August, 1868, at the age of fifty-two years. They became the parents of eight sons and one daughter and all are living with the exception of two of the sons, while Dr. Morris and his brother Samuel B., of Liberty Center, Wells county, are the only representatives of the family in Indiana.

Dr. Morris, of this sketch, was born on the old homestead farm, twelve miles west of Augusta, Bracken county, Kentucky, and his early educational discipline was received in the public schools of his native state. In 1869, when about twenty-one years of age, he came to Wells county,

Indiana, to visit relatives, and here he engaged in teaching in the district schools about two years, and while thus engaged he became so impressed with the attractions and advantages of this section of the state that he determined to take up his permanent residence here. He had previously taken up the study of medicine under the preceptorship of an old and able physician of Kentucky and after coming to Indiana he continued his technical reading under the direction of his brother, Dr. George P. Morris, who was at that time established in the practice of his profession in Grant county. In 1879 he was matriculated in the Fort Wayne Medical College, at Fort Wayne, this state, where he was graduated as a member of the class of 1881, receiving the degree of Doctor of Medicine and being thoroughly fortified for the practice of his chosen profession, since he had been a close and appreciative student of both medicine and surgery and had spared no pains to secure the best experience in practical clinical work while pursuing his collegiate course. After his graduation Dr. Morris established himself in practice at Roll, Blackford county, Indiana, where he remained until 1883, when he came to Mount Zion, Wells county, which has since continued to be his place of residence and his professional headquarters. He has built up a large and representative practice, which extends throughout a wide radius of country, and his success has been the diametrical result of his assiduous application, his unwavering devotion to his work and his constant and careful study of the sciences of medicine and surgery, in which he keeps in touch with the advances made from year to year, having recourse to the best standard and periodical literature pertaining to the same.

The Doctor is an honored member of the Wells County Medical Society, and has been a delegate from the same to the Indiana State Medical Society, in which also he retains membership, while he has also been a delegate to the conventions of the American Medical Association. He is held in high esteem by his professional confreres, being ever mindful of the ethics of the unwritten code, and is frequently called in consultation by other members of the profession. His practice has far exceeded in extent the limitations which he had considered possible, and both as a physician and a man he holds the unequivocal confidence and esteem of the community in which his services have been of so marked value and in which he has attained high prestige in his profession. The Doctor is the owner of two valuable farms in Wells county, on one of which are eight producing oil wells, through which he secures a good income, both farm properties being rented. In politics he gives his allegiance to the Democratic party so far as state and national affairs are involved, but in local matters, where no issue is to be considered, he is independent rather than holding to strict partisan lines. The Doctor served three years as postmaster of Mount Zion, under the administration of President Cleveland. He is a charter member of Mount Zion Lodge No. 684, I. O. O. F., in which he is past noble grand, while he has represented the same in the grand lodge of the state on three different occasions. He and his wife are valued and active members of the Methodist Protestant church.

On the 11th of May, 1875, Dr. Morris was united in marriage to Miss Sarah A. Lee, who was born in Wells county, being a daughter of Jonathan R. and Susanah (Ban-

ter) Lee, well known residents of the county. She was eighteen years of age at the time of her marriage, having been reared and educated in her native county and being a lady of gracious presence and distinctive refinement. Dr. and Mrs. Morris are the parents of two sons, namely: Oscar E., who married Miss Maud Huffman and who is one of the successful young farmers of Wells county; and George B., who is a student in the Indiana Medical College, at Indianapolis, being a member of the class of 1903; he married Miss Rosa Wallace and they have one child, Lillian Maxwell.

D. D. STUDABAKER.

Success in this life comes to the deserving. It is an axiom demonstrated by all human experience that a man gets out of this life what he puts into it, plus a reasonable interest on the investment. The individual who inherits a large estate and adds nothing to his fortune cannot be called a successful man. He that falls heir to a large fortune and increases its value is successful in proportion to the amount he adds to his wealth. But the man who starts in the world unaided and by sheer force of will, controlled by correct principles, forges ahead and at length reaches a position of honor among his fellow citizens achieves success such as representatives of the two former classes neither understand nor appreciate. To a considerable extent the subject of this sketch is a creditable representative of the class last named, a class which has furnished much of the bone and sinew of the country and added to the stability of the government and its institutions.

D. D. Studabaker is a native of Wells county, his birth occurring in Harrison township on the 4th of May, 1840, a son of the pioneers, William and Sarah A. (Thompson) Studabaker. He was reared upon the parental homestead and attended the subscription schools. Though his earlier education was necessarily limited, he has by close observation and contact with the world become well-informed and thoroughly in touch with modern business methods. David early formed an inclination for dealing in stock. He remained with his father until he was twenty-two years of age and in 1862 undertook to operate the farm of Capt. Peter Studabaker while the latter was absent in military service. The subject farmed this property until 1866, when he settled on a farm adjoining the one on which he now lives. He has engaged in the various lines related to agriculture, including farming, stock grazing, buying and selling, in all of which he has been successful, achieving an enviable reputation through his straightforward and honorable business methods. He was an extensive stock-shipper of the county to within twenty years, though since that time he has confined his operations principally to baling and shipping hay and straw. Aside from the varied interests pertaining to the farm, Mr. Studabaker has also done some contracting in the construction of gravel roads in this and Grant counties, his efforts in this line being the greatest of any citizen of the county. He built the second gravel road in the county, the one from Bluffton to Mount Zion, and among others which he constructed were the following: The Markle, Gregg, Bluffton and Rifeton, Little, Poor Farm, Air Line, Stahl, Keystone, Gavin and others, the total amounting to fifty miles in Wells and eight

in Grant county. He bears the reputation of an honest and conscientious contractor and all of his transactions in which the public interests have been involved have been conducted so as to win the approbation of the people.

In the winter of 1865 Mr. Studabaker was united in marriage with Miss Esther E. Stahl, the daughter of Abraham and Rebecca Stahl. She was born in Ohio, but her parents came to Wells county in the spring of 1838, settling in Nottingham township. To this union have been born six children, three of whom are deceased. Those living are Hugh, an engineer on the Rock Island Railroad; Sarah, the wife of Ross DeVore, and Nora, who is at home. Mr. Studabaker is affiliated with the Democratic party. Though not a member of any church, he has ever been a liberal contributor to their support and casts his influence invariably on the side of morality and the higher interests of the community. With him to see and understand the right is to do the same under all circumstances, fearlessness in the discharge of duty being one of his dominant characteristics, while he is ever careful and considerate of the feelings and opinions of those from whom he may honestly differ.

ROBERT M. HEDGES.

Among the early pioneers and highly respected citizens of Wells county, Indiana, is Robert M. Hedges, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, October 31, 1817. His parents, Elijah and Mary (Baxley) Hedges, were natives of Virginia, though the progenitor of the family originally came from

England. Elijah Hedges was a soldier of the war of the Revolution, serving in a Virginia regiment. He was wounded in the service of the colonies and up to the time of his death received from his grateful country a pension of ninety-six dollars a year. His youth and early manhood were spent in Virginia. He was married there and had a family of three children before he moved to Ohio. It was during the administration of President Madison, and only about ten years after Ohio had been admitted into the Union as a state, that Elijah Hedges moved his wife and three children to Fairfield county. Here Robert M. Hedges, the subject of this sketch, was born and reared. His father, the old Revolutionary hero, remained there until his death, which occurred many years ago. He was the father of ten children, four boys and six girls. One of the latter, Henrietta, is still living at Charleston, Illinois, at the age of ninety-three years.

Upon the farm where he was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, Robert M. Hedges grew to manhood. The opportunities for securing an education in those days were limited. Very little printed matter found its way to the cabins in the woods, text books were few and expensive and public schools at that time were practically unknown. Nevertheless, the youth of the 'twenties found means of improving his mind.

On October 22, 1840, Mr. Hedges was united in marriage to Miss Sophia Kirkwood, a native of Franklin county, Pennsylvania, and born March 28, 1823. They went to housekeeping on a rented farm and remained in their native place until 1846, when they moved to Indiana and located in Harrison township, Wells county. Here he bought eighty acres of land, paying three hundred

dollars and incurring an indebtedness of one hundred dollars. It was in the dense woods, but he built a home upon it and lived there for six years, at the end of which time he had thirty-five acres cleared and under cultivation. An opportunity offering, in 1852 he sold the place and invested the proceeds in one hundred and fourteen acres, which is a part of the one-hundred-and-ninety-four-acre farm which he now owns.

To Robert M. and Sophia (Kirkwood) Hedges were born thirteen children, all of whom grew to maturity. All were living at the time of the death of their mother, in August, 1870, and were named as follows: Mary J., wife of Alexander Latamore, of Bluffton; Lucinda was the wife of Daniel Tuttle, but is now dead; Jonas T. is dead; Rebecca is the wife of James B. Gavin, of Liberty township, Wells county; James K. married Eunice Neff and resides in Harrison township; Elizabeth was the wife of Philip Ulmer, but is now dead; William resides in Whitley county, Indiana; Julia is the wife of George Ulmer, superintendent of the Orphans' Home; Joseph resides in Oregon; George resides in Kansas; Lewis resides in Pulaski county, Indiana; Samuel resides in Liberty township; John, the youngest child, resides on the old homestead.

In his life time Robert M. Hedges has made and accumulated much money. The years of the Civil war afforded many opportunities for money-making and he had the ability and enterprise to embrace them as they came his way. He was three times married and is again a widower. Miss Martha Williamson was his second wife. No children were born to this union and her death occurred in 1877. His third wife was Mrs. Elizabeth Kendall, a widow whose hus-

band had been killed in the Civil war. She died in April, 1895, leaving him one child, a daughter, Alice, the child of his old age.

For upwards of half a century Robert M. Hedges has been a devout, active and attentive member of the Methodist Episcopal church and is firm in the faith. For some years he occupied the position of steward. In politics he is a Democrat, having cast his first presidential vote for Martin Van Buren in 1840. Despite his loyalty and fidelity to the party, he never sought public position for himself, his interest in politics being only for what he considered the good of the community. In Wells county, where the greater part of his life has been spent, he is honored and respected by all who have had the pleasure of knowing him.

JOSEPH BURNS.

Rising above the heads of the masses there have always been in every community individuals who by reason of pronounced ability and force of character have commanded the unbounded esteem of their fellowmen. Characterized by the two resplendent virtues that never fail, perseverance and a directing spirit, such men always make their presence felt, and the vigor of their strong personality serves as a stimulus and incentive to the young and rising generation. To this energetic and enterprising class the subject of this sketch very properly belongs. Enjoying distinctive prestige as a farmer and business man, he is also widely and favorably known as a director of enterprises and to a marked degree he has achieved repute as a moulder of public sentiment in the

community of his residence. Joseph Burns, although of foreign birth, is a striking example of strong, virile American citizenship. He is in the true sense of the term a self-made man and his rise from very humble circumstances to his present position as a successful farmer and progressive man of affairs forcibly illustrates what can be accomplished by a well defined purpose in life when that purpose is directed and fostered by correct principles and manly conduct. Mr. Burns was born of Irish parentage, but first saw the light of day in England, to which country his father, Michael Burns, moved when a young man. The subject's birth occurred in the city of Manchester on the 14th day of February, 1847, and about three years later he was brought to the United States, the family settling in Jay county, Indiana, in 1851. Poor in this world's goods and without the aid of influential friends, Michael Burns found no rosy pathway to fortune in the new world. Purchasing a small tract of wild land, he labored hard to improve the same, meanwhile earning a little money by ditching for other parties. He was a man of great industry, knew not the meaning of idleness and enjoyed but little leisure while preparing a home and laboring for the support of those dependent upon him. Intelligent beyond the average, he devoted his evenings to reading and study and in this way became quite well informed on many subjects, especially those questions relating to politics and national legislature. By persevering effort he eventually succeeded in rising superior to unfavorable environment, and in the course of years found himself the possessor of a comfortable competence. He developed a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which he sub-

sequently sold for five thousand five hundred dollars, and purchased, in October, 1866, an estate in Chester township, Wells county, where he made his home the remainder of his life. Michael Burns became an influential man in his neighborhood and was highly esteemed by all who knew him. He was a local politician of considerable note and for many years his favor was courted by candidates of the Democratic party, as he exerted great influence among the voters of his township. A devout Catholic in religion, he expended his means liberally for the support of the church, he and James McCaffrey building the first house of worship in the town of Montpelier. Four children were born to Mr. Burns, the oldest of whom, John, a sergeant of Company F, One Hundred and Fortieth Infantry, in the Civil war, was wounded at the battle of Stone River and died from the effect of his injuries on the 8th of January, 1865. Mary, the second in order of birth, died while the family was enroute to the United States and was buried at sea; Emily died at Manchester, England, when an infant; Joseph, the subject of this sketch, being the youngest of the family.

The early life of Joseph Burns was spent on the farm in Jay county and it is needless to state that fortune cast into his pathway no glittering crown. He grew up with a proper appreciation of the true nobility of honest toil and from youth to manhood knew what it meant to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow. Amid the bracing air and vigorous outdoor exercises, he acquired strength of limb and independence of mind which served him well when he began the struggle of life in later years. Young Burns was born with a thirst for knowledge and at

an early age mastered the mysteries of the fundamental branches by attending a school taught in a little log building, which stood fully three miles from his home. The way to this backwoods college led through a deep forest, and in order to reach it in time for the morning lessons the lad was obliged to get out of bed in the wee small hours and start on the long tramp before daylight. Not infrequently the deep snows proved a decided hindrance, to wade through which taxed the physical powers of the boy to their utmost capacity. Notwithstanding the daily walk of six miles and the indifferent character of the teaching, young Burns made rapid advancement and before his eighteenth year he had gone as far as his instructor could take him, mastering all of the common branches, in several of which he became unusually proficient. He has always been a great reader and today his knowledge takes in a wide range of subjects, those bearing upon the political and industrial history of our country being among the ones in which he is especially well informed. Like a dutiful son, he remained at home assisting with the labors of the farm until his twenty-second year when he left the parental roof to make his own way in the world. Although penniless at this time, he looked forward with hope and began laying plans for future action. Thinking that a companion on life's journey would result to his advantage, Mr. Burns, on the 10th day of April, 1871, was united in marriage to Miss Ann McCaffrey, of Wells county, daughter of James McCaffrey, and shortly thereafter moved to a small tract of woodland which he purchased with the prospect of paying for the same at some future day. Poor in purse, but rich in love and de-

votion for each other and determined to make the most of their opportunities, the young couple set up their humble establishment and resolutely addressed themselves to the task of making a home and clearing it of debt. To narrate in detail how this was eventually accomplished, how they worked hard, denied themselves many privileges and made sacrifices which tried their souls as well as their bodies, would far transcend the limits of this article. Suffice it to say, however, that by long continued toil and patient, persevering effort, the forest growth gradually disappeared before the sturdy strokes of Mr. Burns' ax until at length one of the finest and most valuable farms in Chester township rewarded the labors so heroically put forth. Mr. Burns cleared and developed with his own hands fully one hundred acres of land. His place is highly improved and well cultivated, containing substantial buildings, fine fences and other accessories bespeaking the home of the intelligent and enterprising husbandman. Situated in the richest of the Indiana oil fields, it would command a very high price if put on the market, and for agricultural purposes alone the place has been conservatively valued at one hundred dollars per acre. In addition to general farming and stock raising, Mr. Burns has made considerable money contracting for the construction of gravel roads and like work in this and other counties. He has already made over thirteen miles of public highway in the county of Wells alone, besides doing much street work in the city of Bluffton, realizing liberal returns from his contracts. For many years he has been a public auctioneer, his services in this capacity being in great demand throughout several northeastern counties.

In politics Mr. Burns is a Democrat of the old school and as such has rendered his party great service in every campaign in the last quarter of a century. Not only is he an active worker in the ranks, but as a public speaker he possesses a power surpassed by few. Logical in presenting facts, he impresses them by strong, well-put arguments and, rising at times to the heights of true eloquence, he seldom fails in convincing and always pleases and entertains his audiences. He is the soul of large hearted fellowship. Endowed with the natural wit and humor for which his nationality is especially distinguished, he is the life of every social gathering graced by his presence and numbers his warm friends by the score among all classes of people. As a neighbor he is accommodating at all times, generous to a fault and no worthy person or legitimate enterprise ever appealed to him in vain. His hand is ever open to help the poor and distressed and his home is the abode of a generous hospitality which many of his friends delight to share. He was born within the pale of the Catholic church and has always been loyal to its precepts and liberal in the expenditure of his means for its support. His wife and children also have been trained according to its teachings and are now among its zealous members in the county of Wells.

Mr. and Mrs. Burns are the parents of nine children: John, the oldest, born April 10, 1872, was graduated from the Bluffton high school, began teaching at the early age of sixteen years and followed educational work for a number of years in Wells county. Later he studied law, rose rapidly in the profession and at this time is prosecuting attorney for the twenty-eighth judicial district, comprising the counties of Wells and Black-

ford; William, the second child, died when five years old; James was born and reared in Chester township, this county, and is now a resident of Montpelier; Tilden, the next in order of birth, lives at home and manages the farm; Joseph H. is a tool dresser in the oil fields of Indiana and has prospered in that kind of work; the other members of the family, Millie, Elizabeth, Patrick G., Anna and Felix, are still with their parents.

ALBERT MEYER.

Notwithstanding the fact that the republic of Switzerland is one of the smallest countries of the world, it has sent a large number of emigrants to the United States during the years that have elapsed since independence was secured. The people of that country, appreciating the blessings of liberty, of which they had had a strong example in their own land, were not slow to recognize the possibilities that opened out in splendid perspective for all who located early in this country. Accordingly, large numbers of the hardy Swiss have crossed the Atlantic and created for themselves homes in the great middle west of the United States. And here their descendants have become among the most intelligent, patriotic, industrious and upright of our great and wonderful cosmopolitan population.

Peter Meyer, father of the subject, was born in Switzerland on the 22d of May, 1831. He came to the United States with his parents when about four years of age. They first located in Stark county, Ohio, where they lived about one year, then moved to Adams county, Indiana, and settled in

French township. He remained on the farm with his father until reaching his majority, and at that age began learning the carpenter's trade. After finishing his trade he came to Vera Cruz, Wells county, and here was united in marriage with Miss Sauer, of that village. To this union was born one child, but the mother and child both died late in the 'fifties. In 1860 Peter Meyer chose for his second companion Miss Elizabeth Moser, likewise a native of Switzerland, born April 5, 1842. To this union were born eight children, namely: Albert, the subject of this sketch; Jonas; Sarah, wife of William Frauhiger; Bertha married Philip Frauhiger; David, of Bluffton, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume; Jacob, Elizabeth and Ida, the last two named still unmarried. Although Peter Meyer was a poor man when he attained his majority, he was industrious and economical and eventually became fairly well off as regards this world's goods. In 1860 he bought eighty acres of land in Wells county, which he succeeded in converting into a splendid farm. Altogether he has owned about four hundred acres of land, the larger part of which he has divided among his children as they have attained to maturity. In religion he is a member of the Reform church and in politics has always been a Democrat.

Albert Meyer, the immediate subject of this sketch, as born in Harrison township, Wells county, Indiana, on the 5th of May, 1867, the third in order of birth, and the oldest son of the eight children born to his parents. He was reared upon the parental homestead in his native township and is indebted to the common schools for his mental training. He remained at home until reaching his majority, assisting his father on the

farm, then started out in life for himself. He was steady and reliable in his work, and was economical in his habits and was thus enabled to save some money. He was at length enabled to purchase an eighty-acre tract in section 19, Harrison township, which has since been his home and where he has successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits, combined with stock raising.

In November, 1890, Mr. Meyer was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Schwartz, who was born in Vera Cruz, Indiana, though of German descent. She received a good common school education, is an intelligent and amiable woman and has indeed proved to Mr. Meyer a helpmate in the truest sense of the word. Their union has been a most congenial and happy one and has resulted in the birth of the following children: Edward E., Levi, Pearl M., deceased, Fannie, Charles and Emma. In political views Mr. Meyer is a Democrat, manifesting an intelligent interest in the party of his choice and keeping well informed upon the issues of the day. He has never sought nor desired official station of any kind, preferring to devote his time and attention to his farming interests. There are no more progressive farmers in Wells county than Mr. Meyer and he has acquired a reputation as a farmer and stock raiser which is more than local. He is familiar with the latest methods of agriculture and in tilling his land he uses modern machinery and implements of the most approved type. His place contains many valuable improvements in the way of a residence, barn and splendid outbuildings and he has spared no reasonable expense in surrounding himself with the comforts and conveniences which make rural life attractive

and desirable. His course through life has been prudent and upright and his example is worthy the emulation of all young men who desire to live so as to leave clear records behind them. While successful in the accumulation of wealth, he is also rich in the possession of a reputation above reproach and a character which will bear the world's closest and strictest scrutiny. Respected as an upright, broad-minded, influential citizen, his name will long adorn the roster of Harrison township's enterprising and representative men.

DAVID MEYER.

One of the most prosperous young business men of Bluffton, Indiana, is David Meyer, a native of Wells county, born in Harrison township, January 17, 1872, and a son of Peter and Elizabeth (Moser) Meyer, of whom a more complete biography will be found on another page of this volume. To Peter Meyer and wife were born eight children, of whom David was the fifth in order of birth. Until seventeen years of age he attended the schools of his district and acquired a good education. After attaining his majority he went to work on a farm for his brother, Albert, with whom he remained one year, after which he worked a year for his father, and then entered a partnership with Daniel Gilliom in the drilling of wells. This partnership existed until May 25, 1898, when it was dissolved and Mr. Meyer entered a partnership with Jacob Klopfenstine in the harness business at Bluffton, and has probably the best establishment devoted to this line of trade in the city, his business extending throughout the counties of Wells and

Adams. Mr. Meyer erected his present brick business block in the fall of 1900 at a cost of five thousand two hundred dollars. It is situated on Main street, is twenty by one hundred and twenty feet in size, and is one of the handsomest business blocks in town.

June 15, 1899, Mr. Meyer was united in marriage with Miss Margaret Engeler, daughter of Frederick and Rosanna (Beberstein) Engeler. Mr. Engeler was a prominent business man of Vera Cruz, Indiana, and a justice of the peace for many years. Mrs. Meyer was born in Vera Cruz, this county, October 22, 1875, and was highly educated in that town. She is a member of the Presbyterian church at Bluffton, is a refined and cultured lady and is highly respected by all who know her.

Mr. Meyer exhibited considerable wisdom when he selected his present line of business as his vocation, as his firm has almost an exclusive command of the harness trade over Wells and Adams counties, the only competition, in fact, being through the agents of manufacturing companies that turn out and place upon the market machine-made products, which, all the world knows, are never equal, either in finish, quality or material, to hand-made articles. That Mr. Meyer has made a success in his business is manifest from the high standing he occupies in commercial and trade circles, in which his integrity has never been called in question and in which his credit has never been impaired. The social position of Mr. Meyer and wife is in the best circles of Bluffton, and both are highly esteemed for their many personal excellences of character. Few young men have attained a more exalted consideration by their fellow citizens than that reached by David Meyer. In his political affiliations he is a

Democrat, and he always takes an interest in the success of his party, though he does not aspire to public office.

ALBERT OPPENHEIM.

This is the age of the man with initiative. There is room for him in every progressive business, however crowded it may be. He is worth far more than the expert who can only do what he is told. The man of ideas has a high value, but his relative importance is slight as compared with that of the man of initiative power or the ability to put his ideas into practical use. The strength of the man with initiative is that he knows how to enter upon a matter, how to make beginnings. His qualification is common sense to a far greater extent than genius and his potency is of unmistakable order. One of the distinctively able, progressive and representative business men of the city of Bluffton is he whose name initiates this paragraph, and he has gained prestige through well directed endeavor, being identified with industrial interests of wide scope and importance and holding at the present time the position of assistant general manager of the Empire & American Glycerine Company, which represents one of the leading industrial enterprises of Bluffton.

Albert Oppenheim comes of stanch German ancestry and is a native son of Wells county, Indiana, having been born in the city of Bluffton, on the 8th of October, 1855, and being a son of Sigmund and Mary J. (Niblack) Oppenheim. Sigmund Oppenheim was born in the city of Mannheim, on the river Rhine, Baden, Germany, the date of his nativity having been February 15, 1821. He was reared and educated in his native city,

where he continued to reside until 1848, when, as a young man of twenty-seven years, he emigrated to America, landing in New York city, where he remained for a short interval. At the time of the ever memorable gold excitement in California, in 1849, he joined the hejira to the Pacific coast, believing an opportunity was presented for him to gain independence. He took passage on a boat from New York, making the voyage by way of the isthmus of Panama and arriving in due time in San Francisco, whence he made his way to the gold fields, where he was engaged in placer-mining about one year, being quite successful in his efforts. At the expiration of this period Mr. Oppenheim returned to the east and located in Somerset, Ohio, where he engaged in the mercantile business, continuing the enterprise for two years and thereafter being engaged in the same line of business in Mansfield, Ohio, until 1853, when he came to Bluffton. Here he established himself in business, opening a general merchandise store and eventually building up a large and representative trade. With this enterprise he continued to be actively identified until 1876, when he retired from active business. He was a man of lofty integrity of character, was progressive and energetic as a business man and ever held the unequivocal confidence and esteem of all who knew him, and in his death, which occurred on the 8th of September, 1897, the community lost one of its honored and valued citizens and one of its pioneer business men. He was a Democrat in his political proclivities, taking a lively and intelligent interest in the questions and issues of the hour and manifesting a public-spirited interest in all matters pertaining to the general welfare of his home, city and county.

Mr. Oppenheim was married at Bluffton

in 1854 to Miss Mary J. Niblack, who was born in Harrison county, Ohio, January 31, 1833, and was a daughter of James Niblack. Of this union were born three children, concerning whom we offer the following brief data: Albert is the immediate subject of this sketch; William S. is a representative member of the bar of the city of Chicago; and Addie is the wife of Amos Cole, who is engaged in the hardware business in Bluffton. Mrs. Oppenheim still retains her home in Bluffton, where she has resided the major portion of her life, but she passes a portion of each year in the state of California.

Albert Oppenheim was reared to maturity in his native city of Bluffton, where he completed the course of study in the high school, and at the age of fifteen years he entered upon an apprenticeship at the printer's trade, to which he devoted his attention for a period of three years, when his health became so impaired as to necessitate his withdrawal from this line of business. He then learned the art of telegraphy, becoming an expert operator and being employed by various railroad companies in different towns in Indiana and Ohio. He later became an operator in the offices of the Western Union Telegraph Company in the city of Cincinnati, where he remained until 1883, when he returned to Bluffton and opened a Western Union office, of which he was made manager, while in connection with the duties of the same he also became local agent for the American Express Company. He continued to be identified with these two concerns until 1890, when he resigned both positions, and in the same year was elected to the office of clerk of the Wells circuit court, of which he remained incumbent for a period of four years, giving a most capable and satisfactory ad-

ministration of the affairs of the office. Upon his retirement from this position Mr. Oppenheim was made general manager of the United Telephone Company, having charge of the installation and operation of various plants in Indiana and maintaining his headquarters in Bluffton. He resigned this office in 1897, when he accepted his present position as assistant general manager of the Empire & American Glycerine Company. In 1892 Mr. Oppenheim became associated with P. A. Allen in the ownership of the Bluffton Banner, which is one of the oldest Democratic newspapers in the state, and he still retains his interest in this enterprise. In 1900 he was elected a member of the directorate of the Marietta Torpedo Company at Marietta, Ohio, and was simultaneously chosen treasurer of the company, and he is still incumbent of these positions, while in 1901 he was elected treasurer of the Scio Glycerine Company, of Scio, Ohio. He is distinctively a man of affairs, and his marked executive and administrative ability makes his interposition in any undertaking a practical voucher for the success of the enterprise, and no better mark of the objective appreciation of his powers can be had than that afforded in the important offices of which he is incumbent.

In politics Mr. Oppenheim accords an unqualified allegiance to the Democratic party, in whose cause he takes an active interest. He has held no office save that of clerk of the courts, and his personal political ambition was satisfied with the one position and he desires no further preferment in the line. Fraternally Mr. Oppenheim is an appreciative member of the time-honored order of Freemasons, in which he has completed the circle of the York Rite and also advanced to the seventeenth degree in the Scottish Rite

bodies, being identified with the consistory of Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret in the city of Fort Wayne. He is also identified with the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

While employed as a telegraphist in the city of Muncie, Indiana, on Christmas day of the year 1876, Mr. Oppenheim was united in marriage to Miss Alice O. Davis, who was born at Harrison, Dearborn county, Indiana, on the 29th of February, 1856, being a daughter of Jared and Eliza (Jaquish) Davis. Mr. and Mrs. Oppenheim became the parents of three children, namely: Sigmund, who was born on the 8th of October, 1877, and who died in infancy; Blanche, who was born July 6, 1879, and Ethel, who was born on the 1st of July, 1882. The Misses Oppenheim have received excellent educational advantages and are numbered among the gracious and popular young ladies of Bluffton, being prominent in the social life of the city and having the privilege of extending the hospitalities of a cultured and refined home.

JOHN Y. HOWER.

Among the highly respected and well known residents of Bluffton is John Y. Hower, a brief record of whose career through life is here given. He is a son of Jacob and Hannah (Kimball) Hower, was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, April 22, 1841, and was there reared to manhood on his father's farm. During his boyhood years he attended the district schools and acquired what was considered a good education for that day. He was possessed of an iron will and great determination and was ever ready

to defend himself and friends from encroachment upon their rights. At the age of twenty years he moved with his parents to Branch county, Michigan, and after there attaining his majority came to Indiana, where he met and married Miss Ethelinda Chalfant, September 21, 1865. This union resulted in the birth of one daughter, now Mrs. Zeffa Brineman. Shortly after his marriage he moved to Michigan, but on account of the ill health of his wife Mr. Hower again brought his family to Indiana and was later employed as foreman and timber buyer for E. H. Montgomery, which firm had located in Bluffton, and with whom he remained for over sixteen years.

Mr. Hower was bereft of his wife June 16, 1895, and in May, 1900, he chose for his second companion Mrs. Mary Wanamaker, of Warren, Ohio. Mr. Hower is at present employed as a timber buyer and is considered by the trade as one of the best posted men in his line and the best judge of timber of any one in this section of the country. In political matters Mr. Hower is a Democrat, and since becoming a resident of Bluffton has served as street commissioner of the city one term and three terms as a member of the common council, and at one time was most favorably spoken of as a candidate for sheriff of Wells county. In religion he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Bluffton, and for several years was a teacher in its Sunday school. He is a liberal contributor of his means to the support of the church and active in promoting its good work, is a strict observer of its teachings and fully exemplifies by his walk through life the sincerity of his profession of faith.

Mr. Hower, as has been intimated above, is a man of inflexible determination, and a

resolution once formed by him is as unchangeable as the laws of the Medes and Persians, when his conscience tells him he is right. He is greatly respected for his integrity and all who know him consider his word as good as his bond.

HON. M. C. BLUE.

Gratifying indeed must it be to the good wife and mother, as she descends the latter half of life's slope, to know that the man she loves, the husband of her youth and father of her children attributed to her every success that has come to him in life. The more exalted the station he holds, the higher the honors that are his, the more brilliant his success, the greater the joy that thrills her heart in knowing that to her wifely care and solicitude much, indeed if not all of it, is attributable, and that the lover of her girlhood, whose love has only intensified with the elapse of time, accords to her the full praise and credit for having made him what he is. Such a wife and mother is Mrs. Rhoda Richey Blue, wife of Hon. M. C. Blue, of Lancaster township, Wells county, Indiana. Beginning life heavily handicapped by poverty, unable to read or write at the age of fifteen, he managed to acquire a liberal education, particularly in mathematics, served his county as surveyor, afterwards as auditor, and later his state in the halls of legislation. All of this he credits to his wife. It is not that he lacked the material in himself to accomplish it, but without her to guide, direct and inspire him with the unalterable purpose to dare and do, he would have been swerved from his course many a

time and might have relinquished the struggle in discouragement.

Hon. M. C. Blue was born in Miami county, Ohio, April 16, 1836, and is the son of Uriah and Rachael (Moore) Blue. The family originally came from Virginia, settled in Kentucky and after a brief residence there moved to Ohio and later to Wells county, Indiana. At the time of the latter removal the subject of this sketch was a boy less than four years old. In those days government land was not scarce in that region. Lancaster township possessed some advantages over its neighbors, and Uriah Blue decided to establish a home for his family on section 15, so he entered upon and took possession of one hundred and sixty acres of government land in the midst of the dense forest. Five paltry dollars was all the money he had left after establishing his home, but he had a superabundance of pluck and energy. He had a good occupation that could now be turned to advantage and the habits of industry and thrift that had been his all his life were in themselves a superior species of capital with which to "stake" any man. All his life he had been handy with tools and in early manhood he had followed coopering and wagonmaking. A general repair shop was opened convenient to his forest home. His services were soon in demand by neighbors for miles around and gradually his income grew until soon the family found themselves quite comfortable. When work was slack in the shop the time was occupied in the clearing and thus, by the practice of unflagging industry and the most rigid economy, the Blue family were nicely getting on in the world.

During the boyhood of M. C. Blue Indiana's superb school system had not yet been

conceived. What few seats of learning there were were widely scattered, poorly equipped with books and furniture and wretchedly conducted, so that by the time the subject of this sketch arrived at the age of fifteen he knew little of books or schools or learning. He knew the letters of the alphabet and might have been able to do a little spelling, but was wholly unable to read. Up to that time work on his father's farm or in the clearing occupied every moment at his disposal; there was no time for study. As he grew older, however, he began to realize the advantages a man of education possessed over the one who was illiterate. It was this that first inspired in him a thirst for knowledge. It grew and developed until it became almost insatiable. The result might have been easily foreseen. By the time he arrived at the age of manhood M. C. Blue had acquired an education equal to that of any young man in Wells county and far superior to many. By teaching he had secured the means to attend school at Murray and later took a course at the Roanoke Seminary. In mathematics he especially excelled, which led him to undertake the higher branches, algebra, geometry and trigonometry, which he soon mastered and was before long reckoned one of the most accomplished civil engineers in the northern half of the state.

The brothers and sisters of Hon. M. C. Blue are Mary, widow of McCoy Smith; Lucinda, wife of David McKinsey, of Oklahoma; James, deceased; Catharine, deceased; Uriah, a citizen of Oklahoma; John, deceased; Malissa, wife of J. O. Kunkle. Their parents died many years ago, the father until then residing upon land he had entered more than sixty-six years ago. He died firm in the faith of the Bap-

tist church, of which he had been a member many years. He was an affectionate husband and father, a good, quiet neighbor and a citizen who was honored and respected far and wide.

May 1, 1866, M. C. Blue was united in marriage to Miss Rhoda A. Richey, the daughter of William S. Richey, one of the early pioneers of Wells county. She is a lady of many accomplishments, of refinement and education, a woman of splendid intelligence and sound discernment who is never deceived by blandishments and sophistry. To her penetration, good judgment and expedition in arriving at correct conclusions her husband says he is indebted for all that he has been since he met her, all that he now is or ever hopes to be. This is a very high tribute to the sagacity and virtues of the good lady, but it is one that is verified by all her friends and acquaintances and friends in Wells county, and their name is legion.

Six children, five of whom are living, have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Blue. They are George C., November 15, 1867; Dr. C. L., December 16, 1868; Ulvin A., January 21, 1870; Lola Z., July 3, 1871; Fred P., April 10, 1875, and Don I., September 23, 1882. George C. is a graduate of Valparaiso, having taken the commercial course. He married some time ago a very accomplished young lady, Miss Dora Wisner. The Doctor graduated from the Fort Wayne Medical College with high honors and is now located at Tocsin, where he has built up a large and lucrative practice. In 1901 he took a post-graduate course in medicine and surgery in Chicago. He is wedded only to his profession, not having yet married. Each of the other children have received a good common school education.

Mr. and Mrs. Blue are both members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he for many years has been a class leader. He has also been superintendent of the Sunday school, takes a deep interest in charitable work and all that relates to religion. He is recognized, and very justly so, as one of the pillars of the church. In politics he has always been a thorough-going, consistent Democrat. In other years, while the ardor of youth was still upon him, he was an untiring worker in the ranks of those who are derisively termed "the unterrified" and it is chiefly through the labors of such men as Hon. M. C. Blue that Wells county has been held so steadily in the Democratic columns. Without any solicitation on his part, he was nominated for the office of county surveyor and was elected by more than the normal majority. Later he was nominated and elected to the office of county auditor and discharged the duties of the office four years. Since then he has been twice elected to the legislature, where he served his county with distinction. A careful examination of the records of that body will disclose him as the author of and to have been instrumental in the passage of many valuable laws now on the statutes, the benefits of which all the people of Indiana are now enjoying.

While generous and liberal almost to prodigality, Mr. Blue, by the practice of self-denial and economy in matters pertaining to his own tastes, has saved much of the money he acquired by his labors and by judicious investments. The early years of his life were years of privation and they taught him many a lesson as to the value of money. To the education thus acquired he owes much for the provident habits of his life. They have enabled him to accumulate considerable val-

uable property. Four hundred acres of his real estate is alone valued at thirty thousand dollars. He is still active in business, managing his farms, raising stock and buying and shipping hogs. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, having at one time held membership in Lodge No. 145, Bluffton.

Although upwards of sixty-six years of age, Hon. M. C. Blue is a man who is vigorous and well preserved. His mental faculties are unimpaired. He has traveled much and read deeply, and is possessed of good memory and a most commendable habit of observation which has stored his mind with facts ever convenient to be drawn upon. He is a fluent speaker, who on occasions rises even to eloquence. In private conversation he is delightfully companionable, a man whom the most casual acquaintance would treat with deference and whom the stranger would readily mark as a personage of deserved prominence.

WILLIAM WARREN McBRIDE.

The subject of this review is one of the honored pioneer citizens of Bluffton and bears a name which has been intimately identified with the annals of the city and Wells county since the initiative period of their development. His father was one of the first to engage in business in the little hamlet, which has developed into a prosperous and attractive city, the capital of one of the organic divisions of a great commonwealth, and was otherwise concerned in the industrial progress of this favored section of the state of Indiana; while the subject himself has passed essentially his entire life in Bluff-

ton, succeeding his honored father in business, and has contributed to its material progress and prosperity in no insignificant degree. He has been an important factor in commercial, public and civic affairs for a long term of years, and thus has done much to advance the general welfare. His private and business life is pregnant with interest and incentive, no matter how lacking in dramatic action, for in the connection we find the record of an honorable and useful life, consistent with itself and its possibilities in every particular, so that there has not been denied to him the full measure of popular confidence and regard in the community where he has lived and labored to so goodly ends. Of him it has been well said: "His history is a part of the history of the county and his career as a business man has been long and honorable. He has seen the city of Bluffton grow from a veritable frontier hamlet of a half dozen primitive houses to its present position as one of the most attractive little cities of the state and has had his part in its upbuilding, even as had his father before him."

William Warren McBride is a native son of the old Buckeye state, with whose pioneer history the name was concerned, even as was it later with that of the contiguous state of Indiana. He was born in the town of Salem, Montgomery county, Ohio, on the 24th of December, 1838, being a son of William and Barbara (Harbaugh) McBride. When he was less than three years of age his father, who was a cabinetmaker by trade, removed with his family from Ohio to Indiana, taking up his abode in Bluffton on the 22d of February, 1841, "almost before this now flourishing city had attained the dignity of a frontier village." Here he established the

pioneer furniture and undertaking business, his place also being equipped for cabinetmaking and repair work, thus meeting in these lines the requirements of the people of the place and period. He built up a flourishing business, was known as an exemplary man in all the relations of life, and here he continued to make his home until he was summoned to that "undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns," his death occurring on the 15th of May, 1871, at the age of sixty-six years. He was a Democrat in politics and was a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church and active in its work. His wife died on the 3d of November, 1853, in her fortieth year, having been a woman of noble and gracious character and one whose influence was marked in the social and religious life of the early days, she likewise having been a devout adherent of the Methodist Episcopal church.

William Warren McBride, as already intimated, grew up in the little pioneer town, and the exigencies of time and place imply that his early educational advantages were limited in scope, being confined to an attendance in the subscriptions schools during the three winter months of each year. At an early age he entered his father's store, where he applied himself diligently to learning the details of a business to which he was destined to devote his attention as a vocation throughout his active business career. Under the careful and effective direction of his father he soon attained proficiency in the art of cabinetmaking and in the general repair work which came to the establishment, and this was of varied character, transcending lines specifically assigned. On the death of his father the subject came into sole possession of the business, which has expanded in scope

and importance with the growth of the city and which is, as it has ever been, one of the representative mercantile enterprises of the county. The aim has ever been to keep in touch with the demands and requirements of the people of the community, and even to anticipate them, so that the business has naturally been cumulative, while the fair and honorable policy maintained from the start has resulted in the consecutive retention of public confidence and consequent supporting patronage. At the present time the establishment shows an exceptionally large and comprehensive stock of furniture, including not only the grades of more moderate price, but also the finest products of the great manufacturing whose advancement in this important field of art industry, if the expression be permitted, has been almost phenomenal, the capacity of the spacious building being practically tested, while the equipment in the undertaking department has ever been maintained at the highest standard. Mr. McBride's only son is now associated with him in the conduct of the business, with which three generations of the family have thus been identified, and the subject still maintains an active supervision of the enterprise, though he finds release from many of the more arduous and exacting duties through the able interposition of his son and coadjutor, who is one of the progressive and representative young business men of his native city. The store is located on Main street, south of Washington, and stands nearly on the site of the original building occupied by the subject's father in the early days, said building having been destroyed by fire. It was the first furniture store established in the town and the present building, erected in 1863, is a familiar landmark and one

around which cluster many interesting memories of the pioneer days. In the little room at the rear of the store assembled the first Sunday school ever organized in Bluffton, and it is of interest to note in the connection that of those in attendance at its first session Mr. McBride is the only one now living.

In politics Mr. McBride is a staunch adherent of the Democratic party and has taken an active interest in party affairs. In 1890 he was elected coroner of the county and has served consecutively in this office to the present time. He has ever been known as a progressive and public spirited citizen, and his influence and support have been extended in favor of every enterprise and undertaking tending to conserve the material prosperity of the city and the general welfare of the community. His religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church, and both he and his wife have long been active members of the church of this denomination in Bluffton. Fraternally he is identified with Bluffton Lodge No. 114, I. O. O. F., in which he has held membership for twenty-eight years. In business he has achieved success through honorable effort, untiring application and capable management, and in private life he has gained that warm personal regard which arises from true nobility of character, deference for the opinions of others and from unvarying kindness and courtesy. The family home is one of the attractive residence properties of the city and is a center of refined hospitality.

On the 5th of December, 1861, Mr. McBride was united in marriage to Miss Mary Miller, daughter of Adam and Eliza (Simmons) Miller, the former of whom was one of the sterling pioneer farmers of Wells county, owning land southeast of Bluffton,

where the Six-mile church now stands. Mr. and Mrs. McBride became the parents of three children, namely: Mary Ellen, who was born January 8, 1863, became the wife of Herbert H. Deam, of Bluffton, where she died on the 30th of September, 1902; James Alfred, born December 13, 1869, is associated with his father in business, as previously noted; and Maud Miller, born April 22, 1876, remains at the parental home.

SAMUEL A. HAFlich.

Among the conspicuous residents of Rock Creek township, Wells county, Indiana, is Samuel A. Haflich, of whose ancestors mention is made on another page of this volume. Samuel A. Haflich is a son of Jacob and Anna (Hoover) Haflich. Jacob Haflich was born in Pennsylvania, from which state he migrated to Ohio, where he married. Samuel A. Haflich was born in Rock Creek township, Wells county, Indiana, January 23, 1849, his parents having moved here some time previously. The father purchased one hundred and seventy-five acres of wild woodland, with but two houses between his place and Huntington. He had a capital of eighteen dollars in cash when he came here, but managed to build a log house, which answered his purpose until 1862, when he erected a fine brick dwelling and here reared his family, but in 1880 moved to Markle, where his death occurred.

Jacob Haflich was a charter member of the Horeb Lutheran church and he, William Wert, Samuel Fafe, Samuel Haflich and John Working constituted the first congregation, of which Jacob was one of the first

elders. He was a Democrat in politics, was very popular with his party and under its auspices was elected to several positions of honor and trust, including that of township trustee, which office he held four years. To Jacob and Anna (Hoover) Haflich were born five children, viz: Charlotte, deceased; John, deceased; Reuben, deceased; Samuel A., the gentleman whose name opens this sketch, and Mary A., wife of Jacob Farling.

Samuel A. Haflich was reared to agricultural pursuits on the old homestead, but in his boyhood days was permitted to attend the district school during the winter seasons. During the summers he continued to assist on the farm until he had attained the age of twenty-one years, after which he hired his time to Jacob Shiveley for eight months at the same class of work. He then worked for his uncle a while, then went to Michigan, where he went on the railroad for a short time as a brakeman, but returned to the old farm, on which he took a lease.

In 1874 Mr. Haflich was united in marriage with Miss Sarah A. Lesh, daughter of Jacob and Margaret (Erhart) Lesh. This young lady was born in Rock Creek township, Wells county, in 1857, and was educated in the common schools. This union resulted in the birth of four boys and two girls, as follows: Clara A., deceased; Jacob H. was graduated from the Markle high school, and later took a commercial course at Indianapolis and subsequently became a teacher in the common schools of the county; Clifford C. was graduated from the Markle high school and also from the Huntington school and Danville Commercial School; William A. has received a common school education; Curtis E. and Cressie. The parents of this family are members of the Luth-

eran church, and are among the most highly respected residents of the county. In politics Mr. Haflich is a Democrat and is a faithful worker for his party, but has never sought any personal political preferment.

JONAS ELICK.

This native young farmer was born September 29, 1854, and has made Rock Creek township, Wells county, his residence during his entire life. He is a son of Jacob and Mary C. (Hoke) Elick, who came here from Hocking county, Ohio, about the year 1850, and purchased the farm now owned by William Haflich on the Bluffton and Markle road in Rock Creek township.

Jacob Elick and Mary C. (Hoke) Elick had born to them a family of nine children, of whom four are still living, namely: Joseph H., Jonas, Aaron S. and Mary C., the last named being the wife of Samuel H. Golden.

Jonas Elick was reared to agricultural pursuits and was given a good common school education. At the age of twenty years he rented the home farm, and on January 21, 1877, he married Miss Mary E. Preskey, who was born in Wayne county, Indiana, November 28, 1858, a daughter of Augustus Preskey, a native of Germany. To this union have been born nine children, namely: Clara A., born December 14, 1877; Charles F., born April 6, 1879; Nora E., born August 31, 1882; Dennis E., born December 18, 1884; Mervin O., born October 7, 1886; Lawrence M., born October 12, 1888; Bertha V., born September 5, 1890; Stella L., born September 13, 1892; and Vera P., born June 22, 1895.

Mr. and Mrs. Elick are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Sparks, of which church Mr. Elick is one of the trustees, and has also served as class leader and superintendent of the Sunday school. In the work of this congregation they take great interest and freely contribute financially to its maintenance. In politics Mr. Elick is a Democrat, but although faithful to the principles of his party, and using his influence whenever opportunity offers to promote its access to power, he never has sought an office at the hands of his fellow townsmen nor interfered too officiously in the control of local affairs. From the farm which he now owns and occupies he has, through his skill and industry, acquired an ample reward and stands today among the foremost agriculturists of Wells county.

WILLIAM H. TAYLOR.

Among the most prosperous young farmers of Rock Creek township, Wells county, Indiana, is William H. Taylor, a native of Ohio, who was born November 28, 1850, and is a son of Isaac and Sarah A. (Cox) Taylor, of English descent. William Taylor, grandfather of William H. Taylor, was but 18 years of age when he left England and landed in the United States after a six-weeks voyage, with but fifty cents, or its equivalent, in his pocket. He soon found employment, however, but notwithstanding his good fortune he could not reconcile himself to the surrounding circumstances, become lonesome and longed to be home again. But lack of means prevented his return to his native land at that time and he sought a home in New Jersey, across the river from the mercantile

metropolis of the Union. In New Jersey Mr. Taylor met and married Amy Lewellen, a native of the state, and for a livelihood for some time cut and marketed wood, but as the star of empire at that time had a strong tendency to "westward wend its way," Mr. Taylor was not slow to yield to its guiding influence and by its ray was lighted as far as the state of Ohio, whence he came to Indiana several years later and about 1849 settled in Wells county, where his death took place when he was about ninety years old. Isaac Taylor, son of William and father of William H. Taylor, was born, reared and married in Ohio and came to Indiana about 1851. He settled on the present farm in Rock Creek township, on which he passed the remainder of his life. Of his family of five sons and two daughters, three are still living, William H., whose name opens this record; Ezra, who lives in Montpelier, Ohio, and Newton, who has his residence in Fort Wayne.

William H. Taylor was a mere babe when brought to Wells county, Indiana, and here he was reared in the swamp forests of the wilderness of Rock Creek township. When old enough he attended either the subscription or district schools of the neighborhood, at which he acquired a fair education, considering the limited literary advantage offered by the pedagogues of the region. But he had a retentive memory, and, being apt at his lessons, succeeded better than the average boy. However, farm duties early called young Taylor away from school and in these, child as he was, he took a manly part. His father had died and his elder brothers were in the army, assisting in quelling the Rebellion, so that, until he was twenty-one years old, the lad continued to be the mother's sole aid and comfort.

On January 26, 1879, William H. Taylor was joined in marriage with Miss Martha J. Mullies, a native of North Carolina, who was born in Iridle county, that state, June 15, 1861, the daughter of William and Rebecca (Nicholson) Mullies, who moved to Indiana when Mrs. Taylor was about six years old. This union has been fruitful in the birth of six children, all still living, viz: Cora E., born March 19, 1880, married Curtis E. Wolfcale and lives in Wells county; William I., who was born May 15, 1881, is unmarried and still has his home under the paternal roof; Nettie Pearl, born May 22, 1883; Chester E., born March 29, 1886; Maudie A., born October 25, 1887, and Charles M., born August 28, 1889.

The Taylor family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and donated to the congregation the ground on which the present church edifice has been erected. Of this church Mr. Taylor is one of the trustees and for several years was the sexton. In politics Mr. Taylor is a substantial Republican, is very popular with his party and the general public and has served his fellow townsmen as supervisor several terms to the great satisfaction of all concerned.

ELI HAFlich.

The Haflich family, of Wells county, Indiana, is of German descent, but the progenitors of Eli Haflich were among the early settlers of Pennsylvania, where Isaac Haflich, his father, was born and reared. Eli Haflich, now among the most prominent farmers of Rock Creek township, was born in Richland county, Ohio, December 25, 1840, and was brought by his parents, Isaac

and Catherine (Pletcher) Haflich, from Ohio to Indiana in the spring of 1848 and has made Wells county his home ever since. Isaac Haflich, on his arrival in Wells county, entered the tract of land now owned by Jacob Beil, which was then a mere wilderness. This tract he succeeded in clearing up and in converting into a profitable farm in due course of time, beginning, as a matter of course, in the usual pioneer way, by erecting a small log cabin for shelter and clearing a small field for the cultivation of corn, on which to subsist until better provisions could be secured. There were at that time but few people at Murray and a few at Markle, and the intercourse between these but at rare intervals. Nevertheless Isaac Haflich acquired one hundred and sixty acres of land and at the time of his death was a well-to-do man, the result of his own industry and good management. He was a great hunter, and it was through this that he got his first financial start.

Eli Haflich was the seventh born in a family of twelve children, of whom there are only five now living, viz: William, Eli, A. J., John, and Barbara, wife of Alfred Breckley. At the early age of eight years, Eli Haflich was brought to Rock Creek township, Wells county, and assisted his father in clearing up the land, but did not neglect attending the common school whenever he found an opportunity and thus secured a very fair education. Eli continued, until he attained his majority, to faithfully assist his father, and after becoming of age worked one year for him at the wages current at the time, and then, until his marriage, hired out to whomsoever needed his services.

In November, 1865, Eli Haflich was united in matrimony with Miss Catherine

Derr, whose parents came to Wells county, Indiana, from Richmond county, Ohio, about the year 1862. Mr. Haflich at the time of his marriage was comparatively poor and had but fifty cents in cash and a horse that cost him one hundred and forty dollars, but the animal soon died and he was left without either horse or cash. He now owns two hundred and forty acres of good land, nearly all of which he has acquired through his indefatigable industry, which was shown even when a boy, by running a threshing machine and later by raising hogs and cattle. In 1894 he erected his present fine brick residence.

To the marriage of Eli Haflich and Catherine Derr have been born five children, viz: William A., Ervin L., Millie, Franklin and Jennie, all married with the exception of the youngest. Mrs. Haflich having been called away by death, Mr. Haflich married for his second helpmate Mrs. Lavina L. (Zink) Haflich, widow of John H. Haflich. Mr. Haflich is a devoted member of the Lutheran church, in which he has also served two years as superintendent of the Sunday school, during which period he has not missed a single Sabbath. In his political affinities, Mr. Haflich is a solid Democrat and has filled the office of township assessor eight years. He is one of the influential citizens of Wells county and is honored and respected throughout its length and breadth.

SAMUEL CAMPBELL.

One of the most respected residents of Wells county, Indiana, is Samuel Campbell, who was born in Summit county, Ohio,

April 24, 1843, and is a son of Samuel and Eleanor (Kyser) Campbell, the former of whom lost his life in the late Civil war. The mother remarried, and settled in Union township, Huntington county. When fourteen years old, Samuel Campbell, the subject, started out in life for himself. He worked in a saw-mill, on a farm, or at whatever he could get to do and when the war began, he gallantly responded to his country's call to arms to aid in suppressing the rebellion. He enlisted in August, 1862, in Company G, One Hundred and First Indiana Volunteer Infantry, under Captain Truesdale, and was mustered into the United States service at Indianapolis, whence the regiment was sent to the front, via Cincinnati, in order to head off the contemplated attack by the rebel general Braxton Bragg on that commercial metropolis of the Buckeye state. Crossing the river at Cincinnati, the regiment was ordered to Louisville, Kentucky, and so onward to Milton, Tennessee, where Mr. Campbell engaged in his first battle, following which came those of Missionary Ridge, Tullahoma, Chickamauga, Chattanooga and several minor engagements in 1864. Mr. Campbell also followed the fortunes of his regiment through the memorable Atlanta campaign and was with Sherman on his famous march to the sea, took part in the reduction of Savannah in December, marched through the Carolinas and took part in all skirmishes and the battle of Bentonville, North Carolina, in March, 1865, and of Raleigh in April, 1865. As the war here closed, the One Hundred and First Indiana joined in the march to Washington to take part in the grandest military pageant the world had witnessed, or probably ever will again witness—that of the

Grand Review. After having shared in this historical event, in May, 1865, the One Hundred and First Indiana was mustered out of the service in June, 1865, and honorably discharged, and Mr. Campbell reached Markle, Indiana, in time to witness, if not participate, in the notable Fourth of July celebration that followed his return home. A recapitulation of the engagements in which the One Hundred and First Indiana took part will not here be out of order, although not in chronological precision: Hartsville, Milton, Hoover's Gap, Tullahoma, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Missionary Ridge, Graysville, Ringgold, Tunnel Hill, Rocky Face Ridge, Dalton, Resaca, Adairsville, Cassville, Acworth, Pickett's Mills, Culp's Farm, New Hope Church, Big Shanty, Lost Mountain, Smyrna, Peach Tree Creek, Chattahoochie River, Ezra Church, Atoxi Creek, Allatoona, Jonesboro, the last twenty-three being included in the Atlanta campaign. It is left to the reader to decide whether Mr. Campbell is entitled to the honorable name of "soldier" or not. For all this service to his country, Mr. Campbell, besides the usual pay and rations he received while in the service, is now allowed a pension of ten dollars per month. On his return from the army, Mr. Campbell was again employed in a saw-mill and in this line of business he has been employed for a number of years. He also learned the carpenter's trade, and has worked more or less at this business ever since.

In 1868 Mr. Campbell was united in marriage, in Murray, Wells county, with Mrs. Catherine (Maddux) Redding, daughter of John Maddux and widow of W. L. Redding, and a highly cultivated lady. This union has been crowned by the birth of one child, Alice, who was born in 1870, was edu-

cated in the common schools of Wells county, and is now the wife of Andrew Christmore, farmer and holder of oil well interests.

Fraternally Mr. Campbell is a member of Post No. 560, Grand Army of the Republic, at Markle, in which he has served as officer of the day and as adjutant one term, and it is not necessary to add that no one save an honorably discharged soldier (or seaman) from the military service of the United States can hold this position. The religious connection of the Campbell family is with the Lutheran church of Horeb, in which Mr. Campbell has served as deacon.

As a mere incident, or episode in the life of Mr. Campbell, it may be worthy of mention that about 1897, in company with Capt. D. L. Elliott, of Warren, Harman Allen, Christopher Lew, Nathan Luckey, J. J. Creviston and others, Mr. Campbell visited the scenes of their former military exploits, including Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain. Their sensations on this visit may be more easily imagined than described.

CHARLES E. ROE.

Among the enterprising and progressive young men of Wells county, Indiana, is Charles E. Roe, who was born in Union township, May 27, 1872, a son of Jeremiah and Mary (Garnand) Roe, a biographical record of whom will be found on another page of this volume. Charles E. Roe attended the common schools of Union township during the winter months of his minority and secured a good education, but during the summer months his services were utilized on the home farm, where he was thoroughly

trained in the pursuit of agriculture, his lifelong calling. After attaining his majority he rented the homestead, which he conducted until he was twenty-four years old. On January 5, 1895, he was united in marriage with Miss Jennie C. Haflich, a native of Wells county and born March 2, 1878, the daughter of John H. Haflich, and it may be here mentioned that biographical records of members of this highly respected family will be found in this work. To this union have been born two daughters and one son, namely: Cecil Does, born January 11, 1898; Grace Dexter, February 20, 1900, and Don-eil Russell, August 30, 1902.

In politics Mr. Roe is a Democrat, and takes an active interest in the success of his party, though he does not care for political honors in the way of office. His career as a farmer is another example of what a young man can accomplish by industry, frugality and skill. If to these be added a steady aim at some particular object the missile will eventually be sure to reach its mark. If to this be added also integrity of purpose and honest endeavor, failure becomes an impossibility. Such indomitable industry has placed the subject among the foremost of his contemporaries, as his farm is acknowledged by his neighbors to be one of the best tilled in the township, taking into consideration its dimensions, the farm being well improved in all respects. Mr. Roe also gives some attention to the breeding of thoroughbred live stock. He is widely known throughout Wells county, owing in a large measure to his nativity, but still more to his many good qualities as a gentleman and a citizen, and the high esteem in which he and his amiable wife are held in the community is well deserved.

HAMON ALLEN.

Hamon Allen is a native of Stark county, Ohio, and was born November 9, 1845, a son of Robert and Mary (Miller) Allen. He is one of the respected citizens of the county and is a man of honor and integrity. Although by trade he is a blacksmith, he engages also in agriculture. He has also served as a defender of his nation's flag in her hour of direct trouble, and of this episode in his life further mention will be made.

Robert Allen, father of Hamon Allen, was also a blacksmith by trade. While still a young man he migrated from Pennsylvania to Ohio and there became acquainted with the Miller family, who were also natives of Pennsylvania and with whom he later became more closely allied. Mr. Allen remained in Ohio until 1846 when he sold his blacksmith shop and other possessions and came to Wells county, Indiana, and located in the town of Murray, where he erected a shop and carried on his trade in connection with farming until about 1851, when he removed to Huntington county, and settled one mile west of Markle and later moved into the village. He was the first and only blacksmith and mechanic in the place at that time, and there he and his wife passed the remainder of their days. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Allen were born ten children, of whom five are still living, viz: William, Levi, Hamon, Alfred and Etura, the last named being the wife of Leander Ubanks.

Hamon Allen was a mere babe when brought to Indiana by his parents. His father died in 1857 and his brother William succeeded to the charge of the homestead, as well as of the blacksmith shop, and Ha-

mon partially learned his trade under his brother, but had not finished a legitimate apprenticeship when the stern tocsin of war vibrated throughout the land and the terrible struggle for the predominance of freedom or slavery began. Young Allen was decidedly in favor of the former and was, moreover, patriotic to the very core of his heart, and at once enlisted in the military service. In 1864, being then not nineteen years of age, he enlisted in Company D, Fifty-first Indiana Volunteer Infantry, with which he took part in the battles of Nashville and Franklin, Tennessee, and also followed the rebel general Hood in his notorious flight. Although Mr. Allen passed through this campaign without a bodily wound, he was deprived of his hearing, in part compensation for which misfortune he now receives a pension of twenty dollars per month. From Tennessee Mr. Allen was sent with his regiment to Texas, where he served until honorably discharged in November, 1865, some months after the war had been closed. On his return home he resumed work in the blacksmith shop and cared for his mother with filial tenderness until her death.

In 1868 Mr. Allen was united in marriage with Miss Laura A. Brickley, a daughter of George and Bulinda (Wolfcale) Brickley. The young couple settled down to housekeeping in Markle, Huntington county, where Mr. Allen took charge of the blacksmith shop and conducted it until 1891, when he removed to his farm, one mile east of Markle, where he still follows his trade in conjunction with farming. To Mr. and Mrs. Allen have been born seven children, namely: Nettie M., wife of Charles Line; George F., who married a Miss Meadough;

Bertha, wife of George Brown, a resident of Rock Creek township; Lewis, Lawrence W., Grace O. and Ralph E., all four still at home. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Markle, and in politics Mr. Allen is a Democrat. No family in Wells county are more highly respected than that of Mr. Allen and he is himself regarded as one of its most honorable citizens.

MRS. SARAH E. BROWN.

Prominent among the highly respected families of Wells county, Indiana, is that of Mrs. Sarah E. Brown. She is a daughter of John and Sarah (Dickerhoof) Werking, who early came from Ohio and settled in Rock Creek township, where they afterwards resided until their deaths. Mrs. Brown was born on the homestead, where she still resides, July 16, 1858, her father having entered and settled on this tract of land in an early day, it then comprising eighty acres, unimproved. They were the parents of five children, of whom three still survive, namely: Mary E., who is the wife of Scott Bricker, of Bluffton; Emanuel, and Mrs. Brown. The latter was united in marriage, December 23, 1877, in Wells county, with David F. Brown. Mr. Brown was born in Pennsylvania, where his father, David Brown, was also born and where he died when David F. was a small child. Immediately after this bereavement the widow moved her family to Indiana and settled in Rock Creek township, Wells county, on a small farm, where David F. was reared to manhood. He was well educated and be-

came one of the leading politicians of Wells county, and at one time was a candidate for sheriff on the Democratic ticket.

After marriage David F. Brown and wife went to housekeeping on her father's farm, on which they lived about three years and then rented the Deam farm, one-half mile east of Bluffton, where they lived fifteen years, then moved on the farm on which Mrs. Brown now resides. There Mr. Brown died April 11, 1899. David F. and Sarah E. Brown were the parents of three children, namely: John H., born June 25, 1878, who is an exemplary young man, well educated and is managing the farm for his mother; George F., born August 28, 1880, is married to Bertha Allen, and Jennie C., who was born January 10, 1883, has a good common school education and still makes her home with her mother. Mrs. Sarah E. Brown is a lady of refinement and gentility and stands high in the best circles of Wells county.

GEORGE W. EARL.

It is always pleasant and profitable to contemplate the career of a man who has made a success of life and won the honor and respect of his fellow citizens. Such is the record of the well-known farmer whose name holds this sketch, than whom a more whole-souled or popular man it would be difficult to find within the limits of the township where he has his home.

Charles Earl, one of the old settlers of Union township, was born to John and Mary (Earl) Earl in Holwin township, Trumbull county, Ohio, July 4, 1819. John Earl, the subject's grandfather, was a native of Eng-

land, while his grandmother, Susanna Ray, was a native of Germany. Both the Earl and Ray families emigrated from their mother countries and settled in Pennsylvania, where John Earl and Susanna Ray fell in love and were married. It was here that John Earl, the father of Charles, spent his boyhood and here also that he married his second cousin, Mary Earl. Shortly after their marriage they emigrated to a farm in Trumbull county, Ohio, where they lived until their deaths. To their marriage sixteen children were born, eight sons and eight daughters, two of whom are living, William, of Markle, Indiana, who was the sixteenth child, and Charles.

Charles Earl was the fourteenth child of the family and was reared on his father's farm in Ohio. As a boy he showed a fondness for horses and has owned some fine animals in his day, one of which had a mark of 2:15. Neglecting his early education, he worked on his father's farm until his marriage, in 1848, to Miss Margaret A. Cartwright, of Trumbull, Ohio. In 1850 they came to Wells county, settling on the farm in Jefferson township now occupied by their son George, where they lived and reared their family. They were the parents of ten children: Hames, married to Matilda McAffee; John, married to Eliza Confer, lives in Union township; Henry, the husband of Martha Byrd; Freeman, whose wife was Rebecca Robinson, lives in Fort Wayne, Indiana; George W., whose biography appears in another place; Robert, deceased; Charles, living in the west; Mary, who is the wife of William Robinson; Stephen, whose biography appears later, and Sarah, the wife of Chester Greer, who lives in Allen county, Indiana. The wife of Charles Earl died in

December, 1892, since which time he has been living with his children, spending most of the time with his son, S. D. Earl.

Stephen Earl was born in 1864 and received his early education in the district schools of Jefferson township. He stayed at home with his parents until he was twenty-one years old and was married December 19, 1887, to Miss Henriette Crow, who was born in Allen county, Indiana, in 1865, her parents being natives of Ohio. Mr. Earl bought his present farm in 1895 and has continued to reside there since. He is the father of four children: Hazel, born May 15, 1892; Hershell, September, 1894; Bernell, July, 1897, and Bertha, November, 1900; he is also the guardian of Jennie Feighner, a child whom he has reared. Being members of the United Brethren church, Mr. and Mrs. Earl are held in high esteem by their ancestors. In politics he is one of the substantial Democrats of Union township.

Among the old families of Jefferson township and Wells county is the Earl family, as a representative of which George W. Earl is socially and politically prominent. He is a son of Charles and Margaret (Cartwright) Earl and was born August 16, 1855, in Jefferson township, Wells county, Indiana, on the farm he now owns. His father, Charles Earl, came to Wells county, Indiana, from Trumbull county, Ohio, in 1853, and purchased the quarter section in Jefferson township, where he lived until he had reared his family of ten children. He has reached the advanced age of eighty-three years and is at present living with his son in Union township. George W. Earl was the fifth of ten children and was reared on the farm he now occupies. He attended the

district school and received a fair education, all that could be obtained at that time. When he was twenty-one years old he, with his brother, rented the old farm, which they cultivated jointly. October 23, 1879, he was married to Miss Mary Hatfield, a daughter of John and Clarena (Mills) Hatfield, and born in Ohio, September 10, 1858. The Hatfields came from Montgomery county, Ohio, and settled in Union township, Indiana, where the father tilled his farm and also held the position of justice of the peace for a number of years. The subject bought part of the old Earl farm and in 1887 built the present brick mansion, consisting of nine rooms, and in 1894 he built a large barn, thirty-six by eighty-two feet in size. He now owns one of the finest and best improved farms in Jefferson township, consisting of one hundred and twenty acres. He started out in life poor, but by successful management has succeeded in reaching a comfortable position, being now worth at least eight thousand dollars. He and his wife have one daughter, Ethel, born July 13, 1887, who is at present a student in the eighth grade in the Ossian schools, being also a student of music. The United Brethren church enrolls them among its members, their faith being cast with the liberal branch. Mr. Earl is a supporter of Democratic principles and has been an ardent worker in the party all his life, having been a member of the central committee from Jefferson township. Mr. and Mrs. Earl are people of more than ordinary intelligence and have a wide influence in their community. They are good neighbors, excellent citizens and are highly respected by all with whom they come in contact, because of their many excellent personal qualities.

B. F. KAIN.

To be twice honored by his party with a nomination for an important county office and to be twice elected, each time with a very pronounced majority, a man must be possessed of at least some of the virtues which commend him to his fellow men. Of course, some time, a wily politician may so pull the strings and manipulate affairs that he can boost himself into a lucrative office, but the "wily politician" who lives on a farm and earns his bread by the sweat of his brow is an unknown species of politician in this country. B. F. Kain, of Union township, Wells county, Indiana, the subject of this sketch, was, like Cincinnati, taken from the plow to be installed into office. For two terms he took charge of the finances of Wells county and at the close of his administration turned over to his successor the funds, books and papers, accounting to the utmost penny for all the money that had passed through his hands.

B. F. Kain was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, October 5, 1845. He was the son of John and Polly Kain. His parents were natives of Pennsylvania, but his paternal grandparents had emigrated to this country from Ireland, while his maternal grandparents were natives of the Keystone state. John and Polly Kain were married in their native state and soon thereafter moved to Ohio, where he took up the occupation of farming and continued to prosper. With a view of bettering his condition and securing advantages not to be had in Ohio, he, about October 1, 1850, moved his family to Union township, Wells county, Indiana, taking up a piece of unimproved government land. Upon this land, which was situated

in the woods, he immediately proceeded to create a home. The first house was of the rudest kind, built of fresh-cut logs and roofed with clapboards. Before half the roof was on the family moved in with their few effects and necessary furniture. Hard work, continued in during long hours and eternally persisted in, will almost work miracles in the way of improving and clearing land. But a few years sufficed to give the Kain homestead a far different aspect from that which it represented in its original condition. It had materially increased in value, while its owner thrived and prospered to such an extent that in 1861 better buildings and a more comfortable home was erected. Here the parents of B. F. Kain spent their days until the summons of the grim reaper called them from this to the better world.

John Kain was a man of much public spirit, whose influence was felt far beyond the limits of his immediate neighborhood. In those days the township assessor was an important official. He was elected to this position and held the office for some sixteen years. He was a believer in the principles of the Democratic party and was always sufficiently consistent to vote the way he believed. Democracy seems to have had a firm hold on the pioneers of that section and the complexion of the returns from Wells county after each successive election in present years would indicate that it has not lost much of its grip. John and Polly Kain were the parents of the following children: Daniel, Isabella, J. D., Mary A., Hugh, D. F., Alexander, B. F., J. W., Sarah, William H. and Eliza J. One, D. F., is a minister of the gospel.

B. F. Kain was five years old when his father moved into the woods of Union town-

ship. When he was old enough he assisted in the work of the clearing and of the farm, attending the district school when it was in session in the winter and through it securing an education which has been ample to him for every purpose. When he grew to manhood he spent several years in the school room as a teacher, being quite successful. It was while he was engaged in this vocation that he met, wooed and won Miss Caroline Ellingham, daughter of Charles E. and Hannah (Scolton) Ellingham, she being also a teacher in the schools of Wells county. The Ellinghams were natives of England who emigrated to America and located in Rock Creek township in 1838. The young couple were married in 1860, when the groom was twenty-one years old. Soon after his marriage B. F. Kain rented the farm of his wife's father and continued in the work of agriculture quite successfully for many years. In 1880 he bought a farm of eighty acres on which he made his home until 1890, when, for the purpose of educating his children, he removed temporarily to Bluffton.

Mr. and Mrs. Kain are the parents of five children: George F., the first born, is dead; Esther A., the wife of C. P. Hannah, is a graduate of the Bluffton high school and has taught a number of terms in the county, also in the state of Nebraska, where she resided some time; Alonzo is a barber and doing a good business in Bluffton; Charles is a graduate of the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso and is now a telegraph operator on the Clover Leaf; Homer F. is still single and living at home. The Kains are members of the Christian church, Mr. Kain having served for a number of years as a trustee. He is a Democrat in politics and was nominated and elected by his

party to the office of county treasurer and so acceptably did he discharge the duties of the position that in 1896 he was renominated and re-elected by an increased majority. On retiring from office he again took up his home on his farm, where he resided three years, when he sold out and removed to

Bluffton, where he now resides. He is the owner of eighty acres, known as the John Johnson farm, the management of which is conducted under his own supervision. Personally he is a quiet, modest, unassuming man, well known and highly respected throughout the county.

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