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# SNOW'S HISTORY

OF

# ADAMS COUNTY

INDIANA

—BY—

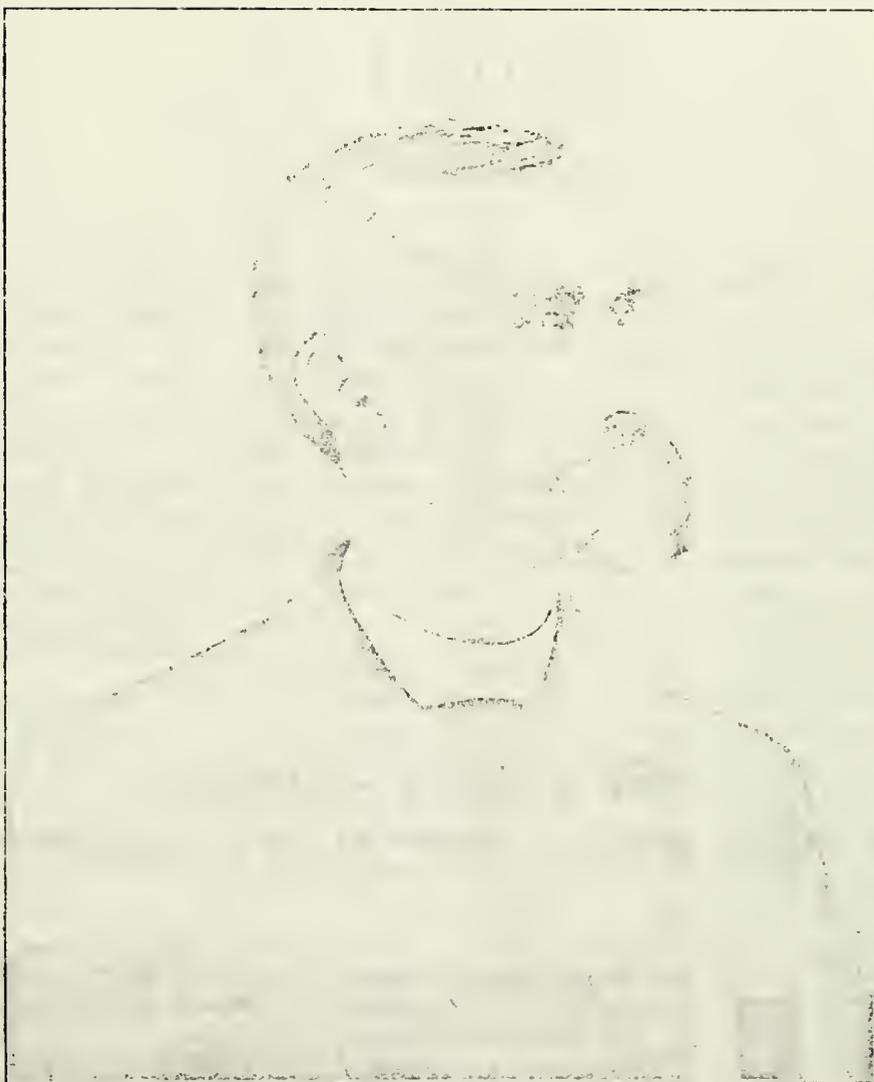
J. F. SNOW, B. S.

TO THE BOYS AND GIRLS, WHO ARE TODAY LOOKING FORWARD TO AN EARLY  
MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD, THIS BRIEF HISTORY OF ADAMS COUNTY,  
INDIANA, IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED—SINCE THEIR ANCESTORS  
FREED THIS LAND FROM SAVAGES AND TYRANTS, BY LONG AND  
BLOODY STRUGGLES, IN WHICH MANY YOUNG AND NOBLE  
LIVES WENT OUT WITH THE DAWN OF THE DAY,  
MAY THIS BE A BEACON LIGHT TO THEIR  
FUTURE FOOTSTEPS.

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J. F. SNOW.



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# INTRODUCTION

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But few of the pioneer residents of Adams county are now living to relate their story of its beginning as a county. The written details of who was its first white residents, or of the early events that transpired in the days of its organization are few and hard to find. However, it has been the purpose of the author of this work, as far as possible, to give a record of the events of the government of the territory, along with what is of only local interest. It is a matter of fact that the general and state governments are of as much, or more, historical interest to the county, as is its local history—for the reason that they are inseparable from it. The county is taxed for their support, for its quota of men in time of war—and for its share of money for government expenses in time of peace. It joins in the general elections of governors, congressmen and presidents of the United States. It gets in return the protection of the federal and state laws, which control the township, as well as the county, state and nation. For the reasons stated, the actual history of Adams county begins with the colonial grants made by the European governments to the various colonies. The ownership as determined from time to time in their contentions for mastery of this region and finally the control at the

time actual permanent settlement was made, claims a share of the county's history. Until the close of the Revolutionary war—1783—Virginia claimed dominion of most of the actual settlements throughout the Ohio valley. That lying north west of the Ohio river was known as the county of Illinois, and that south, as the county of Kentucky. The laws of Virginia prevailed in her settlements in these counties until 1787. Then the federal government came into control of Illinois county, known later as the Northwest Territory, and thereafter, appointed its governors, who were largely instrumental in making the laws of the territory. About one of the first acts of the first territorial governor was to divide the territory into two counties, the west as Knox county with its seat of justice at Vincennes, or "Saint Vincent" as it was then known, and Wayne county, the eastern part, with its seat of justice or county seat at Detroit. In 1800, Indiana Territory was organized which in 1816 became a state, with the privilege of forming its constitution and enacting its own laws. At the date of its admission, as a state, Indiana was divided into thirteen counties, Randolph county being one of the number. In 1823 this was divided and Allen county was organized. Thirteen



years later, in 1836, Adams county began its existence as a distinct and separate civil corporation. In our preparation of this work we make no special claim for originality, but have endeavored to, as nearly as possible, arrive at facts, as received from the writings and reminiscences of those who were intimately acquainted, at first hand, with the organization and development of the county, however, the author hereof has been a resident of Adams county for more than forty-six years, and has seen much of the development himself of the county's resources, and has also listened to the reminiscences as related by many of the oldest residents of the county themselves. Much interesting historical mat-

ter is forever lost, to future generations from the fact that its actors' names remain as a tradition of the past; their grave stones mark their only span of life as an unwritten book.

In conclusion, I wish to acknowledge the valuable encouragement received from many of the pioneer residents of Adams county, and also, the assistance gotten from the valuable histories of Randolph, Jay, Allen and Van Wert counties. Also the state histories of Indiana, and Howe's Historical Notes of Ohio.

How nearly we have succeeded in presenting a plain straightforward impartial and interesting historical record of events, is left to the judgment of each individual reader to decide for himself.

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### EARLY EXPLORATIONS.

Nature with her bounteous hand has provided her children with a great variety of landscapes. None of these can be more beautiful than those which may be seen at harvest time. The green meadows—of the yellow grain fields, just ready for the sickle, the rolling pasture lands with their herds of fine cattle, the orchard nestling around the neat cozy cottage—is a picture of civilization and contentment. A hundred years ago these farms were a part of an unbroken forest reaching from western Indiana, along the Wabash, to the Atlantic sea-board, at the east,—with the exception of a few small prairies along the lakes. The constant labor of the pioneer has wrought the wonderful change, within the last few decades. Then, the only routes of travel were the lakes and the navigable rivers. Wild beasts, and wild-

er Indians held dominion over what is now the finest farm lands and the most populous cities. The French were the earliest explorers of the lake region and the Mississippi valley, Cadillac, in 1701, founded Detroit, and some years previous to this time the French traders and missionaries ascended the Maumec river to where Fort Wayne is now situated, to the Indian village of Kekionga. New Orleans, Natchez, Vincennes, Marietta, and DuQuesne, are lasting mementoes of the French occupancy of this region. Until 1763 the French had nominal control and possession of the lands and country west of the Alleghanies. Her traders were chiefly engaged in traffic with the Indians. They furnished the Indians with many of the useful articles of domestic life and war,—such as guns, knives, hatchets,



pipes, paints, and ornamental trinkets, as their fancy and wants demanded, in exchange for valuable furs of the otter, beaver, mink and such others as would find a ready sale in Europe. Trading posts were established at convenient points on the rivers and lakes at which the supplies were collected by local traders and taken up at certain intervals by pack trains and carriers to boat navigation down the Maumee and Ohio, to the sea board,—and sent to Europe. In 1763, the French had more than sixty trading posts protected by block houses and stockades, within the Ohio valley. Several of these were on the Wabash river. At Fort Wayne, Saint Mary's, Ohio, and Wapakoneta and Defiance, on the Auglaize river, were important trading posts. There were at least three general classes of white people who visited this section of the country at an early day, when all was a wilderness and unbroken forest—the fur trader and the missionary,—neither of whom expected to remain long at any particular place. Those who came subsequent to the trader and the missionary became the permanent settler,—the pioneer resident of the country. The missionary and the trader learned to live in Indian fashion and learned the Indian languages and did much toward filling the link between barbarism and civilization. LaSalle and Marquette were perhaps among the first white explorers of the Maumee and Ohio valleys. The record of their explorations dates back to about 1680. The missionaries who followed on close to the fur trader were a medium between the red hunter and white settler. Neither the missionary nor the trader gave any attention to reaping or sowing or cultivation of the soil, nor marketing its timber or mineral

products; however they erected stockades and block houses for their protection from hostile Indians. Near these trading points the Jesuit missionaries established missions for the conversion of the Indians, who came to barter with the traders. Some of the Indian traders and missionaries were half-breeds, or part white and part red man, with Teutonic ambitions and filled with a spirit of adventure, or anxious to erect a church to the glory of God and to their own fame, risked their lives and suffered exposure and privation to blaze the way for the permanent settler. The fur traders and the missionaries did not interfere, to any great extent with the Indian's mode of living; but rather adopted some of the Indian's customs. For this, and other reasons, comparatively few conflicts ensued between them. But when the pioneers and permanent settlers came and began a new era, by felling the forests, and fencing the lands, the red man sent in his protest, and enforced it with all of the power at his command. Much has been said of the injustice shown the Indian. A good deal of truth may be attached to such statements. Yet, there are some principles in natural science that ever demonstrate themselves. Oil and water never unite in one homogeneous mass. So with the savage barbarians and civilized white men. The habits and customs of a people are largely the result of their law and methods of government. The customs, manners and beliefs of civilized and uncivilized people are too far at variance to ever unite them, so they can live at peace with each other, in the same country. As a result, with the advent of the permanent resident came the Indian massacres, and the frontier wars. In these the combined forces of the Indian tribes took part against the



white settlers. The general government rendered its assistance to the pioneers. The Indians determined upon a war of extermination of the pale-faced intruders. Energy, was summoned to determine who could command the greater power. In that last and decisive struggle the tomahawk yielded to the sword, and the hand that held the bow and arrow was forever stilled by the unerring rifle of the pioneer. "Westward empire takes its way" applies as well to the great Indian confederacies that held this country in terror a hundred years ago as it does to the Causasian races of Europe. The remaining tribes—after their final struggle for supremacy east of the "Father of Waters"—were, in 1832, removed by order of the United States government, on toward

the setting sun, to be known no more as a nation in the beautiful lands east of the Mississippi river. However, their tribal names—the natural limits of their hunting grounds—long since deserted by them, are daily on the tongue of the white man. Kankakee, Kaskaskia and Kekionga as Pottawattamie words, each had its significance. Miami, Mississinewa and Mississippi, once the tribal words of the powerful Miamis, now the names of rivers—once resounding to the war song or to the rippling of the light bark canoe—as it glided over their waters bearing the red children of the forest from wigwam to village—knows him no more. These so common names but perpetuate the existence of the natural enemy of the white man.

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### INDIAN TROUBLES.

No future generation can produce an achievement so grand in results as did the discovery of the American continent. Nature with her bounteous hand has provided the Americas with every variety of climate and many strange, curious and beautiful wonders not to be seen anywhere else in the universe. This discovery gave civilization a new world to explore, to conquer and to occupy. Soon after this discovery Europe was ablaze with the spirit of adventure, and conquest. Religious zeal and the search for gold,—the hope of extension of dominion and increase of power stimulated every respectable European country to send expeditions to the new world. They all found the natives friendly in disposition. But this friendship was soon broken. With the spirit of the age,—the Indians were treated as

beasts of burden, rather than as men with individual rights and privileges. It is related that Columbus himself carried some of the leading Indian chiefs into captivity to Europe on his return voyage. The Portuguese and Spaniards in Louisiana and the southwest attempted to enslave the natives but their efforts were failures, as the resentful disposition of the Indian and his utter disregard of consequences as to his personal punishment caused him to murder his newly established overseer as soon as a favorable opportunity was presented. There may be great difference in the energy and mental capacity of the different tribes, but it has been demonstrated that the Indian cannot be successfully enslaved. His general idea of manhood is, a good hunter and a great warrior. He who has slain the greatest



number of his enemies is the most famous. For this reason perhaps, the Indian brave soon took an aversion to the pioneer farmer, as he performed the work of a woman, and was known as a "squaw man" who was rather beneath the notice of a warrior. The traders had less trouble in holding the respect of the Indians as he was not a tiller of the lands and lived more like the Indians than those in the settlements. The English and French nations were enemies in Europe and rivals in American colonization. The French fur traders along the lakes and west of the Alleghanies were many years in advance of the English. Their manners and customs readily blended with those of the Indians, and they became fast friends in attack and defense. The English settled the Atlantic seaboard country from Massachusetts to the Carolinas, and gradually pushed their frontier westward across the mountains. Various disputes led to colonial wars in which the services of the Indians were, from time to time, employed by the contending powers. It is charged that before these wars, the Indian was never known to scalp his victim; that to the everlasting shame of Great Britain, she through her military agents, offered a bounty for Frenchmen's scalplocks. This prompted certain Indian tribes to massacre the defenseless settlers for rewards. In 1754 the colonial forces and British regulars under General Braddock attempted to dislodge the French near the headwaters of the Ohio, at Fort Duquesne. The commander in chief was killed and the army defeated with great loss of life and property. For the next ten years the frontier was a battle ground for guerrilla warfare. In 1763 the French yielded nominal control of the Ohio valley to the English. The new government was scarcely

established when the Revolutionary war began. At that time the posts erected and established by the French were in the hands of the British. The Ohio and Wabash valleys had many French traders and sympathizers with the colonial cause. They were suspected of treason to the king,—and the scalping knife and tomahawk were again encouraged, and sanctioned by British agents throughout the west. Indian barbarity managed and directed by Teutonic intelligence, reached the limit of sickening cruelty. The lands south of the Ohio to the Mississippi were known as Kentucky county, Virginia, and that on the north, as Illinois county, Virginia. Patrick Henry, in 1778, was governor of the colony and directed Colonel George Rogers Clark to proceed to the counties on the Ohio and capture the military posts from the British. Clark captured Kahokia, Kaskaskia, and Vincennes and the country was thereafter held by the colonial forces. The Indians, and the British sympathizers, continued to annoy the frontier settlers until in 1791, when General Arthur Saint Clair, with a large force of militia from Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and several companies of Continental regulars, were sent to the Indian country to reduce the hostile tribes to submission. From Fort Washington—where Cincinnati now stands, he proceeded northward to Greenville, thence to the headwaters of the Wabash, a few miles southeast of where Portland, in Jay county, is now situated. Here he was attacked on the morning of November 4, 1791, by a large force of Indians under the chiefs Little Turtle and Blue Jacket, and the traitor and Indian interpreter—Simon Girty—a white savage, who had long been in the service of the British government. The results were disas-



trous to the invading forces, and Saint Clair was defeated with heavy loss of life, all his artillery and military stores. The army consisted of six companies of regulars, and about fifteen hundred militia. The enemy's forces were variously estimated at from twelve hundred to two thousand men. Considering the number engaged, there are but two other Indian engagements—Braddock's defeat, and the Custer massacre, that compare to any degree of resemblance with this engagement, in destruction of life and loss of property. Until Saint Clair's defeat, the Wabash country was comparatively unknown in history. Its name and fame now spread from home to home as the news was related of the sad fate of those six hundred soldier boys whose life's blood reddened the shores and waters of the Wabash—more than a hundred years ago.—a baptism that time can never erase. The general government was not long in avenging this Indian victory. New levies were made and an effective army of about five thousand men was placed under the command of General Anthony Wayne, who, in 1794, took the route Saint Clair had traveled and built and fortified Fort Recovery, on Saint Clair's battle field. From there they marched to Girty's town—now Saint Mary's, Ohio, and on northward to the Maumee river, near the Auglaize, where he built Fort Defiance. Then moved to the "Fallen Timbers," near the Maumee rapids, where he met the Indians in battle August 20, 1794, killing about two hundred of their number and driving the others from the country. Coming up the Maumee to Kekionga, he erected a fort, which was named by one of his officers Fort Wayne. Wayne was a natural commander and leader of men, and more fortunate than some others of those who

preceded him in having a large force at his command. At the "Fallen Timbers" he formed his attacking columns in three lines of battle—at the starting—near half a mile apart, with orders to charge the Indians and when raised, to deliver a sharp fire on their backs. The location and strength of the Indians were in this way determined and the points receiving the heaviest fire were at once reinforced.

Flanking divisions reached their right and left and the savages were driven from their hiding places, and eventually put to flight. The fields of corn which were then nearing harvest time were destroyed and the Indians hunted down and shot like deer, whenever found. Even squaws and papposes as they were gathering plums in a thicket were fired upon and killed. When Wayne was questioned as to this mode of warfare he simply stated that "Nits make lice. The country is lousy with cut-throat red skins." Such treatment soon brought the Indians to submission, and on the 3d day of August, 1795, a treaty was made at Greenville, Ohio, with the leading tribes, that had been troublesome and much land was ceded to the United States. However, the Indians retained and held several valuable tracts in the ceded territory, as reservations, which in 1818 and 1826 were finally purchased by the general government. Some of these reservations were along the Wabash near Huntington and Peru. One west of Portland, and one on the Salamonie west and north of Camden, known as Godfrey's Reserve. About two miles below Williamsport, in Allen county, on the Saint Mary's river, the LaFountain and Richardville reservations begin and extend for six and seven miles toward Fort Wayne. The Rivare reservation in Saint Mary's township is the only



Indian reservation in Adams county. It contains about 1,600 acres of land in sections 9, 16 and 21, and is about the half-way distance between Saint Mary's, Ohio, and Fort Wayne. Until 1832 the Indians made regular trips from Wapakoneta and Saint Mary's to Fort Wayne to receive their regular annuities on the sale of their lands. In 1832 the Indians were removed to what is now the state of Missouri and Kansas. Those that chose to remain and submit to the civil laws—made for the government and control of the white residents—came under the same jurisdictions and for violations were subject to the same penalties as the white men. A few families in which there was more or less white mixture remained at their reservations, near Fort Wayne, Wabash and Peru. Anthony Shane, of Old Town—now Rockford, Ohio, went west with his people, at that time. By way of diversion, while speaking of the Rivare Reservation, we are reminded of a landscape that is almost identical and an exact duplicate of the famous battle ground of Braddock's defeat on the Monongahela, a few miles above Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. The Saint Mary's river flows from the southeast to the northwest through Saint Mary's township; on the west side of the river is the village of Pleasant Mills—at one time the largest town in Adams county. To the east and north across the river is Spring creek, which flows into the Saint Mary's river. When standing on the raise just where the road crosses Spring creek and looking westward you see a fine level tract of perhaps two hundred acres, with its western boundary the west banks of the Saint Mary's, fringed with forest trees. As you stand on the banks of Turtle creek, looking

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southeastward toward the Monongahela river, you see Braddock's battle ground, which is nearly exactly such a natural landscape. That ground marks one of the most important battles known in American history. However, Saint Clair's battle ground on the Wabash was perhaps the scene of the greater loss of life and the most cruel barbarity of any of equal magnitude in the history of Indian warfare. One morning while waiting for the train and Greensburg, Pennsylvania, to the north and east of the railroad, we saw an old cemetery. As it was an hour until train time we strolled up the hill over that way. The old and moss covered slabs of limestone and marble were many. But in the distance was a marble shaft heavier and more imposing than some others near it. By close examination we read the following inscriptions:

South Side.

THE  
EARTHLY REMAINS  
—OF—  
MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR ST.  
CLAIR  
ARE DEPOSITED  
BENEATH THIS MONUMENT  
WHICH IS ERECTED  
TO SUPPLY THE PLACE OF A  
MARBLE ONE DUE FROM  
HIS COUNTRY.

HE DIED AUGUST 30TH, 1818, IN  
THE 84TH YEAR OF HIS AGE.  
North Side.

THIS STONE IS ERECTED  
BY THE MEMBERS  
OF THE  
MASONIC SOCIETY RESIDENT  
IN THIS VICINITY.



Seeing the grave and monument of General Saint Clair, brought to my recollection a description given by one of Wayne's soldiers, as appears in his reminiscences, who was one of a company that built Fort Recovery in 1793-4, two years after the famous defeat of Saint Clair. His statements were in the following language: "We arrived on the ground on Christmas day and pitched our tents on the battle ground. When the men went to lie down in the tents at night, they had to scrape the bones together and carry them out to make their beds. The next day holes were dug and the bones remaining above ground were buried, six hundred skulls being found among them. The flesh was entirely off of the bones and in many cases the sinews yet held them together. After this melancholy duty was performed, a fortification was built and named Fort Recovery, in commemoration of its being recovered from the Indians who had possession of the ground in 1791."

The last organized resistance offered by the Indian tribes in Indiana, was just about the beginning of the second war with Great Britain, or about 1812. At that time Indiana was a territory, with but few settlements. The British from time to time encouraged the restless Indian tribes to hostilities toward the frontier residents. Tecumseh, who had

taken up his residence in Canada, near Maiden, was a great agitator, and very influential with the most powerful tribes. His brother claimed to be a prophet and was a medicine man, who worked upon the savage superstitions and secured their aid and assistance in a general attack upon the frontier. In 1811, General William H. Harrison was governor of the territory, and prepared to punish the Indians in the Wabash country for their conduct. In June of that year, he met them in battle near the mouth of the Tippecanoe river and defeated them with severe loss. The power of the prophet was forever lost and his brother Tecumseh retired to Canada, and received an officer's commission in the British army, and a large concession of land for his services against the government of the United States. In 1819 the military post at Fort Wayne was abandoned as a fortress and the troops and supplies removed to a western fort. In 1832 the Indian reservations on the Auglaize and most of them on the Saint Mary's and Wabash rivers were abandoned—the red man—squaw and pappoose—again started toward the setting sun, never more to roam the hunting grounds of their youth. What few remained were required to adhere to and abide by the civil laws of the white man, rather than the tribal laws.

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#### SOME INDIAN LEADERS.

That the Indian is a distinct race is taken by common consent. In several respects he is unlike any other race of mankind. All

are copper colored, have coarse black hair, high cheek bones, low retreating foreheads, small and inexpressive eyes, heavy



eyebrows, full, compressed lips, large noses, with dilating nostrils; stout, heavy, square jaws; light or scanty beard, and generally have rather round heads, high toward the crown or top. Their color varies in different types from a light to a dark shade of bronze—some almost black, while others are of a yellow tinge. H. B. Schoolcraft, who is considered a good authority on the Indian races, says that: "The Algonquins occupy a position far above mediocrity, and are surpassed only by the Dakotas and Iroquois, the latter standing in the first rank." The Miamis are a distinct branch of the Algonquin tribe. Little Turtle was a Miami Indian whose parents lived on Eel river at "Old Orchard," a few miles northwest of Fort Wayne. He died July, 1812, at the age of sixty-five years. It is said that his courage and sagacity in the estimation of his countrymen were proverbial; and that his example inspired others of his tribe to their best continued efforts. He was in command of the forces of his tribe in the defeats of Generals Harmer and Saint Clair, but was opposed to going into battle with General Anthony Wayne in 1794, as he foresaw defeat in the careful preparations for the event of battle as made by that old Revolutionary general.

Blue Jacket was a Shawnee chief whose home, in the last years of his life, was Auglaize, near Defiance, Ohio. He was present at the Braddock's and Saint Clair's defeats, and was a power among his people. After the treaty of 1818, with a portion of his tribe, he occupied a reservation at Wapakoneta, Ohio, at which place he died at the age of about a hundred years. Colonel Johnson, of Piqua, Ohio, who was an Indian

agent of the United States, describes him as a small man, but agile and well formed; that he was far above his tribesmen in knowledge and intelligence.

Pontiac was an Ottawa chief whose operations along the Maumee and Wabash rivers were very disastrous to the forerunners of civilization, the pioneer settlers. He was ever the friend and supporter of the French trader, and the interests of France. He is said to have been a man "Powerful in person, commanding in presence, resolute in an extraordinary degree. He was possessed with a rare gift of oratory and eloquence common to very few of his race. He was sagacious and subtle and an inveterate enemy of the English."

Tecumseh was a Shawnee Indian chief, born near the Indian village of Piqua, Ohio, in 1768, and was an incessant agitator of his people against the encroachments of the white settlers. His theme was that the lands were taken from his tribesmen without just compensation. He was a member of many attacking parties of Indians between 1790 and 1813, throughout the Northwest Territory. He led an attack on the stockades at Fort Recovery, and was with his allies at the battle of the "Fallen Timbers," and at the battle of Tippecanoe. He joined the British under General Proctor and engaged in the war of 1812 against the United States, and was killed by an American or United States soldier at the battle of the Thames, in Canada, in October, 1813.

In the language of one who saw him in conference with General Harrison, in 1811, at Vincennes, the following estimate and description of him is given: "Tecumseh was about five feet and ten inches in height and



more than usually stout. He had small feet and broad shoulders, with a round chest. He was powerful and active in his movements. His eyes were small but intellectual. Had nearly a Roman nose, large mouth and full lips. In the opinion of those who attended the council, his muscular strength and mental action corresponded with his high order

of intellect. When the subject of review of the encroachments upon the Indians' lands was mentioned he became violent. His vindictive oratory spellbound his dusky listeners. The intelligent, unlettered Tecumseh was a man of much natural ability and of great influence among his people."

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### THE GIRTYs.

Though somewhat transient in their roving habits, the Girtys for a time lived in the Maumee valley, and the Indian town where Saint Mary's, Ohio, is now situated was known as "Girty's Town." There were four of the Girty brothers—Thomas, James, George and Simon. From Butterfield's "History of the Girtys" the following incidents and descriptions are taken:

Simon Girty, Sr., was an Irishman, who settled on the borders of Pennsylvania and became an Indian trader. He was killed by an Indian in 1751 in a drunken brawl at the Girty cabin. John Turner, who lived with Girty, at once killed the Indian. He subsequently married the widow and in 1756 was taken captive with his family by the Indians, carried to the Indian village and tortured to death. Turner was tied to a blackened post and heated gun barrels were thrust through his body; was scalped, while alive, and clubbed while the slow fire roasted him. Mrs. Turner and the four children were compelled to witness this horrid scene. The family were soon separated. Mrs. Turner and an infant were taken by the Delawares and carried to the country near Fort Du Quesne. Thomas Girty, the eldest son,

soon escaped from the Indians and lived a useful life; died near the Susquehanna in 1820. The three remaining boys were adopted by the savages—Simon, then fifteen years old, going with the Senecas; James, then thirteen, with the Shawnees, and George with the Delawares. They all, except Thomas, remained with the Indians for about three years, when as a result of a treaty, they were surrendered to the authorities at Pittsburg. For the next thirteen years the employment of the Girty boys was that of Indian interpreters and traders' assistants on the frontier. Simon Girty acted as scout when hostilities broke out between the colonial forces and the Indians and translated Logan's—the Mingo chief—speech in 1776 to General Gibson, the Indian agent. Until 1778 Simon Girty sided with the Whigs against the Torys and the British. In March, 1778, seven of the interpreters and Indian traders at Pittsburg (Du Quesne) deserted the fort and made their way to Detroit to join the British commander, Hamilton, stationed at that point. Three of these—Simon Girty, Matthew Elliott, an Indian trader, and Alexander McKee, also a trader—became the most ultra and notoriously de-



praved opponents of the white settlers and American revolutionists. Girty, McKee and Elliott took British gold and entered the Indian department under regular pay; Simon Girty as an interpreter for the six nations. James Girty soon joined his brother and went to live with the Indians in the wilderness of the Maumee and Ohio valleys, among the Shawnees, to carry out British military orders. George Girty, in 1779, was a lieutenant in the Continental army, but went over to the enemy and joined the British Indian department at Detroit as an interpreter, and was sent to the Shawnees' country, with headquarters at Wapakoneta, then an Indian town in Ohio. The British commandants demanded that these interpreters take up arms against the frontier and they most ferociously did their bidding. George Girty married a Delaware Indian woman and died near Fort Defiance, Ohio, a habitual drunkard. James Girty married a Shawnee Indian woman and retired to Gosfield, in Canada, and took protection in 1812 from the British government.

He received a regular annuity and large landed interests for his services. He was tall and commanding in person, and temperate in his habits. The Girtys were a set of murderous traitors, to be reckoned in the class of Benedict Arnold. Their opportunity to receive British gold could not be withstood. Henceforth an ever guilty conscience prompted these white savages to be unrelenting and barbarous in the extreme. Fort Henry, now Wheeling; Bryant Station, Kentucky, and Saint Clair's defeat, each have their revolting tales of cruelty by those under their commands. The following description of Simon Girty is given by Oliver

M. Spencer, who when a boy of about fifteen was taken captive in 1792 by the Shawnee Indians on the Scioto river. He saw Simon Girty at the Indian village on the Maumee a short distance below Defiance, Ohio.

He says that, "The Indian priestess, Cool-Coo-Ceeh, with whom I lived, took me to a Shawnee village, where I saw the celebrated Blue Jacket and Simon Girty. Girty was a medium sized man with dark, shaggy hair, low forehead, his eyebrows contracted and meeting above his short, flat nose. His steel gray eyes averting the ingenuous gaze; his lips thin and compressed, and the dark and sinister expression of his countenance to me seemed the very picture of a villain. He wore an Indian costume without ornament. On each side in his belt were stuck a silver mounted pistol and at his left hung a short, broad dirk knife. He made a number of inquiries of me about my family and my captivity. He spoke of the wrongs he had received at the hands of his countrymen, and of the revenge he had taken. He boasted of his victorious exploits, and raising the handkerchief from his forehead showed a deep scar he said he received at Saint Clair's defeat, but said, with an oath, that he had sent the damned Yankee officer to hell who did it. He ended by saying that I would never see home again, but that if I would turn out to be a good hunter that I might one day be a chief."

In 1784 Simon Girty married Catherine Malott, a white girl who had been captured by the Indians about 1780 near the Ohio. He was an active adherent to the British cause in the war of 1812, and died in 1818 near Malden, in Canada, still in the British service.



## NORTHWEST TERRITORY.

For many years preceding the Revolutionary war there was continuous border warfare between the advance settlers and the French traders and exploring parties northwest of the Ohio river. In 1763 the British took formal possession of the western frontier, yet there were many Frenchmen who were opposed to British rule. In 1778 the Revolutionary war was vigorously progressing along the seaboard, and the French line of forts at the frontier were in possession of the British. Patrick Henry was at that time governor of Virginia. That these frontier posts be taken and held for the American cause, he sent an armed force of about three hundred men under the command of Colonel Rogers Clark to take possession of the country. In the early winter of 1778 Clark crossed the Alleghanies and descended the Ohio river, captured Cahokia, Kaskaskia and Vincennes and moved up the Wabash from Vincennes and captured a British train of supplies from Detroit intended for the garrisons. These timely exploits gave the northwest territory to the American cause, as these posts were never retaken by the British. By these active military measures at this critical period a republican form of government, rather than British dominion, has ruled and regulated that vast fertile region northwest of the Ohio river. After victory was won and the wars were over, dissensions arose as to the right of the various states to the territory northwest of the Ohio river. The war debt was unpaid, land titles were defective from the multiplicity of claimants. At this time General Rufus Putnam and a few other Revolu-

tionary soldiers advocated the payment of ex-soldiers' claims in western lands. After much debate in congress this arrangement was agreed upon and the several colonial states ceded their claims to the lands northwest of the Ohio river to the United States government to be disposed of and sold to actual settlers.

In 1783 Virginia ceded her state and colonial rights northwest of the Ohio to the general government, and on the 13th day of July, 1787, the ordinance became a national enactment and the fundamental law of the Northwest Territory. The act of the Virginia state legislature, December 20, 1783, authorizing her representatives in congress to make and execute a deed of conveyance and transfer of her interests northwest of the Ohio, and made these exceptions: "That the French and Canadian inhabitants and other settlers of Kaskaskia, Saint Vincent (now Vincennes) and neighboring villages, that professed themselves citizens of Virginia, shall have their possessions and titles confirmed to them and be protected in the enjoyment of their rights and liberties. That a quantity, not exceeding one hundred and fifty thousand acres of land promised by this state, shall be allotted and granted to the then colonel, now General George Rogers Clark, and to the officers and soldiers of his regiment who marched with him when the posts of Kaskaskia and Saint Vincent were reduced, and to the officers and soldiers that have been incorporated into the said regiments; that said land to be laid off in one tract, the length of which not to exceed double the breadth, in such place on the



northwest side of the Ohio as a majority of the officers shall choose, and be afterward divided among the said officers in due proportion according to the laws of Virginia." This was known as the "Illinois Grant" or as the "Clark's Grant."

The deed of cession was executed on the first of March, 1784, by Virginia's delegates in congress—Arthur Lee, Samuel Hardy, James Monroe and Thomas Jefferson. In October of the same year General Arthur Saint Clair was appointed military governor of the Northwest Territory and took up his residence at Marietta, on the Ohio. Later he visited Kaskaskia and appointed such civil officers as were necessary for the execution of the laws in that region. His secretary established civil and military authority at Vincennes in 1790. The appointive officers at this time were militia officers, sheriffs, tax collectors, surveyors, constables, justices of the peace, and coroners. Indiana territory was organized in 1800 and General William Henry Harrison was appointed governor and the seat of justice, or seat of government, was removed from Vincennes to Corydon. The first territorial general assembly was chosen in 1807, and a code of laws adopted. Some of the laws then made would, today, be considered as semi-barbarous, to say the least of it. Under the established territorial code horse stealing, arson, murder and treason were punishable by death. Burglary and robbery were punishable by imprisonment, fine and whipping; larceny by fine, whipping and hard labor; forgery by disfranchisement and standing in the pillory; hog stealing by a fine and whipping; Sabbath breaking, gambling and profane swearing by a fine; bigamy by a fine, whipping

and disfranchisement. The ordinance of 1787 was possible only by the surrender to the general government of the colonial grants claimed by the original states. This preceded the United States Constitution and at the time it was adopted was the most liberal in its provisions of any national enactment yet made. It granted liberty of conscience to every individual to worship God according to the methods of his choice without fear of being molested by law or officious rival religious organizations. At that date liberty of thought, as we know it today, was supposed to be an absolute impossibility. Though religious to a fanatical degree, the laws previous to this were patterned after the moth-eaten statutes of Europe, dating back to the feudal ages. Another feature of the ordinance was that it was not a matter of local interest as a state law. It was for all liberty-loving Americans or those who wished to become citizens in the new republic of the United States. Some of the provisions in the territorial laws for holding office required the candidate to be a landowner and a resident of the territory. The principal executive officer was appointed by the President of the United States, with the approval of congress. The governor, secretary and part of the legislature were appointive officers. The territorial legislative assembly was to be organized as soon as five thousand free male inhabitants of full age were registered in the district. The first territorial general assembly appointed a delegate to the national congress of the United States. Each civil and military officer, except the general in command of the army, was required to be a resident landowner in order to be eligible to hold office. Each voter for a representative in



the territorial legislative assembly must own fifty acres of land. Each representative in the legislative assembly must own one hundred acres of land. Each member of the legislative council (senate), the secretary and each of the three judges must own five hundred acres of land. The governor must own one thousand acres of land and be a resident of the territory. It required five hundred votes to be entitled to a representative in the legislative assembly. The proportional allotment to continue until there were twelve thousand and five hundred votes for the twenty-five representatives; then the basis of representation be changed to a larger number to each representative. The members of the legislative council were selected by the legislative assembly, subject to the approval of the United States congress. It was provided that when 60,000 free male inhabitants in a particular district asked by petition that a state be organized, that the congress of the United States consider such petition. Before the general legislative assembly was organized the governor, secretary and judges adopted and published such of the original statutes of the states as they deemed proper and necessary. They laid out counties and established seats of justice and appointed the necessary officers to aid in an execution of the laws. When the land northwest of the Ohio river was ceded to the general government by Virginia it was known as Illinois county. Ohio was made a state in 1803. The remainder of the territory was known as Indiana territory. Michigan territory was organized in 1805, and Illinois, as a part of the United States, in 1809 as a territory. In 1814 Indiana territory was divided into five representative districts. This would indicate that exclusive

of what was then Illinois territory that Indiana territory had reached the number of twenty-five hundred free male voters who each owned fifty acres or more of land. This was the first election of legislators in Indiana. There were five representatives chosen, and the general assembly, so chosen, recommended six eligible candidates, three of whom were selected by the United States congress as the upper house or legislative council. A legislature of eight members, with the governor and secretary, seems to be a primitive beginning, but such was Indiana's territorial "legislative assembly." On the fourteenth day of December, 1815, a memorial was adopted by the United States congress authorizing the citizens of Indiana territory to adopt a state government. And, on the nineteenth day of April, 1816, the President approved a bill enabling the people of Indiana territory to form a constitution. An election of delegates to the constitutional convention was held May 13, 1816. The convention met at Corydon on the tenth day of June, 1816, and continued in session eighteen days and completed Indiana's first constitution. (Her second constitution was adopted in 1851.) The first state election was held on the first Monday in August, 1816, and on the fourth day of the next November the first Indiana state general assembly, or legislature, convened at Corydon, in what is now Harrison county, the extreme southern part of the state, and adjourned its session January 17, 1817. About as soon as the ordinance of 1887 was adopted and became the fundamental law of the territory, General Rufus Putnam and Dr. Menassen Cutler reorganized the Ohio Land Company and arranged for the purchase and colonization of the lands along the Ohio and tribu-



tary rivers. This company placed settlers on more than three hundred thousand acres of the valley lands of the Muskingum and Scioto rivers. These settlers crossed the Alleghanies from the east and descended the Ohio river. Others came by the lakes from Buffalo, up the Maumee, and across the portage to Little river, and on to the Wabash at "Flint Springs," where Huntington is now located, then on down the Wabash. In 1804 congress established three offices for land entries and sale to settlers. One was located at Detroit, in Wayne county; one at Vincennes, in Knox county, and one at Kaskaskia, in Illinois county. Three years later one was established at Jeffersonville, in Clark county.

The Indian wars for a time checked immigration until about 1818, at which period the Indian power in the Ohio valley was forever broken. In 1823 the national road from Cumberland, Maryland, was completed to Wheeling, West Virginia, and by the year 1830 it was finished through the state of Ohio to the east line of Indiana; later was partly bridged and graded to Vandalia, Illinois. This was a wide, well piked road, covered with crushed rock and constructed with the best of stone arch bridges and culverts. Upon this great thoroughfare, more than sixty feet in width, the "Conistooga" wagons could be seen—as a great supply train to a marching army—from sun-up till sunset, carrying forward an immense tidal wave of humanity to the "far west" country, in the Wabash valley. This road passed through Zanesville, near Columbus, Ohio, through Richmond, Greenfield, Indianapolis and Terre Haute, Indiana, and on westward into Illinois. A little later, when Indiana had grown a score of years as a state, a water-

way, through the Hudson and Erie canal to Buffalo, thence from Toledo to the mouth of the Wabash by lake and canal, the pioneer could come by water to his new western home. The first steamboat to ascend the Wabash river to any distance was in 1823, as will be seen by the following clipping taken from the Indiana Oracle of December 20, 1823. It is: "The steamboat Florence, Captain Donne, ascended the Wabash river, being the first boat that ever passed up the river." From the Delphi Oracle of March 20, 1842, the following: "We hear that the steamboat lock across the Wabash river at Delphi is completed. That several flatboats passed through on their way to New Orleans." One of the histories of Allen county, Indiana, says that: "In November, 1842, a flatboat left Fort Wayne for New Orleans, freighted with forty-five thousand hoop-poles, two hundred and fifty barrels of cranberries, taking two hundred barrels of cranberries at Logansport; boat owned by Benjamin Smith, T. J. Lewis and N. D. Stewart. Another belonging to some Germans left a few days afterward with fifty thousand hoop-poles by the way of Delphi to the Wabash, Ohio and Mississippi rivers." Thus we see that settlers could come in by both water and land. The Quakers came from North Carolina and eastern Pennsylvania and began settlements near Dayton, Ohio, and Richmond, Indiana. The Germans at Cincinnati and Minster, Ohio, and legions of liberty-loving citizens of the eastern states found desirable homes west of the mountains along the valleys of the Wabash, Miami, Maumee, Muskingum and Scioto rivers. Five-sixths of the first settlers of Adams county were pioneers from other states of



the United States. In the main they were from the older parts of the eastern states and knew of the benefits of education and church privileges. For these reasons the very rapid settlement and early development of the county is chiefly due. There were a few settlers here as early as 1820, but it was

not until after the Indians left, in 1832, that the general rush for lands began in earnest. The census as reported on the 21st day of November, 1850, shows that Adams county then had a population of five thousand seven hundred and seventy-four persons, and ten hundred and three families.

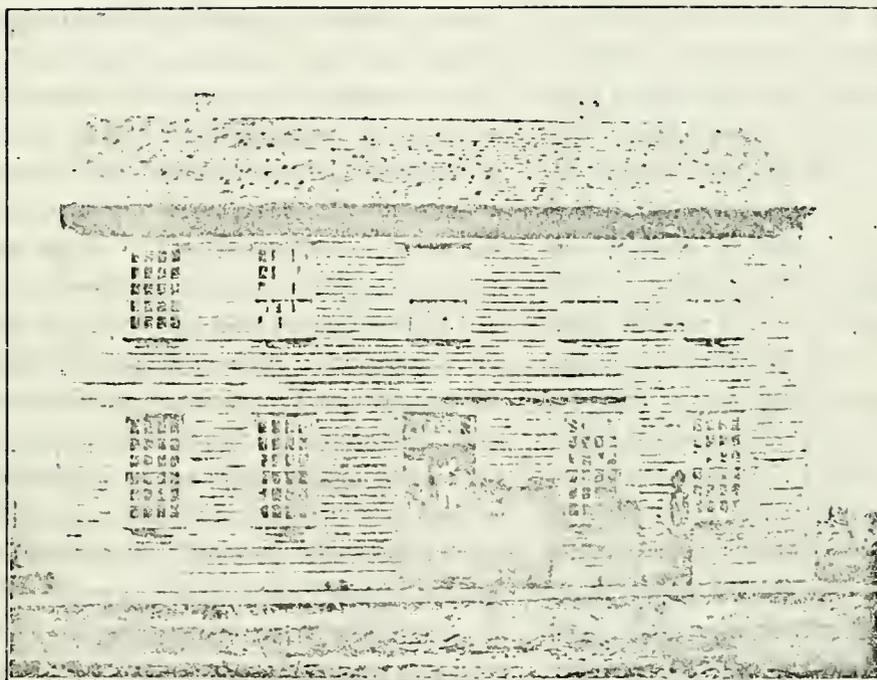
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### SOME PHYSICAL FEATURES.

Adams county has but two large streams, or natural water courses, the Wabash and the Saint Mary's rivers. Two moraines follow the courses of these rivers. A short distance from the right bank of each as you descend the streams are ridges largely composed of clay soil. Occasionally there are beds of gravel found just above the rock, where the limestone abounds. These places are along the Wabash, in Jefferson and Hartford townships; on Big Blue creek, and along the Saint Mary's in Washington and Saint Mary's townships. Several good sand and gravel pits are found within the county, but some of them are nearly exhausted from the amount of road material used in building gravel roads before the macadamized road construction was commenced. The gravel pit southeast of Geneva supplied about twenty acres of gravel for the Chicago & Erie Railroad that passes through Decatur, and the Snyder and Pontius pikes in the southern part of the county. The Robinson gravel pit, about two miles northwest of Decatur, has furnished about five acres of gravel for the northern township pikes and the old Piqua road pike. Most of the county is underlaid with rock at the depth of from fifty to seventy-five feet from the surface of the

ground, except, perhaps, the southwest third of Wabash township and part of southern Hartford. This includes the "Lob-lolly" shallow pond terminating at its source seven or eight miles to the southwest of Geneva in some small lakes. It varies in width from a quarter of a mile to a mile or more, and is intersected at certain intervals by beaver dams. It has been recently dredged at the cost of nearly forty thousand dollars and much of the more elevated parts have been reclaimed for agricultural purposes. That part referred to southwest of the Wabash river is in what the oil producers know as the "deep drive" and has hundreds of feet of quicksand before the rock is reached. The Wabash river at the south and the Saint Mary's river at the north traverse the county in a northwesterly direction for about fifteen miles each. The Saint Mary's region is somewhat more undulating and the river has more current than the Wabash river. The Wabash river bottoms are more nearly a black loamy soil than the Saint Mary's river bottoms, except in Hartford and French townships, where they overlay a deep ledge of limestone. The Wabash river passes through a part of Jefferson, Wabash and French town-

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THE OLD COURT HOUSE.



ships. Its principal tributaries are Indian creek, the Limberlost, Lick run, Canoper creek, Dismal run, in Wabash township, and Six Mile and several smaller creeks in Hartford township. The Saint Mary's river passes through Saint Mary's, Washington, Root and Preble townships. Its principal tributaries are Spring run, Big Blue creek, Twenty-seven Mile, Yellow creek, Borum run, Lenhart's run, Numbers creek, Seventeen and McKnight's run. In Adams county the Saint Mary's carries about three times the volume of water that is carried by the Wabash river. This is caused to a certain extent by the feeder from the reservoir in Ohio supplying water power for the mills at Saint Mary's. The Wabash river by nature is a very crooked stream—in Wabash township—and is at this time being dredged and straightened through what was formerly the farm of Dr. B. B. Snow. The dredging begins at the mouth of the Limberlost creek and extends to the Price bridge, where the river crosses the Winchester road. Just to the southeast of Berne on what was known as the Morgan Smith farm there is a small prairie of perhaps ten or fifteen acres. A part of this drains into Thompson's prairie, thence into Big Blue creek and the Saint Mary's river. At the south the water flows into the Canoper and on into the Wabash river. If this water should continue to the sea one destination would be the Saint Lawrence gulf and the other the Gulf of Mexico. Generally the land along the Saint Mary's river is a sandy loam. That along the Wabash, except in Hartford and French townships, is black loam bottoms. The uplands are usually a mixed clay and marl that is adaptable to almost any crop that can be grown in this climate. We are told that as

early as 1812 there was a trading post at Fort Recovery, near the headwaters of the Wabash, but a few miles to the southeast of Portland, Indiana; that Shane's Crossing, or Rockford, as it is now called, is but a short distance east of Willshire, Ohio, on the Saint Mary's river; that this was a trading post as early as 1818; that rafting and boating from these points was a common means of travel, though these streams at the present time would be in too low a stage of water throughout most of the year to carry a boat of much magnitude. As late as 1865 Caleb Penock rafted walnut and calico ash lumber from his mill or the mill at old Buffalo to Huntington, to be shipped over the Wabash & Erie canal to Cincinnati. That the millers at Willshire sent many boat loads of flour to Fort Wayne and intervening points before the fifties.

From the geologist's standpoint the lands in this section of the country in general may be thus described: "The soil is clay overlying the silica and calcareous upper Silurian rocks of the Niagara group, in most cases the resulting soil being from two to ten feet deep. Although fertile, it is inclined to be tenacious and the surface of the country being rather level the character of the land may be designated as frequently too retentive of moisture except in very dry seasons." From the above we would readily see the need of tiling. The lands that were once too wet for cultivation are now drained and the very best farms. There seems to be one prevailing peculiarity of the ponds and sinks in Union and French townships. Many of them were small but quite deep; not infrequently from three to six feet of water in a pond covering but an acre or two of ground. In Wabash township, east of



Ceylon, and in French township, just east of Vera Cruz, or New Ville, as it was once called, the land is more rolling than in any other part of the county, but these eminences in eastern Ohio, or Pennsylvania, would be considered as the most accessible farming tracts. There are but three or four prairie tracts within the county, and they were but little else than swamps without brush until they were thoroughly drained. The largest of these is the Thompson's Prairie, which varies from a half mile to a mile and a half in width, and is about five miles long. The Grim's prairie is about three miles in length and the Belt's prairie and Yellow Creek prairie are smaller. The longest one—though not the biggest otherwise—is the Blue Creek prairie, which was rather a continuous chain of small, swamp prairies, extending through Monroe and French townships, with here and there a sort of beaver dam or small strip of land between them. In many places throughout the country beaver dams of two or three feet in height can be seen. On the land of Adolph Schugg, in section 20, just west of Ceylon, there is a beaver dam that required a six-foot cut through the bank to drain the pond above it.

Perhaps the most extensive and largest beaver dam in the county is near the center of section 15, in Wabash township. It is of such size and dimensions that it would pay any one interested in this subject to go and see it. It is about a hundred yards in length and perhaps five or six feet in height; is situated on a tributary to the Canoper creek, on the David Long farm. There is no worthless land in Adams county. From the particular topography and the richness of its soil and the advantages for water and drainage offered by its rivers and numerous

smaller streams, it is well adapted to the various branches of agriculture. From the onion fields in the Yellow creek, Blue creek and Thompson's prairies, its rich corn lands along the Wabash and Saint Mary's rivers and its other fertile and productive farms throughout the more elevated parts of the county, it may be placed in the first rank as one of the leading agricultural counties of the state. The central part of the county, from near the Wells county line to the eastern part of Blue Creek township, was the last of the county settled. It was a string of small, wet prairies, following the Big Blue creek to near its source. As late as 1867 it was known as the "wilds" of Adams county. In that year the Ford and McCollum boys killed twelve or fifteen deer in the "wilds" on these prairies. Perhaps the last bear killed in Adams county died near the Blue Creek prairie in 1846, in Monroe township. It was killed by Daniel Barnhart, who started the game in Grim's prairie and finally killed it on what is now the Ira Waggoner farm, in section 8, in Monroe township. As the story goes, there were several hounds and some little dogs in the chase. The hounds stood off and bellowed, while the fiests would run up and nip Mr. Bruin's legs as he would start to run. The bear and his pursuers passed near the cabin of the father of "Hunting" Perry Andrews, who had a big bulldog, who mixed into the chase. He at once closed in on the bear, which gave him just one good hug, and "Old Sank," as he was called, expired without even taking time to make his will. Mr. Andrews, who was not much of a hunter himself, like Washington, who is reputed as saying he would rather George had told a thousand lies than to have cut that



one cherry tree, was much worried at the loss of his faithful dog, and would rather have seen a thousand bears escape than to lose that one sturdy dog. Some years later, it is said that a tiger was captured near Berne, just beyond the prairie—it is reported to have been blind—and no bulldog smasher, like Barnhart's bear. Along in the sixties Lewis Mattax was the drainage commissioner of Adams county. Through his energies several large public drains were located. Little Blue creek, that runs to the town of Berne, was ditched and Big Blue creek, from the center of Monroe township

eastward beyond the township line, was opened for good drainage and much valuable land was reclaimed for farming purposes. Along in the eighties this ditch was extended to near the west line of French township, passing through a portion of land known as the Robinson farm, a tract of about five hundred acres, in section 12, in Monroe township. This ditch provided an outlet for the drainage of forest lands and frog ponds—a decade before known as the "wilds" of Monroe township.

In 1906 this farm was sold for the modest sum of forty thousand dollars.

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### TRAILS AND ROADS.

The French were the first white explorers of the lake region and the Ohio valley. Missionaries and traders followed the waterways and Indian trails from place to place across the country. Most of the angling roadways yet remaining were either military roads or Indian trails before settlements were begun by the white men. Along the navigable streams the raft or canoe was the "beast" of burden and the footpaths along their banks became the established routes of travel. From these well defined trails from point to point the desirable ground and the most direct and nearest routes were chosen. The trader cleared and widened these trails for his pack trains to travel over and the first routes for early roads were in this way located. There are several such trails through Adams county. From Fort Recovery, Ohio, to the Limberlost creek, at "Old Buffalo," is an Indian trail running in nearly a straight line. This is now an angling road,

that was opened and cut out at state expense, along about the forties, but was an Indian trail from the upper Wabash to "Flint Springs," at near Huntington, for many years before this time. In 1877 this road was slightly changed from Buffalo to the Jay county line by being moved to the westward. From the Limberlost it was extended northward to the Wabash river bank at the Peter Studebaker farm, in section 17, in Wabash township. This trail from there continued down the river to Deem's ford, east of Bluffton, in Wells county. One branch bore to the north and went to Fort Wayne, the other went on down the river to "Flint Springs" at the mouth of Little river, where Huntington is now situated. This trace was cut out about 1840 at public expense and was known as one of the "state roads." A part of this trail—that from the Limberlost creek north to the Wabash river—is what later became a



part of the Winchester road. The Winchester road was also a state road and ran nearly directly north from Winchester through Portland, Bloomfield and Buffalo, crossed the Wabash river at what is now known as the Price bridge and went on northward to the Saint Mary's river, or to the Reynolds farm on the banks of the river, there intersected the Fort Wayne and Willshire road—another state road that passed through Decatur to the east and through Williamsport and about six or seven miles of Indian reservation to Fort Wayne. This is an earlier road than some of the others, for the reason that Winchester was the county seat of Randolph county, which then comprised Adams, Allen and several other of the present counties, and it was necessary to reach the county seat on as direct a route as possible. In 1823 Allen county was organized—the plat of the town of Fort Wayne is on the county records at Winchester. Along the Winchester road the first mails were carried to Fort Wayne from the county seat. The first postoffice in the south part of the county was known as "Canoper Postoffice." Later Canoper postoffice was moved farther north and located at Jacob Ruple's house in section 35, in Monroe township. Soon after this Limberlost postoffice was established at Alexander, on the Winchester road. It continued here until 1871, when Geneva took its place.

Another road north from Fort Recovery and Huntington road was known as the "Quaker Trace," and later the Fort Recovery road, which intersected the Fort Recovery and Huntington road at the south terminus, in the vicinity of Westchester, in Jay county, and extended northward through New Corydon into Jefferson township,

through Salem, in Blue Creek township (sometimes called Steele) to the Decatur and Willshire road, near where Yellow creek empties into the Saint Mary's river. The Willshire and Decatur road was an Indian trail on the south side of the river from Saint Mary's, Ohio, through Shane's Crossing, Willshire, Pleasant Mills and Decatur, to where it joined the Winchester road at the Reynolds farm, in section 20, in Root township, then on to Fort Wayne. All of the roads so far mentioned are angling roads and were undoubtedly Indian trails, with the exception of the Winchester road, that runs south from the Saint Mary's river. These were also state roads, that is, they were located and the trees cut out and removed at the expense of the state from the three per cent. fund that was allowed the state on the sale of lands sold within her borders. The funds so derived were applied on opening the principal roadways throughout the state, each county receiving its proportionate share of the three per cent. fund on the sales of public lands within the limits of such county. Another Indian trail extended from the Godfrey Reservation on the Salamonie river, southwest of Balbeck, in Jay county, to the north of the Lob-lolly, down the Limberlost creek to the Wabash river, and down the river to "Carington's ford," near the northwest corner of section 22, in Wabash township, thence in a northeasterly direction to the eastern end of the Thompson's prairie, and on past Big Blue creek, east of Salem, to the Rivare Reservation, north of the Saint Mary's river. This crossed the "Flint Springs" and Recovery trail between Alexander and Geneva. This trail became a public highway; that to the east of Alexander



was known as the Prairie road and passed near the cabin home of Charles R. Stephens, Henry Juday, John Bricker, John Cross and William O. Jeffers, who lived to the west of the Wabash river. It crossed the river and passed through the "Baker settlement," and through or near the farms of Tilmon Rawley, John and Josiah Crawford, Covey Galloway, Joseph Willson, William Lowe, John R. Burge. It is said that this road passes the home of William Lowe, who is said to be the first actual settler in Adams county, he having located at the east end of Thompson's prairie as early as 1820. On this road was built the first church in southern Adams county. It was built just north of old Alexander in 1840, a more complete description of which is given farther back in this work. (See History of Geneva.) The ground on and around this church were platted July 28, 1853, at the location of the Cincinnati, Union City & Fort Wayne Railroad, and called Buffalo. This church had stood thirteen years before this time. Another church on this road and perhaps the third was near Covey Galloway's farm in section one in Wabash township. That to the west of Alexander, or of the Winchester road, was known as the Camden road and passed the homes of John Pontius, James Glendenning and John Watson and Joseph Clendenning. On this road on the farm of John Pontius was the second church in southern Adams county and the first one in Hartford township. Another trace that became a public road left the Fort Recovery & Huntington road about a half mile north of the Limberlost creek near the Arthur McHugh farm (now owned by Vernon L. Snow), in section

29, Wabash township, and bore to the northeast past the residences—cabin houses—of Philemon N. Collins, Andrew McDonald and David McDonald and crossed the Wabash at McDonald's ford, a little above where the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad bridge crosses the river, then on to the northeast, and passes the residences of George Myers, Morgan Smith, Jacob Ruble, John McConnell, to the north of Thompson's prairie, and joined the Quaker trace near the Ericson farm in Blue Creek township. This was known as the Canoper road, as was also the postoffice that was then kept at the residence of Jacob Ruble just east of where Berne is now located. This road ran past the first steam sawmill that was located in the south part of the county and near the first one in the county. It was erected by John R. Burge in 1851. On this road was one of the very first, if not actually the first, schoolhouse erected in the county. Another trace extended from the Saint Mary's river near Willshire, Ohio, in a southwesterly direction through Blue Creek township along the southern boundary of the Blue Creek prairie to Newville, on the Wabash river. This passed through the French settlement or neighborhood in northwest French township and may have taken its name from some pioneer resident. It was known as the "Senior trace." Along in the forties a direct route was located and established as a road from Decatur to Newville. This road has at this time been nearly abandoned by changing to the section and half-section lines. This was an angling road and crossed the Winchester road near the Washington church, about five miles southwest of Decatur. This was once one of the most largely traveled roads in the county for the reason that it



connected the Fort Recovery & Huntington road with the Decatur and Willshire roads, the latter of which became a plank road in 1852-3. The Piqua road, or "Wayne trace," as it is frequently called, was doubtless an Indian trail, is on the north side of the Saint Mary's river, crossing it at Willshire, Ohio, and passing on eastward to Shane's Crossing and Saint Mary's, Ohio, at the east and to Fort Wayne at the northwest from Decatur. This road was planked to about a mile north of Decatur from Fort Wayne in 1852-3. The Wayne trace enters Adams county about a mile to the northwest of Willshire, Ohio, passes through the Rivare Reservation, in Saint Mary's township, and across Washington and Root townships. It passes near the "Great Northern Indiana Fair Grounds (Steele's Park) and through Monmouth, one of the oldest towns in the county. This road was famous for its taverns. At an early day about every other

house was a tavern, and all did a good business from 1840 to about 1865. This road was one of the routes of travel with supplies for the troops garrisoned at Fort Wayne after Wayne's victory over the Indians in 1794 till the garrison was removed and the fortress abandoned as a military post in 1819. There is also another military road—perhaps the route located by General Harmer in 1790. It angled in a southeasterly direction across the northeast corner of Union township, toward Shane's Crossing, in Ohio, at which place Wayne's army crossed the Harmer trail in the route from Fort Jefferson, south of Greenville, to the Miami village Kekionga at what is now Fort Wayne. Harmer's trace has been largely abandoned and the angling road from a few miles east of Williamsport, in Allen county, runs on the section line routes through Massillon and Liberty and on east and south into Ohio.

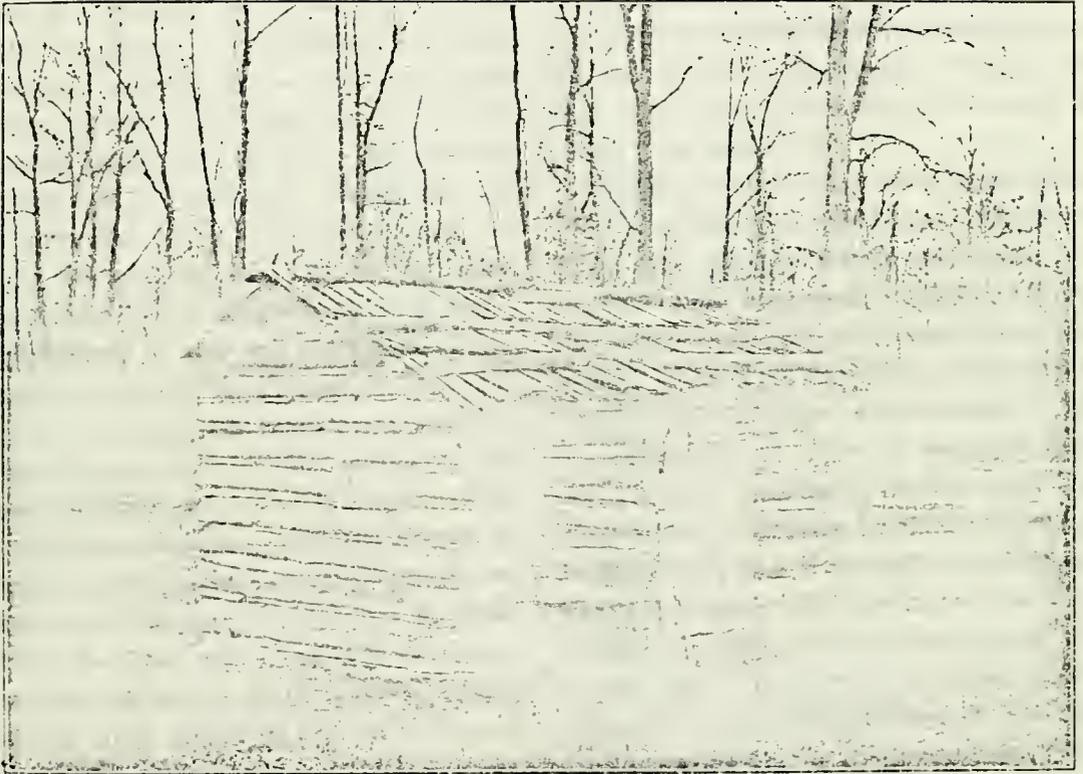
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#### THE PIONEER CABIN HOME.

It was John Howard Payne, of East Hampden, Long Island, when far away in a foreign land, who wrote that immortal song, "Home, Sweet Home." His boyhood recollections of that old-fashioned cottage half covered with vines and shadowed by the native forest trees about the dooryard, ever held the foremost place in his memory as the prettiest place in the world. What Hoosier lad or lassie can say less of his or her childhood home surrounded by nature's handiwork? What native landscapes can excell her forests with massive oak, giant poplar or useful hickory trees? The boy or the

girl of today hasn't even the dream of an idea of what they were in their rustic grandeur. Could one again see those innocent, hopeful childhood days, when each pebbly brook was full of shining minnows, waiting to be caught with sewing thread lines and bent pins for hooks. When each green bush was a home of the singing birds. Where the pheasant's whirr, as he starts from the ground before you, makes you jump in surprise, or the woodpecker on the dead limb near you, drumming for his mate, makes melodious music to the ears of childhood. When every forest grove was alive with





THE PIONEER CABIN.



birds and barking squirrels; while the morning sunshine made the landscape a paradise. Amid these scenes our forefathers, the pioneers, chose the sites for their cabins, the future homes of their children, now the old men and women of today. They laid the foundation for the structure we now occupy, in all our forgetfulness, of what this country cost them. Their customs then were not as now, as conditions have changed, but they were free, happy and contented, beginners alike in a new country. Their sociability and neighborly acquaintance could not be excelled in any age or land. But there is another side to the picture. When one sees the butterflies of fashion flitting along the street he would hardly suppose that their grandparents were obliged to dress in homespun flannels or blue and black plaid linsey, fight mosquitoes, dose themselves with calomel and quinine and shake with the ague while listening to the croaks, and hoots, and howls of frogs and owls and wolves. They—their grandchildren—eat iced cream, attend the skating rinks, baseball games and operas and imagine that they are burdened almost to death with cares. Or, perchance, are worried nearly to destruction because the latest baby buggy isn't of the most modern pattern. They would perhaps have you speak in whispers about the old gourd dipper in their grandmother's kitchen; or of the sugar trough cradle that a baby boy—their papa—was rocked in when he was the "prince" of the cabin home. Perhaps a little more actual privation and pioneer experience might make some people think of what they really need and more fully appreciate what they have and enjoy today. In the early days of the pioneer this country was the hunter's paradise, and many of the

first settlers were fond of the chase. The rivers and creeks teemed with the finest fish, among which were the pike, the bass of several varieties; bluegills, eels, catfish, redhorse, etc. The waters were clear and in the springtime fish were shot and speared. Deer were then more plentiful than sheep are today. Wild turkeys were seen in great flocks of a hundred or more at a time. Squirrels, raccoon and bears were a constant menace to the cornfields from roasting-ear time till the corn was gathered. Wolves and bear were plenty and very destructive to calves, pigs and sheep.

When Adams county was first settled there were plenty of wild hogs in the woods. They were about as shy as deer, and many of them were dangerous. They could run like a deer and scale an ordinary fence like a dog. These were also a nuisance and bothersome when the corn was maturing. The domesticated hogs were fed but little grain and fattened principally on the acorn and hickory nuts that grew by the thousands of bushels along the river and creek bottoms. Cattle and horses were let run on the range and found ample pasturage the greater part of the year. During the summer months the cattle were followed home in the evenings by great clouds of mosquitoes, which were frequently smoked away by a slow fire in the stable yard. The early laws of the state offered a bounty on wolf scalps, which included the top part of the head and ears. It is said that there were a few that went into the wolf scalp raising business for revenue only. In those days forest fires were common in the fall and early winter. These removed the leaves so the hunter could more easily move from place to place unobserved. They also killed the young



and tender sprouts and left the woods comparatively open and free from underbrush, except in the low swamps or wet prairies. The woods were of the finest forest trees of oak, ash, poplar, elm, hickory and walnut. These were cut down and burned in great log heaps, as there was no market for them, and they occupied ground that the pioneer wanted for his fields of grain. The cabin in the clearing was surrounded by tree stumps that were years in rotting away.

The following description may give some idea of a model country home along in the forties in Adams county. Most of the dwellings were single-room cabins, varying in size and furnishings, owing to the taste and finances of the owner. An old resident thus describes his boyhood home: "Our house was a single-room cabin of round logs with puncheon floor and clapboard roof. At the front we had a porch. The last two end logs to the square projected out six or eight feet to the one side for the porch. The clapboard roof was held in place by weight poles. The puncheon floor was hewed smooth on the upper side and was substantial and solid. It had a stick chimney plastered with mud, with "nigger head" hearth and fireplace. The door hung on wooden hinges, and was made of thick clapboards. Our loft had a clapboard floor, and we went up stairs on a ladder made of iron-wood poles. The openings between the logs were chinked with small pieces of wood and daubed with clay mortar. We had plenty of fresh air from above, as the clapboard floor was not very closely laid. We had two pole beds with one post each. The two back corners of the room, by means of an auger hole in the logs at the side and end of the wall, made good sides and end fastenings. Over these sides

smaller poles were placed and held by linn bark tied at the ends, which made a very comfortable bed. Now to save light and fuel and for general convenience we arranged to have our kitchen, dining room, sitting room and parlor all in the same room, and when the occasion demanded it we converted this room, which was about sixteen by twenty feet in size, into a shoe shop, a corn-grating shop, a spinning and weaving room and sometimes used it for a gun shop, spinning room and ax-handle factory. So thus the years came and went and we enjoyed them in our simple cabin houses and were happier in our freedom than a king on his throne. Then every settler knew every man, woman and child in the neighborhood and could count them without much trouble or figuring." It would doubtless give the reader a more general idea of the home of the pioneer settler if some quotations were given from their experiences, as related by themselves in a biographical work on Adams county, published more than twenty years ago.

Christian F. Blakey, of Union township, states: "We started from Cincinnati with one horse and an ox team, accompanied by our family, to make our home in Adams county. The roads were so muddy that they were nearly impassable. We were obliged to leave a part of our household goods at New Bremen, Ohio. We took the hind wheels of our wagon and improvised a cart upon which we packed the most necessary articles and again started for our Indiana home, the mother and children walking. In this way we made about five miles a day, camping out at night, and landing in our new home on the 27th day of November, 1840. We cut two crocheted poles,



set them on the ground, connected them with a pole and stretched the wagon cover over it. In this we lived until we got our rough log house ready to move into. This was the day before Christmas the same year." We are told that Daniel Hines was the first permanent white settler in Union township. That the Blakey family came in 1840 and were the second permanent residents of the township.

Jacob Yager, whose boyhood days were spent in Preble township, says that: "We came to Adams county in 1834. The land had no improvements whatever, Wolves, bear, etc., were uncomfortably plenty. The deer and other game had been almost entirely undisturbed. My father bought one hundred acres of land for one hundred and twenty-five dollars. The family went to work with a will. Tree after tree was felled and acre after acre was cleared, until this part of the wilderness became a productive farm. The old log cabin with its puncheon floor, after many years' faithful service was supplanted by modern buildings. At that time there were very few settlers. There was no county seat in Adams county in 1834 and land deeds were recorded at Fort Wayne."

• William P. Rice, of Root township, who was a powerful man physically in his younger days, cleared up and improved several farms in Adams county. The last owned was the "Bell View" farm east of Decatur. He says: "We came to this state in 1835 and went to work in the woods on some land our father had entered from the government in the previous spring. We, Benjamin and myself, built a log cabin one story high with puncheon floor, clapboard

roof and an old-fashioned wooden chimney with the back and jambs of mud. We boarded with Benjamin Pillars, a brother-in-law who settled here in 1834. The rest of the family came in the spring of 1836. In a few years father built a better log house. It was a story and a half and built of hewed logs. I remained at home until I was of age, and went to work for myself, doing anything I could find to do, principally clearing land, splitting rails and chopping wood, until I earned money enough to enable me to enter forty acres of land. I worked for George A. Dent at eleven dollars a month till I could pay for it. I then built a shanty, cleared my land and married a wife in 1843, and borrowed the money to pay the preacher for performing the ceremony. We moved into our shanty and went to housekeeping. Our household goods consisted of three knives, three forks, six cups and saucers, six plates and two tin cups. Our bedstead was made of poles and the bed rope was made of bark." William Pendleton Rice has gone but "Bell View" is a lasting evidence of what his determined perseverance has done. Several other phases of the pioneer life may be shown by the following poem written by John Finley, an early resident of Richmond, Indiana. He thus describes a cabin home as he saw it along in the thirties. It was perhaps but a sample of the many "Hoosier's nests" of that period. Adams county's early historian says that one of the first dwellings built for actual resident settlers in this county was located at the east end of Thompson's prairie. This may or may not have been the historical cabin made famous by the poetic verse:



## THE HOOSIER'S NEST.

I'm told in riding somewhere west  
 A stranger found a Hoosier's nest.  
 In other words, a Buckeye cabin,  
 Just big enough to hold Queen Mab in.  
 Its situation, low but airy,  
 Was on the border of a prairie,  
 And, fearing he might be benighted,  
 He hailed the house and then and there  
 alighted.  
 The Hoosier met him at the door,  
 Their salutations soon were o'er.  
 He took the stranger's horse aside  
 And to a sturdy sapling tied;  
 Then, having stripped the saddle off,  
 He fed him a sugar trough.  
 The stranger stooped to enter in  
 The entrance closing with a pin,  
 And manifested strong desire  
 To seat himself by the log-heap fire

Where half a dozen Hoosieroons  
 With mush and milk, tin cups and spoons,  
 White heads, bare feet and dirty faces  
 Seemed much inclined to keep their places.  
 But madam, anxious to display  
 Her rough but undisputed sway,  
 Her offsprings to the ladder led  
 And cuffed the youngsters up to bed.  
 Invited, shortly, to partake  
 Of venison, milk and Jolunie-cake,  
 The stranger made a hearty meal,  
 And glances round the room would steal.  
 One side was lined with divers garments,  
 The other spread with skins of varmints.  
 Dried pumpkins overhead were strung,  
 Where venison hams in plenty hung.  
 Two rifles placed above the door,  
 Three dogs lay stretched upon the floor,  
 In short, the domicile was rife  
 With specimens of Hoosier life.

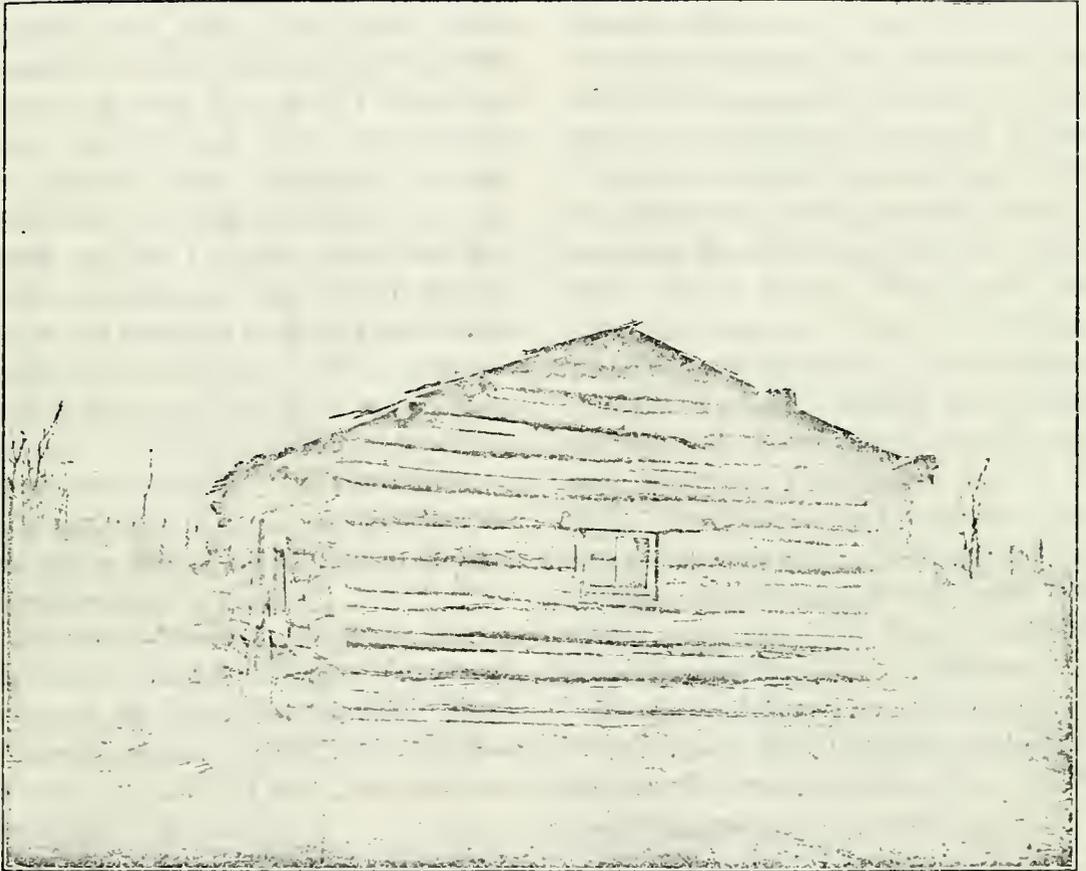
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 ERA OF SETTLEMENT.

In 1832 over eleven hundred Indians were removed westward from the Wabash valley and from the headwaters of the Saint Mary's river near Girty's town, now Saint Mary's, and near Wapakoneta, Ohio, to the territory west of the Mississippi river to what is now the state of Kansas. The Indians' titles having been extinguished and the means of travel having been much improved, emigration to this region began in earnest along about 1834. From that time until 1860 was the era of settlement in Adams county. What was Root township in Allen county in 1833 became all of Adams county in 1836. By an act of the general

assembly on the 23d day of January, 1836, Adams county, Indiana, was organized. A writ of election was issued by the governor and the first election was held on the first Monday of April, 1836. The first board of county commissioners was composed of Joshua S. Rhea, Samuel Smith and William Heath, Sr. On May 18th, in 1836, the seat of justice, or the county seat, was established at Decatur. What is now twelve townships was divided into Root and Saint Mary's townships. On the following August Saint Mary's township was divided south of the center by a line running east and west and Wabash township was organized. In July,





THE HOOSIER'S NEST.



1838, Washington township was made from part of Root and Saint Mary's townships and Blue Creek was taken from Saint Mary's, and Jefferson from Wabash township. In 1838 Preble township was organized from part of Root, and in May, 1839, French township was made from a part of Saint Mary's township. In 1840 Monroe township was taken from Saint Mary's township, and on the following September Union was made from part of Root township. Hartford was taken from Wabash and Kirkland from Washington in 1841. With the foregoing explanation one can readily see how a resident could have lived in Root township, in Allen county, in 1833, and in any township in what is now Adams county at the same time. Or he could have lived in what was later Saint Mary's township and his residence be located in what is now French township. The following list of early settlers is by no means complete, but will give an idea of whom some of the earliest residents really were:

IN 1819.—Henry Lowe settled first on the Godfrey trace at the east end of what is known as the Thompson's prairie. This is in section 29, or near what has been known as the Pruden farm, in Blue Creek township.

IN 1820.—Robert Douglas came as one of the second residents. He settled on the Saint Mary's river, in section 20, in Root township. His land comprised part of what was used as a military camp ground on the Reynolds farm. Within the same year—1820—William Robinson moved to the location occupied by Henry Lowe and stayed there for two years and returned to Greenville, Ohio. His place was then taken—in 1822—by a man whose name was Thomp-

son, after whom the cabin in the clearing and the prairie were named. Thompson's cabin was one of the earliest stopping places of the "wayfaring man" and trader in the thirties. Thompson died in 1831 and was the first resident white man of whose death there is any authentic record in the present Adams county. However, it is stated that six of Wayne's soldiers, who died while returning from Fort Wayne in 1794, are buried in the old Shaffer graveyard, southeast of where Bobo, in Saint Mary's township, is situated.

IN 1821.—A Mr. Ayres, an English refugee, settled near Twenty-four-mile creek, on what was the Acker and later the Shaffer farm. This is on the "Wayne trace," and Mr. Ayres was one of the first permanent residents in the northern part of the county.

In 1822-23 Root township, Allen county, was surveyed by the United States government surveyors, Worthington and J. W. Riley. Fort Wayne and Willshire, Ohio, were at that time laid out as towns and some buildings commenced, though each were trading posts, and Fort Wayne a military post for a long time prior to this date.

IN 1828.—Joshua Lister settled near the Wayne trace in Root township, northwest of Monmouth. One of his sons, Ezra, recently died in Decatur at an advanced age.

IN 1829.—John Ross entered a tract of land near the mouth of Big Blue creek in or near section 28, in Saint Mary's township. He was a permanent resident here for more than the next thirty years.

IN 1830.—Joseph Mann settled in Preble township near what was later the Winchester road. He was a permanent resident.

IN 1831 came John Reynolds, who settled on the Saint Mary's river below where Decatur is now located and was one of the



proprietors of the present town site. In 1832 Samuel L. Rugg became interested with him in promoting the town of Decatur.

IN 1832—John K. Evans settled on the Wayne trace, northwest of Monmouth, and became a large land owner and permanent resident. He also became associate judge for the district of Allen county, which at that time comprised Adams county. In this same year Joel Roe and William Boram came and settled above Decatur on the Saint Mary's river on the lands now owned by Conrad Gillig and Elmer Johnson and the Myers estate. They were permanent residents. About this time Samuel L. Rugg took up by entry the lands where part of Decatur is situated. He was also a permanent resident and was the first justice of the peace of Root township, Allen county. His appointment was from the Allen county board of county commissioners in 1833. In this year Root township, Allen county, was organized on petition of Samuel L. Rugg. This same year came Esaias Daily and Jeremiah Roe. Mr. Daily, to what is eastern Saint Mary's township, was a tavern keeper on the Wayne trace, was also a stock dealer and farmer. Mr. Roe settled near his brother above Decatur, was a trader and said to be a very successful hunter.

IN 1833.—Peter Studabaker, Robert Simison and Daniel Miller came to the Wabash in the southern part of Root township (it was then), but now Wabash and Hartford townships. Peter Studabaker had lived on the Wabash at Fort Recovery and later in 1819 or 1820 moved to Jay county, just south of the Adams county line near Jay City. Robert Simison became a permanent resident in

1835, settling at what is now Beuna Vista, a town laid out by Mr. Simison in 1857. Mr. Studabaker died in 1840 at his home in Wabash township. Mr. Simison is yet living, the writer having interviewed him at the home of his son in Bluffton, Indiana, in the spring of 1907. He is now ninety-five years old and has a remarkably good memory for a man of his age.

IN 1833 and 1834 the following persons came to the county and were permanent residents: Ezekiel Hooper, James Niblack, Benjamin F. Gorsline, John S. Rhea, Enos W. Butler, Samuel Smith, Marvin R. Gorsline, Benjamin Pillars, Eli Zimmerman and William Lewis.

IN 1835—Zachariah Smith, William P. Rice, James M. Wilson, Benjamin Pillars, Vachel Ball, Thomas Ruble, David McKnight, William Heath, Sr.; Robert D. Tisdale and William Vance.

IN 1836.—Henry Juday, Levi Russell, Perry McDaniels, Michael Eley, Alexander Bolds, Riesen Todd, John H. Fuelling, Reuben Lord, Sampson Rice, Elisha V. Elzey, William D. Drummond, Justin Mann, George Conrad, Dedrich Buuck, Enos Mann, Andrew Daugherty, Charles W. Merryman, John B. Holthouse, George A. Dent and Benjamin B. Winans.

IN 1837 were John Deffenbaugh, Josephus Martin, Morgan Smith, Salem Clendenin, James Glendening, Samuel Sacket, Denison Tinkham, Lewis Andrews, Joseph T. Johnson, Peter Kizer, John Johnson, Abraham Sommers, Henry D. Fuelling, Noah Glass, John Reynolds, Henry Gerke, William McConnehey and Benjamin Rice.

IN 1838 were Josiah Crawford, Samuel Linton, Edward Shepherd, George Frank,



David Wisner, Enoch Bunner, Jacob Yager, Samuel Steele, Robert Drummond, Jacob Cline, Francis J. Gillig.

IN 1839.—Jacob Abnett, John Rumpel, Daniel Miller, Robert Daniels, Henry Martz, David Erwin, James Patterson, Ebenezzer Roebuck, Daniel Hines and Lawson Lenhart.

IN 1840 were Lewis Mattax, Amos Galic, James Dailey, Tilmon Rawley, Covey Galloway, James Robinson, William Abnett, John McConnell, Stephen R. Cowan, John W. Peterson, Robert Niblick, David Steele, John Meibers, J. D. Nutman, Daniel Jackson, Henry Dirks, Anthony Kohn, Daniel Coffee, George Fettich, George Spuller, Timothy Coffee, John Closs, Dr. William Trout, William E. Beineke, Philip Hartman, Benjamin F. Blossom, George Cline, John Fonner, Joseph Miller and Christian Blakey.

From 1840 on there was a constant stream of emigration into Adams and adjoining counties. However, the earliest residents were subjected to many inconveniences that were unknown to those who came a few years later, yet a better day was soon to dawn. Canals and railroads were to carry the lumber to the eastern ports. The Wabash & Erie Canal was opened in 1843 from Lake Erie at Toledo to Lafayette, then the head of boat navigation, on the Wabash. The Ohio & Pennsylvania Railroad, now the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago, was put in operation in 1855, and from that time on to the present time there has been a market for timber and means for transportation for lumber in its various forms. The first demands were for hoop poles, barrel staves and heading material. Mills and factories were located along the canal and the railroad

lines. It is said that Monroeville, the nearest railroad town to Decatur for fifteen years, had seven heading and stave factories all in operation at the same time. Next the market opened up for walnut, poplar and calico ash timber; this was shipped in saw logs and later in lumber to eastern cities. Later the massive oaks were cut and hewed to the square as long and large as they would make for ship timber. This was mostly forwarded by the way of the canal and northern lakes to the ocean ports, where it was reloaded for European markets. There were but few saw mills until there was a market for the lumber. The early ones were water ("rauley") mills of small capacity. In 1823 steamboats began to run on the Wabash river—though keel boats and rafting carried merchandise and produce to market on the rivers at a much earlier date. The great National road was completed through Ohio about 1830. This was a direct route from Cumberland, Maryland, to Wheeling, West Virginia, which is on the Ohio river; from there westward to Zanesville and a little north of Columbus and Piqua, on to Richmond, Greenfield and Indianapolis, Indiana. About this time many of the large Indian reservations in Ohio, and particularly those in the Wabash river valley, were bought by the United States government and offered for sale to actual settlers. Numbers of the early settlers came from the eastern states—as Virginia, Pennsylvania and Maryland—over the National road. From this great thoroughfare they came in on the Piqua and on the Fort Recovery and Huntington roads to Adams county.

It is said that these roads were cut into great "chuck holes" by the constant driving in wet weather; and that some inventive



"Yankee" on the ways and means committee devised a method to help the movers out and aid the shillings to find his own trousers pockets; that the Piqua road, or Wayne trace, in many places became almost impassable. That from Willshire to Fort Wayne it was allotted in sections of a mile or two each to ox-team owners, who levied tolls on the movers who got "stuck" in the low ground, mud and chuck holes; that the rate for pulling them out was a shilling for one hole or two chuck holes for a quarter of a dollar; that in the late fall and spring-time the "chuck-hole business" along this road was excelled only by the tavern business, which included nearly every dwelling house along the line. Though most of the early settlers of Adams county were from the eastern states, there were certain settlements of French, Swiss and Germans direct from Europe. The census of 1850 shows a French settlement in southern Kirkland and northern French townships; A German settlement in western Root and northern Preble townships, and a German settlement in northwestern Wabash and southwestern Monroe townships. At that time Hartford township reported but one German family, and Jefferson three German residents. Along about this time the speculators and land companies had their agents at work, sending shiploads of emigrants to take up farms in the fertile river valleys. Many an eighty-acre farm in Adams and adjoining counties was paid for with French or German gold at a few dollars an acre. Before 1835 there were very few white residents in Adams

county. Mills were in distant settlements, roads were but Indian trails or "by-roads," from one clearing to another. No streams were bridged. The earliest and nearest trading post to Adams county was Shane's Crossing until 1823, when Willshire had its beginning. Monmouth, the oldest town in the county, began in May, 1836. Soon the trading posts were supplanted by the country store. The civil townships were organized and taxes were paid to build roads and bridges. Settlements united and a well defined local government was instituted. About this time the trapper and fur trader moved further back from civilization and the actual settler began his clearings. He had well defined plans and had come to stay and develop the resources of the country. Mills were set up and started—a sure evidence of a new civilization. The blacksmith, the cooper and the wagon-maker each found something in his line to do. The potter, the tanner, the hatter and the weaver each did a profitable business. With her public utilities conducive to travel and transportation began a marked period of rapid development of the country's resources. In 1871 her first railroad was put into operation. This afforded additional facilities for markets and convenient transportation of products. A continuous advancement and steady improvement of the lands by drainage and the roads by bridging, grading and piking has changed the country from a huge native forest to a checker-board of grain fields, green meadows and pleasant country homes.



## OLD SETTLERS' MEETINGS AND EARLY PATRIOTISM.

We are told that patriotism emanates from the love of home and native land. The early residents of the "far west," as this country was called a half century ago, looked forward to the Fourth of July, the nation's birthday, as a special muster day, on which oratory and other animating stimulants would kindle the fires anew of the nation's devotion to the men whose names were once at the masthead of the ship of state, and who are responsible for floating the stars and stripes from sea to sea and from the lakes to the gulf. These celebrations were but outbursts of patriotic devotion. At that time many men were yet upon the public stage of action whose reminiscences are now history. The late Civil war has somewhat changed the public mind toward Decoration Day as a nation's commemoration day, and the leading lights in the dark and dangerous days of the American Revolution and the second war with England are to a certain extent eclipsed by the more recent achievements in holding the great American republic together as a federation of states, by one of the most sanguinary conflicts of the present century. Before the late war the nation's chief enemy was Great Britain. Public sentiment at home was as of one man—that of mutual defense and protection against all interfering foreign powers. For it has been truly said that "when there is a foreign foe within the lines of our own domain; when an enemy's torch has been set to our prosperous cities; when the boom of cannon in the distance and the pealing roll of the

enemy's drums sound nearer and nearer upon our ears; when we see our friends and neighbors hurrying forward with young and helpless children, fleeing from the wrath and destruction of an invading army, we are easily brought to the realization of the priceless value of liberty and native land." France was also a mutual rival and enemy of England's dominion and was a trusted and reliable friend of the stars and stripes and all that they meant at that time to the American republic of the United States. From the personal reminiscences of Christopher Stahley, a recent resident of Logan county, Ohio, who died a few year ago at the advanced age of one hundred and four years and who also was one of the last survivors of the "grand army" of Napoleon Bonaparte, we take the following extract: "I became a soldier at fifteen and was one of thirty thousand men who went with Napoleon to Egypt and was one of the first to enter Malta. I was with my command at the pyramids and participated in the terrible conflict with the Mamelukes. Then across the desert and through the isthmus of Suez to Gaza and Joppa and saw the one thousand five hundred men put to death for breaking their parole, and helped to annihilate the allied army of eighteen thousand men at Aboukir. It was in 1804 that we helped to proclaim him emperor and saw the preparations made to invade England. But England was spared and Austria was punished instead. \* \* \* Three years of preparation and we were on the road to the capital of Russia in that memorable campaign of 1812. There were four hundred eighty thousand of us



went forth to glory. Less than half of that number returned, and the most of them after being detained as prisoners. I saw them fall by battalions at Smolensk and Borodino and perish by grand divisions on the retreat from Moscow to Smorgoni. I personally attended the emperor to France, when he bade adieu to his soldiers at the latter city. \* \* \* I was one of the Old Guard. There is a blank in my memory and I do not know how I got back to Paris, but found myself there, and learned that my old commander was a prisoner at St. Helena. Then came the news of his death. I had taken part in fifty engagements, great and small, and had seen men die by the thousands, but that death affected me more than all the rest put together." The French as a people and as a nation were pleased to note our national prosperity and sympathized with us in our trials and defeats. Upon hearing of the death of General Washington, Napoleon Bonaparte, then first consul of France, announced the news to the army and commanded that black crape be suspended from all the standards and flags of France for ten days. From the close of the Revolutionary war until 1815 England secretly plotted the destruction of the American republic of the United States, and when America said "a foreigner can be naturalized and thus become an American citizen and enjoy all the rights and privileges as such," the British lion roared back, "Once an Englishman always an Englishman," and sent her Barkley, Brock, Gibbs and Packingham, fully armed, to prove it. The world knows the verdict. Commodore Oliver H. Perry writes his superior officer: "We have met the enemy and they are ours," etc. Then Old Glory ascends the spire of every public build-

ing in the land and waves victory to the world, while ten thousand tongues tell us that:

"The tenth of September  
Let us all remember  
As long as the world  
On its axis goes round.  
Our tars and marines  
On Lake Erie were seen  
To make the proud flag  
Of Britain come down."

Packingham and Gibbs met our own Andrew Jackson and the merry strain of song goes on:

"General Jackson was not scared at trifles  
For he knew what aim we took with our  
Kentucky rifles."

From that day to the present time "Han Hinglishman hasn't been han Hinglishman."

Frequently the occasion selected for public celebration was on the birthday of some national statesman or military hero. The birthday of Lafayette—the 6th of September—was a favorite date. As Lafayette fought by the side of Washington and made two visits to the United States after the war was over, the nation went wild in 1824 to do him homage and congress voted him a township of land and gave him a cash present of two hundred thousand dollars, escorted him back to France in a ship built especially for the purpose, called the "Brandywine" in commemoration of the battle of that name. Thomas Jefferson's birthday—April 2d, was another chosen day, and as his death occurred on July 4, 1826, the fiftieth anniversary of the nation's independence, he came into national prominence in



another way. Jefferson was United States minister to France in the stormy days of the French revolution and was a warm personal friend of Napoleon. William Henry Harrison, a successful Indian fighter and hero of "Tippecanoe," had his admirers who fanned his fame in memory. The great modern military hero, Andrew Jackson, was born on the 15th day of March and was held in high esteem by the friends of the American cause, as he to some extent vindicated the sting of French defeat at Waterloo by meeting face to face the battle-scarred veterans of Wellington, who overthrew Napoleon's military power, and defeated them with heavy loss at New Orleans. Great occasions give men of capacity and power an opportunity to use their abilities. Those who are successful are carried on the highest wave of public applause. The first sixty years of American independence the national enemies of the United States were European governments or their dependencies. Later her own internal disputes and finally the late Civil war has somewhat changed the nature of her patriotic demonstrations.

So far as relates to such meetings and celebrations in Adams county it seems that they are but in the memory of the oldest residents, with but little written record left to future generations. Perhaps the first Fourth of July celebration near Decatur, or Adams county, was held at Willshire, Ohio, in 1825. It must be remembered that Willshire is only about a half-mile east of the Adams county line and was the only milling point north of Dayton, Ohio, and near Adams county for a number of years. It is presumed that this celebration was a sample of others of the time, and shows the spirit and customs of the people of that day

in this region of country. The United States census of 1830 shows that Van Wert county, as it was then, had but forty-nine white inhabitants. Mr. Riley, in his reminiscences, states that there were seventy-five people sat down to the Fourth of July feast served at that time. Doubtless not all of these were from Ohio. The following is his record of that celebration:

"An arbor was erected under some oak trees on the river bank, just north of the mill, and a very long table of boards was formed. The meats were bear, venison, roast pig, turkey with chicken pie baked in tin milk basins in old New England style. \* \* \* The speakers' stand faced the east and was between two large trees. A salute was fired by charging the hole in a blacksmith's anvil, which made a loud report. The oration being ended, the people, to the number of about seventy-five, took their places at the table, which had been loaded with all the luxuries the country afforded. Mr. Golden Green, of Shane's Crossing, asked the blessing, and those who were skilled commenced to do the carving. \* \* \* After-dinner toasts were drunk, using what we called metheglin, made from honey, very delicious but not intoxicating. I only remember my father's toast, which was: 'The state of Ohio, the first born of the ordinance of 1787. May she lead the van in the cause of freedom and equity, etc.' My uncle Roswell sang some comic songs, also 'Perry's Victory' and 'Hull's Surrender.' A plank floor had been laid upon scantling on the ground, and a dance by torchlight wound up the first celebration of the Fourth of July in Van Wert county."

We are informed that in 1846 there was a Fourth of July celebration held in Decatur



as a tenth anniversary of the beginning of the town. This was doubtless the first meeting of the kind ever held in the county. The exercises of the day were begun by firing the anvil at sunrise and continuing at intervals throughout the forenoon. This aroused the town and brought people from the surrounding country for miles around. Martial music from fifes and drums enlivened the occasion. Samuel Linton and John Walker, with drum and fife from the Wabash; Mr. Fleming and Mr. King, from Decatur, and a band of two drums and a fife from out of the county, perhaps from Fort Wayne, discoursed the stirring national airs of the day. J. D. Nutman and some of his clerks provided the powder to keep the anvil chorus in tune, and after the dinner hour a procession was formed on Second street, the militia men in the lead, the oldest men in the crowd came next, then the general public, and marched to the courthouse square, dodging stumps in the street as they went, where a platform and bower had been erected for the speaker's stand. Flags and decorations made the tenth anniversary celebration of Decatur town one of the events in history. The oldest residents, with others, were seated on the speaker's stand, where it was more shady and comfortable. The Declaration of Independence was read by Samuel L. Rugg and short speeches were made and reminiscences related by some of the older men, who recited the many trials and troubles the nation and its individual people had passed through on its journey to the present time. The occasion was made more real by the presence of the militia company that marched in the procession and gave some drill exercises in the court yard. Some members of this company had flint lock mus-

kets and others were provided with small staffs cut from the growing grubs that lined the streets in several places. Though these were not guns, they answered for drill purposes on this occasion. Some of the members of this company were Samuel Patterson, John Reed, Joseph Miller, George Steele, J. M. Nutman and Samuel S. Mickle and others. The officer in command was Mr. Mickle. This celebration was not a great crowd of people, but it was thoroughly patriotic. In the audience was a white-haired old man, perhaps a soldier of the war of 1812, who sat close to one of the speakers, who is said to have been one of the local circuit rider preachers who was invited to participate in the exercises of the day. At the close of his remarks he made an eloquent reference to the national stars and stripes as they waved near him in the breeze. Then turning around he placed both hands upon the old man's head and said in substance; "Here is a long-haired, gray-headed brother who spent his youthful years to save his nation's colors from traitors' hands. God bless his old gray head." The minister's name was Jesse Sparks. This old man was William Nottingham, who then claimed to be one hundred and three years old. At that time he resided in what is now Kirkland township and was perhaps the oldest person that has ever lived in Adams county. After three cheers for the flag and the Union the celebration was over. The census of 1850 shows that the following persons were then residents of Adams county and were sixty years or more of age when the census was taken: William Nottingham, one hundred and seven years old; Ephriah Robinson, ninety-eight years old; Daniel Baumgartner, eighty-six; Solomon Fuller, eighty-five;



John Yost, eighty; Charles Selby, seventy-seven; Christian Kieffer, seventy-five; Elisha Leisure, seventy-five; John Smith, seventy-four; Robert Truesdale, seventy-two; Christian Young, seventy; William Brown, seventy; Daniel Harmon, sixty-nine; Joseph Ross, sixty-nine; Jonathan Ray, sixty-eight; John Buckingham, sixty-eight; John Augspurger, sixty-eight; Andrew Lucky, sixty-eight; Jacob Schroll, sixty-six; Jonathan Elzey, sixty-five; John Johnson, seventy-eight; Tunis Young, seventy-six; Leonard Shatzer, seventy-five; Roger Barton, seventy-five; John Gessinger, seventy-four; Abraham Baughman, seventy-one; John Cowan, seventy; George T. Baker, seventy; Samuel Allen, sixty-nine; Joseph Stoops, sixty-eight; Jacob Abnett, sixty-eight; Jacob Cook, sixty-eight; Holman Reynolds, sixty-eight; Jacob Schulte, sixty-six; William Elzey, sixty-six; Nicholas Ramey, sixty-three; Elisha Gulic, sixty-five; John Holmes, sixty-four; Alvan Randal, sixty-three; William Shepherd, sixty-two; Wade Lufborough, sixty-two; Nicholas Stuckey, sixty; John Cox, sixty; Alexander Stuart, sixty; John Fonner, sixty; Jacob Rush, sixty-five; John Pine, sixty-four; David S. Bennett, sixty-two; Simon Yutter, sixty-two; Christian Mersman, sixty-one; William Hill, sixty-two; William Syphers, sixty; George Hoffle, sixty; John Hart, sixty.

From 1850 to 1861 sectional strifes occupied the public mind in the United States, and pro and anti-slavery parties occupied the rostrum stump and pulpit, to the general demoralizing of the real true, sober, common-sense ideas of the people. Along about the latter part of 1865, upon the return of the soldiers from the United States service,

great public dinners were served, and the occasions were enlivened with much oratory and music. One of these in Fonner's grove, near Monmouth, was the first held of the kind after the soldiers' return. One later in the fall was held at the grove in the old county fair grounds southeast of Decatur. In this the Eleventh Indiana Cavalry, Forty-seventh Indiana and the Eighty-ninth Indiana Regiments were the principal participants. These meetings were replete with reminiscences of local statesmen and commanding officers of the late Civil war. They were repeated from year to year until the general observance of Decoration day rather took their place as a day of celebration.

In 1894 the "Old Settlers" meetings were revived, and on the 23d day of August of that year, after due publication and announcements in the local papers, convened in Shaffer's grove southeast of Decatur, near Bobo, in Saint Mary's township, and had a general reunion. The woods were tastefully decorated with flags and festoons of bunting gave the grounds a "Fourth of July" appearance. It is estimated that about two thousand five hundred people were in attendance. The speakers' stand just fluttered with flags and the young singers and the old white-headed men and women, who were placed in view upon the stage, or speakers' platform, made the picture one not often witnessed. The forenoon was occupied by reception committees, locating the buggies and wagons throughout the grove, and the social conversation and greetings of old friends and neighbors, some of whom had long been absent from Adams county, and the rival efforts of the various bands of music present for the occasion. The greater part of the afternoon was taken up by speech-making

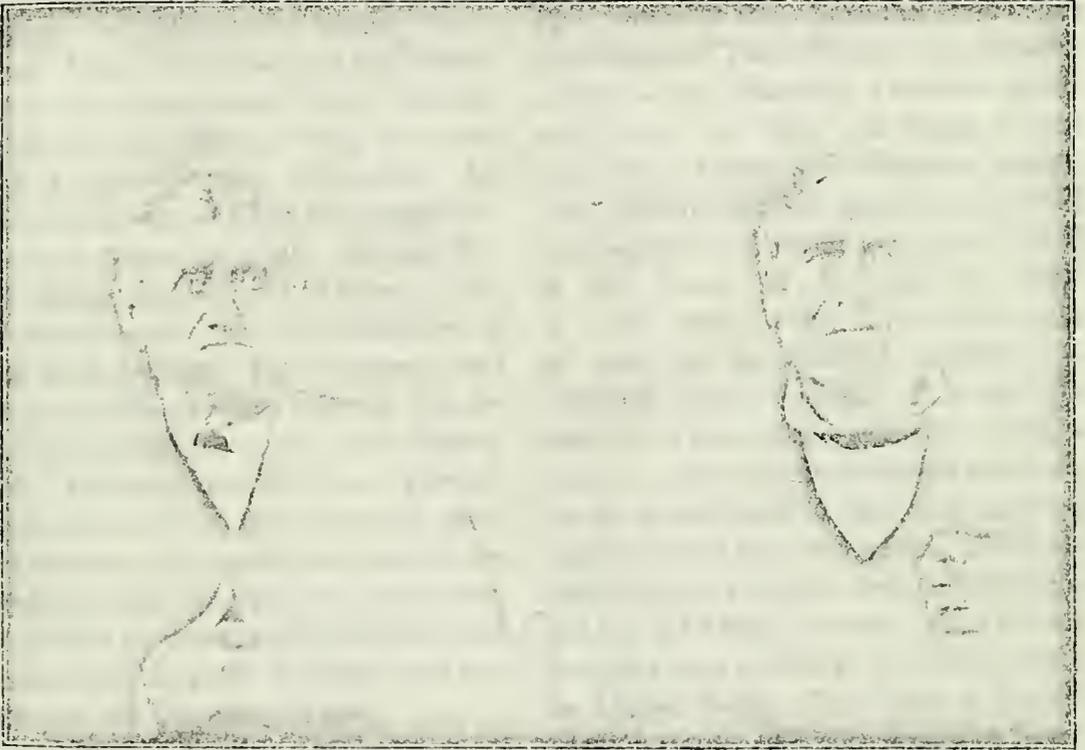


and reminiscences of early settlers interested in the cause of the pioneer. Among those who took part in the exercises were Samuel Shaffer, of Saint Mary's township; David Studabaker, of Washington township; Norval Blackburn, of Decatur; Jacob S. Hart, of Decatur; Joshua Bright, of Kirkland township; John Woy and Jonathan Fleming, of Root township; Norman Acker, William Comer, William Jackson, Joseph W. Smith and John E. Teeple, of Saint Mary's, and J. T. Archbold and Jerry Archbold, of Decatur and Root township. Alva Miller, of Union township, sang a pioneer song and Dr. J. Q. Neptune sang "The Old House and Home." Rev. B. F. Kohn and his church choir of Willshire, and the M. E. church choir of Bobo, and Rev. Freehand, of Monroe circuit, aided in the oratorical and musical part of the program. An enrollment of the old attendants was started, but several of the oldest had gotten tired and gone home before their names and ages were secured. Therefore the following list of attendants is by no means complete: Christina Kern, eighty-eight years old; Frederick Knavel, seventy-eight years old; Harmon Boose, seventy-seven; Mrs. Charles Roebuck, seventy-five; Daniel Welty, seventy-two; David Schaffer, seventy-two; Jane Struby, seventy-one; James Crosier, seventy; David Studabaker, sixty-seven; Conrad Schnepf, sixty-two; George Gladden, sixty-eight; M. Brodbeck, sixty-nine; Mary Scheep, sixty-two; George Gladden, sixty-eight; Ezra Lister, sixty-nine; William Cromer, sixty-two; Joshua Bright, fifty-eight; Joel Falk, fifty-five; Adam Ault, seventy-six; James Faust, seventy-four; Charles Miller, seventy-two; John Meibers, seventy-two; Nancy Robinson, seventy; John Cra-

mer, seventy; Jacob Buhler, sixty-nine; Alva Miller, sixty-eight; David Gleckler, sixty-one; Christ Schomlow, sixty-three; Henry Chronister, sixty-five; S. H. Schaffer, sixty-eight; Joseph Johnson, sixty; Leonard Johnson, sixty; Andrew Teeple, fifty-eight; E. Roebuck, fifty-five.

At this meeting David Studabaker was chosen president, Samuel A. Schafer vice president, Norval Blackburn secretary and treasurer. The next meeting convened in September, 1895, at Steele's park, and a general basket dinner was served. The Decatur city band furnished the music, and Hon. John T. France was the orator of the day. The last old settlers' meeting of any consequence occurred on the first day of September, 1898, in Christainer's grove, about a mile west of Decatur. The principal address of the day was delivered by Rev. C. W. Pierce, then pastor of the Baptist church at Decatur. At this meeting were some very old people and regrets were received and read from some others who were residents of the county but who were unable to be in attendance. The oldest person present was "Uncle" Johnnie Reed, of Root township, who then lacked but eight months of being a hundred years old, his ninety-ninth birthday having been April, 1899. Daniel Welty, Ezra Lister and David Studabaker were the three next oldest persons present, each nearing three-quarters of a century in years, Ezra Lister having lived in Adams county seventy-one years. "Uncle" Johnnie McGriff, one of the famous McGriff twins, at that time resided with his son, Mike McGriff, at Geneva, Indiana, and sent his regrets at not being able to be present at the old settlers' meeting. He and his twin brother, Richard McGriff, have an interest-





RICHARD McGRIFF.

JOHN McGRIFF.

McGRIFF TWINS.



ing history, some of which will be herein given as related to us. On the 31st day of August, 1804, John and Richard McGriff were born in what is now Darke county, Ohio, near where the city of Greenville is now situated. They were reared to manhood in Ohio and later came to reside in Indiana. Until the 10th day of March, 1899, these two brothers bore the distinction of being the oldest twins in the United States. John McGriff outlived his brother, the date of his death being August 29, 1900, lacking just two days of being ninety-six years of age at the time of his death. He was nearly always well and was bedfast but three days before his death. Richard McGriff died on the 10th day of March, 1899, after more than a year of indisposition, at times being bedfast. These brothers were strongly attached to each other by the ties of brotherly affection, as well as by kindred blood. For more than fifty years previous to their deaths it was their custom to spend their birthday in a reunion and have a fine birthday dinner. In their later years Richard McGriff lived at Deerfield, Indiana, with his unmarried daughter, Elizabeth, who kept house for him for many years.

John McGriff lived at Geneva with his son, Mike McGriff, ex-county sheriff of Adams county, Indiana. In August, 1898, these remarkable twin brothers held their last birthday reunion at Mike McGriff's, in Geneva, this being their ninety-fourth birthday anniversary. In their younger years, it is said, that their most intimate friends only could tell them apart, as voice, actions and movements were almost identically the same. As time wore on Richard showed the hand of "Father Time" first, and the later days of his life he was in feeble health. John was

robust to the last, never using a cane in his walking or spectacles to aid his sight. In politics both were democrats and much devoted to the cause of democracy. Each was married. The wife of John was Mary Brannon, who died nearly sixty years before her husband. Their children were Simon and Mike McGriff, who are both living. The wife of Richard McGriff was Mary Saint Clair, who died about forty-five years before her husband. Their children were seven in number—John, Valentine, Lawrence, Emerson, Teresa (now Mrs. J. B. Sype), Martha (now Mrs. Moyer) and Elizabeth, unmarried. Richard McGriff died at the home of his daughter in Deerfield and John McGriff at the home of his son in Geneva and these twins are buried side by side in the Deerfield cemetery, in Randolph county, Indiana. It is said that these twins never used spectacles, a cane or tobacco. They were stock dealers and farmers the greater part of their lives until age interfered with their occupations, which was when they were nearing their eightieth year. For the last fifteen or twenty years of their lives they were ranked as the oldest twins in the United States. They have a brother, Parke McGriff, who now resides at Greenville, Ohio, who is in the ninetieth year of his life and is hale, hearty and active for a man of his age.

Another of the very earliest settlers of the southern part of the county that merits mention in this connection is John Walker. He came to Adams county in 1840 and settled about a mile south of where Geneva is now located, on what then was known as the Fort Recovery and Flint Springs trace. This was near the south boundary of the county, near the Limberlost creek. He was born in



Guernsey county, Virginia, in 1806, came to Darke county, Ohio, in 1820 and subsequently moved to Indiana. His nearest neighbors, and only ones, for five or six years were Peter Studabaker, John Goff, Samuel Linton, James Williams, George Baker and Charles Neison. Mr. Walker was a typical hunter of his time. It is said that he killed a large number of deer, bear and some other large game. As the southern part of the county settled up faster than that in Monroe township, he moved down northeast of where Berne is now situated, built another cabin and pursued his vocation—that of a hunter and trapper. His wife died in 1856 and he then went to live in Wabash township with his sister, Mrs. John Bricker. Long after the larger game had disappeared he hunted and trapped the smaller fur-bearing animals along the river and tributary streams. The last act of his life was to sit and watch for a squirrel that his dog had treed. On his not returning home as was his custom at evening a search revealed the fact of his sudden death on the evening of May 28, 1884, with gun in hand, leaning back against a tree as though he were asleep. He was dead. On the 30th day of May, when the nation strews flowers on the graves of her faithful dead, he was buried in the Burris graveyard on the banks of the Limberlost, a short distance from where he built his first cabin home along in the forties.

Another one of the very old people who was for a long time a resident of Adams county was Sarah Hoskinson. She was nearly ninety-four years old when she died. Sarah Beard, the wife of Andrew Hoskinson, was born June 1, 1790, near Martinsberg, Virginia, and died at Ceylon, Indiana,

on the 21st day of March, 1884, lacking but a couple of months of ninety-four years old. She in some respects was more vigorous than many younger persons. Her sight and hearing were perfect to the day of her death. She seldom used a cane in walking, and always moved about as she wished without assistance from any one. Her hair at the time of her death was but a silvery gray, and she had a good and well defined memory of past events which written history of the times prove to be quite accurate and correct. Her father's name was Andrew Beard and he was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. Her mother's people's name was Tate and they lived in northern Virginia. In 1808 her parents removed from Virginia to Licking county, Ohio, near Newark. In October, 1813, she was married to Andrew Hoskinson, with whom she lived for more than sixty years. She was the mother of twelve children, but one of whom, Mrs. Daniel Hupp, of Linville, Ohio, is now living. She outlived most of her children and to see twenty-two grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren. In 1863 she and her husband came with their son, Andrew J. Hoskinson and his family, to Indiana and settled south of Salem, in Blue Creek township, and in 1871—her husband having died—removed with her son to Ceylon, where she resided the remainder of her life. She ever had a pleasant place in her memory for the beautiful hillside groves and springs of running, clear, cool, fresh water in her childhood Virginia home. In the days of her girlhood Virginia was a slave state and she well remembered many incidents that were connected with the management of the negroes. One she related was of a slave boy perhaps sixteen or eighteen years old that



persisted in clubbing the horses and cattle without any particular cause. He had been frequently admonished and whipped for this offense, but seemingly to no purpose. His owner, who was one of her father's neighbors, stripped him naked and tied him with a chain to a hitching post in front of his residence one Sunday morning that the people who went to church might see him and know that "he was a mean nigger." She said that he looked so ashamed and guilty that she could never forget him. There are yet two other old people who are now living that we wish to mention in this connection. The one is Mrs. Caroline T. Ferry, of Decatur, and the other is Robert Simison, of Beuna Vista, or Linn Grove, as it is sometimes called.

Mrs. Caroline T. Ferry, the wife of Lucian P. Ferry, deceased, was born in Detroit, Michigan, on the 10th day of September, 1814, and at this time is nearly ninety-three years old. When a child but three months old she, with her parents, came to Fort Wayne. Her father, Louis T. Bourie, a Frenchman, an Indian trader and interpreter at the military post, continued to live in Allen county until the time of his death, and his daughter, the subject of this sketch, has lived in Allen and Adams counties nearly the period of her entire life, ninety-three years. Some fifteen years ago she came to Decatur to reside with her daughter, Mrs. Dr. W. P. McMillen, with whom she now resides. In August, 1831, she was married to Lucian P. Ferry. To them were born five children, three of whom, Mrs. R. D. Boyles, Mrs. Dr. McMillen and Colonel C. P. Ferry, are now living. Her two other daughters, Mrs. Eweing, died in 1845, and Mrs. Hedges, in 1847. Her husband died in 1844.

Mrs. Ferry is remarkably well preserved, both in mind and body. Her intellect is bright and memory seemingly as clear as that of many persons of thirty years her junior. Her hair is but a silvery gray. In 1900 she attended the "Old Settlers' Association" of Allen county and was made an honorary life vice president of the association and presented a gold medal on account of her being the oldest living settler of the county. On the 10th day of September, 1904, on her ninetyth birthday, a surprise was given her at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. McMillen, on which occasion she sang a song and related some very interesting reminiscences of her early life's trials and triumphs. She tells us that when she was a mere child she went to school to a Baptist minister, who taught one of the first schools at Fort Wayne in the old fort building about 1821-2; that she well remembers the carrying of supplies down the Saint Mary's and Maumee rivers in broad, long canoes called pyrogues; that along about from 1820 to 1830 provisions were hauled in covered wagons from Piqua, Ohio, to Fort Wayne; that her husband bought one of the first cook stoves that was brought to Fort Wayne. It was a very heavy affair, with a furnace underneath and places for kettles and pots at the top; its iron walls may have been an inch thick. Those seeing it first called it a "saddle bags." She well remembers seeing General Lewis Cass in 1843, when the first canal boat was started on the federal canal; that they had a big dinner and feast and all had wooden plates but one old piece of chinaware that was put to the place of General Cass; that he pushed it aside and said that wooden plates were made to eat on. (As though English china



was to be seen and not used.) The husband of Mrs. Ferry was a lawyer of some note and was a state's representative, at which time the subject of this sketch took a "peep" into the early state capitol of Indiana and at the fashionable wave of society of that day. She says that in those days men wore no beard, but made up in satin vests and ruffled shirt fronts; that the ladies did not all wear homespun, as we sometimes hear they did, but fine silks rustled then as now, but the styles then were very pretty. She tells us that her parents and those of her husband were all French people; that her father-in-law was an aid-de-camp of Napoleon Bonaparte and came to the United States after the downfall of the emperor.

Robert Simison is one of the oldest residents of Adams county. His father, John Simison, was a soldier in the war of 1812 and in 1818 settled at Fort Recovery, Ohio, when Robert was but seven years old. In 1822 his parents died and from that time till manhood he lived with near relatives—much of the time with his sister and her husband, Peter Studabaker. About 1820 Mr. Studabaker settled in the northeast corner of Jay county, just across the Wabash river from the present village of Jay City, but soon returned to Fort Recovery and remained there until the summer of 1833, at which time he and his two brothers-in-law, Robert and Erwin Simison, and John and William McDowel, came to what is now Wabash township and erected a cabin house on the west bank of the Wabash river near the center of section 17, near what is now known as the "Price bridge." The McDowel brothers and Mr. Studabaker went back to Fort Recovery, but returned early in 1834 and became

permanent residents. The McDowels settled about five miles south of Mr. Simison in Jay county. Robert Simison, the subject of this sketch, remained and completed the cabin that it be ready to live in on the arrival of Mr. Studabaker and his family, thus making him a few months earlier as a permanent resident than any other who settled in the south part of the county. Mr. Simison informs us that there were but few white residents in the county at that time; that a Mr. Thompson on the prairie, a Mr. Ayres at the east of the county and Vaschal Ball on the Saint Mary's river, near what later was the Winchester road, about completed the list; that Ball's land was near the military camp grounds on the Indian trail along the south side of the Saint Mary's river; that on the bank of the Wabash river, near where the Studabaker cabin was built, were two Indian wigwams; they were made of poles sided in and covered with white elm bark, that had been cut in lengths of about five or six feet long and peeled from the trees in summer-time, put up while yet fresh from the tree; that they were some protection from the elements of the weather, as the bark was well tied together, and the joints, covered as in the shingling of a house; that in these wigwams he and the others of his party camped while they were cutting the logs and raising the Studabaker cabin; that until he had the cabin roofed and chinked he lodged and lived in one of these wigwams; that they were built, as he was informed, by a hunting party of Miami Indians, whose reservation was near Roanoke or Peru, Indiana; that frequently he could hear the howls of wolves and the rustling in the leaves around the wigwam at night; that



the only town in the county until 1836 was Manheim, which was laid out by J. R. Britton; that William Lewis, a mulatto man, "Nigger Lewis," as he was called, laid out Monmouth in 1836; that Phillips and Beauchamp laid out Jim Town in 1838 and sold the lots at public auction; that some of them sold for as much as twenty dollars apiece. In answer to the question, "Can you speak the Indian language?" he informed me that he could understand much of it and could talk some; that "see-fee" meant deer; that "pesh-wa" was wildcat; that "mac-quash" was bear; that "nippe" was water, and "talie-maw" was tobacco; that in 1829 he saw two of the sons of one of the noted outlaws, Girty, at Fort Recovery; that they were half-breeds—part Indian and part white man—had black eyes, but bushy, shaggy hair; that they dressed in full Indian attire, with hunting shirt, etc., as the others of their tribe; that he was told that they went west in 1832 with their associates and located in Kansas. Robert Simison was born in Warren county, Ohio, on the 7th day of November, 1811. His father was a Scotchman, who formerly resided in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania. The subject of this sketch, when he was about twenty-four years old, entered a fine tract of land on the Wabash near the present village of Buena Vista, about a hundred acres of which he still owns. This land cost him one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre and he at this time has three separate land warrants issued direct to him by the government. These are signed by Martin VanBuren, then President of the United States. In 1857 he laid out the town of Buena Vista. About that time a grist mill was built there and a store started by a man

whose name was Souers. The town had quite a growth for a new country and many buildings were soon put up. On the 17th day of November, 1836, Mr. Simison was married to Miss Rebecca Davis, who resided near what is now Murray, Indiana. His marriage license was gotten at Fort Wayne, as at that time the separate county governments of Adams and Wells counties had not been fully established. Soon after marriage he and his young wife moved into their new cabin home and there resided continuously until in 1874, at which time they deserted it for a new and commodious frame residence. Mr. Simison says that "ours was a round log cabin, about twenty feet square, and was built entirely without nails. Wooden hinges, puncheon floor, stick chimney, with stone jambs and hearth; clapboard roof, held in place by heavy weight poles. Though primitive in construction, this cabin was as good and even larger than those of some of my neighbors."

To them were born eight children—three sons, George, John and Samuel—all of whom are living, and five daughters—Margaret and Catherine, who are living, and Mary, Eliza and Sarah, now deceased.

For the first ten years of his stay in Adams county some of his nearest neighbors were Peter Studabaker, four miles up the river; George French, three miles down the river; Joseph Walker, on the Limberlost, and Samuel Linton, who lived near him, about six miles distant. Charles Nelson and George Baker, six or seven miles up the river, and James McDowel, who lived six miles south in Jay county. It is doubtless a fact that Mr. Simison had the first apple orchard in Adams county. However, "Johnnie Appleseed," a Swedenborger itinerant, had planted



a few trees in the neighborhood of New Corydon at an early date. One tree in that orchard is now said to measure ninety-two inches in circumference at the ground and is still bearing fruit. Mr. Simison relates the planting of an orchard in this manner: "I was in Piqua, Ohio, in 1835 and a man was selling apples on the street. I bought my saddlebags full and brought some of them with me to Indiana. As I ate them I saved the seeds and put them into my vest pocket. I saved them all and planted them. Soon I had some young trees, which I set out and started an orchard. The trees did well and we soon had apples. When I came here the mails were carried through from Richmond and Winchester to Fort Wayne on horseback. Then there was but two houses on the route between Winchester and Fort Wayne, so far as I heard of. One was Peter Studabaker's at the Wabash and the other Vaschel Ball's at the Saint Mary's river. Jesse Conner was the first mail carrier that I recollect. He carried the mail from 1840 to some time in 1850. At that time the lands throughout this part of the state were taken up and bought from the government. It would not take paper money as payment for the reason that some of the bank notes were worthless. Mr. Conner usually forded the river near Studabaker's, but in high water had to come down the river to Jim Town. The mail carrier carried money from Winchester to Fort Wayne to make payment on

lands for those who wished to enter it. He rode one horse and led one, and I well remember one time when I helped him put the saddlebags on the horse and I took hold of one end and he the other, and we had a pretty fair lift to get it on the horse. That time he had between two thousand and three thousand dollars in the saddlebags—all in gold and silver money."

Mrs. Robert Simison was born on the 24th day of June, 1818, in Greene county, Tennessee, and died at her home in Buena Vista on the 11th day of March, 1903. Mr. Simison is still living and now is the oldest continuous resident of the county—having lived here for nearly seventy-five years. In appearance he at this time would not seem to be more than seventy years old. He stands erect, about five feet eight inches, and weighs about one hundred and eighty pounds. His sight and hearing are good. His memory is stored with facts that the written history and records of the times fully corroborate. And we are told that he sleeps well and has the appetite of a schoolboy. He wears no beard, is neatly dressed and carries a large walnut cane. He has always been temperate in all things, never having used tobacco or liquors in any form. That he will live to see the century mark, at least, is within the greatest probability, as not one man in many hundreds of his age can be found with the seeming vitality that is possessed by this grand old pioneer.

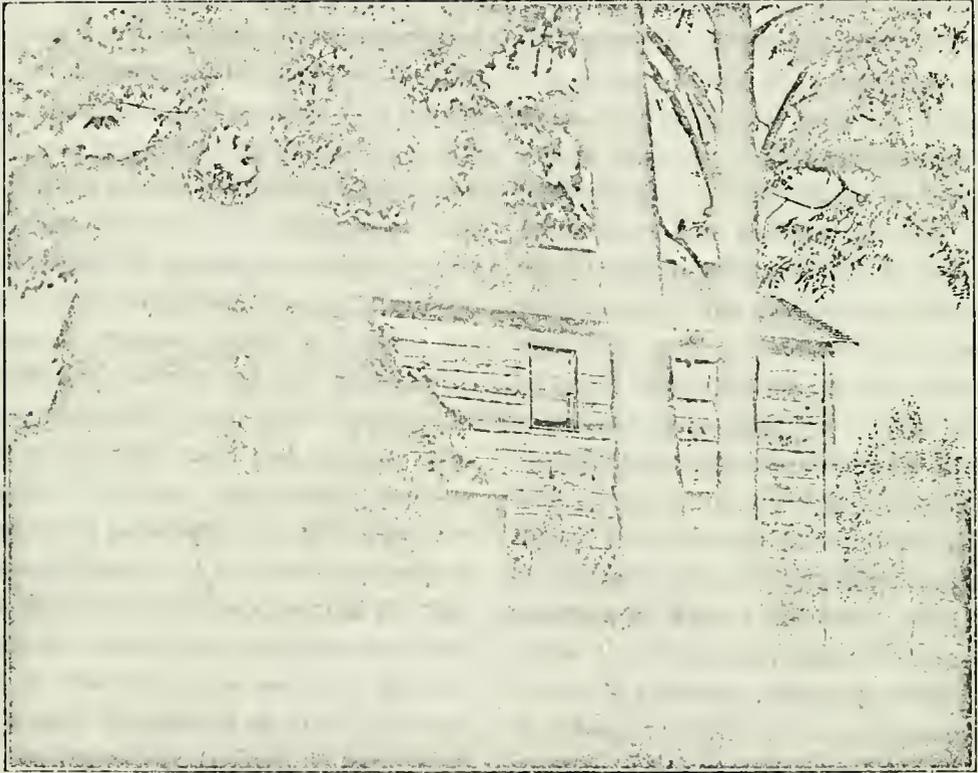
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### PALACE OF THE PIONEER.

The forest home, the most natural to the frontiersman, has long since passed away. Then came the "palace of the pioneer," the

double two-story hewed log mansion. Not many of the original pioneers lived to enjoy the comforts of the fine modern two-story





PALACE OF THE PIONEER



frame residence such as is commonly seen now throughout the country. However, a few of the pioneer palaces yet remain as landmarks of an earlier age. With the new settlers came those luxuries, unknown to their progenitors, as to us, their descendants, grandchildren. The cowbell or dinner horn, the hominy block, the flax hackle or even a grubbing hoe will ere the next generation have gone from use and be as antiquated relics, held in museums to prove the development of the past in this country. To the old pioneer, and to some of his descendants, perhaps, there is no relic that more forcibly impresses him than the old dinner horn. Its tones, in early life, caused deep and profound impressions on his sensitive ears. Even yet it brings to memory many enlivening occurrences, such as rich and well baked corn-pones served with brown baked venison, or of late suppers of mush and milk, or perchance of "Old Gray," who would stop and whinny while plowing in the field when the horn would blow. As we pass from city to city on the electric cars, or drive out through the country we yet here and there see landmarks of time that once were the fine old farm houses, the second or third in order of the residents of that farm. When taking your carriage ride some fair, fine day, away over in yonder field you may notice a few large old fruit trees that are the remains of the once fine orchard. That tumbled-down old house has a history. See, its chimney tops have crumbled off. The window sashes are broken. The doorless doorway is closed no more. That is a sheepfold now. It was once the second residence home of the yeoman pioneer. There his children left him, one by one; there what to him was on earth most dear has surrendered to fate.

The water drawn by that wind-pump over there to him was much less sweet than when brought up by the moss covered bucket, attached to the huge grape vine sweep. Then he was surrounded by a group of prattling children, who have long since grown to manhood and womanhood and found homes in other climes. Say! here comes a son of that veteran whose father built yonder house. Can he tell its history? Sir, to us the patriot and pioneer should have a place in history's niche. Can you relate the story of that once stately mansion? "By your permission, sir, I give it as it was given me by my father's father more than thirty years ago. He was one of the very first settlers in this part of this country. He told me that the past to him was an open book, from whose pages he could read the tour of life from childhood to an age of four score years." Said he: "In childhood days the trees were all covered with blossoms and every day to me was sunshine. In my distant mountain cottage home in Massachusetts, with my parents, brothers, sisters and friends the days were ever a round of rollicking pastime and joy. There I grew to manhood; there my earliest pangs of defeat and my first successes were known to me. The turning point in life's great drama came. Then the 'apple of my eye' became the companion of my life to share a new home, far away beyond the mountains. Ah, that eventful day; how its picture as of yesterday appears upon the scroll of time. When I parted with my dear old childhood home and my good, gray-haired parents pronounced their benediction upon my head and to my bride and I gave their parting blessing. We proceeded on our way, fearing the worst, though hopeful of the most ample bounties bestowed upon the honest,



energetic and deserving. To me my future was the morning of a new bright day, whose sun will ever shine. My bride, in health and beauty, all hope that our journey to the far west will be safe and that our cabin in the clearing will be congenial to our tastes and likings. The first season in our forest home; those dreadful chills and that burning fever took many roses from my fair one's cheeks, yet she was true and kind and faithful still. That long and lonesome winter, those longing anticipations of our coming visit to the old Bay state, to our parental fireside of a year ago. New charms will ingratiate themselves; they in time will be demanding admittance and attention. An 'olive branch' at our home. A new care—the monarch of a new kingdom—a first born son. Year to year adds new tints to the picture of our western country home. Year by year our cares grew greater, as a new sample package was added to our family name. Our farm from year to year was opened to the plow. New lands were bought with the proceeds of our industry. We were all at home, all well, and all happy. How truthfully said that in the rounds of time life's history is repeated. Our eldest son became a man, a wedding feast marked his parting day. The high noon of our enjoyment had come. The objects of our patient care and toil left us one by one. Our once secluded country home was now surrounded by dwellings similar to our first modest home. Our cabin now doesn't suit the girls; it has a loft and but one apartment; times demand an imposing six-room dwelling at least. The wife of my youth pleads that the 'young people should have a chance.' It was once quite good enough for all, but served its time. That once fine 'pioneer palace' of which

yonder is but the walls was built to please the children who are now all married and gone. The day it was completed we held a reunion of all our neighbors and relations. Had the finest all-night dance ever known in this settlement. New honors smiled upon the family and papa foots the bills; fixtures and furniture unheard of before, even one room had carpets and a melodian that cost seventy-five dollars. The time for joy and gayety is here—the friends, the music, the banquet, the old Virginia reel and all hands-round—and grandpa must dance just once more for luck and fun. I was grandpa and with the double-shuffle must adapt myself to the new surroundings and duties of the hour. Party after party was planned to follow each other, one by one the harvests came, wedding after wedding followed each other in distressingly close succession. Soon sadly we waited for the Sundays to come to bring the children home. Sorrowfully its evening sun saw us looking down the lane toward the road as the last rattling wheels bore the wagons out of sight. The thread of life has worn frail by time's relentless tread. Our once steady steps are tottering as we aimlessly stroll about the farm our youthful strength had cleared. Our house was the finest in the settlement, yet we were not the most happy. Our children are each and all in new homes of their own; our grandchildren remind us of our youthful days with our own sons and daughters at our side, in our cabin home of years ago. The winters now seem longer and colder than ever before. That sudden change last March left me alone; the wife of my youth has left but me to relate this story." Grandpa has been dead these score of years. That fine stock farm has long since been di-



vided and now makes comfortable homes for his sons and daughters and their children.

The emotionless pen of history spare the record. Soon the story of the old settler will be told. Soon the last of the early residents will have passed to the great beyond and received his reward. "Father time" sternly and relentlessly mows on and on and each winter's sun casts his feeble rays upon a newly made mound on the hillside under which rests the remnant of what was a nation's pride, a stalwart hero, or heroine, who helped to stamp freedom on a nation's customs and integrity upon her people—the old resident pioneer to the present civilization. The two-story hewed log house or "pioneer palace" was not so very common in Adams county, for as the settlements demanded sawmills, lumber was furnished for buildings. Quite a large number of the most public-spirited and progressive of our county's citizens never even enjoyed the luxuries of the "palace," for theirs was but the single story one-room cabin. The following are some brief notices of a few of the early aggressive pioneer residents:

David McDonald, one of the early state representatives and sheriffs of Adams county, was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, in September, 1805, and died near Quincy, Iowa, on the 8th day of May, 1882. In 1828 he was married to Miss Mary Ball, of near Sharon, Ohio. Her parents were Quakers. He was a millwright by trade and built several large grist mills near Hamilton and Cincinnati. In 1845 he and his brothers, Andrew and Samuel, came to reside in Adams county, and brought land near the Wabash river, close to the home of Peter Studabaker, one of the first residents in the southern part of the county. When he came

to this part of the state his family consisted of himself, wife and two sons, Napoleon B. and Levi T. McDonald, and two daughters, Rebecca H., who subsequently married Dr. B. B. Snow, and Charlotte E., who became the wife of Ignatius Hook. The two sons and Mrs. Hook are still living. Mrs. Dr. Snow died at the Snow homestead in Ceylon on the 24th day of March, 1873. David McDonald was an energetic, ardent Democrat of the Andrew Jackson type. His friends were many and devoted to him, while his opponents had but to wake him up to receive all that was coming to them, at least either intellectually or physically. His energies and abilities soon attracted general attention and won for him recognition as an organizer and a political leader. In 1847 he was elected as a member of the Indiana state legislature for the counties of Adams and Wells, and served with credit and distinction in the sessions of 1847 and 1848. In 1850 he was elected sheriff of Adams county and was re-elected in 1852 and in 1856, serving three terms, in which time he discharged every duty with promptness and fidelity. At that day some parts of the country were infested with dangerous counterfeits and horsethieves. Daniel Miller, a farmer, whose home was south of Bluffton on the Wabash, was shot and killed while attempting to arrest a desperado in 1862 who had stolen a horse and some other property. An incident is related of Mr. McDonald's management of a horsethief he was taking to the state's prison at Jeffersonville in 1856. The thief in question wore an overcoat and was handcuffed. He claimed to be too warm and wanted the coat taken off. Mr. McDonald suspected his design, as to remove the coat without destroying it the handcuffs

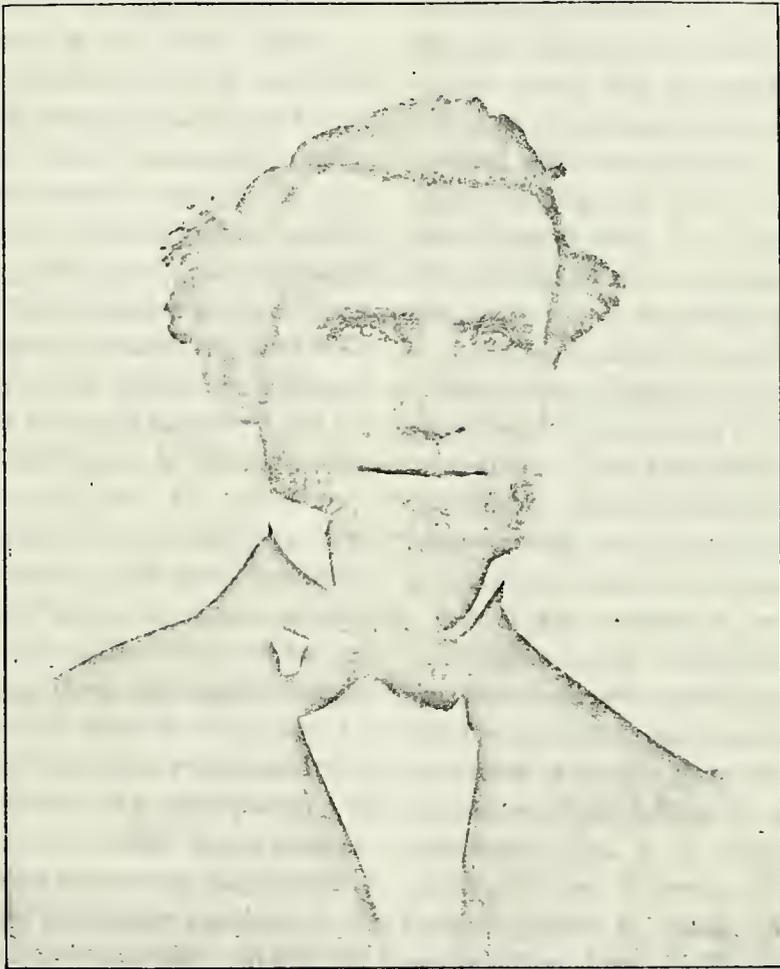


would have to be taken off. Then an opportunity would be afforded for the thief's escape. After some deliberation the sheriff said, "Well, if you insist on it I will take the coat off for you." "Well," said the thief, "I do insist; I don't want to be roasted this way." He had hardly finished the sentence when McDonald took out a short, sharp dirk knife and cut the coat sleeves from the wrists of each to the shoulder and dropped the coat back on the seat of the hack or stage in which they were riding. From that time on the prisoner was silent and perhaps more comfortable than he had been. In 1858 Mr. McDonald's wife died and he removed with his sons to Iowa. Soon the Civil war began and he wanted to be a soldier but was too old to meet the requirements. His hair then was showing some gray; he had it dyed black and shaved off all of his beard and enlisted in an Iowa volunteer cavalry company and served until the close of the war. He was a color sergeant within this time and had three horses shot and killed while he was riding them. He was a Presbyterian in religion and an ardent friend, sociable and entertaining in society and always had a host of acquaintances about him. Judge David Studabaker's father lived just across the Wabash river from the home of Mr. McDonald and the judge and he were lifelong mutual friends. In the early years of his life much encouragement and assistance politically and otherwise were given him by Mr. McDonald.

Dr. Barton B. Snow came to Indiana in 1837 and settled south of Camden, in Jay county, with his father, James Snow, whose former home was Sandusky, Ohio. The father of James Snow resided in eastern

Massachusetts and was of direct English descent. His mother, Eleanor Tate, was of Irish parentage, who came to Pennsylvania and settled in Westmoreland county, in which the subject of this sketch was born on the 15th day of April, 1820. Along in the forties the common school advantages on the Indiana frontier were quite limited, and Barton B. Snow and his brother, James B. Snow, worked together at clearing land and making rails to obtain funds with which to educate themselves. They in the meantime took up the study of medicine. Barton B. studied with Dr. Milligan about three years at Portland, Indiana; attended the Louisville Medical College and graduated in 1854. On the 21st day of October, 1850, he was married to Miss Rebecca H. McDonald, who was born on the 10th day of June, 1829, at Somerville, Ohio, of Scotch-English ancestry, of Quaker parentage. In 1845 she with her parents settled in section 17, in Wabash township, and there resided until David McDonald, her father, was elected sheriff of Adams county in 1850, then removed to Decatur. To this union were born nine children, three of whom—Mary, Florence and Homer B.—died in infancy; Luella, who died at the age of seventeen, and Solon McD., at adult manhood, on the 27th day of October, 1890; and Ella, who was intermarried with Rev. Noah Brandyberry, died at Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1892. Those now living are: Ada V. and Loretta G. Snow, who are now and have been for some time residents of Los Angeles, California, and the author hereof, John F. Snow, of Decatur. On the 24th day of March, 1873, Rebecca H. Snow departed this life at the old homestead in Ceylon and is buried in the family cemetery near the banks of the Wabash





B. B. SNOW, M. D.



river. During the greater part of her life she was a member of the Methodist church. Dr. Barton B. Snow, her husband, was a local Methodist preacher from 1853 to 1860, but with him politics and religion did not harmonize, as during the slavery agitation ministers were expected to deliver such messages as were sent them by the officers high in authority in the church, which in some instances smattered more of a political harangue than a mission of Christ and Him crucified. The doctor consequently withdrew from the ministry, though he frequently preached throughout the country neighborhood. After graduation he began the practice of his profession at New Corydon, in Jay county, Indiana, and met with good success from the beginning of his career. Within a few years he bought out his preceptor, Dr. Milligan, at Portland, and practiced there until 1860. In 1858 he purchased a one-hundred-and-twenty-acre farm north of Alexander, in Wabash township, and subsequently moved to Adams county and there resided until his death on the 3d day of December, 1875. In 1859 he bought the steam saw mill built at Alexander by Jacob Conkle and successfully operated it for a number of years. He subsequently, in 1869, erected the first heavy steam circular saw mill ever built in southern Adams county and went into the lumber business on an extensive scale for that day. When the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad was built, in 1871-2, his mill furnished all of the bridge timber for five miles north and for five miles south of the Wabash river, excepting the "How truss" bridge across the Wabash at Ceylon. In 1873 he platted and laid out the town of Ceylon and erected the first steam grist mill in the county south of Decatur. In

all of his enterprises he entered with the same energy and perseverance that marks effort with success.

He was well and favorably known in the political world, though in no sense a practical politician. In 1866 he received the nomination over six competing candidates as a democratic candidate for congress of the eleventh congressional district, to which Adams county then belonged. But as the state went republican at that election he was defeated with the state ticket. In the memorable campaign of 1866 he and his opponent, General John P. C. Shanks, made a joint canvass of the entire congressional district, delivering two speeches apiece each day for a period of about six weeks in duration.

The Decatur Eagle of August 17, 1866, gives the following report of the nominating convention: "The congressional convention convened at Wabash, Indiana, on the 9th of August, 1866, and David Studabaker was chosen as chairman of the convention. Upon a call of the counties it was found that each county in the district was represented. The courthouse was insufficient to accommodate the convention and it adjourned to meet after noon at the fair grounds. The following names of candidates for congress were announced: Dr. B. B. Snow, of Adams county; Newton Burwell, of Wells county; General James R. Slack, of Huntington county; Hon. James F. McDowel, of Grant county; James W. Sansberry, of Madison county; David Moss, of Hamilton county, and J. F. Henderson, of Howard county. After a number of ballots the two leading contestants were Dr. Snow and General Slack, and on the eleventh ballot Snow had sixty-seven and Slack had sixty-one votes. Mr. Snow was then declared the nominee of



the convention. The Doctor, in an appropriate speech, thanked the convention for the honor conferred upon him." Following notice of the nomination appeared in the Miami Sentinel of August 16, 1866: "The democracy of the eleventh congressional district met at Wabash on the 9th instant and nominated Dr. B. B. Snow, of Adams county, as their candidate for congress. The convention was large and enthusiastic and although there was a very spirited contest between the candidates, there was nothing to detract from the harmony of purpose that pervaded the whole. Dr. Snow, the candidate, is a gentleman of high standing and unspotted integrity. He is well posted upon the political issues of the day and a very able speaker. He has heretofore crossed arms with Colonel Shanks, his opponent, in local contests and has always been an overmatch for him."

Lewis Mattax came to Adams county and settled in section 26, in Monroe township, in 1840. At that time the country was an unbroken forest, without roads or other improvements. By incessant industry he cleared and improved his large farm and had one of the first and largest orchards in Monroe township, and it is said the first hedge fence in Adams county. As most early residents, he came to this county in a wagon drawn by an ox team from near Martinsburg, Ohio. Until his cabin was ready to live in the wagon cover was converted into a tent that answered all purposes. In time the log buildings gave place to more commodious frame structures. In 1862-3 he erected one of the first large frame barns in the south part of the county. About this time he was appointed drainage commissioner and was instrumental in having Little Blue creek's prairies drained through Monroe township.

He at various times served as justice of the peace, and for several years held the Canoper postoffice at his residence. He was an ardent supporter of the Democratic party, a Presbyterian in religion and was largely instrumental in having the first church house built in Salem (now Steele), Indiana. This was the second Presbyterian church in the county and the only one south of Decatur. He was a man of much natural ability and foot adze or wytlie together a broken wagon could use a grubbing hoe or mattock for a tongue or double-tree and win out in the achievement of his purpose when his less ingenious neighbor would fail. He grew to manhood on a farm in Greene county, Pennsylvania, and received a good common school education, came west and settled finally in his home in Adams county. Lewis Mattax was born on the 22d day of January, 1811, in Pennsylvania, was married on the 28th day of August, 1835, to Miss Anna Stephenson, who was born in Knox county, Ohio, on the 24th day of July, 1815. To them were born five children, three sons—Laban, William L. and Davidson; two daughters—Mary E. (now Mrs. Eley) and Ruth (Mrs. Burket), deceased. Mrs. Eley and the three brothers reside in Blue Creek and Monroe townships.

John McConnell was left an orphan when he was but six years old. At the age of ten years he was employed to drive oxen and haul mud and brick for his board at six and a fourth cents a day. When he was seventeen years old he learned the blacksmith's trade and received three dollars a month until he had his trade thoroughly mastered. His mother being a widow, much of his earnings went for support of her and the family. In 1840 he came to Adams county,



then being but twenty-one years of age, and with his partner, John Nail, bought cattle and hogs and drove them to Cincinnati and Dayton markets. By these means he was taught the results of the victory over adversity and learned from first hand the business methods and the customs of the trades and mercantile people. On the 10th day of July, 1845, he was married to Lucinda McDermitt, of Fayette county, Pennsylvania, who was born on the 22d day of September, 1822, who has long survived her husband, who died on the 28th day of January, 1875. She now resides with her son, Frank McConnell, in Root township. To them were born six children—Mark M., Joseph L., George W. and Frank, the sons, and Margaret (Mrs. Blood) and Mary (now deceased).

Mr. McConnell was a man of excellent common sense and bore the reputation of having an untarnished character and was a very influential and useful citizen. Aside from two other county officials—Samuel L. Rugg and James B. Simcoke—Mr. McConnell perhaps made more of the early county record as an officer than any other man who has lived in Adams county. He served as county commissioner two terms, as county auditor four years, as clerk of the circuit court and several terms in the Indiana general assembly as a representative, and was township trustee at the time of his death in 1875. He was one of those men who gave a creditable account of his stewardship whether as a private citizen or as a public officer.

Josiah Crawford came to Adams county from Pennsylvania in 1840. Previous to his coming to Indiana he was engaged in the mercantile business with his father. On ar-

iving in this state he and his brother, John Crawford, bought a large tract of land in Wabash township and at once engaged in the purchase of cattle and hogs as drovers. Their stock was marketed at Cincinnati and other points along the Ohio river. On the return trips they brought fine stock cattle and hogs for the home demands as the settlers came into the country. Their importations of McGee hogs and short-horned Durham cattle took the places, to a certain extent, of the common stock, then known as "elmpeeler" hogs and "pennyroyal" cattle. Josiah Crawford took an active part in politics, and his large acquaintance, made by the business in which he was engaged, made him a prominent factor to be reckoned with in a political canvass. It has been said that, "If there is anything that Joe Crawford liked better than a political convention, that it was two political conventions." He was a Jackson Democrat and an admirer of the old general in several ways. The subject of this sketch held several important official positions, among which were justice of the peace of Wabash township, was one of the three public school examiners from 1852 to 1856, and was county commissioner of the third district from 1856 to 1874—eighteen consecutive years. It is said of him that he had a judicial turn of mind and that while serving as county commissioner he knew all the law and supreme court decisions of Indiana that bore in any way upon roads, drainage or real estate. He was one of the commissioners during the Civil war period and being a man of liberal views, commonly encouraged such public utilities as he considered were within the reasonable reach of the county's finances. At that time provisions were made for temporary relief of war wid-



ows and their children. Within his term of office the present Adams county courthouse was built. By many of the taxpayers this edifice was considered entirely too expensive for the financial condition of the citizens of the county. Mr. Crawford's conclusions can now be realized as proper and correct, as the public building has stood for thirty-five years and now is nearly the same as when first built, the tower having been changed in 1902. So far no other county officer has served so long continuously in one office in this county as Mr. Crawford. "Uncle Joe," as he was usually called, was perhaps the last person in the county who habitually used tobacco snuff. He always carried his snuff-box, and was well supplied with a stock of quaint and laughable stories that he pleased to relate to his friends and acquaintances. It is also said that he was fond of a practical joke on the "other fellow" whenever an opportune occasion should be presented. The father of the subject of our sketch was of

Irish descent and his mother was of Welsh origin. He was born in Waynesburgh, Pennsylvania, on the 21st day of April, 1811, and was united in marriage on the 25th day of March, 1841, to Miss Rosana Abnett, who was born in Virginia, April 10, 1816. To them was born one child—Mary Jane—who became the life of Abraham Rawley, and is now deceased. Mrs. Crawford died on the 10th day of December, 1884, and preceded her husband about nine years, he reaching the age of nearly eighty-three years. After a residence in Adams county of fifty-four years he departed this life at the old homestead in Wabash township on the 19th day of February, 1894. During Mr. Crawford's long public service his integrity was never questioned, even by those who differed greatly with him as to what was for the best interests of the community in general or for the greatest public good.

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### DANGEROUS WOLVES.

The early residents of this part of the country tell us that the wolves gave them more trouble and were more dangerous than any other wild animals in the country. Abraham Studabaker related an incident in which he was an actor that shows how nearly he was killed when a child of about fourteen years of age. He was sent up the "Dismal" creek to hunt the cows one day in June and was returning home somewhere to the east of the present residence of Christian Burghalter, when he heard the leaves rattling a few rods away from him, and upon looking

in that direction he saw a large gray wolf going seemingly in the same direction that he was traveling. The wolf was evidently following him and was hungry, as he could see its tongue occasionally passed out over the end of its nose. He sprang to the nearest sapling, which was nearly too small to keep him out of the wolf's reach. He climbed up as far as he could but the tree began to bend over with his weight. As soon as he started for the tree the wolf started after him and he barely got out of its reach. It would go back from the tree, run and



jump up and snap at him. But he was just beyond its reach. He said if ever a boy yelled it was he, but his yelling did him no good, as no one came to his aid or assistance. After numerous efforts to reach him by jumping, the wolf ran rapidly away, a hundred yards or more, and got behind a large elm tree and would put its head just past the tree to watch him. This ordeal lasted for about two hours or more, when it returned and again tried to reach him by jumping. This time it became discouraged and ran away out of sight to the southwest. When clear beyond his view he got down and ran home. His story was related to his father, who at once returned with him to see the place where the wolf had treed him. When nearing the spot they saw the wolf trailing around in a circle about the tree, but upon their approach it soon ran away.

Another incident is related in which Mrs. Jacob Closs was lost and was attacked by the wolves. She was the mother of Mrs. Jesse Niblick, of Decatur. Her husband was at work southeast of Decatur and one afternoon she went out to see him. She

expected to soon return home and left her little babe in charge of one of the older children. Along in the middle of the afternoon she started home but missed her way. Instead of going north she went west and when night overtook her the wolves began to howl in all directions. They came nearer and nearer and she could easily hear them running in the leaves. She selected a young tree or sapling with some good-sized limbs that she could hold on to and climbed up beyond the reach of the wolves. They closed in upon her and sat upon the ground and howled. She heard some men chopping and hollowed as loud as she could. The men stopped and she hollowed again. They then came to her relief with hickory bark torches. They helped her to find her way home. They were coon hunters that chanced to be in that part of the country. When she was found she was near Grim's prairie, just the other side of where the present town of Peterson is located. On her return home she found that her neighbors were out hunting for her and her little babe was using its utmost energy in an inquiry of the whereabouts of its mamma.

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### HUNTING BEAR.

Robert Simison relates an incident of an easterner who came with a hunting party to Fort Recovery when he was at home with his father. In north of Fort Recovery there was some fallen timber on some low lands. This was a favorable haunt for bear. It is the custom of the bear to make their winter quarters in a thicket as near some fallen tree as convenient. They would

build on the ground and carry dry grass, leaves and small branches of trees and make a covering over the nest, leaving it hollow inside. Those nests were frequently a fair sized brush heap, but always built in about the same manner and readily recognized by the experienced hunter. When completed the bear would crawl into the nest under the heap of brush and remain



there throughout the winter; that this "tenderfoot" hunter walked up along the trunk of a fallen tree and jumped over onto the top of this brush pile, as he supposed it to be. The bear had not yet started in for his winter's nap and sprang out and ran off at full speed. When asked why he did not shoot the bear, in much excitement he said: "Why, I didn't know that I had a gun."

Another incident in which Mr. Simison was a prominent factor is thus related: The location was on Three Mile creek, just southwest of Beuna Vista, about the year 1840. He was returning home one afternoon and

saw some young hogs running almost directly toward him. He, on looking again, saw that a bear was after them. He at once climbed upon the trunk of a fallen tree near him. The hogs ran on past him, the bear following to within about twenty feet from him, when it stopped and stood on its hind feet and seemed to be looking directly at him. He knew that he had no gun, but felt badly in need of one. Somehow bruin did not like his looks and started off on a canter toward the river and was soon out of sight.

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### INDIAN HORSETHIEVES.

There is an incident related by Robert Simison, who followed some Indian horse-thieves and secured the stolen property. The horse belonged to his brother, who lived near Fort Recovery when the horse was taken. Robert and his brother were near Fort Jefferson working in the harvest. His brother became sick and they both returned home and found that the horse had been gone for two days. Arrangements were at once made to follow the trail of the thieves and recover the horse. An ample supply of ammunition, bullets, etc., was provided and a supply of rations for several days. The brother being sick, Robert started alone. The first day's travel took him in west of where Portland is situated. A campfire showed that the Indians had stopped there. The next stop was southwest of Pennville, or Camden. The next camp was nearly a day's travel to the northwest and was on a small stream, perhaps the Mississinewa

river. Here he overtook the Indians in the afternoon, perhaps about three o'clock. He could hear them talking and see some of their horses that were tied to trees in the distance. He considered it dangerous to attempt a rescue of his property alone in the daytime, so he cast about for a suitable hiding place till the darkness should shroud his movements. Such a place was found in the top of a leafy elm tree that had been recently blown down. He had hardly secreted himself among the leafy boughs when he saw his horse coming into camp ridden by an Indian, who was carrying a deer on before him. At that time there was an unwritten law that permitted the killing of the thief if found with the stolen property, and especially so if it was slaves, horses or cattle. Mr. Simison says that he could easily have shot the Indian off the horse but chose to resort to other means of securing the stolen horse. Said he: "I lay in conceal-



ment until away after dark, then crept up cautiously near their camp. They had some dogs with them and one came within a rod of me, but I was unobserved. They put a bell on my horse and tied his front legs, or feet, together with bark so he could not travel. I had no trouble in reaching him, gave him some salt and cut the bark from his feet. I then took some dry leaves and stuffed them into the bell and put it on the neck of an old pony near by. I then unstopped the bell that it might jingle as the pony moved and this way not arouse any suspicion should they wake at any time within the night. I led my horse a little way off and got on him and rode away as fast as I could through the woods. After a while, in the after part of the night, the moon went down and it was too dark for me

to see which way to go. So I got off of the horse and waited—it seemed hours to me—until daylight came and the birds began to sing. I then started on and got home that evening. In the morning I took the horse and went with him to Greenville and left him there. The next day I walked back to my brother's. I got there about noon and found the Indian who had been riding the horse and another Indian there, and my brother's wife getting dinner for them. As soon as I came up I noticed them looking at my feet. I had changed the moccasins that I wore when I went after the horse for the shoes I had on. This perhaps removed their suspicions from me and may have saved my life. These were Miami Indians, whose reservation was near Peru, Indiana."

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## INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS.

### A HOG RACE.

Along from 1840 to 1860 it was not unusual for pioneer neighbors to live from three to five miles apart. The heavy work of rolling logs and raising houses required many hands. At that time it was expected that neighbors help each other, and so they did. In certain seasons of the year there were rollings and raisings nearly every day in the week. When the day's work was done sports of various kinds were commonly indulged in, and all enjoyed themselves for the rest of the day in true backwoodsman style. After raising the P. N. Collins cabin, which stood in the northeast corner of section 20, in Wabash township, which raising

was in the early part of November when the last tints of fall hung on the verge of winter, the party was entertained at the home of Andrew McDonald, who was a shoemaker by occupation, and a good fiddler. After the raising was done and the dinner over some one suggested that the party go up Canoper creek and cut a bee tree. William Stockham, "Billy" Henderson, William Vance, Arthur McHugh and others were in the party. The country at that time, and especially the Canoper bottoms, was infested with snakes, large and small, of several kinds. Mr. Collins knowing the custom of



the country at that time, had secured a good-sized jug of "snake-bite remedy." This was judiciously applied before starting on the hunt of the bee tree. Colonel William Vance had a fine rifle he usually carried with him. William Stockman rode an old gray horse that had seen better days, but was as "willin' a critter as was ever rid." John Walker had some fine hounds that he claimed could tree a deer on the prairie. The party had just gotten on the raise north of the river when they saw a large wild male hog buried to the shoulders in the leaves, hunting nuts and acorns. Henderson was in the lead, next came Vance, who with his trusty rifle that he called "Sweetlips," wanted some fun, and proposed to shoot the hog. All were woodsmen and knew that to attack a hog like that meant to fight or run, as he would pursue any animal in sight. The party with the exception of Walker protested against his shooting. Bang! went the gun, and every fellow excepting Stockham "cooned" up the nearest sapling and was soon beyond the hog's reach. Vance purposely shot the hog through the top of the back, which only angered him for fight. The hog threw up his head with a booh! booh!! booh!!!

and viewed the field for battle. Stockham and old gray were the only enemies visible to the naked eye and the chase at once began. The hog was of the slab-sided, elm-peeler variety that could outrun any ordinary dog. Old gray was carrying her owner and two large home-made wooden buckets with bails strapped together. As she galloped the buckets flopped up and down and finally fell off. His hogship was close to gray's heels at the time, but stopped and hit each a separate lick with his snout, thus giving Stockham a chance to get away. The hog followed on, but was left in the chase. After the danger was all over one of the party was seen sitting on the ground with his legs wound around a sapling, laughing at Stockham's flight, telling what he would do with an old gray mare like that. Walker from his perch in the tree yelled: "What are you doing on the ground there?" "Why," said Henderson, "that gol darned varmint would have et me up, too, if I hadn't clim this tree." Stockham's vigorous kicks and a lively application of a hickory gad prompted old gray to a jogging trot and as soon as the shot was fired the race began—perhaps the only one of its kind on record.

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### SOME HUNTERS.

Along the Wabash and Saint Mary's rivers and the Blue Creek prairies were the hunters' paradise. At first there were many of them, and it is said that John Nelson paid for a forty-acre farm by the sale of deer hides and hams—"saddles," as they were then called. Ben Baum, John Walker, William McArdle and Josie Wilson—as he was

known—and William Boram had the reputation of being successful hunters. Wilson and Walker were also noted as bear hunters. One method used is said to have been to bait the bear with honey. The bee tree having been located, honey was placed along up the side of the tree near the hive, or hole, in the tree. A knot maul was so swung that the



bear would strike it in climbing up the tree. As he fought it away it would swing back toward him. He would become so much in earnest in his fight as to lose his hold on the tree and fall to the ground and would be liable to alight on the points of some sharpened stakes that were set near around the foot of the tree. Wilson, when seen by the author hereof, lived in Alexander and was carrying two large spotted pike fish he had shot somewhere up in the Loblolly—a large, shallow, swampy stream that intersects the Limberlost at Alexander. At this time Mr. Wilson was in his bare head—it is said that he never wore a hat—wore a spotted fawnskin vest and had moccasins on his feet. “Uncle” Johnnie Walker, as he was frequently called, told a fish story that discounted any we have lately heard. It is said that a Mr. Plum owned and operated one of the first taverns

on the banks of the Limberlost at Alexander; that he had a little brown jug that was very handy to carry “fish bait” in; that it disappeared and he never knew its whereabouts, but in spells of “drouth” its absence was sorely felt; that one June evening a year or two after the disappearance of the jug Mr. Walker was fishing in the creek just southwest of the tavern when he got a bite that gave him great encouragement. He in true fisherman style hauled up, but was never more surprised, as here came Plum’s little brown jug. But the hook was caught on the inside. By a hasty examination he found that a large catfish was inside of the jug. In his surprise he carried his catch into town and placed it on exhibition at the James Childers store as a curiosity of the village. Plum never got his jug nor did Walker ever say where he got his fish bait.

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#### “OLD GINGER.”

William Boram, it is said, lived near Decatur and was very fond of hunting. He owned a fine rifle that seemed to be the pride of his heart. If he happened to be at a raising or a log rolling he would never fail to comment on the good qualities of his gun. A Mr. Roe, who lived southeast of Decatur, attempted to “call him down by a joke something like this: “Look here, Bill, here is a bullet that I found in one of the biggest deer I ever killed. It looks to me just like it was made for your gun.” Bill examined the bullet. “Yes, that is a bullet from ‘Old Ginger. I’d know the bullets from his molds if I’d see them in China.” “So you are sure that is

a bullet from your gun”? “Why, certainly I ain. I could swear to that. Don’t you see them ridges around the center of the bullet? There ain’t another Ginger gun in the country. He always made his guns that way. I have the best gun in the settlement and there isn’t any around here like it.” “But say, Bill, I butchered last week and found that bullet in the shoulder of one of by big black hogs. How do you suppose it got there”? “Well—er. Well—that settles it now for good.” “Settles what, Bill”? “Why, I’ll just be —— if I’ll ever lend that gun again to old Jim Jones. He’s nearly spiled its reputation.”



## PLANK ROAD TOLL JUMPERS.

The old Plank Road Company let its interest go unpaid and its road became nearly impassable, at least in certain places. It was sold by decree of court and became the property of J. D. Nutman. Travelers refused to pay the tolls and a test case was brought by the arrest of a stranger in one of the taverns at Monmouth. Ezra Mallonee kept the toll-gate and house. The gate was torn down and the house went up in smoke. As the story goes, along about the last days of the plank road tolls a man came riding along on horseback and the gate-keeper tried to collect tolls from him, but he passed on through and stopped at the "Fleming," in Monmouth. An affidavit was procured and a warrant issued and put into the hands of the local constable for his arrest. The officer

located him at the Ziba Dorwin grocery, which at that time was a general loafing place in the long fall and winter evenings for the villagers. The warrant was read to the stranger as, "You are hereby directed to arrest John Doe and forthwith, etc, etc., a person whose true name is unknown." When the officer had read the warrant he reached to take hold of his man to make his arrest complete, the stranger stepped back and drew a brace of pistols and said: "No man with a Peter Funk warrant can take me." It is needless to say that there was a general scramble from in front of his guns. He ordered his horse and at once proceeded on his way toward Fort Wayne. No further attempt was ever made to collect tolls by process of law.

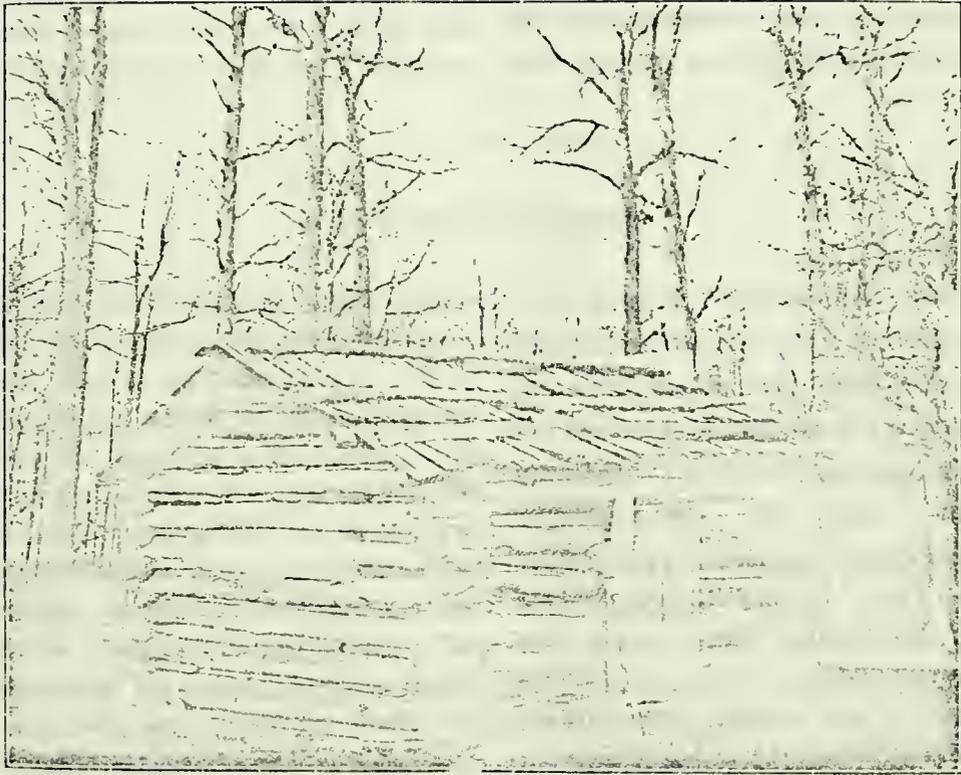
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 McLEOD BEWITCHED.

About the Civil war time in the Clinger, or Bartmas, neighborhood, southeast of Alexander, on the Wabash, resided a fascinating widow that seemed to possess some of the powers attributed to the witches of the colonial times. At least her magic spell had its influence on a certain practitioner, who would make frequent calls and leave his horse to the elements of the weather for hours at a time. The goblins--or the "regulators," perhaps--were overcome with an idea that developed and matured into action. One dark night the physician (?) after making his usual extended stay late in the evening came out to find a team of cattle, instead

of "Old Baldy," his horse. A muley cow, with a sheepskin strapped on her back, and an ox, all harnessed, with a side saddle ready for an elopement--or bridal tour. There was a certain man by the name of McLeod that was particularly desirous of knowing the whereabouts of the horse. He gave the alarm that his horse had disappeared and the neighbors turned out to see the elopers' outfit and talk about the missing property. It was gone, was the most that was known (?), and it was some time before it was located. When found it was "stabled" in the mow of a double log barn and had ascended the log walls and gone through the mow hole eight





THE FIRST LOG SCHOOLHOUSE.



feet from the floor. Word soon passed the rounds that "the lost is found." The neighbors now turned out to see what the witches had done. It was wonderful indeed how "Old Baldy" had ever climbed that wall of logs and stabled himself. McLeod's worry was rather how he could be gotten down. After much worry (?) and discussion it was suggested that it would take a large number of men and much effort and labor to swing the horse out of the mow and safely land him on the barn floor. And that it would re-

quire, at least calculation, two gallons of Finkbone's best corn juice to accomplish the undertaking. McLeod put up the "juice" and a wagon rack was carried onto the barn floor, a rail pen built under it, "Old Baldy" led and pushed into the rack from the mow and the rail pen was removed, rail at a time, by taking away the bottom rails first. The elopement outfit and Baldy's experience were the nearest demonstration of witches' work that had then been reported on the Wabash.

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### PUNCHEON FLOORS.

The first cabin houses in Adams county had neither chimneys nor puncheon floors. An open place at the top of the roof let in the sunlight and let out the smoke from the wood fire that was built in the middle of the house on the ground. But few of the residents of Adams county ever had that kind of house. But as there were no mills or lumber of any kind, puncheons were split out and hewed for floors for cabin houses. The cracks made by the joinings of these puncheons sometimes were made the matter of much interest to housewives in a social way, and to the indifferent urchin, who happened to be the schoolboy who did not "toe the mark" when in the class for recitation. There is an incident related by "Uncle" George Pontius as a part of his experience when he was first married. At that time he lived in Ohio and came with his young wife to live in Hartford township along in the forties. On his father's farm there was a house that he intended to occupy, but when he came learned that it was already occupied by a poor man with a large family of children,

who could not find another house in the whole settlement in which to move his family, which in his case meant principally to call the dogs, put out the fire and vacate the premises. The cabin was about sixteen by eighteen feet in size, with the usual large fireplace, clapboard door, with wooden hinges, and right in the woods. The father said that it would be an inhuman act to force these people with little children out in the winter snows and cold, and if the two families could agree they could divide the house. Mr. Pontius had a big cooking stove, perhaps one of the first in the south end of the township. This was set at one side of the house with a pipe out through the window. The puncheons were counted and a division line was agreed upon. Pontius's line ran to the seventh crack and all beyond the seventh crack belonged to the original occupant and his family. There was always harmony so long as all stayed on their own side of the seventh crack; beyond which tradition "sayeth not."



## ON THE SAME PUNCHEON.

An incident is related of a wedding in Blue Creek township, in which the cracks in the puncheon floor caused the minister to stop, back out and begin the marriage ceremony all over again. The parties are said to have been the young widow of a Mr. William Higgins, who was about to marry a Mr. Johnson. The wedding feast had been prepared, the minister and the guests were in attendance and all was moving along with the tide as the "two hearts beat as one," were about to be legally sealed with the minister's approval. The couple took their places at the back of the room facing the cabin door. The minister had proceeded with the ceremony required of Mr. Johnson and turning

to the fair young lady, asked: "Do you take this man, etc., etc.?" "No," she said. "This wedding must stop right here. I never will get married with the cracks in the floor running between us and the preacher. We must stand on the same puncheon with him and no cracks between us." The blushing bride-to-be had her way and changed position with the preacher at one end of the puncheon and the prospective bride and groom on the other. The wedding then proceeded and the fair Rebecca, without a wave of sorrow "across her peaceful breast," was married without a crack between them and the preacher.

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 JAKE'S BELLING.

The south part of the county at one time had a number of persons who answered to the same name. The Nelsons had a number of Charleys and Jims and Johns, as Isaac's Jim, Charley's Jim and "Read-headed" Jim, and so on. The Bakers were legion in Wabash township at an early day, and had they not emigrated the south end of the county might now be about all Bakers. There was "Big Ike," "Old Ike," Jake's Ike and Sol's Ike, and it would take a good memory to recall them all. In the Baker neighborhood there was a certain bran-new widower by the name of Jake, who took a fancy to his brother's widow, whom we shall call "Betsy." This fancy soon budded and grew very rapidly to develop-

ment. The near relations of both remonstrated at the speedy consummation of affairs, but all to no avail. Jake informed his acquaintances that he could do his own "sparkin'," and would get married whenever he pleased. Instead of a fine infare feast the brothers sent word to the Fords, Nelsons, Lintons, Coles, Galloways, Buckingham's and Buckmasters that there would be "big doings" on the Wabash directly, to come prepared for an all night's job; that there would be plenty to eat and something to drink; to come and help Jake enjoy himself. The wedding day came, so did the bellers. Their "musical" instruments consisted of horse fiddles, cow bells, shotguns and revolvers, a



big bass drum, a circular saw, carried on a crowbar on the shoulders of two men, while one of them played on it with a riveting hammer; a large dinner bell mounted on the hind truck of a wagon was bolted to a high standard in the bolster. Besides the instruments named there were some of more refined tones, as dinner horns and violins. On arriving the crowd selected two captains and chose up—one half ate and drank while the other half played the music. Jake was defiant, would not come to the door or even to the window. The house was closed up as tight as an oyster. However, you could see light shining through the blinded windows. The kitchen part had double sash windows, with six lights eight by ten glass. The middle glass below in the upper sash was out. The captains agreed that all music should cease and an invitation be extended to the bride and groom to come to the door and receive the "grand salute" of the serenaders. This Jake absolutely refused to do. He was then prevailed upon to stand with his wife near the window that they be seen by the

crowd. This he consented to do. But the crowd declared that he must put his head through the sash where the glass was out so they could get a better view of him. This he at first refused, but finally consented under the "solemn" promise that the music would cease and that the crowd disperse and go as soon as it had marched past the window and taken a good look at the bride and groom. The head was poked out of the window according to agreement, but the procession had hardly started when Lew Wolf, who was stationed just below the window, fired a horse pistol almost in Jake's face. This put Jake in action at once. The protruding head was speedily drawn in, as was the greater part of the upper window sash. Things in that kitchen were "blue" for an hour, Jake making all manner of threats and accusations. However, the music played just the same till the morning sun lit the east, when the serenaders departed, leaving the much-honored couple to the enjoyment of the coming years.

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### SOME LIVE GHOSTS.

Along in the sixties there lived a Switzer in the southern part of the county by the name of Johntry, who had his own ideas in regard to witches, spooks and tokens. He from all reports was an honest, industrious citizen, who lived near Buena Vista. It is reported that he had much faith in the bent hazel sprout, when properly carried, as an indicator of a good water vein, the proper place to locate a well; also that witches called

upon certain individuals to mete out punishment—or justice—to them, as the case might be, upon certain occasions in the nighttime; that it was within the province of the favored few to successfully "charm" them away. The knowledge of this peculiarity of Mr. Johntry seemed to invite some of the resident young men of the neighborhood to attempt some fun at the expense of one of their party. Practical jokes were at that time much more common than at the



present day. Within the party mentioned were: P. N. Collins, afterwards state representative and county surveyor; Harry Blowers, Abe Studabaker. Thomas McHugh and some of the Vance boys, of whom there were several. It is said that Blowers, Collins and Studabaker vied with each other to determine who could most often out-trick the other. As the story goes, Mr. Johntry had gone to Conkle's mill at Alexander with a sack of corn to have ground. He drove an ox team, hitched to the bind truck of a wagon. He was detained until evening before he started home. Several of the men mentioned talked to him in regard to his trip home in the night, and of his passing the graveyard, etc. One of the party told him that there would be no danger; that sometimes a lot of mischievous boys had tried to scare people, but that no ghosts ever came along that road. That the thing to do, if anyone did try to make bother or trouble, was to gad them good with his ox whip. The boys had posted one of their number that Johntry would soon start for home, and for them to meet along near the Studabaker graveyard to see the "ghost dance." They secreted themselves along the way and soon they heard the team coming. The ghost in white sheet took his position in the road. The oxen tried to shun past it—first to the right and then to the left—but he would head them off. In broken English came the expression: "Vot iz doze"? Vell, I will viind you oud already." With ox gad in hand, Johntry proceeded to clear the way. A few well directed strokes were all that were required to cause the ghost to evaporate into nothingness. It is said that Collins in particular enjoyed this joke, if a gadding with an ox whip is a joke. In after years, by way

of remembrance, the boys would say: "Oh, that Blewer, he's a nice feller. He come and see my Lany. He's a nice feller, that Blewer." As is often said, time will prove all accounts. This account was not only proven, but, perhaps, squared when Collins built his frame barn. The workmen were not always prompt to start to meals when the horn blew. This annoyed Mr. Collins and he told them that "When the horn blows drop everything and run." Collins and Blowers were carrying loose shingles up the ladder for the barn roof. Blowers watched an opportunity and was near the top of the ladder and Collins just starting up behind him. The horn blew. Harry let all holds on the slingles go and they pelted Collins from head to foot. After picking up his straw hat and passing his hand over the bald, smooth place on his head, he exclaimed: "Why, sir! For what did you do that"? "Because," said Blowers, "you said that, 'when the horn blows drop everything and run.' Didn't you hear it blow"?

In the spring of 1856 Mathias Hilton had a sugar "stirring" and a party for the young people of the neighborhood. As usual there were some youngsters present who had an eye for fun and some practical jokes. They set to telling ghost stories to frighten the timid so they could be scared on their way home. In this party were William Henderson, John Hilton, Harry Blowers, Edward and Levi Nelson among others. The Nelsons had no fear of ghosts, and so expressed themselves. They were told that they were not too old to change their minds; that certain persons whose word was perfectly reliable had seen things between Barras's and



the Aspy farm that they could not explain. and surely it was nothing else but the work of ghosts. Levi Nelson, then about eighteen years old, was working near Mr. Aspy's farm and expected to return home by that road. His attention was held until most of the others of the party had started for home. The road he had to travel was through the woods over a newly cut out track. He had gone but a short distance when unnatural noises and groans were heard at the roadside. A flash of light in the path soon attracted his attention. He then recalled the statement, "That the goblins will get you if you don't watch out," but went on his way, willing to prove all things and to hold fast to only that which is good. Those dreadful groans could again be heard at the roadside near him. He was unarmed, but had a good pair of legs that had never yet failed him in times of need. But, thought he, I'll

just take my jack-knife and cut me a cane, lest I get feeble before I get home. Just ahead of him, seemingly in the path, stood an object, the like of which he had never before seen. Cracking brush and muffled groans were again in evidence. He halted a moment and with slower step approached a little nearer to the object. Surely his ears and eyes were not deceiving him? No, sir; it was right there, and no mistake about it. Then in an inquiring tone he spoke: "Be you man or devil? You had better speak," and with a jump forward brought his cane a sweeping stroke. The poor "ghost" not only spoke, but fairly yelled, but vanished not. As another stroke or two would have left a lifeless Hilton on the ground, the groans from the roadside changed into loud calls of. "Levi, don't hit him again; Levi, let him go!"

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### HAW PATCH ROBBERS.

(Mr. Paul G. Hooper once wrote a very creditable brief history of northern Adams county. If we are not mistaken, the following is from Mr. Hooper's pen:)

Tradition says that away back in the forties, when J. D. Nutman & Co. were operating a bank in what was then the little village of Decatur (Decatur, by the way, was a very small place then) some two hundred and fifty or three hundred people constituted the sole population, but Mr. Nutman operated a dry goods store and in connection with the bank had grown wealthy. In those days there

was a state law in effect that required every banker or bank to have on hand, on certain dates, certain amounts of cash in proportion to their capital stock. It was in the days when cash was scarce and it was quite a burden on this bank to carry the amount of cash required. Just across the river in a hewed log house, which has been torn down within the last decade, lived Eli Zimmerman, Sr., one of the pioneers of this county, who was a large land owner, very economical, a splendid financier, and even in those early days had accumulated a large amount of cash, but he did not have any use for banks and it was said that he rarely deposited his



money in banks at all, but kept it in nooks and corners of the house; sometimes in a knothole, sometimes in a crack in the wall, in a discarded coffee pot, or any place that was handy. So it came to pass that during the years that this law was in effect Mr. Nutman was frequently called upon for a large amount of cash and he always had recourse to the coffee pot and stocking of Mr. Zimmerman. He would deposit securities with him when he would need cash for the bank and after the bank examiner had taken his departure the cash was returned and the securities taken up. There was nothing irregular about this transaction and it filled the letter of the law. But it happened at one time that Mr. Zimmerman had purchased a large tract of land and made other investments, therefore when the banker called upon him for the ready cash he did not have it, and Mr. Nutman was forced to look elsewhere for the accommodation. There was only one place available, and that was Fort Wayne. In those days a stage coach ran between Decatur and Fort Wayne twice a week. The road between the two towns was lined on both sides by dense forests, broken only here and there by a few clear fields of early settlers. In the northern part of the state was almost an impregnable swamp or wilderness known as the "Haw Patch." It was infested by a band of horsethieves, who had a thoroughfare from southern Ohio to that point and were supposed to have stations along the road where horses were secreted and kept for a few days at a time as they were sent from one part of the state to another. Decatur was supposed to contain several members of this gang. They were outlaws of the worst type, and did not hesitate to murder if it was necessary for them

to carry out their aims. Word possibly passed to this gang that Mr. Nutman had gone to Fort Wayne for cash in anticipation of the visit from the bank examiner. At any rate the gang thought it would be profitable to hold up the stage coach between Decatur and Fort Wayne. The stage coach started from Fort Wayne about 9 o'clock in the morning on the day on which the attempted robbery took place. The roads were almost impassable and it was long after dark before they arrived. At a dark and gloomy portion of the road about two miles north of the village of Monmouth, as the driver was floundering through the mud of the creek bottom, and just as he pulled up on the corduroy bridge crossing a creek, a light was flashed in his face and he was ordered to hold up his hands. The command was emphasized with the cold muzzle of a long-barreled rifle thrust into his face. There were some five or six of the band who had surrounded the coach. There were some four or five passengers in the coach besides Mr. Nutman. All were made to climb out and hold up their hands while a thorough search was made of each individual. The only spoils secured by the robbers were two or three silver watches, a few dollars in silver and a little currency of small denominations. The fat roll that Mr. Nutman was supposed to have in his possession as a result of his visit to Fort Wayne was not found. After the search was made the parties were allowed to resume their seats in the coach and proceed on their way. No one knew where Mr. Nutman had secreted the money until the next day, when Mose Jinkinson was taken into the confidence of the banker and the ingenious hiding



place of the currency revealed. The search of the robbers had been very close. Every pocket of Mr. Nutman had been turned wrong side out—the lining of his coat had been ripped open and he had even been made to take off his shoes, but the robbers overlooked the fact that the old gent wore a silk

tile. If they had examined that they would have found several bills of large denomination carefully secreted in the lining of the hat. The robbers were never identified and therefore never brought to trial, although opinions were freely expressed as to their identity.

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### STUMP SPEAKERS.

In the earlier days throughout the west the stump speaker, usually the politician, sought preferment at the hands of his constituent countrymen. The custom of canvassing for votes was to collect the settlers at some stated place and deliver a "stump speech" to convince them of the efficiency of the speaker to represent their interests in the political office to which the speaker aspired. To be more plainly understood and to be seen as well as heard, the prospective candidate would mount the stump of a tree and present his case and discuss the issues represented by his party, while his hearers would stand near him or sit upon the ground as his auditors. An incident is related of two contestants who wanted to be chosen as delegates to the convention to frame the state constitution of 1851-2. This position carried with it about the same responsibilities and duties as are now required of a member of the state legislature. In this particular instance we will not give the true names, but the occurrence will serve the same. One candidate was an honorable old resident whom we might call Mr. Hisey, who had a fund of good, hard common sense that was well seasoned with experience. The other a

young man just from college, with a very high opinion of his own attainments, and who placed a very low estimate on the abilities of those who were less educationally favored than himself. This young man we shall call Mr. Cicero. The date and place for the canvass for votes was agreed upon and the time divided by agreement as to how long each speaker should talk. At the appointed hour the young man made his appearance with a number of papers and books presumably to make an outward show of what he thought he knew. He was dressed in the latest style and the most "taking" fashion. His opponent, with a neat but homespun suit and heavy boots and soft wool hat, ambled into the crowd, shaking hands with Jones and joking with Johnson and making a general acquaintance as he came toward the "stump" from which the speaking was to be done. The committeeman announced that the time had arrived for the speaking to proceed and called upon the speakers to divide their time. Mr. Cicero spoke first. He told over and over again how well he was qualified to represent his countrymen in making a constitution that should stand as the basis of all subsequent laws of the "great and good state of Indiana." He quoted from the files of the papers



he had with him and referred to his Latin Dictionary to prove that the pronunciations and quotations were faultless. Then in closing his polished remarks he demanded that his opponent should refute the statements he had made, or that if he did not do so, that then, in that event, his constituents could easily discern that he was the most able and the best qualified to serve as their delegate in the constitutional convention. At the conclusion of his remarks Mr. Hizey, his opponent, as we shall know him, arose and without apology or explanation, stated: "Well, that speech was something wonderful, and he wants me to reply to what he said. Now, he spoke some things that you don't understand. He said, among other things, 'Vox populi, vox dei,' and 'Verbatim et literatim.' Now, you don't understand

what that means, but I do. It means the tighter you twist the lion's tail the louder he will roar; and coming nearer home, gentlemen, 'Verbatim et literatim,' well, that interests every hunter here. It means the tighter the 'possum wraps his tail around the paw-paw limb the harder he is to shake loose. Now, is that the kind of language you want to be represented in? Send me to be your delegate. I can speak in the United States English. Then, there's that twisting the lion's tail. Didn't we twist it yet enough? Ain't old England ready to quit? What has that to do with the delegates to the state constitutional convention? I am at your service and can tell what you want." It is needless to say that Mr. Hizey was selected as the delegate in compliance with the "vox populi" of that district.

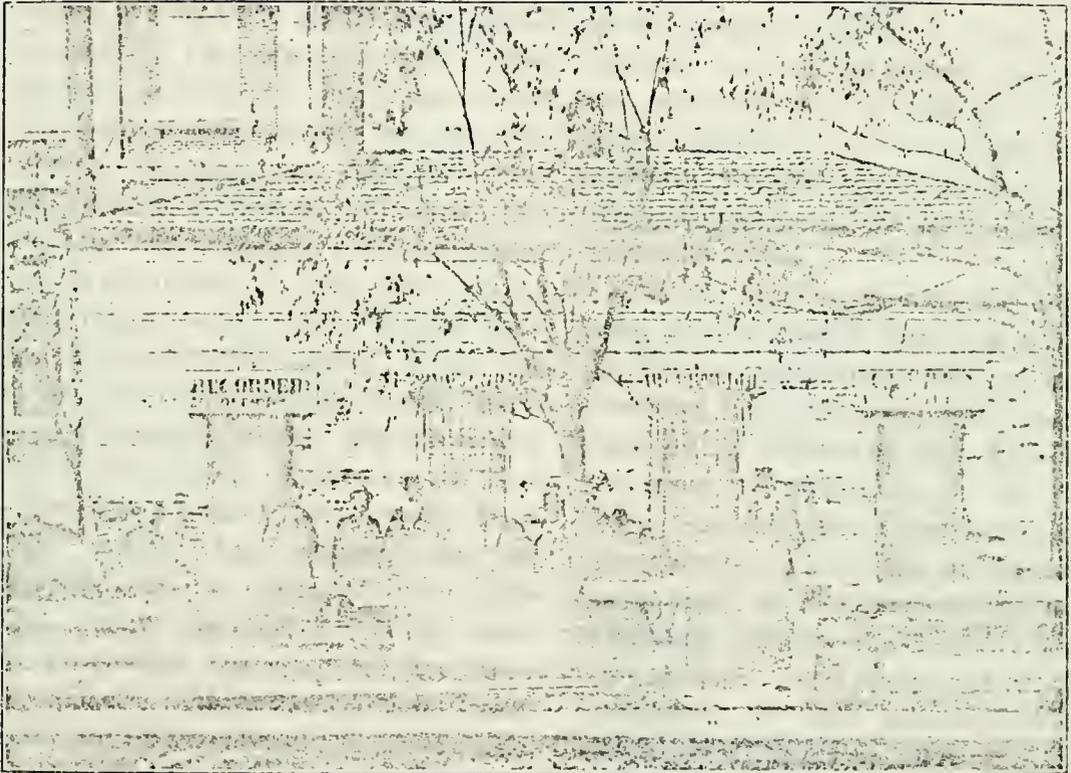
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### ADAMS COUNTY ORGANIZED.

By an act of the Indiana general assembly of 1835 provisions were made to organize the newly acquired lands into counties. It provided that, "All the unorganized territory to which the Indian title has been extinguished in the state shall be laid out into a suitable number of counties, and for other purposes." By this act the counties of Jay, Adams, DeKalb, Steuben, Whitley, Kosciusko, Fulton, Marshall, Starke, Pulaski, Jasper, Newton and Porter were laid out. But it was not until January 23d, in 1836, that the organization was completed by the governor issuing a writ for the first election to be held on the first Monday in April follow-

ing to choose officers to manage the county affairs. In 1852 the state adopted a new constitution and made many new laws. At this time, June 7, 1852, the following boundary lines were established for Adams county: "Beginning at the state line, where the line dividing townships twenty-eight and twenty-nine intersects the same, thence west to the northeast corner of section 5, in township twenty-eight north, range 13 east, thence south to the line dividing townships twenty-four and twenty-five, thence east with the north line of Jay county to the eastern boundary of the state, thence north with the state line to the place of beginning," thus making the county fourteen miles wide





THE BRICK OFFICES.



and twenty-four miles long. Adams county is bounded on the east by Ohio and is the fourth county south of the Michigan line and contains about two hundred and fifteen thousand acres of land. The county is divided into twelve townships, four of which are congressional townships, six miles square; the center tier—Root, Washington, Monroe and Wabash—are the congressional townships. The others—Union, Preble, Kirkland, Saint Mary's, Blue Creek, French, Hartford and Jefferson—are but four miles wide and six miles long. The Ohio counties bordering Adams on the east are Van Wert and Mercer, each of which was organized on the 1st day of April, 1820. On the south is Jay county, on the west is Wells and on the north Allen county. From 1818 to 1823 what now is Adams county was a part of Randolph county, with the county seat at Winchester. From 1823 to 1836 Adams was a part of Allen county. Since 1836 Adams has enjoyed the advantages of a separate and distinct county organization of its own. In the election held on the first Monday in April, 1836, Joshua S. Rhea, Samuel Smith and William Heath, Jr., were chosen as the board of county commissioners; Samuel L. Rugg was elected county clerk and David McKnight was chosen sheriff. The local county government was then much as now, largely under the charge of the county commissioners, who at once set to work to complete the county organization by making the appointment of such officers as were required and not included in the writ of election. The first meeting of the board was on the 9th day of May, 1836, at which time Jeremiah Roe was appointed county treas-

urer for the next ten months. The law then in force provided that, "The county treasurer shall collect taxes between October 15th and November 15th each year at the voting place at least one day and collect taxes from November 15th to the succeeding third Monday in March, and attend at his office at the seat of justice," David McKnight as county assessor, and John K. Evans, as collector of the state and county revenues for the year from the first Monday in May, 1836. John K. Evans was also appointed as seminary trustee and gave a bond of twenty-five dollars to insure the faithful performance of his duties.

The first order made after the appointments directed Sheriff McKnight to advertise that the organization of the official machinery of Adams county, Indiana, has been completed, as required by law. This notice was given by publication in the "Fort Wayne Sentinel," then a weekly newspaper three years old. At the first meeting of the county board of commissioners the matter of selecting a county seat, or seat of justice, was considered. And on the 10th of May a commission of four members—William Stewart, J. H. McMaken, William G. Johnson and Robert Hood—were appointed to examine the various sites offered as county seats and to report in writing to the county board on May 18, 1836. The board adjourned to that date. Four locations were submitted for the commission's consideration. The board of county commissioners convened at the residence of John Reynolds—about three miles northwest of the present city of Decatur—to receive the report. At that time there was no public buildings of any kind in the county. At the time and



place stated the county seat commissioners met the board of county commissioners and submitted the following report:

"May 16th. The commissioners appointed to locate the county seat of the county of Adams agreeably to the provisions of an act of the general assembly of the state of Indiana, approved January 23, 1836, met at the house of John Reynolds in said county. Present: William Stewart, Joseph H. McMaken, Robert Hood and William G. Johnson, who being duly sworn, according to law, proceeded to examine the different sites offered for the county seat of said county, and after examining four sites, to-wit: The site of Thomas Johnson, R. L. Britton & Henry Work, Joseph Morgan & Thomas Prichard, and Samuel L. Rugg, the commissioners returned to the house of John Reynolds, as aforesaid, adjourned until tomorrow morning.

"May 17th. The commissioners aforesaid now proceeded as far toward the center of said county as they deemed expedient and found it impracticable to establish the county seat of said county at the center, and after returning to the house of John Reynolds aforesaid organized themselves by appointing William Stewart president and Robert Hood as secretary and thereupon notified the proprietors of town sites to hand in their proposals. Whereupon Thomas Johnson handed in his proposal, marked "A," R. L. Britton and Henry Work handed in their proposal, marked "B"; Samuel L. Rugg handed in his proposal, marked "C," and Joseph Morgan and Thomas Prichard handed in their proposal, marked "D," and the commissioners adjourned until tomorrow morning.

"May 18th. The commissioners aforesaid met pursuant to adjournment. Present the same members as yesterday. There being no further sites offered or proposals made, the commissioners aforesaid, after due deliberation, do select the site offered by Thomas Johnson as the most suitable, and thereupon permanently fix and establish the county seat of the county of Adams on the site, being part of the northeast quarter of section 3, township 27 north, range 14 east, and thereupon proceeded to the aforesaid town site and marked a white oak tree about two feet in diameter with two blazes on four sides, on each of which the commissioners individually subscribed their names; which tree is to be within the said town site. And the commissioners adjourned without day.

"WILLIAM STEWART,

"JOSEPH H. McMAKEN,

"WILLIAM G. JOHNSON,

"ROBERT HOOD."

It is said that the site proposed by Samuel L. Rugg was what was recently the Tonnelier farm on the south side of the Saint Mary's river, adjoining what is now Decatur, extending west from where the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad crosses the Saint Mary's river. That the Morgan & Pritchard site included the present town of Monmouth and on west to the river. That the other town sites were the proposed town of Manheim, some distance below Monmouth, at what is known as Ball's run, on lands subsequently owned near Vaschal Ball's, south of the river. And the fourth is said to have been where the present town of Monroe is situated. Within the proposal as made by Thomas Johnson, if his town site be selected as the county seat of Adams county, were



that he give his individual notes to the county for the sum of three thousand one hundred dollars, five hundred dollars of which was payable in twelve months, and two thousand six hundred dollars in thirty-six months after date; that he plat the town site in lots and give a half acre for the public square, one acre for a county seminary (the seminary acre is just south of the water works park); that he donate one desirable town lot to each the Presbyterian, the Catholic, the Baptist and the Methodist church denominations for church purposes; that he would pay all expenses of the locating commissioners and furnish a building in which to hold court and transact the other county business until a courthouse could be erected.

John S. Rhea donated twenty acres off of the west end of an eighty-acre tract (part of the southwest quarter of section 2—the old county fair ground), and Samuel L. Rugg donated ten acres north of Marshall street and west of Third street, including the water works park. At the June session of the county board of commissioners—1836—Jeremiah Roe resigned as county treasurer and John Reynolds was appointed to fill the vacancy. At this session the county clerk was directed to advertise for proposals to build a county jail, to be completed by July 1, 1837. The first contract was given to Richard McKnight and William Lewis, but they secured the services of Bazil Browning. In September, 1837, twenty-five dollars was allowed James Wilson on order of William Lewis and David McKnight, contractors for building the jail; and later an order was drawn payable to Bazil Browning in the sum of three hundred dollars as payment for completion of the jail. Thus the first jail, a double-hewed log structure of

two rooms above and two below, cost the sum of three hundred and twenty-five dollars. In 1868 John W. Williams, who was put in for some misdemeanor, was released by someone boring off the two thicknesses of logs into his cell. Lafayette Riley was arrested and tried for aiding the prisoner to escape. The jail was never used much after that time. At the January session, 1836, of the court the following named persons were called upon to serve as jurymen for the spring term of court:

On the grand jury were: Abraham Elifritz, George Ague, Joseph Wise, Marvin Gorsline, James Niblick, Daniel Stevenson, Joshua Major, Levi Russell, Zachariah Smith, Sr., Jacob England, James M. Fuller, Ruel Risley, Thomas Ruple, Theron Harper, William Heath, Jr., William Ball, Robert Simison and Jonathan Lewis—18.

On the petit jury were: Michael Roe, Eli Zimmerman, Robert Niblick, Boston Rock, Michael Rock, William Major, George Hopple, George Weimer, Jeremiah Andrews, Daniel Ball, Samuel Smith, Abner Fuller, Joel Roe, David McKnight, William Boram, Aaron Archer, Bail W. Butler, James M. Wilson, James Burdick, Peter Studabaker, Jonathan Roe, Robert D. Tisdale, John W. Wise and Alexander Smith—24.

At the May, 1839, meeting of the board of county commissioners the contract was let to John Reynolds, then county treasurer, and Samuel L. Rugg, county clerk, for the building of a frame courthouse forty feet long and thirty feet wide and two stories high; that the boards next to the street shall be plained; that the downstairs, or first-floor, room be for court purposes and the second story in several rooms as the



county agent, who at that time was Enos W. Butler, who shall oversee the construction of the work, may direct. The log jail and the frame courthouse served their purpose for nearly forty years. The present courthouse was built in 1873 at a cost of about ninety thousand dollars. It is fairly modern in construction; is three stories in height, including the basement; is seventy by one hundred and twenty feet in dimensions, with a fine tower, that reaches about one hundred and seventy-five feet high. This structure stands in the center of the public square, is on the trolley line of the Springfield & Fort Wayne road, is a useful public improvement. However, if its builders had set its foundation six feet higher it would have shown up to a much better advantage. Its cornerstone, which was laid with Masonic and Odd Fellow ceremonies on the 4th of July, 1872, on the north side, contains the following: "George W. Luckey, Josiah Crawford, George Frank, county commissioners. Senior Worden, auditor. James R. Robo, attorney. J. C. Johnson, architect, Fremont, Ohio. Christian Boseker, contractor and builder." Originally the tower was not properly supported. It was massive and was in the center of the building, right over the large court-room, with no support directly under the center that reached the foundation on the ground. It was upon a bridge work that rested on the

side walls of the building, and by the swaying back and forth by the wind storms became dangerous and was taken down in 1900 and removed. A new tower with suitable anchorage and supports was built at the front of the structure; is made of solid brick work sixty or seventy feet above the main building, which not only adds much to its appearance, but makes it a tasty and durable structure. The old frame courthouse stood at the corner of Madison and Third streets, to the west of the present building, and on the opposite side of the street. It was removed to Front street near Jefferson street and is now a lodging house, the property of Willard Steele. The old log jail stood in the southwest corner of the public square and was used until about 1870. Eight years later it was burned down. In 1886 the present new jail—a large, commodious building of about a dozen and a half apartments, cells, etc., besides the sheriff's residence, was erected on the east side of Market street, the ground extending back to the river. This structure originally cost between twenty-five and thirty thousand dollars, but has been repaired and made more modern by electricity and city water and other conveniences, so that its present cost is not far from forty thousand dollars. It has large and roomy ground, is well located and is a model modern public building.

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#### TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

In 1833 what is now Adams county was Root township, Allen county, with the county seat at Fort Wayne. This township was formed into a county by an act of the

Indiana general assembly in January, 1836. In the new county's allotment of territory to townships it reserved a strip six miles wide from north to south and extending west



from the Ohio state line ten miles and called this division Root township, Adams county. All south and west of this was called Saint Mary's township, and its organization dates from May 9, 1836. On the 20th day of June, 1836, a part of Saint Mary's township was organized into Wabash township by a line running east and west from Wells county to the Ohio state line about three miles north of the present Wabash township line. In March, 1838, the township of Jefferson was organized by striking off a tract four miles wide and six miles long from the southeast corner of Wabash township. Blue Creek township was formed at the same session of the commissioners' court by taking a tract of Wabash township three miles wide and four miles long that lay directly north of Jefferson township and a like amount off of the southeast corner of Saint Mary's township. At this session Washington township was organized from a block from Saint Mary's township six miles square directly south of the west part of Root township. Preble township was organized at the next session of the commissioners' court within the same year from a part of Saint Mary's township that was four miles wide and six miles long, directly west of Root township. French township was organized in January, 1839, and was composed of a strip four miles long and three miles wide from the southwest corner of Saint Mary's township and a like sized strip from the northwest corner of Wabash township. Monroe township was organized in March, 1840, being a tract six miles square taken, the one-half from Wabash and the other half from Saint Mary's townships. At the next session, the same year, Union township was set off from the east side of Root

township, and on the Ohio state line, a township six miles long and four miles wide. In 1841-2 Kirkland and Hartford townships were organized; Kirkland from Saint Mary's, west of Washington, is four miles wide and six miles long; Hartford township, directly west of Wabash, four by six miles in size. For the first four years of the county's existence as a county Hartford was a part of Wabash. About as soon as a new township was organized an election was held to select the usual township officers, which at that time were justices of the peace, constables, inspectors of elections, the township trustee subsequently managed the duties of that office; supervisors of roads, two overseers of the poor, two fence viewers, later the township trustee's duty. As Root and Saint Mary's were the first townships and comprised then the limits of the present county, they held the first elections of township officers. The election of 1836 in Root township honored the following named citizens with offices: Enos W. Butler, inspector of elections; fence viewers, Jonas Pence and Bail W. Ball; for road supervisors, Joel Roe and William Ball; overseers of the poor, Vaschel Ball and John W. Wise. In Saint Mary's township, fall of 1836, Thomas Ruble, who lived east of where Berne is now situated, inspector of elections. Fence viewers were Zachariah Smith and Joel Roe; overseers of the poor, William Heath, Sr., and Eli Zimmerman.

The first regular county and state election held after the organization of Root and Saint Mary's townships in Adams county showed the following votes polled, as shown by the records: General election of October, 1836. For VanBuren electors, Root township, 21 votes; for William H. Harrison



electors, 45 votes. In Saint Mary's township, VanBuren, 7 votes; Harrison, 27 votes; making a total of 100 votes polled in the presidential election, William H. Harrison's plurality being 44 votes. In this election William Vance, the first state representative, received 14 votes in Saint Mary's and 26 votes in Root township, making 40 votes. His opponent, John Burke, received 3 votes and his opponent, Joel Grover, received 6 votes. Vance's plurality over his opponents was 31 votes. The next election, October, 1837, Mr. Vance received 29 votes and his opponent, George A. Tate, received 10 votes; Vance's majority, 19 votes. The task of the first election inspectors was certainly nominal. The fence viewers' duties, as well as those of the road supervisors, were soon to demand more attention, as the lines of farms were all to locate, and to fence a farm often meant to change the traveled road. The law of 1852 provided for three township trustees and placed upon them the duties of inspector of elections, fence viewers and overseers of the poor among other duties. A portion of the road law then in force was: "Any person may have swinging gates put on such township highway on his own land, under such regulations as such trustees shall prescribe, but in such case he shall keep the same in condition to be opened by persons on horseback; and any person leaving any such gate open for every such offense shall be liable to a fine of one dollar, to be recovered before a justice of the peace."

From 1845 to 1855 it was not uncommon to see land buyers going on horseback, in bunches of from three to six or eight or more, conducted by some resident citizen. These men were in part what were then

termed "speculators," who were looking for investment of their funds in "western" lands. Frequently land was bought up in large tracts and retailed out to smaller purchasers, who came as settlers from the older states. In 1850, as shown by the records, the following were some of the largest tracts of land and their owners in Adams county:

M. F. Burkhead, 1,080 acres; Eli Zimmerman, 1,000 acres; Denison Tinkham, 530 acres; Morgan Smith, 465 acres; Samuel Acker, 410 acres; Bazil Hendricks, 400 acres; Henry Fueling, 400 acres; Peter Moyer, 400 acres; Peter Moser, 375 acres; John Watson, 360 acres; John Hartman, 360 acres; Josiah Crawford, 360 acres; John Everhart, 360 acres; J. Buffenbarger, 360 acres; Reuben Lord, 355 acres; Alexander Fleming, 352 acres; Thomas Fisher, 346 acres; Daniel Ball, 330 acres; George A. Dent, 329 acres; James Glendening, 325 acres; Thomas Watson, 320 acres; Peter Lhaman, 320 acres; Samuel Agit, 320 acres; Henry Galbreath, 320 acres; John H. Blakey, 320 acres; John K. Evans, 310 acres; Adam Faey, 310 acres; John Stephens, 280 acres; Isaac Falb, 275 acres; William McDonald, 275 acres.

The management of the roads and schools was materially changed by the adoption of the second constitution of the state in 1852, and the power of taxation was removed from the majority vote of the residents and placed in the hands of a board of three school and township trustees. Then the era of school house building was begun with some system and regularity. The report of 1850 shows that there were twenty-eight school districts in Adams county; that five were in Root township, four in Washington





THE COUNTY INFIRMARY.



township, three in Wabash township, three in Hartford township, two in Saint Mary's township, two in Kirkland township, two in French township, two in Union township, two in Monroe township, one in Blue Creek township, one in Preble township, and one in Jefferson township; that these had no reference to the private or subscription schools as then frequently conducted by individuals who "boarded" with the patrons and charged tuition by the week or month, but these were regularly organized districts that received from the county authorities their share of the interest provided from the congressional and other school funds of the state. These schools were commonly small in numbers of attendance from the sparseness of the inhabitants. One serious hindrance to the early development and settlement of the county was the lack of means of travel, the great distances to mill. The milling part soon received the attention of the settlers, who built small horse mills and water mills on the larger creeks. Riley's mill at Willshire was built in 1822 and was the nearest milling point for the residents of the county for years. Muldoon's first mill at Williamsport, on the Saint Mary's river, between Decatur and Fort Wayne, was built along about 1841 or 1842, and was one of the early mills. Bond's mill at Camden, once known as Pennville, was built about 1836 or 1837. Arnett's mill at New Corydon and the Nederhouser mill at what is now Buena Vista was built about 1857—the last two named are on the Wabash river. E. A. Godard in 1834 built a saw mill at what was later Pleasant Mills in perhaps 1840, put in a buhr for grinding corn, etc., built a grist mill perhaps about 1843 or 1844 for general grinding of wheat. The

Saint Mary's river, though much shorter than the Wabash, carries three times as much water. At an earlier day the water was much deeper in these streams than at the present time and could be forded at only certain places. It is said that flour was carried in canoes from New Corydon to Peru while the Indians still held their reservations there as a tribe. As late as 1866 Caleb Penock and Aaron Brown rafted walnut lumber from Brown's mill at Alexander down the Limberlost to Huntington to market. About the same time a man by the name of Melshheimer rafted oil barrel staves to Bluffton down the Wabash river. Along in the forties a carding machine and woolen mill was built on the Wabash below New Corydon near the "Daugherty eddy" by a man whose name was Jones. He operated a woolen mill, bought and traded for wool, beeswax, maple sugar and furs. He traded cloth and yarns for these products. Made frequent trips down the river to market his produce and manufactured goods. Further down the Wabash, but just across the county line in Wells county, was a woolen mill built about 1865 at New Ville—later known as Vera Cruz—by A. Daehouse, who had about one hundred and seventy-five spindles for the manufacture of woolen goods. It is said that he often used the river as a conveyance and traded his manufactures for furs, wool and other marketable articles. The residents of Shanesville, Willshire and Decatur often carried their merchandise down the Saint Mary's river to Fort Wayne in large canoes and flatboats. E. A. Goddard and George Heath, in 1846, changed the machinery of their first mill at Pleasant Mills into a new building and put in turning lathes and a carding machine and woolen mill; did a



good business for a number of years and a greater part of their shipping to market was by boats until the plank road was completed in 1853. In June, 1869, D. O. Jackson and T. L. Wilson rafted thirty-two thousand oil barrel staves and a large lot of oil barrel heading to the Fort Wayne market from Decatur.

Commonly the smaller water saw mills made little more lumber than was needed for home use. In 1843 the Wabash & Erie canal was completed from Toledo, Ohio, to below Lafayette, on the Wabash river. And in 1851 the Ohio & Indiana (now known as the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad Company) began its organization; in 1853 was put in operation and in 1856 was consolidated and put under one management. These new modes of transportation were the means of bringing a new and different class of investors into the country, known as "speculators." The first roads used by the white people through the country followed the higher grounds and were known as "by roads," or those indicated by blazed trees. It is said that the road from Decatur to Stockham's store at Monroe in 1850 was just about the shape of a snake track in the dust. Then and at that time even township roads were allowed to be fenced over. Trustees were required to have guideposts placed at the forks or the crossings of all public roads as then located. The law of 1852 was: "Every supervisor shall erect and keep up at the forks of every highway and at every crossing of roads within his district, guideposts and boards with proper inscriptions and devices thereon, the expense thereof to be paid out of the township treasury." It was years after the location of the Piqua and the Winchester roads

before the traveler was limited to their roadbeds. When the adjoining fields were to be fenced then a demand was made of the fence viewers and surveyors to locate the lines. The early surveyors, however, were more fortunate than in locating the corners, as there were witness trees and the land boundaries were more easily marked and the road as time wore on took a permanent location and was marked by the new rail fence, a very convenient and handy assistant in the "corduroy" and "chuck-hole" period of the development of the county. As the speculator element took up a certain part of the land, it set to work to secure better roads that their properties be more accessible to the prospective purchasers. The national government had provided that from three to five per cent. of the funds derived from the sale of government lands within the states of Ohio and Indiana shall be applied on the improvement of the public roads. The Piqua and Winchester roads were cut out and improved by the use of this fund. In July, 1837, Esaias Daily was appointed county road commissioner and in 1839-40 expended between six hundred and seven hundred dollars on removing the logs from and ditching the principal public roads then in use. Within the next ten years toll-road companies were organized all over the state. In this part of the state there seemed to be a scarcity of gravel with which to construct the roads. But as the finest oak timber was in abundance, the plank road companies were organized. The legislature of 1844 passed some enactments that greatly encouraged the plank road ideas. In the spring of 1848 the Fort Wayne & Piqua Plank Road Company was organized, with Samuel Hanna as president and O. W. Jef-



fers as secretary. The Fort Wayne & Bluffton Plank Road Company was organized in 1850, with Thomas Sweney as president and P. P. Bailey as secretary. The contract for both of these roads was let to S. and W. S. Edsall, of Fort Wayne, at one thousand six hundred dollars a mile. The charter for this road was granted by the legislature of 1849 and certain laws regulating tolls, etc., were enacted. Some of the provisions were:

"When three consecutive miles of plank or gravel road shall have been completed, or if the whole of said road shall be less than three miles in length, then in such case, when the whole of such road shall be completed, the directors of such company may erect toll gates at such points and at such distances from each other as they may deem it proper and exact toll from persons traveling on the road; but on any uncompleted road of less than five miles toll shall be charged one year only. The tariff of tolls shall not exceed the following rate: For any sled, sleigh, carriage or vehicle drawn by one animal, one and one-half cents a mile. For every animal in addition thereto, one-half cent a mile. For every horse and rider or led horse, one cent a mile. For every score of sheep or swine, two cents a mile. For every score of neat cattle and mules, five cents a mile. Persons going to and from funerals and soldiers of the United States, while in active service, shall be exempt from tolls." What is known as the Piqua road followed the Wayne trace and was regularly surveyed, widened and cut out about 1830 by Benjamin Lytle. In 1850-1 the roadway was ditched and graded, preparatory to the Fort Wayne & Piqua plank road that followed the Piqua road from Fort Wayne to directly north of Decatur at what is known as the

Pillars farm, then came south through Decatur and passed to the southeast up the river to Pleasant Mills and on to Willshire and Shanesville and Saint Mary's, Ohio. Before 1853 Pleasant Mills and Monmouth were towns of much greater commercial importance than Decatur because Decatur was across the river south of the main traveled road from Piqua to Fort Wayne. The Saint Mary's river then had no bridges and when the water was up the fords were impassable. One ford was above Decatur two miles, near Yellow creek; Smith's ford and the other Ball's, or Reynolds's ford, about three miles below Decatur. The plank road was kept in good repair through Decatur for ten or twelve years and is said to have been a good investment and a wonderful convenience to the traveler. When repairs were discontinued travel decreased and the road soon went into the hands of a receiver, and was sold to J. D. Nutman, then a resident of Decatur. The traveling public refused to pay tolls, the toll houses were burned and the toll gates torn down. While this road was at its best the stage coaches were a great convenience to the traveler. A stage line ran from Saint Mary's to Fort Wayne and return, and from Decatur to Monroeville, and for a time from Decatur to Newville and to Bluffton. Among the stage line owners may be named William Blackburn, George Fettick, Frank Crum, Simeon Hein and Garret Welsch. These stages could conveniently carry from six to eight passengers and went through on the trot with four-horse teams, changing horses every ten or twelve miles. They carried the mails and some light articles of freight or express. The stage business after 1860 was very laborious and really unprofitable on account of the bad conditions of the roads. It



was continued, however, until the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad began its operations in 1872. Along the line of travel from Decatur to Fort Wayne were the famous "Oakland" and "Ashland" taverns just below Monmouth on the old Piqua road. The "Oakland" was a large, two-story, hewed-log building, with a frame addition in front; was built in 1838 by Andrew Wise, who brought the glass, nails, window sash and doors direct with him from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. He descended the Ohio river to Cincinnati, then went by canal to Piqua and by team to Adams county. This tavern had many subsequent landlords after 1845, at which time Mr. Wise went to Fort Wayne to educate his children. During the plank road era James K. Blackburn was its landlord.

The Ashland was another favorite stopping place for the traveler. It was between the Oakland tavern and Monmouth, perhaps a mile beyond Monmouth. It was built by Ezekiel Hooper perhaps about 1837; was a two-story hewed-log building, with large brick fireplaces and a barn attachment large enough for a small regiment of horses. At times the barnyard was crowded with covered wagons of movers from the east. Monmouth also had its hostelries. It is said that Ziba Dorwin at one time owned three tavern buildings in the village. That there were

a long list of tavern-keepers, among whom we may mention Jonathan Fleming, Samuel Randall, Chester Burt, who later came to Decatur, bought out the Joseph Crabbs tavern and built some additions and started the Burt House about 1856, and Ziba Dorwin himself, who is spoken of as one of the pioneer tavern-keepers. It is said that he was a medium-sized man, with a very bushy head of white hair—he was sixty years old in 1850. The Ayres and Daily taverns were further east on the Piqua road. On the Fort Recovery and Huntington road were but two or three taverns of especial note. The one was Plum's tavern, on the north bank of the Limberlost creek at Alexander, and the taverus of Joshua Johntry, at what is now Buena Vista, and the George French tavern, three or four miles further down the river. All these taverns kept whisky at about three drinks for a dime, or twenty cents a gallon. At that time liquors were pure and free from adulterations that create a thirst for more, and there was very little drunkenness throughout the country. As the lowland was infested by many snakes, large and small, it was a very common thing to keep a little spirits on hand for "snake bites" and "stomach trouble," which were the only dreadful things that the early settler made especial preparation for.

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### MILLS AND MILLING.

The long distances from mills, high water and bad roads made the pioneer settler's existence at times a burden. Yet the tin hand-grater or ox mill were reliable and were often used; the little water mill, though

slow, was a great relief when the water was plenty. Now a small gas engine would grind more in a few hours than did the most speedy little water mill in a day. But they were the best that could be



gotten and were a great convenience. The first mills that supplied the early residents of the county were located at Richmond, Willshire, Ohio, and Rudsils and Muldoon's mills in Allen county. From the history of Van Wert county we take the following incident in relation to the erection of the first mill north of Dayton, which was built in 1822 at the present town of Willshire, Ohio: "Captain James W. Riley settled at Willshire in January, 1821, and in that year built a cabin residence on the east bank of the Saint Mary's river. Within the same year timber was cut and prepared for the erection of a mill. All of the nails, bolts and iron work, as well as the mill stones, were hauled from Dayton, Ohio; some of the wagons were drawn by four yokes of oxen. When all was ready invitations were sent out to Fort Wayne, Saint Mary's and Fort Recovery for help to raise the mill. Great preparations were made for their entertainment by the hunters, to whom were delegated the work of supplying the meats. Plenty of wild honey, maple sugar and molasses—not omitting a supply of egg-nog and whisky, without which no frontier crowd could be gotten together. On the appointed day there were people in attendance from Fort Wayne, Fort Recovery, Saint Mary's and Piqua, Ohio, to the number of about fifty, besides the millwrights and surveyors. A good many who came were not used to raising such heavy buildings. Some of the bents were up when one got the start of the pike men and came to the ground with a crash. It was at once agreed to suspend all proceedings until tomorrow. Punctieon tables had been provided with benches for seats and an abundance of provisions to supply the tables. Wooden plates and tincups met all the re-

quirements of the table. After supper it was decided to have a dance by torchlight. Hickory bark was collected and soon bright blazing fagots made the scene a merry one. A fiddler by the name of Freshour, from near Fort Recovery, played the fiddle. As there were no girls or women to engage in the dance, men wore handkerchiefs over their heads as "ladies." The dances were Scotch reels, Irish jigs, Old Virginia reels and "hoe downs." The dancers' actions were accelerated by frequent tincups of egg-nog. One man named James Corbus, a surveyor, who complained of rheumatism, sprang to his feet and danced a jig. They then called him "Limber Jim." (He was subsequently lost in south of Alexander on what is now known as Limberlost creek, near old Buffalo.) The Riley mill was a water mill and was put in operation in 1823. Bond's mill, on the Salamonie, at Pennville, and Depler's mill, later Muldoon's, between Decatur and Fort Wayne, were each built about 1840. Perhaps the first grist mill put in operation in Adams county was the Godard mill on the west side of the river at what was later Pleasant Mills. It dates from 1838 and was a water mill. The next grist mill and subsequently the first steam grist mill in the county, was the Jacob Barks mill, a water mill in 1840, but later, in perhaps 1848, sold to Calvin D. Hart and converted into a steam grist mill. It was subsequently destroyed by fire. In about the year 1865 Godard & Heath changed the machinery from their grist mill at Pleasant Mills and enlarged the capacity, used the former building for turning lathes and subsequently put in a woolen mill, which was discontinued about 1873. The Godard grist mill has been in operation nearly continuously since its erec-



tion, but has at various times been overhauled, and new machinery has taken the place of the old; is now the property of J. C. Cowan and W. J. Smith. The Barks mill, or the Hart mill, as it was later called, was destroyed by fire along in the sixties. It stood on Number's creek, in section 28, Root township. In 1857 Emanuel Neaderhouser built the first grist mill in southern Adams county. It was located at the present town of Buena Vista and was successfully operated as a water mill for about twenty years. Then steam power took the place of water power. In 1894 the mill was remodeled and overhauled by Neaderhouser & Kizer and called the Hoosier Mills and changed to a modern roller mill. The second steam grist mill in the county was the first "Fornax" mill, built in Decatur, near where the Place ice cream factory is located, along the Saint Mary's river. This mill was built in 1852 by Samuel L. Rugg and was operated for about fifteen years and had a distillery attached for a year or two and was abandoned for the "New Fornax" mill that was erected about 1868 by Emanuel Woods, John Rout and Thomas Mickle. This mill was subsequently owned by H. H. Bremerkamp and was burned down in 1905. Its place has been filled by the erection of a new and modern roller mill by the last owner of the New Fornax. The first steam grist mill in the southern part of the county was erected at Ceylon in 1873 by Dr. B. B. Snow; was successfully operated for several years, sold and removed to Portland by its owners, D. L. Proper and S. H. Adams. The first grist mill in the north part of Decatur, now owned by Charles Heckman, was a water mill built in 1843 by Rudolph Schearer and Fred Gerkey. It has been remodeled from time to

time and was changed from water to steam power more than thirty years ago; is now a large roller mill, doing a good business. Some other grist mills in Decatur were the "City mills," built by Jacob S. Hart, and operated for ten or twelve years on Monroe street, near Seventh, and was destroyed by fire in 1896. The "Oak roller mills," put in operation by Anson Vancamp in 1895, is doing an extensive business on First near Madison street. In 1884 the "Hoosier roller mills," of Berne, were started; it ran successfully for five or six years and was destroyed by fire and was never rebuilt. The "White Loaf mills," at Berne, was built in 1889 and is still in successful operation. In 1891 Emanuel Woods & Co. built the mill now owned and operated by the Geneva Milling Company. This mill has changed hands a number of times, but has kept up with the demands of the times by installing new and modern machinery as new processes were introduced in the milling business. Besides the steam mills now in use there were corn and feed mills in various parts of the county that were largely patronized by the earlier settlers. William Lewis and Fred Gerkey, in Root township, each had corn mills that were operated by horse power. Lewis's mill was in Monmouth and stood near where Wilder's brick residence is located. Gerkey's mill was located in the southeast corner of section 2, in Root township. George French, in section 33, French township, had a corn-grinding horse-power mill; also built a water grist mill, but when the race was begun found that the ledge of limestone came so near the top of the ground that he could not get down for the race to supply the water. It is said that the mill was taken down and removed at the cost of nearly two



thousand dollars to the owner. Jacob Clinger, in section 36, in Wabash township, operated a horse-power corn grinder for a time and Tilmon Rawley, of section 1, in the same township, erected and operated a horse-power mill with a fanning mill and "threshing floor" attachment. At this mill the farmer could bring his buckwheat or other grain in the sheaf, tramp it out, use the fanning mill to separate the chaff from the grain, have the grain ground and return home ready for the bran-new buckwheat cakes to be made from his grinding. At that time grain was all flailed out, or threshed by tramping by cattle or horses. It was not until 1851 that there was steam power used in any of the mills in the county. There were several small water mills that did some sawing and a few of them had corn and buckwheat bulrs. These had "up-and-down" saws, and were called "muley" mills. Among this kind of mills we find the James Niblick mill, the Aaron Chapman mill, each of which was built on Numbers creek, in sections 28 and 33, in Root township; the Appleman mill, in section 5, in Washington township; William Conrad's mill, in section 10, Preble township; the Robert Evans mill, on Evans creek, section 20, Root township; the Reuben Lord mill, on Seventeen-Mile creek, section 22, Root township; the J. A. Fomner mill, on Seventeen-Mile creek, section 21, Root township; the Christian Burchhalter mill, on Dismal creek, section 20, Wabash township; the Jacob Baker mill, on Canoper creek, in section 15, in Wabash township; the E. A. Goddard mill, on east side of Saint Mary's river, at Pleasant Mills; the Rudolf Scherer's mill at the present site of Patterson & Pillar's mill; the James McDowel mill that preceded the first Neader-

houser mill at Buena Vista. Besides these water saw and corn-grinding mills there were two carding or woolen mills that were operated by water power; one, the Jones mill, in section 36, Wabash township, and the Goddard & Heath mill at Pleasant Mills. Later there were two woolen mills operated in Decatur; the one by August Albers, on North Second street, near Jackson, and the other on Front street and Jefferson, by the Myers brothers—William J. and David. Among the early steam saw mills we find that Samuel L. Rugg in 1851 located the first steam saw mill in southeast Decatur, just north of the present Scheimann & Co. packing house. That the first steam circular saw mill was brought to the county by Sylvester Campbell, of section 16, in Blue Creek township. That in 1852 John R. Burdge built the first steam saw mill in the south part of the county. This mill was within a few years removed to Alexander, where it was operated until 1868, and was blown up while the property of Ransom Mullinix.

The first and perhaps the only large band-saw mill was built in west Decatur in 1883 by Perry Robison and Amos Gillic, was destroyed by fire in 1890. Some other large steam saw mills for their time were: William Dehl mill, in section 33, in Kirkland township. This mill was built in 1856; the machinery was hauled from Dayton, Ohio, by ox teams. It is said that Mr. Dehl furnished a number of the residents of Decatur with poplar lumber with which to weather-board their first set of buildings here at the sum of five dollars a thousand, delivered. Another heavy mill of considerable interest in the early period of the county was the Buuck & Hockmier mill, in section 10, in



Preble township. This mill was a muley and was built about 1856, and furnished some of the lumber for the first frame buildings in Decatur. The first circular saw mill in the south part of the county was built at Buena Vista in 1867 by Emanuel Neaderhouser. This mill has quite a history that will be related further on in this description. The next steam circular saw mill was located at Alexander in 1868 by Aaron Brown and George Wilson. It rafted some of its lumber down the Limberlost and Wabash river to Bluffton market.

After the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad was built through the county there were many mills put in operation. It is said that Michael Kraner, of Jefferson township, brought in the first portable saw mill. Some of the larger heavy mills at that day were the Colgrove & Miller mill in the north part of the county and the B. B. Snow mill on the Wabash east of Ceylon and subsequently removed to the railroad at Ceylon. This mill was built in 1870 and had a capacity of fifty thousand feet of lumber a week. It furnished over ten miles of the railroad bridge timber for the new railroad, besides many thousands of railroad ties and other timbers. Some of the other mills that operated successfully throughout the county were the mills of Vincent D. Bell, of French township; C. W. Hooker, of Monroe township; J. R. Hockenbery, of Jefferson township; Hamel & Barnhart, of Blue Creek township; David Worling, of Preble township; Woods & Winnes, of Washington township; Colter & Smith, of Root and Saint Mary's townships; Eicher & Co., Saint Mary's township; Fruchte & Peck, in Preble township. At present the small portable mills are finishing up what is left of the

once magnificent forests of oak, ash, poplar and walnut timber. The only mills of much capacity now ready for operation are the Adams County Lumber Company's mills at Berne and Decatur. Much of their timber is hauled long distances or shipped in by railroad for use. The early mills were not without their casualties, both serious and humorous. The Neaderhouser saw mill at Buena Vista was the first steam circular saw mill in the southern part of the county. Not like some others in the county, its start was of the hair-raising variety, and of the most dangerous kind. The mill building was a two-story frame, with the saws and carriages on the second floor. Before the sawing had proceeded far the machinery became unmanageable and in gigging back the log carriage was shot with terrific force out of the upper story of the mill; the engine ran off, burst the fifteen-hundred-pound balance wheel in a thousand pieces, which flew through the roof of the engine house like grapeshot from a cannon. The building was completely shattered, but fortunately no one was seriously hurt. The mill was repaired and until recently was operated in the manufacture of lumber. Hammil's mill in northern Blue Creek township burst its large belt wheel and severely injured several men. It was what then was known as a "direct action" and the engine fairly flew. Such occurrences would naturally make an impression on those who had never heard a steam whistle—and until 1872 they were scarce in Adams county. An incident is related by Martin V. B. Simcoke, usually known as "Van Simcoke," as to the fun and excitement gotten out of starting the first steam saw mill in Decatur in 1851. He tells us that: "The first steam works in Adams



county was a steam saw mill, brought to Decatur by Samuel L. Rugg, the founder of Decatur, to saw planks for the plank road to be built from Fort Wayne to Saint Mary's, Ohio, through Decatur. The mill was located on the Saint Mary's river southeast of the court house, where Si Hamel's mill is located, and near the C. & E. Railroad bridge. There was one Johnson, a millwright by trade, came along to finish the mill, and he told the people of the many accidents and blow-ups which were caused by steam power that caused all the people to fear the business. The children were all warned to keep away. There were no visitors to bother the workmen on account of the danger. At last the mill was ready to start up; the log yard was jammed full of fine oak logs; the building was up and all the steam works to their proper places. Mr. Rugg concluded to have a jubilee and invited the people far and near to come and witness the greatest curiosity of their lives, assuring the people of no danger.

The day arrived and with it the people from afar. They came in every conceivable way to get there. The building was a large two-story frame, with four by four girders around the entire building about four feet from the ground. The siding was not nailed on yet, consequently the girders were fine seats for men and boys, which were filled all around. Ladies and gentlemen with their children and the elderly people occupied the

log yard, as they feared to venture close. Everybody awaited anxiously to see the thing go. Steam was up, fizzing and fretting; occasionally the engineer would touch a small steam gauge, when there would be a scream from some woman, perhaps a dozen or more. A thought struck the engineer that there was fun ahead and he took the poker and raised the safety valve and let her off. There never was such a stampede in our time as was exhibited there. Women fainted and some screamed, ran and fell over everything. Men did not wait to see if anybody was killed. The girders were empty in a jiffy. Clothing was left upon the stumps, logs and bushes. Horses ran away, causing havoc among the natives. All I can remember of it was that infernal blast. I found myself about two hundred yards from the blow-off and seeing old man Elefritz whiz past me like a meteor and likely he is running yet. I had crossed a creek near by and after I came to I was a walking mud boy. One Hobart Scott, a young man then, jumped into the river and dived down and across the river, a dozen following. My mother tore her fine calico dress in fragments getting away, and father lost his fine plug hat. At intervals the engineer would cause a blast from the cussed thing. There was not a female soul within a half mile of it. People talked of killing the engineer, but better heads persuaded the people to drop it, as he meant only fun."

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#### FAIRS AND ENTERTAINMENTS.

The early settlers cared less for an exhibition of fine cattle, fat hogs, high-priced sheep than they did for the horse that could

make the fleetest time, the boy or man who could run the fastest or jump the farthest. As a result the women and girls were horse-

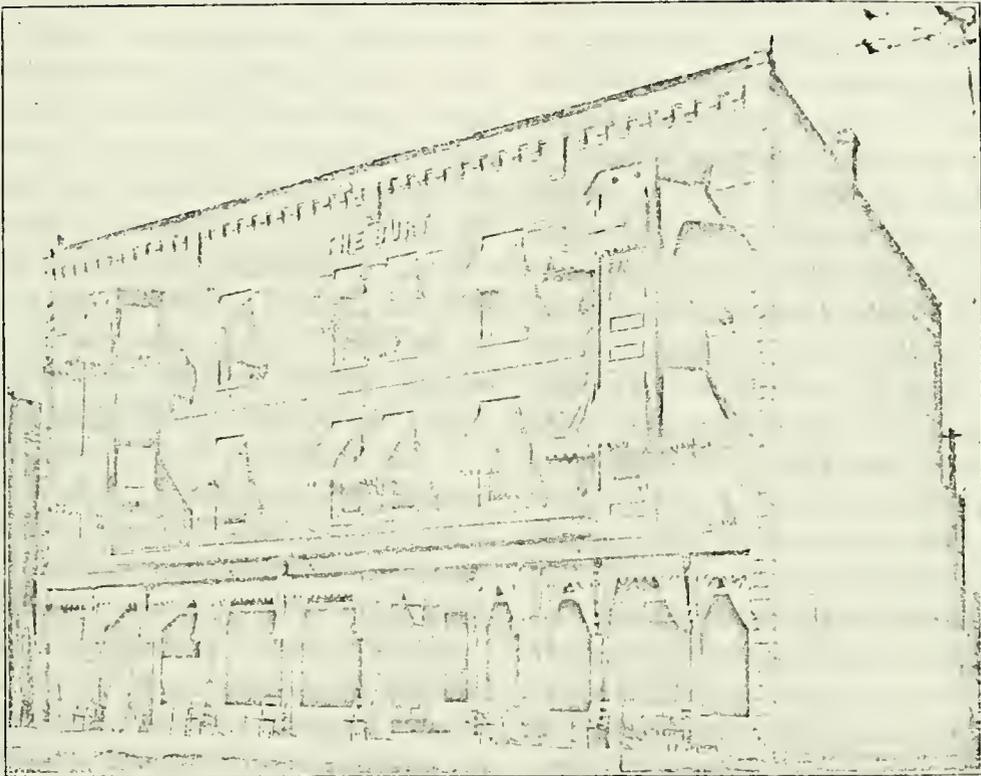


women and could drive and ride as well as their brothers or fathers. The horse race, the foot race, the wrestling match and jumping contest were much in favor and became a feature of every meeting. Though in its infancy as a civil corporation, its communities upheld their codes of "honor" even to the exclusion from their "crowd" such as would disregard the accepted regulations of the neighborhood. The fellow who would take a "dare" to attempt some feat of strength as a wrestle, a race or a fight was soon marked for retirement.

To make the attempt and lose was no enduring disgrace, but the defeated stood next in favor to the winner. To be called a liar or some other names on that line and not resent it or fight was to merit the disgrace of all who knew of the occurrence. Any one was then at liberty to bespatter the unfortunate with derision, vulgarity and abuse if he wished, for then cowards had no standing in the "court" of public sentiment. The entertainments were varied in their nature; the wood chopping or corn husking, with a dance at night; the quilting party or wool picking or later the apple cutting and the sugar stirring, were very common forms of entertainment for the first residents of the county. Religious services were held at private houses, as were also singing schools, in which the younger members of the community would ride miles on horseback to attend. Now the young man may drive to church or singing school in his buggy; then he took his best girl on the horse behind him and both rode the same horse. In those days the girls seemed to have a better hold on their fellows than at the present time. Perhaps because they were both going the same way at the same time. As schoolhouses

were erected they were used for church, singing school and most other public gatherings; these were attended by old and young alike. The spelling match and debates were much in favor. Sled-loads would drive for miles to meet competing localities in discussion or to contest the "grounds" in who could spell the longest and the most difficult words. The whole neighborhood would be interested in the result and in some instances a "licking" match or series of fights would end the contest. Particularly this was true in regard to the outcome of debates. Some of the subjects of discussion such as, "Is Sprinkling Baptism"? "Have Niggers Souls to Save"? and "Is a Country Boy Greener in Town Than a Town Girl Is in the Country?" have been decided by a majority of the judges in the house—one way—and outside of the house in another. As the farmers began to have better advantages for exhibition of their products the public fair idea gained some favor. The first fairs were under criticism by those who had no new breed of stock or fancy vegetables to exhibit, but many of them went anyhow just to see the others "show off" or out of a spirit of curiosity. The first county fair of any consequence was held at Decatur in 1853. It was held in what is now courthouse square. The stalls and pens were around the lot and the vegetables, fancy work, etc., were placed inside the old courthouse, to which an admission fee of two shillings was charged. At that time there was an effort made to introduce a better grade of cattle and hogs than the then common woods stock known as "elm-peeler hogs" and "pennyroyal cattle." Some of the early dealers in Durham cattle, Magee hogs and Merino sheep were Josiah and John Crawford in





BURT HOUSE (Destroyed by fire December 26, 1906).



cattle; Semour Worden, John McConnell, William Aspy, Pendleton Rice, Lot French and some others were interested in improved stocks of hogs. Morgan Smith, Tilmion Rawley and the Daileys, of which there were several, in a better grade of sheep. Lewis Mattax, P. N. Collins and Samuel Steele were especially interested in orchard products. Through the efforts of those most interested the first Adams County Agricultural Society was organized under the recent state law that placed the society under the indirect control of the state board of agriculture. The Adams County Agricultural Society was organized at Decatur on the 28th day of December, 1852, with the following named board of directors and officers: Lewis Mattix, Lot French, C. S. Dorwin, Samuel Steele, Josiah Crawford, Josephus Martin, Richard Winans, Andrew Scoles, Joseph Crabbs, David Erwin, Abraham Sommers, Thomas Luffborrow.

The executive officers chosen by the board of directors were: Samuel S. Mickle, president; George A. Dent, vice president; David Studabaker, secretary; John McConnell, treasurer; William G. Spencer, librarian.

For the first year's expenses the members of the association each contributed a fee of one dollar. This entitled the association to make a requisition on the county treasurer for a like amount if it was then in his hands as license fees collected from traveling circuses and like shows. The numbers and interest increased for four or five years. Then the Civil war excitement and other influences reduced the interest and the county fairs were discontinued altogether, until 1875, at which time the twenty-acre tract in the southeast part of Decatur was leased by the county commissioners for a period of

years to Emanuel Woods and others, who built a race track, fenced the grounds, put down a driven well and erected the necessary buildings to conduct a county fair. At the time of the first fair the public square had a jail and sheriff's residence on the southwest corner, a one-story brick building sixteen by thirty-two feet in size, in the southeast corner, which was used as the county auditor's and treasurer's offices; in the northeast corner, where the "Whittier's Barefoot Boy" fountain stands, stood a brick building similar to the one at the southeast corner, which was used as the county clerk's and recorder's offices. The old courthouse, which was a two-story frame, the lower story all in one room, stood west of the public square on inlots 93 and 94, at the corner of Third and Madison streets. The cattle and some other stock were exhibited in the public square, which then was inclosed by an ordinary board fence to keep the cows of the town from browsing in the gardens of the county officers. One feature of the stock exhibit was very unusual for that day in this locality. It was a Magee hog that is said to have weighed seven hundred pounds, and was exhibited by William Aspy, then a resident of Wabash township. One man in his description of this hog said that it was as big as his cow and as long as a fence rail.

In the spring of 1875 an Adams County Agricultural Association was organized with Emanuel Woods president, John W. Rout secretary and Daniel Weldy as treasurer, and John Rupright, Henry Fuelling, A. J. Teeple, Timothy Coffee and Richard Winans as directors. The twenty-acre tract in southeast Decatur, known as "the old fair grounds," was leased by the association and Emanuel Woods given the contract to re-



move the brush and timber, put down a driven well, build a half-mile race track, properly fence the grounds and put up the necessary buildings for a county fair to be held. In September of the same year the first fair was held on those grounds. The succeeding fairs for four or five years were well patronized, but dissensions arose in the management and the control was turned over to some non-residents, who had a circuit of fairs and a string of race horses that were credited as being "stake sweepers," and the residents somewhat lost interest in the other features of what is required to make a successful exhibit of the county's resources. About 1889 the last fair was held in the old fair grounds. Since that time the county commissioners have rented this ground as a pasture field. In the spring of 1900 the Decatur Driving Association was organized for the purpose of encouraging the fanciers of trotting, pacing and running horses to attend the Decatur races. Grounds were leased at what is now Steele's Park, a race track made and some suitable buildings erected for stabling horses. In October of the next year a three days' horse fair was held at the park. It was successful beyond the expectations of its managers. The next effort toward the organization of an agricultural society in Adams county was at the meeting of the Farmers' Mutual Benefit Association in Monroe on the 23d day of October, 1901. At this meeting a committee consisting of Jonathan Fleming, George W. Gladden and Lemuel Headington was appointed to draft articles of association and report the same at the next November meeting. The committee in its report suggested that family tickets be sold and donations be solicited to secure the funds necessary to

erect the suitable buildings for a county fair. That the county commissioners be petitioned to sell the old fair ground and the funds be appropriated toward the erection of buildings upon grounds that may be leased for the purpose of holding a series of fairs. The action of the commissioners was adverse to the sale of the old fair grounds and it was agreed by the promoters of the fair project that coupon ballots be sent out with the Decatur Democrat, then published by Norval Blackburn, and a vote be expressed as to the selection of officers of a fair to be held at Decatur the next year. In this balloting contest there were four hundred and fifty-six ballots sent in and the following named persons were chosen to fill the various offices: For directors: Frank Berger, Frank Gideon, Lewis Fruchte, Joshua Bright, Michael Miller, George Tricker, David Dailey, J. S. Beatty, Peter Ashbaucher, Jonas Neuenchwander, L. O. Bears, Martin M. Herr and Peter Kinney. In July, 1903, Willard Steele made a proposition to the directors of the Adams County Fair Association to lease them his one-hundred-and-fifteen-acre farm just east of the city for the use of a county fair; that under certain conditions he would erect all of the necessary buildings to conduct the same. In September, 1903, "The Farmers' Fair" was held near Steele, in Blue Creek township. In 1904 the Farmers' Fair was again conducted as the year before and met with good patronage. In June of 1904 the horse fair, or Adams County Horsemen's Association, was organized with the following named directors:

Willard Steele, Henry Kohn, Davis Dailey, August Bly, Sampson Pillars, James Bell, V. D. Bell, George W. Martz, J. H. Beatty, Calvin Teeters, M. L. Smith,



Dan Beery, David Eckrote, John S. Peterson, S. W. Hale and J. B. Rice. The purpose of this association, as stated in their by-laws, was to encourage the breeding, training and use of trotting, pacing and running horses. Its executive officers were Abe A. Boch, president; Elmer Johnson, secretary; Dr. J. M. Miller, treasurer; board of managers: J. B. Rice, S. W. Hale, Willard Steele, Dan Beery, J. S. Peterson. Throughout the summer and fall of 1904 and 1905 the association had races at stated times with good interest and attendance. In the fall of 1900 the directors of the Adams County Fair Association met at Decatur and elected officers for the ensuing year and considered favorably the proposition of Willard Steele to lease his farm for fair purposes, erection of buildings, etc., for the use of the association. The officers then chosen were: George H. Martz, president; Andrew Gottschalk, vice president; Charles True, treasurer, and Henry Krick, secretary. It was agreed at this meeting that if sufficient donations by subscription could be secured that Mr. Steele's proposition be accepted. Committees were appointed and directed to report at the next county farmers' institute, which convened near the end of the year. The reports were so encouraging that arrangements were begun and the time set for the first county fair to be held at Steele's Park, as it was then named. The first fair was held in the fall of 1901, though the buildings were insufficient and some of them unfinished. This fair was well attended and gave general satisfaction. At the next meeting of the board of directors there was a change of officers. In 1902 the officers were George Tricker, president; Martin L. Smith, vice president; Thomas H. Harris, secretary.

and Rudolph R. Schugg was chosen treasurer. All of these officers served two years. This year the name of the association was changed to the "Great Northern Indiana Fair," and is so called at this time. In 1904 the officers selected were John D. Neidlinger, president; William Farlow, vice president; John Brown, treasurer, and Cal D. Kunkle as secretary. These officers served until 1906, at which time the present officers were chosen. The executive officers are: George Tricker, president; Martin L. Smith, vice president; John Brown, treasurer, and Cal D. Kunkle, secretary. The following are the directors serving in 1907: Thomas S. Perkins, J. B. Corson, John P. Steiner, William Farlow, James M. Duff, J. R. Graber, Louis Fruchte, Michael Miller, Malcom A. Ripley, Sylvester Pontius, W. T. Waggoner, J. W. Brodbeck, J. D. Neidlinger, Philip Baker and Simeon J. Bowers. Within the last few years Steele's Park has been much improved and beautified with drives, flowers, artificial lake of several acres. It now has city water, electric lights, graveled drives through the groves and a good race track. Aside from the county fairs the poultry loving people have held three fairs in Decatur within the last three years. The first in the Woodward & Ball vacated furniture store room on Second street; the next in the Morrison building at Court and Second streets, and the third and last one on the 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th days of January, 1907, in Meiber's Hall on Second street. "The Adams County Poultry and Pet Stock Association" was organized in December, 1904. The executive officers of this association in 1907 are: W. A. Fonner, president; Charles E. Magley, secretary; Mrs. Fannie Christen, treasurer.



At these shows a small entrance fee is charged and all the fowls are scored by a non-resident judge, who makes the awards, not knowing to whom the birds belong. The management has awarded prizes for certain exhibits and a lively interest has been shown in all these fairs so far held.

Perhaps one of the most beneficial and instructive meetings held in the interest of the agricultural element of the county are the farmers' institutes. These have been conducted annually for the last ten years. The system of management provides for an able non-resident instructor, who works from an outline program, showing the subjects upon which instruction is given. Queries and questions submitted by the members of the institute raise many questions of interest to the farmer. Aside from the work of the special instructor, local talent is expected to assist in discussion of subjects under consideration. Recitations, essays and addresses are also announced and given as a part of the program. The interest and attendance at these meetings have steadily increased from year to year. The large courtroom in Decatur, that once was rarely filled in front at these institutes, is now hardly sufficiently large to accommodate the audiences. Among the numerous exercises and addresses given at these meetings from time to time we here refer you to one entitled, "Nature's Nobleman," delivered by the author hereof, J. F. Snow, at the meeting December 2, 1903, in Decatur:

"Friends and Farmers—Can we ever forget that inviting country residence in summer? How many successful business men of today can testify to the happiest time of their lives in the country at the old homestead? What a fund of satisfaction in the

memory of that rustic simplicity, that picturesque scenery of natural grandeur, which surrounds the country home. Friends, it was my good fortune to enjoy the freedom of a country home in my youth. It was there in the stern school of experience that I learned to know that the progressive workman must each day give some good account of himself. That the honest toiler is worthy of his hire, and that by his skill and industry this beautiful land of protected freedom is made to blossom as the rose in her season; that by his incessant labor the lands have been cleared and drained; that from his fields and flocks cities are fed and clothed; that without the farmer no nation can long exist in complete thrift and contentment. As a crumbling monument of feudal ages in Europe we learn of social rank and titled people, known as dukes and dudes and lords and earls. A few of them have been induced to come to free American soil long enough to bargain for some millionaire's 'left-over' daughter with a million for boot money thrown in. In this vast, fertile region we have but one special nobleman, and he that honest workman who is willing to labor with brain and brawn at what his hands findeth to do in earnest, honest effort to improve his condition and add to his nation's honor and power. He isn't afraid of work in time of peace, nor is he afraid of war when fighters are wanted in the defense of his country's honor. He is a jolly, jovial gentleman at home and a useful factor in a nation's councils. The finest and fleetest horses are bred in the country, so are the nation's most sturdy sons. While Europe may croak and boast of her noblemen, titles and all, we can with pride point to Nature's nobleman—the American farmer—who



feeds them all. In all the walks of human endeavor there are none in which successful effort is so general as among the farmers. The professions are abandoned for the farm; the mechanic quits his trade and returns to the quiet home on the farm. The merchant, the financier or the statesman all want a home in the country. Fewer failures occur among farmers than other lines of employment of men. Fewer defalcations and no twenty cents on the dollar values in stock.

The farmer owns what he has and pays taxes on what he owns. It would appear that the farmer might be nearer a master of the situation than he now appears to be. Too often when he has a bounteous crop the prices are low. He is answered that, 'over production' is the cause of low prices. Is it not a truth that over production cannot exist when human beings, somewhere in the world, are starving and dying for food or clothing? A few years ago land was low in price. Was there an over production? All sociologists will agree that when the farmer is the most prosperous then all the industries flourish most. When the farmer has an abundance to sell at good prices then he has means with which to buy lumber for his buildings; wire for his fences, and tiling for his farm lands. The farmer of today is not exactly the farmer of twenty years ago. If he was he would show no signs of advancement. The annual institutes furnish much available theory for experiment to the progressive element of farmers. An opportunity is given for the interchange of ideas as to the various methods of economy in expenditure of effort and of cash in the laborious work of farming. The farmer who would make the most of stock and crops must be ever on the alert; keep an eye to the

markets as to where and when the highest prices are paid for what he has for sale and where the lowest prices are asked for what he has to buy. A few dollars saved is justly earned. Note the profits on a single acre of the different varieties of grain, or the results of a certain strain of stock, for the money invested. Many points in farm industry are points of dispute, as men may honestly differ in opinion as to what breed of hogs will soonest turn the ready dollar; or one woman may cling to her Plymouth Rock in a vain effort to have them outdo the Rhode Island Reds or the Leghorns of her neighbors. In the farmers' meetings various theories have been and will be discussed by the progressive farmer, much not only to his own advantage, but to the advantage of his less fortunate brother. In every craft and guild there are those who lead and those who follow by imitation. The practical application of theory is results. The follower of the successful workman will help make general a different system of farming and a better grade of stock on the farm lands. There are now a large number of the farming community who no longer are satisfied with a 'pretty good' breed of cattle, such as were bred some time ago throughout the west, but they are now determined to have the best breeds that any market can supply. Why, as the story goes, some large farmers a few years ago would have had the palpitation of the knees to think of paying two thousand dollars for a Belgian horse or fifty dollars for a blooded rooster. Such sales are an everyday occurrence now. The old 'apple tree' hens that could run like partridges and fly to the highest limb on the tree were a good chicken perhaps, but were not the very best chicken for the farmer to raise, for either



the market or results to the crops over which they ranged. Now the poultry men or poultry women, perhaps one might say, wants the very best chicken that brains and money can procure. And they have them, too. We are told that the poultry farms today pay their owners a better per cent, on the cash and labor invested than the corn and hog farms of the central states. The egg crop of the United States, in a single year, amounts to more cash, when put upon the market, than the gold mined in the limits of this vast country within a like period of time. The Hoosier hens the past year have prepared over six hundred million of eggs for the market and sat around a good part of the time at that. This great agricultural district, between the lakes at the north and the Ohio river at the south, has undergone great development in the last quarter of a century. The question now is, 'What will the Hoosier do next?' There can be but one solution of the question. He will go onward and forward in his each and every line of development till this little state, that is but the one-seventh the size of Texas, or the one-third the age of Massachusetts, will be the Mecca of all that merits mention in effort or scientific development. For some time past the center of population has been in the Wabash valley. Today Indiana has nearly two-thirds as many people as had the original 'Thirteen Colonies' when they won their independence; and now Indiana annually produces more grain than did all those colonies combined. She expends large sums annually for public improvements and is now becoming a network of electric roads and steam thoroughfares, carrying the products of all the west and east. To see a practical illustration of what progress has done for

the farmer one has but to step upon the streets of one of our cities. The daily markets show the thrift and prosperity of the farming class of people. Every wagon brings something to market. The farmer himself shows indication of having spent some of the proceeds of his labors in farm products on his equipment. Has it ever occurred to you that under the same Heaven's azure dome, under the same golden sunshine, not a thousand miles from here, are tillers of the soil who show no signs of thrift? Who are satisfied to let old Father Time push them along as necessity may demand from day to day? They are not Hoosiers, nor do they take any interest in the Hoosier state. Thrice abundantly blest is he who is in a land of plenty, with energy and industry humming on every side. Thrice is that family fortunate whose fireside is adorned with the conveniences and comforts of a civilized land; a home where art, literature and music may find a place. In some old noted records we are told that many years ago the children of Israel, while perhaps in bondage, built the Pyramids of Egypt. There, on the desert waste, those pyramids stand today, not as emblems of thrift, freedom and perpetual prosperity of a people, but as an everlasting monument of tears, suffering and sorrow of what was once God's chosen people. They stand as an emblem of the forced labor of an enslaved people; a people debased in the sight of the world, as hewers of stone and drawers of water, without wages or hire. The monuments of American enterprises are not the enslavement of her people, but the subjugation of her natural forces, which contribute to the world's welfare, comfort and happiness. It was a Ben Franklin, on American soil, that drew the lightning from



the clouds and harnessed it for the use of mankind. Today the electric spark does our bidding. The X-rays, the phonograph, the electric light, the telephone and a hundred other useful discoveries and inventions are the everlasting monuments of merit to the credit of America's Nature's noblemen. In the eastern world wealth like the pyramids of Egypt, in one continuous chain, goes from sire to son, always beyond dissemination or attack. The semblance of serfdom supply the revenues of government and continuous oppression is their dark future. The American pyramids of wealth look much more hopeful to the foe of aristocracy. In the American commonwealth each succeeding generation scatters the bricks placed in the great pyramids of millions; thus the careful farmer's son becomes the successful merchant, or corporation magnate, and the son of the millionaire becomes the day laborer and leaves off where his father began in the struggle for wealth and power. After years of bondage and servitude the children of Israel sought the land of promise and marched out six hundred thousand strong to occupy their possessions. The American farmer has found the promised land, and in this, the year of 'jubilee,' is in possession and has freed himself of much of the wearing toil known to his ancestors of years ago. He no longer uses the flail to thresh his grain or the horse power to grind it. He need no longer drag and tramp the mud roads to the city. The telephone is in his house and the morning paper is on his doorstep. He lives in the country and enjoys the blessings of luxury and comfort not even known to potentates and kings, whose word was law. He is the American citizen and Nature's nobleman at home. A nation is not measured

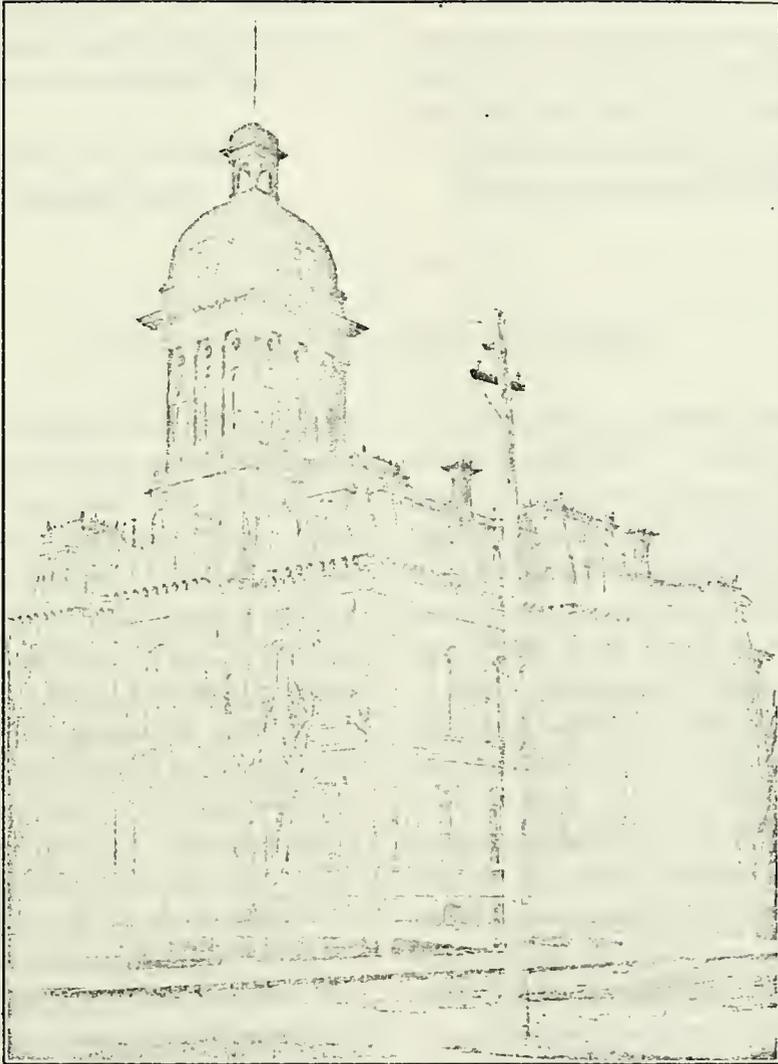
by the date of its government. This nation of ours is new in years and young in experience. The value of a discovery or an invention is not estimated by the wealth of the discoverer. The true Nature's nobleman is known by what he really is; what he has done, and what he can do. The world cares little of what his ancestors have been. That was yesterday. The hustling, busy world is living the today. Now is the accepted time, and this is the place. What has he done and what can he do? are the only passwords to his acceptance. Little Switzerland, with small mountainous area, has stood as a beacon light of liberty in Europe for ages past for what she has done for her citizen population. Bismarck, the 'Iron Chancellor,' with consummate skill, unified the states of Prussia and the German nation of today, has one of the best drilled military organizations on the continent of Europe. Yet that country contributes many thousands strong each year to the throng who choose the air of American freedom under the protection of the stars and stripes rather than that military 'fatherland.' Here they are true Nature's noblemen at home. It was Frederick the Great, of Germany, who sent to Washington a sword bearing the inscription, 'From the oldest general in Europe to the greatest general in the world.' The American laborer is busy in his incessant effort to provide for his home and family, yet the centers of commerce and trade have conspired to force him to pay undue tribute on the necessities he must use as a member of the highest stage of civilized community. That oppression should be the occasion of a declaration of rights in his own behalf. Past history, however, of other lands recites his similar oppression. The eventful December of



1799 caused the world to grieve and mourn the death of the patriot President of the United States. But amid mourning those patriots were caused to rejoice that their comrades in arms at Yorktown were now directed by the peasants' friend and protector, Napoleon Bonaparte. It was for him to overthrow the feudal servitude that nearly crushed the honest toilers of the vine-clad hills of France. He gave his nation the 'Code Napoleon' and placed it on a footing that commanded and received the respect of the whole of Europe. For a decade and a half an ever-grateful people followed him through his various fortunes. The coming nobleman should respect and revere the price of liberty. It is the record of nations that avarice, greed and oppression have robbed the freemen of their liberties and the laborers of their farms. Fathers and mothers today should remember that these are times of exacting competition, days when efficient efforts must be used to bring effective results. Aside from the duty which they owe to the state of giving to its sons and daughters that assistance which will best fit them for the battle that must be waged in the world's great arena before them, they owe the future noblemen that parental care which points out to them their obligations to others in the task of living. That the family circle, though favored it be, that the day must come when your children will leave your fireside for one of their own. That then their efforts will be guided by past habits and customs; then honesty and energy will direct them. A parent's best wishes will follow and applaud their successful efforts. They are your constant care and concern. In times past you have known little of leisure and less of luxury. Was it that you

might have a farm and home free from debt? That your sons and daughters might meet the world better equipped for the requirements than you have been? You know that deep down in your hearts there is a well of tenderness and love for your children. You know, as the world knows, that the success of your child is Heaven to you, and that his failure is heartaches keener and deeper than can be told. Then teach that child by word, by precept and by example that the earnest, careful toiler in the line his hands and might findeth to follow is always worthy of his hire. That the ultimate reward for all well directed effort is that merited success which crowns a nation with civilization and its people with justice and honor. Along down the vista of ages we see the laborers returning from the temple with ruins for inspection. There is a Calvin, a Wesley and a Cromwell; a Burke, an Emmett and a Gladstone. There is a Henry, a Jefferson and a Madison; and in our own Hoosier state a Mills, a Morton and a Hendricks; all reared and bred under country influences. 'The stone that the builders rejected became the head of the corner.' In ages past there was a carpenter's son who was scourged, spat upon and slain. The world knows His history. Churches in all civilized lands tell His story. The stone that the builders rejected shall ever stand as the head of the corner. Can you see a tall, spare lad of fourteen years in the dusk of the evening on the Alleghany slope gathering pine knots to warm the cheerless home of his widowed mother? He was a farmer's son, and General Andrew Jackson, the patron saint of the Democratic party. Again, can you see an indescribably awkward barefoot boy poling a flatboat of hoop poles and pork down the





THE NEW COURT HOUSE.



Ohio river? That boy's fame grew to the length and breadth of the nation. By a stroke of his pen the southern slaves breathed an air of freedom. That was Abraham Lincoln, the idol of the American people. The stone that the 'mushroom' aristocracy rejected became the head of the corner. It may be truly stated that:

The king may rule o'er land and sea,  
The lord may live right royally;

The soldier rides in pomp and pride,  
The sailor roams o'er ocean wide,  
But this or that, whate'er befall,  
The farmer, he must feed them all.

God bless the man who sows the wheat,  
Who finds us milk, and fruit, and meat;  
May his purse be heavy, his heart be light,  
His fields and home be free from blight,  
God bless the seeds his hands let fall,  
For the farmer, he must feed us all.

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### EARLY SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS.

Is there a resident who can draw a mental picture of the educational advantages of Adams county in 1840? At that time the county was four years old. Then schoolhouses could be built only with the consent of a majority of the legal voters of that particular school district. When a vote was taken and it was decided to build a schoolhouse the voters assembled and divided themselves into choppers, haulers, hewers, etc. If for any reason a resident wished to pay the money instead of work—which was estimated at thirty-seven and a half cents a day—an assessment of seventy-five cents was usually the full requirement of the law. Section 6 of the school law provided that: "The said trustees shall always be bound to receive at cash price in lieu of any such labor or money, as aforesaid, any plank, nails, glass or other material which may be needed about said building." The next section provided that: "In all cases such schoolhouse shall be eight feet between the floors and at least one foot from the surface of the ground to the floor and furnished in a man-

ner calculated to render comfortable the teacher and pupils." The teacher and pupils were "rendered comfortable" also by a huge fireplace, usually built of clay mortar mixed in chaff or of "niggerhead" stones. The seats were of two kinds, the high and the low. They were simply the one-half part of logs a foot or more thick split into two parts and hewed on the upper side, with ironwood poles put in for bench legs. There were no backs to these seats. Those who wrote on paper would sit on the high benches next to the wall. These faced puncheon desks, constructed of smooth-faced puncheons resting on stout pins driven into the wall. There was but little system of gradation in seating the pupils. The boys were all on the one side of the room and the girls on the other. When recitation time came they were all called out upon the floor and required to "toe the line" as indicated by the puncheons touching each other in the floor. In winter time the seats near the fire were exchanged as soon as one side of the pupil was "baked" or unendurably hot. The idea



that a scholar could learn his lesson without whispering it nearly aloud to himself had, at that time, not gotten this far west. Scholars were permitted to use such school books as they might happen to have, with the exception of the New Testament as a reading book and one of the approved spelling books. Webster's and McGuffey's were among the earliest used. As soon as the schoolhouse was ready for use the trustees called a school meeting to determine what amount of cash and what amount of produce were agreed upon as the teacher's pay. Not infrequently the teacher would change his boarding place once a week, and as it was called, "board around among the scholars." The pioneer settlers were subjected to many privations at first, but in the main were a moral and religious people. Whatever might have been their religious or political differences, they commonly agreed that to "spare the rod" was to "spoil the boy," and gave the teacher ample authority for its application. As a result many an idler received a stinging reward that headed him toward successful manhood. It was of common occurrence for teachers to read their rules at the beginning of the term of school. Woe to the scholar who wilfully stepped beyond the bounds of "rectitude."

In 1852 were enacted new school laws that gave trustees power to locate and build such number of schoolhouses as in their judgment the educational interests of the communities demanded. This same law required teachers to make reports to their successors and to the school trustees as to the attendance, interest, etc., manifested by the pupils and patrons of the school district. The following may, or may not, have been a correct report of one of the early peda-

gogues to his successor and to the board of township trustees. There were three trustees from 1852 to 1862.

#### REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES.

"I will begin with the trustees. You know what a bad examination I had to pass. You know that no living mortal could give correct answers to all them questions. You had never ought to put a teacher in a school where the scholars get so smart as to be shooting puzzling questions at him every day. I ain't no dictionary; air you? You should note this when you hire the next teachers."

"To my successor in this school:

"This is a good school, but it needs watching. They can knock an eye out of any school round here on spelling. A little memorandum of the winter's work is sticking just behind the teacher's platform. If you don't find it and a little red-headed boy that lisps comes to school, he will set you right, and give you all the information that you need, and help you run the school. Don't let your ink freeze up, for it spiled this way last winter and raised a rookery all over the deestrick. If you want a good view of your work, compare what people tell you with what they tell others. Yours, etc.,

"C. J. B."

"N. B.—You musn't make any rules on whispering and pin-sticking, as that is what I got raised for. B."

No doubt that Mr. C. J. B.'s report was fully satisfactory to the trustees and that he received his full pay. However, the report is silent on the number of days taught, the number of pupils in attendance, the days of absence, tardiness, etc. The early public



school terms were but ten or twelve weeks in length. It was the custom for the "schoolmaster," as he was commonly called, for there were few women teachers, to teach a "select" school, that was paid for by subscription from those who sent their children to the school. The rate of tuition varied, as the "schoolmaster" frequently gave instruction in vocal music and held singing schools at night in several districts at the same term. Others taught only the day schools at a rate of from one dollar to two dollars a month of twenty teaching days. The rate of tuition also varied somewhat with the provisions of boarding the teacher while teaching. Some of the first teachers in the county, who were paid public money for their services were:

Parker Wise, James R. Smith, Stephen Armstrong, Riesen Todd, John Lee, William Elzey, Mary Galoway, Moriah Cayton, Jacob Hart, Joseph French, J. K. Fuller, W. H. Stockham, Semour Worden, Joseph Steele, Stephen Cowan, Israel Cowen, Margaret Smith, Sarah McKisic, Joel Johnson, Daniel Death, William Bugh, Thomas Graham, William Merryman, Perry Lewton, Amos Sparks, S. E. Coxen, Samuel Schaffer, Moriah Bobo, George Bunner, P. N. Collins, Eugene Bunner, W. J. Myers, James M. Ward, William Baughman, David Studabaker, Harlo Mann, Van Simcoke, Isaac N. Fordyce, S. W. Peterson, Andrew Wise, Valentine Kirsch; J. C. Tyndall, William McConnehey, Washington Calderwood, George H. Martz, Thomas Archbold, W. H. Lenhart, Ezra B. Archbold, Julia Spuller, James R. Bobo, Andrew Lucky.

Some violinists of note in the early years of the county's history were: James Niblick, Washington Calderwood, Andrew Mc-

Donald, Isaac Grim, Abraham Rawley, William Troxel, Jonathan Ryan, Samuel Fetters, Smith Williams, John Ross, Charles Miller, Samuel Morningstar, Jerry Swank, William Jackson, William R. Vance.

Some teachers of vocal music who were not school teachers were: Peter Money-smith, Ben McLaughlin, James H. Smith, Simon Good, A. J. Hoskinson, Charles Zwick, David Long, Joseph Sparks, Ark Baughman, John Coots, Thomas J. Archbold.

Before there were any school houses erected resident cabins were frequently used for school purposes. It is said that a subscription school was taught in Monmouth about 1840 by Sarah McKisic in a building of round logs, with only the ground for a floor. This, however, was a summer and fall term of school. George Ames's residence, in Root township, and Stephen Armstrong's cabin, in Wabash township, were each used for school purposes before school houses were built in those districts. The greater number of the school buildings erected before 1854 were log structures. Wabash and Root townships each claim the distinction of the first public school house in the county. The Gorsline school house, in section 27, in Root township, and the McHugh school house, in section 20, in Wabash township, were each built about 1839 or 1840. These houses were built under the statutory provisions, provided with punch-eon floors, clapboard roofs, held in place by weight poles; large fireplaces and paper windows, well greased with 'coon oil. As early as 1840 the village of Decatur secured her first school house, which was a round log structure and was located near the east end of inlot No. 270, in the original town plat.



The "Noah's Ark" building is now standing on this lot on the east side of North Second street. The last log school house used for school purposes in Adams county was located at the southeast corner of section 2, in Kirkland township. In 1874 Trustee Daniel Weldy built a brick building just east of this across the road that was the first brick school house in Kirkland township and the second one in the county. In 1852, as shown by the school commissioner's report to the state superintendent, Larrabee, there were but seven public school buildings within the county. Wabash township had three and Root township had two of them; Saint Mary's and French townships the others. After the new constitution of 1852 went into effect the trustees were empowered to build school houses without securing an expression of the residents through school meetings. From that time on frame buildings were erected in many districts instead of log structures. Wabash township never had but three log school buildings. Before 1860 there were nine frame school buildings in the township and but one of them, the Ford school house, was lathed and plastered. This was built in 1856 and was the first lath and plastered school house in the south part of the county. Before 1860 Root township had eight frame school houses and had at least four log school houses previous to that time. Nearly all of the other township school houses were built of logs. These frame buildings had hewed rafters, studding and joists and were weatherboarded with unplanned boards, and commonly ceiled with undressed green inch lumber. When this became seasoned large cracks were left in the walls and ceiling. Within the summer and fall terms the mud wasps and lizards shared

the occupancy with pupils and teacher. The furniture was a shade better in these than in the original log school houses. Instead of the puncheon seats, high and low, they were the low and high, made of two-inch undressed planks, simply large backless benches. A huge box stove was in the center of the room instead of the fireplace at one end of the house. The greased paper windows gave place to a few two-sash eight by ten glass windows—commonly five windows, two at each side and one at the end opposite the door. The door locks were iron, with large brass keys, heavy enough for tack hammers. A bent wire or a big nail would unlock nearly any of them. The first brick school house in Adams county was built by Trustee John Christen in the northwest corner of section 36, in Root township, in 1873, and is known as the "Dent school." In 1892 this building was removed and a modern school house put in its place by Trustee Isaac Brown. At this time nearly all of the school buildings in the county—ninety-nine in number of public schools and two Catholic and five Lutheran—are brick, most of them of modern construction. The second brick school house was known as the "Hartman school" and was built in 1874 and was torn down and a modern graded school house of two rooms built by Trustee Joshua Bright in its stead at what is now Peterson in 1895. The principle of the free school system is that "the property of the state shall educate the children of the state regardless of religious beliefs or political affiliations." When the trustees began to build brick school houses the hue and cry went up long and loud that the taxpayers were being robbed for unnecessary expenditures of the people's money.



In 1885 the work of building brick school houses only began in earnest and to continue. The average school building then cost from fourteen to sixteen hundred dollars; at this time an average country school house costs from two thousand five hundred to three thousand dollars and no questions asked. The earliest school teachers had many inconveniences not even dreamed of by him or her who now would become a teacher. There was little effort toward a uniformity of school text-books until about 1880, and in some localities at a much later date. The school term was short and the mud and water deep. There were no maps, no encyclopedias, globes or dictionaries, and seldom any blackboards. The printed copybook had not yet found its way into these backwoods. The teacher was expected to write the copies, repair the crippled quill pens, act as his own janitor in certain instances, cut the logs into lengths to burn, treat the school at Christmas, and all for the magnificent wages of one dollar and twenty-five cents a day for three months in the year. His pay was small, drawbacks numerous and future prospects uncertain. His life has been a line of development from then to the present. At the beginning of the county a school commissioner was elected by a vote of the people at the annual elections. This continued for the first fifteen years, then there were deputy state superintendents appointed in each county to carry out the wishes of the state superintendent and perform the duties required of the school commissioners—which was principally to look after the common school revenues of the county, the examinations of teachers, etc. The act of June 14, 1852, provided, among other things, that: "He (the

superintendent of public instruction) shall, by himself or deputy, of whom he is authorized to appoint one in each county, examine all applicants for license and if found qualified license them as common school teachers for one or two years." For the eight years subsequent to 1852 the deputy state superintendents looked after the school revenues and licensed the common school teachers. From 1860 to 1873 the school examiners were appointed by the county board of commissioners. The first election of county superintendents was on the first Monday in June, 1873. In 1865 the state board of education was clothed with additional powers and sent out printed lists of questions for the use of county school examiners in the selection of teachers. These lists have been prepared and forwarded to the various counties and since used in all teachers' examinations. The various school commissioners, school examiners and deputy state superintendents that have served in Adams county until the election of the first county superintendent are:

School commissioners elected by the people and date of election:

Benjamin F. Blossom.....	1837
Ezekiel Hooper .....	1839
Edward G. Casten.....	1843
John N. Little .....	1846
James H. Brown.....	1848
Josiah Randall .....	1850

Deputy state superintendents appointed by the state superintendent:

J. H. Nevius.....	1852
J. D. Nutman.....	1853
J. P. Porter.....	1854
Josiah Crawford .....	1856
David Studabaker .....	1858



Common school examiners appointed by the county board of commissioners:	Samuel C. Bolman.....	1866
	Daniel D. Heller, school examiner 1871 (elected county superintendent)	1873
James R. Bobo.....		1862

### PUBLIC UTILITIES.

Under this class of industries may be mentioned banks, telephones, electric lights, gas plants and water works. In years gone by cash was paid and received ten times as often as at the present time. The check and the draft has taken its place. This condition could not exist were it not for banks. Banking is not only a business for those engaged in it, but it provides a very convenient means of handling large or small sums of money with but slight risk of loss. Its checks are usually a safe means of conveying payment from buyer to seller. The first attempt at anything in the line of banking in Adams county was begun about 1850 by J. D. Nutman, who at that time and previous thereto had operated a general store at Decatur, and in partnership with another had a branch establishment at Pleasant Mills known as Nutman & Smith. In the seventies, near the latter part of his life, Mr. Nutman is said to have resembled the noted journalist, Horace Greeley, and that his picture has been frequently mistaken for that of Mr. Greeley. We are told that Decatur had hardly been located as a county seat when a round log cabin was built at the corner of Monroe and First streets on lot No. 274, where the mitten factory is now situated, and a small general store started by Henry Reichard, who came from Willshire, Ohio. Mr. Nutman bought out Reichard's interest

and at once started his career as a merchant and financier. He was soon appointed postmaster of Decatur, and is said to have been without a predecessor. The mail was then carried on horseback from Richmond to Fort Wayne—the carrier making the trip and return in four days. In the store business he was quite successful, and finally drifted into the banking business on a small scale. Along about 1845 he built a two-story frame store building at the corner of Monroe and Second streets on lot No. 57, where the Holthouse, Schulte & Co. clothing store is now located. Within the next few years he built a two-room single-story brick building to the south of his store room on Second street that he called his office, but others knew it as "Nutman's Shaving Office." It perhaps took its name from the custom of buying notes at a discount or reduction from their face value. This was called "shaving notes." This side industry proved a profitable investment and about 1862 he disposed of his store interests as an active partner or owner and sought a larger field of action at Fort Wayne. In 1866 he sold his Decatur residence property to Jesse Niblick and about 1870 he with others organized a private bank at Decatur and began operations under a firm name. At that time the population of Decatur and of Adams county was comparatively small. The fol-



lowing will give some idea of the general development of the county, and it will be seen that until in 1872, when the first railroad was completed, that the county's growth was somewhat slow. In 1830 Allen county included what is now Adams county, and at that time had a population of 996; in 1840 Adams county as it is now bounded had a population of 2,264; in 1850, 5,774; in 1860, 9,252; in 1870, 11,382; in 1880, 15,385; in 1890, 20,181; in 1900, 22,232.

Mr. Nutman was married while a merchant in Decatur, and as his first residence built a two-story frame house on lot 294, on Front street, now the property of Edward A. Phillips. This building has two porches on the first story, a second-story porch, a cellar and nine rooms. In 1843 stoves were a luxury and their places were supplied by five fireplaces in this house. In a few years—perhaps in 1856—Mr. Nutman built the massive old residence back from Marshall and Second streets on lots 259, 260 and 261, now known as the “old Niblick homestead.” This was bought by Jesse Niblick and has for more than forty years been the home of the Niblick family. This is a tall, large thirteen-room house, with a porch on the second story and cellar and several porches on the first story. This residence has arrangements for as much fire as nine ordinary cabins would need. It has five fireplaces downstairs and four on the second floor. In 1863 Mr. Nutman became interested in the banking business at Fort Wayne and moved to that city.

#### THE OLD ADAMS COUNTY BANK.

In July, 1870, J. D. Nutman and Jesse Niblick established the first banking firm in

Adams county at Decatur, which subsequently developed into the present “Old Adams County Bank.” This was a private banking institution under the firm name of Niblick & Nutman. In November of the same year Robert Allison, who was then a merchant at Buena Vista, in the south part of the county, and David Studabaker, an attorney-at-law in Decatur, were admitted into the partnership and the firm name was changed to Niblick, Nutman & Co. In 1872 Mr. Nutman retired from the active membership in the firm and its name was changed to Niblick, Studabaker & Co. In August, 1874, the Adams County Bank was organized with a capital of fifty thousand dollars. In 1882 its capital was increased to seventy-five thousand dollars. After twenty years' existence as a state bank it was reorganized in 1894 under the name of the “Old Adams County Bank”; its capital was increased to one hundred and twenty thousand dollars. In 1907 its banking rooms were completely remodeled, a large number of private safety deposit drawers were put in the vault and modern bank furniture of quartered oak, with frosted glass, granite and copper trimmings, took the place of the grained poplar desks and tables in use for years. The present bank officers are:

President, Charles S. Niblick; first vice president, Mathias Kirsch; second vice president, John Niblick; cashier, Ed X. Ehinger; first assistant cashier, Frank J. Weuhoff; principal bookkeeper, Emma Gillig; first assistant bookkeeper, Fannie Hite; second assistant bookkeeper, B. F. Tervere; third assistant bookkeeper, Jesse Niblick. The president of this bank, Charles S. Niblick, has been connected with the bank for more than twenty-five years; first as book-



keeper for four years, then as first assistant cashier.

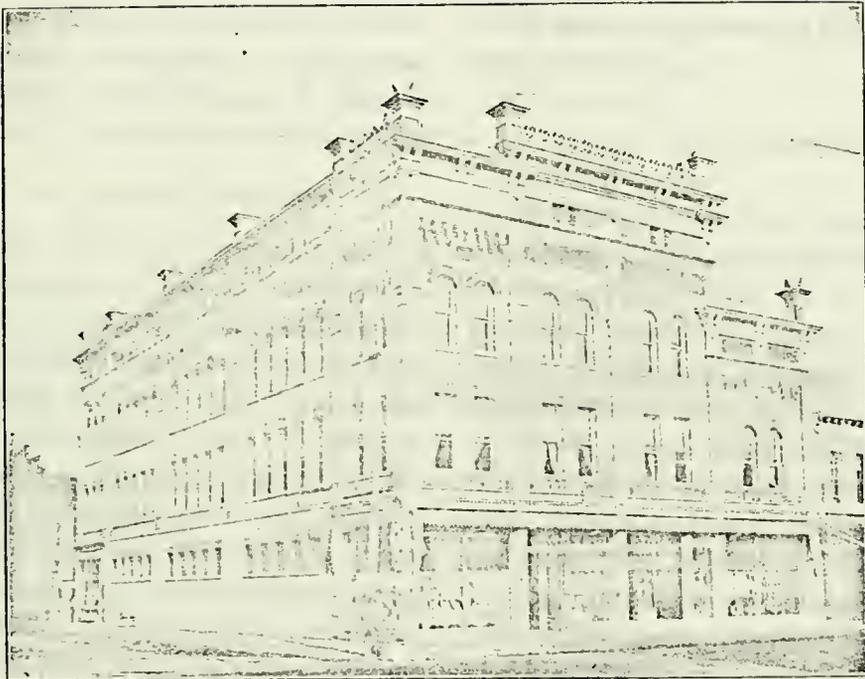
The Niblick & Nutman Bank started in 1870 in the old Closs tavern building, at the corner of Monroe and Second streets. The old tavern house now stands on the north side of Monroe street near the river. In 1875 the bank was moved to the corner of Madison and Second streets, just across from the court house, until the present quarters—a two-story brick building—was put up on the site of the first bank on Monroe and Second streets. The management of this, the oldest banking corporation in the county, has always been careful and conservative. The bank has not only grown in wealth and influence, but has proven a source of great convenience to the city and the surrounding country. Its present directors are: Charles S. Niblick, Ed X. Ehinger, Mathias Kirsch, W. J. Vesey, John Niblick, Henry Hite and John S. Bowers.

#### THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

Another financial institution of much power and usefulness is the First National Bank of Decatur. This bank is located in the center of the business part of the city, on Second street, and now is twenty-four years old. It was incorporated on the 16th day of July, 1883, by the following named residents of Decatur and some others from Delphos, Ohio. Its stockholders at its beginning were: Dr. T. T. Dorwin, J. D. Hale, Godfry Christen, B. W. Sholty, Henry H. Myers, Daniel Weldy, R. S. Peterson, J. H. Hobrock, Henderich Christianer, Henry Dirks, L. C. Miller, John Dirkson, A. R. Pierce and J. B. Holthouse. And on the 15th day of August, 1883, its charter was

granted and the bank opened for business with a capital of fifty thousand dollars, with the following named officers: T. T. Dorwin, president; Henry Dirks, vice president; Gus A. Kolbe, cashier, and R. P. Dorwin, bookkeeper. From the first it has been conservative, never changing location, and making few changes in officers; has had but two bank presidents, Dr. Dorwin and P. W. Smith. For the last thirteen years Ed X. Ehinger has served as assistant cashier and C. A. Dugan as cashier of the First National. In 1907 Mr. Ehinger retired from the assistant cashier's position for a cashier's position in another bank. In 1894 Mr. Dugan resigned the chair of professor of mathematics in Blackburn University, at Carlinville, Illinois, and accepted his present position. Dr. Dorwin, who for many years was engaged in the practice of medicine, and of later years operated a drug store in Decatur, was one of the principal organizers of the Decatur National Bank. On the 1st day of January, 1895, the capital stock was increased to one hundred thousand dollars and the name of the bank was subsequently changed from the Decatur National Bank to the "First National Bank." It is amply provided with individual lock drawers in its large steel vaults, protected by time locks and other safeguards, for such of its patrons and customers as care to avail themselves of these conveniences. It is closely connected with several other monied interests, such as the Berne State Bank, the Willshire Bank and the Paulding (Ohio) Bank and others. Though more than a decade the junior of the oldest banking institution in the county, it merits and holds the entire confidence of its large and varied patronage. It is now in its twenty-fifth year





THE BIG STORE (Destroyed by fire June 28, 1903).



and has steadily grown in the volume of its business. It has never experienced any serious reverses and is one of the permanent financial institutions of the county. Its present officers and directors are:

P. W. Smith, president; W. A. Kuebler, vice president; Charles A. Dugan, cashier; Thomas J. Dirkin, assistant cashier; F. W. Jaebker, teller; Rose Christen, bookkeeper; Frank Bremerkamp, assistant bookkeeper. Its board of directors is composed of the following named stockholders: P. W. Smith, W. A. Kuebler, Daniel Sprang, D. Schmitt, M. F. Rice, C. A. Dugan and E. C. Bleeke.

#### THE BANK OF GENEVA.

For years before Geneva had a bank it was conceded that a bank in Geneva would be a great convenience to merchants, stockmen, farmers and timber dealers in the territory between Portland and Decatur, and Bluffton and Celina, Ohio. As early as 1885 Charles D. Porter put a large burglar-proof safe in his drug store and rendered what accommodation he could to those whose business required them to handle large sums of money. In 1889 Mr. Porter started the Geneva Bank, which he successfully operated until 1893, at which time he built the Shamrock block, which contained the hotel and the present banking rooms occupied by the Bank of Geneva. When this building was completed the Bank of Geneva was organized, which was in 1893. The names of the organizers are: Charles D. Porter, David Studabaker, W. H. Niblick, R. B. Allison, A. G. Briggs, S. W. Hale, George Hartman and some others. Its original capital stock was forty-five thousand dollars. The present officers of this bank are: A. G.

Briggs, president; S. W. Hale, vice president; Charles D. Porter, cashier, and W. B. Hale, assistant cashier. For its age this bank has perhaps handled more cash than any other bank in the county, as during the great oil boom in the southern part of the county the Bank of Geneva seemed to be right in the center of the pool. The managers of this financial enterprise are all conservative men, and there is no doubt that this is one of the permanent financial institutions of the town.

#### THE BANK OF BERNE.

The Bank of Berne was organized in October, 1891, and is now in its sixteenth year. Its first officers were: A. A. Sprunger, president; Joseph Rich, vice president; R. K. Allison, cashier, and Rudolph Lehman, assistant cashier. After operating four years it built the present bank building at a cost of about fifteen thousand dollars, with an office equipment of about five thousand dollars more. The outward walls of the bank building are made of Zanesville pressed brick, which make a very tasty appearance. The bank furniture is quarter-sawed oak, properly trimmed in bronze, granite and marble. This bank was opened for business with a capital of forty thousand dollars. The present capitalization is fifty-two thousand dollars, with a surplus of thirty-five thousand dollars. The present officers are: C. A. Neuenschwander, president; J. F. Lehman, vice president; Jesse Rupp, cashier. This bank is situated at the corner of Main and Jefferson streets and within the last decade and a half has gained a large patronage.



## THE PEOPLE'S STATE BANK.

The People's State Bank is now a little over four years old, but is one of the robust youngsters that cannot only stand alone, but can render aid and assistance to others on the road it travels. This bank was organized in April, 1903, with a capital stock of forty thousand dollars. It subsequently increased its capital stock to fifty thousand dollars, which is largely distributed among the merchants and farming interests in and near Berre. The present officers are: J. C. Schug, president; J. P. interests in and near Berne. Its present officers are: J. C. Schug, president; J. P. Habegger, vice president; Rudolph Schug, cashier, and E. D. Engler, assistant cashier. Its deposits are in the neighborhood of one hundred and fifty-five thousand dollars. The People's State Bank occupies its own bank building, which is a two-story brick, on the south side of Main street, east of Jefferson street, and is amply protected by a triple time lock, burglar-proof screw-door Mosler safe and other appliances connected with modern safety vault security. The permanence of this bank as one of the substantial financial institutions of Berre is assured by the steadily increasing volume of its business.

## THE MONROE STATE BANK.

For several years private individuals have supplied the commercial members of the neighborhood of Monroe with banking advantages. This fact is apparent when it is known that Monroe is one of greatest grain markets between Richmond and Fort Wayne. Every enterprise must have an advocate and a beginning. J. F. Hocker and

M. S. Liechty are for Monroe first and last and for the Monroe State Bank all the time. Late in 1906 J. F. Hocker, M. S. Liechty, W. S. Smith, William Scherer, W. L. Keller and some others concluded that Monroe must have a bank. They succeeded in convincing about forty or fifty others that a bank was a necessity at Monroe and as a result early in 1907 an organization was effected and the proper bank officers chosen for the ensuing year. The present officers are: W. S. Smith, president; J. F. Hocker, vice president; M. S. Liechty, cashier, and C. E. Bolinger, assistant cashier. This bank opened its doors for a regular banking business the first week in September, 1907. The bank building, which is a modern, tasty brick, and which is about twenty by sixty feet in size, was completed in August, 1907, and the funds of this bank will be protected by a safety time lock, screw-door Victor safety vault of the most modern pattern. The town of Monroe is situated in the geographical center of the county from north to south and at one time contested for the county seat. Within the last ten years the surrounding country has been greatly improved by roads and drainage, and within the last year the town was incorporated and now possesses some additional privileges and advantages. Located six miles from any other town and in the heart of a good grain and stock region, the Monroe State Bank will doubtless be a successful enterprise.

## THE CITIZENS' BANK.

The Citizens' Bank was organized in November, 1872, by Alexander Eicher, a merchant and mill-owner at Pleasant Mills, and



John W. Rout, a timber dealer and mill operator in Decatur and Monroeville, Indiana. This bank began business in Decatur about the first of the year 1873 in a brick building on lot 61, where the Blackburn drug store is situated. The panic of 1876-7 was more than it could stand; it closed its doors and discontinued business in February, 1878, after about five years of varied experiences. Its failure was hastened, it is stated, by over-investments of some stock dealers at Willshire, Ohio, and losses by some lumber dealers, the securities of whom were insufficient.

#### THE FARMERS' AND MERCHANTS' BANK.

The Farmers' and Merchants' Bank of Geneva was organized in 1892 and continued in business about a year. This was one of a series of banks that had their origin in a Chicago banker by the name of Starbuck. In this bank were a number of resident share-holders, who suffered considerable loss, though the bank in the course of settlement with its creditors paid a certain per cent. of its obligations. It has been said that over-investment in certain business enterprises without adequate sureties caused the Chicago banker to draw too heavily on the branch banks, of which the Farmers and Merchants was one, and they were forced to close their doors. A John Craft was the cashier of the bank at the time of its suspension. It has been stated that he among others was a heavy loser. The affairs of this bank were closed up by the receiver, Amos Gillig, of Decatur, about 1895.

#### BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS.

Another class of financial institutions that have performed a certain part in the

building up of homes for many laboring people throughout the county, principally in the cities and smaller towns, are the building and loan associations. These are operated upon an entirely different basis from banking, yet without them there are people who would never have made it convenient to save sufficient money to buy a home of their own. The German Building, Loan Fund and Savings Association of Decatur, Indiana, was organized under the Indiana state laws in April, 1890, and was incorporated in May of the same year with the following named officers: John Schurger, president; Norval Blackburn, vice president; Dallas G. M. Trout, treasurer; Paul G. Hooper, secretary, and John Blakeslee, solicitor.

The directors were D. G. M. Trout, Paul G. Hooper, John Blakeslee, Anson VanCamp, Amos Foreman, Rufus K. Allison, Silas W. Hale, Frank M. Schermyer, C. T. Dorwin, John Schurger and Norval Blackburn. The capital stock of the association was limited to five hundred thousand dollars in shares of fifty dollars each. No person was allowed to own more than one hundred shares. There has been a number of other building and loan associations organized in the county, but about all of them have expired by limitation or have paid out their stock. In 1873 the Decatur Loan Association was organized with William G. Spencer as president and D. G. M. Trout as treasurer and secretary. In 1876 the Centennial Building and Loan Association was organized. In 1882 a second Decatur Building and Loan Association was organized, in which John Blakeslee had extensive interests. In 1895 a third Decatur Building and Loan Association was organized. Paul G. Hooper and D. G. M. Trout were leading



members of this association. At the present time about all of the stock in this association is paid up. Dr. Trout holds the largest interest in this association. At the present time the German Building, Loan Fund and Savings Association of Decatur is perhaps the only building association that is attempting to do much business in the county.

#### DECATUR TRENTON ROCK MINING COMPANY.

The Decatur Trenton Rock Mining Company was organized at Decatur on the 5th day of January, 1892, its purpose being to drill in or near Decatur for gas for illuminating and heating purposes. Stock at twenty-five dollars a share was placed upon the market and about four thousand five hundred dollars' worth sold. The test wells were sunk in the south part of the city, one near the Chicago & Erie Railroad bridge and the other west of the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad, south of the Cloverleaf tracks. In neither of these wells was gas found in paying quantities. In the fall of 1892 R. C. Kerlin & Bro., of Toledo, Ohio, bought in the stock of the company and secured the franchise to lay pipes and operate a gas plant at Decatur, Monroe, Berne and Geneva. The gas mains were then laid to what was later known as the "Camden field," about thirty-five miles southwest of Decatur. The name of the corporation was then changed to the "Logansport & Wabash Valley Gas Company," under which name it is still operating. For the first six years of its operations there were no meters in use excepting where desired by consumers; flat rates were charged, or a certain price for

each furnace or stove regardless of how much gas was used. When the meter requirement was made a more economical use of gas was begun, and all those refusing to put in meters were disconnected from the service. In 1905 the supply had so much diminished that all furnaces and mills were disconnected and shut off. At this time it is sufficient only for light heating purposes, and at times is entirely out. The present gas rate as charged by the company is twenty-five cents a thousand cubic feet. The luxury of natural gas in Adams county will soon be among the things that were. At present the greater number of its former users lay in a supply of coal for winter use.

#### CITIZENS' TELEPHONE COMPANY.

The Citizens' Telephone Company was organized in Decatur on the 20th day of August, 1894, with a capital stock of five thousand dollars. Its patronage has been one of steady growth, and from time to time it has been compelled to enlarge its general office rooms and increase its numbers of operators. It now owns its own office building on Monroe street near Third and has in operation about five hundred and seventy-five phones in Decatur and about three hundred throughout the farming districts and in the town of Berne. After ten years of successful operation its capital stock was increased to fifty thousand dollars, a number of heavy copper cables were installed and the plant materially changed and the service improved. Its present officers are: John S. Bowers, president; David D. Clark, vice president; Ed N. Ehinger, treasurer, and Frank M. Schermyer, secretary.



## CITY WATER WORKS AND ELECTRIC LIGHTS.

The city waterworks park is situated in north Decatur, west of Third street, east of Fifth street, Maple street at the north and Park street at the south. This is a part of the land donated to the county by Samuel L. Rugg as an inducement to secure the county seat's location at Decatur in 1836. It contains several acres of land and is planted in some appropriate shade trees. Its buildings are of ample size and made of brick and stone. This property has the only brick smokestack that may be found as a part of any mill property in the county except at Preble. It may be a hundred and fifty feet in height, is about twelve feet square at the base and is imposing in appearance. The exhaust steam from the waterworks plant is utilized by the Urnsberger Brothers in heating their extensive green house, which at the present time occupies five regular sized city lots on Fifth and Indiana streets. This plant has had much trouble in keeping its steam boilers in shape for duty; it has been said that the lime water of the wells is the source of the trouble. Be this as it may, the city has been called upon to put in a new set of boilers on an average about each past two years. To avert this expense a pipe has been recently laid and river water has taken the place of that from the wells. Late in 1892 the city council of Decatur began arrangements for building an electric light and waterworks plant. Contractors were notified of the purpose of the council and bids were submitted on the erection of the plant, furnishing the apparatus, labor and machinery. It was decided that the offers made by the Kerlin Brothers were the lowest and the

most satisfactory. Their offers are as follows:

On waterworks with standpipe. . . .	\$55,375
On waterworks, with reservoir. . . .	51,625
On waterworks, without either. . . .	49,885

In 1892 J. D. Edwards put in the first electric light plant at Decatur. He secured his power from the J. W. Place ice cream factory engines. This plant was successfully operated for about five years. In the meantime, along about 1895, the city electric light plant was completed and ready for use. A controversy then arose as to whether or not the city could get peaceable possession of the streets and alleys for the location of their electric light poles. As in February, 1893, the city council of Decatur had entered into a contract with John D. Edwards to light the principal streets of Decatur with arc lights at the sum of eighty dollars each a year. The council made repeated efforts to have the poles removed, but all to no avail. Then on the night of the 29th day of September, 1897, by order of the council, the city marshal, with some workmen, cut down all of the electric light poles on the main streets of Decatur. As a result of this procedure Mr. Edwards sustained heavy loss and at once brought suit against the councilmen of the city of Decatur to recover damages. This case was venued twice and finally tried at Fort Wayne and resulted in a judgment of four thousand dollars against the councilmen named in the proceedings. By removing the Edwards property the city took possession of the streets and alleys for their light poles and fixtures. For five or six years the lights were furnished at "flat" rate, but later meters were installed and it is said that the plant is more than meeting its own expenses. When the waterworks and



electric light propositions were before the city council and under consideration a number of the heavy taxpayers opposed the measure of incurring so much unnecessary expense upon the city.

On the 16th day of December, 1892, in a communication to the city council, through one of the city papers, David Studabaker said: "I estimate that there are more than a hundred houses south of the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad that are mortgaged to loan associations. The owners are working very hard and their families economizing all they can to meet the monthly installments on these mortgages. Is it fair or just to put a tax on these people to build waterworks on a few streets in the city or to erect splendid, expensive electric lights in the old part of the city when they can receive no benefits from either? No. Gentlemen, the thing for you to do is to wait until you can treat the people alike. Waterworks on a few streets will only be waterworks in name. The majority of the people will not have it. So with electric lights. Unless you

go to the enormous expense of lighting the whole city, which I have shown would plunge the city wonderfully in debt. The working people that work hard all day do not need a splendid electric light to sleep by, especially when the tax they would have to pay to support it would in many cases deprive their families of the real necessities of life."

The waterworks plant has proven an expensive luxury and a bad investment for the city from a financial point of view. Through inferior machinery, or other causes—the latter the most probable—a new set of boilers have to be put in every few years. A large number of worthless water meters were also put in and removed at the property-owners' expense. Electric meters must now be used, and just at this time an entirely new set of water meters are demanded and must be put in by property-owners, which incurs another item of expense without any additional special benefits to the consumer.

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### THE NEWSPAPER FIELD.

It was not until 1848 that Adams county had a local newspaper. Special advertisements and legal notices were published in the nearest adjoining county papers. Some of the earliest visitors to the homes of this county were the Richmond Intelligencer, started in 1821, at Richmond, Wayne county, Indiana, by Elijah Lacy; and the Richmond Palladium, started in 1833 by Nelson Boon, and in July of the same year the Fort Wayne Sentinel began publication by

Thomas Tigar, a Democrat, and S. V. B. Noel, a Whig. Neither of these publications attempted a daily paper until 1861.

#### THE DECATUR GAZETTE.

In the summer of 1848 Joshua Randal began the publication in Decatur of the Decatur Gazette. His printing office was located on inlot 61, on the west side of Second street, near where the Tague shoe store is



situated. The building in which the office started was a plank room in front and a log cabin room in the rear, each a single story. The Gazette was a weekly folio, about ten by fifteen inches in size. It contained but little news matter, as there were few people in the town or in the county at that time. The copy of the paper that came to our notice was one issued in 1850 and a noticeable feature was the advertisement for runaway negro slaves. These were prefaced by a cut representing a negro carrying a small budget in what may have been intended to represent a handkerchief. A copy of one of these, minus the illustration, will suffice:

TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS REWARD.

"Two hundred dollars Reward. Ran away from the subscriber (Levi Pumphry), two negro men, one named Hanson, about five feet four inches high, full, bushy beard and copper color, and Gustav, who is about twenty-one or twenty-two years of age, smooth faced and thick lips, and stoops in his walk; is black in color and about five feet six inches in height. Took away sundry articles of clothing. I will give one hundred dollars for each of them if secured in jail so that I can get them. Levi Pumphry, Falmouth, Kentucky." In the Gazette office Joshua Randal was proprietor and Alvin Randal was all-round job and "makeup" man. The owners secured the services of one James Smith as editor. The paper received such encouragement as the new settlements could give it and gradually grew to several hundred subscribers. It was Whig in politics and at that time there was an election held each year. It has been stated that one of the county officer's stewardship

in 1850 was one of the animated themes of discussion by the editor, as his political friend had been recently defeated in the election. This highly angered his political opposition and they treated him to a coat of tar and feathers and gave him the traveling password to skip. It is said that he "skiddid." The publication was continued until 1851, when it was bought and operated for a year by John W. Peterson, who sold it to James B. Simcoke in 1852. Mr. Simcoke discontinued the publication of the Gazette and started the Adams County Democrat, which he continued to publish until 1863. The Decatur Gazette had several locations within its short existence of four years. Its original owners before its publication lived at Monmouth, which in 1852 had twice as many taverns and three times as many houses as Decatur.

THE ADAMS COUNTY DEMOCRAT.

The Adams County Democrat began its publication with the first real public improvements that were to develop the resources of the county. In 1852 it was started at the discontinuance of the Gazette. About this time the For Wayne, Decatur & Piqua plank road question was under consideration. Also the location of the Ohio & Indiana Railroad, later consolidated with and now known as the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad. Its owner and publisher, Mr. Simcoke, was an ardent advocate of these enterprises and rendered what assistance he could through the columns of his paper toward their consummation. Another railroad enterprise on foot about that time was the Fort Wayne & Union City road, which in 1852-3 was located and cut



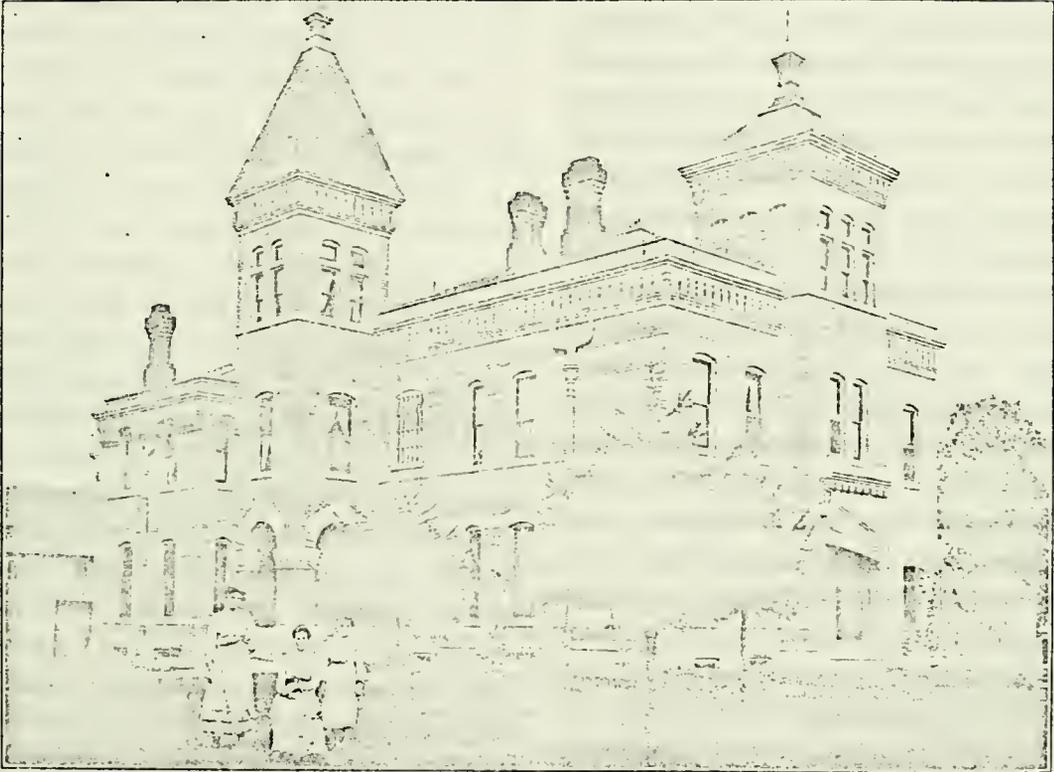
out through the county. The Pittsburg road was built, but it came to Fort Wayne. The plank road was completed through Decatur and gave it some new life. As the county was rapidly settling up, since the plank road was a new thoroughfare, a rival publication came into the field in 1857. It was the Decatur Eagle, under the management of H. L. Phillips. The Democrat struggled along with varying success until 1863, at which time it suspended. It is said that in its columns and upon the walls of the office might be read such announcements as: "Wood taken on subscription," "Read your home paper" and "Sale bills printed while you wait." As is frequently the case the publisher of the Democrat did not use the columns of his paper to the satisfaction of certain aspiring politicians—its owner at that time being the county clerk. The three parties then being the Douglas Democrats, the Breckenridge Democrats and the Whigs. The editor of the Democrat supported the Breckenridge wing of the Democratic party. In 1858 William G. Spencer and T. Adlespurger were owners of the opposing papers, and in 1862-3 the publishers of the two papers were candidates for county auditor. The Eagle's man won the race. W. G. Spencer was elected and the Adams County Democrat suspended publication, after holding the field for eleven years.

#### THE DECATUR EAGLE.

The Decatur Eagle came before the public and made its introductory bow from the front door of its office on inlot No. 54, on the east side of Second street, about where the First National Bank is located, on the 30th day of January, 1857. Its office was a single-story building of two rooms, a log

cabin with a plank addition, low ceilings and small windows. Its promoter and publisher was H. L. Phillips, who soon sold a part interest to William G. Spencer, then an aspiring young attorney-at-law in Decatur. In 1859 the paper went into the hands of A. J. Hill, who continued its publication until 1863, at which time he enlisted as a volunteer soldier and went into the army. It had little machinery and small subscription list at first and had a struggle for its life for the first few years of its existence. Mr. Hill leased the plant to Charles Schermyer and William G. Spencer, who operated it until July, 1864, at which time the plant was leased to Callen & Hudgel. The office was then removed to the rooms over Dr. T. T. Dorwin's drug store and some improvements added. Dan J. Callen was a fearless, aggressive writer, who soon crossed ideas with the federal authorities, and as this was right in the heat of war times, was placed under surveillance. His partner, R. D. Hugel, was more conservative. Trouble arose in November, 1864, and on the 19th of December Dan J. Callen was placed under arrest by the United States provost marshal and taken to Indianapolis for trial. The commission hearing the charges were military officers, presided over by Major Henry L. Burnett, judge advocate. Mr. Hudgel soon yielded his editorial position to James R. Bobo and T. Adlespurger, who conducted the paper until the 5th of May, 1865, on the return of A. J. Hill from the service. Mr. Hill continued to publish the Eagle until November, 1874, at which time he sold out to Joseph McGonagle, who immediately discontinued the Eagle and started the Decatur Democrat, filling the Eagle subscriptions with the paper under the new name.





NEW COUNTY JAIL.



Thus after a varied experience of twenty-seven years the third newspaper in the county ceased to exist.

#### THE YOUNG AMERICAN.

The first newspaper published in the county was a Whig publication—the Gazette started in 1848. At that time the Whig party had control of part of the county offices. Isaac Wheeler, a Whig, received two hundred and eighty votes and Peter Kizer, a Democrat, received two hundred and seventy-eight votes for county commissioner. James Crabbs received two hundred and eighty-five votes and John Crawford received two hundred and eighty votes for county treasurer. Wheeler's majority—two votes—and Crabb's majority—six votes—were Whig victories. The Gazette was discontinued after about four years' publication and the first Democrat paper built upon its ruins. In 1858 the Whig party was shifting about and the Republican party was coming into prominence on the slavery question. The Young American was the first Republican newspaper published in the county. In the general election of 1860, in Adams county, the returns show that there were five hundred and forty-nine Republican and eight hundred and forty-two Democrat votes cast. A change from one side to the other of one hundred and fifty votes would have made the county Republican. The Young American was started by T. J. Tolan, who had plenty of energy as a citizen, but as a newspaper man was unsuccessful. The paper suspended in 1860 when a little over a year old.

#### THE DECATUR HERALD.

The Decatur Herald was a weekly folio, started in May, 1873, as an opposition pub-

lication to the Decatur Eagle, then under the management of A. J. Hill. The Decatur Herald was a new outfit, bought and started by Semour Worden, then county auditor, and James R. Bobo, county attorney. It was published in the Bremerkamp building on lot 82, north of the court house, on Madison street. Charles Black was editor and manager. The publication continued until November, 1874, at which time the Decatur Eagle was sold to Joseph McGonagle and its name dropped from the list of publications, that the Decatur Herald lowered its standard and the political battle ceased. Who was the aggressor in this newspaper battle we will not attempt to say. But accusations and counter-accusations and affidavits were published that were of themselves evidence that some one was fighting for life. The results of this battle of extermination nearly gave the Republican nominees the county offices. For representative A. N. Martin had a margin of one hundred and sixty-seven votes; Joseph Spuller for commissioner had one hundred and thirty-six votes more than his opponent, and Godfry Christen for auditor had but sixty-nine votes of a majority. The Herald's subscription list ran up to perhaps five or six hundred, but by compromise the Eagle's name was dropped and the subscriptions filled out by the Democrat, just then started.

#### THE ADAMS COUNTY UNION.

The Adams County Union was started in 1878 in the Barthel building on Second street, just east of the court house. It was Republican, with Greenback tendencies. Its editors and publishers were J. F. Snyder and Paul G. Hooper. Its chief promoters, it is



said, were Byron H. Dent and William H. Walters, at that time county clerk and county superintendent. Its purpose seems to have been to revive an interest in the Republican party and to defeat certain of the county nominees on the Democratic ticket. The heaviest fight seems to have been directed towards the candidates for county treasurer and for county auditor. The Democratic ticket pulled through, but with greatly reduced majorities. This publication continued for about two years, suspended and the editor and machinery moved to Lagrange, Indiana, where Mr. Snyder started the Lagrange Democrat in 1881.

#### THE ADAMS COUNTY TIMES.

The Adams County Times was a Democratic publication, started in the Bremerkamp building on Madison street in 1876, by W. W. Timmons, who used the machinery recently in use by the Adams County Herald office. After an experience of less than a year this paper was discontinued and the machinery removed to Portland, Indiana, and used in a new publication in that town in 1877. That Mr. Timmons was a good newspaper man was admitted generally, but the field had been so worked and reworked in Adams county within the last four or five years that the newspaper public lost faith in even their own established party publications. The Portland Sun was successfully established and operated by him, and now is one of the leading newspapers of that city.

#### THE DECATUR FREE PRESS.

The Decatur Free Press was started in January, 1877, by Edward A. Phillips and Winfield S. Congleton in the Tervere build-

ing on the west side of Second street, over the present Decatur Hardware Company's store. Some of the machinery used in the Times office was brought into service, but the newspaper part was printed at Fort Wayne and distributed from the Decatur office. This was the second clearly Republican newspaper printed in the county; was a six-column folio and immediately followed the suspension of the Adams County Times, using its subscription list as a beginning. In 1878 W. S. Congleton became sole owner and continued the publication until the middle of September, 1879, when the mailing list and plant were sold to Dr. D. G. M. Trout, who removed the plant to the Welfry building east of the court house, put in new machinery and changed the name of the paper to the Decatur Journal. With George S. Stauntan in charge as publisher and D. G. M. Trout as editor, the first number of the Decatur Weekly Journal appeared on the 27th day of August, 1879. Thus the Decatur Free Press, after an existence of a little over two and a half years, was discontinued to give place to the Journal, which is still published today. Mr. Phillips is not now the owner, as the plant belongs to a stock company, but is foreman in the circulation and mechanical department of the office. The Journal is issued on every Thursday from its office at the corner of Monroe and Third streets, and is now nearly twenty-six years old.

#### THE CYNDIAN.

Among the non-political newspapers published in the county were the Cyndian, the Star-News, the Daily Evening News, the Geneva News, the Geneva Triumph, the Geneva Enterprise and the Adams County



Times. The Cyndian began publication at the village of Monmouth in 1870 in one of the upstairs rooms of one of the Ziba Dorwin taverns. It was a semi-weekly and gained quite a circulation for the advantages then presented. Three boys—Paul G. Hooper, Jacob and Samuel Magley, then ranging in ages from fifteen to seventeen years of age—were the owners, proprietors and general managers. They had a little money and secured what was required to get a few fonts of type and a hand-press and started the publication of a small folio, perhaps eight by twelve inches in size. Mr. Hooper and Jacob Magley were the office force and Samuel was solicitor for job work and subscriptions. In the course of a few months Charles M. Hill, a Monmouth lad of about sixteen years of age, bought the Magleys' interest and the firm name was changed to Hooper & Hill and the publication continued until about the latter part of 1872 and was discontinued, as the boys all became school teachers about that time, and could not successfully wield the birch and the quill at the same time. However, this experience was not lost, as later Mr. Hill and Mr. Hooper became owners or part owners of larger publications. The Cyndian, as we are told by one of its subscribers, was an interesting, non-political publication, directed rather toward general news and contained an original poem in almost every issue. The poetical wing of the firm is said to have been Mr. Hooper.

#### THE STAR NEWS.

The Star News was a non-political semi-monthly paper, started by the Snow Brothers—Earl and Horace—on the 14th day of

July, 1894. It was printed on a seven and a half by eleven Kelsey hand-press for over two years. In November, 1896, the Weekly World presses and job office was purchased and the plant and paper enlarged. This paper was printed at the corner of Monroe and Fifth streets until May, 1897, at which time it was removed into an office erected for its use on North Second street, in which its job office is now operated. When this paper was started the eldest of the brothers—Earl—was thirteen and the younger—Horace—was but nine years old. These brothers continued the publication of the Star News for nearly ten years—the last number appearing as Volume X, No. 46, in May, 1904. After receiving a copy of one of the early issues of the paper a representative of "The Trade Press," a practical printers' magazine, published at Chicago, called at the Star News office to see the boys and their outfit. In the October issue of "The Trade Press," in 1895, appeared the following notice, as reported by the Press representative:

"The town of Decatur, Indiana, claims to have the youngest newspaper publishers in the country. They are the Snow Brothers—Earl, who is thirteen years of age, and Horace, who is but nine. They have published the Star News regularly every two weeks since July 14, 1894. These boys do all of the writing, composition and press work and are very successful in soliciting ads, which are set in the most original sort of ways. They are readers of the Trade Press and it is their ambition to some day be able to publish a trade paper, an 'awful big one,' like the referee." The Star News reached a subscription list of about four hundred and fifty and had subscribers in nine different states, and exchanges in Toronto, Canada,



and Bombay, India. The purpose of the parents of these brothers was to encourage the boys in the habit of reading and mental improvement. Also to give them at first hand an opportunity to become practical printers and newspaper men. As a result the younger, Horace H., devotes his entire time to job printing, having recently greatly enlarged his facilities by adding new and modern machinery and equipment. His work favorably compares with the best seen in the city. The elder brother, Earl E., secured and accepted a position as reporter on the Evening Journal, a position in which he served successfully for several years. He is now local staff correspondent for the Indianapolis News, the Muncie Star and the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette. The purpose for which the Star News was established having been fully accomplished, the paper was discontinued at about the tenth year of its existence without ever missing an issue on the day of publication.

#### THE DAILY EVENING NEWS.

The Daily Evening News was the second daily newspaper of any continuance more than a few weeks published in the county. It was started June 3, 1891, by Patrick J. Bobo and Edward Martin in one of the upstairs back rooms over the present Democrat office, on east side of Second street. It was a six-column folio, with patent inside printed from telegraphic plate. The local matter was printed on the Democrat press, then owned by Norval Blackburn. The partnership continued but a few months, when Mr. Bobo became proprietor and publisher. The office was then removed to the Welfry building on the east side of Second street across from

the court house, and new machinery and presses added to the equipment. The Daily Evening News was non-political, though it was not slow to express its ideas on any civic question under consideration by the city council or any constituted corporation or firm operating in the city. In May, 1893, it suspended publication as a daily. The same publisher at once started the Weekly World.

#### THE WEEKLY WORLD.

The Weekly World was started on the 12th day of May, 1893, its publisher using the same machinery that had published the Daily Evening News. At first it was an eight-page, four-column folio, but was subsequently changed to a two-column pamphlet of from thirty to fifty pages as the advertising and the news matter from time to time demanded. This publication was continued until November, 1896, and suspended, the job office material and presses sold to the publishers of the Star News and the subscription list to the Decatur Democrat. The later issues of the Weekly World were very outspoken as to some of the existing conditions in Decatur. However, it may be said in all fairness that Mr. Bobo had few equals as a pointed descriptive writer and never for a moment countenanced some of the shades of immorality in certain classes of the community that have in many subsequent instances escaped the notice of more recent publishers of Decatur newspapers.

#### THE DECATUR NEWS.

The Decatur News, an independent seven-column folio, was started on the 20th day of February, 1898, in the Niblick-Allison \*



building on East Monroe street by Norval Blackburn. The circulation of this weekly publication reached near the thousand mark at the time of Mr. Blackburn's death on the 15th day of January, 1901. The paper was disposed of at administrator's sale and went to the control of B. F. Kizer, who conducted it for about a year and a half, to June, 1902, when it suspended publication. Mr. Blackburn, the former editor and owner of the Decatur Democrat, believing that he was advocating a just cause in opposing some irregularities in certain county offices, started the Decatur News and at once began the execution of his purpose of bringing the delinquents to an account of their stewardship as public officers. After much delay and a number of lawsuits being filed and judgments rendered against the delinquent defendants, the county board of commissioners appointed a committee of three—the county attorney, who was serving during part of the “sleight-of-hand” performance; the then county auditor, in whose office there was a fire started in a bunch of road receipts, which afterwards proved to contain some receipts with numbers raised in many instances from cents to dollars, and the third member of the committee a conservative citizen of Decatur, whose integrity was unquestioned, who had served as a deputy county clerk and had a good general knowledge of public records. This committee made its report under oath which virtually substantiated all the allegations made by the publisher of the Decatur News. Mr. Kizer, the second owner of the News, was a good scholar, a forceful writer, but was not a practical newspaper man, and let the patronage of the paper pass from its support without any apparent power to hold or increase its circulation or influence.

Committee's report, made August 28, 1896:

“To the Honorable Board of County Commissioners of Adams County, Indiana:

“Gentlemen—We, the undersigned, your committee, appointed to investigate alleged irregularities in relation to road tax and road receipts of Adams county, Indiana, beg leave to report that we have investigated the matter as fully as possible and have made an examination and comparison of the following records of papers covering the years 1892, 1893, 1894 and 1895, namely: Tax duplicates, treasurer's register of road receipts, road lists issued by the auditor to various township trustees, and what road receipts were found on file in the auditor's office. We find discrepancies between the amounts of road tax charged on the tax duplicate and the receipts issued thereon; that some of the receipts show unmistakable evidence of having been altered, after having been issued, while others indicate that they have been issued for amounts in excess of taxes charged, and still others were issued to persons whose names we fail to find on the tax duplicate. A full memorandum of our investigation, which is made a part of this report, is herewith submitted in book form.

“R. K. ERWIN,

“IRVIN BRANDYBERRY,

“F. M. SCHERMYER.”

“Decatur, Indiana, August 27, 1896.

“Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28th day of August, 1896.

“R. S. PETERSON, Notary Public.”

THE DEMOCRATIC PRESS.

In October, 1894, the machinery, presses and office of the Winchester Democrat were



removed to Decatur and placed in the Glass building, on North Second street, and a joint stock company formed of forty shares for the publication of a newspaper in Decatur. That paper was named the Democratic Press, with Lew G. Ellingham as owner of twenty-one shares and the other shares distributed among twelve others, among whom were six acting county officers, no one of whom held more than three shares of stock. The ultimate purpose of this publication was to control the political field and secure the public patronage as offered by the county offices. This required but a little over a year and a half of the combined efforts of the Press management. In August, 1896, the Press Company purchased the Decatur Democrat and transferred its subscription list to that paper and discontinued the publication of the Democratic Press with Volume II, No. 96, on the 13th day of August, 1896. With that date the Decatur Democrat ceased to exist. The new management changed the name of the paper to that of The Democrat, a name the weekly still retains. As to the immediate cause of the suspension of ownership of the Decatur Democrat by Mr. Blackburn there are several opinions, one of the most prevalent, perhaps, is that of over-confidence without the careful oversight of the minor details of the newspaper business.

#### THE INDEPENDENT.

The Independent was started in 1875 by A. J. Hill, the former editor of the Decatur Eagle. The editorials of the first issue of the Decatur Democrat were offensive to Mr. Hill, who started the Independent perhaps as much to be represented in his community as for any other motive. The paper had but

a distributing office in Decatur, as its local news and advertising was sent to Fort Wayne for composition. It was a seven-column folio, the one side plate matter, the other such local news and editorials as were furnished by its editor. Mr. Hill, it will be remembered, was for a number of years the editor and owner of the Decatur Eagle, a weekly paper published in Decatur. When he went to the army in 1863 the plant was leased to other parties and last to Callen & Hudgel, who continued the publication until Mr. Hill's return in 1865. Not since the Eagle or its successors have been published have there been two more forceful writers connected with these papers than Dan J. Callen and A. J. Hill. They never feared to tell the truth, lest some "cheap sport" would expose some sneaking, immoral act of theirs. They could and did publish the news. In politics they never made "fish" of one man and "fowl" of another, or take his money with one hand and drive a political dirk into his heart with the other. Forbearance draws the curtain before the scene of some of those more recent in the editorial field. The editor of the Independent for many years resided in Decatur and was one of the local staff correspondents of several of the larger city papers. Mr. Callen, after leaving Decatur, returned to Celina, Ohio, and conducted one of the local papers for several years. The following descriptive article as regards "Grady's Great Shows" may give some idea of his style of writing:

#### GRADY'S GREAT SHOWS.

"On the first day of this month Grady's colossal show struck this town and showed. It was not a very propitious day for an ex-



hibition of any kind. It was entirely too cool. We are in the habit of associating the appearance of shows with the good old summer time, when it is possible for a person to wear about twenty pounds less clothing than is deemed necessary for comfort during the winter months. However, I took this show in from 'a to izzard.' I stagged it. That is, I didn't take my girl, although she is very fond of strange animals, and used to think that I was 'it'. I asked her to marry me once. She said 'not on your tin-type, but I'll be your sister.' This is her exact and somewhat classical language, and I concluded it to be a refusal. So I told her I was slightly overstocked with sisters, but if it was all the same to her that she might be my grandmother. Since then I've been going to shows by myself and kindly permitting her to remain at home alone. Early in the afternoon a careful observer might have seen me slowly sauntering out to the show grounds by the Fornax mills. It was the coolest and rawest August day I ever saw. We have several of that kind every fall. I first arrived at what is technically known as the 'side show,' A large smooth-faced man stood on a box in front of the tent. Every once in a while and sometimes oftener he'd yell out: 'Here's the place to see the snake charmer, the dwarf and the great Russian giant. This brave battle-scarred veteran of a hundred fiercely contested actions owes his escape to a rapid application of the soles of his pedal extremities to a widely separated section of the Orient as the length of his legs would permit. Get your tickets and walk right in. Only a dime, one-tenth of a dollar, or ten cents.' I paid the price and went in out of the cool fierce wind. After I got in there I had that peculiar feeling of a man who has

attended a sale of uncalled-for express matter and bought a large box labeled 'watches.' There was nothing there fit to look at. I saw several ugly old girls roosting around on boxes, offering indecent pictures for sale. I also saw the giant and the dwarf. Nearly everybody overlooked them. The giant was the smallest specimen of his kind in existence, while the dwarf has the unique distinction of being the biggest dwarf in the world. About the time everybody got disgusted and was preparing to sneak out a disreputable looking villain got upon a box and motioned the men to come near him. Then he said that just back of him there was a sort of private show designed for men only. That settled it for me. I didn't care to see anything that was not fit for a woman to look at. However, I did go in just to see what men were so lost to all sense of decency as to attend a performance of that description. Then I went over to the big show. There was a barker in front of the tent, who upon seeing me approach, bawled out: 'Here's the place to feast your learned optics on a mammoth combination of strange, unique, rare and curious birds, beasts and reptiles, gathered together at immense cost from the ice-bound shores of northern Greenland to the torrid swamps of equatorial Africa. Only fifty cents—children twenty-five.' Once more I dug up and entered. And once more I had that feeling of a man who has innocently married a woman with false teeth, false hair and a wooden leg. I saw a water buffalo, a sacred bull and three or four fat camels. I also saw a large elephant storing away new cut hay in an aperture in the lower part of his abundant face. For a while I was lost in admiration of his lovely complexion. An ordinary elephant



has a complexion like a Mexican adobe—generally has about twenty-five square yards of it. In one of the cages I noticed a medium-sized baboon languishing in solitary confinement. He seemed unsocial and hard to approach as a telegraph operator. No smile of welcome illuminated his melancholy mug. He looked as though his parents might have come from Cork. He was engaged in an entomological research and was confining his field of activities to his own person. I then went into the circus department and bought a reserved seat and sat down on it. The circus was very ordinary. I saw several bareback riders. They were riding big fat stage horses which entered the ring in a lope but soon slowed down to a walk. The only redeeming feature of the entire circus was the introduction of the slack-wire performer, the Mademoiselle Bombooselle, and the Japanese specialties in juggling. Of course there were the usual spring-board exercises, in which four or five thinly clad individuals ran down a slanting plank and turned somersaults over an alligator and some other animals. When the circus came to an end every one who had a dime and felt like parting with it was permitted to stay for the concert. I borrowed a dime and stayed. I've been sorry of it ever since. A girl dressed in invisible silk came out and bowed to the intelligent audience, spit on her hands and jumped up on a platform. Then somebody started something that was intended for music. As soon as the girl noticed it she began to kick and grab at something up over her head. I asked the man from whom I had borrowed the dime if he knew what ailed her. He said that she was dancing the skirt dance. Then

we had a few songs and were hustled out into the cold wind. The show was over."

#### THE DEMOCRAT.

About fifty years ago the Decatur Eagle began its existence in a small single-story, two-room building partly plank and partly logs. This house was located on inlot No. 54, on the east side of Second street, near where the First National Bank is situated. In November, 1874, its publication was suspended and the Decatur Democrat was issued in its stead. In August, 1896, the Decatur Democrat ceased publication and the Democrat appeared in its place, and is now an eight-page, six-column folio, with a good circulation. The trend of these publications has generally been Democratic, but at certain times they contain a sufficient number of Republican announcements to impress the reader with some doubt as to what the "Democrat" means. The Decatur Eagle, for the last nine or ten years of its publication, was owned and operated by Captain A. J. Hill, who sold it in November, 1874, to Joseph McGonagle, who by agreement with the Decatur Herald publishers, discontinued the Decatur Eagle and started the Decatur Democrat. The Herald at once suspended publication. In 1879 the Decatur Democrat passed to the ownership of S. Ray Williams, who conducted its publication until August, 1881, when A. J. Hill became its owner and editor for a short time, when it was sold to the firm of Roth & Cummons, of Bluffton, who operated the paper until the fall of 1883, at which time Norval Blackburn became its editor and proprietor. As such he continued until August, 1896, at which time



the office and plant was sold to the Democratic Press Company, a rival publication, of which Lew G. Ellingham held a controlling interest. The Decatur Democrat office was rearranged, new and modern furniture was placed in the front office and the surroundings given a metropolitan appearance.

Its offices have been in a number of locations, but its present one is on the east side of Second street near Madison street. This location it has continuously occupied for more than twenty-five years. The office from time to time has undergone valuable improvements—the first that of setting type by machinery—a simplex machine being put in about 1900. Later a Mergenthaler lino-type, which makes the type as needed for use, and greatly facilitates the composition work of the office. In 1906, the motive power was changed from a gas engine to an electric motor, a hot air furnace was put in use as a heating plant and a new and improved Whitlock press was added to the mechanical department of the office. In connection with its weekly publication, The Democrat, a daily paper, is published, known as the Decatur Daily Democrat. The first issue of this daily paper was published on the 12th day of January, 1903, and is now in its fifth volume. In the spring of 1906 it encouraged a diamond ring contest which temporarily increased its subscription list. In the summer of 1906 its competitor, the Decatur Evening Journal, suspended publication and its subscription list was transferred to the Decatur Daily Democrat, which has materially increased its circulation. The literary wants of the country people can no longer be satisfied by the weekly paper, as a

consequence, the country daily has a good rural route circulation.

#### THE DECATUR JOURNAL.

The Decatur Journal made its appearance on the 16th day of September, 1879, with D. G. M. Trout as editor and George S. Staunton as publisher. The publication was a seven-column weekly folio, Republican in politics, and the second really Republican newspaper published in the county, the Young American being the first. The Journal office was located in the Welfry building on the east side of Second street, across from the public square. This publication has frequently changed location and managers. Mr. Trout sold his interest to E. A. Phillips, who sold to Shaffer Peterson, and he to E. D. Moffett; he to B. W. Sholty, and he to Kirby & Andrews; they to William E. Ashcraft, who put in the first steam motive power press used in Decatur; this was done in the fall of 1892. He then sold the plant to Douglas & Porter, of Plainfield, Indiana. They disposed of the plant to Frank E. Everetts in 1897, who sold the property to C. M. Kenyon in February, 1898. Mr. Kenyon made several important improvements and changes in the office and sold the outfit to Harry Daniels in 1900, and in June, 1903, he again became the owner and editor of not only the Decatur Weekly Journal, but also the Decatur Evening Journal, which was started in the latter part of 1897 by Frank E. Everetts. Mr. Daniels published the morning and evening editions of the Journal. The morning edition was intended in particular for the rural route delivery. In the fall of 1906 Mr. Kenyon discontinued



the publication of the papers and the property went into the hands of a receiver, who eventually sold it to a joint stock company, which is now publishing the Decatur Weekly Journal. For the last several years the Journal has had a fight for its existence, perhaps for the reason that there has been some fierce fights within the ranks of the Republican party in the county over the federal appointments, and at times, at least, its columns have been adverse to the successful candidates for congressional honors. In some counties where the administration party is in the minority the postmasters have operated the party's political paper. Of late years that is the exception in Adams county. This paper has had a number of able writers and had not its party devoted its energies to sectional grievances its efforts would have produced effective results much greater than it has yet attained. At this time the Decatur Weekly Journal is under the control and ownership of a joint stock company, with P. L. Andrews as editor and general manager.

The veteran newspaper man of Adams county is without doubt Edward A. Phillips. He in partnership with Winfield S. Congleton started the Decatur Free Press, which was the immediate predecessor of the Decatur Weekly Journal. In November, 1883, in an edition of the Journal, while owned and operated by Mr. Phillips, appeared a sample of his journalistic composition that will give some idea of him as a writer. That was about the closing year of the newspaper battles in Adams county and was entitled: "A Sad Scene.—Last Friday just as the court house clock had ceased to strike the hour of twelve a solemn procession might

have been seen emerging from the courthouse door. In front and the saddest of all marched ex-Auditor Christen and ex-Clerk Blackburn, who had just then turned over the keys of their offices to their successors. They were followed by a number of our most prominent citizens, among whom were S. S. Roth, of the Democrat; our reporter, W. S. Congleton; R. B. Allison, president of the Old Adams County Bank; John King, Jr., and a number of others who sympathized with the bereaved. They started thence south to Court street, thence west to Third street, thence north to Madison street, thence to the own pump. This line of march was repeated three times, making about four miles traveled. The procession then moved with uncovered heads to the abstract office of John Schurger for the purpose of learning whether the titles of Christen and Blackburn were clear to 'mansions in the skies.' Schurger seemed to realize the awful responsibility resting on him and with a down-cast look began searching the records. Here was the most trying scene of our life. \* \* \* Never did we witness such scenes as occurred in the space of one hour. Congleton became speechless and fainted away and laid in the back room for dead. Tears rolled down over the cheeks of the hard-hearted Roth until it became necessary to secure a sprinkling can. King turned as white as a sheet and was not known by his best friends. The desperately wicked and hard-hearted man of the Journal was forced to secure stimulants, bathe his temples and fan himself in order to keep in a condition to sit up. All this time Christen and Blackburn sat upon the sofa embraced in each other's arms, with their heads resting upon each other's shoulders. Soon a bright smile was seen to



cover Schurger's countenance, which caused his mouth to spread from ear to ear. The Journal man was first to take in the situation. He then knew that all was right; that the records were clear and title good. Schurger, who seemed to be all covered over with glory, then read the abstract in a loud, clear and sweet voice. It was: 'After a careful and complete search of the records kept by both of you I find that they are all correct in every particular. Your conduct while in office has been such as to make your title clear to mansions in the skies or anywhere else you may see fit to emigrate to.' Here the joy of all became so expressive that Schurger's voice could not be heard. And from the awful stillness, which could be heard for squares away, the scene was changed to a regular pandemonium. Christen tried to climb the ceiling. Blackburn persisted in standing on his head and turning double somersaults. Allison was on his knees before Schurger trying to pray. Roth was determined to make a speech like unto a jollification meeting, but the noise was so great that he could not be heard. He then danced a double clog dance and kicked over the stove, hugged the stovepipe and the Journal man at the same time. Congleton, our reporter, who had been considered dead, came rushing out into the room, shouting at the top of his voice, 'By jeru, ain't I happy!' He undertook to imitate Roth in his double clog dance, but corked himself the first break he made and had to be hobbled. The Journal man started on the run up the middle of the street to carry the news to Mary. He has not since been heard from. It is probable that the excitement was such as to cause him to lose his senses, if he ever had any, and that his carcass has become food for the

fishes of the raging Saint Mary's ere this time. The marshal was sent for, restored order and marched them all to the town pump for a drink."

Edward A. Phillips is the oldest resident newspaper man in active service in Adams county. In 1876 he first came to live in Decatur. The next year he and W. S. Congleton started the Decatur Free Press, the second Republican newspaper published in the county. In 1880 Mr. Phillips became the owner and editor of the Decatur Weekly Journal, which then was less than a year old. The Journal dates from the starting of the Free Press and is in its XXXI volume. In 1884 Mr. Phillips sold his interest in the paper to Shaffer Peterson and started the Geneva Enterprise, which was issued under his direction for over two years, when he disposed of his interest in that publication and returned to Decatur. At the age of twelve years he commenced his career as a typesetter in the Celina Standard office and subsequently worked on the Wabash Plaindealer, the Peru Sentinel and the Fort Wayne Sentinel and several other publications. For forty-three years he has found employment in a newspaper office, the last thirty years of which has been in Adams county. He is at this time foreman of the circulation and mechanical departments of the Decatur Weekly Journal. Edward A. Phillips was born on the 14th day of July, 1852, at Saint Mary's, Ohio. On the 31st day of July, 1877, he was married to Miss Isabel H. Miesse, a daughter of William Miesse, an early tavern-keeper of Decatur. To them were born two sons—William C., who is general manager of the Manhattan Hotel at Lorain, Ohio, and Charles A., who



is engaged in the confectionery and restaurant business at Van Wert, Ohio. All are Republicans in politics and Methodists in religion. Mr. Phillips has seen many of his early associates in the profession, or trade, come and go while he has lived for thirty years in the same house in Decatur.

#### THE ADAMS COUNTY TIMES.

It has been said that the Adams County Times entered the newspaper field as a local representative of one of the town trustees in the corporation of Berne; that there were some differences as to the town's management of paving the streets and constructing the sidewalks. John G. Hanna was the first publisher of the Times, but soon yielded the editorial chair to Calvin Whitwer, who in turn gave place to O. V. Borden, its last editor. The Adams County Times was a spicy six-column folio, semi-weekly for the first three months then changed to a weekly publication. It dates from March 19, 1901, and suspended publication after a continuance of about seven months. Its subscription list of perhaps about two hundred was filled out by the Berne Witness. This paper was printed at the Mermonite Book Concern at Berne, which in 1901 was under the control of John A. Sprunger, who then was also interested in the orphanage in that town. The young men who edited this paper show evidence of good newspaper ability, but their cause was not one of great interest to the general reading public and the paper was discontinued on the 18th of October, 1901.

#### THE BERNE NEWS.

The Berne News is a Democratic six-column four and eight-page semi-weekly paper,

which was started on the 21st day of November, 1903, in the second story of a little frame building on the south side of the main street in Berne by Hamilton Mercer as editor and S. W. Miller as general manager. The present location of the News office is on the first floor in one of the rooms of the People's State Bank building near Main street. In the spring of 1904 the News became the property of Otto M. Ryf, who has successfully operated it for more than three years. It now has a subscription list of between seven and eight hundred and is steadily growing in volume. Mr. Ryf is a young, energetic, intelligent resident of Berne, who closely guards the interests of the town as well as his own, and under his management doubtless the News will continue to grow in circulation and usefulness.

#### THE BERNE WITNESS.

The Berne Witness office, as that of many other great publishing centers, had a modest and unassuming beginning. On the 3d day of September, 1896, the first Witness came from the press. John Nix, as pressman, and Fred Rohrer, as editor and publisher. This, the first paper published in Berne, appeared as a seven-column folio. Within a year it was enlarged to a five-column quarto. In April, 1899, it was changed to a six-column quarto. The next year a German edition was published and continued until November, 1901, at which time the two united and issued as a semi-weekly, in which form the paper is now delivered to its readers. The Witness office was first on the second floor of the Sprunger & Lehman Company clothing store building, where it continued for several years. Its newspaper press at first



was a second-hand Washington hand press, a good press of its kind, but very slow in its operations. In June, 1900, the Mennonite Book Concern had most of its printing done at Elkhart, Indiana. A satisfactory proposition was made this company by Mr. Rohrer and he secured the work of printing its publications, consisting of a large list of tracts, weekly and semi-weekly and monthly publications. That this work be done properly the Witness plant was enlarged by the addition of about three thousand dollars' worth of new material and machinery. The office was then removed to the Champion block, the business office, presses, folders, stitchers, etc., on the first floor and all the large upstairs part of the building is used as a composing room. In November, 1900, Mr. Rohrer formed a partnership with Henry M. Reuser, William Narr and David C. Welty, he himself retaining a half interest in the property. In 1895 a book bindery was added to the equipment, and one without any qualification can say that the Berne Witness plant is now the best equipped for newspaper and general printing of any office in the county. By those who have had an opportunity to know it is said that it is the best equipped office between Richmond and Fort Wayne. In May, 1906, the firm heretofore existing was dissolved and the enterprise was incorporated with a capital stock of twelve thousand dollars. At present the business is under the management of three directors — David C. Welty, Henry M. Reusser and Fred Rohrer. The force of the Witness office, exclusive of its directors, is eighteen employes at this time. On a recent visit to this office the writer hereof noticed a pile of printed newspaper sheets just from the press. Upon inquiry he was told that

this was one quarterly seventeen thousand five hundred edition of a certain paper printed at this office. In a recent report of the postmaster general as to the largest mailing postoffices in the United States it was shown that there were four hundred and twenty-seven given a very high rating. Of the twenty-two in Indiana Berne was given as one of the number. This may not be wondered at when it is said that the Witness alone uses from two to four carloads of paper each month in the publication of its papers. The list of its periodical publications and their circulation as given us by their editor is as follows:

The Berne Witness, eight to sixteen pages, twice a week; 1,475 copies. English and German.

Christlicher Bundesbote, eight pages, weekly; 2,550 copies. German.

Der Bruederbotschafter, eight pages, weekly; 925 copies. German.

The Mennonite, eight pages, weekly; 925 copies. English.

Der Kinderbote, four pages, semi-monthly; 2,375 copies. German and English.

Der Heilsbote, four pages, monthly; 650 copies. German.

Der Missionsfreund, four pages, monthly; 1,025 copies. German.

The Indiana Issue, eight to sixteen pages, monthly; 4,000 to 5,000 copies. English.

Sontagschul-Lektionen, thirty-two pages, quarterly; 17,800 copies. German.

The Berne Witness as one of the papers named is printed partly in German, using the German type, and partly in English. In local matters the Witness is a staunch Prohibition advocate. But in other elections, particularly state and congressional matters, it has strong Republican tendencies. Fred Rohrer,



the editor and publisher, is very frank in the expression of his beliefs, which constantly arouse his enemies and make his friends more firm and ardent in his support.

#### DAILY NEWSPAPERS.

The daily newspaper field in Adams county has but a short history. Although the reading public could scarcely spare its daily papers it has not bestowed the patronage upon them that their efforts merit. The free rural delivery system has brought to their patronage quite an additional list of readers. The earliest daily publication in Adams county was started in September, 1878, by Winfield S. Congleton, who then was publisher of the Decatur Free Press. The general election time was approaching and there seemed to be a demand for a daily paper to advance the political interests of certain Republican and independent candidates for county offices. This daily ran for a month or six weeks and was discontinued after the October election of 1878. The next daily publication was the Geneva Triumph, which was started in December, 1880, by C. S. Thompson and continued until the middle of June, 1881, at which time the paper was suspended and the plant, which was operated by a small steam engine, was removed to Shane's Crossing, Ohio. This was a six-column, non-political daily publication operated in the old Gallery building on the east side of High street, perhaps on inlot No. 153. The Weekly Triumph preceded this publication several years. The files of these publications were left with Charles D. Porter when the office removed from the county, but were destroyed in the Geneva fire of 1895. In 1884 there was a daily issue

of the Decatur Journal, published during the Richards-Baxto-Worst murder trial by E. A. Phillips, and the next year the Decatur Democrat issued a daily during the county fair week. In 1900 the Democrat again issued a daily edition for a short time. In 1891 William E. Ashcraft published a daily issue of the Decatur Journal during the trial of Lige Holland, the negro charged with the murder of Daisy Reynolds. The first effort at a separate and distinct daily publication was that of the Daily Evening News, which began on the 3d day of June, 1891. This paper was a six-column folio, was published by Patrick J. Bobo and Edward Martin in one of the rooms in the Niblick block at the corner of Madison and Second streets. The firm of Bobo & Martin was soon dissolved and Mr. Bobo became owner and editor. The plant was then removed to the Welfry building east of the public square, new machinery was added and the daily regularly issued until May, 1893, at which time the daily was discontinued and the Weekly World began publication, which continued until November, 1896, and suspended publication. On the 16th of September, 1895, Norval Blackburn, then owner of the Decatur Democrat, began the publication of the Daily Democrat, which was continued until the 9th day of January, 1897, and suspended for "want of sufficient patronage and support." In May, 1898, a special edition of the Democrat was published as a daily during the Methodist Episcopal conference which was in session in Decatur at that time. Late in the fall of 1897 the Decatur Evening Journal was started by Frank E. Everett, then the owner and editor of the Decatur Weekly Journal. The weekly was and is a Republican paper, but the daily was usually independent in its



expressions and at once secured a good circulation and by many of the daily readers it was considered the best daily yet published in Decatur. In February, 1898, it was sold to C. M. Kenyon, who directed its publication until June, 1900, at which time Harry Daniels became its owner and editor. He made some valuable improvements and published also a morning edition, which was intended to meet the demands of the rural route patronage. In the columns of his publications appeared from time to time his "Minor Observations," which were commonly witty satires on the extreme fads of the community in its various social and business phases. This young editor is now holding a good position with the Chicago Inter Ocean.

In 1903 C. M. Kenyon again became the owner and editor of the Journal plant; put in a linotype typesetting machine and made other changes in the mechanical department of the office. He continued the publication of the several editions of the Journal until the 3d day of July, 1906, at which time, from various combined causes, the dailies suspended publication. On the 12th day of January, 1903, the Decatur Daily Democrat was started by Lew G. Ellingham, its present owner and publisher, and it has since been regularly issued. At its starting it was a six-column folio, and so continued until the 11th day of March, 1907, at which time it was enlarged to a seven-column folio. It has a good rural route circulation and its share of advertising. This paper is superior in print and appearance to most daily papers published in the smaller cities. Its politics, like the Democrat, is commonly Democratic, but at times it expresses some very liberal views on the political issues between the two great political parties.

#### THE GENEVA ENTERPRISE.

In July, 1885, the Geneva Enterprise was started by E. A. Phillips, formerly of the Decatur Journal. Since 1883 the Independent, then published by H. S. Thomas, had circulated from its Geneva office. This publication was very unsatisfactory to a certain part of the reading people of Geneva and vicinity and the Enterprise received its share of support at the start. Its first issue had hardly left the press when a spicy controversy began as to individual rights and political views of the two contending editors. In the following November Mr. Thomas sold his plant to E. B. Detter and a young man from Hartford City and gave up the fight. The new proprietors gave the paper a new name, the Geneva Herald, changed its policy and continued its publication until early in 1887, when the Enterprise sold out to them and suspended publication. Within this year Lew G. Ellingham became the owner of the Geneva Herald.

#### THE GENEVA TRIUMPH.

The Geneva Triumph was the first newspaper started south of Decatur in Adams county. It was a weekly at first, but the last six months of its publication it was a daily paper. This printing outfit was also the first steam power press in the county and dated from April, 1876. It was located in the Watson gallery building on inlot No. 154, on High street in Geneva. Its publisher, C. K. Thompson, brought this printing plant from Fountain City, Indiana, at the instance of the citizens of Geneva, largely through the influence of William Fought and Jerry Cartwright, who aided materially



in securing the required donation for its removal to Geneva. This publication was successfully operated for over four years and suspended in June, 1881, and removed to Shane's Crossing, Ohio. The paper gained a good subscription list and had its publisher devoted the proper attention to his paper he might today be operating the largest publication in the county. It was independent in politics, but usually gave the news of the day without fear or favor. This publication will be remembered as the second daily and the first steam power plant in the county.

#### THE GENEVA NEWS.

The Geneva News was started soon after the suspension of the Triumph in the summer of 1881. Its first issue appeared in August with Alva Roberts and William H. Fought as editors. The editorials, locals and advertising matter were sent each week to Fort Wayne for composition and press work, and the printed paper sent to Geneva for publication. In the fall of 1882 Mr. Roberts sold his interest in the paper to Adam Cully and the News office was thereafter in the Cully building, then used as an agricultural store. Mr. Cully placed his son, J. C. Cully, in charge of the paper and until its sale was one of its publishers. In May, 1883, the paper, good will and subscription list was sold to a newspaper publisher of Willshire, Ohio, by the name of H. S. Thomas, who at once removed his plant from Willshire to Geneva, discontinued the News and started the Independent. The News was a seven-column folio, newsy and aggressive in its editorials and when discontinued had about three hundred and fifty subscribers.

#### THE INDEPENDENT.

The Independent was a four-column quarto at first, but subsequently changed to a six-column folio. It was started in the spring of 1883 by H. S. Thomas in one of the Pyle buildings on High street. For a time it had a good patronage, but its editor seemed to have some "high" ideals on morals, temperance, etc., that gave offense to a large number of the readers of his paper. So much dissatisfaction in time developed that the Enterprise was started that some of his editorials be answered. His patronage diminished until in the fall of 1885 he sold the plant to E. B. Detter and a young man from Hartford City, whose name we have been unable to learn. This new firm changed the management of the paper and named it the Geneva Herald, a name it still retains.

#### THE GENEVA HERALD.

The Geneva Herald was built upon the "ruins" of the Independent and the Geneva News. The successive owners of this paper are E. B. Detter, Lew G. Ellingham, W. Fred Pyle, O. G. Rayn and C. O. Rayn, the present owner and editor. The Geneva Herald was started as an independent weekly newspaper and has so continued to the present time. It has somewhat expressed the views of its editors in their preferences toward the leading political parties, but has always been an advocate of strict morality and regard for the state and national laws. This property has been in the possession of the Rayn brothers for more than fifteen years and has never in that time missed an issue. The present owner has steadily improved the me-



chanical department with new and modern machinery. In 1896 a simplex typesetting machine was added to the equipment. At this time the Herald is a six-column quarto, with its share of advertising and a good general circulation.

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### CITY AND TOWNS.

At this time there are four incorporated towns in Adams county. In relation to their size they are Decatur, Berne, Geneva and Monroe. They are all situated on the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad, which was opened for passenger traffic on Christmas day, 1871. Monroe and Decatur are much older than the others, as they were both platted towns before 1850. Geneva is of more recent date. The first mention of Geneva upon the town plat records of the county appears in an addition of nineteen lots platted by George W. Pyle and put on record March 29, 1877. The town of Alexander, on the Limberlost, a half mile south of Pyle's addition, was laid out in July, 1838, and contained twenty-eight lots. The town of Buffalo, which is immediately west and north of Alexander, was laid out in July, 1853, by David Studabaker about the time that the Cincinnati, Union City & Fort Wayne Railroad was cut out through the county. Mr. Studabaker subsequently laid out several additions to Buffalo. The original plat of Buffalo contained thirty lots. The town of Monroe had its beginning in December, 1847. This town is situated on the township line just twelve miles from the north and the same distance from the south end of the county. It was platted by John Everhart and had eighty lots in its original plat. In 1850 it was in a lively contest for the county seat. The vote of the county standing Decatur 474, Monroe 343, Monmouth 14 and Pleasant Mills 2 votes. Berne is the youngest of the four towns and has the largest number of fine residences and good business rooms of any town of its age in the county.

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### THE CITY OF DECATUR.

Decatur is situated on the west side of the Saint Mary's river, six miles south of the Allen county line and about six miles west of the east line of Indiana. Its original plat contained one hundred and seventy-seven lots, which were sixty-six by one hundred and thirty-two feet in size. There are four east and west streets—Monroe, Madison, Jefferson and Adams—and five streets extending north and south. They were Front, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth streets. This town was laid out by Thomas Johnson and Samuel L. Rugg, as proprietors, and the plat recorded on the 23d day of June, 1836. The southern addition was platted in 1844 and other additions were soon made. The county seminary lot is south of the water works park and in 1871 was laid out

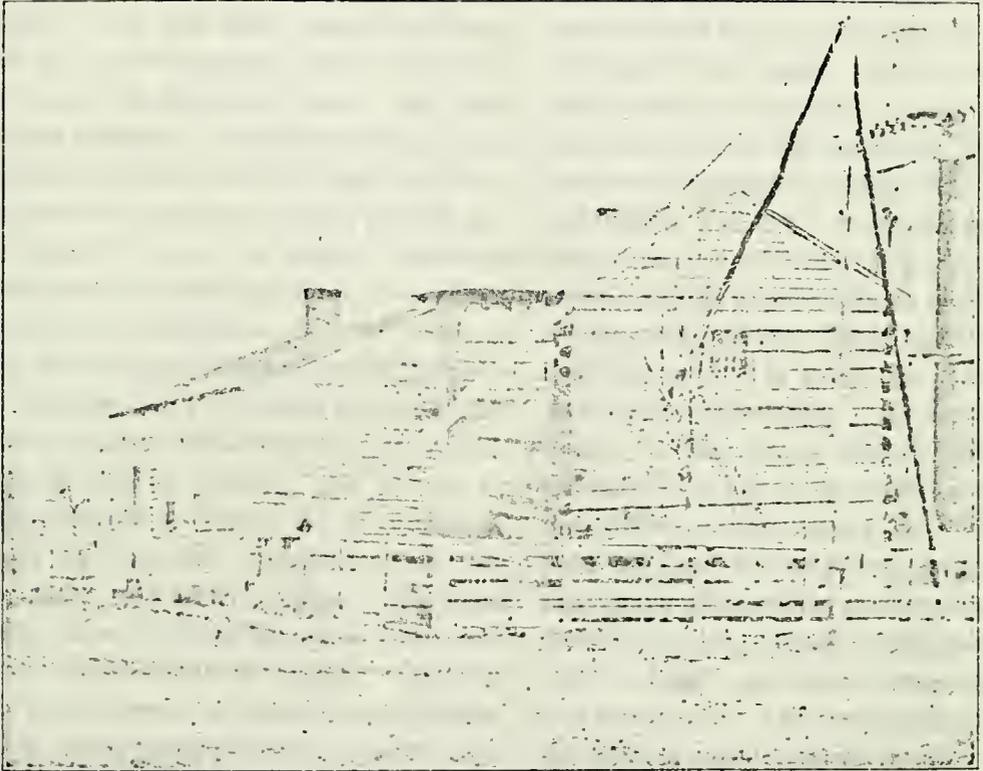


in lots from 1 to 12 to Marshall street and known as the Seminary addition. North of the Seminary addition to the meeting of Third and Fifth streets is a part of the ten acres of land donated to the county in 1836 by Samuel L. Rugg to secure the location of the county seat at Decatur. In June, 1875, this ground was platted in town lots by County Commissioners George W. Luckey, George Frank and Benjamin Runyon. At the present time the city of Decatur is about a mile wide and two miles in length. It has now arrived at a point in its growth that it can offer more and better inducements to capital and manufacturing interests than it has ever before been able to do. There were forty-three families in Decatur in 1850, with a total population of 231 persons. In 1860 there were 483; in 1870, 947; in 1880, 1,905; in 1890, 3,142; in 1900, 4,142, and at the present time about 4,800. Until 1846 the residents of Decatur had to ford the river or go to Willshire to cross on a bridge to reach the Piqua road. In 1852 the plank road company erected the north river bridge and Decatur experienced its first good roads. Then its real commercial life began. It had the county buildings, but Monmouth and Pleasant Mills had the advantage of the wonderful wave of emigration that was coming in over the Piqua road. Decatur at once began a period of growth it had never before known.

The town of Decatur was surveyed and platted by Jacob Hofer, who built the first residence in the town. It was located on inlot No. 291, at the corner of Front and Jackson streets, just east of the Bosse Opera House. It was a log cabin of the pioneer type. The first store building was also a log structure, and was erected at the corner

of Monroe and Front streets, on inlot No. 274, where the Waring mitten factory is situated. The storekeeper was Henry Reichard, who came to Decatur from Willshire, Ohio, about 1838, and began a store when there were but two or three other buildings in the town. He did not long remain in Decatur as J. D. Nutman, then a young unmarried man, came in and chose Decatur as his field of operations. He bought out Mr. Reichard's interests and began the store business. His energy and business ability soon brought him a good trade. In a few years, perhaps in 1845, he built a two-story frame building at the corner of Second and Monroe streets on inlot No. 57, where the Holthouse & Schulte clothing store is situated. He eventually accumulated a fortune, sold his store interests and engaged in the banking business. As a remembrance of the store furniture used in Mr. Nutman's last store in Decatur the reader has but to step into the grocery department of the Niblick & Company's store on Second street and see some of the broad ash board counters and grocery drawers used in the Nutman store over fifty years ago. Another of the early merchants in Decatur was James Crabbs, whose store was started in 1845 or 1846. At that time there were no steam mills in the county and lumber was scarce and high priced from the slow process of making it on the small muley water mills along the smaller streams. On inlot No. 273, on the north side of Monroe street, just west of the Burt House corner, may be seen one of the oldest store buildings in Decatur. Its joists, studding and rafters are hewed out. Its plastering lath has been rived as was then the custom to rive shingles and clapboards for roofing. In 1872 the lower





THE OLD JAIL.



story of this building was raised and the structure otherwise remodeled. The first tavern in the town was started about 1838 by James Crabbs, whose first tavern building was logs, but later built some frame additions. Its location was the present site of the Burt House. Along in the forties Chester Burt became the owner of this property and in 1852 erected a two-story frame hotel building. His first hotel experience, however, was in Monmouth. When the plank road was built through Decatur Mr. Burt changed locations. The first Miesse tavern was situated at the corner of Front and Monroe streets on inlot No. 297 and was the second tavern in town. It was a two-story frame that was subsequently removed from the lot to the northwest part of town in 1864, when George A. Dent erected the present two-story brick residence known as the Dorwin property. This was the second brick residence built in Decatur, the Samuel L. Rugg residence on lot No. 62, where Scheimann's meat market is located, being the first, which was built in 1840. The Closs tavern, erected in 1844, by Jacob Closs, was the next tavern stand in Decatur. This was built at the corner of Second and Monroe streets, where the Niblick & Company store and the Old Adams County Bank buildings are located. This tavern was removed in 1872, the one part of which is now a residence on Monroe street just west of the Christian church and the other part is used as U. R. Cramer's wagonmaker shop on lot 16 on the north side of Monroe street near the river bridge. The first brick business room was erected by Joseph and Perry Crabbs on the west end of inlot No. 273 at the corner of old Second and Monroe streets in 1856 or 1857. This building was

remodeled and another story added about five or six years ago and is now used by the Winnes Shoe Store, with a hall and office rooms above. Another one of the oldest residence buildings in the city and a fine one in its day, is the Joseph Crabbs residence, a two-story frame, covered with brackets, shutters and ornaments, and located at the corner of Second and Jackson streets and now occupied by James Niblick. It was built in 1855 by Mr. Crabbs. Some other buildings are the jails and court houses. The first jail was a hewed log building built in 1839 at a cost of about three hundred and twenty-five dollars. The first court house was a two-story frame, court room below and offices above, built at a cost of about one thousand six hundred dollars. There were two brick buildings erected in 1849, one at the southeast corner of the public square and used as offices for the county auditor and county treasurer, and one at the northeast corner of the public square, where the "Whittier's Barefoot Boy" fountain is located, that was used as the offices of the county recorder and the county clerk. These buildings were one-story in height and about sixteen by thirty-two feet in size. They remained in use until the records were removed in 1874 into the present court house. The present court house was completed in the fall of 1873 at an estimated cost of about one hundred thousand dollars. Its corner stone was laid on the 4th day of July, 1872, under the directions and ceremonies of the Odd Fellows and Masonic orders. The present county jail was built in 1886 at a cost of about twenty-five thousand dollars. In the original proposition the owners of the town site of Decatur if granted the county seat offered to donate four suitable town lots to the four church de-



nominations that would first improve them by the erection of church buildings. The Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist and the German Reformed Zion Congregation availed themselves of this offer. In 1851 the Methodist congregation erected its first church building in Decatur on inlot 280, at the corner of Jackson and Front streets. It was a large frame structure and is still standing, however it was remodeled and rearranged by William Bosse and made into an opera house about 1898. In 1881 a new brick structure was begun at the corner of Fifth and Monroe streets and this structure was completed the next year. In 1891 a neat parsonage was erected. In 1896 a large addition was made to the church building and class rooms and gallery added. At the present time this is the second largest church building in the city. The first Presbyterian church building was erected in Decatur in 1854, was a frame and stood about eight years and was destroyed by fire. In 1862 this building was replaced by the first brick church building in the county. It was located on lot 330 at the "five points" of the intersection of Second, Adams, Mercer and Winchester streets. In 1905 fire again visited this congregation's church building, destroying most of the furniture and greatly injuring the inner walls of the building. The old structure was then removed and a new and commodious building was erected in its stead. The preacher then in charge, Rev. E. A. Allen, furnished the one-tenth part of the cost of the structure and its equipment and furnishings. The first Catholic church building in Decatur was put up in 1846-7; was a substantial frame at the corner of Madison and Fourth streets on inlot No. 129. The present massive brick church was

begun in 1872 and completed the next year. The Catholic church property consists of the church building, the priest's house, the sisters' house and the several school buildings. A new two-story addition was built in 1907.

In 1861 the German Reformed Zion Congregation began its organization in Decatur. Within the next year its church building, a frame, was erected. Its membership increased and at the present time its church building is located near the corner of Jackson and Third streets and is a comfortable frame structure, with a school room built as an addition at the side. It has recently undergone some remodeling that materially adds to its appearance. This church has also its parsonage, a frame structure, that provides for the home of its minister. The Evangelical Association organized its church in Decatur about 1870 and in 1873 had its church building erected on inlot No. 347 on the east side of Winchester street. In 1887 the church property was remodeled and greatly improved in appearance. This church has its parsonage, which is a comfortable two-story frame structure. The Baptist church organization was formed in Decatur in 1884 and in 1887 it erected a neat and commodious brick church building on the east side of Fourth street near Adams street. This is one of the best small church buildings in the city and in a large degree owes its existence to the untiring efforts of its previous pastor, Rev. D. B. Reckard. The Christian church class began its organization in Decatur about 1880. Within the next two years it purchased the old Methodist church property on Front street and within the next five years had secured sufficient funds to buy a lot at the corner of



Fifth and Monroe streets and erect a commodious frame church house. As yet it has no parsonage. The next church building erected was built at the corner of Ninth and Madison streets by the United Brethren congregation. This building was erected in 1896 and in 1902 was remodeled and much improved in appearance. It as yet has no parsonage. The last church building erected in the city is the Evangelical Lutheran Zion church, at the corner of Eleventh and Monroe streets. It is a good sized, tasty brick edifice, with stone trimmings. As yet it has no parsonage, but maintains a parochial school and has a comfortable frame school house in connection with the church property. Deubtless Prof. Henry Lanckenau has had more to do in securing the erection of these buildings for the use of the church and school than any other member of the Decatur congregation. Though Decatur has been reasonably fortunate, it has had some very destructive fires. In 1878 that part of the east side of Second street from east of Court street to Madison street was burned out. In 1882, in September, all of that part of the east side of Second street from Madison to Monroe street was consumed by fire. The buildings were all frame with the exception of Nutman's office building, which was brick. The Decatur city council house was burned on the evening of a primary election of 1899; the log county jail was burned in 1879. The "Big Store" June 28, 1903, loss about seventy-five thousand dollars; the New Fornax mill, 1905; the Burt House in December, 1906, loss twenty thousand dollars. Some others of much earlier date are: The Charles Schermyer's tannery on Market street; the Theodore Rolivar brewery on East Mon-

roe street; Clever, Weeks & Vail's factory in 1883; D. O. Jackson's lumber yard and planing mill at corner of Madison and Front streets in 1884. At the present time the city has a good fire company, city water works and some other means for fire protection. Its first effort toward protection from fire was in 1888, when a hand engine by the use of city cisterns was used. Decatur has three steam railroads and an electric traction line to Fort Wayne. The Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad has a neat little modern depot built of brick, the other steam roads use their first depot buildings. The Fort Wayne & Springfield Traction Company have their power house in Decatur. It is a cement block structure, large, neat and commodious. Its car barns are also of cement blocks. These buildings are located in the north part of the city.

It was not until about 1880 that any of the streets of Decatur were paved or graveled. About that time sand and gravel were placed on Monroe street, and Second street was paved from Madison to Monroe streets with niggerhead rocks and a rougher road would be hard to find. Monroe street in 1883 was cut so full of holes that travel was nearly abandoned. Then some of the sidewalks were bricked, but many of the principal walks along Second street were old boards. In 1888 the work of macadamizing the streets was agitated, and the contractors began the work within the next year. Rice & Bowers and Robinson & Gillig were the principal contractors. Then for the first time the stone quarries north of the city were extensively operated. A period of five or six years from 1890 to 1895 was one of rapid development in Decatur. Water works and electric light plants were started,



natural gas was brought in for fuel. The telephone and rural route systems were put in operation throughout the county. The first brick streets and cement walks were built in Decatur. The first brick street in the city was built from Monroe to Jefferson street in 1893; this was on Second street, which was the first paved street in the county, having been paved with niggerhead stone ten years prior to this time, was also the first bricked street in the county. The next year the bricking was extended to Mercer and Winchester streets at the "Five Points." Decatur now has about two miles of brick streets and a large amount of cement sidewalk. In 1906 the city council required all of Second street north of Madison street to put in cement sidewalks at least five feet in width. In 1892 the Edwards electric light plant was started; it supplied the private consumers and operated a number of arc street lights for the city. The next year the city water works plant was put in operation and the city electric light plant was ready for operation in 1895. In 1892 the natural gas was piped in from the Camden field and is yet in use. The Citizens' Telephone Company was organized in 1894 and has grown to all of the rural districts of the country. In 1836 the town of Decatur was laid out right in the woods; the nearest residence was over two miles distant down the river. On the last day of December, 1853, there was an election held to incorporate Decatur and place its management under its own town officers. In that election there were sixty-four votes cast. Then the town had two hundred and eighty-seven population. There were five trustees elected; a treasurer and clerk combined; a marshal and assessor combined. The trustees were: James Crabbs,

James Stoops, Thomas J. Pearce, Jacob Crabbs and Parker L. Wise. The clerk and treasurer was William G. Spencer. The marshal and assessor was Hamilton I. Wise. After the incorporation the first regular election was held on the 12th day of May, 1855. As a result the five trustees elected were: J. D. Nutman, Simon Friberger, James Stoops, Jacob Bodle and David McDonald; as marshal and treasurer combined A. Bollman; as clerk and assessor combined William G. Spencer. On the 5th day of September, 1882, the town of Decatur became a city by incorporation and its city officers were: James T. Merryman, mayor; L. J. Gast, city clerk; Henry H. Bremerkamp, city treasurer; Robert Malonee, city marshal; J. T. Simcoke, city engineer, and J. T. Archbold, street commissioner. Its first councilmen were: D. O. Jackson, George W. Patterson, J. H. Voglewede, Solomon Linn, William P. Moon and Jesse Niblick. The present city officers are: David D. Coffee, mayor; Edward Green, city marshal; Carl O. France, city clerk; William J. Archbold, city treasurer; James D. Stults, street commissioner; William H. Fulk, water works superintendent; H. C. Vocht, city engineer; Lewis C. DeVoss, city attorney. City councilmen are: Jacob Martin, Millen Burns, Isaac Chronister, Eugene Christen and Anson VanCamp.

The first council house and fire department building was on the east end of inlot No. 87 on Monroe street. The council room is at present in the Decatur Library building. Decatur's first school building was round log and was situated east of Second street near Jackson street. The second was a small frame building at the corner of Jackson and Second streets on inlot No. 267.



When the town was incorporated it took the school matter in its own hands and in 1854 built a six-room two-story frame building on inlots Nos. 109, 110 and 111 on Jefferson and Fourth streets. This building was used until 1886, when it was removed and the Central school building was erected in its stead. This is a commodious two-story structure, with basement, sanitary plumbing, electric lights and modern heating and ventilation. Besides the Central school building there are three two-story, four-room buildings known as the ward schools. These are all fine structures, made of cut stone and brick, with slate roofs, and are commonly called the West ward, the North ward and the South ward schools. In 1906 a large addition was built to the south of the Central building to meet the growing demands of the higher grades of the school. The old school house, which is the second frame building, is now located at the corner of Jefferson and Second streets and is used as a grain, feed and seed store by J. D. Hale, one of the pioneer grain men of the county. Superintendent G. W. A. Luckey was the first city superintendent that conducted school in the new building. His assistants were Bertha M. Luckey, his wife; Mattie A. Wolf, Helena Parrott, Lucy Vail, Belle Merris, Kate Jackson, Nettie Moses and Dink Miller—nine teachers in all. Prof. C. A. Dugan was the second city superintendent in the new building. The present superintendent is Superintendent William Beachler, with twenty-two assistant teachers. The Decatur city school enumeration for the year 1907 is one thousand three hundred and eighteen. The attendance would be much greater were it not for the parochial schools conducted by the several religious organizations in the city.

The present school board is composed of A. H. Sellemeyer, Fred Mills and Robert D. Patterson. The first postoffice in Decatur was located in the Nutman store room at the corner of Front and Monroe streets. Mr. Nutman was the first postmaster. Then two mails a week was all that was expected. More mail is now delivered in Decatur in one day than there was then in a year. The postoffice has rambed nearly all over town, but has now gotten within a hundred feet of its starting place. It is now on the west end of inlot No. 274, when at first it was on the east end of this same lot. It is now kept in the Fritsinger building, which was erected about 1903 under the special contract with the United States government as to the required specifications, etc. It is a two-story brick, with plate glass and cut stone front. The present postoffice force consists of: Maynard A. Frysinger as postmaster; John S. Peterson as first assistant; George W. Everetts and S. E. Schamp as mailing clerks; James A. Beery, stamping clerk, and Faye Smith as money order clerk. Since 1904 Decatur has had free city mail delivery. Its present city carriers are: Fred S. Vaughn, Wid R. Dorwin and O. P. Mills. From Decatur there are twelve rural routes. The rural route carriers at this time are: Earl Butler, William Engle, Homer D. Lower, Henry A. Fuhrman, Mell J. Butler, Elmer E. Archer, Samuel S. Magley, Maud L. Magley, William P. Biggs, Warren A. Hamrick, Roy D. Christen and Roy Wolford. Some of the earliest assembly rooms were the old court house and Kover's hall. Later the Meiber's opera house. At present the court room and the Bosse opera house are used. These will comfortably seat about four hundred and fifty to five hundred people. Some of the church build-



ings and assembly rooms combined can accommodate a larger number.

In 1903 the Decatur public library building was erected at a cost of about fifteen thousand dollars on inlot No. 97 on the west side of Third street. It is one of the prettiest buildings in the city and is used for literary club meetings and a city council assembly room as well as for library purposes. It is built of brick, two stories high and faced with gray pressed brick of a fine quality, trimmed in cut stone and sanded iron work. Its two massive front columns are supported by blue limestone steps and colonades. It is lighted by electricity, heated by a low-pressure steam furnace and has sanitary plumbing, with city water. This building was dedicated in July, 1906, and opened to the reading public at that time. The present librarian is Miss Annetta Moses, who is thoroughly conversant with the details of the many books and magazines that may be found upon the shelves and tables of the library proper for the use and perusal of the general reading public. Besides a general description of the beginning and growth of the various phases of Decatur's advancement from the beginning to the present time we herewith give a brief outline of her present industries, etc. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows owns its own building. The Masons, Knights of Pythias, Elks, Knights of Columbus and Eagles have lodge halls.

Number of brick residences in Decatur in 1907, 20; church houses, 9; hotels, 3; restaurants, 5; grocery stores, 3; drug stores, 4; cigar and tobacco stores, 3; dry goods stores, 4; clothing stores, 4; millinery stores, 4; hardware stores, 3; banks, 2; agricultural implement stores, 2; furniture stores, 3; shoe stores, 3; butcher shops, 5; tinner shops, 2; second hand stores, 2; ten-cent and novelty stores, 3; candy and fruit stores, 1; coal yards, 3; feed and seed stores, 1; junk dealers, 1; cut stone works, 1; marble shops, 2; undertakers, 3; saloons, 15; bottling works, 3; lumber yards, 2; bakeries, 3; barber shops, 6; blacksmith shops, 4; foundries, 1; cigar factories, 5; furnace factory, 1; tile and brick mills, 3; saw mills, 3; planing mills, 1; cider mills, 1; grist mills, 3; cold storage plants, 1; grain elevators, 2; packing houses, 2; whip stock factory, 1; incubator factory, 1 (had a baby shoe factory, but it has been removed); machine shops, 1; stone quarries and crushers, 2; cut stone works and lime kilns, connected with the quarry, 1; egg case filler factory, 1; slack barrel heading factories, 2; wagon maker shops, 3; opera houses and halls, 2; livery stables, 4; jewelry stores, 3; tailor shops, 3; new stand, 1; green houses, 1; traction lines, 1; steam railroads, 3; abstractors, 3; dentists, 3; doctors, 10; lawyers, 20; photograph galleries, 2; printing offices, 3.

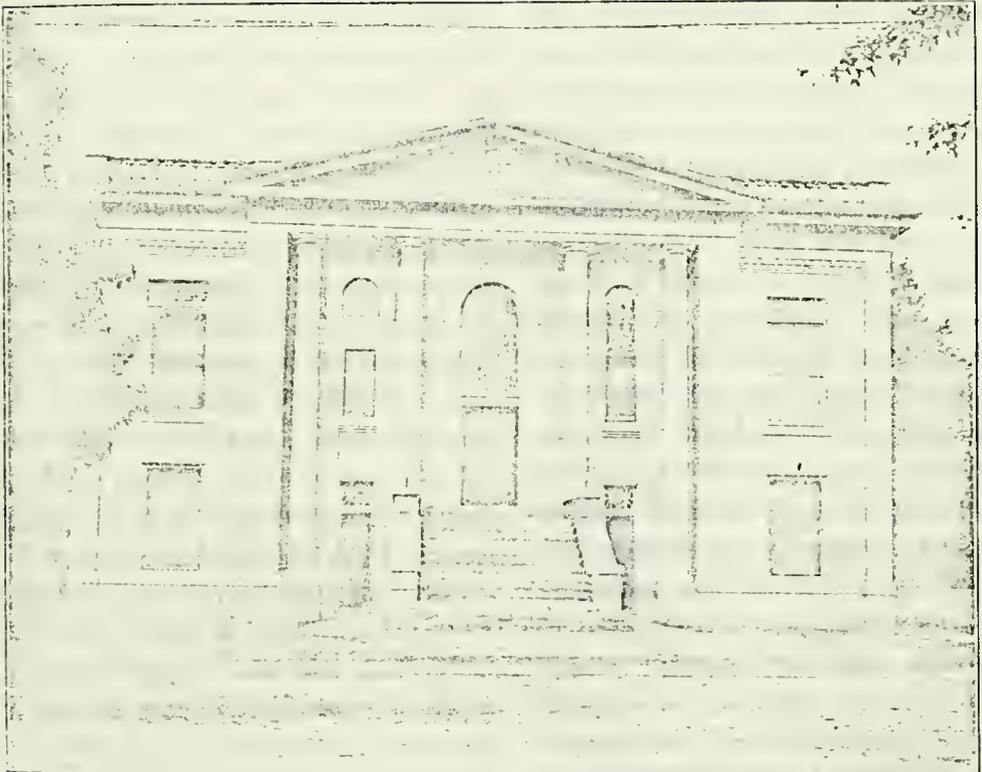
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#### THE TOWN OF BERNE.

Berne is the second town in the county in population and importance of manufacturing and mercantile interests. The original plat of this town contained ten lots sixty-six

feet wide and one hundred and thirty-two feet long, with one street, called Main street, passing them from east to west. The original town plat of Berne was made on the 15th





DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY.



day of August, 1871, but was not recorded until April 5, 1872. Its founders were Abraham Lehman and John Hilty. The first addition was made March 13, 1873, by John Hilty and Christian Leichty and recorded on the 17th day of April, 1875. The town of Berne is located on the township line of Wabash and Monroe townships, six miles from the south boundary of the county and about two miles from the Wabash river. This town has had more additions than all of the other towns in the county put together. The fifty-seventh addition to the town was made in 1906 of fifteen lots on Compromise street by Christian C. Sprunger. As its name indicates, Berne's founders were Switzers, or Swiss-Germans, as they are sometimes called. However, there are few residents of the town who cannot understand some English and most of the English can speak some German. There is no locality in the county that has made more rapid advancement in many ways than Berne and its immediate surroundings. The modern ideas in business in its many phases seem to have saturated its financiers. Its younger business men are striving for trade by the methods unknown to Berne twenty years ago. There are at least four or five old residences—two-story frame farm buildings—now in the town of Berne that were built long before a town in that vicinity was thought of or begun. The Lehmans, the Sprungers and the Hiltys were early residents. Today one is pretty safe in calling every other resident he meets in Berne by one or the other of the above names and having him correctly named. In August, 1871, Thomas Harris built a single-story, small plank store room on the north

side of Main street near the railroad crossing, which was the first business room in the village. He started a little general store which was the predecessor of the J. J. Hirschy & Co. store, one of the first extensive general stores in the town. One of the early grain merchants was Philip Sheets, who was also a storekeeper. Mr. Sheets was the first postmaster of Berne. Until January, 1872, the mails were carried through from Winchester to Fort Wayne on horseback or by special carrier. The postoffices in the south part of the county at that time were the Limberlost at Alexander, or Old Buffalo, as it was later known, and the Canoper postoffice, which was kept at the residences of farmers east and northeast of the present town of Berne. Some of the postmasters of the Canoper postoffice were Jacob Ruble, John R. Burdge, Lewis Mattax and A. B. McClurg. When the passenger trains began to run on the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad the mails were carried by the railroad and Limberlost and Canoper postoffices were dropped from the list and Geneva and Berne postoffices came into existence. Those who have followed Mr. Sheets are Andrew Cotschalk, William Sheets, Joel Welty, Harvey Harruff, William Waggoner, H. S. Michaud and J. F. Lehman, the present incumbent of the office. This office has five rural routes. Its present carriers are Amos Burghalter, Bertram Parr, Simon P. Lehman, Otto Franz and Elmer Eley. Berne is one of the largest mailing offices of second-class mail matter in Indiana. It has also a great many stray foreign letters, as they are addressed in the German hand and not all of Uncle Sam's mail railroad clerks can read the German



language. Mr. Lehman straightens out the kinks and sends them on to where they belong, in many instances.

The mailing lists at Berne are largely increased by the nine or ten newspapers that the Witness Company prints for the various organizations and associations and are mailed from the Berne office. The postoffice pays a salary of about sixteen hundred dollars a year. For ten years after its beginning the town's transient people had to be content with boarding house accommodations. Though good they may have been, they were hardly what was demanded by the transient public. In the summer of 1882 the Eagle House was built east of the railroad on Main street. This name was changed in 1893 by Mrs. Rose, its landlady, to the Cottage Hotel, a name it still retains. Its promoters were formed into a joint stock company, composed of John A. Sprunger, J. F. Lehman, D. S. Whitwer and Aaron Neuenschwander. D. S. Whitwer was the first landlord. This hostelry soon gave a good account of itself and is now well patronized by the traveling public in general. This hotel was originally a two-story frame structure with about twenty rooms. Berne has improved very rapidly within the last few years, and its buildings are generally of modern construction, many of which cannot be excelled in the larger towns and cities. There are a number of large and new brick and cement block business rooms; three brick residences and twelve cement block dwellings, many of which are models of taste and beauty. At the present time there are four church organizations that have their own church buildings. The Mennonite, German Reformed, Evangelical Association and the Missionary church. The

Mennonite congregation erected its first church, which was a small frame, just north of and across the road from their present large frame church, which is situated on the south side of West Main street. The Mennonite church in Berne has perhaps the largest seating capacity of any church in Adams county. This church building was begun in 1879 and since has been remodeled and enlarged by several additions. Its foundation is perhaps about sixty by seventy feet in size, and the church has a gallery on three sides; it is said that this church can comfortably seat about fifteen hundred people. Until 1890 this property was outside of the corporation, but is now within the town limits. This church has a large membership, perhaps the largest of any one church in the county south of Decatur. Rev. S. F. Sprunger has for more than thirty years been the minister of this church. In 1903 Rev. J. W. Kliever came and is now the minister in charge. The German Reformed people have a small frame church a few miles south of Berne. This was erected perhaps as early as 1863, and as the town of Berne grew more of this religious denomination came in until 1888, at which time the new brick school house was erected. They then bought the old frame school property and remodeled it and used it for their church until 1896. One of the first local preachers was Rev. Bader, who was succeeded by Rev. R. Ruf, who was largely instrumental in the erection of the present elegant brick structure on West Main street, which was built in 1896. This church is modern in all respects and makes a fine outward appearance. Its membership at the present time is about two hundred and eighty-five. The Evangelical Association began its or-



ganization at Berne in 1882. Its assembly room was the school house until 1887, when the Hocker's Hall was completed and used until the completion of their present church building, erected in 1900. This is a fine brick edifice, situated in South Berne, on one of the principal streets, and is one of the attractive and substantial public buildings of the town. The seating capacity of this church and auditorium is about six hundred and fifty. The present pastor is Rev. Frank Hartman.

The Missionary church building is the property formerly owned by the German Reformed church people and was originally the township school house built in 1879 by Trustee Robert E. Smith, of Monroe township. This was remodeled for church purposes in 1888. The Missionary church was an adherent to the doctrines of John A. Sprunger, who formerly was a member of the Mennonite church at Berne. It is of recent origin, having been started about 1888 or 1890. West of Berne about three miles, in French township, there is another church of this denomination. It has a large frame structure. If not the founder of this church society, at least one of its ardent adherents was J. A. Sprunger, who was also the founder of the "Light and Hope" Society that built and operated an orphanage at Berne for some time. In 1898 it abandoned its work in Berne and removed to a larger town or city to have a more extensive field for its labors. The Mission church at Berne at this time has between fifty and seventy-five resident members, with Rev. Alfred M. Clauser as its pastor. On the farm of Daniel Welty, which is now a part of the incorporated town of Berne, is an old log two-story building that was once used as a school

room. In 1879 the frame school building on North Jefferson street was erected. In 1888 a two-room, two-story brick school building was erected in South Berne. It was the first addition. As of the town, this school building has had several additions. When this building was erected there was a wave of public sentiment in Berne that rather opposed women teachers and especially those from German neighborhoods. Another sentiment seemed to have taken possession of some of the prominent families, which was that the modern styles, be they in clothing, carriages or in architecture, was a useless expenditure put upon what they termed "style," and in a sense was a phase of wickedness that was unnecessary and should be discouraged. It seems that Berne has now found its way out of those ideas far enough to keep their scholars in school until graduation from the high school course of study. Some of the very best school teachers the county ever had were German girls. And still they continue to learn and teach. At present there are eight teachers employed in the town schools. Frank G. Haecker and Lila G. Schrock were the first teachers after the town was incorporated. The succeeding town school principals and superintendents are: N. C. Hirschy, John H. Bryan, J. H. Anderson, B. A. Winams, H. B. Kizer and Frank D. Huff, the present principal. The present school enumeration of Berne is three hundred and fifty-six. The town school board of Berne at the present time is Charles Schug, Levi Sprunger and Fred Schafer. The village of Berne was incorporated on the 30th day of March, 1887, with Daniel Welty, J. F. Lehman and John C. Lehman as town trustees; F. F. Mendenhall, as clerk; David Bixler, treas-



urer, and J. F. Lachot, as marshal. On the 2d day of May of the same year occurred the regular time for city and town elections and the first officers were re-elected, with the exception of town trustees. Samuel Simmerson and Harvey Harruff were elected in the places of Mr. Lehman and Mr. Welty. The present town officers are: Christ Stengel, town clerk; Eugene Runyon, town treasurer; William Tucker, town marshal. The trustees are: David Eckrote, Howard Parr and Norman Jacobs. The town attorney is Frank Cotteral. Within the last few years there have been perhaps a mile and a half of brick streets constructed, drainage sewers built and cement sidewalks made. The streets of Berne cease to be a continuous "chuck hole," but the main and several of the cross streets have been bricked. The supervisor of public utilities did finally have to give his consent to remove the wind pump and overflowing watering trough from the main street right in the center of the town. With it went the mud and the mire, an eyesore to the cleanliness of the village.

Berne has a number of business enterprises of general utility to the public that are not really mercantile in their nature. The Berne Electric Light Company was organized in 1904, furnishes thirty street arc lights and about three thousand incandescent lights for the town. The officers of this company are William Baumgartner, president; Henry S. Michaud, vice president; C. A. Neuenchwander, treasurer, and F. K. Schafer, secretary and manager. The S. & H. Tablet Company, the Berne Manufacturing Company and the Condensed Milk Factory are industries such as are found nowhere else in the county. The Sprunger & Habberger Tablet Company occupies the "Or-

phanage" building with its manufacturing plant and employs a number of hands. It devotes its attention principally to the manufacture of writing tablets, such as are commonly used in counting rooms, schools and business offices. It is said that the usual output is about three thousand tablets a day or eighteen or twenty thousand a week. It consumes several carloads of paper a month, has its salesmen on the road to dispose of its products. The condensed milk factory began its operations April 1, 1907, and is just fairly under headway. However, it consumes five thousand pounds of milk each day and at present pays fifty dollars a day to the farmers for the milk with which to operate. The Berne Manufacturing Company does an extensive business. Its location is on the south side of Main street toward the west part of town in a fine two-story cement block building that is said to be about one hundred feet long and forty feet wide. This business industry was started in 1898 with eighteen or twenty sewing machines, but in 1902 the capital stock was increased and a large amount of machinery was added and the amount of help increased. This company's pay roll is large, its employes at present consist of five men and nearly sixty girls. It manufactures socks, mittens, overshirts and overalls for working men chiefly.

Berne has several secret orders that are in a thriving condition, as the Knights of Pythias, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen, etc.

Some of the other items of interest in relation to the town may be mentioned as: Brick residence properties, 3; cement block dwellings, 12; church houses, 4; hotels, 1; restaurants, 2; grocery stores, 1; general



stores, 5; drug stores, 2; banks, 2; clothing stores, 1; millinery stores, 3; hardware stores, 4; furniture stores, 1; shoe stores, 1; butcher shops, 2; timers' shops, 2; harness shops, 3; electric light and gas furnishings, 1; junk dealers, 1; lumber yards, 2; bakeries, 1; barber shops, 2; grain elevators, 1; foundries, 1; brick and tile yards, 2; planing mills, 2; grist mills, 1; packing houses for eggs and butter, 2; handle factories, 1; wagon shops, 1; livery stables, 1; feed barns, 2; photographers, 1; lawyers, 2; doctors, 5.

While there have been no fires of a general nature that swept the streets for blocks, as in Geneva and Decatur, the town of Berne has had some very severe losses by fire. In the spring of 1883 occurred the destruction of the Hoosier mills, owned by the Sprunger Brothers, on the north side of East Main street. Next the cultivator factory and saw mills at the north of town. By these fires over twenty-five thousand dollars' worth of property was destroyed. The Berne and Bryant stave and heading factory, in the southern part of town, was destroyed in 1895. The large dry goods and general store of Simmerson & Soldner, at the corner of Main and Jefferson streets, was destroyed in February, 1905. Perhaps the most serious of all the fires was that of one of the "Orphanage" buildings in April, 1899, at which time three of the inmates were burned to death in the flames.

Berne has a very large temperance society that enumerates a membership of between three and four hundred. Its purpose is said to be to compel liquor sellers to keep within the limits of the statutory law in the handling of liquors. It has developed into nearly what may be considered a total abstinence society—the only safe temperance

society. It has been stated that a number of the ministers and particularly Rev. S. F. Sprunger, of the Mennonite church, long favored such a society in the German neighborhoods before this society was started and put in operation at Berne; that J. Christian Rohrer, his son, Fred Rhorer, and Edward Ray are and have been some of his aggressive advocates. In 1902-3 the saloons of Berne were discontinued. Later there were two or three started again, but soon discontinued. In 1904 the town was dry and so were some of its residents. But the town still continues to grow and flourish in its drouth. It has not been so many years since where Berne now is located was the home of wild animals. The days of domesticated animals now prevail in Berne and Adams county. There was once a time when there were more deer than sheep now in the county; more bears than than hogs in the county. It is a historical fact that the last wild bear in the county was killed in 1846, near the Bolinger school house, in Monroe township, a short distance northwest of Berne. However, there was a domesticated bear killed between Decatur and Pleasant Mills on the 3d day of June, 1907. This was one given to Elmer Johnson as a present from a northern Wisconsin friend of his. "Billy" was almost full grown and plump and usually friendly, but became dissatisfied and cross, broke his chain and in true bruin style started after the pigs and lambs for his dinner. All efforts to capture him were useless, as he became dangerous and had to be shot. In February, 1907, O. G. Brown, of North Decatur, captured a live bald eagle that was feasting on the carcass of a dead sheep. It was caged and carried in the Order of Eagles' parade in De-



catur. About six miles northwest of Berne, on the farm of J. B. Corson, may be seen five or six domesticated fallow deer. They pasture with the cattle in the fields and make no effort to escape. These animals all remind us of a much earlier day when their screams or bleats could be heard in every direction. It has been related that along in the nineties there was an animal of some kind heard and seen in the neighborhood of Berne. It became a terror to the young and many of the old people of that locality. "Dad" Michaud's hounds refused to trail it, and most of the other dogs of the town were afraid of its threatening howls. Whether it was an escaped menagerie specimen was a subject of general discussion. However, none of the traveling shows ever sent representatives to effect its capture. Though no lives were actually lost, its threatening howls disturbed the peace and quiet of the evenings in the town so that the matter was brought to the notice of the newspaper men, who at once gave extended notices of its prowlings. They even suggested that before the lives of children be sacrificed that a circle hunt be instituted. That the swamps along the Canoper and forest down the Wabash river bottoms be thoroughly scanned and the lynx, panther or wildcat be captured. Frederic Rohrer, the editor of the Witness, as starter of the circle hunt idea, was made commander-in-chief by common consent. Some of his aids were sure shots and able hunters. A circle was formed for the hunt and it was found to contain not only farmers and newspaper men, but mechanics, ministers, storekeepers and many others, all bent on extermination of the beast. General Fred and Captain Ed extended their lines so

that the center field would be Berne. The lines began to move, the farther they went the more compact they became. Along the Canoper and above the Price bridge at "Turtle Soup Camp," the trail was struck. Captain Ed passed along the lines on a gallop, standing partly up in his stirrups, hallowing at the top of his voice through a megaphone to the commanding general, "Keep to the right. We've hit a scent." The lines moved steadily on. The beast was started from its lair in the Canoper swamps and headed for Hirschy's woods. Again the sergeant bore the tidings to the general, "Keep to the right. We've seen its tail." Then the lines moved rapidly on. A brave and animated hunter stumbled on a "hop cream" bottle and lost his head. The captain dismounted and while reviving this brave veteran was left in the rear and on the field. An hour afterward he galloped into town hunting his lines, inquiring, "Have they run him in? Have they got him yet?" Some one, perhaps Dad Mischaud, suggested that he was treed under Sprunger's barn. "Let your watchword then be to the right," said the captain, as he nudged his horse along. The barn was surrounded. General Fred was vigorously punching with a pole. The crowd cheered. "It's in there. We've got it treed." The captain quickly alighted without tying his horse, peeped under and looked again. "Say, Fred, give me your pole. I think I see its tail." Captain Ed then gave one of his usual crawls and under he went. Just as he poked it he didn't poke it, for it turned and looked at him face to face. He then gave two pokes and it charged him out, when he then gave one of his customary crawls when in a tight place. Fred took the pole and poked and poked. It



gave a chirping growl at each poke. After much delay a consultation was held and it was agreed that the sheriff should be sent for and have the militia called out lest it actually get away. Sheriff Myers came, gave it just one poke, showed his gun, but the gnashing of teeth continued and the animal howled as before. Captain Ed suggested a little salt for its tail. Dad Stopher thought that perhaps a nice young lamb might bring it out. A telegram was received that the militia was at the lakes on an outing and couldn't come. Prosecutor Heller then showed up and Fred punched it some more

with a pole. It moved a little. Captain Ed yelled out, "Stop, Fred, I think I can get a hold of its tail." After persistent pokes it again attempted to escape. But as it passed its head beyond the structure the prosecutor brought it a tremendous stroke with a limb of the law. Captain Ed just hopped for joy, yelling at the top of his voice, "Now I can grab it by the tail. The first time I saw it I didn't see it at all. The next time I saw it just as plain as I saw it the first time. Now I think I see it." One more stroke from Mr. Heller's Blackstone and the poor old "blind tiger" was no more.

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### THE TOWN OF GENEVA.

What is now known as the town of Geneva is composed of three separate towns united in one by incorporation. Near where the Godfrey trace crossed the Fort Recovery & Flint Springs, or Huntington, road, was the cabin home of one Alexander Hill. The original town of Alexander was laid out by Charles Lindley, and the plat recorded on the 23d day of July, 1838. The town had three north and south streets—Main, Jackson and Van Buren—and two east and west streets, which were North street and South street. It contained twenty-eight lots—some of the smallest in the county—they were forty-one by eighty-two and a half feet in size. At the crossing of Main and North streets was the business part of town. The town well was on the west side of Main street in the center of North street, where it is today. On the two corners to the south and the southeast were the first store buildings. Some of the early storekeepers were:

Darias Carr, Samuel Linton, James Childers, Zedric Wheeler and others. The first tavern in the town of Alexander was on the east side of Main street, just on the banks of the Limberlost creek. It is said to have been built about the time the town was laid out and the town named after its landlord. Alexander, who was Alexander Hill. Jacob Conkle was an early resident and a stirring citizen from a business point of view. He burned the first brick kiln in Wabash township along about 1852 and a year later had the first steam saw mill in operation in Alexander. This mill was placed on the Thompson prairie, east of Berne, by John R. Burdge a few years before it was purchased by Mr. Conkle. The old tavern building was a two-story hewed-log structure, planked up in front with rough boards. The old mill blew up in 1866 after having cut lumber to build two towns—Alexander and Buffalo. Some of the early mechanics of



these towns were: Caleb Penock, a blacksmith and gunsmith; Joseph Wilson, manufacturer of spinning wheels and buckeye splint and braided rye straw hats for men. He was also a noted hunter. George Cokerly, a blacksmith and wagonmaker; William Bears, a silversmith or watchmaker. Then mails were carried through from Winchester to Fort Wayne on horseback. Jesse Conner was one of the early mail carriers and Jacob Conkle was the first postmaster after Limberlost postoffice was established. Riesen Todd was the last one before the name of the office was discontinued and Geneva given its place. The original town of Buffalo contained thirty lots that were sixty by one hundred and twenty feet in size. The original streets were Van Buren and Ringgold streets north and south, crossed by Kossuth street. The town of Buffalo was laid out by David Studabaker and the plat was recorded on the 28th day of July, 1853. In August of the same year C. A. Wilkinson laid out an addition of twenty-nine lots, which extended the town to the then proposed Cincinnati, Union City & Fort Wayne Railroad right-of-way, which had recently been located. The first church building erected in the south part of the county was built on what was later in lots Nos. 20 and 21, facing Kossuth street, in Buffalo. This was a large hewed-log structure. Alexander was about sixteen years old when this was built. It was heated by stoves, something rather uncommon throughout the country then, and had tin candlesticks on the pulpit and tin pans for reflectors behind the candles set in wooden blocks tacked at convenient height against the walls. This church was favored with four windows and had a bell. This bell was

hauled all the way from Dayton, Ohio, by Samuel Linton, who went there in 1856 for a supply of goods for his store in Alexander.

The first regular passenger trains began to run on the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad on Christmas day, 1871. About that time the railroad station, nearly a half mile north of Buffalo, received its name—Geneva. The station was located at the crossing of the railroad by the east and west public road that is now Line street. As there was not a house or any building for use as a station house or wareroom, the company made arrangements with J. D. Hale, who is now a resident of Decatur, to provide a suitable building and to serve the road as station agent at Geneva. Mr. Hale expended just one hundred dollars on the station house, letting the contract and having a two-room plank building about fourteen by twenty-eight feet in size built and made ready for use as a granary for small grains and one room for railroad purposes. This building was completed in 1872 and was the first building in Geneva, and served until the Hale grain warehouse and elevator was built five or six years later. For a time a room in this was used for a ticket, express and telegraph office, with Mr. Hale and his brother, S. W. Hale, as agents and operator. The first reference made by the town plat record was that of Pyle's addition to the town of Geneva that was filed for record on the 29th day of March, 1877. Additions filed previous to this date are shown as additions to the town of Buffalo. The town of Geneva became an incorporation on the 27th day of January, 1874, and then included the three towns as a municipal corporation. The first town officers were: J. Q. Anderson,



town clerk; Charles D. Porter, town treasurer; Michael M. McGriff, assessor and marshal combined. The town trustees were: Riesen Todd, John B. King and N. P. Heaston. The first general election was held in May, 1875, at which time the following named officers were elected: Town trustees, S. W. Hale, William Bair and B. F. Perry; for clerk and assessor combined, N. P. Heaston; for treasurer, John S. Nelson; for marshal, Jacob Bricker. The present town officers are: Andrew Miller, Byron Ault and Charles Brown, as trustees; for town treasurer, Samuel Acker; for town clerk, Bert Redout; for town marshal, E. M. Adkinson; town attorney, Jacob Butcher. The present town school board is composed of Nathan Shepherd, Charles Reicheldeffer and M. E. Hutton. As soon as convenient office room could be secured at Geneva the postoffice was removed to the new part of town. Charles D. Porter and Emerson Kern built store houses down south on Main street in Buffalo, but as the station was located farther north and the buildings began going up, they abandoned their first store rooms and built on Line street. Mr. Kern was the first postmaster at Geneva. He was followed by W. W. Roberts, W. H. Fought, S. F. Beitman, M. M. Herr, Lafayette Rape, Marshal Aspy and Samuel H. Teeple, the present incumbent. The next buildings erected in the present town of Geneva were some small plank business rooms on the south side of Line street, west of the railroad. Another that was among the first was the George Iholts store room that occupied the ground where the I. O. O. F. building is located. In 1876 Jerry L. Cartwright built a two-story store room to the east of this and furnished the amusement-loving

people their first opportunity to see shows by theater troupes in Geneva. The lower rooms were for store purposes and living rooms and the entire upstairs was arranged for hall purposes. At that time there were a great many strangers in and about the timber towns and the dances and masquerades were well attended. There was a well-arranged stage in this building and some good show companies held the "boards" for a week or more at a time. Perhaps the third building in the new town of Geneva was the Heaston Hotel. It was located just east of the railroad on Line street. This was built about the latter part of 1872 and had a good patronage. The Watson House was the next in the line of taverns or boarding houses. This occupied the place of the present Shamrock Hotel on Line street.

About this time the Shackley Wheel Company started a spoke and heading factory at Geneva. Several saw mills were put in operation and employment was given to a large number of men in the timber industries. Baldwin & Rayn built a two-story store room on the south side of Line street and were succeeded in the store business by Ashdale & Son, of Portland. Abram Herrod erected a two-story frame that he occupied with a furniture store on the north side of the street. Charles D. Porter and Emerson Kern each erected store buildings on the south side of Line street which they used for a number of years. For many years the church people of Wabash township and vicinity used the old log church house that was erected at Buffalo in 1855. In 1877 the Methodist congregation built a new frame church at the corner of Line and Main streets. This was the first church built in the town of Geneva. It was in



service for more than twenty years, when it was removed and a modern, tasty brick edifice built in its place. The old log church was used by several church denominations, but the Methodist members were in the majority at the time it was built. Some of those most interested were: Samuel Linton, Henry S. Juday, Harper Tyson, Lyman Bears and Arthur McHugh and their families. It was not until 1855 that the neighborhoods could muster sufficient strength to build such a building as they desired. At that time camp meetings were held each year along the Limberlost on the lands south of Henry S. Juday's farm. At these meetings large crowds would assemble and camp out for a week or more. The second church, the frame, was built largely through the united efforts of the church-going people of Geneva and vicinity, and was used by other denominations until the United Brethren church was built at the corner of High and Bradford streets in 1881. Among the active promoters of the frame Methodist church were William Burke, John D. Hale, Joseph Anderson, Christian Burris, B. F. Perry and David B. Linton. In 1902 the United Brethren congregation remodeled and greatly improved their church house in North Geneva. New furniture was put in, the building enlarged and the outer walls brick veneered that it now has all the appearance of a brick structure throughout. The first United Brethren class in Geneva was organized with less than a dozen members in 1875. This church has had a steady and continuous growth to the present time. Among its first most active members were: Daniel McCollum, George W. Pyle, Adam Cully and their families. Some of its early

pastors were: Revs. Baber and L. F. Johnson. The last church house erected in Geneva was built by the Catholic people during the times of oil prosperity in that locality, perhaps in 1900. Then this church was well attended and the regular services were conducted by a priest from Portland. This building is a frame structure, of ample size to meet the wants of a small congregation. Of recent years many of the Catholic people have removed from Geneva and regular services at this church have for the present been abandoned. This church is a frame building, well located, in West Geneva, on one of the principal streets. Before their incorporation as a town with Geneva the residents of Alexander and Buffalo sent their children to the township district school. The school house was located at the present corner of Railroad and Bradford streets in North Geneva, on the corner now occupied by the residence of Dr. L. Mattax. This school house was a small frame building, with five little windows, two in each side and one at the end opposite the door. The inside walls were ceiled with rough oak and ash boards when the lumber was unseasoned and the openings between the boards furnished plenty of ventilation in winter and a fine escape for wasps and lizards in the spring and summer time.

We are told that the frame work of this old school house is a part of a residence building on the east side of Railroad street at the east end of Bradford street. In 1873 the township trustee built a frame school house on West Shackley street, near Main, perhaps on inlot No. 102, in Geneva. In 1876 and 1877 the attendance could not be accommodated in a single-room house and



the school was divided, a part attending school in the old log church building. The first brick school house was built in 1878. This was also the first brick school house with more than one room in the county. The first brick school house in Root township was a district school building of one room, built in 1873. The Geneva graded school building was a large two-story, four-room building, with seating capacity for about two hundred pupils. This building was destroyed by fire in 1904 and has been recently replaced by a large and commodious structure not excelled in appearance or convenience by any in the county. The cost of this building is not far from twenty thousand dollars. It is located on the north side of Line street, in West Geneva. Besides the church and school buildings Geneva has some valuable halls and business rooms that are the property of secret societies. The Masons and Odd Fellows each own their lodge halls and properties running away up into the thousands of dollars in value. Five or six years ago the work of drainage, with adequate sewerage, and building brick streets received the attention of the town board. High street, Bradford street and Line street, from the railroad west, are bricked, which adds much to the cleanliness, beauty and sanitary conditions of the town. In some respects Geneva excels all other towns in the county. It has near two miles of sawed stone sidewalks, and also has the largest and finest log residence house in the county and perhaps in eastern Indiana. This house is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Porter. He is a financier and banker and she (Gene Stratton Porter) an author of numerous recent publications that have met with great favor by the reading public and gen-

eral recognition by those pursuing scientific lines of investigation. This building is in no respect similar to or like the "Palace of the Pioneer," as heretofore spoken of, but is an elegant rustic two-story log structure, furnished and supplied with all of the modern conveniences of the present day. It has over a dozen large rooms, none of which is less than fourteen feet square, and there are three rooms eighteen by twenty-two feet in size. Its walls are built of red cedar logs that were brought from the state of Wisconsin on special order for this building. The intention of its builders was to give it a rustic appearance, and their efforts have been fully rewarded. The grounds, which are large, are tastefully laid out and nicely set with shrubbery and potted plants—in season. The front is fortified with an uncut limestone wall about four feet in height, laid up in open work, giving it the appearance and effect that might have been produced by Nature's hand. It matters not as to the financial conditions of an individual or of a city, the fire fiend is no respecter of persons. It is sometimes stated that a few good fires will do more for the looks of a town than all the sermons and local enactments of the town for years. In this respect it would seem that Geneva is no exception. On the night of June 11, 1895, a fire started on the south side of Line street and all of the business part of the town on both sides of the street to the railroad east was destroyed by fire. This fire destroyed the railroad depot, the grain warehouse and elevator and about twenty other business houses. It was but a very short time until the town was again visited by fire. This time it was the west part of Line street, the fire starting near Decatur street. All of the business buildings



to the east to near where the Shamrock Hotel and bank building are situated were destroyed by fire. This conflagration was not quite so extensive as the first, but left the town with but very few completed business houses in which to carry on its business. This fire occurred on the 21st day of November, 1895. It is evident that these fires were a heavy stroke to some of the property owners, but the spaces made vacant were soon filled by modern brick structures that give the streets quite a metropolitan appearance. In the last fire the Grand Army Hall was destroyed and William H. Fought came near losing his life in the flames, as the fire reached the stairway and cut off his escape before he was aware that the building was on fire.

In addition to the various incidents connected with the town's history we herewith enumerate some of its industries at this time: The town has one brick residence. Church houses, 3; hotels, 1; restaurants, 2; grocery stores, 3; drug stores, 3; general stores, 2; banks, 1; clothing stores, 1; millinery stores, 2; hardware stores, 3; agricultural implement stores, 2; marble shops, 1; saloons, 3; blacksmith shops, 3; tile and brick works, 1; lumber yards, 1; grain elevators, 1; harness shops, 1; junk dealers, 2; furniture stores, 1; plumbing and gas fitting, 1; livery stables, 1; butcher shops, 2; shoe stores, 3; coal yards, 2; tin shops, 1; grist mills, 1; printing offices, 1; lawyers, 2; doctors, 5.

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### THE TOWN OF MONROE.

The town of Monroe is situated at the center of the county, seven miles west of the Ohio state line. At various times it has fanned itself with the hope of being the county seat of Adams county. With this idea it was platted, with eighty lots, on the line between Monroe and Washington townships by John Everhart, and the plat recorded on the 11th day of December, 1847. Its four streets were Washington, Jackson, VanBuren and Polk streets. In the general election of 1850 the county seat location was a prominent issue. A feature of this election shows that it was an issue between the north and south ends of the county, and that the southern candidates for county offices were about all elected over their northern rivals, while in the county seat issue Decatur

was the winner. In that election the highest number of votes was cast for coroner. Thomas W. Andrews, of the northern part of the county, received 586 votes, and was elected; that for state senator Samuel S. Mickle received 447 votes and was elected. All the other county officers were chosen from the south half of the county. Charles Nelson, of Wabash township, received 505 votes for county commissioner; John McConnell, of southeast Monroe township, received 485 votes and was elected county auditor; Samuel Eley, of southeastern Monroe township, received 497 votes for enumerator and county assessor and was elected. David McDonald was elected sheriff by a vote of 461, while his opponent, the Whig candidate, Jacob Conkle, received 381



votes. Both of these candidates for sheriff lived in Wabash township. The vote on county seat location stood: For Decatur, 474 votes; for Monroe, 343 votes; for Monmouth, 14 votes, and for Pleasant Mills, 2 votes. After the county seat subject was abandoned, a part of the recorded plat was vacated by order of the county commissioners. One of the principal streets of the town at this time is Jackson street. This is an east and west street, and on this the greater number of the business houses of the town are located. When the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad was completed in 1871 Monroe had but two or three houses. The first frame house in this town was built in 1871 by Dr. Charles F. Rainier, who subsequently practiced medicine in Monroe and vicinity for more than twenty years. The first house built in the town was a two-room round log cabin, located on the south side of Jackson street near the present location of Joseph Hocker's drug store. It was built, it is said, along about 1853, by William Stockham, an ex-soldier of the war of 1812, and also an associate judge. Mr. Stockham was not only the first resident of Monroe, but was the first storekeeper. The wants of the neighborhood then were few, but he kept them on hand as far as possible. An old settler relates that the road to Stockham's store from Decatur ran in the direction of a snake track in the dust; that it nowhere ran straight; that the stock of goods usually kept by Mr. Stockham chiefly consisted of whisky, blind robins, dog-leg tobacco, ox yokes and ax handles; that he took in trade coon skins, beeswax, ginseng and maple sugar. Monroe has made much improvement since the fifties. One can get his tobacco and blind robins, but must cross the corpo-

ration line to get his whisky, as the saloon is just outside the corporation. For a number of years Monroe was a great timber point. Lumber of various kinds was hauled here for shipment. Especially is this true of railroad ties, heading and staves. In 1872-73 Gilig & Hower started the first sawmill. Christ W. Hocker later put in a portable mill and later hoop machinery and a burr for chopping grain. As the country was developed the town grew in business interests, and a grain elevator was built to handle the grain marketed there. In 1847 Monroe was laid out as a town, but it was not until 1877 that it had a church building. Not that it had no church-going people, for it had, but that these were accommodated by attending the "twelve-cornered" log church that was a mile and a half south of Monroe. This church was built on the farm of Robert E. Smith, in section 9, in 1866, by the Methodist and United Brethren congregations and used by several other denominations. Some of the most active members in securing the construction of the church at Monroe were Basil Hendricks, William and Philip Hendricks, David Reefy and James Davey. These were assisted by contributions of labor, lumber and cash from the prominent business men of the town and community. This structure was repaired and remodeled in 1904 and made much more convenient and greatly improved in its outward appearance. One of the principal advocates and managers of this improvement was Rev. Sprague, the local preacher. In 1887 the present brick graded school building was erected. This was the first school building in Monroe, and the second brick school house in the township. In 1902 another room was added and the building otherwise



changed. This building was erected by Township Trustee Christ W. Hocker, an active merchant and timber man in Monroe in the eighties. It is now a graded school building and is located on Section Line street in the east part of town. The town of Monroe has never experienced any very extensive fires. Its most destructive occurred in the spring of 1905. Then Keller Brother's general store, Shelby Ray's drug store and residence and postoffice room and A. B. Bailey's general store building, with most of the contents, were destroyed by fire. A short time later, in the same year, Peter Kesler's blacksmith shop, J. W. Hendrick's residence and Mrs. Waggoner's house were destroyed. As to the causes of these fires, there has been more or less speculation. But one common agreement is that Monroe has been benefited by some new buildings that add a much more prosperous appearance to the village. The first fire of much consequence in this town was perhaps in 1887, when the general store building belonging to Christ W. Hocker was burned. This was rebuilt, but was burglarized a number of times. In one case the burglars were caught and held by their captors with empty guns till the burglars drew loaded revolvers, backed out and escaped in the darkness. On the 17th day of April, 1905, the town of Monroe was incorporated. The result of the election was the selection of John Hendricks, Jonathan Burkhead and Hazel J. Andrews for town trustees; for town clerk and treasurer combined, John F. Hocker; for town marshal,

Peter Kesler. The highest vote received in this election was forty-two votes for marshal. In the general election of 1905 the following named officers were elected: John Hendricks, W. S. Smith and L. F. Lobenstine, for town trustees; for clerk and treasurer combined, M. L. Oliver and J. F. Hocker each received thirty-one votes; the tie vote was broken by tossing coppers, and on the basis of "Heads I win and tails you lose" Marion L. Oliver was selected; for town marshal, J. W. Everhart (the present marshal is Joseph Dentner). Since the town was incorporated it is taking on some new life. The Ray block on the north side of Jefferson street is a substantial structure with ample hall room on the second floor for any meetings that may be held in the town. The new bank building is under construction, and the town has a number of tasty tile block residences. It has gotten well started in placing cement sidewalks over the village. Its business men have started the movement towards getting more and new business enterprises to start up in the town. Stock is now selling to place a newspaper plant on its feet in Monroe, and a grist mill is already assured and will soon be built in the town. Among some of the other items of interest that may be named are: Church, 1; hotels, 2; restaurants, 1; drug store, 1; general stores, 3; hardware and implement store, 1; blacksmith shop, 1; tile and brick works, 1; lumber yard, 1; harness shop, 1; junk shop, 1; barber shop, 1; creamery, 1; coal yard, 1; doteors, 2; grain elevator, 1.



## THE OIL INDUSTRY.

It was not until 1888 that there was any definite assurance that Adams county was underlaid with oil. Along about this time companies were formed for the purpose of drilling for gas to be used for fuel and lights. The towns southwest, such as Anderson and Muncie, were then at the height of the natural gas booms. A little later than this wells were put down at Decatur, but no oil or gas in any paying quantities were found. The first well showing plenty of oil was drilled north of Geneva near the northeast corner of section 29, township 25 north, range 14 east. This was on the land then owned by Reuben R. Bradford. This well was put down by Jack Adkinson at the instance of the Citizens' Gas Company of Geneva. As gas was not found in paying quantities, the well was abandoned. Within six years later a paying oil well was drilled within a few hundred feet from this and is at this time a producing well. Active operations in the Geneva field began about the first of the year 1892. The first well that started the tide toward Geneva was a well drilled in October, 1891, on the George Bolds land near the southwest corner of Adams county. This was a good producer and other wells were put down at once. On the 1st day of January, 1892, a well was put in on the farm of George W. Shoemaker, about three miles west of Geneva. It was also a good producer. Then the oil fever began to raise. Lands could not be bought at two and three times their previous values. For one one-hundred-and-twenty-acre farm which before this the owner would have gladly sold for sixty dollars an acre he, in

1895, refused twenty thousand dollars. This farm was then paying him a royalty of about five hundred dollars a month as his interest in the production. From a report made by the Buckeye Pipe Line Company in January, 1896, which handled a greater part of the oil from the Geneva field, we take the following statement:

"At least there has been one thousand wells put down in this territory within the last three years. There are now six hundred and forty-four producing wells, as will be seen from the following table for November, 1895:

"In the Lob district 105 wells produced 19,156 barrels.

"The Phoenix district 195 wells produced 30,528 barrels.

"The Geneva district 160 well produced 24,362 barrels.

"The Camden district 184 wells produced 29,635 barrels.

"Making 644 wells producing 103,681 barrels for November."

Oil at this time was selling at about seventy-five cents a barrel. That this district for the year at this rate would produce over one million five hundred thousand barrels of oil, which at seventy-five cents a barrel would make almost a million and a quarter dollars. There were a great many oil companies and they were changing from time to time. Some of the longest lived companies were the Northern Indiana Oil Company, the Superior Oil Company, the Devonian Oil Company, the Globe Oil Company, the Warren & Indiana Oil Company, the Geneva Oil Company, the Black Brother Oil



Company, the Porter & Haskell Oil Company and the United Pipe Line Company. The principal oil territory in Adams county is limited to Hartford, Wabash, Jefferson and Blue Creek townships. In Saint Mary's township a shale gas field was found on the farm of William H. Teeple, on the state line southeast of Pleasant Mills. A gas company was organized and the product piped to Willshire, Ohio. But it soon became exhausted and the company dissolved, much the poorer and some wiser than when it began operations. The Blue Creek township oil field was a close rival of the Geneva field and some wells are said to have made as much as five hundred barrels a day at the start.

The prospecting for oil is partly a matter of chance. On one eighty-acre lease a mile west of Geneva an experienced oil producer put down a well that to all appearances was entirely dry. He abandoned the tract and gave up the lease. A new producer leased this land and the first well he put down was a hundred-barrel production. Four other wells were put down in close succession and all were good producers. This lease was pumped for about five years and sold for ten thousand dollars. In Blue Creek township a well was put down that when it was completed had not the least indications of oil. The one contractor declared that so far as he was concerned the well might go to the hottest region known, that he wouldn't sink any more money in it; that already he had sunk one thousand dollars with no prospect of ever getting a cent of it back. His partner said that he would make one more sink just before he left it—that would be eighty quarts of nitro-glycerin—and see what it would do. The charge was put in

and when the well was shot the oil flew high above the derrick and started off as a two-hundred-and-fifty-barrels-a-day producer. In 1906-7 many of these wells ran so low that the casing was removed and the wells abandoned. The field at this time has a large number of active wells, but the production has greatly diminished. Two miles directly west of the village of Ceylon is what are known as the "Twin wells." These are two wells that are about fifty feet from each other and right at the roadside. By pumping the one for ten or twelve hours the salt water could be lowered so that the oil could reach the pumps. Mr. J. H. Hardison, a philosophical producer, reasoned that if the pumping capacity was doubled that the salt water could be removed and then oil could be pumped all the time. With this belief the second well was put down and both pumped at the same time. This was done and the desired result obtained. A careful observation of the operators in the Geneva field demonstrates the fact that the oil producers' risks are fully as great and even greater than similar investments in other lines of business. That a few two-hundred-and-fifty-barrels-a-day wells soon made capitalists, but that a half dozen dry wells made bankrupts of some of them; that the only real winners were the land owners upon whose properties the productive wells were operated. The Standard Oil Company located a pumping station at the village of Preble along about 1895. The object of this plant is to convey the raw production from the fields to the company's refineries at the various points. The pipe line from the Lima (Ohio) field to Preble and on to Chicago passes through the north part of Decatur. Another branch of this line reaches the



southern part of the county and is said to extend to the Casey oil fields in Illinois. The pumping station properties are immense in dimensions. The estimated valuation as assessed by the county assessor is one hundred and fifty thousand dollars for 1907. The Lima line has five pipes lying in the same trench. These pipes are six inches in diameter and carry an immense volume of oil. The grounds at present occupied by the pumping station at Preble consist of about eighty acres, upon which is situated its pumping machinery, a large number of residences for its employes, a good-sized artificial lake of water to be used in case of fire, as well as for some other uses, and sixteen

monstrous boiler-iron tanks, perhaps thirty or forty feet high and from one hundred and fifty to two hundred feet in diameter, which are roofed by conical covers of iron. It is said that the capacity of each of these tanks is about two hundred and forty thousand barrels of oil. A look at the tank field reminds one more of the show tents of some large aggregation like Barnum & Bailey's show than anything else. Along the lines there are occasional breaks that let the oil escape. When these are repaired the pools of oil are set on fire and the blue-black clouds of smoke rise hundreds of feet in height and resemble the destruction of a city in flames.

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### STONE AND GRAVEL ROADS.

The question is frequently asked, when did this stone road building begin and who was the instigator of it in Adams county. It may have had several instigators, but he who is most entitled to be known as the "father of the stone road" system in Adams county is Samuel Doak, an ex-county commissioner. Long before he was chosen to fill that very responsible office he was an advocate of better roads and more drainage. The roads and the drainage make this country what it now is as compared with what it was forty years ago. The chief hindrance to the road improvements at an early date was the mistaken idea that there was no road-making material in the county and that to ship it in would be too expensive for the advantages derived. Perhaps the first attempt toward pike-making was along about 1878, when the town trustees of Decatur

contracted to have Monroe street graded and graveled. The gravel proved to be sand of too fine a texture to be of much value. It was hauled from the Daily farm in section 26, in Root township, about a mile from Decatur. This for a time checked the gravel road building in the north part of the county. The first gravel pikes of much value or extent were made in the southern part of the county. They extended west and northwest from Geneva and were begun about 1890. These were made of coarse gravel and were pretty good dry weather roads, but cut to pieces badly in the wet spring time. The old Piqua road was graveled about this time; it was perhaps the first good gravel road in the north part of the county. Later the township trustees would buy the gravel and the land tax of the citizens was worked out by hauling gravel on certain pieces of road



as directed. In 1888 the Rice & Bowers stone quarry north of Decatur began crushing stone for road purposes. There was a switch from the Grand Rapids & Indiana tracks laid that the product might be shipped to other localities where stone roads were under construction. Several attempts to locate stone streets and roads were made, but they always resulted in failure until there was a joint petition gotten up including the townships of Washington and Kirkland with the adjoining township on the Wells county side. Daily & Mock as attorneys were employed to assist in getting the petitions in shape and having the proper elections advertised and held that when the decision at such elections was determined the will of the majority could be enforced. In Kirkland township David Steele took an active part in favor of the stone road project, as it ran past his farm. In Decatur John S. Bowers worked hard to secure its location, as he had stone to sell and wanted the road built. Joint petitions were filed and acted upon by the county boards; the route as petitioned for and started at the west corporation line of Decatur, went a mile and three-quarters, then south a half mile, then west two miles, then south four miles, then west to the county line at Couryville and met the Bluffton division. In several attempts to vote a subsidy or tax for a stone road the majority was against the tax because there was no other issue before the election. The friends of the road waited to have the subsidy election held to a time near the holding of the general election, then this issue was made a part of the entire election and its advocates carried their issue by a fair majority. However, Kirkland township voted against the tax by about fifty majority.

This township was united in the petition with Washington, which, with its Decatur vote, won the issue. At that time a majority of the Adams county board of commissioners was absolutely opposed to such a measure as taxing the civil corporations through which the road was located for its construction, and as much as intimated that they would not permit it.

The line was surveyed and an estimate made of the construction placed it at thirty-four thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars, or a little more than three thousand dollars a mile. Mr. Doak was the only county commissioner that favored making the tax levy for the construction of the road. About all the argument that the opposing part of the board would make was: "Vell, vell, to make dot rote vill broke everypody up." The attorneys for the petitioners threatened legal proceedings if the law regarding the result of the subsidy election was not speedily complied with. The levy was then made and the road built. The contractors for this road were Miller, Williams & Cavalt. After all the hustle and bustle for the subsidy the crushers here furnished but a part of the material for the road. The bulk of it came from Waterville, Ohio. In Adams county there are about seven hundred miles of public road. Of that amount there is about one-seventh gravel pike, and about a fifth, or one hundred and forty miles, of stoned road. Something near the average cost of the construction of this road is three thousand two hundred dollars a mile. Since the first stone road was built in the county there have been four separate stone quarries and crushers operated in the Decatur quarries. There are quarries at Big Blue creek southeast of Decatur, at Pleasant Mills and at Buena Vista.



All of these furnish stone for road building. Running south from Decatur are three stone roads; a little way to the south they are about two miles apart and run to the southern part of the county. The center road connects Decatur with Geneva. There are many cross sections of stone road connecting these north and south roads, and the commissioners' court is crowded with petitions for new ones yet to be made. It now is a noticeable fact that those who were so alarmed lest everybody be broken up are now strongly in favor of good roads at the price they cost and would not have them removed from their premises for double the expense of building them. The lands through which these roads run are much higher in price than others and usually can find buyers at the figures asked for them. The methods of road building now are some-

what different from those used at the time the first roads were built in this county. In 1907 there were between thirty and forty improved dump wagons sold in Decatur to the contractors for stone road building. It is said that these wagons will bear up a four-horse load on good roads and that they can be unloaded in a half minute's time. That one of the contractors, Fred Hoffman & Son, has arranged for a train of ten or a dozen of these wagons to be drawn by a traction engine from the quarry or the cars to the place the material is used for road. At the present rate of road building within the next decade all of the principal roads of the county will be stoned. "Behold what a great fire a little spark kindleth," was never truer than the great change in sentiment on road building in Adams county.

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### THE HAND OF FATE.

The mysteries of life are many and varied. The dictates of fate are no respecters of the wishes or aspirations of men. Napoleon said that "The god of war favors the army most that can command the greater number of complete battalions." This great commander conducted eighty fierce engagements in his meteoric career without serious wounds. Fate seems to have marked him for a slow and tedious death on the lonely isle in the sea after an intoxicating whirl at the crowned heads of Europe. After a most successful termination of the bloodiest conflict in the new world the martyred President, Abraham Lincoln, surrendered to the hand of fate. Generals Warren and Stone-

wall Jackson fell at almost the first fire. Were it not better that Moscow or Waterloo had ended Napoleon's life? Or that Warren be spared to share his military genius with his destitute Revolutionary patriots? This could not be. Fate had otherwise declared. The train of life will carry its passengers onward to their destination. They can neither anticipate nor retard the hand of fate. Nor can it be that men as officers or rulers make them more dear to their friends or families than those whose honorable careers have shown them to be worthy citizens. In Adams county the hand of fate has been at work. Accidents and disasters have done their parts. To enumer-



ate them all would require a volume much beyond the scope of the present work. Who first lost his life by violence or accident in this country will remain a volume sealed by the hand of fate.

William Lewis, who was an early resident of Monmouth, dropped dead while directing some repairs about his mill in about 1840.

Ex-Sheriff Zachariah Smith, who was elected in October, 1836, and served till 1840 in Adams county, was drowned in the Saint Mary's river a short distance above Decatur on the 7th day of July, 1844.

Tobasco Burt was killed in Decatur when the Shackley Wheel Company's factory blew up in 1866.

Herman Newroth, an engineer at the Ceylon grist mill, was carried through the wheel pit and killed in the spring of 1876.

Henry Ellenberger was crushed to death by the falling of the buildings in the cyclone that demolished John Baumgartner's house in French township in 1871.

Henry Cramer and his son, Charles Cramer, were drowned in the Saint Mary's river at Decatur in February, 1862. The son was skating and went through the ice and his father tried to help him out.

Robert Allison came near meeting the same fate at Buena Vista. His son, Rufus K., fell into the river and his father nearly lost his life in an attempt to rescue him.

Charles L. Schermyer was killed at the crossing of the Grand Rapids and Chicago & Erie railroads by a collision of trains that threw the watch tower over on him in 1891.

Joseph Hill was killed just east of the Saint Mary's river by falling from an Erie freight train and striking the bridge in 1891.

A. Mc. Bolman, an ex-county recorder,

was killed by the kick of a horse on the 25th day of December, 1891.

Joseph Huser was killed and found on the railroad track near Berne. Supposition was that he was murdered July 10, 1883.

William F. Clendening was killed by a stroke of lightning while taking shelter during a thunderstorm under a tree a short distance west of Geneva on the 31st day of July, 1884.

Amos Baxtoe was killed in his house by an assassin at his home in Blue Creek township in 1883.

Frank Teaney was found dead at the roadside between Chattanooga and Berne. He left town late in the evening, got down in the snow and froze to death, in February, 1886.

Samuel Jorden, who in 1888 was a prominent member of the Decatur "Coonskin Club," a political organization, was shot and killed in Clay county, Missouri, while there on business. Robbery was the probable cause of his murder, in September, 1892.

J. G. Evans was found dead on the railroad track south of Monmouth. It was the supposition that he was murdered for his money in 1878.

Henry Stopher's residence on the mud pike in Wabash township, was burned. He then had a son about twenty years old burned to death in 1864.

The Orphanage, at Berne, burned down on the 19th day of April, 1899. Three of the orphans—Maggie Dell, of Portland, Indiana, age nine; Mamie Broderick, of Chicago, aged fourteen, and Katie Goebelberger, of Cleveland, Ohio, aged fifteen years, were burned to death.

Rodney Dennis was an oil rig builder, who was killed while removing some derrick



numbers on a lease east of Geneva in the summer of 1902.

#### FATE'S CHOSEN GROUND.

There have been a number of deaths caused throughout the county in mysterious ways, but dates and names are wanting and no effort will be made to enumerate them. The hand of fate has perhaps rested most heavily upon that part of the county that is spanned by the Grand Rapids Railroad between the Limberlost creek south of Geneva and the Wabash river north of Ceylon. Within these limits there have been about twenty sudden deaths, caused by railroad accidents. The first was:

Ephraim Metcalf, who was killed at the railroad crossing just north of Geneva in the spring of 1876.

A strange man was killed between the Limberlost creek and Geneva in 1878. No marks of identification could be found about him.

Arthur Williams, the station agent at Ceylon, attempted to pass under a freight train at Ceylon and was crushed to death in 1884.

Railroad wreck at Ceylon on the 13th day of October, 1895, killing three men. The work train was handling some repairs at the Wabash river bridge and ran in on the Ceylon switch. The switch was not closed and the pay car crashed into the train on the side track. These carpenters were killed: Harvey Malott, William R. Brown and James Gibson.

River Bridge Falls.—In October, 1897,

the south span of the Wabash river bridge gave way with a heavy engine and freight cars. The train was moving southward when the engine and several cars went down. Two men were killed, but their names cannot be given.

Lawrence Aspy was killed on the track south of Geneva in July, 1895. He was perhaps a little hard of hearing and was run over by the cars.

William Newcomer was killed at the crossing of Line street in Geneva in the summer of 1897. He was in conversation while the train was switching and was run over by the cars.

Lavina Spicher, a girl about fifteen years of age, was killed just north of the river bridge in August, 1898, by the train.

David Long while returning home from the Portland fair was killed in North Geneva by a special train that pulled in after him as he started north for his home on the evening of August 26, 1899.

Daniel M. Hoskinson met his death near Ceylon while returning home in March, 1901. He got caught in a cattle guard that held him till the train ran over him.

Nora Shaner was run over and killed in the Geneva switch yards while playing on some empty flat cars in October, 1905. She was a child of about ten or twelve years of age.

Dr. J. W. Collins was killed in November, 1905, at the railroad crossing just north of Geneva, where Metcalf lost his life. The train killed his horse and demolished his buggy, breaking the doctor's limbs.



## UNION TOWNSHIP.

Adams county was organized by the legislative enactment of January 23, 1836. Union township was organized as a separate civil corporation about 1840. Among the earliest settlers in this township were Daniel Hines, Andrew Luckey, John Walters, David Erwin and Christian F. Blakey. The whole country was all woods at that time. The roads were simply "by roads," cut from one clearing to another. There are no towns in this township, but at various times there have been country stores that were a great accommodation to the farmers in the springtime, when the roads were nearly impassable. This township now has some good stoned roads and has arranged for others to be built. As a farming country it is one of the best in the county. The schools and churches at an early day received much attention by the residents. The school houses were first built and used for school and church purposes combined. Some of the log school houses were the Hines school house, in section 9, built in 1845; the Caskey school house, in section 31, built in 1846; the Schuep school house and Walters school house, built in 1848, and the Reiter school house, in 1853. The first frame school house built in the township was in what was later known as the Erwin school, in section 9. The first brick school house was erected in what was known as the Caskey school district. This was built to replace the frame destroyed by fire after a warm school district fight in the selection of a school teacher, perhaps in 1884-5. This brick was remodeled and rebuilt several years later and this school is now known as the Spuller dis-

trict. The first brick residence in this township was built by Simon Barkley in section 5. Among the list of church buildings are the Clark's chapel, in section 10, which was the first brick church in the township, and was built in 1881. Its congregation occupied a log church for a number of years before this structure was built. One of the finest church buildings in the township is known as the Emmanuel's Evangelical Lutheran church in the Blakey neighborhood, in section 24. This is a fine brick edifice, erected in 1891, and now has some other valuable church property, as school house, parsonage and grounds. From a small beginning in 1858 this congregation has grown and prospered. In 1865 it started its church school with about a dozen and a half of scholars; it now has a large congregation and fine church property. Another brick building is that of the Evangelical Association, which has a tasty brick edifice a few miles east of Decatur. The Union chapel, on the line between Root and Union townships, has a long and interesting history. The original church was burned down, but was rebuilt in 1873. In this township many of the first churches were log structures. Clark's chapel, in section 10, a Methodist church; the Woods chapel, in section 15, a United Brethren church; the Valley church, a United Brethren church, and the Grove church, all come under this list, but it is impossible to give the dates of their erection. The estimated population of Union township in 1907 is 1,105, the number of voters, 221; and the school enumeration, 403. Until 1860 the townships of



Indiana had three trustees. Commonly the president of the board of trustees was the inspector of elections in the township. The names of all of these trustees cannot be given because they fail to appear upon the county records. Jacob Wentling, 1847; Noah Glass, 1848; G. D. Hackett, 1849; Andrew Lucky, 1851; F. J. Gillig, 1852; M.

Spillman, 1854; George Luckey, 1857; John H. Blakey, 1859; David Erwin, 1872; Elijah Walters, 1876, Ferdinand Renking, 1876; David Gleckler, 1880; W. I. B. Wass, 1884; Frederick F. Frech, 1886; William Erwin, 1888; John D. Neidlinger, 1892; Frederick Koldeway, 1898; John A. Barkley, 1904.

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### ROOT TOWNSHIP.

The present limits of Root township are described by a block of territory six miles square that is four miles west of the Ohio state line and directly south of Allen county, Indiana. When the county was first organized Root township comprised all of what is now the twelve townships of Adams county. As the lands were entered new townships were organized to meet the demands of the growing settlements and supply offices for those who were politically inclined. Some of the earliest permanent settlers in the present Root township were Robert Douglas, in 1820; Joshua Lister, in 1828; John Reynolds and Daniel Ball, in 1831; John K. Evans, in 1832; Samuel L. Rugg and Vaschal Ball, in 1833. This township is on the line of the Wayne trace, later known as the Piqua road, and was much earlier in settlement than several of the other civil corporations of the county. The town of Monmouth, which is located in this township, was laid out and the plat recorded on the 26th day of June, 1836. Its lots are sixty-six by one hundred and thirty-two feet in size. Its streets were Main, Clinton, Franklin, Spring and Wayne. The present Piqua road was one of the streets named.

In March, 1858, Ziba Dorwin, by order of the county board of commissioners, vacated thirty-one lots, as shown on the original town plat. Monmouth was once quite a business center, much in advance of Decatur, but at the present time Goldsmith's description of a "Deserted Village" would pretty well describe its condition. The completion of the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad read its death knell. Since the Springfield & Fort Wayne Railroad passes through the town it has revived a little, but for the present its palmy days are in the distant past. It now contains a few good houses, one brick among the number, a graded school building, two stores, a blacksmith shop and a graveyard. Its church buildings have been converted into fire wood, its four or five taverns have crumbled into decay and a general dilapidated appearance surrounds the town. William Lewis was one of its earliest residents. He was a colored man, who operated a corn grinding mill at Monmouth and then owned a large tract of land adjoining the town. It is said that the first school taught in the township was conducted in Monmouth by Sarah McKisic; that the building used was not built for a school



house, but was a round log cabin with the ground for a floor; that this teacher was not a public school teacher, but taught a subscription school in the summer time. Some of the first school districts in Root township were known as the Gorsline school, in section 17; the Randal school, in section 22, and the Wise school, in the northeast corner of section 18. There is much uncertainty as to the exact time when these houses were first used, but most of them within the date between 1840 and 1850. The first set of frame buildings came into use about 1852. This township doubtless had the first frame house in the county. The first one of which much record can be gotten was a frame addition to the Oakland tavern, built by Andrew Wise in 1838. Mr. Wise came from near Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and brought his nails, glass and sash with him when he came. At the time he came Monmouth had twelve log cabin houses. The first church building in this township was a log structure that was located near the northeast corner of section 22, on Seventeen-Mile creek. Some of the first leaders of this church were Benjamin Rice, J. R. Peoples, Isaiah Lewis and William Pillars. This church building was erected in 1840 and its name was Alpha. About twenty-three years later a new frame church building was built a little east of the log one, and this took the original name, and in its churchyard lies the remains of many of the earliest residents of the north part of the county.

Another early church building was erected north of Monmouth in section 17 in 1865 and is a frame. This was built by the English Lutherans and named Concord church. Many years before this building was erected the Gorsline school house was used by this

congregation for church purposes. In 1854 there was a frame church built in Monmouth on inlot No. 17 by the Baptist church organization. Doubtless this was one of the first, if not the first, frame church building erected in the county. In 1870 the United Brethren built a frame church in the northern part of Monmouth near the graveyard. In 1868 the Methodist congregation converted one of the Ziba Dorwin tavern buildings into a church, but this has long since been abandoned. The German Lutheran people in the northern part of the township as early as 1841 built a log church building in section 11. This was used for both church and school purposes. In 1851 a large frame church took its place and was used by this congregation until 1879, at which time the only brick church in the township was built. This building is a fine structure, about forty-five by seventy-five feet in size, and is known as the Saint Peter's Lutheran church. It is frequently called the "Fuelling church," as it is in the Fuelling neighborhood. This property consists of a church building, school house, parsonage and teacher's dwelling, and a conservative estimate would place the value of this property at about seventeen thousand dollars. Root township has two more towns within its borders. The town of Williams is situated on the north line of the county, nine miles west of the Ohio state line, on the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad. It was laid out and the plat recorded on the 7th day of June, 1872. Its originators were David Crabbs and Benjamin Rice. This town has two streets, Main, which runs east and west, and Adams, a north and south street. It has fifty-four lots and was one of the timber towns that sprang into existence



when the heavy forests were being removed and the railroads loaded with lumber for market. The timber interests, as heading factories and saw mills, were removed and the town ceased to grow or improve. At present there is a postoffice, a general store, a saloon and creamery. This town has some good houses, among which is a good district school building.

It has been frequently mentioned that among the tribes of Israel that there was one lost in the shuffle somewhere on the way. Now, this may not be exactly the case with the third town in Root township, but it is too nearly true to be a good joke. At the north end of the Winchester road, in sections 19 and 20, the town of Manhym was laid out in 1834 by R. L. Britton. This town was situated three and a half miles northwest of Decatur on the Saint Mary's river, on the farm that is now the land of John Evans. This location competed for the county seat in 1836, but was unsuccessful and the lots remaining unsold in 1840 were vacated by John Spencer, the purchaser of the remainder of the town site of Mr. Britton. There were six town lots sold to other parties and in 1865 a suit to quiet the title was brought by Emanuel Woods and others. This town site was located on the principal line of travel from Winchester to Fort Wayne at an early day

and is a nice location. The first brick house in Root township was built in section 34 in 1870. This township has the distinction of having the first brick school house in the county. It was built by Trustee John Christen in the Dent district in 1873. The estimated population of Root township in 1907 is one thousand six hundred and thirty; the number of voters three hundred and twenty-six; the school enumeration three hundred and eighty-two. In the southwest corner of section 35, in this township, is located the "Steele's Park," which is a fine one-hundred-and-fifteen-acre tract, nicely set out in groves of native trees; has an artificial lake of several acres and is at present used by the Great Northern Indiana Fair Association for its annual displays of the various products of the county. There may be nicer fair grounds in the state, but they are surely hard to find.

The election inspectors and trustees of this township have been: William Elzey, Sr., 1846; Thomas Fisher, 1848; D. Garvar, 1851; George A. Dent, 1852; B. J. Rice, 1855; George Hunter, 1858; Samuel Moses, 1859; Samuel Aber, 1864; John Woy, 1865; John Christen, 1867; Perry Robinson, 1876; Henry Luttmann, 1880; L. W. Lewton, 1884; Isaac Brown, 1888; L. W. Lewton, 1892; Lewis Boknecht, 1898; Edward Luttmann, 1904.

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#### PREBLE TOWNSHIP.

Preble township was organized in 1838 and is situated in the northwest corner of the county. It joins Wells and Allen counties and is four miles wide and six miles long. Its first residents were Joseph Mann,

in 1830, who settled near the Winchester road; Jacob Yager, Christian Miessing. Conrad Renking, Louis Reppert, Christian Fuhrman, Michael Spangler and Charles Heckman. One of the nearest market points



to the northern part of this township is Fort Wayne. At an early day the river was used to go to and come from market. The Muldoon's mill was on the river in Allen county just beyond the north limits of this township. It was built along about 1840. Charles Heckman owned an ashery and operated a general country store on his farm in section 3. One of the first steam saw mills in the county was built at Freidheim in 1853 by Buuck & Hoemeyer.

Preble is a township of churches. This township has over sixty thousand dollars' worth of fine church property. There is hardly a corner in the township from which a church spire cannot be seen. This township, as most others, used its school houses for church purposes at first until church buildings were erected. The Wafel school house was built about 1841 and was located in the west part of section 26. The Fuhrman school house was about two miles north of this in section 23; was built in 1843. These houses were both log structures. In 1852 the Dirkson school house, a frame, was built. The Fruchte school house was a frame, and was built in 1853. At the beginning the Lutheran people settled in the northwest part of the township and started a church organization in 1838 at Friedheim, which never has been more of a town than to contain a saw mill, general store, parochial school and church buildings. The central and southern parts of the township had several church denominations, among which were the Evangelical Association, which built a church house at the southwest corner of section 13 in 1848, and the German Reformed organization, which built the Salem church at the east side of section 28 in 1857. These were both frame buildings. The for-

mer has been abandoned and the Salem church building has been supplanted by a very fine and expensive modern brick structure that was built in 1903. There are about sixty families and one hundred and eighty members who are attendants at this church. The present minister is the Rev. C. Schneider. As the Lutheran settlements grew the church accommodations were no longer adequate to meet the demands of the congregation. The parochial schools were conducted with the church and the distances to school became a matter of consideration. The first additional church was built to the east of the river from Freidheim, in what is known as the Dirkson neighborhood. This was located on the old Piqua road and called the Saint John's Lutheran church. The first church here was built about 1847 and continued in use until the present elegant brick edifice was erected in 1877. The minister in charge at this church is the Rev. H. C. Jaus. The next Lutheran church built in this township is known as the Saint Peter's Lutheran church, and is situated a short distance northwest of Preble station. This church was erected about 1878, has a large congregation and as all the others, a parochial school. The minister in charge here is the Rev. J. H. Klausung. The church at Freidheim is the parent church of all the other Lutheran churches in this township. It is known as the Zion Evangelical Lutheran church.

Some of the members of this church lived near this locality when there was no Adams county, it being a township of Allen county in 1834. The first two Zion churches here were log structures. The third building was a frame and was constantly in use for over thirty years. The fourth church building,



the present massive brick structure, is one of the best in the county. This church has a large congregation, with the Rev. C. B. Preuss as minister since 1893. This township has two villages, the towns of Preble and Magley, each of which are railroad stations in the southern part of the township. The town of Magley was begun in 1882 by Jacob Magley, who then started a small general country store and served as station agent for the first few years. This town has some nice residences, a telephone station and stock yards, and one of the largest general stores in any small town in the county. It also has a creamery that was built by Levi Sarin some ten or twelve years ago. The farmers in this section of the county ship a great many cans of milk to the Chicago market each week. Robert Case, the storekeeper, is at this time the postmaster and coal merchant in addition to his extensive store interests. This town is located a mile from the Wells county line and two miles west of Preble and has perhaps fifty residents. The town of Preble is located about four miles directly west of Decatur and is the oil town of the county. This town was laid out and the plat recorded on the 14th day of November, 1884, by Daniel Hoffman and David Werling. Its original plat contained thirteen lots that are fifty by one hundred and fifty feet in size. Within the next three years David Werling laid out an addition to the town. A tile mill and a saw mill were located here soon after the town was begun. This village now has a large

hotel, a good country store, a barber shop, butcher shop and saloon. The Standard Oil Company has extensive business interests here that require the presence of a large force of men, who permanently reside in Preble. The oil company's pumping station buildings are about all brick. To the east and southeast is a town of great big boiler-iron tanks that resemble the tents of a show ground. This town has one brick residence, that of County Commissioner David Werling. The first steam circular saw mill operated in this township was located in section 27 and was owned by Frederick Peck and Lewis Fruchte. The estimated population of Preble township in 1907 is one thousand three hundred and eighty-five; number of voters, two hundred and seventy-seven; the school enumeration, three hundred and ninety-seven. It is impossible to give a complete list of township trustees, but commonly the trustee or president of the board of trustees until 1860 was the inspector of elections. Frederick Buuck, 1846; Ernst Stopenhagen, 1848; Jacob Yager, 1850; Frederick Buuck, 1851; George Kieffer, 1854; Ernst Stopenhagen, 1855; A. Kieffer, 1856; Ernst Stopenhagen, 1857; A. Kieffer, 1858; Conrad Reinking, 1859; John Rupright, 1860; John Archbold, 1864; John Rupright, 1865; Thomas Archbold, 1868; F. W. Gallemyer, 1869; Dedrich Buuck, 1878; F. W. Gallemyer, 1882; Lewis Fruchte, 1886; Henry Dirkson, 1890; Lewis Fruchte, 1894; G. W. Rupright, 1900; Lewis Kline, 1904.



## KIRKLAND TOWNSHIP.

Kirkland township is four by six miles in size and was organized in 1841. It was named after the son of Samuel L. Rugg, then an officer of the county. This was one of the last townships organized in the county and some of the earliest residents were: John Hartman, William Dehl, Samuel Steele, Daniel Weldy, Samuel Adgitt, Augustus LeBrun, Robert Niblick and William Beineke. In 1850 this township claimed the distinction of having the oldest man in eastern Indiana. He was William Nottingham, who lived in section 4 on what is now W. D. Hoffman's farm. At that time it is said that he was one hundred and five years old. This township had the fourth steam saw mill in the county; it was built by William Dehl in 1856 and was located in section 2. Until about 1880 there were no towns in this township. The town plat of Courryville was recorded on the 26th day of February, 1880. This town has twenty lots and two streets, Main and Calhoun; is located on the west line of the county, three miles from either end of the township. Courryville is on the Cloverleaf Railroad and is one of the timber towns that ceased to grow since the timber industries have been removed. The proprietor of this town site is Henry Jackson. The town of Peterson is another village. This is a mile from the north line and the same distance from the east boundary of the township. It was once quite a business center in the timber trade. Steele & Lenhart operated an extensive saw mill, heading factory and stirrup works here in the seventies, but these industries have ceased to exist. It now has a blacksmith shop, grain ware-

house, an elevator, stock yards and general store, which is kept by H. A. Briner, who is ticket agent, freight agent, storekeeper and telephone manager. This village has never been platted, but its grounds are bought and sold by metes and bounds. The second brick school house within the county was built here in 1874 by Trustee Daniel Weldy. It was torn down in 1893 by Trustee Joshua Bright and a fine two-room brick graded school house built to take its place. The first frame house in this township was the residence of Samuel Steele and was built in 1852. The first brick residence was built by Robert Niblick in 1856, in section 10. At Mr. Niblick's house for a long time the postoffice of Gath was kept. In 1868 the first frame church was built in section 26, which has later been called Honduras. This is but a cross-road corner, that took its name from the postoffice kept there. It has a small store and blacksmith shop. This church was used by several denominations and was erected by the Christian Union organization. Among some of those interested in its erection were: James Sarf, Vincent D. Bell, Jesse Smith and Isaac Sutbine. This church building burned down and was replaced about 1886 by another frame known as the Zion Christian Union church. In 1877, or thereabout, the River Brethren erected a substantial frame church in section 23, on the present Decatur & Bluffton stoned road. The early school houses in this township were all log structures. The Hartman school was at the present town of Peterson. The Steele school was the election school house. The Hoffman school house was in



section 14. The Beech Grove school was in section 16. The Steele school house was built in 1848 and the Dehl school house was the first frame school house built in the township. This township had a large amount of wet land and until the railroad passed through the township in 1880 its development was backward. One of the first stone roads in the county was built through this township in 1892-3 and against the will of a majority of its taxpayers.

The estimated population of Kirkland township in 1907 is one thousand one hundred and forty-five; the number of voters

two hundred and twenty-nine. and the school enumeration is three hundred and thirty. The township trustees and election inspectors are: Martin Kaufman, 1846; Jerry Russell, 1847; Samuel Steele, 1848; Daniel Weldy, 1850; D. L. Kaufman, 1852; Samuel Steele, 1853; Daniel Weldy, 1854; Henry Steele, 1855; Daniel Weldy, 1856; John Hower, 1858; Joseph Steele, 1859; Jonathan Bowers, 1866; Daniel Weldy, 1872; Samuel Beavers, 1876; Joshua Bright, 1880; David Steele, 1884; Joshua Bright, 1888; George Brown, 1892; William D. Hoffman, 1898; Joseph V. Pease, 1904.

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#### WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP.

Washington township contains the county seat and much of its history is closely related with that of Decatur, which should be examined in this connection. This township was organized in 1838. Outside of the town of Decatur there were several churches, mills and schools that were of much importance to the country residents. The town of Decatur was under the control of the township authorities until its incorporation in 1854. This township had its settlements as: The Andrews settlement, the Coffee neighborhood, Eli Zimmerman's corner and so on. The old Winchester road ran a mile from the west side of the township and was the principal road traveled to the south part of the county. Some of the earliest residents were: James Niblick, Eli Zimmerman, Bazil Hendricks, Charles Schermyer, Daniel Coffee, Jacob Christ, Thomas W. Andrews, Andrew Luckey and Wesley Merryman. What is now known as the

Washington church was among the first built in the township outside of Decatur. This church is located at the northwest corner of section 20 and was built by the Methodist congregation about 1855. It has been remodeled a number of times, but is still in use. In 1883 the Saint Paul's church was built at the corner of section 24, on the east stone road. This is a frame structure and is used by several church organizations. The only brick church in the township outside of Decatur is what is known as the Beery church, situated at the southwest corner of section 6. This building was erected in 1886 by the Brethren in Christ denomination. This church is on the west line of the township and a mile east of Peterson. Among the early school buildings were the Johnson school, southeast of Decatur, in section 14; the Coffee school house was later built on the mud pike road, just west of this. The Stultz school house was in the southeast



corner of the township and was superseded by a small frame called the Brandyberry school house, in section 25. The Washington school house was among the first country school houses built in the township. It was just a few rods from where the church of the same name was built. The first teacher in this log structure is said to have been Margaret A. Allen, who taught in 1846. In 1880 there was a graded school building two stories in height built in this district, but the graded work was discontinued after a few terms. This building was torn down in 1904 and a new and modern structure put up to take its place. The first brick house erected in this township was that of Samuel L. Rugg, in Decatur. The first country brick residence was the Studabaker homestead, which was built about 1873. The largest brick country residence in this township, and one of the most modern and tasty in the county, is that of Clark J. Lutz, in section 11, southeast of Decatur. In his dreams the fortune hunter delights to think of buried treasure. The gold—that shining gold which men have toiled and slaved their lives away to save for some one else to spend. An old resident tells us that just after the sale of the Rivare Reservation by the Indian owners in 1826 that a band of Indians came down the Saint Mary's river and camped at an Indian village on what is now known as Numbers creek. The treasurer of the tribe, an old chief, was intrusted with the safe keeping of the money. He went up the creek a short distance and secreted it near a crooked oak tree. Some time in the night he took violently sick and died before he could reveal the treasure. He said, however, that it was near a crooked oak

tree. Diligent search failed to locate the gold. That as late of 1865 a band of five Indians searched the creek for the money but could never locate it. The locations were in Root township and section 4, in Washington township. Mr. John Schurger now owns these lands and says that he really does not know how rich he may some day be, as he may plow this gold up almost any day. Anyone can locate the creek. Mr. Schurger says that he chopped the crooked oak down long ago, but who can find the buried gold?

In Washington township is located the county infirmary. It is perhaps the largest building in the county. It is two stories in height and has eighty-two apartment rooms. The first infirmary building was a frame structure that was built in 1875 at a probable cost of about two thousand dollars. The present large brick structure is of ample proportions for the present at least; was built in 1895 at a cost of about thirty-five thousand dollars. Besides this building there is a superintendent's residence, two large barns, the heating plant and a number of smaller buildings. This farm consists of a two-hundred-and-seventy-acre tract, in sections 13 and 14, and is about two miles southeast of Decatur. The superintendents of this institution have been: Hampton Fris-toe, 1875; Andrew J. Teeple, 1877; W. H. H. France, 1883; George W. Haefling, 1891, and J. R. Graber, 1894 to the present time. Though it is a very unpleasant thought to one of average independence and even ordinary intelligence to consider a home in the "poor house," it is one of the greatest blessings of a civilized country. Many of those unfortunate inmates have



come to want from age and an incapacity to save their earnings while young and vigorous.

The population of Washington township, including Decatur, as the trustee has jurisdiction in the city as well as the country, is estimated in 1907 as 7,020. The school enumeration of Washington township alone is 474; of Decatur alone is 1,318. The number of voters in the city and township is 1,404.

The township trustees and election in-

spectors are: Andrew Luckey, 1846; John Boncord, 1848; P. F. Robiusion, 1849; Daniel Coffee, 1850; Anthony Kohn, 1851; D. D. Barnhart, 1852; Joseph C. Plummer, 1853; Dedrich Reiter, 1854; Jesse Niblick, 1859; John Meibers, 1864; Jesse Niblick, 1868; Conrad Brake, 1869; Jesse Niblick, 1870; Anthony Hothouse, 1874; Jesse Niblick, 1876; Harlo Mann, 1878; A. J. Hill, 1880; John King, 1882; William Blackburn, 1884; J. H. Voglewede, 1888; John Steele, 1892; T. S. Coffee, 1898; Henry Hite, 1904.

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### SAINT MARY'S TOWNSHIP.

Saint Mary's township was one of the first in the county. At its beginning it comprised all of what is now Adams county except the present Root and Union townships. This township has some historic interests that are different from any other of which we have mentioned. It contains an Indian reservation of about one thousand six hundred acres of land, which lies principally between the towns of Rivare and Pleasant Mills on the east side of a line dividing sections 16 and 17 and 20 and 21. This reservation was used as a residence by certain Indian families and a general camping ground by the tribes as they traveled from Girty's town—now Saint Mary's, Ohio—to Fort Wayne semi-annually to receive their payments for lands sold to the United States in 1818 and 1826. After 1832 these Indian tribes were removed to west of the Mississippi river. It is said that Robert Smith came to Saint Mary's township as a resident in 1832, and that his son, John Smith, was born on the 2d day of October,

1838. This was the first white child born in this township. Some of the other early residents of this township were a Mr. Ayres, who came in 1821, and settled in section 16, on the Wayne trace; that John Ross came in 1829 and settled in section 28, and Esias Daily in 1833 and settled in section 26; that Zachariah Smith and William Heath, Sr., came in 1836. Andrew Teeple, Robert D. Tisdale, Elisha Gulic and Ardillas Carter were all early settlers. The Wayne trace passes along the Saint Mary's river and through the Rivare Reservation, which was platted for allotment on the 26th day of May, 1855. This township has two towns, Rivare and Pleasant Mills, also two railroads. The plat of Pleasant Mills was recorded on the 8th day of September, 1846. The town was laid out by E. A. Goddard and George W. Heath in thirty lots, sixty-six by one hundred and thirty-two feet in size. On the 27th day of December, 1850, an addition of thirty-two lots was made by the original proprietors of this town



site. Pleasant Mills is on the plank road route connecting Saint Mary's with Fort Wayne, and in the fifties was a flourishing town. Before that time the river was used as a means of travel and for carrying produce to market. The boats and large canoes conveyed grain, lumber, furs and other produce from Goddard's stores and mills down the river to market. The first mill was on the east side of the river and was built in 1834. The next was on the west side and was built four years later, with buhrs for grinding grain. This mill changed to a woolen factory and a new grist mill built in 1846. This was operated for about fifty years, and rebuilt in 1896 by J. C. Cowan and W. W. Smith. In this village many of the old buildings have outlived their usefulness and have been torn down. However, one of the old Goddard store buildings is yet standing at the corner of Main and Jefferson streets and is used as a residence and barber shop. Pleasant Mills has three churches, the Baptist, a brick building, put up in 1878; a United Brethren structure that shows its age, and a new frame house, built by the Methodist congregation. This town, unlike Monmouth, when its railroad was completed in 1880, regained some of its lost vitality and took on new life. It opened up a grain market and now has several good general stores. This town has a large brick graded school building. The original was a two-story, two-room brick building that was put up in 1881 by Trustee A. M. Fuller. This was remodelled and enlarged in 1897 and an additional primary room built in 1906 by Trustee William H. Teeple. Pleasant Mills has one brick residence, one restaurant, one blacksmith shop, one barber shop, one grain elevator, one livery stable,

one butcher shop, one hardware store, three general stores and one doctor, Dr. J. W. Vizard, state representative for Adams county at this time.

The town of Rivare was laid out by David Shaffer and the plat recorded on the 13th day of October, 1883. This town originally had twelve lots and three streets. In November of the same year George J. Bipus laid out an addition of forty-nine lots that are fifty by one hundred and fifty feet in size. This town has two churches, one a United Brethren frame structure, that was built about 1880, and an elegant brick edifice, erected by the Methodist congregation in 1901. This is the finest and most expensive church building in the township. In this village are some good residences, a saw and planing mill, a general store, kept at present by E. H. Cowan, who is also the postmaster—the postoffice at this town is known as Bobo. In 1887 Trustee J. C. Cowan built a graded school building two stories high, with two rooms, in Rivare, thus making two graded school districts for this township. Among the earliest school buildings were the Ross school house, built upon what is sometimes called the "Backbone," a ridge running back from the river. This house was built about 1838 and was situated in section 27. The Smith school house, in section 8. The Hawk school house, northeast of Rivare, in section 4. These school houses were all log structures of the genuine pioneer type. The first brick school house in this township was built in the Jones district, in section 22, and put up about 1880. The Evangelical Association has a good frame church building in section 3. The old Mount Tabor church house is still standing in section 8, south of Rivare.



Its history would be interesting reading if all were given. The Hope Well church building to the east of Pleasant Mills, in section 28, is a log structure, but has long since been used as a residence. This township has two railroads, the Clover Leaf, which passes through Pleasant Mills, and the Chicago & Erie, through Rivare.

The estimated population of Saint Mary's township in 1907 is 1,555. The school enumeration, 394, and the number of voters, 311. The township trustees and election inspectors have been: Samuel Smith, 1846; John Foredyce, 1847; Daniel Winans, 1849;

John Foredyce, 1850; Richard Winans, 1852; W. C. Gornley, 1853; E. B. Cowan, 1854; Israel Cowan, 1855; J. R. Cowan, 1856; E. A. Bunner, 1857; J. R. Cowan, 1858; Eisas Daily, 1859; J. R. Cowan, 1860; A. T. Daily, 1861; Robert Spellman, 1863; James McCullough, 1864; Eisas Daily, 1865; Edward McLeod, 1867; Richard Winans, 1870; William C. Jones, 1872; E. W. Cowan, 1876; Joel Falk, 1878; A. M. Fuller, 1880; J. C. Cowan, 1884; Joseph W. Smith, 1888; William W. Smith, 1892; Charles W. Yager, 1898; William H. Teeple, 1904.

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#### BLUE CREEK TOWNSHIP.

In 1820 Blue Creek township was the home of one of the first white residents of Adams county. His name was William Lowe, and his cabin was built at the east end of Thompson's prairie on what then was known as the Godfrey trace. This was an Indian trail from the Saint Mary's to the Wabash and Salamonie rivers. It connected the Godfrey reservation with the Rivare reservation just across the river from Pleasant Mills. Mr. Lowe remained in this part of the country until 1822, at which time his possessions went into the ownership of a Mr. Thompson, after whom the prairie was named. It is said that Mr. Thompson died in the winter of 1831 and was buried by some residents of Willshire, Ohio. That as there was no lumber at that time to make his coffin, a large ash tree was cut down, a log cut from it and split in halves; that a trough was made for his coffin. It was placed upon a sled drawn by oxen to the

place of burial. This township has one of the oldest public roads in the county, the Quaker trace, or the Fort Recovery road, as it is sometimes called. Several old residents state that they well remember seeing Indian families passing to and from their reservations along the Godfrey trace; that it was not unusual to see a squaw leading a pony well loaded with lodge poles, sheet-iron kettle, skins of animals and other trappings; that there were frequently several ponies passing along one after another at the same time; that some had as many as three or four children on one horse; that the Indian man seemed to have little to do but to follow along the trail with the dogs; that in the main these Indians were a very dirty, shaggy-looking set of people; some wore blankets and others were dressed partly in skins, with some white men's clothing; that some of the children and squaws had highly colored scarfs of yellow, red or blue cotton



goods wrapped around their bodies over their clothing of skins; that the men all were armed with rifles, knives and tomahawks, and usually carried them wherever they went. Blue Creek is one of the smaller civil corporations and has but one town; that is the village of Salem, which was platted on the 14th day of November, 1867, by George W. Syphers. This town is located at the crossing of the Willshire and Fort Recovery roads in section 17, and has a blacksmith shop, a church, two general stores and some pretty good residence properties. This little town has the distinction of having the only Presbyterian church in the county south of Decatur. This was built here about 1850, was a log structure and has long since been torn away. A few years later the Methodist people erected a frame church building that served their purpose for about twenty years, at which time the present frame church building was put up. In east of Salem is the Union chapel, a United Brethren frame church building in section 10. Blue Creek township was organized in 1838, and is a part of what was originally Wabash and Saint Mary's township. Some of its other oldest residents were Denison Tinkam, Tunis Young, Michael Eley, T. D. Braddock, Elijah Gilpen and George Campbell. This township is within less than a mile of the town of Willshire, which was laid out in 1823, and as there were mills, stores and markets there at an early day, and on the plank road, it was

considerably in advance of Decatur in several respects.

The earliest school buildings in this township were the "Burdge" school house in section 32; the "Bryan" school house in section 21, which was also known as the election school house; the "Boyers" school house in section 5. These buildings were all made of logs and were built along in the forties. The first frame residence in this township was built by John Young in 1856. The only tile block school building in the county is in this township, and is known as the "Egypt" school house. This is situated in the north-east corner of the township and was built to take the place of a brick that was destroyed there by fire in 1905. The estimated population of Blue Creek township in 1907 is 1,475. The school enumeration is 386, and the number of votes 295.

The successive election inspectors and trustees have been: Peter Young, 1846; William Kimsey, 1847; Griffin Johnson, 1848; John Emory, 1849; Andrew Scoles, 1850; Elijah Gilpen, 1851; Samuel Eley, 1856; S. Hunter, 1857; Peter Young, 1858; Elijah Gilpen, 1859; D. H. Shepherd, 1860; William Kimsey, 1861; D. H. Shepherd, 1863; Samuel Eley, 1864; John Merryman, 1868; Samuel Headington, 1874; A. W. Holmes, 1876; Christ Kauffman, 1878; James Furgeson, 1882; Henry Myers, 1886; Jacob Wechter, 1890; Joshua Davey (but did not qualify), 1898; Davidson Mattax, 1900; William Raudenbush, 1904.

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#### MONROE TOWNSHIP.

The organization of Monroe township dates from 1840. It is a congressional township which lies in the south half of the county, and much of its history is connected

with that of the towns of Berne and Monroe, which might be examined in this connection. Some of its earliest residents were Thomas Ruple, Riesen Todd, Samuel Sack-



ett, Henry Martz, George Ray, John Burdge, John McLean, Lewis Mattax and John McConnell. On account of the line of low, wet prairies extending from east to west along Big Blue creek this and French township were settled later than some other parts of the county, from want of roads and drainage. The first steam saw mill built in the county, south of Decatur, was located at the west end of the Thompson prairie, in 1851, by John R. Burdge. This machinery was hauled by ox teams from Dayton, Ohio. The Martz school house and the Bolinger school house were the first erected in the township, though school was taught in an old log cabin by Judge William Stockham southeast of where Monroe is located before either of these school houses were built. These were of logs and built in 1848 or 1850. The first frame school house in the township was the Mattax school house, located in section 26, was built in 1855 and finished with black walnut lumber as door and window casings. The first brick school house in this township was in section 17 and known as the Flora school. The first township teachers' institute ever held in the county was conducted by County Superintendent Daniel D. Heller on the 25th day of October, 1873, in the Center school district, which is located in section 15. That the present school teachers may have an idea of what the teachers of that time received for their services we herewith give the scale of wages as adopted by the county board of education in 1869-70:

To male teachers with a two-years' license, \$1.90 a day.

To female teachers, with a two-years' license, \$1.60 a day.

To male teachers, with an eighteen-months' license, \$1.65 a day.

To female teachers, with an eighteen-months' license, \$1.45 a day.

To male teachers, with a twelve-months' license, \$1.40 a day.

To female teachers, with a twelve-months' license, \$1.25 a day.

To male teachers, with a six-months' license, \$1.20 a day.

To female teachers, with a six-months' license, \$1.10 a day.

This township used the last log church building in the county. It was built at the east side of section 9 and was used as late as 1900 for church purposes. This church was of peculiar construction. It was built in the shape of a cross and had twelve corners. This went by the name of the "Twelve-Cornered church" and was built by the church-going people of several denominations, but perhaps had a majority of Methodists in its attendants. Some other church buildings in this township are the Baxto church, in section 25; the Quaker church and the Oak Grove church. Being in close proximity to the towns, their churches are largely attended by many of the country people. Lewis Mattax, an early resident of this township, was county ditch commissioner along in the sixties, and the Thompson Prairie Ditching Association was organized and the Blue Creek prairies among other wet lands were drained to the west line of the township. One of the first ditches located was the Clymer ditch. Much land in this region belonged to poor people, who claimed that they were too poor to hire their ditches made and that they needed their labor to



support themselves and families. Several suits were instituted against the owners of "speculator" lands before it became fully conceded that these ditches could be made at the expense of the land owners without their consent.

Along about 1870 the more progressive farmers and contractors strongly urged the construction of the large ditches throughout the county, and none have ever regretted them passing through Monroe township. What were once wet and worthless tracts are now the best corn farms. Monroe township has more vineyards and raises more grapes, perhaps, than any other township in the county. It is said to have started the first hedge fences ever introduced in the county. It has one other distinction that perhaps may be of some note. It once had a "corn juice" factory that did business on a small scale. It made "moonshine" whiskey and was doing a "good, quiet business," when Uncle Sam's revenue officers swooped down onto the proprietor, J. M. Kelse, and carted him and his distillery fixtures to the state capital for an investigation. His build-

ings were so arranged that the front was used as a smoke house, with a rear department, in which his still was located. United States Marshal C. W. Starr made the arrest in April, 1873.

The estimated population of Monroe township in 1907, including the towns of Monroe and Berne, is 3,195. The school enumeration, exclusive of Berne, is 827; of Berne is 356. The number of voters, including Monroe and Berne, is 639.

The election inspectors and township trustees have been: Kalita Jacobs, 1846; Jonathan Ray, 1848; John McConnell, 1849; P. C. Bolinger, 1850; George W. Ray, 1851; E. J. Brown, 1853; P. C. Bolinger, 1855; John McLean, 1856; M. Hendricks, 1857; William Harris, 1859; J. L. Candall, 1862; Joseph R. Miller, 1864; William B. Frissell, 1865; William Hendricks, 1866; Joseph R. Miller, 1867; Worthington Stultz, 1868; Thomas P. Harris, 1869; George H. Martz, 1870; Robert E. Smith, 1876; James Long, 1880; Christ W. Hocker, 1884; Peter P. Ashbacher, 1888; William F. Schug, 1892; John J. Soldner, 1898; Jacob Huscr, 1904.

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## FRENCH TOWNSHIP.

When French township was organized in 1839 the greater part of its population lived in the south half of the township. That part southwest of the river was first settled. Some of the earliest permanent residents of the township were: George French, Roswell Horton, Samuel Fouts, John Augsperger, Abraham Ellenberger, Henry Soevine and Abraham Hocker. At the northeast corner of this township was a neighborhood

of French-speaking people. The northern section of this township was in the Blue Creek prairies, a very good kind of land, but almost worthless until it had been thoroughly drained. This drainage was begun in earnest in the latter part of the seventies, and this part of the county is now the home of many prosperous farmers. In this township perhaps more than in any other in the county the manufacture of cheese was quite



an industry in former years. At the present time French township has a large German population. However, there are very few of the younger people who cannot speak the English language. The Fort Recovery road crosses the southwest corner of this township and extends along down the Wabash river to Bluffton. There are no towns in this township nor at the present time any postoffices. There was once a postoffice on the Fort Recovery road at the residence of a Mr. Sheldon, which was situated in or near a large grove of linn trees. The postoffice took the name of Linn Grove, but after the town of Buena Vista was laid out the postoffice was taken to town. It is said that Mr. Alonzo Sheldon was one of the early postmasters at Linn Grove. The town of Vera Cruz is situated a short distance west of French township, on the Wabash river. This town was begun in 1848 and was one of the principal trading points for the first twenty years of French township's existence. This was also their nearest postoffice. This township has less church buildings than any other township in the county, but two or three inexpensive frame structures meet their wants in this direction. We are informed that the churches at Vera Cruz, Buena Vista and Berne are largely attended

by residents of this township. One of the earliest school buildings in this township was known as the Sheldon school house and it was located in the southwest part of the township on the Fort Recovery road and built perhaps as early as 1846 or 1848. Others were the Slaughter school house, in section 27; the Marchaud school house, in the northeast corner of the township, and the Cottonwood, at the east center, and the Baumgartner school, at the southeast corner of the township. These were all frame buildings except the first mentioned, which was made of round logs.

The estimated population of French township in 1907 is 1,170. The school enumeration is 401, and the number of voters 234. The election inspectors and township trustees have been: John Stauffer, 1846; Roswell Haughton, 1847; Obediah Haughton, 1852; Lot French, 1853; Anthony Stockdell, 1858; Christian Bixler, 1860; William Triplet, 1861; Christian Bixler, 1862; Jacob Sarff, 1863; Joshua Sarff, 1864; Solomon Shell, 1867; George Simison, 1870; Edward Ehle, 1876; Christ Ashbacher, 1880; Samuel Hocker, 1884; Jonas Neuenschwander, 1888; J. P. Steiner, 1891; C. E. Stuckey, 1892; Rudolph Schug, 1900; John C. Augspurger, 1904.

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### HARTFORD TOWNSHIP.

Hartford township was made from a part of Wabash township in 1841. This civil corporation had not only some of the first residents, but it had one of the earliest town sites in the county. The town of Jamestown, which consists of sixty-four lots, is

situated in section 11 on the south bank of the Wabash river, on the Fort Recovery & Huntington road. The plat of this town was recorded nearly seventy years ago on the 16th day of August, 1838, and the town lots were sold at public auction. Robert



Simison, who is yet living, attended this sale and tells us that some of the best locations sold for as much as twenty dollars apiece. This was considered as an enormous price when good land could be bought for from five dollars to six dollars an acre in some other parts of the township. Some of the purchasers proceeded to improve their lots and built cabin houses. All went well until the spring freshets of the Wabash river. Then the town was covered with water two or three feet deep and the residents of James Beauchamp's town moved out in canoes. The head of one of these families is said to have been a Mr. Runyon, who got out of bed to find the water a foot deep in his house with his dog perched upon a pile of wood near the fireplace. Further efforts to populate "Jim Town" were abandoned. Some of the earliest residents of this township were: Robert Simison, who came first to the county in 1833; Daniel Miller, John Deffenbaugh, Josephus Martin, Salem Clendening, Daniel Morrow, John Pontius and James Glendening. The mills and stores were an important item in the days of settlement. There was a water mill built at the present site of Buena Vista along about 1845 by James McDowel, who subsequently moved to Jay county. This was a saw mill, with buhrs for grinding grain. Ephraim Parker bought this mill and sold it to Emanuel Neaderhouser, who, in 1857, built the first grist mill in southern Adams county. This year the town of Buena Vista was laid out by Robert Simison on the west bank of the Wabash river, in section 3. This town is situated on the Fort Recovery & Huntington road, the original plat contained sixteen lots and nine outlots

and the plat was recorded on the 25th day of March, 1857. An addition of twenty-six lots was made to this town on the 11th day of December, 1869. The lands of Robert Simison lie principally south of Buena Vista. His log cabin was one of the earliest residence buildings, if not the first, in the township. The first residence built in Buena Vista stood at the street corner of Meridian and Taylor streets, where the Crabbs brick store building is located. It was built by David Beamer. Christian Sowers was the first storekeeper, and he was succeeded by the Crabbs store in a frame building on Taylor street and Fort Recovery road. The Joseph and Perry Crabbs brick store building was erected in 1865. The brick for this building were made on the Elihu Sheldon farm, north of town, by Robert Niblick. The first tavern stand in this town was built by Jacob Johntry at the crossing of the river road and the Fort Recovery road at the northeast of the village. Before the railroads were built through Adams and Wells counties Buena Vista was quite a trading point. The grist mill was a great benefit to the merchants of the town. In this village several boys, as the Allison, the Morrrows and the Huffmans, as storekeepers, became wealthy men. This town and Vera Cruz were commonly selected as the points at which joint political conventions were held to nominate candidates for prosecutors and representatives for Adams and Jay or Wells and Adams counties.

At the present time this village has one tile block house, one brick residence, two brick store buildings and a large four-room brick graded school building, erected by Trustee Fred Hoffman in 1891; two frame church houses, one boarding house, one res-



restaurant, one drug store, owned and operated by Peter Huffman for the last forty years; two general stores, one hardware and agricultural implement store, one blacksmith shop, one doctor, Dr. J. T. McKean; one shoe store, one grist mill, one telephone station, and three saloons. In 1876 the two-room graded school building was built. This was the only two-room school building in the south end of the county at that time. The Odd Fellows' block, a two-story brick building, was built in 1893. The Evangelical Association built the first church house in this village in 1869. Some of its earliest leaders were: Emanuel Neaderhouser, John Baumgartner, Andrew Schlegenhauff and Frederick Wechter. The Baptist church organization first had its church building north of town, but disposed of that property to the Christian church organization and in 1879 built a frame church building in Buena Vista. Among some of the aggressive members of this congregation were: Timothy Fouts, Peter Huffman, Wilson H. Shepherd, Martin Kizer and George Simison. There were several church buildings in this township much earlier than these. The Green Wood Methodist church, erected in section 10, southwest of Buena Vista in 1857, and the Hartford Methodist church, about the center of section 26, on the old angling road through the John Pontius farm, was built in 1859. These were both frame churches and were in constant use for about thirty years. The Union chapel is a Methodist church, situated in section 21, and is also a frame building. The first school house in Hartford township, was a log building that was located in section 15 and known as the Outwelt school house, and was built in 1846. Nearly all of the first school houses in this

township were log. The Watson school house, in section 34, was built in 1848. The Scott school house and the Bolds were among the first built. The first frame school house in the township was erected by Trustee Daniel Miller and his two associate trustees in 1854. This was located north of Buena Vista, in section 3, and was known as the Miller school house. The first brick residence in this township was built in section 26 by ex-County Commissioner George Pontius in 1871. The oil field has covered the southern part of this township and brick houses have sprung up like magic. In 1893 the "barker" attached to the pumping machinery made melody to the ears of those who were drawing large oil royalties. The George W. Shoemaker well was drilled in about 1892. This was a good producer and the tide flowed in for about ten years and made some men wealthy in a short time.

The estimated population of Hartford township in 1907 is 1,790; the school enumeration 448; and the number of voters is 358. Those who have been election inspectors and township trustees are: John Pine, 1846; John Brown, 1847; Peter Kizer, 1848; John Stauffer, 1849; Daniel Morrow, 1850; James Clendening, 1851; John Brown, 1852; John Watson, 1853; Daniel Miller, 1854; Josephus Martin, 1855; Daniel Miller, 1858; E. W. Reed, 1859; Daniel Miller, 1860; E. W. Reed, 1861; Martin Kizer, 1865; John Chrisman, 1866; Daniel Morrow, 1867; Peter Huffman, 1868; Lewis C. Miller, 1876; Eugene Morrow, 1878; Emanuel Neaderhouser, Jr., 1882; L. O. Bears, 1886; Frederick Hoffman, 1888; William Hall, 1892; Samuel Opliger, 1898; Moses Augspurger, 1904.



## WABASH TOWNSHIP.

The original Wabash township contained a tract of land fourteen miles long and nine miles wide. In June, 1841, it assumed its present size, six miles square. As this township contains the combined towns of Alexander, Buffalo and Geneva and a part of Berne, their history may be read in connection with that of Wabash township. The reader is also referred to "The Hand of Fate" in this volume. Some of the earliest permanent settlers of this township were: Peter Studabaker, in 1834; William Vance, Henry Juday, Morgan Smith, Samuel Linton, John Walker, Tilmou Rawley, Covey Galloway, George F. Baker, Christopher Swank and P. N. Collins. The earliest towns in the township were Alexander and Buffalo. The only other town not heretofore mentioned is the town of Ceylon, which was laid out by Dr. B. B. Snow, and the plat recorded on the 23d day of July, 1873. This town lies just south of the Wabash river on the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad and the original addition contains eighty lots, which are fifty by one hundred and fifty feet in size. This town has three east and west streets—High street, Valley and Main streets—with cross streets numbered from one to four. On the 10th day of December, 1873, P. N. Collins laid out an addition of thirty lots on Main street. Ceylon is one of the timber towns that once was the scene of much business in the manufacturing line. The Royer spoke and wheel factory, the Adams & Raglia heading and stave factories, the saw mill and the grist mill operated by Dr. Snow, two good general stores, a drug store, cooper shops and some other indus-

tries were in operation here in the seventies. The Snow grist mill was the first steam grist mill in the county south of Decatur; was built in 1873. At the present time there is a general store, two blacksmith shops, a shoe shop, a frame church building and a good brick school building, erected in 1894 by Township Trustee Elias Riesen. This was the first brick school building in the township outside of the Geneva corporation. For a number of years this town maintained a two-room graded school, had a large trade in all kinds of lumber and timber, had a grain warehouse and handled grain; had a depot building at the station and transacted a large amount of business, but its proprietors, who at one time jointly owned the lands on the south side of and adjoining the Line street in Geneva, parted with it at the wrong time and that town is now largely built up with what might have been located further north and been a part of Ceylon. This town has some nice residence properties, but has few industries to give it the life and vigor of years ago. Outside of the towns mentioned are several frame church buildings. The Hosfftetter church, in section 17, was built along about 1873 by the German Reformed congregation and is the second oldest church in the township. In 1840 the United Brethren congregation in the southern part of this township, with some of their Jay county neighbors, built a log church on the south county line, but on the Jay county side. This was a hewed log structure and was known as the Wabash chapel. Some of the members most interested in the construction of this church build-



ing were: Charles Nelson, Daniel McCollum, Jacob Bartmas, William Sibray and Jacob Butcher. This church was abandoned in 1876 and the Ford school house was used until 1884 for church purposes. At that time the Sugar Grove church house, a neat frame building, was erected in section 36. This building was destroyed by fire in 1896 and in its stead the Apple Grove church building was erected about a half mile west of the Sugar Grove building. Among some of the members most interested in the construction of these church buildings were: Jesse McCollum, George Heimberger, Stephen Armstrong, Napoleon B. Ford, E. D. McCollum, Miriam Armstrong, Tazewell Fritz and J. E. Lawrence.

The Elm Grove church, built by the Christian, or "Campbellite," organization, as it is sometimes called, is located in the north part of section 25 and was built about 1880. In 1868 this congregation was organized, but used the Aspy school house for their services until their church building was completed. This organization was conducted by John H. Barr, Mark Aspy, William C. Aspy, John Hotsinpillar, Benjamin Aspy and James Barr at its beginning. The church has steadily increased in numbers and now has members in several of the adjoining townships. In the eastern part of the township, in section 14, the Quakers have a church building and small congregation. In the line of education Wabash township has always held a front rank. It was in section 20, near the center of the section, on the old Canoper road, that this township had its first school house. It is claimed that this was the very first school house built in the county. Be that as it may, it was one of the first and was known as the McHugh school

house; was built along about 1836 or 1837. There were but two other log school houses built in this township, one, the Burdoin school house, in section 15, and the other near the center of section 2, known as the Rawley school house. This township got a plastered school house in 1856, the first perhaps in the county outside of Decatur. This was the Fords school house, in section 35. In 1852 Wabash township had its first steam saw mill, located at Alexander, and there were nine frame school houses built in this township between the years of 1852 and 1863, the old log ones being discontinued as the new ones were built. These commonly took their names from the farmer near whose home the school building was located. Without attempting to locate them here, they were known as the Myers, Kauffman, Swank, Aspy, Baker, Pyle, Rawley, Ford and the Bradford schools, a description of each of them can be gotten by reading a history of the Bradford school in connection with the history of Geneva. As stated, the Ford school was unlike the others. The first brick house erected in this township was built by Christian Burghalter on his farm in section 19 in 1872.

The estimated population of Wabash township in 1907 is 3,430, including Geneva. Its school enumeration, exclusive of Geneva, is 618; the Geneva enumeration is 356; number of voters, including Geneva, 686. The election inspectors and trustees of this township were: George F. Baker, 1846; Jacob Baker, 1848; George F. Baker, 1849; Covey Galloway, 1851; Henry S. Juday, 1852; Covey Galloway, 1853; Ralph Wilds, 1854; Jacob Baker, 1858; P. N. Collins, 1859; Mark Aspy, 1860; I. G. Baker, 1862; Henry Abnett, 1865; George W.



Bryan, 1866; O. H. Hill, 1867; Henry Miller, 1868; Lafayette Rape, 1878; David Long, 1882; Lafayette Rape, 1884; Martin

M. Herr, 1886; Elias Riesen, 1890; John Brown, 1894; Philip A. Macklin, 1900; Henry Decker, 1904.

## JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP.

The residents of Jefferson township are in the farthest corner of the county from the county seat. This township had some very early residents and was organized as a township in March, 1838. It has been said that the first resident of this township was Samuel Friese, who located his cabin in section 15 on what is now the Hiller farm as early as 1835. Some of the other early residents were: Ebenezer Webster, Wade Loofborough, Lawrence Gallogly, Jacob Abnett, John Fetters, John Rumble, William Abnett, John Buckingham and Jacob Fetters. There are no towns in this township. The nearest postoffice for most of the southern part of the township before the rural routes were in operation was New Corydon. Between this town and the Adams county line, perhaps a half mile over in Jay county, Peter Studabaker built his first cabin in Indiana in 1819. The Wabash river came too near his residence when overflowed and he returned to Fort Recovery, but came back down the river in 1834, settled near the Price bridge in Wabash township on an eminence above high water mark. Roads, mills and schools were of common interest to most of the first settlers. The Quaker trace ran through Jefferson township and was one of the early roads through the eastern part of the county. At New Corydon there was a water mill built perhaps about 1855, that was a great benefit to the settlers in that part of

the country. In this township, as in most others, log school houses were built as soon as the neighborhoods had sufficient settlers to maintain a school and pay a teacher. The first school house in this township was the Kinney school house, in section 33, and which was built in 1848. The last log school house was built in the Buckmaster neighborhood in 1854. Other school houses built between these dates were the Shaffer school house and the Porter school house. The first brick school house built in the township was erected in 1887 in the Buckmaster district, or in section 19, by Trustee Samuel Fetters. Some of his constituents thought him uselessly extravagant in building such an expensive school house. They may have lost sight of the idea that a good brick house will last the lifetime of several generations as built, while all the neighborhood around it will improve in a number of ways. Mr. Fetters showed his better judgment in building a good house. Had he built what some then suggested the house, as compared to a modern structure, would have looked as the little girl said that she felt. She said: "Oh, I feel like thirty cents with the three rubbed out." This brick house has no resemblance to any such a "thirty cents" as that. The first frame school house in the township was the Kelly school house, which is in the southwest part of the township. This was built about 1874 by Trustee Justice Kelly.



The first brick residence in this township was built by Augustus Kraner about 1876. Mr. Kraner is now right in the heart of the oil territory of this township and has a number of productive wells. Though at a disadvantage in some respects as regards roads and drainage for a long time, this township has a number of church buildings, among which are the Maple Grove church (Christian, or Campbellite) organization, the Chapel and Mount Carmel, both Methodist church organizations; the Progressive Dunkards, or Brethren in Christ, the Evangelical Association and the Catholic. The buildings of each of these congregations, with the exception of the Catholic, are frame structures. The Catholic church is built in what is sometimes called the Irish settlement, though not near all of those living in this locality belong to that nationality. Among some of the early residents who were particularly interested in the building of the first church building in this locality were: Michael Kinney, John Finety, Michael D. Kinney, Stephen McHale, Thomas Moran, James Laughlin, Peter Kinney, Martin Laughlin

and Timothy McGuffigan. The first church building was a frame that was built in 1880. This was hardly completed when it was destroyed by fire. The present brick structure was built the next year and is a valuable piece of church property.

The estimated population of Jefferson township in 1907 is 1,335. The school enumeration is 436. The number of voters is 267. The election inspectors and township trustees of this township have been: Gilbert Wright, 1846; John Loofborough, 1847; Elisha Chary, 1848; Ashbel Lewis, 1849; Isaac Edwards, 1850; William Abnett, 1851; Jonathan Kelley, 1852; William Jones, 1853; John Abnett, 1854; E. Edwards, 1855; John Abnett, 1856; Jonathan Kelly, 1858; John Abnett, 1859; Jonathan Kelly, 1861; Charles Kelly, 1868; Justice Kelly, 1870; James Buckmaster, 1873; Justice Kelly, 1874; John Hisey, 1876; Jonathan Kelly, 1878; John Hisey, 1880; Peter Kinney, 1882; Samuel Feters, 1886; Martin Laughlin, 1890; W. V. Buckmaster, 1894; Abe Beabout, 1904.

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#### CAMP MEETINGS.

Before there were many church buildings in the county the church-going people would arrange to take a week or two in the late summer or early fall to meet and have a revival meeting. These meetings were planned from year to year as a sort of special privilege not to be missed on account of their social as well as religious advantages. There were three or four locations that were specially desirable as camp-meeting grounds.

One was in section 22, at the springs, along Seventeen-Mile, east of Monmouth; one was west of New Corydon, in section 36, and one east of Alexander, in section 28, in Wabash township; and another was west of Pleasant Mills, in section 20, in Saint Mary's township. It seems that the camp meetings held at the Monmouth grounds were a fixture in the program for years and were attended from far and near as regularly



as are the county fairs of later years. Perhaps the nearness to the three towns and the locations of the roads had much to do with the attendance at "The Springs." It is true that from Monmouth up along Seventeen-Mile creek in summer there are some very beautiful landscapes, perhaps as picturesque as can be found in the county. Could some of those granite boulders relate the history of those old camp meeting days and nights it would be a fine record indeed. Even the thought of those great baskets of fat pumpkin pies and fine fried spring chicken would make even a sinner's eyes sparkle and his mouth water for a taste, to say nothing of the other dainties on tap for camp-meeting week. We were unsuccessful in our effort to learn much of the older residents as to the names of the ministers or the leaders in these annual exercises. About the most expression that we could get was that there were very large crowds of people and that the preachers had "great big voices," and that the singing could be heard "way down by the river." The loud singing and the long sermons made more impression than the names of the preachers or singers. Since our personal experience of camp-meeting life is somewhat limited we shall ask forbearance while we quote from the life of one who says he at times preached some of those long sermons that our pioneer friends so well remember. From the "Life and Times of Rev. Alfred Brunson, A. M., D. D.," by your permission, we quote the following: "Wednesday seemed to be a general holiday and we were fairly overrun with visitors. Many of them must spend one night on the grounds for their sight-seeing. To attempt to close public worship and retire to the tent for rest was a hopeless idea, for

our visitors had no tents. Our only remedy therefore was to keep their attention toward the stand as long as possible, say till midnight, or after, when we supposed that most likely they would leave for their homes. To accomplish this we had a long sermon from the longest-winded man on the ground, which was followed by some half dozen exhortations, interspersed with singing by the loudest son of thunder we had among us. It fell to my lot to give the last of these exhortations, in which I talked about an hour and told all the fearful and alarming anecdotes I could call to mind, many of which were enough to raise the hair upon a sinner's head and make the blood chill in his veins. About 2 o'clock a. m. we closed and dismissed the congregation, requesting the people to retire to their tents, if they had any, and if not to their homes. But after all who had tents had retired the grounds were still overrun with stragglers, to watch whom required all the membership of the male sex present. To learn how things went outside of the camp, and especially in the public road, which was some twenty rods from the tents, I took a brother preacher with me and we mingled with the crowd in the dark unnoticed by them as they left the grounds. In passing to the road through the woods we heard their remarks, at some of which we could but smile, however much we mourned over their obdurate sinfulness. One gang of seemingly sailors were just behind us, discussing the merits of the preaching and exhortations. One of them said, using a profane word, "Those Methodist preachers are the greatest liars I ever heard. They can tell more yarns than any old salt I ever saw. And that last one beats all the rest. If I owed the devil twenty liars and he wouldn't



take him for it, I would cheat him out of the debt.' We, on the whole, succeeded in preserving pretty good order. The rowdy part of the people present did not seem to be vicious, but wished to see and learn what was

going on and to have some amusement. The meeting, however, was the means of doing considerable good. There were probably fifty conversions and a general quickening of the membership."

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### SECRET AND BENEVOLENT ORDERS.

Decatur Lodge, No. 571, of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons dates from the 9th day of June, 1883. The first lodge instituted in Decatur dates from about 1860, and was numbered 252. In this original lodge were Samuel Mickle, Augustus Gregory, George H. Martz, Washington Steele, Thomas T. Dorwin, J. E. Teeple, Washington Kern and some others whose names can not now be given. The first meeting place of this lodge was in a hall on the east side of Second street on inlot 50, built over George Number's furniture store. This same hall was later used by the Independent Order of Good Templars and the Knights of Pythias. Along about 1870 the hall in the brick building over the Dorwin drug store was brought into use and is still the meeting place of the Masonic orders of Decatur. However, the lodge has purchased a building lot on Second street, a part of inlot 48, a fine location for the new Masonic building that is contemplated. The present Decatur Lodge, 571, was organized under a dispensation with the following named officers: J. S. Coverdale, W. M.; J. D. Hale, S. W.; B. W. Sholty, J. W.; Godfrey Christen, secretary; R. B. Allison, treasurer, and Levi Barkley, tyler; P. C. Clever, S. D., and James T. Merryman, J. D. This lodge was chartered on the 27th day of May, 1884,

and now has a membership of one hundred and twenty-eight. Its present officers are: Norman Lenhart, W. M.; William Schrock, S. W.; William Winnes, J. W.; Edward Miller, S. D.; Arthur Suttles, J. D.; Earl B. Adams, secretary; Charles Bell, treasurer, and B. Kalver, tyler.

The Decatur Chapter, No. 112, Royal Arch Masons, was instituted on the 22d day of October, 1896, and now has about fifty active members: Dora Moore, K.; J. D. Hale, S.; Henry Heller, Prin. S. gr.; J. W. Tyndall, captain H.; P. L. Andrews, captain R. A.; Will Shrock, captain first V.; Earl B. Adams, captain second V.; Norman Lenhart, captain third V., and Godfrey Christen, treasurer.

The Decatur Chapter, No. 127, Order of the Eastern Star, was instituted on the 26th of April, 1893. It now has a membership of about seventy-five. The present officers are: Lettie Annen, W. M.; J. D. Hale, W. P.; Flo Kinzle, A. M.; Annie Winnes, secretary, and Mouta Hensley, treasurer.

Masonry is an institution of great antiquity. When and where it had its origin is a matter of controversy. However, this is one of the most social, moral and benevolent institutions ever formed. Whether found on the burning sands of the east or in the frozen wilds of the north, the true Mason



has the same fidelity to his craft. His chief mission is to relieve the distressed, bury the dead, comfort the afflicted and bring good cheer to those in gloom and sorrow. From the building of King Solomon's temple to the present time Masonry has progressed with varying degrees of rapidity. It now stands pre-eminent among the institutions established for the building up and improvement of mankind. The membership of this order has reached about the three million two hundred thousand mark. Of this number there are about six hundred thousand in the United States.

Geneva Lodge, No. 621, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, was instituted on the 6th day of August, 1898, with the following named charter members: Frederick McWhinney, S. W. Hale, James B. Brown, Charles Reicheldaffer, Charles D. Porter, John E. Lung, J. H. Hardison, W. B. Hale, W. C. Campbell, Adolph Leibert, John P. Scheer and Renaldo Sumption. This organization prospered from the beginning and now has a resident membership of ninety-two, with quite a number of others who have removed from the town. The present officers are: William C. Campbell, W. M.; George B. Sawdy, S. D.; Jesse Thorp, J. D.; William B. Hale, secretary; S. W. Hale, treasurer; Ben Miller, tyler. Connected with this organization is the Geneva Chapter, No. 263, Order of the Eastern Star, with a membership of seventy-five. This order was organized in 1900 and the charter granted on the 25th of April, 1901. Its present officers are: Alice Heater, W. M.; W. B. Hale, W. P., and Nellie Hale, A. M. The lodge rooms are in the Herr block, which is a large two-story brick building, with business rooms on the ground floor and

halls above. This property now belongs to the Masonic order and is located on the north of Line street in about the center of the town and is a valuable piece of property.

The Saint Mary's Lodge, No. 167, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted on the 1st day of September, 1859. Its charter members were: William G. Spencer, Thomas J. Pierce, David Studabaker, Daniel Miller, Timothy J. Matheny and John McConnehey. The past forty-eight years has seen the coming and going of many faces. The advancement of this lodge has been steady and its results permanent. The meeting place for the first years of its life was in the upper room of one of the Houston buildings on inlet No. 56 on Second street. In 1875 the lodge removed to its new building at the corner of Monroe and Second streets. When this structure was built it was the largest and most expensive building of its kind in the city. It is twenty-six by one hundred and thirty-two feet in size and three stories in height. This lodge continued to grow in strength and its members can be found in all of the northern townships of the county. Its deceased brotherhood is scattered in many states. Its present active membership is about one hundred and thirty-five. The present officers of the subordinate lodge are: E. B. Lenhart, N. G.; Ed S. Christen, V. G.; Charles Helni, P. S.; M. J. Butler, R. S.; H. H. Harruff, treasurer.

The Olive Lodge of the Daughters of Rebekah, No. 86, was chartered on the 24th day of June, 1872, with eleven members. This branch of the order has had a steady growth and has about sixty-five members.

The Decatur Encampment, No. 136, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was or-



ganized under a dispensation October 17, 1875, with about a dozen members. This branch of the order was reorganized on the 17th day of October, 1893, and thereafter known as the Reiter Encampment, No. 214, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Its first officers were: W. G. Spencer, C. P.; B. H. Dent, J. W.; J. P. Moon, S. W.; J. Archbold, H. P.; Henry Winnes, treasurer, and A. J. Hill, scribe.

The Geneva Lodge, No. 634, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was the next Odd Fellows' lodge instituted in the county. It dated from the 14th day of April, 1887. Its charter members were: C. H. Bell, F. M. Rynearson, Frank H. Hale, W. H. H. Briggs, H. D. Gillum and Hiram Kraner. To this number were added fifteen members by initiation on the day the lodge was instituted. On that day there was a social meeting at the frame church on Line street in the morning, a banquet at noon and the initiations continued throughout the afternoon and evening at the lodge hall in one of the Pyle buildings on the north side of Line street. The order occupied this hall until in April, 1890, when the Cartwright Hall building was bought and put in shape for a lodge room. In 1906 this was removed and a modern and substantial brick business block, with lodge rooms above, was built at the cost of about ten thousand dollars. The Geneva lodge has been in existence over twenty years and in that time has admitted by card and initiation two hundred and forty-five members, many of whom have removed and located elsewhere. At the present time this lodge has one hundred and forty active members. Its present officers are: Hiram Kraner, N. G.; John W. Burris,

V. G.; C. O. Rayn, P. S.; J. M. Pease, R. S.; G. B. Swady, treasurer.

The Silvia Rebekah Lodge, No. 327, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted on the 26th day of March, 1890, with nine charter members. This is one of the active branches of this order at Geneva and at this time has a hundred and twenty-one members. Its officers are: Pearl Rayn, N. G.; Florence Ford, V. G.; Fanny Miller, F. S.; Ruth Cross, R. S.; Lydia Wegmiller, treasurer.

The Geneva Encampment, No. 203, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted on the 15th day of July, 1892, with seven charter members. Within the last fifteen years it has increased to more than ten times its original number. This lodge now has a membership of seventy-two members and the following officers: W. J. Nelson, H. P.; J. W. Burris, S. W.; F. F. Gregg, scribe; Frank R. Haughton, J. W.; W. N. Stall, treasurer.

The Linn Grove Lodge, No. 683, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was installed on the 14th day of January, 1892, with C. B. Funk, John W. Bears, J. W. Keckler, W. D. Williams, Edward Heller, Fred Neaderhouser and John S. Anderson as its charter members and twenty-six candidates were initiated on the day of its institution. In 1891 the old graded school building was sold and the lower room was used as a paint shop and trimming room by a carriage-maker and the upper room was fitted up for a lodge room and used by the Odd Fellows' lodge until the fall of 1904, at which time a new brick block forty-four by seventy feet in size was erected, with a commodious hall



on the second floor. This was dedicated on the 21st of December, 1904, with appropriate ceremonies. The Linn Grove Lodge has a Rebekah Degree Lodge that was organized on the 27th of January, 1905. The Linn Grove Lodge was in a measure interested in the institution of Petroleum Lodge, No. 721, and Berne Lodge, No. 838, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, as several withdrawal cards were taken out for this purpose. This lodge at this time has seventy-five active members, with the following named officers: John Romey, N. G.; Sherman Higgins, V. G.; Leander Dunbar, P. S.; Peter Hoffman, R. S.; Samuel Opliger, treasurer.

The Berne Lodge, No. 838, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted on the 26th day of January, 1906, with five charter members, who were: C. B. Funk, D. A. Passon, A. C. Augsperger, Lewis Reynolds and Eugene D. Runyon. This lodge now has between sixty and seventy members.

Berne has two secret orders, the Knights of Pythias and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. From the time of their organization these orders have met with steady and determined opposition—often by those who do not understand them, and more frequently from those who oppose all secret orders from a conscientious standpoint. In the face of all of this resistance there has been a steady and continuous growth of each of these orders. The present officers of Berne Lodge are D. A. Passon, N. G.; John Marshall, V. G.; C. E. Brenner, P. S.; J. L. Love, R. S.; Lewis Reynolds, treasurer. At the present time there are four Odd Fellows' lodges in Adams county, and about four hundred active members. In one of the recent reports

made on Odd Fellowship it was stated that Odd Fellowship in the United States began on the 26th day of April, 1819, in Boston, Massachusetts; that on the 26th day of April, 1907, the order in this country was eighty-eight years old; that at that time there were one million two hundred and seventy-eight thousand and sixty-five Odd Fellows in the United States in active membership; that in Indiana at the last date named there were in the Encampment 6,790 members, and in the Rebekah Order there were 43,451 members; that in the original order in Indiana there were 72,578 active members on the 26th day of April, 1907. The time is here that very good people may honestly differ and live in peace in the same town. And it is also true that in nearly every town of any size the secret orders are represented by their lodges. That this is a fraternal order whose usefulness has ceased to be questioned by all who are familiar with its teachings has long since been established.

The Kekionga Lodge, No. 65, Knights of Pythias was instituted in the I. O. G. T. hall, on the east side of Second street, opposite the court house, on the 20th day of August, 1875, with eleven charter members, who were: C. T. Dorwin, Godfry Christen, W. S. Congleton, N. Blackburn, A. R. Bell, M. Burns, J. P. Quinn, Fred Shaffer, W. W. Vanness, Frank Railing and D. L. Phelps. That at the same time there were twenty-six members taken into the lodge by initiation. This order did not long remain in the Good Templars' hall, as the building at the corner of Second and Monroe streets was then under construction, and an agreement was made by which the Knights of Pythias order built an additional story on the Henry Derks build-



ing next to the Odd Fellows' block. This has been their meeting place since the fall of 1875. This lodge has rapidly grown and now has a membership of one hundred and fifty-eight in the subordinate, sixty-five in the Pythian Sisters and thirty-five in the Uniform Rank. Its present officers are: Walter Johnson, C. C.; Fred Houer, V. C.; Samuel Schamp, prelate; C. M. Rice, M. A.; C. O. Sipe, M. W.; Wilson Lee, M. E.; Fred Mills, M. F.; J. C. Trich, K. of R. and S.; Curt Brown, I. G.; W. Ward, O. G.; Of Eureka Temple, No. 39, Rathbone Sisters, organized March 6, 1891: Mrs. Fred Vaughn, M. E. C.; Mrs. E. M. Hower, V. M. E. C.; Mrs. Lee Vance, J. C. In the rank of uniform knights: DeFrench Quinn, captain; E. B. Lenhart, first lieutenant; William Herst, second lieutenant, and Huber M. DeVoss, clerk.

The Geneva Lodge, No. 514, Knights of Pythias, was instituted on the 11th day of April, 1904, with forty-eight members. This lodge has been of steady growth and now has the Uniform Rank and the Pythian Sisters lodges in connection with the subordinate. Its first officers were: W. D. Hendricks, P. C.; F. J. McWhinney, C. C.; O. C. Fink, V. C.; J. C. Mowrer, prelate; A. D. Mowrer, K. of R. and S.; W. W. Briggs, M. E.; Thomas Drew, M. F.; H. W. McGinnett, M. A.; C. G. Barr, O. G.; C. Shaffer, I. G.; trustees, G. W. Schafer, A. M. Redding and S. W. Hale. The membership of this order at this time is one hundred and fifteen, an increase of nearly seventy members since its institution. At present it leases a hall building, but has an increasing fund set aside, which in a short time will enable it to own its lodge room. Its present officers are: L. L. Mattax, C. C.; Solomon Moser,

V. C.; J. K. Adams, prelate; W. W. Briggs, M. of E.; O. O. Juday, K. of R. and S.; Thomas Drew, M. of F.; H. F. Kendall, M. of A.; G. W. Schafer, I. G.; A. Fensler, O. G.

The Berne Lodge, Knights of Pythias, No. 398, was instituted on the 5th day of December, 1893, with twenty-three charter members, and three admitted by card. This was the first secret order that tried to get a footing at Berne. There seemed to be an entirely mistaken idea as to its purpose when it was first instituted. Those who did not understand its workings seemed to believe that its main purpose was to get unlawful people out of trouble. That idea has long since been discarded by even those who are opposed on general principles to secret orders. Its membership has now reached one hundred and three members and the lodge is growing in usefulness. Its present officers are: D. N. Eckrote, C. C.; Joel Lidy, V. C.; E. B. Rice, prelate; H. S. Michaud, M. W.; F. C. Foreman, K. of R. and S.; C. H. Schenck, M. of F.; Lewis Gerig, M. of A.; Ransom Smith, M. of E.; J. W. Marbaugh, I. G.; Dennis Striker, O. G. The trustees of this lodge are: Rudolph Schug, W. E. Evrets and A. J. Porter

Decatur Court, Tribe of Ben-Hur, No. 156, was organized on the 3d day of April, 1900, with forty members. This is a fraternal and life insurance order that has grown perhaps more rapidly in Decatur than any other of its secret societies. Its membership now has reached the number of two hundred and forty-five. Its meeting place at the present is in the Studabaker building on Court and Second streets. Its officers are: L. L. Baumgartner, chief; Morris Hays, past chief; Louisa Peoples, keeper of tribe;



Adam Wise, teacher; Lydia Schamp, judge; Mary V. Daily, scribe.

The Pocolaligo Lodge, No. 203, of Red Men, was instituted at Decatur on the 24th day of April, 1895, with thirty members. As yet this order has leased its lodge hall. The interest and increase of membership has continued from the beginning and at the present time this lodge has a membership of one hundred and twenty-four, an increase of ninety above its number at the beginning. Its present officers are: R. Lord, sachem; W. Darwechter, prophet; Q. N. Hildebrand, S. S.; Richard Roop, J. S.; A. P. Beatty, K. of R.; J. D. Hale, K. of W.

The Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, Lodge, No. 993, was instituted September 6, 1905, with fifty-eight members. This lodge is at present using the Studabaker & Allison building hall for its meetings. Since its beginning it has added quite a number of members and now has a membership of ninety-eight. A banquet followed the installation of this lodge, at which there was a large representation of Elks from adjoining lodges. Its present officers are: David E. Smith, exalted ruler; W. A. Lower, E. L. R.; William Bosse, F. L. K.; C. E. Neptune, E. L. K.; D. E. Studabaker, sentry; C. S. Niblick, treasurer; J. D. Reiter, tyler.

The Evans Aerie, Fraternal Order of Eagles, No. 1570, was instituted on the 21st day of February, 1907, with a membership of eighty-two. In several ways this was a notable event in the lodge work of the county. In the afternoon there was a street parade, headed by the city band, which marched to the hall where the lodge was instituted. An unusual and memorable feature of this parade was that a live bald eagle was

hauled at the head of the procession in a cage on a cart drawn by a goat. The meeting place of this lodge is in the Niblick building hall on Second and Monroe streets. Its present membership is one hundred and seven and its officers are: D. D. Coffee, worthy president; Charles E. Patton, vice president; E. E. Snow, secretary; N. C. Anderson, treasurer.

The Decatur Camp of Modern Woodmen of America, No. 9770, was instituted on the 30th of March, 1907, by James Corsant, district deputy, with twenty-five charter members. Within the last few months this organization has grown from its twenty-five members at institution to a membership of forty-five. This is a fraternal order as well as a life insurance institution. It is said to have the largest membership of any order of its kind in existence. Its present officers are: E. B. Lenhart, consul; C. L. Walters, clerk; S. E. Schamp, adviser; Eli Myers, banker; George Everett, escort.

The Adams Camp of Modern Woodmen, No. 10952, was organized at Berne on the 22d of October, 1902. This organization started with nineteen charter members, has had some unusual reverses, but is now recovering from its losses and is increasing in membership. Its present officers are: Rafe Imboden, consul; Fred Wechter, banker; W. S. Ray, adviser; J. W. Heare, clerk; W. B. Tucker, escort.

The Monroe Camp of Modern Woodmen of America, No. 6840, was instituted on the 21st of November, 1903, with a membership of nineteen. Within the last four years it has steadily grown and at this time its numbers have reached a membership of forty-six. One of the main purposes of this organization is to provide social and financial protec



tion for its members. The present officers of this order are: William Badders, counsel; E. W. Johnson, adviser; J. D. Kemper, banker; J. A. Hendricks, escort; E. W. Busche, clerk.

The Geneva Tent of the Knights of the Maccabees of the World, No. 106, was instituted on the 4th of April, 1895, with twenty-four members. It has grown in numbers to forty members. This is a fraternal and social order that looks after the life insurance of its members as well as their present social welfare. Its present officers are: L. C. Messner, past commander; G. W. Weeks, commander; R. E. Redout, record keeper, and Adam McKisic, sentinel.

The Sam Henry Post, Grand Army of the Republic, No. 33, was mustered on the 12th of May, 1882, with thirty members and the following officers: Henry Hart, commander; David Laman, senior vice commander; B. W. Sholty, junior vice commander; J. P. Quinn, officer of the day; John S. McLeod, officer of the guard; L. A. Counter, quartermaster; Washington Kern, chaplain; R. B. Freeman, surgeon; A. C. Gregory, adjutant. This order has had a membership of about one hundred and fifty, but the ravages of time have steadily diminished its numbers. There are now sixty-nine members. The long hard winters have thinned the attendance at muster and an answer at the last roll-call will soon be heard no more by the volunteer soldier of a half century ago. As an auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic is the Woman's Relief Corps, No. 41, which was mustered on the 5th day of October, 1886, with twenty-eight members. This division now has forty-seven members. There was a Sons of Veterans order organized about 1886, but surrendered its char-

ter and reorganized in 1895 with a small membership. The ex-soldiers in connection with the Sam Henry Post have from time to time revived the scenes of war in a small degree by engaging in sham battles. The first of these was in August, 1890, just east of Decatur in the Zimmerman fields. The commanders were David Laman, with part of the old soldiers and Lieutenant P. L. Andrews with the state militia on one side and Norval Blackburn with the old soldier forces on the other side. In this engagement a real interesting skirmish took place, perhaps the nearest war the militia had ever seen. The other sham battle was conducted on the Dyonis Schmitt grounds to the southeast of the city after a two days' encampment and reunion of certain regiments outside of the Decatur Grand Army of the Republic order. This occurred in the fall of 1892. In this engagement a battery was in attendance from Fort Wayne, a branch of the militia company that assisted in the fight. The militia was also engaged in this battle and was under the command of Major M. L. Byers. In each of these engagements muskets and blank cartridges were used and from the snapping and cracking it would seem that the war was actually in earnest.

The Geneva John P. Porter Post, No. 83, Grand Army of the Republic, was mustered on the 24th day of July, 1882, with fifteen members. Its first officers were: John M. Holloway, commander; W. H. Fought, senior vice commander; Lafayette Rape, junior vice commander; J. C. Hale adjutant; S. G. Ralston, surgeon; W. R. Meeks, chaplain; G. W. H. Riley, officer of the day; William Drew, officer of the guard; A. J. Juday, quartermaster; J. P. Scheer, quartermaster sergeant; J. D. Hale, sergeant major.



From the fifteen members at first this post numbered one hundred and twenty-four members, though it is at this time much reduced by deaths and removals from its vicinity. On the 8th of May, 1884, the McPherson Camp, No. 11, Sons of Veterans, was mustered with sixteen members. This post is still in operation and is said to be about the only active post of the kind in the state, most others having surrendered their charters. The John P. Porter Relief Corps, No. 119, was mustered on the 20th of January, 1898, with a large membership.

This Grand Army post has taken part in sham battles as well as the real article itself. The first of these was a representation of the battle of Shiloh. In this sham battle J. M. Holloway was one commander and John Sullivan the other. There was a very large crowd of people in attendance to witness this mimic game of war, which occurred on the 27th day of September, 1886. The next battle of this nature was fought in the meadow just west of the present town of Geneva. In this John M. Holloway and Martin M. Herr were the commanders. The batteries were back in the field and fired to distraction with their "Quaker" guns, served with sticks of dynamite. The noise was there, but that was all. In this there was a real bayonet fight between John McCollum and J. C. Ball. The combatants had to be separated, as Ball was fighting in defense of his person and his antagonist had become excited and forgot that half this world is sham and that the other half is not what it seems. This engagement took place on the 12th of September, 1888. The last military maneuver of this kind was on the 3d of August 1892, and was a representation of Custer's massacre. In this engagement J. M.

Holloway figured as Custer and William Bears as Rain-in-the-Face, or Sitting Bull—we are not informed as to which. But to say the least of it, his forces, adorned in all the turkey feathers the country could produce and war paint galore, came in on the whoop and soon cleared the field of their pale-faced enemies. This was a bloodless battle, but the long scalplack of the brave Custer was lifted and swung from the girdle of his savage antagonist. However, "General" Holloway escaped with a much-prized trophy, his own scalp, which he has to this day succeeded in keeping near him.

Company B, Fourth Regiment, Indiana National Guard, was organized at Decatur on the 7th day of June, 1889. However, this was not the first military company organized in this county. The first company, so far as can be ascertained, was about 1845 or 1846. Then the company met twice a month as muster days and were drilled by a detailed officer from the governor's staff or from the United States service. From the best sources that are available Samuel S. Mickle, William Trout and James Niblick were officers in this company. And that it participated in the Fourth of July exercises of 1846, Decatur's tenth birthday. In 1862 there were several companies organized, some of which went to the front and were mustered into the United States service and some others that remained at home and were known as "home guards." On the 4th day of February, 1892, Company B of the Fourth Regiment was mustered as a part of the Indiana state militia. This exercise was conducted in the Meiber's Hall in Decatur by Colonel George W. Gunder, of Marion, Indiana, as mustering officer. After the roll-call of the company and the commission!



officers elected and the non-commissioned officers chosen a muster banquet was given by the company. Major M. Byers was toast-master. Some of the speakers were C. T. Dorwin, on the subject, "The Courage and Bearing of the Third Regiment, Indiana State Militia"; J. D. Hale, "Quartermaster's Supplies—How the Militia Should Be Fed"; Norval Blackburn, "The City of Decatur's Interest in Company B." At the time of mustering this company its officers were: John H. Steele, captain; DeFrench Quinn, first lieutenant; C. M. King, second lieutenant; John Myers, orderly sergeant; A. C. Ball, H. M. Besser, J. D. Andrews and D. E. Sundabaker, sergeants; Ben Broysner, Irvin Pyle, W. E. Russell, M. F. Burkhead, L. C. Corbin and Peter Lorent, corporals.

This company at the time of mustering had thirty-four members. It changed officers from time to time, but a list of its elections and appointments can not be given. At the beginning of the Spanish-American war, in April, 1898, the following members of the company were its officers. John M. Lenhart, captain; Solomon C. Edington, first lieutenant; Charles E. Barnhart, second lieutenant; Richard D. Myers, first sergeant; John D. Andrews, quartermaster sergeant; Jesse B. Roop, John W. Watkins, Louis Andrews and William Bushnell, sergeants; Harry Reichert, Charles Beery, Frank Peterson, Harland Steele, Fred Vaughn and John C. Ault, corporals. From the history of Company B, One-hundred-and-sixtieth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, as written by George Bowers, a Kirkland township boy, and also one of this company, we give the following account:

"Company B first came into existence at Decatur on June 7, 1889, as Company B of

the Third Regiment, Indiana Legion. It was mustered in by Colonel McBride and with Jonas Coverdale, M. D., as captain. In 1891 the company was called out to guard the jail against a mob. At that time M. L. Buyers was captain, and in 1894 served twelve days at Hammond during the riots under Captain John Myers. The organization was transferred to the Indiana National Guard and at the time of the declaration of the late war Major E. P. Miller was captain. Sergeant J. D. Andrews is the only charter member of the original organization of Company B, One-hundred-and-sixtieth Indiana. The company was recruited on the 27th of June by mustering in twenty-five additional men. The only change in officering of the company was the resignation of First Lieutenant Charles Edington. The vacancy was filled by appointing Charles Barnhart to fill the vacancy and promoting First Sergeant R. D. Myers to second lieutenant."

The One-hundred-and-sixtieth Regiment was made up of the companies from Marion, Decatur, Lafayette, Wabash, Bluffton, Ossian, Columbia City, Warsaw, Tipton, Huntington, Anderson and Logansport. In answer to the call it arrived at Camp Mount on the 26th day of April, 1898, for the purpose of being mustered into the service of the United States. After a rigid examination this regiment was mustered in on the 12th of May, 1898, and left Camp Mount on the 16th by rail to Camp Thomas at Chickamauga Park, Georgia, arriving there on the 18th of May. It left Camp Thomas on the 28th of July under orders to proceed to Porto Rico. It arrived at Newport News on the 30th, but the order having been countermanded, left Newport News on August 21st and proceeded to Camp Hamilton, at



Lexington, Kentucky. It left Camp Hamilton November 9th and arrived at Columbus, Georgia, on the 11th. On the 15th of January, 1899, the regiment was ordered to proceed in three sections to Matanzas, Cuba, where they were united on the 27th of January and went into camp. The regiment remained in Cuba until March 27th, when it was ordered to proceed to Savannah, Georgia, to prepare for disbanding. It arrived in Savannah on the 29th of March and was mustered out and discharged on the 25th of April, 1899. Some of the volunteers left

singly and returned ahead of the main body of the troops, but the larger part of this company returned to Decatur on the 5th of May and were met at the morning train from the south with a prearranged program that the mayor of the city, who then was A. P. Beatty, should give them a soul-stirring welcome speech at the court house. As soon as the train came in they scattered in every direction and enjoyed the welcome of their relatives and friends. Perhaps that speech will save until it is needed, as no one knows of it ever being delivered.

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#### SOCIAL AND COMMERCIAL CLUBS.

It is not our purpose to include such clubs or societies as are wholly a part of some church organizations. Those are auxiliaries to the various churches and are left to the writer of church history, every church having its own special societies to look after the work to which it is devoted. In the seventies there was a great agitation of the temperance question throughout the country by what was then known as the Independent Order of Good Templars. There were several lodges in this county—one in Monmouth and another in Decatur. The Decatur lodge is said to have had about eighty members, but politics took possession of the order and it went to pieces.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union followed immediately in the wake of the Good Templars and in 1881, on the 6th of November, this union was introduced into Adams county by S. G. Hastings, an ex-city superintendent of the Decatur schools.

The purpose of this union was to oppose and prohibit as far as possible the unlawful

sale of intoxicating liquors. This society continued for a time, but was reorganized in 1888, and then grew to its largest membership, which was seventy-five members. Some of its active advocates were: Mrs. Marie L. Holloway, Mrs. W. J. Myers, Mrs. R. S. Peterson and Mrs. L. C. Miller. However good its cause may be, its workers have greatly diminished in Decatur.

The Decatur Commercial Club was organized on the 1st day of May, 1903, with about seventy-five members of the representative business men of the city. Its primary objects are to secure such manufacturing interests to locate in the city as will increase the amount of labor for the working people and make a larger payroll to be laid out in the stores of the town. And also to furnish a pleasant room nicely situated and well furnished that any one may while away a few hours in day or evening with his acquaintances and friends without intrusion or interruption of others at their places of business. This club is managed by a board of directors.



who choose the executive officers. Its first officers were: DeFrench Quinn, president; William Schrock, secretary, and Lew G. Ellingham, treasurer. The efforts of this club have in a measure been successful. The location of the power house north of Decatur by the traction company was largely due to its efforts. The whip stock factory, the furnace factory and the motor car factory were induced to locate in Decatur at the instance of the Commercial Club. In March, 1907, it put several additions of city lots upon the market at public sale and thereby began a "factory fund" that may prove of some additional benefit to the city. The sale of these lots in the aggregate amounted to about forty thousand dollars. The rooms of this club are at the corner of Front and Monroe streets in the Dr. William Trout brick homestead. The present officers of the club are: L. G. Ellingham, president; Earl B. Adams, secretary, and Charles S. Niblick, treasurer.

The Shakespeare Club, a literary organization, is perhaps the oldest club of its kind in the county. It was organized in 1882, with the following charter members: Harriet Studabaker, Margaret Dorwin, Jennie Clever, Hattie Studabaker, Dick Morrison, Debie Mickle, Jennie Phelps, Maleta Numbers, Carrie Smith and Mary Niblick. Mrs. David Studabaker was probably the most active in its organization. It has its work regularly outlined for each year, and its president changes with each meeting, a novel plan, by which the hostess at whose house the meeting is held acts for that time as president. It frequently closes its year's work with an extensive banquet, at which the work is scanned and the delicacies of

season served to not only the members, but to other friends.

This society does not confine its readings and investigations to the works of Shakespeare, but changes from year to year, local literature one and perhaps travels through the old world the next, and so on, thus giving a great scope for investigation and study. Its present members are: Miss Hattie Studabaker, Mrs. E. S. Morrison, Mrs. John Niblick, Mrs. Clint Patterson, Mrs. Daniel Sprang, Mrs. David E. Studabaker, Mrs. D. G. M. Trout, Mrs. J. W. Tyndall, Mrs. M. L. Holloway, Mrs. P. G. Hooper, Mrs. D. M. Hensley, Mrs. D. D. Heller, Mrs. L. G. Ellingham, Mrs. C. A. Dugan, Mrs. Jane Crabbs, Mrs. Samantha Dorwin, Mrs. R. K. Allison, Mrs. Helen Blossom and Mrs. Harry Moltz.

The Historical Reading Club is an organization of women for the systematic study of such certain literary productions as may be from time to time chosen for its consideration. This club was organized in April, 1889, has regularly chosen officers and stated meetings for the exchange of ideas and pursuit of the most knowledge that can be gotten from the subjects under consideration. This club was organized with the following charter members: Mrs. Helen Blossom, Mrs. R. B. Allison, Mrs. Carrie Burns, Mrs. E. A. Allen, Mrs. Mary Congleton, Mrs. Samantha Dorwin, Mrs. Kannie Fristoe, Mrs. R. Harb, Mrs. Victoria Hill, Mrs. L. Patterson, Mrs. Lucy Rout and Mrs. Elizabeth Waldron. It has proved to be of much real benefit to not only its members, but to others from a historical point of view, as it has from time to time taken up state and local historical subjects



and made its researches known to the public through the columns of the daily papers. This club is limited in its numbers and by its constitution can admit no new member until a vacancy occurs in its ranks. Its present membership consists of the following: Miss Kit Christen, Mrs. Helen Blossom, Jane Crabbs, Catherine Allison, Carrie Burns, Mary Congleton, Ella Erwin, Sadie Gillig, Hattie Lewton, Fannie Peterson, Nettie Schrock, Marie Holloway, Anna Vance, Nannie Miller, Jennie Studabaker, Ella Rice, Orpha Erwin, Addie Blackburn, Viola Allison and Dora Lower.

The Fortnightly Club was organized on the 13th day of September, 1894, with a membership of thirteen, an unlucky number, but a very fortunate club, as the preacher was with us in it all. The purpose of this club was social improvement and general research and discussion on any such subjects as might be selected by a member as his text for a paper to be read to the club and dissected at will by the other twelve. These meetings became very interesting, as many pet notions were put on "the frying pan" and roasted to a nice brown by all who cared to do so in the presence of the club. They promoted a careful study and a nice distinction between fact and theory. This club perhaps had more subjects to consider than any other ever organized in the city. It had also a conservative, conscientious, combative crowd to consider them, such as had never before undertaken such a job outside of a college faculty. The charter members of this club were: James R. Bobo, J. S. Boyers, Dell Locke, Dave E. Smith, C. L. Walters, J. F. Snow, C. A. Dugan, J. T. Merryman, E. T. Gregg, R. K. Erwin, J. F. Mann, A. D. Moffet, D. G. M. Trout. At

the end of each year's work a banquet was held and a general outline of the subjects briefly discussed. This club continued for three successive years and is still waiting the call of its president to reassemble for another year's work. The subjects presented the first year were these: "The Birth and Growth of Myth," J. F. Mann; "The Effects of Climate and Environment Upon Civilization," J. S. Boyers; "God," R. K. Erwin; "Anglo-Saxon in the Public Schools," A. D. Moffet; "Miracles," E. T. Gregg; "Expense of Glory," David E. Smith; "Evolution," D. G. M. Trout; "Is Genius Hereditary?" J. F. Snow; "Eclipses," C. A. Dugan; "The Sun," Dell Locke; "Phrenology," C. L. Walters; "Mind," J. T. Merryman.

Within its brief existence two members of this club were called away by death. The one was Judge J. R. Bobo, who in early life was a power in the field of thought, having served his constituents in Adams county in various fields of usefulness. He was school examiner, state representative, senator and circuit judge of the twenty-sixth judicial district for twelve years. Nature had bestowed upon him the qualities of a profound thinker, an orator and statesman. When his brilliant intellect gleamed forth in oratory, though even on a doubtful side, defeat often gave place to victory. On his sixty-second birthday, June 4, 1901, he crossed the "Great Divide" to another life beyond. The other was the Rev. E. T. Gregg, who spent four years of his spirited young life as pastor of the First Methodist church of Decatur. It was during the 30th of May Decoration day services of 1899 that the word came from Kokomo, where he had recently moved, that "Rev. E. T. Gregg is no more." The members of this club and his many church friends



held his memorial service on the 4th day of June, 1899, in which his past was viewed from the present by those who knew him best. Memorial addresses were delivered to a large audience assembled in the First Methodist Episcopal church by four of his club mates. They as given were: "E. T. Gregg as a Minister," by J. T. Merryman; "E. T. Gregg as an Odd Fellow," by J. F. Snow; "E. T. Gregg as a Mason," by R. K. Erwin; "E. T. Gregg as a Citizen," by J. T. France.

A similar memorial was held at Kokomo by his church brethren, which referred to E. T. Gregg as "A Layman," by Rev. A. S. Wooten; "As a Preacher," by Rev. T. T. Simpson; "As a Pastor," by Rev. W. W. Daniels; "As an All-Round Man," by Rev. W. D. Parr. Some quotations taken from his expressions may give a better idea of the man:

"This world is full of handbox people. They are made of pasteboard and can contain nothing that has any weight in it. They occupy more space than they are worth, and never fail to obtrude themselves into the

most conspicuous places, seeking to give out an impression of importance. They are mere empty shells, fit only for artificial flowers."

"The busy man finds a place for what he has a desire to do. It is the maid of honor to the queen who scarcely has anything to do, who never finds time for anything. The very busy man who perhaps has fifty letters to answer every day, always finds some time to help with his great executive ability, the causes that are near his heart."

Whatever may the great hereafter be, a fitting remembrance will be observed. Not such as of a military genius, by noisy bands through crowded streets, thick set with banners and plumes and glittering sabers and polished bayonets—but when the spring comes with its sunshine, birds and blossoms, a loyal procession of his comrades and countrymen will heap high his mound, by each a little flower, and drop a sympathetic tear on the grave of him who so young and so vigorous, so full of promise and future expectation, was so soon called to the great beyond.

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## LAWYERS, DOCTORS AND SOME OTHER PEOPLE.

An ancient historical writer once described a model woman as from his point of view and finished with: "And where can such a one ever be found?" We have above given a brief outline of some women's clubs. These have their spheres of action and mental development. There is but one club when in the hands of the "new" woman a general terror to mankind. This is the "Come Home Husband Club," frequently

called the broomstick. This is seldom used by the lion of the family. We are told that the day will come, and perhaps it is close at hand, that the "lion and the lamb will lie down in peace and harmony," perhaps in every household. In some households the club is laid aside and the new woman, if she may be so called, has taken up intellectual lines of work rather than the common life of so many women though their attainments



are fine and intellectually able for many works of highest art. The pen has taken its place and the work of producing literature is with them a profession, not perhaps of invitation by their friends to write, but like Edgar Allen Poe or Phoebe Carey, with an energy that nothing but expression will satisfy. Intellectual energy, well directed, toward the cause of authorship has made the millions happy. What branch, may much depend upon the special turn of mind of the particular author. There may be many avenues to fame, but he or she who travels the line of authorship in search of it will ere long conclude that he has missed his bearing and wish that he had taken another road. If he or she has the ever-urging, controlling, prompting impulse to give written expression to thought the work will go happily on whether or not the world cries or smiles. It is so much easier to choose a nice new book and read it than to write a nice new book for someone else to read. Ability, energy and continued labor of intellect and body are necessary to produce a worthy literary production. When we peruse the pages of a new publication the product of some energetic mind, we soon determine whether its course is traveling in the line upon which our interest lies. The subject may be one upon which we like to linger and view its beauties and read those inscriptions left by nature's hand. But should we stop to pluck a flower on our way and find it an imitation, an artificial rose, without perfume, our interest is lost at once and no effort can bring it back. The successful author of today must keep a few paces ahead of the aggressive moral and scientific people who move along by electric lines. The historical work on Company B, One-hundred-and-sixtieth

Indiana Volunteer Infantry, by George Bowers, a former resident of this county, but now a captain of police in the Philippine Islands, is an interesting work. Attorney Shaffer Peterson is the author of an extensive work on the "Citations of the Supreme and Appellate Courts of Indiana." He is now a practicing attorney in Decatur. "The Song of the Cardinal," "Freckles" and "What I Have Done with Birds," are three valuable literary productions from the pen of Mrs. Gene Stratton Porter, who is a resident of Geneva, Indiana. Mrs. Porter is a specialist on birds and her works make frequent mention of these feathered songsters in their mission to make the world more cheerful. Her last production is finely illustrated with colored plates and is a valuable contribution to that class of literature.

"Freckles," which appeared in 1904, has been dramatized by a London (England) playwright and will soon go on the stage in that country. "What I Have Done with Birds" appeared in the Home Journal of 1907, and other volumes are forthcoming, as Mrs. Porter says that, "I am the busiest and hardest worked woman alive. I am just finishing a novel and in a week will be afield again for the summer."

#### THE DOCTORS.

The doctors of Adams county in its early days found very little that would in our time be an inducement for any one to stay in the country to build up his profession. Until about 1860 the settlers were very much scattered and there was nothing in the shape of graded roads. The only way to travel from place to place was on horseback or to walk. No roads, no bridges, but few



of the conveniences and often a scarcity of the necessities of life. Can one think of a doctor attempting to cure a sick person when there was little food in the house with which to nourish him, and neighbors perhaps several miles away? But the doctor in the forties and fifties did not long stand on ceremonies; he did the best he could for his patient and let nature do the rest. Lack of suitable care and proper diet in those days doubtless lost many a valuable life. Some of the worst conditions and ailments they had to contend with were mumps, measles, milk sickness, malaria, mosquitoes and impure water. Epicac, calomel and quinine were dished out in telling quantities and the patient always got well—or died—under this treatment. The census of 1850 shows that the following named doctors were then practicing in Adams county: William Trout, who could speak the German language, lived in Decatur; John F. Alsop resided near Pleasant Mills; J. C. Champer, at Monmouth; John N. Little, southeast of Decatur, on what is now the Elmer Johnson farm; Thomas B. Kimsey, in Root township, northwest of Monmouth; Alexander Porter and John P. Porter and Jacob Pierce then resided in Decatur. There were perhaps some others who were in the county before some of these mentioned, but had removed to some other locality. A little later there came Dr. Lemuel Coverdale from Allen county, perhaps about 1855; Thomas and John Pierce, in 1858, and in the southern part of the county came Dr. B. B. Snow, in 1860, to the Wabash. Dr. J. B. Snow, to Linn Grove, in 1862. Dr. William C. Vance, of New Corydon, but practiced in the southern part of the county, in 1866,

was in the army three years preceding this; Dr. James McDowel, Dr. S. G. Ralston, 1865; Drs. A. G. VanCamp, John Burdg, in 1868; Dr. LeBlond, 1872; Drs. Bergman, James Calderwood, John Neuenschwander, David Neuenschwander, Peter A. Sprunger, P. B. Thomas, William Broadwell, C. A. Zimmerman, J. C. Ulman, J. W. Stoneburner, at Berne came in 1890. The northern part of the county has since 1875 had these doctors: T. T. Dorwin, F. A. Jelleff and his son, Charles Jelleff; W. W. Vanness, A. T. Sorg, A. G. Holloway, R. J. Freeman and several others. Those now in the practice in Decatur are: J. S. Coverdale and his son, E. G. Coverdale; W. P. Miller, W. W. McMillen, C. A. Smith, J. S. Boyers, Mrs. M. L. Holloway, D. D. Clark and C. S. Clark, B. P. Thomas, S. D. Beavers, H. F. Costello.

The dentists at present are: Drs. J. Q. Neptune, Dick Neptune, Roy Archbold and Bert Mangold. Dr. Glen was the first dentist who located in Decatur, in 1880, remained but a short time. Dr. A. L. DeVilbiss was the first permanent dentist to continue the practice for any length of time. He came to Decatur in 1876 and remained until the time of his death, perhaps in 1898. H. R. Raper, present dentist at Geneva.

The medical profession of this county as a general thing has been represented by a moral, high class of citizenship. The towns throughout the county have their physicians, as: Dr. J. C. Grandstaff, at Preble; Dr. J. W. Vizard, at Pleasant Mills; Dr. J. T. McKean, at Linn Grove; Dr. L. L. Mattax. H. M. Aspy, W. R. Braton, O. M. Graham, C. R. Price, W. W. Swarts, at Geneva, and Drs. M. F. Parrish and A. C. Ryl, at Mon-



roe; Ernest Franz, Amos Reusser, R. S. Wilson, Catherine Kuntz, Charles H. Schenck, C. L. Simkins, at Berne.

#### THE LAWYERS OF ADAMS COUNTY.

If it were not for the ignorance and greed of mankind the lawyer's profession would soon be abandoned by many bright minds that are devoted to the cause of securing just men their rights. Some contentious specimens of genus homo may be heard in condemnation of the dishonest lawyers. He is the very first individual to seek the advice and counsel of the shrewd attorney to pull him past his danger of standing behind prison bars. Were it not for the kindly counsel of our most able attorneys the very ones who are loudest in his condemnation would be the surest convicts. A good lawyer, as a good doctor, saves worry, health and reputation of his clients and is a model citizen. Every class of men have their demagogues and some who are no credit to their community. But be it to the credit of the legal profession, there are fewer of them wearing prison stripes than of some other classes who claim to be twenty-four karats fine—a claim never hinted at by the lawyer. The responsibility of systems of enactments rest with the people. There is but one satisfactory issue with a lawyer: Where does justice lie; what are my client's rights? What the law is, becomes in the hands of the courts, what the judges and the lawyers think the law ought to be. The requirement for an attorney-at-law in the forties was far different from what it is now. Then but few lawyers had more books than could be carried under one arm; and some of them not of recent date. However, justice was the

thing sought after then as now. And in certain instances there was much less ceremony in procuring it. All the judges along in the forties and even later were supposed to dress within the dignity of their office. A part of their apparel must contain a silk hat, known as a tile or plug hat now, a silk or satin vest, tall standing white collar, doeskin pantaloons and "pumps," a low, comfortable slipper. An attorney who did not properly address the court was publicly reprimanded, and if he entered his objections was summarily fined. The court that attempted to hold his sessions without his silk tile and other equipage was not worthy any special recognition, and an attorney was exempt from the fine or reprimand until the dignity of the court was maintained. Among the earliest lawyers who were residents of the county were Beaty McLellan, in 1840; William H. Baugh, in 1848; William Carson, 1850; William G. Spencer, 1849; David Studabaker, 1852; James R. Bobo, 1860. One of the first cases docketed is "Alexander Smith, treasurer school section 16, township 27, range 15 east, vs. Thomas Ruble. Dismissed and costs paid." This dates from 1838. Ezekiel Hooper, William Elzey were associate judges. The first divorce case was docketed in 1849, Joseph Ross vs. Mary Ross. The case was decided against Mr. Ross, with thirteen dollars and seventy-eight cents costs and twenty-five dollars alimony. The next divorce case was Ruthanett Gillispie vs. John B. Gillispie. This is marked "continued" and is still pending. There was a rather amusing incident in the case of the state of Indiana vs. J. C. Finley. The court then sat much as the county board of commissioners, the two together, but the "dignity of the



court" was "on," that made some difference perhaps. Finley had been arrested on a charge of horse stealing. The court was on the bench, but in the old court house there was no consultation rooms down on the first floor. The prisoner was brought in by the sheriff and as all was ready for trial, he was asked to plead to the indictment. He plead "Not guilty." The court asked him if he had counsel. He said that he had not. Turning to a young attorney, whose home was then at Fort Wayne, the court said: "Jinkinson, clear that man." Mr. Jinkinson then asked permission to take the prisoner just around the corner of the court house for a consultation with him, which the court granted. When back of the court house with his client he said: "Are you guilty of the offense as alleged in the indictment?" "Yes," said the prisoner, "they caught me with the goods." "Have you any money?" "Yes, I have ten dollars." "Well, let's have it. Now you see that woods there, don't you? See how long it will take you to be through it to the Indiana state line." Mr. Jinkinson paced back and forth outside the house for thirty minutes or more. The sheriff came and called from the court house door, "Jinkinson, the court is ready to go on with the trial; bring your client and come in." Mr. Jinkinson walked leisurely in and took his seat. The court inquired: "Mr. Jinkinson, where is your client?" "Why, your honor, I cleared him." The sheriff threatened and the court gave each other a bewildered look, but the prisoner never returned.

William H. Baugh, William W. Carson and William G. Spencer were among the early resident lawyers of Adams county. The two former did not long remain here. Mr. Spencer practiced his profession until 1860,

at which time he was chosen county auditor and served eight years, after which he engaged in other pursuits. In the period subsequent to 1860 there is a long list of worthy names shown on the bar calendar of the courts of the county. Among them are some who by the favorable turn of fortune's wheel have reached the height of eminence worthy the efforts of any energetic public-spirited citizen, that of the judgeship. Among those of worthy mention may be named Judge David Studabaker, who as one of the first resident attorneys, began the practice of his profession first in Adams county. He studied law at Portland with Judge J. M. Haines, who afterwards in 1872 became circuit judge of the twenty-sixth judicial district. Mr. Studabaker by birth was a native of Ohio, having been born at Fort Recovery in 1827. At the age of seven years he came with his parents to Adams county and settled on the Wabash river on what is since known as the Price farm. When he was thirteen years old his father died and being the eldest child, much more was required of him than of his younger brothers and sister. His father was a farmer according to the custom of the day, but from time to time assisted in the purchase and sale of furs, etc., which was a source of much profit to him. David Studabaker, by his careful and industrious habits not only became a master mind in his line of pursuit, whether as a scholar in the early common schools or as a student of Blackstone, or in the intricate work attendant upon the business of banking and the management of his extensive monied interests. He is said to have attended one of the first district schools taught in Wells county, Indiana, as his uncle lived close to that county. Later he at-



tended the Jay county seminary and a high school near Greenville, Ohio. He subsequently taught in the district schools of Adams and Wells counties. In 1852, while at Portland, Indiana, he was admitted to the bar. The Hon. Jeremiah Smith was then the presiding judge. In the same year he came to Decatur to practice his chosen profession. It is said that while living with his mother in their home on the Wabash he was greatly encouraged in his pursuit of his law studies by P. N. Collins, an acquaintance and political leader, and by his lifelong friend and neighbor, David McDonald, who subsequently became sheriff of Adams county and served in the state legislature as a representative. Mr. McDonald, "Uncle David," as he was commonly called, was something of a hunter and cluck full of military disposition. He and the prospective judge would take to the woods. While there he would insist on "Dave," as he always called him, to make a speech. When through he would snap his fingers and encourage him by commenting on what great advancement he had made since last he had heard him.

About 1850 John K. Evans was associate judge of the district in which Adams county is located. In 1854 David Studabaker was married to a daughter of Judge Evans—Harriet Evans. They went to Fort Wayne, but returned in a few years to Decatur, at which place they continued to reside. As a public official he served as prosecuting attorney in 1852, as a legislator 1854-58, as a state senator 1858 for Jay, Wells and Adams counties; in 1869 in the court of common pleas as judge for Adams, Allen, Wells and Huntington counties, but resigned before his term of office had expired. James R. Bobo was another of Adams county's able sons.

Nature has given few men the intellect and the ability to apply it that she gave to Mr. Bobo. He was born in Ohio in 1839 and in 1851 his parents moved to Indiana, and in 1854 came to Adams county. He attended the district school and after his eighteenth year attended three years at Crown Point, Lake county, schools and subsequently became a teacher in the public schools of Adams and adjoining counties. In 1858 he entered the law office of David Studabaker and commenced the study of law. In 1860 he was admitted to the bar of the Adams circuit court and later became a law partner of his preceptor. In 1861 he was married to Miss Almyra Clayton and thence afterward to the date of his death, which was on his sixty-second birthday, resided in Decatur. His great energy and his fine social traits made him a popular "mixer" and he entered the political field as a winner from the first. In 1862 he was chosen by the county board of commissioners as school examiner, whose duties were somewhat similar to those of the present county superintendent. This position he held until 1866, at which time he resigned to serve as state representative in the Indiana general assembly. The district then was composed of Adams and Wells counties. And in 1870 he was elected to the senate for the district composed of Adams, Wells and Allen counties. In 1876 he was chosen circuit judge of the Twenty-sixth judicial district, which then was composed of Adams and Jay counties, and was re-elected in 1882, thus serving as judge for twelve consecutive years. The death of James R. Bobo occurred on June 4, 1901. Daniel D. Heller is another of the young men who virtually grew up with the county. When he came to Decatur in 1867



the town was about the present size of Pleasant Mills and in some respects was much like that village. Mr. Heller learned most of his law knowledge by close and continued application to his studies in the preparation of his cases while practicing in Adams county. He is an Ohioan by birth and his preceptors were Stambaugh & Bartleson, of Philadelphia, Ohio. Mr. Heller was born on the 29th of March, 1839; was educated in the New Hagerstown Academy, in Carroll county, and ranked as one of the first orators of the school. Nature blessed him with the power to think and talk, opportunity as an attorney developed his gifts. Of the orators in eastern Indiana he ranks well to the front. Mr. Heller was admitted to the bar in 1863 and located first at Millersburg, Ohio, remained there a short time and came to Adams county in 1867 and has since resided in Decatur. In 1872 was appointed school examiner and by the act of the legislature of 1873, which created the office of county superintendent, was made the first to hold that office in the county. His ability as a lawyer had won for him such a practice by 1874 that he resigned the superintendency to give his whole attention to the practice of his profession. His unassuming disposition retarded his advancement as an office seeker, but his friends nominated and elected him as city mayor of Decatur in 1885. He served until 1888, at which time he was nominated to the circuit judgeship of the twenty-sixth judicial district; was elected and re-elected, serving in this capacity for twelve consecutive years. At the expiration of his term of office Mr. Heller formed a partnership with his son, H. B. Heller, who is now prosecuting attorney for the twenty-sixth judicial district. He has

been engaged in many of the most important cases in the county since his retirement from the bench.

It was during Judge Heller's terms of office that the first regular court reporter was employed to take down in shorthand the proceedings of the various trials, the evidence of the witnesses, objections and motions of the counsel in the progress of the trial of the cases brought to the notice of the court. Miss Adda Snow was the first regular court reporter in the Adams circuit court. She was also the first woman notary public in Adams county. She served as such reporter for a period of eight years. She is at this time in Los Angeles, California, conducting a school of shorthand and bookkeeping in that city. Judge Heller was succeeded in the office of circuit judge by Richard K. Erwin, an ambitious, aspiring young attorney, who was born and reared in Adams county, the date of his birth being July 11, 1860; was admitted to the bar in 1887; married January 17, 1883, to Miss Luella Wass, of his native township—Union; elected to the circuit judgeship in November, 1901, for a term of six years. His successor to the judgeship is James T. Merryman, whose term of office begins on the 23d day of November, 1907. Mr. Merryman has had over twenty-five successful years of experience as an attorney in Decatur, about fifteen years of which were in partnership with John T. France, one of the most able practitioners at the Decatur bar. James T. Merryman was born on the 1st day of October, 1854, in Washington township, in Adams county, Indiana; received a good common school education, which he has supplemented by a constant study of the latest lines of useful knowledge; was deputy county clerk in 1876,



admitted to the bar of the Adams circuit court in 1881; elected mayor of Decatur in 1882; was married August 29, 1878, to Miss Louisa P. Albers, and since has continuously resided in Decatur.

J. T. France was born in Delaware county, Ohio, on the 5th of December, 1853, came with his parents to Adams county about 1861; received a good common school education and attended the Decatur high school several terms; studied law with France & Miller; later went into partnership with his father in the law and auctioneering business; had several other partners later, and in January, 1883, formed a partnership with the present judge-elect, J. T. Merryman, which continued until the spring of 1897, when it was dissolved to engage in the law business with his son. On the 19th of October, 1876, he was married to Isabella Corbin. Mr. France was elected prosecuting attorney in 1878 and re-elected in 1880 for the Twenty-sixth judicial district, composed of Jay and Adams counties; conducted one of the heaviest murder cases ever tried in the county in 1883, the State vs. Fred Richards and Charles Werst. Both defendants were found guilty and sent to the state's prison. After a long and tedious trial in one of the defalcation suits of the ex-county treasurer he took down sick and died, November 12, 1899. Perhaps the oldest attorney at this time in the county is Robert S. Peterson, who has practically discontinued the practice. Several others, as Judson W. Teeple, Clark J. Lutz, Shaffer Peterson, Paul G. Hooper, D. D. Heller, have been engaged in the practice at Decatur for more than twenty-five years. Others have died or moved away. C. M. France is at Van Wert, Ohio; J. F. Mann at Anderson, Indiana; J. E.

Thomas at Cardwell, Missouri; J. Fred France at Huntington, Indiana; P. B. Manly at Marion, Indiana; P. L. Andrews, engaged in the newspaper business at the Decatur Journal office; Jeremiah Manly, John Baily, Elias G. Coverdale, E. A. Huffman and David Studabaker are deceased. Within the last ten years the court docket shows that a large number of persons have been admitted to the bar of the Adams circuit court, but that is the last that is ever heard of them in the courts. They have as yet made no effort to practice in this court. Among that number are several sons of men who wanted to make lawyers of their boys, but found, after spending large sums of money on them, that they either had no capacity for the profession or that their liking was entirely in another direction. Among the number admitted to the bar are two women—Miss Effie Battenberg and Miss Blanche Hart. Miss Hart is a fine stenographer and was one of those chosen by the state legislative committee to take down the proceedings of a certain important committee in its work connected with the 1907 session of the Indiana general assembly.

The resident members of the Adams county bar who at this time are giving their attention to the practice of law are: Shaffer Peterson, D. D. Heller, R. S. Peterson, J. W. Teeple, Paul G. Hooper, Clark J. Lutz, J. T. Merryman, J. C. Moran, David E. Smith, Lewis C. DeVoss, A. P. Beatty, John Schurger, E. Bert Lenhart, J. F. Snow, B. W. Sholty, F. M. Schermyer, Huber M. DeVoss, Dore B. Erwin, Henry B. Heller, Earl B. Adams, C. L. Walters, J. Fred Fruchte, Jesse Sutton, Fred Literer, Frank Cotterel, Emil Franz, William Drew, S. A. M. Butcher, Jacob Butcher and R. K. Erwin.



## SOME OTHER PEOPLE.

In writing of some other people we find that Robert D. Patterson is the oldest continuous resident of Decatur. He has lived in the town since 1838.

That Dr. D. G. M. Trout has lived continuously in Decatur since 1846.

That John Smith was born October 12, 1838, and was the first white child born in Saint Mary's township.

That Peter Holthouse, who was born October 25, 1841, was the second white child born in Washington township. That his wife, Mary Closs before her marriage, was the first female white child born in Decatur.

That the McGriff brothers were the oldest twins in the United States. John McGriff lived in Geneva; Richard in Ohio. That they were about ninety-six years old before they died; Richard in 1899 and John in 1900.

That Robert Simison, who entered one hundred and forty-seven acres of land in Hartford township at one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre, is still living; he is ninety-six years old. That he saw Andrew Jackson, William H. Harrison and Henry Clay. Shook hands with Clay and Jackson and heard all of them make speeches.

That William Nottingham, who lived in Kirkland township in 1850, was one hundred and seven years old—then said to be the oldest person who ever lived in the county.

That Adams county now has a great friend of its native forest groves in Willard Steele. He, by his own untiring efforts, has growing fine ash groves, maple groves and elm and willow groves in what is known as

Steele's Park, a one-hundred-and-fifteen-acre tract near Decatur. There may be from three to four thousand trees growing as planted.

That from 1825 to 1845 there was a man who traveled up and down the Wabash, the Saint Mary's and Maumee rivers and planted groves of apple trees. One of his nurseries was just above New Corydon on the Wabash and several of them were on the Maumee river. His name was John Chapman, commonly known as "Johnny Applesseed." He died at the home of William Worth, in Saint Joseph township, Allen county, on the 11th day of March, 1845.

That Adams county now claims one of the smallest, one of the heaviest and one of the tallest young men in eastern Indiana. Joseph Brunegrath is thirty-one years old, is four feet two inches high and weighs eighty-five pounds. Everybody calls him "Little Joe." That William Ostemeyer, a former resident of Root township, is thirty-one years old, six feet and nine inches high and weighs one hundred and eighty pounds. That Orville Harruff, a resident of Decatur, is twenty-four years old, six feet three inches high and weighs three hundred and seven pounds. Was born in Berne, is deputy surveyor and is as active as any young man of less flesh.

That Decatur has the finest, brightest and best-looking fifteen-year-old triplets in eastern Indiana. That they are the children of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Miller. Their names are: Frances, Ruth and Grover Miller, and they were born on the 23d day of September, 1892.



## THE POLITICAL FIELD.

Adams county began its existence by an enactment of the Indiana general assembly in 1836. In compliance with this act the governor issued a writ of election to select the necessary executive officers for the new county. The first election was held on the first Monday in April, 1836, and John S. Rhea, Samuel Smith and William Heath, Jr., were chosen as county commissioners, whose duty it was to have a county seat located, divide the county into proper number of townships, have court house and other public buildings erected and to have the general supervision of the revenues and finances of the county. Samuel L. Rugg, the founder of the town of Decatur, and the originator of establishing the new county, was elected to serve as county clerk and auditor combined. David McKnight was elected to serve as sheriff and assessor combined. John K. Evans was appointed as collector of the state and county revenues for the term of one year. The elective officers were all to serve until the next succeeding election, which occurred in October of the same year, 1836. We are frequently reminded that there are three things that we cannot recall—the spoken word, the written line and the lost opportunity. This opportunity to secure an office in a new county was somewhat contagious, as many candidates started out on a wild-goose chase to locate their friends and to make some new ones. Some of the contests were very spirited and the votes close. Colonel William Vance was made representative by a majority of three votes in 1839; Esais Daily was elected county commissioner in 1840 by a majority of two

votes. Samuel L. Rugg was elected recorder in 1841 by a majority of five votes. James Crabbs elected county treasurer in 1841 by a majority of three votes. In 1842 Union township had her first vote. Elisha E. Parret received all the votes then polled at that election, which were nine, for representative. Samuel S. Mickle in 1843 received two hundred and twenty-nine votes and his opponent, Zachariah Smith, received two hundred and twenty-five votes for representative. Alexander Fleming received two hundred and twenty-seven votes for sheriff in 1844 and his opponent, William Gilson, received two hundred and twenty-four votes. William Trout in 1845 received two hundred and thirty-one votes for auditor and his opponent, George A. Dent, received two hundred and twenty-eight votes. Isaac Wheeler in 1847 received two hundred and eighty votes for county commissioner and Peter Kizer, his opponent, received two hundred and seventy-eight votes. Samuel L. Rugg in 1849 received three hundred and ninety-two votes for county clerk and his opponent, William A. Bugh, received three hundred and sixty-seven votes. The county-seat location in 1850 showed that there were for Pleasant Mills two votes; for Monmouth there were fourteen votes; for Monroe there were three hundred and forty-three votes, and that for Decatur there were four hundred and seventy-four votes. It is said that if it had not been for the "influence" that the Crabbes and Numan stores used upon the voters that Monroe would have won the county seat. All the candidates from the south part of the county were then elected



at this same election except where they were of different politics. The vote in 1851 on the "colonization and exclusion of negroes and mulattoes from Indiana" stood: Yes, 541; no, 120. In 1867 there were three candidates in the field for county surveyor. The Republican, H. C. Peterson, was elected. In the elections of 1874 and 1886 the auditors were elected by small majorities, one by a majority of sixty-nine votes and the other by forty-four majority. Those who were candidates and were unsuccessful have one consolation at least, that they had the race, if the other fellow did get the "goose."

As soon as the county was organized there were courts provided to aid in the enforcement of the laws of the state. However, there were courts with jurisdiction in this territory long before the county organization. The dates hereafter given are generally the time the officer was elected:

Associate Judges.—Ezekiel Hooper and William Elzey, 1838; John K. Evans and Ezekiel Hooper, 1842; William Stockham and Eugene A. Bunner, 1849. New constitution. Office abolished.

Probate Judges.—Jacob Barks, 1837; James Crabbs, 1839; Robert Tisdale, 1840; Josephus Martin, 1841; Alvin Randall, 1842; David Showers, 1849. Office abolished.

Prosecuting Attorneys.—R. J. Dawson, 1843; E. A. McMahan, 1845; William A. Bugh, 1848; William W. Corson, 1849; James B. Simcoke, 1851; John McConnell, 1852; James L. Worden, 1853; E. R. Wilson, 1854; W. G. Spencer, 1855; William Smith, 1857; J. H. Shell, 1858; W. S. Smith, 1860; James H. Shell, 1862. Two now—common pleas and circuit court—B. F. Brough, common pleas; Joseph W. Dailey,

circuit court, 1868; J. R. Bittenger, common pleas, 1872; J. W. Dailey, circuit court, 1874; common pleas abolished; Joshua Bishop, circuit court, 1876; L. I. Baker, 1878; John T. France, 1880; E. G. Vaughn, 1884; Richard Hartford, 1888; George T. Whitaker, 1890; Richard Hartford, 1892; David E. Smith, 1896; John C. Moran, 1900; Henry B. Heller, 1906.

County Sheriffs.—David McKnight, 1836; Zachariah Smith, 1836; Alvin Randall, 1840; Alexander Fleming, 1842; James B. Simcoke, 1846; John N. Little, 1848; David McDonald, 1850; Jacob King, 1854; David McDonald, 1856; George Frank, 1858; Jacob Stults, 1862; James Stoops, Jr., 1866; David King, 1870; E. P. Stoops, 1874; Henry Krick, 1878; Michael McGriff, 1882; Perry A. Lewton, 1886 (died in office); L. W. Lewton filled out the term from 1889; Mark M. McConnell, 1890; Samuel Doak, 1892; Peter P. Ashbaucher, 1894; Dan N. Erwin, 1898; Albert A. Butler, 1902; Eli Myers, 1906.

County Surveyors.—P. N. Collins, 1852; E. W. Reed, 1858; H. Hart, 1859; C. F. Stauffer, 1860; H. C. Peterson, 1868; Harry B. Knoff, 1870; Gabriel F. Kintz, 1874; James T. Simcoke, 1882; John W. Tyndall, 1886; William E. Fulk, 1894; George McKean, 1900; Levi L. Baumgartner, 1904.

County Coroners.—Jonas Pence, 1836; John W. Cooley, 1837; Enos M. Butler, 1838; Daniel Weimer, 1839; James Niblick, 1840; William Elzey, 1844; Jacob King, 1846; Jesse Niblick, 1848; Thomas W. Andrews, 1850; Charles Gorsline, 1852; Levi Ewing, 1853; Cornelius B. Lemaster, 1854; Levi Ewing, 1856; John King, Jr., 1859; D. D. Barnhart, 1860; William D. Baker, 1868; John E. Smith, 1870; S. C. Bolman,



1874; J. E. Smith, 1876; A. B. Tullis, 1878; J. E. Smith, 1880; C. A. Jelleff, 1886; O. T. May, 1890; C. S. Clark, 1894; C. H. Schenck, 1902; J. S. Falk, 1904; J. C. Grandstaff, 1906.

County Treasurers—Jeremiah Roe, 1836; John Reynolds, 1836; James Crabbs, 1841; Samuel S. Mickle, 1847; James B. Simcoke, 1848; John Crawford, 1852; David Showers, 1856; Charles L. Schermeyer, 1860; Jesse Niblick, 1864; John Meibers, 1868; John Dirkson, 1872; Anthony Holthouse, 1876; Robert D. Patterson, 1880; Andrew Gottschalk, 1884; Perry Robison, 1888; Daniel P. Bolds, 1892; Jonas Neuenschwander, 1896; J. H. Voglewede, 1900; John F. Lachot, 1904.

County Recorders.—Samuel L. Rugg, 1841; Oliver T. Hart, 1848; William J. Adlesperger, 1858; M. V. B. Simcoke, 1866; J. J. Chubb, 1870; John Schurger, 1874; A. McW. Boilman, 1882; William Baughman, 1890; Harvey H. Harruff, 1894; Thomas M. Gallogley, 1898; Clinton C. Cloud, 1902; Harvey Steele, 1906.

County Clerks.—Samuel L. Rugg, 1836; Samuel S. Mickle, 1854; James B. Simcoke, 1855; John McConnell, 1863; A. J. Hill, 1875; Norval Blackburn, 1878; J. D. Hale, 1882; John H. Lenhart, 1890; Elmer Johnson, 1898; David Gerber, 1902; James P. Haefling, 1906.

Land Appraisers.—George Frank, 1863; Andrew Barkley, 1869; Ferdinand Reinking, 1875. Office abolished.

County Auditors.—George A. Dent, 1841; William Trout, 1845; John McConnell, 1850; William G. Spencer, 1859; Seymour Worden, 1867; Godfry Christen, 1875; Lewis C. Miller, 1882; W. H. H. Fran., 1895 (died in office), Irvin Brandy-

berry filled out the term to 1896; Noah Mangold, 1896; Abe A. Boch, 1900; Carey D. Lewton, 1904.

County Commissioners.—John S. Rhea, 1836-37; Samuel Smith, 1836-37; William Heath, 1836-38; Philip Everman, 1836-38; I. D. Sinison, 1838-39; Esaias Dailey, 1839-40; George A. Dent, 1840-41; William Vance, 1840-43; B. J. Britton, 1841-42; John Lenhart, 1842-43; James Coffee, 1843-45; John McConnell, 1844-46; George Caskey, 1845-47; George Heath, 1846-48; Isaac Wheeler, 1847-49; Andrew Daugherty, 1848-50; M. F. Burkhead, 1849-51; Charles Nelson, 1850-51; George Heath, 1851-53; Jonathan Kelly, 1853-55; Conrad Reinking, 1854-64; Joseph R. Miller, 1855-59; David Aber, 1856-57; Josiah Crawford, 1857-74; M. F. Burkhead, 1861-64; Jacob Sarff, 1864-68; George W. Luckey, 1868-74; George Frank, 1870-75; Joseph Spuller, 1874-78 (died in office); John Rupright, 1880-86; Benjamin Runyon, 1874-80; Leander Dunbar, 1880-86; Daniel Weldy, 1876-82; Jacob Yager, 1882-88; George Pontius, 1886-89; Henry Fueling, 1886-92; Henry Stacy, 1889-92; Conrad Brake, 1888-94; J. H. Hobrock, 1892-95; Samuel Fetters, 1892-95; David Eckrote, 1894-97; J. E. Mann, 1896-1902; Samuel Doak, 1896-1902; Frederick Reppert, 1898-1902; Jacob Abnett, 1900-04 (died in office); Martin Laughlin, 1904; David Werling, 1902; William Miller, 1906.

The first boards of commissioners had much less business to transact and the attorneys in that day with the spirit of the times would present some legal documents that were to the point, perhaps, but they were "wonders" to behold from a legal point of view. The following petition for the ap-



ment of county assessor will perhaps explain itself:

"To the Honorable Board of Adams County Commissioners, Greeting:

"Your humble petitioner, John Curtis, of said county, prays your honors that he may be appointed assessor to assess the county the present season, which he proposes to do for ninety cents per day, all of which is respectfully submitted. Your petitioner deems it highly necessary at this time to apprise your honors why he should be appointed in preference to those other boys that are likewise aspirants for the same high and honorable office. He is a man of about the highest standing in northern Indiana, measuring precisely with a new pair of boots on, six feet three and a quarter inches. Now, your honors, are probably aware of the great advantage the county would derive by its being once assessed by a man of such high standing, and that would do it correctly and precisely right, so that it would be a precedent for all other persons in the same office to be governed by. And, besides, would it not be a case of some pride to our citizens to have it said their county was once assessed a little the slickest of any in the state? Besides likewise (but I scorn to boast of myself), just let old Diek speak once. The horse I am going to ride is a smasher. It is probably enough for me to say of him that he is the same identical horse once owned by Simeon Rogers, Esq., that outrun the horse-thieves and the rest of the horses found out it was no use to run. It's no use, he is one of the best-made horses for said purpose in Indiana. And I defy any man to make one half so good. For besides being very speedy on the level, smooth road, he is a little hip-

shot, which makes him jump the brush, roots and log heaps to a fraction. Besides being a little hipshot, at his twitching he always unwinds my legs from behind or around the saplings in the woods. Now said horse will slip his bridle and won't stand tied or hitched nohow; so that I cannot set and talk long and it will be an utter impossibility for it to take me half so long as the rest of them gabbering boys. Your petitioner believing that your honors will ever look to the interest of your county, therefore, he will ever pray. JOHN CURTIS."

Surely no board of commissioneress could have the hard-heartedness to disregard such a petition, especially when it presents so many law points as this one does.

Judges of Circuit and Common Pleas Courts.—The record is not complete of these elections because the districts comprised several counties. However, some of the first of record in Adams county are: E. A. McMahan, 1852, circuit court; James W. Borden, 1852, common pleas; Joseph S. France, 1859, common pleas; Robert Lowery, 1870, circuit court; David Studabaker, 1868, common pleas, Adams, Allen, Huntington and Wells; J. M. Haynes, common pleas, 1869; J. R. Bobo, 1876-89, circuit court; D. D. Heller, 1889-1900, circuit court; R. K. Erwin, 1900-06, circuit court; J. T. Merryman, 1906, circuit court (term begins November 23, 1907).

County Assessors.—The county assessors began with A. J. Porter, 1892; Elias Christ, 1896; George W. Gentis, 1906.

County Council-at-Large.—For 1900, Frank Heimann, Samuel Soldner, William Holle, Andrew Holmes, Abel J. Hawk, Nathan Ehrman; for 1902, William Holle,



Frank Heimann, Samuel Soldner; for 1906, Ezra E. Zimmerman, Andrew Briggs and Frank Wechter.

County Council.—For 1900-02, David Steele, H. H. Myers, Peter Soldner and John Cramer; for 1906, Herman Reinking, Mathias Kirsch, William Baumgartner and John O. Kraner.

State Representatives.—Where two, as joint and separate, names appear they are given the same date. William Vance, 1836; N. B. Hawkins, 1840; R. S. Tisdale, 1841; Elisha E. Parret, 1842; Samuel S. Mickle, 1843; Robert Huey, 1844; S. S. Mickle, 1845; John Deam, 1846; David McDonald, 1847; S. S. Mickle, 1848; Berket M. Elkins, 1850; John Crawford, 1851; W. G. Spencer, 1852; David Studabaker, 1855; Jonathan Kelly, 1859; P. N. Collins, 1861; James R. Bobo, 1867; George McDowel, 1871; John McConnell, 1873; A. N. Martin, 1875; D. J. Spencer, 1877; J. S. Daily, 1879; D. F. Kain and David Baker, 1881; Levi Mock, 1883-85; David Eley, 1883-87; S. F. McGovney, 1884-90; Elisha Pierce, 1886-90; Samuel S. Selvey, 1886-88; J. Bransteter, 1890-92; W. H. Harkins, 1892-94; R. K. Erwin, 1890-94; J. T. Kelley, 1894-98; J. P. McGeath, 1894-98; Henry Krick, 1898-1900; Henry Dirkson, 1900-04; J. W. Vizard, 1904-08.

State Senators.—Since Adams county has never been a separate senatorial district, but has been joined with the contiguous counties, most of its senators lived at the time of their election in adjoining counties. W. Rockhill, 1844; Franklin P. Randall, 1847; Samuel L. Rugg, 1854; David Studabaker, 1858; George Brau, 1862; Robert Huey, 1865; Ocbmeg Byrd, 1868; James R. Bobo, 1869; John D. Sarninghausen, 1872; Myrom

M. Gleason, 1882; Silas W. Hale, 1886; Harry B. Smith, 1890; Jesse M. LaFollette, 1894; William C. Ryan, 1898; John W. Tyndall, 1904.

County Superintendents.—The county superintendent law came into effect in 1873, and for the school examiners who preceded the county superintendents, as herein given, you are referred to "Early Schools and Tteachers," in this volume. Daniel D. Heller was the last school examiner. An act of the legislature changed the examiners then in office to superintendents. D. D. Heller, 1873-75, resigned; William M. Walters, 1875-79; G. W. A. Luckey, 1879-83; J. F. Snow, 1883-97; Irvin Brandyberry, 1897-1906, resigned January 10; Lawrence Opliger, 1906, January 15th.

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### SAMUEL L. RUGG.

The present city of Decatur owes more credit and respectful notice to the memory of Samuel L. Rugg than it has ever made an effort to pay him. The day may come when his bronze statue will occupy a corner of the public square. He was the founder of Decatur. Its early interests were his. He passed his early life here amid the privations of a backwoods village. Decatur in 1860 was not larger than the Pleasant Mills of today. Then Mr. Rugg left it never more to return as a resident. In 1854 he was elected to the state senate and his long and varied work in the management of county business well qualified him to suggest needed legislation in the many lines of town and county affairs. In 1858 he removed to Allen county and was soon elected superintendent of pub-



lic instruction of Indiana and later moved to the state capital. He was a man of fine bearing, great intelligence and was a natural organizer, who was usually able to lead in the right direction toward public improvements. His early training was such as would encourage that trait in his disposition. His father died when he was a mere child. His parents lived in Waterville, New York, and had planned for him a college education, but now it was not a matter of choice, but of necessity that he assist in the care of the family. His mother, a widow with several children, needed his labor to help feed and clothe them. Employment was found for Samuel in the village blacksmith shop. Here he worked and developed that manhood that can't be understood when read from books. He became practical in his ideas and estimates of conditions. He met men, learned their ways and what was expected of him in business affairs. His employers were prompt and required promptness of their employes, of which there were several besides himself. He in this manner learned that an hour in the morning is worth half the afternoon in life. As he worked and studied business methods he learned the management of men in keeping accounts and time rolls, but with an aspiring disposition, he most desired that he might some day manage a business of his own. When about twenty years of age he joined the tide of emigration westward and came to Cincinnati and had no trouble in finding employment in a large cotton mill, at first in manufacturing thread, but his mechanical skill and his ability to successfully direct the action of others soon placed him in the line of promotion. His wages were increased as he was promoted to shipping clerk and he steadily ad-

vanced in the confidence of his employers, at the same time gaining for himself a vast amount of new business ideas. After five years' close attention to the duties of his position he was married to an estimable young lady acquaintance. His life could not have been happier. A permanent position at good pay, excellent health, a cheerful companion. In 1831 a daughter came to add a charm to their cheerful home. Life's pathway seemed strewn with flowers. A clear, bright and hopeful future lay before him. His little child sickened and died. In a very few short months its mother followed her to the grave. This sad loss drove hope away; turned his bright future to a barren desert. In his heart he wondered why life in him still lingered on. He resolved to leave the scenes of mental desolation and go away back to the borders of civilization. With that idea in mind he packed his small leather trunk with what few articles he wished to keep, took his chest of tools and went by canal to Piqua, Ohio, bought an ox team, made a stone boat of plank and started down the Piqua road to Fort Wayne, then the only town in this region. In the summer of 1833 he entered lands in what now is Adams county, a part of which subsequently became a part of Decatur. In Root township (Allen county then) a few years later he married Susan Ball, a daughter of one of the earliest residents. To them were born four children: J. Kirkland, DeWitt Clinton, Julius and Cornelia. These were a part of his family when in Decatur. This wife died in 1845 and in 1847 he married a third wife, Catherine Biggs, who lived but six years after her marriage. To them were born three children, only one of whom lived to maturity. Jay grew to manhood and be-



came a soldier in the late rebellion. To the liberal hand of Samuel L. Rugg many organizations and industries of Decatur owe a lasting remembrance. Through his untiring effort the old plank road from Fort Wayne to Saint Mary's left the straight and graded roadway up the Piqua line to pass through Decatur, then his new town. Before it came no business thrived or trade of any consequence left the Piqua road. In this enterprise Mr. Rugg sank hundreds of dollars and was financially crippled from its results. He built the first steam saw mill in the county and furnished the lumber for a number of miles of the plank road in 1852-3 in order that it pass through Decatur. To four of the principal churches in Decatur he donated their church lots. Do they ever mention the name of Samuel L. Rugg? When Mr. Rugg entered these lands in 1833 and petitioned that a new township be made in Allen county he saw a future county. When in 1835 he petitioned the state legislature for a separate county he saw a prospective county seat on the lands he had entered. When his county seat was established he saw an exercise of power, an action he more coveted than the money received in all his office-holding or from the town lots sold. Yet that power was all for public good; not his own aggrandizement. He went to the senate in 1854 and a more diligent member could not be found in the general assembly. Many of the state laws on town and county matters date from the fifties. It has been truly said that oftentimes the most thoroughly

educated men are not the most practical in public service. It is equally true that many who have not enjoyed extensive school training have executive ability in a high degree and are natural leaders of men.

Mr. Rugg was a thorough business man, a skillful accountant, a man of legal knowledge and one who was not afraid to perform the duties required of him. When a state public officer his plans for the collection and distribution of the revenues for tuition show him to have been an economist of rare merit. Much of the interest on congressional funds had not been accounted for, and he at once began legal proceedings against the delinquent officers of the various counties and secured many thousands of dollars which rightfully were intended to educate the youth of the state. Here he again shows his desire to control, not wealth, but what money will buy, the education of the country's children. After retiring from office he took up his residence at Huntsville, Alabama, and while visiting a son at Nashville, Tennessee, died a poor man at the age of sixty-five years and seven months, on the 28th of March, 1871. A marble monument in the old cemetery at Decatur, his old home, marks the last resting place of one of the ablest and best of Adams county's citizens.

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What is written  
 Shall remain;  
 Ne'er be erased  
 Or written o'er again.



## BIOGRAPHICAL

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### HON. DAVID STUDABAKER.

When the Hon. David Studabaker died it seemed that the death angel had entered every home in Adams county and an entire community mourned and was plunged in gloom. The prominent and obscure; the rich and poor; the intimate friend and the casual acquaintance, felt that something had gone from their lives that might never be replaced. The business world of northeastern Indiana suffered an irreparable loss and the bar an accomplished advocate and a fearless and just judge.

Judge Studabaker was born at Fort Recovery, Ohio, August 12, 1827. At eight years of age he was taken by his parents to Adams county and his father died when he was but thirteen. He was the eldest of his father's family and attended the first school taught in Wells county. This was a subscription school taught by an Irish schoolmaster. The building was rough with puncheon floor. The windows were mere cut-outs, covered with greased paper, and the benches were hewed from logs and without backs. He studied in this rude school for some time and then spent one term in a high school near Greenville, Ohio. He also attended the Jay County Seminary, near Portland. He also taught in the schools of Wells and Adams counties and became an ardent scholar and a persistent one. About this time he decided to take up the study of law and to make the law his life

profession. To this end he entered the office of Judge Jere Haines and soon mastered the technicalities of the study. He applied for admission to the Adams county courts and passed a creditable examination. He was admitted to practice and at once began the work that made him famous and one of the most accomplished men in the profession in the state.

Judge Studabaker was admitted to practice in June, 1852, and for more than thirty years he was a leader of his profession. In the course of his practice he was associated with James R. Bobo and John P. Quinn, both of whom studied in his office, and both of whom are dead. In the same year in which he began practicing Judge Studabaker was elected prosecuting attorney of the district composed of Adams and Allen counties. He served in this capacity for two years and was then chosen a representative to the state legislature from the former county. He served in the session of 1854 and was re-elected for the session of 1856. His political service was admirable and entirely to the satisfaction of his constituents. In 1858 they again called upon Judge Studabaker to represent their interests in the state's lawmaking body and returned him to Indianapolis as the senator for the joint counties of Adams, Jay and Wells. He served in the upper house with distinction, and after the close of the session returned to Decatur and resumed the practice of his profession. He was elected judge



of the common pleas court for the circuit composed of Adams, Allen, Huntington and Wells counties. Throughout his tenure of office as judge of this district he added much to his prestige as a member of his profession. He proved himself a most excellent judge. His knowledge of the law was profound, and his administering of the ends of justice was tempered with moderation and with consideration. The attorneys who practiced in his court found in him a man who was eminently fair and courteous and he filled the office to which he had been chosen with dignity and to his lasting credit. During his incumbency many important cases came before him for adjudication and in each case he displayed a wide range of learning and a keen desire to decide the issue with regard to the facts presented without prejudice.

In addition to his arduous duties as judge and as a practicing attorney the busy brain of Judge Studabaker was concerned with many other things. He was engaged in many lines of business and was a prominent figure in all movements that were destined to promote the commercial interests of Decatur and Adams county. He dealt extensively in real estate and owned much of it in various sections of the country. He became the wealthiest citizen of his community and owned at his death large interests in producing oil property and bank stock. In 1869 he was one of the promoters of the Fort Wayne & Richmond Railway that later became the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railway and finally passed into the control of the Pennsylvania Railroad. He was a member of the first board of directors of this road and retained this position until his death. He was a director in a number of banks--

the Old Adams County Bank, of which he was a stockholder and one of its founders, serving as vice president and later president when the bank became incorporated at a state bank; the Bankers' National Bank, of Chicago; the First National Bank, of Marion, Indiana; the Bank of Geneva and the Bank of Berne, and the First National of Fort Wayne, and the Bank of Wren, Ohio.

Judge Studabaker was twice married. His first marriage occurred October 26, 1854, when he was united to Miss Harriet Eyans, a daughter of the Hon. John K. Evans, a prominent figure in the state's history. Mrs. Studabaker died June 7, 1891. One son of this marriage, John E. Studabaker, died May 2, 1869. The surviving children are: Mary, wife of John Niblick, of Decatur; Mrs. Lizzie Morrison, of Decatur; Miss Hattie Studabaker, of Decatur; Mrs. W. J. Vesey, of Fort Wayne, and David E. Studabaker, of Decatur. Judge Studabaker was married for the second time in June, 1895, to Mrs. Jennie Phelps, who survives him.

After a busy, useful and distinguished life, extending over the allotted span, Judge Studabaker died on the evening of May 3, 1904. His death followed an illness of but two weeks' duration and was due to a complication of causes. He contracted a cold while visiting a farm he owned and he was stricken as the result. He was kept alive through the use of stimulants for several days and retained his consciousness until within a few hours of his death. With his passing Decatur and the entire northeastern section of the state suffered a distinct loss. This loss was voiced feelingly in a comment appearing in the Decatur Democrat. It follows:

"In the death of Judge David Studabaker



a worthy and honored citizen has lived his allotted time and passed to the great beyond. During his long life, covering a period of three score years and ten, we look back upon a busy, useful and active career, in which he rose from a self-educated boy to a school teacher, then a law student, lawyer, judge, banker, and in later years has been as busy and as energetic in the control and management of his many and varied personal interests. All of these he managed and directed to the last days of his last illness, and he died honored and respected to the highest degree. Such a life is worthy of the ambition that is rife in the mad rush of progress, and its simulation should be a high ideal among the youth who are striving to win laurels in the days and years to come. Judge Studabaker's public and private life is an open book, and upon its pages are written many good deeds of charity and encouragement. Public-spirited, kind and observant, his counsel and advice will be severely missed, but, thanks to the seed that has been sown, Judge Studabaker will live for many and many years to come."

The funeral of Judge Studabaker was a most impressive function. It was participated in by the entire city of Decatur. During the hours when the cortege wound its way through the city streets and services were held at the church, the home and the grave, all business in Decatur was suspended. Representatives of the banks of Fort Wayne, Chicago, Bluffton, Huntington, Geneva, Berne and other places in which Judge Studabaker had interests, were present and many other interests paid last and touching tributes. For two days the body of the aged jurist laid in state at his home surrounded by many beautiful emblems and

crowds viewed it. Intimate friends and strangers, rich and poor, gazed on the features of a dead friend and sympathetic counselor. The services were conducted by the Rev. W. H. Daniel, assisted by the Rev. W. E. McCarty. A choir of twenty voices rendered favorite hymns of Judge Studabaker and the services were concluded by the solemn rites of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The funeral procession was over a mile in length and was headed by the Odd Fellows and the members of the Adams County Bar Association. The pall-bearers were: Judge James T. Merryman, T. H. Ernst, J. H. Stone, A. Van Camp, Henry Hite, M. F. Rice, John S. Falk and R. D. Patterson. The honorary pall-bearers were: George Pixley and B. W. Pixley, of Fort Wayne; Dr. Reasoner, president of the First National Bank of Marion, Indiana; Judge Dailey, of Bluffton; Judge O'Rourke, of Fort Wayne; R. B. Allison, of Decatur, and Judge D. D. Heller and Judge R. K. Erwin, of Decatur. Resolutions of regret and sympathy were passed by the Decatur Commercial Club and by the Fort Wayne Trust Company at a meeting of the board of directors of these institutions.

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#### LEW G. ELLINGHAM.

Lew G. Ellingham, editor and publisher of the Daily and Weekly Democrat, at Decatur, is comparatively a young man, but has had much experience in his line. His parents were Charles and Hannah (Scotton) Ellingham, natives of England, who came to America in early life. They were married at Huntington, Indiana, and settled on a



tract of land in Wells county, which they improved and added thereto until the farm comprised more than two hundred acres. When they were well advanced in years and had accumulated a competency they retired and spent their remaining years as residents of Bluffton, Indiana. They were the parents of seven children, of whom six are still living.

The subject of this sketch was educated in the schools at Bluffton, whither the family removed when he was six years old. When a boy he worked in the office of the Bluffton Banner. At the age of nineteen he purchased the Geneva Herald and during the four years he published the same he had many valuable experiences which proved profitable. In 1891 he sold the Herald and purchased the Winchester Democrat, which he conducted for three years. Subsequently disposing of this, he removed to Decatur and formed a stock company which founded the Decatur Democratic Press, of which Mr. Ellingham was editor. Shortly after founding this paper the company purchased the subscription list and good will of the Democratic World and in August, 1896, purchased the Decatur Democrat, thus consolidating the home papers and publishing the same under the name of the Decatur Democrat. In July, 1897, the subject of this sketch purchased the entire stock of the company and became sole proprietor. In January, 1903, he founded the Daily Democrat, which was the second daily published in Adams county. In July, 1906, he purchased the daily edition of the Decatur Journal and consolidated it with the Daily Democrat, which is now the only daily paper published in Adams county. It is a seven-column, four-page paper and has a circulation of more than three thousand.

The weekly edition is a six-column, eight-page paper and has a larger circulation than that of any of its competitors. These papers are staunch supporters of the Democratic party, and Mr. Ellingham devotes his entire time and attention to the publication of same.

On January 2, 1895, Mr. Ellingham married Miss Nellie Miller, the daughter of Colonel M. B. Miller, of Winchester, and they are the parents of two children—Winifred and Miller. Mr. and Mrs. Ellingham are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Fraternaly Mr. Ellingham belongs to the Masons, Knights of Pythias and Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

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#### ADAM J. BIENZ.

Adam J. Bienz, who owns one hundred acres of choice land in section 8, in Union township, Adams county, Indiana, which he maintains at the highest standard of excellence, is a native of Willshire township, Van Wert county, Ohio, where he was born on October 26, 1859. His parents were Jacob and Elizabeth (Pfleger) Bienz, the father a native of Germany, and the mother of Ohio. They are still residents of Van Wert county and are the parents of eight children: Louis, Margaret, George, Adam J., Frederick, Mary, Anna and Emma.

The subject of this sketch, who was the fourth child in order of birth, was reared on his father's farm in Ohio, where he made his home until his marriage, after which he worked on his father's farm on the shares for three years. At the age of eighteen he commenced to learn the carpenter's trade, which he followed for several years. Car-



pening and farming have been his principal occupations throughout life. Eventually, in 1892, he moved from Van Wert county, Ohio, to Adams county, Indiana, and located on the farm which he now occupies. He has erected a number of neat and substantial buildings and has otherwise improved the place so that it is now considered one of the choice farms of the locality. Mr. Bienz has been married three times. His first wife was Pauline German, by whom he had one child, Minnie. This wife died in Willshire township, Van Wert county, Ohio, at the age of twenty-seven, and Mr. Bienz subsequently married Christina Reinking, the daughter of Ferdinand Reinking. To this marriage was also born one child, Paula. Mrs. Christina Bienz died at the age of thirty-one, and on May 14, 1900, Mr. Bienz married Miss Matilda Bleeke, a native of Union township, who was born on May 29, 1874, and was the daughter of Christian and Mary (Rupp) Bleeke. Her parents are both now deceased, the father dying at the age of seventy-eight and the mother at sixty-five years old. They were the parents of ten children, of whom Mrs. Bienz was the ninth child in order of birth. To the subject and his wife have been born three children: Erwin C. F., Amalie A. E., and Martin G. The entire family are members of the Emanuel Lutheran church.

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#### WILLIAM F. REINKING.

William F. Reinking, whose farm of eighty acres in section 17, in Union township, Adams county, Indiana, is among the

most productive and valuable in the locality, was born in Preble township, Adams county, on July 21, 1855. His parents were Conrad and Mary (Christianer) Reinking and of their nine children the subject was fourth in order of birth.

He was reared in Preble township and remained under the parental roof until attaining majority, shortly after which he located on the farm where he now resides. It comprises eighty acres of choice land, seventy acres of which are under the plow and which are devoted to all crops common to this locality. He has erected substantial buildings and the place is well improved otherwise.

On April 21, 1878, Mr. Reinking married Miss Louise Bleeke, who was born in Union township on March 4, 1858, the daughter of Frederick and Mary (Bievelheimer) Bleeke, and to this union were born eight children: Gustav C. F., Alvine M. L., the wife of Henry Eix; Lizzie C. M., the wife of Edward Lahrman; Edwin W. H., Reinhard H., George E., Blandine C., Hugo M. Mr. and Mrs. Reinking are members of the Emanuel Lutheran church and take an active interest in the official and social organizations connected with that church

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#### PHILIP L. ANDREWS.

Philip L. Andrews, editor and business manager of the Decatur Journal, is a native of this county, having been born on December 16, 1859, and is the son of Robert N. and Sophia (Bolinger) Andrews. Mr. Andrews was reared on the paternal farmstead and attended the common schools of Adams



county. He subsequently supplemented this schooling by attendance at Lebanon, Ohio, and Portland, Indiana, and during the following ten years was engaged in school teaching. He read law and was admitted to the bar, but finding this calling not to his liking, he withdrew from the profession after about two years, and in 1897 he was appointed postmaster at Decatur under President McKinley, which position he filled satisfactorily for four years and six months. He went to Missouri at the expiration of his term and engaged there in the manufacture of staves and shingles. Subsequently he returned to Decatur and has since been identified with journalism in the capacity of editor and business manager of the Decatur Journal. This paper, which was founded in 1876, is an eight-page, seven-column weekly and has been the only paper advocating and supporting the Republican party in Adams county. It enjoys a wide circulation and contains all the current events. Mr. Andrews has always been an active member of the Republican party and takes a deep interest in the general welfare of the community.

On April 8, 1905; he married Miss Laura Marker, who died very suddenly on the 21st of October, 1906. Fraternaly Mr. Andrews is a Mason, being a past master of Decatur Lodge, No. 751, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and past high priest of Decatur Chapter, No. 112, Royal Arch Masons.

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#### WILLIAM P. BARKLEY.

William P. Barkley, one of the successful farmers of Union township, Adams county,

Indiana, is a native Hoosier, having been born in the township where he now resides on the 2d day of February, 1870. He is the son of Elias and Mary (Clam) Barkley, respected and honored early settlers of Union township, the father now deceased, having died in his seventy-second year. The mother is living in Allen county. They were the parents of seven children, five sons and two daughters, of whom the subject of this sketch was fifth in order of birth.

He received his education in the common schools of Union township and has always applied himself to agricultural pursuits, in which he has been successful to a satisfactory degree. He is the owner of sixty acres of as good land as can be found in the township and takes pride in the calling to which he has applied himself. His farm is adorned with a number of neat and substantial buildings and the place is characterized by well-kept fences, up-to-date agricultural implements and other evidences which indicate the owner to be a man of good judgment and splendid ideas. Mr. Barkley is a staunch and enthusiastic Democrat in politics and has always taken a deep interest in the welfare of his township, and has held the office of constable. With his wife Mr. Barkley is affiliated with the United Brethren church.

In Van Wert county, Ohio, on September 2, 1893, Mr. Barkley married Miss Ocie Miller, a native of that county, a daughter of William and Margaret Miller. They are the parents of two children: Ransom E. and Alonzo F. Mr. Barkley has endeavored to so live as to merit the respect of his fellow citizens and has at all times been considered among the leading representatives of his township.



## EDWARD C. BLEEKE.

Edward C. Bleeke, who owns a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres of land in Union township, this county, and who is justly numbered among the respected agriculturists of his locality, was born in the township where he now resides on the 5th of November, 1863. His parents were Frederick and Mary (Bevelheimer) Bleeke, the former of whom was born in Prussia and the latter in Pennsylvania. Coming to America at the age of ten years, Frederick Bleeke and his wife located in Adams county, where they were numbered among the early settlers, and here they remained until their deaths, he dying in his seventy-eighth year and she in her fifty-seventh. Their ten children were named as follows: William F.; Louisa, the wife of William F. Reinking; Caroline, the wife of John A. Ehrman; Christine, the wife of Henry Bischoff; Edward C.; Helena, the wife of Frank Lankenau; Mary, the wife of George Runge; Sophia, the wife of Herman Jaebker; Ferdinand, and a daughter, who died in infancy.

The subject of this sketch was reared under the parental roof and was early inured to the toil and hardships incident to farm life. He gained a fair education in the public schools and has been a close observer and wide reader throughout his life, so that today he is considered among the well read and intelligent men of his community. Farming has been his chief occupation and in this he has been eminently successful. He is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of the old homestead farm, on which has been erected a number of good buildings, and he has conducted the place in such a

manner as to bring it to a high standard of agricultural excellence.

In Union township, on October 6, 1888, Mr. Bleeke married Miss Pauline Thieme, who was born in Union township, the daughter of Godfrey and Amallea Thieme. To this union have been born six children: Herbert, Reinhold, who died at the age of four years; Ella, Edna, Victor and Herhold. This family are faithful and active members of the Emanuel Lutheran church and command the uniform respect of all with whom they come in contact.

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 WILLIAM SCHAMERLOH.

William Schamerloh, a respected and progressive citizen of Union township, Adams county, Indiana, was born in the township in which he lives on September 19, 1859, and was reared on the parental farmstead. He has always resided in this township and has merited the high position which he holds among his fellow citizens. He is the son of Christian and Caroline (Kruckeberger) Schamerloh.

William Schamerloh was educated in the German and public schools of his native township and remained at home until his marriage, April 12, 1885, when he engaged in farming for himself, and has been so engaged during the subsequent years. His place is well improved, contains one hundred and twenty acres and is considered among the choice farms of the township.

On April 12, 1885, he married Miss Anna Bienz, who was born in Willshire township, Van Wert county, Ohio, on March 20, 1866. To this union have been born



three children: Adolph C. J., Adelia E. A. and one who died in infancy. Mr. Schamerloh has taken an active interest in local public affairs and was a member of the Union township band for twelve years. He and his family are members of the Emanuel Lutheran church, in which organization he holds important offices. Mr. Schamerloh is a Democrat in politics.

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### JOSEPH S. LOWER.

Joseph S. Lower is a native of Tuscarawas county, Ohio, and was born October 2, 1843. He is a son of William and Catherine (Muma) Lower. Both of his parents were born in Virginia. William Lower was born in Brook county, Virginia, in 1814. His father was Samuel Lower, who moved to Ohio and settled in Defiance, where he died. William Lower came to Indiana and settled in Adams county in 1852. He brought his wife and family with him and purchased land in Union township. He was an earnest member of the United Brethren church and in 1870 was ordained and licensed a preacher of this denomination. He continued to farm and preach until his death. He was a fine example of a Christian man and was an eloquent preacher. He and his wife became the parents of the following eight children: Esther Ann, Catherine, Martha, Joseph, William, Ammistee, Margaret, Joshua, John W. and Sylvester, both of the latter being ministers of the gospel. Another child, the third in order of birth, died in infancy. William Lower died September 10, 1877, and his wife survived until 1899. He was a Republican in politics.

The youthful Joseph Lower was but a small child when he accompanied his parents from Ohio to Indiana. He was educated in the common schools of his neighborhood and among the wholesome influences of his father's home. He lived on the home farm until he became of age. By this time he had saved some of the money he had earned, and with this money he purchased a farm in Union township. He continued to live on this farm with the members of his own family until 1887, when he sold his land and purchased a farm in Root township, on which he is still residing.

The marriage of Joseph Lower and Miss Rebecca Jane Congelton was solemnized in Root township in 1867. Mrs. Lower is a daughter of Daniel and Anna (Nelson) Congelton, and was born in Adams county. Her parents came to Indiana and settled in Adams county in 1848 and purchased land. Her father died in 1854 and his wife in 1892. They were the parents of the following children: David, Rachael, Theodore, Jane, Elizabeth, Perry, Hiram, Rebecca, Winfield, Mary, Emily and Margaret. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lower are the parents of three children: Nora A., the wife of Frederick Linn; William, who married Dora Peterson, and Homer D., who married Ada Anshbold.

Mr. Lower is counted among the strong and substantial men of his township. He is in every sense of the term a good citizen and is prominent in all movements that have for their object the betterment of the condition of the county and the increase of its prosperity. He is a modern farmer and cultivates his fine tract of one hundred and sixty acres, and he has improved it until it has become one of the most attractive, most val-



able and productive farms in the entire township. He is a Republican so far as his political affiliations are concerned, but although a consistent member of this political party and an earnest worker for its victories, he has never aspired to public office. Like his father before him, he is an earnest Christian, and with his wife and the members of his family, is a supporter of the United Brethren church. He is a trustee of the church of this denomination in his neighborhood. He is everywhere respected and his advice and counsel are frequently sought on matters of the greatest importance. Mr. Lower and Miss Congelton were married by Rev. J. W. Wagoner.

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### JOHN HENDRICKS.

John Hendricks, who formerly was a successful farmer on section 3, Monroe township, but who is now living in the town of Monroe, Monroe township, was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, June 24, 1839. He is a son of Thomas and Lydda Hendricks. Thomas Hendricks was born in Harrison county, Ohio, on November 22, 1811, and Lydda Hendricks was born in the state of Maryland on October 12, 1812, and came with her parents to Ohio, when six years of age. Thomas and Lydda Hendricks were married in July, 1834. The subject's maternal grandfather, John Renecker, was born in Maryland, near the city of Baltimore, April 14, 1788, while his wife, Mary, was born in Maryland, April 9, 1790. They were among the early settlers of Ohio. The paternal grandfather was a native of Penn-

sylvania, born December 22, 1779, and his wife was born June 26, 1784. Thomas Hendricks died January 13, 1883, at the age of seventy-one years, and his wife on March 2, 1895, at the age of eighty-two. They were the parents of seven children, three boys and four girls, of whom the boys and one girl grew to maturity.

When the subject was nine years of age he accompanied his parents from Ohio to Van Buren county, Iowa, where they remained nearly five years, returning in the spring of 1853 to Henry county, Ohio. The young lad gained a great deal of pleasure from these trips, the return trip from Iowa being made largely by water by way of the Ohio to Cincinnati, and thence by canal from Delphus to Florida, Henry county, Ohio. After a short sojourn in that locality the family came by way of canal to Fort Wayne, Indiana. Subsequently the family located in Adams county, which at that time was but slightly improved, dense forests and swamps covering nearly all of the territory embraced within the present county lines. They located about one mile south and a quarter of a mile east of what was called Monroe, though it was but a dense wilderness. Here the family resided for a period of almost thirty-four years. The subject remained at home until attaining his majority and in the fall of 1860 went to Ottawa county, Ohio, where he obtained employment in a saw mill until the following spring, when he returned home, and during the following summer was employed on the farm. In the spring of 1862 he took employment at the carpenter's trade, but on August 9th of that year, upon the outbreak of the war of the Rebellion, he enlisted in Company H,



Eighty-ninth Indiana Infantry, in which he served during that terrible conflict, being engaged in all of the battles, skirmishes and marches in which his regiment participated. Among the most important of these may be mentioned Munfordville, Kentucky; Sherman's March to the Sea; Pleasant Hill, Louisiana; Bayou Lamare, Yellow Bayou, Tupelo, Mississippi; Nashville, Tennessee; Siege of Mobile, and the seven-hundred-mile march through Missouri, when Mr. Hendricks traveled with his regiment on foot two thousand three hundred and sixty-three miles, by steamer seven thousand one hundred and thirty-two miles and by rail one thousand two hundred and twelve miles. On August 8, 1865, Mr. Hendricks received an honorable discharge and returned to Adams county. From 1866 to 1896 Mr. Hendricks engaged in the cultivation of the soil on the old home farm, his original possession of eighty acres having been augmented by a subsequent purchase of thirty-five acres. Since 1896 Mr. Hendricks has, as stated at the opening of this sketch, resided in Monroe, where in peace and comfort he is spending the declining years of his life, rich in the regard and esteem of those who know him.

On August 19, 1866, Mr. Hendricks married Miss Margaret E. Ray, who was born in Harrison county, Ohio, on July 7, 1845, a daughter of George W. and Eleanor Ray. These parents came to Adams county, Indiana, in 1848 and with the exception of three years spent in Ottawa county, Ohio, lived here during the remainder of their lives, the father dying in November, 1860. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hendricks have been born four children: Levi N., James V., George A. and William A., all of whom at-

tained maturity and married. Levi N. died in August, 1902, at the age of thirty-five, leaving a wife and three children; James V. and George A. are living on the old home farm and William A. is engaged as a clerk in a general store in Monroe.

In January, 1896, Mr. Hendricks made a trip over the scenes of the old conflict in the southland, passing over many of the identical roads where as a boy in blue he endured the hardships and privations of the march in defense of Old Glory, his route being between Cincinnati, Ohio; Louisville, Kentucky; Nashville, Tennessee; Montgomery, Alabama; Americus, Georgia; Fitzgerald, Georgia; Macon, Georgia; Atlanta, Georgia; Chattanooga, Tennessee; Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge and Chickamauga. Two years later, in 1898, Mr. Hendricks went to Richmond, Virginia, to take a look at the old historic battle fields of that region. He attended several national encampments of the Grand Army of the Republic, including the ones at Indianapolis, Louisville and Cincinnati. Mr. Hendricks has taken an active personal interest in the welfare of his community and served as one of the committee which established the boundary line of the town of Monroe prior to its corporation, and also served as inspector at the first election held by that town in February, 1904. He also had the distinction, in 1905, of putting down the first cement sidewalk in the town, and since that year has continuously served as a member of the town council, and is now serving as president of the board. He is a member of Sam Henry Post, No. 63, Grand Army of the Republic, at Decatur, Indiana, and in politics is a Democrat. Religiously he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.



## ELI W. JOHNSON.

Eli W. Johnson, who is now successfully conducting a general store in Monroe, is a native of the Hoosier state, having been born in the same locality in which he now resides, on December 19, 1879. He is a son of Joseph P. and Emily (Walton) Johnson, the former of whom was a native of Ohio, coming to Indiana in an early day. They were the parents of six children: R. O., Lena, Eli W., subject of this sketch; Sylvester, Chester and Arden, all of whom are now living except the last named. The father of these children is still living at Monroe, having spent practically his entire life at farming, though in recent years he has engaged in the timber business, buying and selling vast quantities of this product. He is the owner of a splendid farm of one hundred and twenty acres in this county and is considered one of the leading and most progressive citizens of the county.

The subject of this sketch after attaining mature years spent three or four years in the southwestern states, principally Arizona and Old Mexico, where he was engaged in various employments. On returning to his native locality he established his present business, that of a general store, in which he has been successfully engaged ever since. He carries a large and complete line of all the commodities ordinarily carried in a store of this character and his dealings are characterized by the strictest integrity, commanding at all times the absolute confidence of all who have dealings with him. He is public-spirited and a deep thinker and exerts his influence in favor of all those things which go to the upbuilding of his community. He is also interested in other enterprises, own-

ing stock in a creamery and the bank at Monroe. Fraternally he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, No. 6840, of which he is now serving as clerk, and of Decatur Lodge, No. 15, Knights of Pythias. In politics he is a Republican.

The subject was united in marriage in April, 1907, to Miss Sadie Weldy, a native of Adams county, daughter of Christ Weldy, a retired farmer of Decatur.

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WILLIAM E. FULK.

The subject of this sketch is a native of Adams county, having first seen daylight on February 20, 1869, and therefore is yet in the prime of life. His father, William F. Fulk, is a native of Trumbull county, Ohio, and prior to his coming to this county was a prominent member of the constructional force of the Atlantic & Great Western Railroad (now a part of the Erie system), this capacity he creditably filled for several years, or until 1865, when he resigned, came west and bought the two-hundred-and-forty-acre farm which at this time is one of the finest in this county. Soon after coming here he met Miss Emma Sovine, a native of Adams county. They were married soon after and to this union were born six children. Three of whom still survive, as follows: William E. and John H., of Bluffton, Indiana, and Louis P., the youngest, who is a prominent drug clerk, employed with the drug firm of Smith, Yager & Fulk at Decatur, Indiana.

William E., the eldest, is familiar with the details and general management required in making a good farm out of a dense for-



est. Two brothers and a sister next to him died in infancy, therefore the bulk of the labor around the home and on the farm fell to him, and thus he did not have many of the opportunities of the boys of today. But all of this did not get the best of him, as he made good use of his time in various ways, which in later years have been a great credit to him. He mastered the common school course and on April 23, 1889, graduated, capturing the first prize awarded by John F. Snow, the county superintendent of public instruction. After which he successfully taught six terms in the public schools in one room at No. 6, Kirkland township, this county. He had a native talent for mechanics and under the careful instruction of his father, who was an able mechanic, he became not only a workman of ability, but also a first-class designer. At the close of the last term of school taught by him he was asked to become an aspirant for county surveyor. This he reluctantly consented to after much persuasion, and as a result of his efforts was elected and assumed the duties of this office on November 12, 1894, and became his own successor in 1896 and 1898 without opposition.

To him the residents of Adams county can well feel proud for the advanced values of their realty, and especially the farmer, since by careful engineering and push he succeeded in having constructed the Decatur and Bluffton macadam road, which is said to be not only the first, but one of the best macadam roads in northeastern Indiana.

Prior to 1894 there had been an attempt to improve the highway in Adams county by using gravel as an improved surfacing material, but after a few years of trials and enormous costs incurred by continual repair-

ing Mr. Fulk decided to make or attempt a radical departure in the subject of improving the highway with crushed stone or macadam. With various authors or their works in his library, and in contact with various United States Government officials at Washington, D. C., he set to work to create an improvement in the highways of Adams county. The results were so highly satisfactory that before the close of his official career he had over a quarter of a million dollars of the people's money invested in macadam roads, and as a further sanction of his efforts in improving the highways of the county as begun by him is evidenced by the fact that the county commissioners are continually loaded with petitions for macadam roads. Another vital interest that was projected by him during his career as county surveyor and which has placed greater values on farms located in the county was the conversion of open public or located drains into tile drains of large capacity, thereby removing an unsightly scar from farms, adding to their value many bushels of grain, and removing all the serious inconveniences attending the presence of an open ditch. His ability and knowledge of public improvements were honorably recognized by state and national officials, so much so that he has been commissioned by three ex-governors of the state of Indiana on request of the director of the bureau of highway and irrigation at Washington, D. C., to attend the sessions of the National Road and Irrigation Congress in various large cities of the union.

On December 11, 1900, Mr. Fulk was admitted to the bar as a person able to follow the profession of a lawyer. The Hon. D. D. Heller, then judge of the Adams circuit court, presided. He also acted in the capaci-



ty of city civil engineer for some time and on July 5, 1903, accepted the official capacity as superintendent of the water works at Decatur, Indiana, which position he still occupies. This office he hesitated to assume on account of the financial embarrassment of the plant, which was sadly crippled by bad management in some way or another, but on assuming the management of the same with a debt of several thousand dollars, by careful attention to business he has again placed the water works plant on a profitable basis.

On December 23, 1894, the subject of this sketch joined fortune with Miss Lydia E. Ashbaucher, third daughter of Christian and Malena Ashbaucher, residents of French township, Adams county, Indiana. To this union were born six children: Hubert C., deceased by an accident; Mary Irene, Raymond A., Christena A., Mabel E. and Carl W. He has always moved in the capacity of a public-spirited citizen, always in line for public improvements, bringing values to the highest marketable price so far as the general public is connected with progressive measures of a legitimate purpose. In politics he has always espoused the Democratic faith and has always remained faithful to the trust conferred upon him, being at all times a hard worker for the improvement of public conditions.

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#### HAZEL ANDREWS.

Among the earliest of the pioneers who came to Adams county when the country was the wildest sort of a wilderness, when the nearest trading post was

at Fort Wayne, and Indians and wild beasts contested the ownership of the land with the white men, was Lewis Andrews, father of the subject of this sketch. The elder Andrews came to Adams county in 1837 and located in Washington township. The trip was made from the east to Indiana by wagons, and the pioneer walked every step of the way. At the time of the arrival of the Andrews family in Adams county the land was in a primitive state. Dense woods covered almost every portion and the work of clearing a farm was one of the most arduous that had to be performed. But the indomitable spirit of the pioneer was not easily crushed, and in time the farm was cleared of its timber and a permanent home established. After years of labor Lewis Andrews found himself in possession of a fine estate, well cleared and improved and a fine heritage for the children that had been born to himself and his estimable wife. These children were nine in number and six are still living. Those living are: Martha, H. J., Hattie, James W., Addie and O. P.

H. J. Andrews was the fourth in point of birth of this interesting family. He spent his boyhood on his father's farm, and when he became old enough to take an active part in the operation of the farm he contributed to the work of clearing the broad acres and in improving the estate. His birth occurred March 17, 1866, and until a few years ago he lived on his parents' farm. He secured a more than ordinarily good education in the schools of his township and under the direction of his father learned the lessons that usually come to a farmer's son. In time he became a skillful farmer, possessing a keen appreciation of the value of modern methods and equipment. Some time after



the death of his father the old farm was sold and the family moved to Monroe, Monroe township, Adams county. For a time the subject continued in the business of farming and in 1902 established a livery business in Monroe. This business he has built up until it is successful and on a fine paying basis.

Mr. Andrews never married and lives with his aged mother in a pleasant home in Monroe. He, like his father before him, is a Republican in politics, but does not take an active part in party affairs. He has never been a candidate for official preferment. His mother is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

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#### FRED ROHRER.

It is doubtful that any representative of the younger portion of the present generation living in Adams county has gained more distinction of a desirable quality or has to a greater extent the entire esteem of his fellows than Fred Rohrer, the editor and publisher of the Berne Witness. As a citizen he has and does take an active interest in municipal and county affairs and as a man he lives to a very high standard. He is a patron of education and a firm believer in the principle of doing things heartily that will advance the commercial prosperity and the intellectual development of his community. He is one of the best-known newspaper men of northeastern Indiana and his paper wields a strong influence in shaping the policies of the district it covers. The success as a business venture with which

this paper has met and its prestige as a medium for the circulation of news and profound editorial thought are due in large measure to the energy, ability and fearlessness of its owner.

Fred Rohrer is a native of the Swiss republic. He was born near Berne, the capital of the republic, December 9, 1867. He is the second in point of birth of a family of fourteen children. He is a son of John Christian and Rosina Rohrer, both of whom are still living at Berne, in Adams county. His paternal grandfather was a weaver of linens in Switzerland and spent all of his life in that country. April 26, 1883, the family of John Christian Rohrer, consisting of his wife and six children, left their homes in the little Alpine republic and started for the larger republic on the west side of the Atlantic ocean. The journey was made without incident, and the family landed in safety at New York, May 9, 1883. They pushed westward and settled in Wayne county, Ohio, where they remained for two years. At the conclusion of this period the elder Rohrer decided to move to Indiana and accordingly he came to Adams county with his wife and four of his children. Two brothers, Fred and Ernest, remained a year longer in Wayne county, working for farmers on the Sonnenberg. They finally came to Adams county and settled with their parents April 2, 1886.

The early youth of Fred Rohrer was spent in Switzerland. When he was about three years of age his parents moved to the city of Berne. Fred attended the primary schools of Berne and when thirteen years of age passed the examination for admission to the school that corresponds here to a high school. He pursued the course in this insti-



tution and the last two years of his attendance took special work in the gymnasium and swimming school, anticipating entering the "pontonniers," a division of the Swiss army, after his graduation. He became a very skillful swimmer and on two occasions won the third and the second prizes offered for contestants in public swimming events.

After coming to his father's home in Adams county he supplemented his excellent preliminary education by a thorough four-years' course at the Tri-State Normal College at Angola, Indiana. His career at this institution was marked by academic successes. He was an earnest student and applied himself with energy and intelligence. He completed the scientific course at the normal college and in addition specialized in the fine arts, commercial department, shorthand and vocal and instrumental music. He was graduated "cum laude" with the class of '96 and left the institution with the best wishes of his professors and with high estimates for his future success. As the result of his final examination and all class work in the commercial department he received an average of 99 1-6 per cent., the second highest ever received at that school up to that time. The highest recorded was 99 1/2 per cent.

However, study was not the one incident of Fred Rohrer's early days in Adams county. He worked on a farm in this county for some months after he arrived and also clerked in the store of Allison, Morrow & Co. for eight months. Following this employment he worked some years for Sprunger, Lehman & Co. before he went to the normal college at Angola. There was one interruption to the school career of Mr. Rohrer. After he had been a student at An-

gola for two years he was persuaded by the Rev. John A. Sprunger to go to Chicago and engage in missionary work. He went to Chicago and attended the Moody Bible Institute until the spring of 1893. At this time Mr. Rohrer, in connection with the Rev. John Sprunger, Mrs. Sprunger, Miss Mary Gerber and Miss Katie Moser, founded the "Light and Hope Missionary Society." This society established a hospital, deaconess home and a rescue home at the intersection of Harrison and May streets. An orphanage was also established at Berne, Indiana. Mr. Rohrer was chosen secretary of the society and continued as such until October 31, 1893. He then returned to Berne, Indiana, and assumed charge of the orphanage and taught school. After some months in Berne following his marriage Mr. Rohrer again resumed his studies at Angola.

During the days that followed he gained the impetus that finally landed him in the newspaper business. During his last year at Angola he was employed in the composing room of the Steuben Republican and there learned the printer's trade. His idea after returning to Berne following his graduation from the normal school was to return to the missionary society and teach the children of the orphanage printing. However, since Berne was a town with a population of one thousand and without a paper, some of the citizens induced him to give Berne a "mouth-piece." Accordingly he established the Berne Witness. The first issue of this paper appeared September 3, 1896, and it has become a power in its community. The path of the newspaper publisher is far from a rosy one at best. The Witness had its troubles before it was firmly established. But Mr. Rohrer was a man whom it was diffi-



cult to discourage, and he kept at the business of publishing his paper until he assured himself that it was on a permanent and paying basis. The paper assisted in driving the saloon element out of Berne and Mr. Rohrer gained such distinction by his virile appeals to public pride and his adoption of a radical public policy that the Witness and the editor had the eyes of thousands upon them. He was assaulted three times and his home was dynamited during his crusade, but in the end was victorious and carried his remonstrances through the highest courts in the state and through the courts of public sentiment with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of his friends and the consternation of his enemies. He is a Republican in politics, but he does not allow party considerations to bias his view of the right course to pursue. He supports the man rather than the party and willingly votes for Prohibitionists or Democrats if the candidates of these parties seem preferable. He takes an active interest in temperance work and has been a member of the German Temperance Society of Berne since its organization in 1886. He is a consistent member of the Mennonite church and serves as its clerk and is also a teacher in the Sunday-school, and gives this denomination his hearty and substantial support.

The marriage of Mr. Rohrer and Miss Emma Reusser, who was a deaconess in the Chicago establishment of the Light and Hope Mission, occurred November 16, 1893. The wedding was celebrated in the house that is still their home. His wife is a daughter of Jacob Reusser, one of the three men who named the city of Berne. Mr. and Mrs. Rohrer are the parents of four children: Ira Dwight Rohrer, born Octo-

ber 18, 1894; Paul Frederick Rohrer, born July 4, 1897; Ruth Adina Rohrer, born January 28, 1901, and Margaret Helena Rohrer, born April 29, 1904.

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#### OTTO M. RYF.

Among the moulders of public opinion in Adams county, Indiana, the place occupied by Mr. O. M. Ryf is an enviable one. He is a young man, several years this side of thirty, but he is the proprietor of a paper that has become an established institution of his home county and is in every way progressive and aggressive. The owner of this paper, with whom this sketch is concerned, was born in Monroe township of Adams county, July 5, 1884. He is the son of Ferdinand and Lena (Kneuss) Ryf. His parents were born in the Swiss republic and after their marriage came to America. They settled in Berne, where the father began to follow his trade of shoemaker. He also opened a shore store and conducts this business today.

The subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth of nine children that have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Ryf. He received his education in the Berne schools and was a satisfactory student. After graduating from the schools he determined to enter the newspaper business. Nothing daunted by the history of the many failures that have come about through newspaper ventures, he secured a small plant and in 1903 published the first edition of "The Berne News." From its start his paper was popular and filled a need of the people of his city and county. Its success was assured and as it is managed along progressive and liberal lines



its success is in no jeopardy. An interesting fact in connection with the beginning of the paper and a fact that demonstrates the ability of its publisher is that within seven months of its beginning the paper had a circulation in Adams county of eight hundred copies. This circulation is growing in a healthy manner.

Mr. Ryf is developing into one of the strong men of the younger generation of Adams county. He takes an active and intelligent part in the affairs of his county and in the workings of the Democratic party, of which he is a member. His fraternal affiliations are with the Knights of Pythias, Berne Lodge, No. 398. He is a member of the German Reformed church.

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#### CHRIS STENGEL.

Chris Stengel is one of the successful business men and most highly respected citizens of Berne. Comparatively speaking, he is a newcomer to his home city and Adams county, but in the years he has been located in Berne he has firmly established himself. He was born in Dannenfels, Rheinphalz, Germany, December 13, 1865. His parents, Henry and Catherine Stengel, were natives of the fatherland and lived in their native village until their deaths. Their son lived with them during his childhood and early manhood and acquired a substantial education in the schools of his village. When he was about twenty-two years of age he was impressed with the greater opportunities offered in the American republic to young men. This thought took firm hold of him and in the end he decided to forsake his

fatherland and embark on a venture across the Atlantic. Accordingly, in 1887, he sailed for New York, which city he reached without incident. His first few months in this country were spent in the Atlantic seaboard metropolis. Then he considered that he would still better his fortunes by going westward. This he did, and established himself in Ashland county, Ohio. He lived in Ohio for the succeeding two and one-half years and then came to Indiana. He came directly to the Adams county village of Berne, where he entered the drug business with Mr. J. F. Lachot, who was already established. He continued in the partnership arrangement with Mr. Lachot until 1892, when he severed his connection with him and formed a partnership with James S. Craig. The new firm became known as Stengel & Craig, and in 1894 James S. Craig sold his interest to his son, John W. Craig, and this firm has since conducted the business.

In 1891 Mr. Stengel was married to Miss Millie E. Craig, a daughter of James S. Craig, his first associate in business. As a result of this marriage three children have come to brighten the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stengel. These children are: Auleta, Ernest and Charlotte.

From the inception of his present business venture it has proven highly successful. The store is one of the largest and best equipped in the county and carries between five thousand and six thousand dollars' worth of stock. Mr. Stengel is an able and enterprising business man and the firm's business continues to prosper. He takes a live interest in the affairs of his county and as a Democrat has served his fellow citizens in public offices. He served as a member of the town



board for two years and has been city clerk for seven years, his term beginning in 1901. He is an earnest member of the German Reformed church and with the members of his family contributes to the aims and ambitions of this denomination.

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### JOHN A. EHRMAN.

John A. Ehrman, a well-to-do citizen of Union township, Adams county, Indiana, was born on his father's farm in Van Wert county, Ohio, on July 5, 1856. His parents were Christian and Margaret (Bienz) Ehrman, the latter of whom died in 1860, at the early age of thirty-four. The father was a soldier in the Civil war and was killed at the battle of Gettysburg. They were the parents of four children: Emma, deceased; John A., Catherine, the wife of William Gove, of Plymouth, Indiana, and Lizzie, the wife of Martin Schumm.

The subject of this sketch, at the time of his mother's death and near the time of his father's entrance into the Union army, went to live with Charles Custer, in Root township, this county, where he remained until eight years of age, when he went to live with William Gerke, where he resided until his marriage. He was educated in the German Lutheran school of Root township and in the public schools, and has supplemented this education by a liberal course of reading and close observation of men and events. At the time of his marriage, in 1880, he settled in Allen county, Indiana, for one year and then removed to Decatur, where he engaged in the implement business for one year. At the end of that time, in the spring of 1884,

he settled on the farm where he now resides, to which he has devoted his attention with such success that he is now in a comparatively comfortable financial position. His eighty acres of land are well improved and produce all the crops common to this locality.

On April 3, 1880, Mr. Ehrman married Miss Caroline Bleeke, who was born in Union township, Adams county, on November 1, 1859, the daughter of Frederick and Mary (Bievelheimer) Bleeke, and third in order of birth in their family of ten children. Mr. and Mrs. Ehrman are the parents of nine living children: Rosa M., the wife of Ernest Gallmeir; Selma K. T., the wife of August Nahrwold; Nora C. L., the wife of Otto Hertz; Lawrence W., Lydia S., Mary P., Martin H. F., Edwin H. and Clemeans H. H. Mr. Ehrman has taken a deep interest in all local public affairs and has held the office of justice of the peace for three terms and is the present township assessor. He and his wife are members of the Emanuel Lutheran church, in which organization he has been a trustee for two years.

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### WILLIAM HOLLE.

William Holle, of Union township, is a native of the fatherland, having been born in Prussia, Germany, on November 11, 1848. His parents were Henry and Louise (Kettler) Holle, also natives of Prussia, who emigrated to America in 1857. They came at once to Adams county and for three years lived on rented land in Root township. In 1861 Mr. Holle purchased eighty acres of timber land, which he cleared and im-



proved and developed into one of the best farms of the locality. Here they lived until their deaths, the father dying August 8, 1897, at the age of seventy-eight years, and the mother in January, 1905, when upwards of eighty years of age. They were the parents of six children: William, Frederick, Engel, who died when about three years old; Louise, the wife of W. F. Bleeke; Sophia, the wife of Frederick Thieme, but who is now deceased, and Emma, the wife of Martin Bleeke.

The subject of this sketch was nine years of age when the family came to America and he spent his young manhood in Root township, this county, living with his father until 1875, when he settled on the farm where he now resides. He has devoted much of his attention to the cultivation of his farm, but during the past thirty years has given much attention to the sawmill business, in which he has been equally successful.

On September 19, 1875, Mr. Holle married Miss Sophia Bleeke, a daughter of Christian and Louise (Fahlsing) Bleeke, and to this union have been born ten children: Johanna, the wife of William Koldewey, but who died at Ft. Wayne, Indiana, on February 12, 1906; Martin, deceased; Henoeh, a minister at Omaha, Nebraska; Charles, who died at the age of four years; Justinus, Otto, Matilda, Ludella, Lucy and Lona. Mr. and Mrs. Holle are members of the Emanuel Lutheran church, in which he has been trustee, and when the church was erected he was president of the building committee, and thus was closely associated with this enterprise. He has many fine qualities of character and justly merits the high regard which is bestowed upon him by those who know

him. Mr. Holle owns one hundred and twenty acres of land in section 16, where he resides, and also owns a farm of one hundred acres in section 9, Union township.

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### JESSE RUPP.

Among the younger men who have taken a high place in the annals of contemporary northeastern Indiana is Jesse Rupp. Comparatively speaking, Mr. Rupp is a newcomer to Indiana, but in the short period he has been located in this section of the state and in Adams county he has come to be considered a strong man and a financier of high order. He was born in Archbold, Fulton county, Ohio, January 22, 1874. He is the son of the Rev. Daniel and Catherine (Short) Rupp. His father is one of the best known and most highly esteemed men of his county. He has been a prosperous farmer for many years and is a minister of the Mennonite denomination. Jesse is one of three sons born to his parents. The eldest, Aaron, is deceased. Daniel follows his father's occupation of farming in Fulton county, where he was born.

It may have been because Mr. Rupp did not show an early inclination for agricultural pursuits that another sphere of life was planned for him. As a youth he showed aptitude along studious lines and attended the Archbold common and high schools. He graduated from the first high school that community had. Following the completion of his high school course he attended the Northwestern Normal School at Wauseon, Ohio. He then attended the Tri-State College at Angola, Indiana, and completed his



school days with a business course at Peoria, Illinois. He engaged in teaching for the ensuing six years, and during this period taught in schools of three states. Returning to Archbold, he entered the banking business, and from 1897 until 1904 was associated with the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank of that place. He advanced through successive grades of employment until he was chosen cashier of the bank. In 1905 he was offered the position of cashier of the Berne Bank and assumed his duties in that institution. The Bank of Berne was organized in 1891 and has been a sound financial institution since its foundation. It was conceived and organized by leading citizens of Adams county and the original capital was forty thousand dollars. From the first the bank prospered and a short time ago moved into a handsome new building in the very center of the Berne business district. The new building was erected at a cost of fifteen thousand dollars. The bank is conducted along the best lines of modern banking. At present the capital stock is fifty-two thousand dollars; the surplus in excess of thirty thousand dollars and deposits more than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Under the direction of Mr. Rupp the bank has developed and bids fair to continue one of the soundest and most responsible financial institutions of the state.

In 1898 Mr. Rupp married Miss Clara Stauffer, a daughter of Amos and Ellen (Morrow) Stauffer. Both of her parents were among the pioneer settlers of Adams county and settled and established a farm home in Hartford township. To Mr. and Mrs. Rupp three children have been born. These are: Allen E., Grace L. and Emerson J. Mr. Rupp is a fine type of the mod-

ern, young, aggressive business man. He is alive to all that makes for the betterment of his fellow citizens and takes an active part in promoting live ideas and sane projects. He is a Democrat in politics. With his family he takes part in the social and religious life of Berne and is esteemed by all who know him.

Mr. Rupp, since coming to Indiana, has been active in Sunday-school work and is now serving his third term as president of the Adams County Sunday-School Association.

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#### RUDOLPH SCHUG.

While it may be as the immortal bard said, "There's a destiny that shapes our ends, rough hew them though we may," to the unimaginative, practical man of affairs of today more potent seem the qualities of integrity, ambition, industry and confidence in one's self in making for and in guaranteeing permanent success. It is the rugged man, the wide-awake man and the man who makes every thought and effort count for its utmost that is headed toward business or any other kind of worldly success. Such a man as distinguished from many others is Rudolph Schug. Still a young man, measured by modern standards, he stands high in the business world of successful men of his community and state, and his success and prominence were achieved through his own efforts without help from individuals or outside sources. Left fatherless at the tender age of four years, Mr. Schug was deprived of the advantages of a father's counsel and advice. He was born



in French township, Adams county, Indiana, August 13, 1864. His parents were Karl and Catherine (Roush) Schug. His father was born in Germany and in early life he came to this country. He lived for a time in Ohio, where he followed his trade of wagon-making. After removing to Indiana, in 1864, he took up the business of farming, which he followed successfully until his death, four years and six months later. He was the father of eight children, seven of whom are still living.

Young Schug experienced many hardships during his youth, but was determined to surmount circumstances regardless of how adverse they might be. He obtained a meager education in the schools of his township and supplemented this through his own ingenuity. He was a hard worker and ambitious. Reaching manhood, he continued in the farming business and made it a paying enterprise. When oil was discovered in northeastern Indiana he caused wells to be put down on his farm and there are today nine producing wells. His various other business enterprises prospered and his wealth increased. He interested himself in politics and as a Democrat was chosen township assessor for French township, which office he ably filled for five years. Then he was elected a township trustee for the same township and served in this capacity for four years. In 1889 he was married to Miss Mina Reppert, a daughter of Frederick and Eliza (Sellemeyer) Reppert. His wife's father and mother were among the older settlers in Adams county, and her mother is still living at the advanced age of ninety-five years.

During the decade that preceded the year 1903 the prosperity of Berne and surround-

ing territory had grown wonderfully. The necessity of an additional bank became apparent to many. This necessity proved the opportunity for which the active brain of Rudolph Schug was looking. He began at once to organize a bank. Taking the idea as his own and working out the details of a new banking institution, he personally solicited stock subscriptions among his neighbors and business men of Adams county and was rewarded in February, 1903, by seeing the People's State Bank a realized and active institution. The bank was capitalized at forty thousand dollars, and three years later increased to fifty thousand. Mr. Schug became its first cashier, which position he still holds. The bank has grown to a strong and reliable institution, even when measured by the older and more pretentious institutions of the state. There are seventy-three stockholders in the bank, representing more than a million and a half dollars in personal wealth and all reside in Adams county.

But Mr. Schug is interested in other business enterprises than the bank he founded. He was treasurer and secretary of the Berne Artificial Stone Company two years; is a director in the Berne Manufacturing Company and served three years as treasurer of the Great Northern Indiana Fair Association.

Mr. Schug and his family live in the handsomest home in Berne. It is a large eleven-room house, built of artificial stone and entirely modern. It is a center of local social life and its hospitality is lavishly extended. Mr. and Mrs. Schug have become the parents of seven children, all of whom live with their parents. The children are: Stella May, Oliver Perry, Urban D., Luster, Homer, Nelson R. and Emma.



## CLARENCE O. RAYN.

Clarence O. Rayn was born in Bear Creek township, Jay county, Indiana, February 7, 1873. His parents were Alexander and Caroline (Mendenhall) Rayn. The father is now a resident of Portland. The mother died when Clarence was about four years old. He has one sister living at Winchester, Indiana. The subject of this sketch was reared on a farm and attended school regularly and finished his schooling at the university at Ada, Ohio. He began the printer's trade at the age of seventeen, working in the News office at Ridgeville, which was then owned by his brother-in-law, W. L. Day. By working at the trade he made much of the money that made it possible for him to attend various normal schools and prepare himself for his chosen profession, that of newspaper work. At the age of twenty-two he bought a second-hand print shop at Portland and moved it on wagons to Mendon, Ohio, where he launched his first newspaper, and the first in that town. He remained there until 1896 and then sold it to O. F. Geiger, the present owner. He then returned to Geneva and worked in the office of the Geneva Herald for his brother, O. G. Rayn, now deceased, and in April, 1897, he purchased the Herald office and by hard work and skillful management has it and a snug little home paid for. He also owns the brick building in which the Geneva Herald office is located.

On September 19, 1897, he married Miss Pearl Leota Dutton, youngest daughter of five children born to James W. and Sarah (Grant) Dutton, two highly respected people. Mrs. Rayn was born May 7, 1876, in

Mendon, Mercer county, Ohio. She was one of the best known and most highly respected young ladies of that community. She was a member of the Church of God, but now belongs to the M. E. church of Geneva, of which Mr. Rayn is also a member. He at present is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Daughters of Rebekah and Pythian Sisters. Mrs. Rayn is also a member of the two latter orders, in good standing, and at this time is noble grand of Sylvia Rebekah Lodge, No. 327.

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 WILLIAM B. DREW.

The legal profession in Adams county, Indiana, has no more respected or abler member than William B. Drew. As an attorney who has created an enviable place among his fellows for himself much interest centers about him. Never having had the advantages of a course in an established college of law, Mr. Drew gathered his large fund of legal knowledge through his own unaided efforts and prepared himself in a thorough manner to practice his profession.

He is the son of Rufus B. and Mary A. (Buck) Drew. His father was born in Maine and his mother is a native of New York. The grandfather of William B. Drew was the Rev. John Drew, who preached the gospel in Maine near the city of Bath for a number of years and then removed to Lawrenceville, Pennsylvania, where he also preached. The family is of English descent and is one of the distinguished "down east" families. After living with his father in Pennsylvania for some years, Rufus Drew



moved to Steuben county, New York. He followed the pursuits of a farmer in the New York county until his death in 1889. Mrs. Rufus Drew the following year removed to the home of a daughter in Indiana, where she died after a few months.

William B. Drew was born near Elkland, Tioga county, Pennsylvania, July 5, 1833. He removed with his father to New York, where he lived until twenty years of age. In 1853 he went west and settled in Fayette county, Ohio. For the next three years he was employed as a clerk in a hotel, and then he pushed farther west, coming to Randolph county, Indiana. While living in Steuben county Mr. Drew studied in the county schools and took a course for two years in an academy at Knoxville, Pennsylvania. Here he acquired a smattering of law, and when he came to Indiana he pursued his reading of law during the six years he taught in the Randolph county schools. He was chosen a justice of the peace and filled this office and practiced law in said county for thirteen years. His practical work while in office, supplemented by his industrious and careful reading, gave him a grasp of the principles of his profession few men have.

In 1856 Mr. Drew married Miss Rebecca Vorhis, daughter of Cornelius and Elizabeth (Large) Vorhis. Mr. Vorhis and his wife were natives of New Jersey who came to Indiana early in the fifties and settled in Randolph county, where they devoted themselves to farming. Following his marriage Mr. Drew successfully practiced his profession and at the beginning of the Civil war he enlisted in the Eigthy-fourth Indiana Volunteer Infantry. His command was attached to the Army of the Cumberland under Gen-

eral Granger. Mr. Drew saw much active service until his discharge in 1863 because of ill health. He then returned to his home in Randolph county and again took up the practice of law and in 1876 removed to Geneva, Adams county. During their married life a number of children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Drew. These were named: Rufus, since dead; Anna, the wife of James Lindsay, of Alexandria, Indiana; Bessie, the wife of Felton D. Garrison, who during his life was employed by a railroad, his widow now a resident of Kalamazoo, Michigan; Thomas, who conducts a harness store at Geneva and is married to Della Buckingham; Willard, a farmer of Butler county, Missouri, and the husband of Lucy Carpenter; Charlotte, the wife of Robert B. Black, an oil man of Geneva; Charles, in the employ of the Southern Pacific Railroad, and Moore and Adelbert, who died in infancy. Mrs. Drew died in 1898.

Mr. Drew has ever been a man who took a keen interest in the affairs of his county and neighborhood. He has long been an ardent Prohibitionist, and was among those who organized the party in Adams county. He has been a successful business man and owns several fine residence properties in his town and some vacant property. He has been a notary public for more than twenty years and has been prominent in public affairs. He is one of the men of the county who can view his achievements and then say with honesty that what he has accumulated has been done through his own unaided efforts. He is a man universally esteemed by all who know him and enjoys the fullest confidence of his neighbors and fellow residents of Adams county.



## AARON IRLAN.

Aaron Irlan, who conducts a well-stocked and well-patronized livery stable at Geneva, Wabash township, Adams county, Indiana, is a native of the old Buckeye State, having been born in Dark county, Ohio, on July 20, 1857. His parents were Gilbert and Polly (Bingham) Irlan, the former of whom was a native of Ohio and the latter of Pennsylvania. They were successful and respected people and were the parents of nine children, of whom the first born was the subject of this sketch, the others being Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rose, Iona, Sarah, Robert and Anna, deceased. The parents were both members of the Dunkard church and are both now deceased, the father dying in 1882 and the mother ten years later.

Mr. Irlan came to Adams county in 1902 and engaged in the livery business, which he has since successfully conducted. Prior to this time he was engaged in various occupations, having been a teamster for ten years, farming five years in Willshire, Ohio, and two years in Van Wert county, Ohio. In all of his various occupations he has been successful and now owns his residence in town, besides his livery barn. He is a Democrat in politics, though not a seeker of emoluments. Fraternally he belongs to the Woodmen of the World at Salina, Ohio, and the Knights of Pythias at Geneva. He and his family attend the United Brethren church.

In 1880 Mr. Irlan married Miss Rachael Beem, a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Riffle) Beem, residents of Dark county, Ohio. To the subject and his wife have been born three children: James, who is married and makes his home with his father;

Nellie, who became the wife of Frank Bergel, a harness-maker of Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Cecil, the wife of Karl Ford, a lumberman, also at Fort Wayne. Mr. Irlan so far has performed well his part in life and is enjoying the regard and esteem of all who know him.

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 S. H. TEEPLE.

Conditions at the birth of S. H. Teeple did not argue a very bright future for an interesting youth. His parents, James B. and Mary (Smith) Teeple, were very poor. The father came to Indiana and settled in Adams county at an early date and followed farming and carpenter work. The success of the elder Teeple was but moderate and their son was not given the advantages even of that poor day. He was born on his father's farm in Adams county July 19, 1857. His youth was hard and filled with toil. He was one of a family of nine children and shared with them the poor comforts of his parental home. Of the family four are living: Isaac, S. H., Sarah and Mary C. It will be seen that our subject was the second of these children in order of birth. He received a poor education in the common schools of his district, but his duties at his home compelled him to forego all but a few terms in the schools. His education during his youth was necessarily incomplete, but in his after life he improved his fund of knowledge by a liberal and intelligent course of independent reading. He spent his life on the farm until 1886, when he engaged in the mercantile business at Geneva. He opened a store



and it proved a successful venture. He continued to conduct the affairs of his store during the six years that followed its founding and he gained much in patronage and in material wealth. But the fascinations of farm life proved too strong for him to resist and at the end of the six years' period he retired from active connection with his store and returned to his farm. This estate he improved from time to time. It consists of one hundred and eighty-five acres and is considered one of the most attractive and productive farms in its immediate section of the county. When oil was discovered in northeastern Indiana this farm lay directly in the most productive belt. At intervals wells were drilled until a total of fourteen had been put down on the Teeple farm. Eleven of these proved productive to a marked extent and are still pumped. Three others that were among the number originally drilled have become unproductive.

Mr. Teeple has been an active partisan in politics and has been one of the staunchest supporters of the Republican party in his county. He has taken an interested part in his section of the state when matters affecting his political affiliations were considered. His reward for his faithful party work came a year ago, when he was appointed postmaster of Geneva. Until receiving this appointment he had lived on and tilled his farm since retiring from his mercantile business in Geneva. He assumed the duties of postmaster July 1, 1906.

Mr. Teeple was married in 1885 to Miss Cora A. McCollam, a daughter of Jesse and Charlotte (Kelly) McCollam, who were farmers of Adams county. Mr. and Mrs. Teeple are the parents of two children. Jesse F. is employed at the Teeple mercan-

tile establishment at Geneva and Myrle resides at home. Mr. Teeple is a member of the Geneva Lodge, Knights of Pythias, and with his family worships at the United Brethren church.

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#### H. M. ASPY, M. D.

The name of the subject of this sketch is one of the best known among the physicians of northeastern Indiana. He has been in active practice of his profession in Geneva, Adams county, for about thirty years and has gained enviable prominence and patronage. He was born in Wabash township, Adams county, December 23, 1850. He is the son of Mark and Elsie A. (Short) Aspy. His father was born in Rush county, Indiana, in 1823 and his mother, who was born in Virginia, came to Indiana with her parents when but three years of age. The elder Aspy was a farmer, who developed his land and improved it until it became one of the best and most productive tracts in the county. In addition to his profession of farming he manufactured coffins and conducted an undertaking business. The first coffins made in Adams county were manufactured on the elder Aspy's farm about three miles east of the present village of Geneva. A brother of Dr. Aspy still lives on the old farm of his grandfather. The death of the subject's father occurred July 27, 1885, and he was mourned as one of the most respected residents of the entire community. He was the father of seven children, six of whom survive him. His wife lived until October, 1903, when she died at the age of eighty-two years. She was dis-



tinguished for having lived continuously on one farm for fifty-five years and one day.

Dr. Aspy was reared on his father's farm and obtained his early education in the common schools of the district. He decided to take up the medical profession and entered the Miami Medical College at Cincinnati, from which institution he was graduated in 1876. He returned at once to Geneva, where he began the practice of his profession. In this he has been engaged ever since and has built up a large and remunerative clientage. He is a physician who believes in keeping fully abreast with the developments and progress of his profession, and does this to a marked extent. However, although his profession has claimed a major portion of his time and attention, he has interested himself in other commercial enterprises. He is secretary and manager of the Geneva Telephone Company, which was organized in 1900 by Geneva people, where all the stock is held, and has done much to put this company on a paying basis. In addition he owns thirty-two acres of farm land, a part of his father's farm.

In 1879 he married Miss Elizabeth Burke, a daughter of William Burke, who came to Adams county from Ohio, and is one of the older settlers of the county. Three children have been born to Dr. and Mrs. Aspy. They are: Blanche, who is in the millinery business at Geneva; Gladys and Floyd. The latter children reside with their parents.

Dr. Aspy is an enthusiastic Republican and has served as town treasurer and as a member of the Board of Health. He is a member of the Geneva Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and was one of the first members the lodge initiated. He has a comfortable home and other property

and is counted among the substantial men of Geneva. He and his family are popular and their home is one of the most delightful in the neighborhood.

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#### DR. LEMUEL LEWIS MATTAX.

Dr. Lemuel Lewis Mattax was born in Adams county, Indiana, September 5, 1862. He is a son of William L. and Bersheba (Coverdale) Mattax. Both his father and mother were natives of Ohio. The former was born in Tuscarawas county in 1838 and the latter in Muskingum county in the same year. W. L. Mattax came to Indiana and settled in Adams county with his parents, who entered a farm in Monroe township in 1840. The parents are still living in Blue Creek township, Adams county. Dr. Mattax is one of two children of his father's family who are still living. A sister is the wife of Virgil Mercer, living on the old homestead. Two other children died in youth. These were Bertie and Lida.

Like almost every other country boy of the period, Dr. Mattax was reared on a farm and learned the meaning and responsibilities of a farmer's life. He attended the schools of his township and picked up as good an early education as was possible. He worked on his father's farm and assisted in cultivating this tract. After he had completed his studies in the common schools he read medicine in the office of Dr. Coverdale for three summers. This study gave him a decided preference for medicine as a profession, opposed to a farmer's life, and he entered the Starling Medical College at Columbus, Ohio. On March 7, 1891, he gradu-



ated from this institution, standing high in his class. He returned to his home at Geneva and at once took up the active practice of his chosen profession.

A year following his graduation he was married to Miss Sophia Bocher, a daughter of John and Louise (Seaman) Bocher. His wife's parents were born in Germany and came to Indiana and settled at Bluffton in an early day. Mr. Bocher followed the employment of a cooper.

To Dr. and Mrs. Mattax have been born four children, all of whom are at their parents' home. These children are: Harold, John Lee, Louise V. and Lavone B.

Dr. Mattax has led an active life. He stands high in his profession and has taken an interest at all times in matters that meant the betterment of his community. He is a Democrat in politics and has served as town treasurer and as health officer. He is a member of Geneva lodge, No. 514, Knights of Pythias, of which he has been chancellor commander. He is public spirited and a man who believes thoroughly in progression.

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#### H. P. BRADFORD.

H. P. Bradford, about whom the interest in this sketch centers, was born in Adams county, Indiana, April 20, 1867. He is a son of Peter and Martha (Cornelius) Bradford. His parents were natives of Ohio and were reared and married in Muskingum county of that state. They removed from Muskingum county to Indiana in 1856 and settled on a farm in Wabash township, Adams county. They followed the occupation of farming until their deaths. Peter

Bradford was a soldier in the Union army during the early years of the Civil war and died while in the army as a result of disease and exposure endured in the line of his duty. His death occurred in 1862. His widow survived him a number of years and finally passed away on the home farm in Wabash township in 1887. Four children were born to this estimable couple. Of this number two survive. Those living are: Reuben and H. P., the subject of this sketch. Two sons are dead. These were: William and John.

The youth of H. P. Bradford was spent on his father's farm in Adams county. He attended the winter sessions of the schools of his neighborhood and secured a fair English education. In the milder months of the year he assisted in the cultivation of the home farm and lived on it for a number of years after reaching manhood. After the death of his father much of the care and responsibility of cultivating and managing the family homestead fell upon his shoulders. He continued to operate the farm and lived on it, caring for his mother until her death. After his mother died he married Miss Rosie Wible. His wife is a native of Jay county, Indiana, and is a daughter of Samuel and Jane (Burriss) Wible. She was reared and educated in Jay county and lived with her parents until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Bradford are the parents of three children. These children are: Inez I., Vera and Jane, and are residing with their parents on the home place.

Mr. Bradford is the owner of a tract of thirty-five acres inside the corporation limits of the town of Geneva. He has always lived on this place and it descended to him from his father. He conducted a general farming



business and is a prosperous and successful man. However, he sold out his interests in both of these businesses and now devotes himself to the cultivation of his place and to dealing in Adams county real estate. In addition to his farm in Geneva he is the owner of other real estate that is increasing in value as the years pass. Although Mr. Bradford is an enthusiastic member of the Democratic party, he is not a public man in the sense that he aspires to office and he has never held public office of any kind. He is not affiliated with any fraternal bodies. He is an excellent example of a good citizen and a progressive, wide-awake man and is esteemed and trusted by all who know him.

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#### HENRY DECKER.

Henry Decker, than whom no man in Wabash township, Adams county, Indiana, is more highly respected and esteemed, was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on March 15, 1854. His parents were Henry and Elizabeth (Zieg) Decker, who subsequently came to Ripley county, Indiana, and located on a farm, where the father died shortly afterwards. They were the parents of nine children.

Henry Decker attended the common schools of the locality in which he was reared and his early years were given to the pursuit of agriculture, to which he has devoted the subsequent years of his life. He is now the owner of sixty-five acres of splendidly improved land, a part of which is in Jay county and the balance in Wabash township, Adams county. His first experi-

ence in anything was as a laborer in Decatur county, Indiana, after which, in 1874, he came to Wabash county, where he lived until locating on his present homestead. He soon reclaimed his farm from the forests which originally covered this section and has made many substantial and permanent improvements. He has given considerable attention to the breeding of stock, especially Chester White hogs, in which line he has achieved a distinctive success. Mr. Decker is public spirited and takes an active interest in local public affairs, having served as supervisor of his township for two years, and in 1904 was elected trustee, in which capacity he is now serving. Mr. Decker is an ardent sportsman and annually spends thirty days in hunting deer in Michigan and the Dakotas. He is a good shot and possesses many trophies of his skill.

In 1885 the subject was married to Miss Frances Bucher, daughter of Joseph and Harriet (Eckrote) Bucher, who came to Adams county, Indiana, and settled on a farm in Wabash township, where they still reside. To the subject and his wife have been born three children: Guy, deceased; Bessie and Lucy, who both attend school. Mr. Decker is public spirited in his attitude toward all things that tend to promote the material prosperity of his community and enjoys the respect and esteem of all who know him.

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#### WILLIS C. GLENDENING.

While the business career of Willis C. Glendening, about whom this sketch is concerned, has been a varied one and a most



active one, it has been uniformly successful and has gained much enviable repute. Mr. Glendening is today one of the substantial men of this section of the state, and he is widely and favorably known. He was born in Adams county, May 27, 1862. He is the son of John and Rachel (Pontius) Glendening. His father was born in England, and when he left the old country he came direct to Indiana. He settled in Hartford township and purchased land, which he farmed until his death, March 15, 1876. Following the death of her husband, Mrs. Glendening married Thomas Uptgraft, who died in 1897. She contracted a third marriage with John Mason, a Wells county farmer, and lives with this husband on his farm.

W. C. Glendening was the second in order of birth of a family of four children. The others are: William, a farmer living in Hartford township; Charles, living at Geneva, and Sherman, living in Hartford township. The early life of the subject of this sketch was spent on his father's farm. He attended the district schools and at intervals assisted in the farm work. When he reached his twenty-first year he engaged in the drug business in Geneva, in which business he continued for the following four years. At the end of this period he disposed of his interest in the drug business and engaged in farming in Jay county. After three years spent in farming his Jay county place he was attracted by the opening of the Indiana oil fields and formed a business arrangement with the Bolds brothers, with whom he was associated for two years. He again changed the nature of his business after this arrangement was concluded and entered the general merchandise business at Geneva, having the Bolds brothers as asso-

ciates. This business was managed by Mr. Glendening for about three years and grew to be one of the most profitable enterprises of Geneva. At the expiration of three years he entered the general merchandise business with Fields & Company, and still later became associated with the firm of Minch & Company. But the oil business attracted him again, and he once more embarked in it. This time he interested himself in the new field discovered and opened near Robinson, Illinois, and he retains his interests in this field to this day. At present he is a clerk with the firm of Acker & Teeple, of Geneva. This firm does a general merchandise business and Mr. Glendening became connected with this store September 15, 1905. The following year after he became associated with the last named firm he fitted out the Shamrock Hotel in a modern manner. All the fittings and furnishings were new, and the place was brought to a modern standard. This property he subsequently traded for a farm in Ohio in January, 1907. From these foregoing facts it will be seen that the business career of Mr. Glendening has been an active one. Throughout his career he has been an able and aggressive man. His methods have been progressive and satisfactory to all connected with the enterprises in which he was interested.

He was married to Miss Ella Darr, a daughter of Patton and Elizabeth Darr, in 1885. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Glendening: Lake E., Bertie R. and Willis D. Mrs. Glendening died in September, 1902. The home life of the family is ideal and the home is the center of much of the social life and wholesome gaiety of the town.

Mr. Glendening is a public-spirited man.



He takes an active part in the affairs of his community and is identified with all movements to help the community. He votes the Republican ticket but is not a partisan politician. He is a member of Geneva Lodge, No. 514, Knights of Pythias, the Maccabees and Sons of Veterans. For two years he served as town clerk. He is an ardent hunter and spends a month each year in the woods of northern Michigan in search of deer. He is usually successful and the venison he sends home is much enjoyed.

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### JOHN C. AUGSBURGER.

John C. Augsburg was born in French township, Adams county, Indiana, in 1876. He was one of a family of sixteen children who were born to Christian and Barbara (Liechty) Augsburg. His parents were of sturdy German stock. His father was born in Tioga county, Pennsylvania, June 19, 1821, and his mother in Adams county, Indiana, in 1841.

The elder Augsburg came to Indiana from his Pennsylvania birthplace with his parents in 1841. A farm had been operated in Ohio before the final move to Indiana was made, but the Ohio conditions did not please the emigrants and they pushed on westward. Reaching this state, the Augsburgers settled on a tract of land in section 35, of French township. The tract comprised one hundred and sixty acres, all of which was heavily timbered. The parents, with the aid of their children, cleared the land and lived on the farm until their deaths. The elder Augsburg died in 1855 and his wife survived him more than two decades, dying in

1876, at the advanced age of ninety-two, in Hartford township.

The elder Augsburg grew to manhood in Ohio and received his education in the common schools of his neighborhood. He taught school for several terms in his native Ohio county and also after he had moved to Adams county. He was one of the earlier educators of Adams county, and to him many of the successful farmers of the county are indebted for their knowledge of the first principles of learning. He seems to have played an important part in the affairs of his section of the state in his day, and was chosen to hold important offices. For a time before he was married he served his fellow residents of Adams county in the capacity of township clerk and following his marriage he was an assessor for two years. The records show that he was a faithful official and discharged all of his duties with skill and discrimination. He was a man of keenly religious tendencies, and was a minister of the Mennonite faith for thirty-six years. He was an eloquent preacher and served many congregations intelligently and added to the lustre of his good name.

He took as his wife in 1859 Barbara Liechty, a daughter of Jacob and Catherine (Wenger) Liechty, both natives of Switzerland, who came to America in 1832. Mrs. Augsburg's parents lived in Wayne county, Ohio, where they were married. In 1840 they moved to Indiana and settled on a farm in French township, Adams county. Her father died in 1883 and his wife seven years later.

The subject of this sketch, John C. Augsburg, was married in 1904 to Amelia A. Ashbacher, a daughter of Christian and Malina (Arnold) Ashbacher, natives of



Switzerland. Her parents came to the United States in 1850 and after living for a time in Ohio moved to Indiana and took up land in Adams county. John Augsburgers took charge of his father's farm after the latter's death and has continued to operate it. It is one of the largest in the township and has been brought to a high state of fertility and productiveness. The residence and buildings devoted to farm uses are modern and comfortable and the air of the place indicates progressiveness and thrift. Mr. Augsburgers is the only member of his father's large family to live continually on the homestead tract. The other children of his parents are living with the exception of four. Those living are: Catherine, Mary, Moses, Aaron, David, Amos, Jacob, Verena, Lydia, John, Elizabeth and Daniel. The children dead were: David, Christian and twin infants, who died unnamed.

Mr. Augsburgers is an aggressive and active citizen of his township. He takes an active and interested part in the affairs of his county, and has been elected to political positions of importance and responsibility. In 1900 he was chosen as a township assessor, the duties of which office he discharged so ably that at the expiration of his term in 1904 he was elected to the more important office of township trustee, which office he still holds. He is a Democrat and is alive to party interests and stands high in the councils of his party in northeastern Indiana. He is a member of the German Reformed church and is one of the esteemed members of that organization. His course through life is such that recommends him to the careful and favorable consideration of all who know him. Christian Augsburgers, the father of our subject, died January 19, 1903,

at the age of eighty-one years and seven months.

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#### LEVI D. MILLER.

Levi D. Miller was born in Hartford township, Adams county, Indiana, on December 10, 1850, and is the son of Daniel Miller, who settled early in the state and concerning whom mention appears in the sketch devoted to David Miller that appears elsewhere in this volume. The son grew to manhood on his father's farm and obtained such an education in the district schools of his neighborhood as the times afforded. With the exception of the weeks of the winter months spent in the school room Mr. Miller worked with his father on his farm and learned the lessons an active, out-of-door life in a farming community taught. In time he became a skillful farmer and was a great help to his father. In addition to his labors on his father's farm he operated a stone quarry, which he made profitable.

On reaching manhood and his majority he decided to marry and set up a home for himself. In line with this idea he wooed and won Miss Mary Kirchhofer, a daughter of David and Barbara (Bixler) Kirchhofer. His wife's father was a native of Germany, being born in that European country October 19, 1809. Her mother's birth occurred in Wayne county, Ohio, October 6, 1822. Mrs. Miller's father came to America with an early tide of seekers after new homes in the new republic. He landed on the eastern shore with his parents in 1818. The family continued westward until the Ohio country was reached. Land was secured in Wayne county and there David Kirchhofer grew to



manhood. He was married December 30, 1841, and seven children were born to this union. Four of these children, Abraham, Anna, Mary, the present Mrs. Miller, and Daniel, are living. Three others—Elizabeth, Jacob and Catherine—are dead.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Miller took place in 1881 and immediately following it Mr. Miller gave up his work in connection with his stone quarry and purchased a tract of eighty acres in section 34 of French township, Adams county. The major part of this land was cleared and under cultivation when it came into his possession. However, there were no substantial improvements and no house building. One of the first things done after the young people entered into possession of the land was the erection of a small cabin, which became their home for several years. Mr. Miller proved to be an industrious farmer and in the course of a few years he had his land improved, drained and properly fenced and at a profitable stage. Some ten years ago he erected a handsome residence on his farm and later added other modern buildings. Among this latter list was a fine modern barn structure, erected in 1902. Today his property is very valuable and ranks more than favorably with any other similar piece in the county. He does a general farming business and his crops have proved salable and remunerative from year to year.

One child, a son, has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Miller. This young man, Milton Miller, is at present a student in a college at Angola. It is his ambition to take up the law as his profession and he contemplates a course at the State University at Bloomington. The elder Mr. Miller is a fine type of the progressive farmer and is a man who is

esteemed highly in his community. He takes an active interest in political matters and is a valued member of the Democratic party of his section of the state.

Mrs. Miller is a member of the Evangelical church at Lynn Grove.

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### JOHN T. KELLY.

John T. Kelly, farmer, lawyer and manufacturer, is a resident of Jefferson township, Adams county, Indiana, where he was born December 21, 1860, and is the second son of Isaac B. and Laura (Hersey) Kelly, natives of Ohio, the father of Carroll, and the mother of Hardin county.

Isaac was a farmer in Ohio, but thought to better his fortune by emigrating to Indiana, which he did many years ago, settling in the dense forests of Jefferson township, Adams county, a part of which he afterward improved. He died November 30, 1893, his wife, Laura, having preceded him in the year 1861.

In their church relations they identified themselves with the Methodist Episcopal society and lived exemplary lives. Isaac gave faithful and loyal service to his country as a soldier for a period of two years during the war of the Rebellion. His political faith and affiliations were with the Democratic party. They had two children—Willis, who died in infancy, and John T.

For his second wife Isaac married Isabelle Ramsey, a native of Wells county, Indiana, and as a result of this union six children were born to them: Marvin, Alonzo, Finley, Alfred, Ida and Isaac B.

John T. was raised on his father's farm, where he secured such educational advan-



tages as were to be derived by the busy farmer boy from the common schools of the district. Not satisfied with the education thus acquired, he afterward attended the Eastern Normal School at Portland, Indiana, and there equipped himself for the duties of teacher, which profession he followed with marked success for a period of twenty years.

In the meantime he took up the study of law and is at the present time a member of the Adams county bar. He is the owner of a fine little farm of twenty acres, nicely improved, with thoroughly modern buildings surrounding it, and a most pleasant and comfortable home.

He is also engaged in the manufacture of cement building blocks.

In 1888 he was married to Rebecca Thatcher, a native of Miami county, Ohio, a daughter of Hillman and Julia (Rooks) Thatcher, who were originally residents of the state of New Jersey, but later of Ohio. To them was born one child, a daughter, Lola Opal, now at home.

John is a member of the Knights of Pythias and Independent Order of Odd Fellows lodges at Berne, Indiana, and, with his wife, is a consistent Christian and member of the Evangelical church.

Mr. Kelly in his political belief advocates the basic principles and doctrines of the Democratic party and has always been a source of strength to its cause by his wise counsel and sturdy character.

With his party and his friends he is much esteemed, as evidenced by his election in 1894 and again in 1896 to represent his county in the state legislature, where his services were eminently satisfactory to his constituency.

## JOHN HENDRICKS.

John Hendricks, the subject of this sketch, is living a restful retired life at his home in the village of Monroe, Adams county, after a busy career, marked by hard and industrious toil and by his part played in the sanguinary struggle to preserve the Union. He was born in Harrison county, Ohio, June 24, 1839. He is a son of Thomas and Lydia (Renicker) Hendricks, who were married in Ohio and later came to Indiana and purchased a farm in Adams county in 1852. His father was born in Ohio in 1811 and his mother was born in Pennsylvania. The elder Hendricks established himself in Monroe township and took up farming. He was an industrious and careful man and amassed a handsome competence for himself and family. He was a farmer all of his life and at his death owned two hundred acres of fine land that was highly improved. He died in 1883 and was the father of seven children, three of whom, John, Mary J. and James, are living. He was a public-spirited man and took an active part in the affairs of his county and township. He was a Democrat and served many years as a supervisor of his home township.

John Hendricks was reared among the wholesome influences of his father's home. He attended the schools of his neighborhood and learned the lessons of industry and frugality that made his after life successful. He assisted his father in the cultivation of the family homestead until he grew to manhood. When the Civil war broke out and the dissolution of the Union was threatened and the calls for volunteers were ringing over the country young Hendricks decided that his place was at the front. He enlisted in



Company H, Eighty-ninth Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Cravens. Soon after he joined his regiment it was ordered to the front and was attached to the Army of the West. This army saw some desperate fighting, and from August 9, 1862, when Hendricks enlisted, he was seldom without the din of battle in his ears. He was a gallant soldier and bore the hardships of hard campaigning with patience and with soldierly stolidity and philosophy. He took part in a number of important battles while its regiment was making its way from Kentucky through the southern states to the sea east of Atlanta. Among these engagements were the battles of Mumfordsville, Kentucky; Yellow Bayou, Louisiana; Bayou Lamore, Louisiana; Tupelo, Tennessee; Nashville and the Siege of Mobile. After the close of the war he returned to Adams county and resumed the peaceful pursuit of farming.

Mr. Hendricks was married in 1866 to Miss Margaret E. Ray, a daughter of George W. and Eleanor (Williams) Ray. Her parents were natives of Harrison county, Ohio, and came to Indiana and settled in Adams county in 1848. They located on a farm in Monroe township and the father, in connection with his farming, followed the trades of carpentering and broom-making. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hendricks, of whom three are still living. These children are: James W., who with his brother, George A., runs the old home farm, and William A., who is connected with a mercantile establishment at Monroe.

After his return from the war Mr. Hendricks devoted his time and energies to the cultivation of a farm of one hundred and

fifteen acres in Monroe township. He labored industriously and developed a fine estate. He improved it materially from time to time and brought it to a high stage of fertility and productiveness. He continued to manage his farm until 1897, when he retired from active business. He purchased a comfortable home in Monroe and is living there now. He delegated the management of his farm to his sons and they cultivate the fine estate developed by their father. Throughout his life Mr. Hendricks has taken a lively interest in the affairs of Adams county and Monroe township. He has served in public office and was a supervisor for a number of years. He also has been a member of the Monroe town council and was one of the men who organized and platted the present village of Monroe. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is considered one of the substantial citizens of Adams county and is highly esteemed wherever he is known.

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#### JAMES D. HOFFMAN.

About the year 1833 the United States government purchased the lands in Ohio held by the Seneca Indians and threw them open in small tracts to white settlers. Among those who took advantage of this opportunity to secure land at a small cost was Steven Hoffman, the father of the man who is written about in this sketch. Steven Hoffman bought eighty acres and to reach his new property he was compelled to make a journey of five hundred miles from his home in Pennsylvania. This journey he made late



in the fall, walking all of the way. He worked at clearing this land during this and succeeding winters, walking back to his home each spring in time to assist in the farm work on his father's place. In all he made five trips of this kind. On the last one he bought a pony from the Indians and secured a wagon. He purchased feathers from his Indian friends and these he sold in Pennsylvania at a handsome profit. When his father, Peter Hoffman, died Steven succeeded to the old home. His mother removed to a son's home in Ohio, where she lived until February, 1872.

James D. Hoffman was born on his father's place at West Penn, Pennsylvania, June 8, 1850. His mother was the daughter of a man named Daubenspeck. She was born in West Penn, July 7, 1820. The father was born in Northampton county, Pennsylvania, February 14, 1810. The marriage of his parents occurred September 16, 1838. Before his marriage the elder Hoffman taught school, although he himself had only attended school for thirty days. He also engaged in farming and was, in very truth, a self-made man of strong characteristics and abilities.

Following the death of his wife in 1865 he came to Indiana, where he bought eighty acres in Adams county, and an additional one hundred and twenty acres of land in Washington township. However, he made his home on the former tract, as a portion of it was cleared and had a log cabin on it. Here he lived until his death, which occurred October 27, 1888.

James Hoffman accompanied his father when the latter came to Indiana. He made his home with his parent until 1874, when he purchased the tract of eighty acres his

father owned. Then his father transferred his residence to his son's place. James was married June 4, 1874, to Miss Jennie Fulk, a daughter of Jacob Fulk. Her father was a native of Stony Creek, Pennsylvania. Five children were born of this marriage: Dora May, Elizabeth, deceased; Lydia and Mary, twins, and Ida. Mrs. Hoffman died in 1883. Two years later Mr. Hoffman was married to Catherine L. Hilgeman, a daughter of Henry and Wilemena (Lambert) Hilgeman. Both of her parents were born in Germany. By this marriage Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman have six children. These are: Blanche, Jason, James C., Francis and Gladys. The other child, Lillie, is dead.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman have a most comfortable home. Their farm is well improved and is a monument to their industry and frugality. He takes a keen interest in public affairs and was the second man to circulate a petition for ditch drainage. He is a Democrat in political faith, having voted first for Horace Greeley, and is a consistent member of the German Reformed church.

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#### JAMES K. MARTZ.

For more than a half century the name of Martz has been prominently associated with the development of Adams county. Particularly is this true of Monroe township. Henry Martz, the father of the subject of this sketch, was one of the earlier settlers in the township and a man who took an exceedingly active part in the affairs of the township. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1792 and grew to manhood in that state. When the new republic was called upon to



defend its political integrity against the mother country he offered himself as a soldier and fought throughout the war of 1812. When the war ended and the country was again at peace he moved to Ohio, where he lived for a time. In 1840 he brought his wife, who was Catherine Lydick, to Indiana, and located in Monroe township, Adams county. He entered land from the government and lived on his tract so secured until his death in 1870. His wife survived until 1884. Both are buried on their homestead. After coming to Indiana he devoted his time and energy to improving the rough land he entered and he lived to see the farm transformed from a wilderness to a fine estate, well improved and productive. He was a man of considerable importance in his community. He took an active part in all township affairs and the first election held in Monroe township was held at his house. For the first fourteen years he lived on his farm his home was a log house. This he tore down later and erected a fine frame house. His farm of one hundred and forty acres was a fine tract and in addition to farming he conducted a private postoffice for a number of years.

There were thirteen children born to this hardy pioneer and his estimable wives. James K. Martz was born May 1, 1846. He was a son by his father's second wife and was reared on the homestead in Monroe township. He spent his youth much as other boys did in his day and attended the schools of the district in which he lived and secured as good an education as was possible in that day and section of the country. He worked on his father's farm until he grew to manhood and then he spent two years in the Michigan woods as a lumberman. He also

was engaged in building the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad from Monroe to Berne when that road was extended. In 1872 he purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Monroe township and in the same year was married to Miss Rachael Hahn, a daughter of George and Elizabeth (Swiger) Hahn. His wife's parents were born in Ohio and came to Adams county early in their lives and followed farming. Her father is still living at the advanced age of eighty-two.

When Mr. Martz purchased his land it was unimproved and represented a vast amount of labor before it could be made productive. However, he went to work and in a short time he had cleared the greater part of his land and had it under cultivation. Today his estate is one of the best and most productive in the township. All of the land is cleared with the exception of fifteen acres, which is in timber. Recently Mr. Martz refused an offer of fifty dollars an acre for his timber. He has made many improvements on the land since it came into his possession. The tract is well drained and fenced and the buildings are substantial and commodious. In addition to a general farming business he raises swine and cattle of good strains. He also has a large flock of more than a hundred sheep and lambs. He is a public-spirited man and is one who takes a keen interest in the affairs of his township. He is a Democrat in politics and served for about ten years as a member of the township advisory board and has been instrumental in securing pike roads for the township. His country place is located two miles south of the village of Monroe and is considered one of the most attractive in the township.

Mr. and Mrs. Martz are the parents of



some children. Of these children two are dead, Jonathan and Oliver. Those living are: Ida, Lillian F., Mary, Daisy, Cleveland, Clem and Josephine. The latter two are twins.

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### ELI W. HENDRICKS.

Eli W. Hendricks was born in Monroe township, Adams county, January 11, 1861. He is a son of William and Mary A. (Ray) Hendricks. His father was born in Ohio in 1835 and his mother is a native of the same state. The grandfather of Eli Hendricks settled in Monroe township in 1853 and brought with him to Indiana his son William, who became the father of the subject of this sketch. The son lived with his father on the Monroe township homestead until he reached maturity and was married. William and Mary Hendricks became the parents of eight children. Of this number George T., James D., Charles E. and James are dead. Eli W., William P., Lydia E. and Josiah A. are still living. The father of these children followed farming and threshing after coming to Monroe township for sixteen years. He used the old horse-power machines. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and died July 30, 1901. He survived his wife some years, her death occurring October 3, 1885.

Eli Hendricks was reared on his father's farm and attended the winter sessions of the school of his neighborhood. He secured a good English education and learned the lessons of farming under the direction of his father. He remained on the family homestead until he reached his majority and then was variously employed for a few years.

January 10, 1884, he married Miss Mary Ellen Reffey, a daughter of David and Ann (McClain) Reffey. His wife's father was a native of Berne, Switzerland, and came to the United States with his parents when a youth. He lived for a time with his parents in Ohio and came with them when they removed to Indiana. He died June 24, 1906. His wife, the mother of Mrs. Hendricks, is still living with a son on the old homestead. Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Reffey: John W., Mary E., Philip H., Oliver M., Maggie R., Lee, Viola and Ida. The last named are dead.

Mr. Hendricks is the owner of a good farm of one hundred and nineteen acres in Monroe township. All of this tract is cleared and under cultivation with the exception of six acres, which are in timber of a good quality. He carries on a general farming business, raises stock and does dairy farming. He feeds all of the products of his farm to his stock and his strains of short-horn cattle and Duroc swine are famous over the county. He has improved his estate until it has become one of the most attractive in the township. His buildings are modern and substantial and the whole farm is well drained and fenced. He is interested in the Monroe Creamery and holds stock in this business enterprise. His farm is located one mile from the village of Monroe and is a valuable possession.

He is an example of a successful farmer and has accumulated his possessions through his own unaided efforts. He is a citizen who takes a keen interest in the affairs of his township and is in the van of all movements designed to increase the commercial prosperity of the township or the welfare of the residents of Adams county. He is a member



of the Democratic party, but is in no sense a public man. He has held no public office and aspires to none. He and the members of his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and give this church their hearty support. Three children have been born to Mr. Hendricks and his estimable wife: Lulu H., the wife of Sylvester Johnston, living on the home place, and teaching school in Monroe township; Roy and Noah, also at home. The family is one of the most highly esteemed in the township.

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### JOSEPH T. JOHNSTON.

The life story of Joseph T. Johnston will accurately substantiate any claims he might make of being in reality a pioneer settler of northeastern Indiana. For more than seventy years he has lived in Adams county, and he has witnessed all the changes that have transformed this section of the state from a wilderness with a few inhabitants to one of the most productive and pleasant portions of the commonwealth. He was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, August 7, 1834. He is a son of James and Eliza (Merryman) Johnston. His father was born in Pennsylvania and came to Ohio some years before the birth of Joseph. He was a farmer and miller during his residence in Ohio and removed to Indiana when Joseph was but three years of age. The family located in Washington township near the present site of the Washington church. The land was rough and inhabited by roving bands of Indians and wild game. Among the stories told by Mr. Johnston are the interesting ones of his earlier days when he shot deer,

turkeys, squirrels and other species of wild game where farms and villages are located today. In those early days the country was thinly settled and the houses were distant from one another. There were no schools and log cabins were the homes of the majority of the settlers. They were a hardy race and worked industriously at clearing their farms and making them productive, and the children grew up in an atmosphere of independence and learned the wholesome lessons of thrift and frugality. Joseph Johnston worked in the woods for several years and lived in a round log cabin for many years. He received his early and meager education in a log school with puncheon floors and with benches that boasted no backs, and he did not know what a school house looked like until he was eleven years of age. However, he was ambitious and made the most of such poor advantages as were offered him. In his early manhood he hewed railroad ties and has the distinction of making more ties than any other man of the county. His uncle, Joseph Johnston, helped build the first log jail in the county. Joseph, our subject, worked at different times clearing land for others, and it is said that he has cleared more than three hundred acres during his life. His father died in 1854 and since that time Joseph has been the support of his mother, who survived her husband forty-two years, dying in 1896, in her ninety-eighth year.

Joseph was married in 1858 to Miss Minerva Reynolds. She is a daughter of John and Rachel (Ball) Reynolds, who were natives of Maryland and came west. They lived for a time in Ohio and then removed to Indiana, settling in Root township about 1830. Their farm when they purchased it



was in the woods and was soon improved and made productive. Mr. Reynolds added to his real estate holdings from time to time and at one period of his life owned hundreds of acres of land in Adams county, included in which was the present site of the city of Decatur. He died in 1846 and his wife died in 1890. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph T. Johnston have become the parents of ten children, seven of whom are still living. Those living are: Willis M., Emma R., Florence A., Edward J., Sarah E., Charles M. and Rose Ann. Eliza J., Edna E. and Cora M. are dead.

Throughout his life Mr. Johnston has voted the Democratic ticket. He has always taken an active part in county and township affairs and has served as a supervisor and a member of the county council. With his wife and the members of his family he is an earnest and consistent member of the Christian Union church.

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#### NICHOLAS RICH.

Nicholas Rich, who today is one of the most prosperous and successful farmers of Monroe township, Adams county, was born in French township, Adams county, December 6, 1867. He is a son of Joseph and Anna (Moser) Rich. His father was born in Germany, where he spent his boyhood and received his early education. When he grew up he left Germany and crossed the Atlantic to find a home in the new continent. He settled in Canada, where he lived for a short time. He became dissatisfied with the prospects for success in Canada and decided to cross the line and settle in the United States.

Accordingly he sold his land holdings in the Dominion and came to Indiana. He purchased land in French township and began the life of a farmer under the stars and stripes. At the time he settled in French township the country was but thinly settled. The land was unimproved and the conditions were not inviting. However, he possessed determination to surmount all obstacles and in a few years had his land well cleared and improved so that it was productive and profitable. He became the father of ten children, nine of whom are still living. The living children are: Peter, Barbara, Joseph J., Christ, Nicholas, John, Anna, Mary and David. Jacob died some years ago. The father of this sturdy family is still living, enjoying the fruits of the labor and industry of his early life. He is a highly respected man and is one who has enjoyed the esteem and confidence of his fellows during his long and useful life.

Nicholas Rich was the fifth of this family in order of birth. He saw the light of day for the first time on his father's farm and was reared on this estate. He attended the schools of his neighborhood as a youth and secured a good English education. He assisted his father in the cultivation of the family homestead as soon as he was old enough to take an active part in farm work, and he learned the lessons of agriculture. He was an industrious boy and when he reached his maturity he was considered a skilled farmer, who knew the intricacies of his profession. In 1884 he was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Bailey, a daughter of Daniel and Mary (Leininger) Bailey. Her parents were natives of Ohio who came to Indiana and settled in Wabash township, Adams county, in the early eighties. They



were the parents of nine children: Andrew, deceased; Jacob, Elizabeth, Mary, Daniel, Lydia, John, Samuel and an infant that died unnamed. The parents of Mrs. Rich are still living.

Mr. Rich is the owner of a farm of one hundred and forty acres in Monroe township, where he makes his home. It is one of the finest and most productive estates in the township. He secured his farm when it was but little, if any, improved, and he has developed it to its present valuable state. The years that have passed since he purchased this tract have been filled with the hardest kind of labor, but he has not faltered, and in the end he conquered all difficulties. His place is admirably located in one of the most fertile sections of the county. It is well drained and tilled, and the fencing and buildings are substantial and adequate. His home is a most attractive building and modern in all respects. Recently he erected a large barn eighty-eight by forty feet. He follows a general farming business and his crops, which are rotated with judgment and intelligence, are always satisfactory and bring a handsome profit in the markets. He has all of his place under cultivation with the exception of thirty-two acres, and twelve acres of this tract are covered with fine timber. He raises fine stock and his strains of Durham cattle and I. O. C. swine are known throughout the county. He is a Democrat in politics but cannot be said to be a public man. He is alive to the interests of his fellow residents of his township and contributes to the advancement of the county's interests. He and the members of his family are members of the Reformed church and he contributes to the charities and support of this denomination with liberality. Three

children have been born to him and his estimable wife. These children are: William, Ida and Edna.

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#### WILLIAM P. HENDRICKS.

William P. Hendricks was born in Monroe township, Adams county, January 29, 1864. He is directly descended from pioneer settlers of northeastern Indiana, and his forebears in this section of the country have been men and women who contributed much to the development and prosperity of their region. He is a son of William and Mary A. (Ray) Hendricks. His father was the son of Thomas Hendricks, who lived in Ohio at an early day and came to Indiana in 1847. His son William accompanied his father to this state and settled on a farm in Monroe township. He lived on this farm and cultivated it until his death in 1901. His wife died some years earlier, her death occurring in 1883. To the elder Hendricks eight children were born. Of these children Eli W., a farmer of Monroe township, cultivating the old homestead; William P., Ella, the wife of Joseph R. Smith, of Petoskey, Michigan, and Josiah, also a resident of Petoskey, are living. The father of these children was a good citizen. He was a progressive man and a successful farmer. He served as an assessor for one term and consistently voted the Democratic ticket. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

William P. Hendricks attended the country schools and received a good English education. He assisted his father to improve and cultivate his estate and worked on it



until he grew to manhood. He was married in 1887 to Miss Achsah A. Harris, a daughter of William and Julia (Jones) Harris. His wife was born in Adams county and her father was one of the early men to come to Indiana from Ohio. He settled in Adams county about 1850 on land he purchased from the government. He always lived on this farm after coming to Adams county and died on it in 1871. This land was transferred but once since it was purchased originally from the government, and that time was when it came into the possession of Mr. Hendricks. Soon after Mr. Hendricks married Miss Harris he purchased her father's land. This is a tract of eighty acres and is admirably located for agricultural purposes. It is rich and is in one of the best regions in the county. During the tenure of Mr. Harris the property was improved, and after his death it was improved still more by his widow. Since coming into the possession of Mr. Hendricks still other improvements have been added from time to time until today it is one of the most valuable and most attractive places of its kind in the entire county. Among the recent improvements made by the present owner is a fine barn seventy-six by thirty-eight feet. His residence is a substantial and comfortable building and the other buildings on the estate are up-to-date and commodious. He is a progressive man and employs modern methods and machinery in cultivating his farm. His crops are rotated with judgment and are always profitable.

He is a man who takes a live interest in the affairs of his county and township. His interest extends to a hearty co-operation in all projects that are aimed at improving the

status of the county and increasing its prosperity and commercial development. In politics he is a member of the Prohibition party and he is active in the work of this party in Adams county. He and his wife are members of the Evangelical church at Berne and are the parents of one child, a son, Guy R. Hendricks.

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#### WILLIAM F. SCHUG.

Few men living in Adams county can look back on their lives with more justifiable pride than can William F. Schug. He is a type of the modern farmer that demonstrates what industry and intelligence can accomplish, and he is among the most highly esteemed men of his community. He has amassed more than a competence of the world's goods, but he has done this unaided and through his own efforts. He was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, April 11, 1853. He is a son of Charles and Catherine (Rousch) Schug. His parents were born in Baumholder, Prussia, Germany. His father was born in 1826 and his mother in 1835. They were reared in Germany and after their marriage came to the United States, settling in Ohio. The father was a wagon maker by trade and followed this occupation in Ohio. In 1863 he removed to Indiana and settled in French township, Adams county. He became a farmer and lived on the place he purchased until his death in 1869. His wife survived him many years and died in 1904. Following his death his sons cultivated the farm, which consisted of one hundred and sixty acres, until the youngest was twenty-one years of age. Mr.



and Mrs. Charles Schug were the parents of eight children: William, Catherine, Charles, Julius, Philip, Rudolph, Tekla and John. Of this family William, the subject of this sketch, was the eldest.

When he was twenty-nine years of age Wiliam F. Schug purchased his present farm. It is a fine tract of one hundred and forty acres in Monroe township, but was covered with woods when he purchased it. In addition it was wholly without improvements of any kind, and the labor and energy of the present owner were expended in bringing it to its present state. He set to work to clear the place immediately after it came into his possession, and he worked at this task until he had completed it. He erected a comfortable residence and commodious barns and other outbuildings and fenced and drained the entire farm. He conducts a general farming business and his crops are productive of a handsome income each year. He raises some excellent cattle and his strain of Poland China swine is one of the best in the county.

In addition to his farming he has other business interests. He is a man who is alive to the needs of his community and when banks were proposed he entered heartily into their organization. He subscribed to the capital stock of the People's State Bank of Berne and is still a stockholder in this sound financial institution. He also holds stock in the Grabill State Bank of Grabill, Allen county. He is also a director of this latter bank. For some years during his earlier life he followed carpentering in connection with his farm work. He has also gained more than a local repute as a veterinary surgeon, and he is called in line with this profession frequently. He makes

his home on his fine estate of one hundred and forty acres in Monroe township. Of this tract he has one hundred and twenty-six acres under cultivation. The remainder he allows to remain in woods and pasture land. He owns eight acres of fine woods. He is interested in the politics of his section and is an ardent Democrat. He is a public-spirited man and a believer in good roads. He circulated the first petition for pike roads in Monroe township and has been instrumental in bringing about many desirable improvements. He is a member of the German Reformed church and contributes generously to the objects and charities of this denomination.

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#### JACOB HUSER.

When the father of Jacob Huser came to northeastern Indiana and settled in French township he had for his neighbors members of the Indian tribes who were originally owners of the land. The country was still in its primitive state and the land was swampy or covered with thick growths of timber. However, the father, Philip Huser, was born in France and later lived in Germany before coming to the United States, was not a man to be frightened either by antagonistic conditions of land or by hostile neighbors. He and his wife, Fanny (Moser) Huser, had lived for a few years in another section of the country before they came to Indiana in 1841. They migrated from Germany in 1839. After he purchased his tract of one hundred and sixty acres he began clearing it and improving it. He erected log cabin buildings and lived to see his place



under cultivation and greatly improved. He died March 12, 1877, at the age of sixty-three years. His wife died February 8, 1877, a few weeks before him. This estimable couple were the parents of ten children, of whom nine lived to reach maturity.

Jacob Huser was born in Adams county, April 7, 1855. He spent his boyhood on his father's farm and when he was old enough took an active part in clearing and cultivating the farm. He was educated in the rude schools of the neighborhood and received as good an English training as the time and conditions made possible. He was an industrious and dutiful son and laid the foundations for a career that was to bring him esteem and honor. He learned the lessons of a pioneer's life and frugal habits. The marriage of Mr. Huser and Miss Lydia Liechty occurred in 1877. Mrs. Huser is a daughter of Jacob and Catherine (Wenger) Liechty. Her parents were born in Germany and after their marriage came to the United States. They were among the earliest German immigrants to Adams county and located in French township. They settled on and cleared a farm and lived on it, following farming until their deaths. Mr. Liechty died October 12, 1881, at the age of seventy-three, and his wife died September 18, 1900, at the age of eighty-three. Nine children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Huser. All of these children are living with their parents and are: Emma, Katie, Albert, Fanny, David, Rufus, Amos, Levi and Vilas.

Mr. Huser is the owner of a fine farm in Monroe township, consisting of two hundred acres. Almost all of this tract is cleared and improved and at a high state of cultivation. He carries on a general farming busi-

ness and his crops are large and profitable. He is a progressive man and appreciates the advantages of modern methods and machinery. He cultivates his estate according to the best principles of modern farming. He raises a good grade of stock and makes a specialty of swine and draft horses. All of the improvements on his place have been put there by Mr. Huser. His buildings are excellent. His home is large and modern in all respects and his barn is a large structure one hundred by forty feet. He also has a sheep barn forty-one by forty feet. His place is well drained and fenced and is one of the most valuable estates in the township. In politics he is a Democrat and he takes an interest in the affairs of his township. He is a public-spirited man and has done much to improve conditions in his neighborhood. He is an advocate of good roads and has been instrumental in improving the roads of his section of the county. He has served his fellow residents of Monroe township in public office and is at present a trustee, to which office he was elected in 1904. He is engaged in superintending the erection of a fine new school house.

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#### WILLIAM T. WAGGONER.

In the early decades of the nineteenth century John Lizar was known to the pioneers of northeastern Indiana as a mighty hunter and trapper. He took game in the very woods that later became the property of and the homestead of his grandson. Before he died he used to tell of the days in the frontier of the northwest, and of the times he hauled his grain to the old water mill at Saint



Mary's. The grandson of this hunter and farmer is William T. Waggoner. He was born in Lexington, Richland county, Ohio, March 12, 1857. He is the son of Henry R. and Sarah (Lizar) Waggoner. Both of his parents were born in Pennsylvania, where they were married, and went to Ohio. Later, in 1855, they moved to Lexington, and it was here that William was born. In addition to his other business Henry Waggoner made wagons. He had learned this trade in his youth and followed it many years. In 1865 he concluded to move to Indiana. Accordingly he sold his Ohio property and migrated across the border of the neighboring state. He settled in Blue Creek township, Adams county. His farm was covered with woods and was unimproved. Soon after coming to Indiana he secured work at his trade in the plant of the Schackley Wheel Company at Decatur. He remained with this firm until the plant was destroyed by an explosion in 1871. After this plant was destroyed he ran a wagon shop in Blue Creek township until 1893, when he removed to Berne, Adams county, where he lived a retired life. After his wife's death, March 10, 1898, he gave up his residence in Berne and made his home with one or the other of his children until his own death, September 16, 1905.

He was married twice and had three children by his first wife. His second wife was the mother of the subject of this sketch and bore her husband eight children. Henry Waggoner was a respected man and an esteemed citizen. He voted the Republican ticket and was a member of the Christian church.

William Waggoner was reared on the Blue Creek township farm. He received as

good an education as it was possible to get in the section of the state where he was brought up at that time. When he grew to manhood he worked at the trade of wagon-making for a time; later gave this up and devoted all his time to farming. He has owned his present place of ninety acres for twenty-seven years. He also owned forty acres in Blue Creek township for a time, but disposed of this tract in 1905. He served one term, from 1889 to 1893, as postmaster of Berne. When his term was ended he returned to his farm in Monroe township and resumed farming. He owns one of the best improved and most attractive places in the township. He has put all of the improvements on the place himself and has built almost all of the buildings on his farm. These are modern and substantial and the farm is admirably fenced and drained and is at a high point of productiveness. In addition to general farming he raises shorthorn cattle, Berkshire hogs and Shropshire sheep. He also raises horses for the market and he sells numbers.

Mr. Waggoner was married to Miss Julia A. Hedington in 1877. His wife is a daughter of Laben and Sarah (Daniels) Hedington, who are natives of Mount Vernon, Ohio. No children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Waggoner. He is a good neighbor and a highly respected citizen. He takes an active part in the affairs of his community, but has not served as a public officer.

He is a member of the lodge of Knights of Pythias at Berne and is active in promoting the welfare and prestige of this order. With his wife he is a member of the Christian church and subscribes heartily to the aims of this denomination.



## JOSEPH JOHNSON DAILEY.

Joseph Johnson Dailey is a native of Adams county. He was born in that county March 1, 1847. He is a son of James and Mary (Johnson) Dailey. On his mother's side he can trace his ancestry back to the Mayflower, when the first of the family of that name came to this country. His father was born at Athens, Ohio, in 1815, and his mother was born in Harrison county of the same state. After their marriage in Ohio James and Mary Dailey migrated to Indiana. They purchased land in Saint Mary's township and were among the first settlers in this part of Adams county. They lived on their farm and cultivated it until the death of James Dailey in 1863. Mrs. Dailey survived her husband some years and lived until 1885. This couple were the parents of dead, as is also Samantha, the eighth in still living. The eldest child, Nimrod, is dead, as is also Samantha, the eighth in point of birth. The survivors are: Davis, Mary, J. J., Amy, Emly, Margaret, James and Esias. The two last named are twins.

Of this family J. J. Dailey was the fourth born. He spent his early life on the family farm in Saint Mary's township. His life was not unlike that of the average boy raised in northeastern Indiana in the pioneer days. He attended the winter sessions of the schools of his neighborhood and secured as good an education as the times and circumstances permitted. In the months between school terms he assisted in the cultivation of his father's farm and under the guidance of his father became in time a successful and skilled agriculturist. In 1873 he decided to make a start for himself independent of his father, and in line with this idea he

purchased his present farm in Blue Creek township. This was a tract of eighty acres and was splendidly located. He now owns two hundred and forty acres. He chose for his wife in 1873 Miss Samantha Robinson, who was a daughter of Abram and Nancy (Zimmerman) Robinson. Her parents were among the old settlers of the county and were large landowners. Her father was a farmer and was one of the most prosperous in the county. Both of her parents are dead.

After his marriage Mr. Dailey set to work to clear and improve his farm. The land was practically virgin soil and the task of getting it under cultivation was a huge one. However, he was filled with the determination to succeed, and it was not long before he had the greater portion of his farm under cultivation and crops being raised each year at a profit. As the years progressed he improved his place. He ditched it and drained it thoroughly and built substantial fences. He improved the buildings that were on the farm and added to the house. He also erected a large barn, ninety by forty-seven feet, and built other out buildings. In addition to cultivating the land, he raises stock. His breeds of Durham cattle and Duroc swine are famous over the county and he raises good strains of Shropshire sheep. Altogether, his place is one of the most valuable in the county and it is kept along lines of modernity and the best farm practice. Apart from his business of farming he takes an interest in the affairs of his county. He is a Republican, but has never held office and does not aspire to any. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias.

Mr. and Mrs. Dailey are the parents of twelve children. These are: Elmira, Nanny, Esaias, Mary, Mabel, Leina and



Leona (twins), Viola, Wilmia and Wildus (twins), Stanton and Stanley (twins).

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#### ANDREW B. DAUGHERTY.

The parents of A. B. Daugherty were among the earliest settlers in Adams county. His father was Andrew Daugherty, who was born in Maryland in 1805. His mother was Jane (Montgomery) Daugherty, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1810. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Daugherty were married in Ohio August 23, 1832. They lived a few years in Ohio after their marriage and then the husband came to Indiana and entered land in 1836. Three years later he returned to Ohio and brought his family with him to Indiana. He was the father of six children: Leonard, Hester A., Oliver S., Alvin W., Angeline and Andrew B. The latter child, who is the subject of this sketch, was the youngest of his father's family. He was reared on the original forty-acre farm his father entered from the government. It was located in Root township and was the home of the elder Daugherty until his death, October 1, 1896. During his life the elder Daugherty had added to his land holdings, and at his death he owned one hundred and twenty acres. He was a successful farmer and his estate at his death was well improved and at a most productive stage.

The marriage of Mr. Daugherty and Miss Jemima Evans was solemnized January 26, 1870. His wife is a daughter of Robert and Elizabeth (Sparks) Evans. Her parents were natives of Ohio. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Daugherty. These children are: Blanche E., the wife of

George Laughrey, a school teacher of Cicero, Indiana; Lizzie I., the wife Clyde Davis; Claude D., employed in a store at Colfax, Indiana; True, a student at Purdue University at Lafayette, Indiana, and Fan- chion, who is a student at the Decatur high school and lives at home.

As a general farmer Mr. Daugherty is one of the most successful in his section of the county. His farm consists of eighty acres, all under cultivation, and he raises excellent crops each year which he sells at a handsome profit. He has improved his farm from time to time and its appearance today is a delight to the eye of the beholder. The broad fields are enclosed by fine fences and the house and other buildings on the estate are modern and in excellent repair. Considered as a whole the farm is one of the most valuable and finest country homes in the county. The satisfaction of looking at his productive property and realizing what is revealed is the result of his own labors is Mr. Daugherty's. He has led an industrious life and he has made the most of all opportunities that presented themselves to him. He is a wide-awake man and takes an interest in the affairs of his county and township. He is interested in all movements that are designed to elevate the community in which he lives or to add to its commercial prosperity. He contributes liberally to all such movements, and is a valuable citizen and a good neighbor. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias, but is not to be considered as a public man in any sense of the word. He and the members of his family are members of the Lutheran church and he contributes generously to this denomination and to its objects. In politics he is a Republican.



## WILLIAM L. RANDENBUSH.

William L. Randenbush was born in Allen county near the city of Fort Wayne, January 28, 1862. He is a son of Isaac and Anna M. (Shaffer) Randenbush. His father was a native of Pennsylvania, who came to Indiana and lived for a time in Elkhart county. His mother also lived in this county for some years. After their marriage his parents removed to Allen county and settled near Fort Wayne. They resided in Allen county for some years and in 1866 came to Adams county. They located on a farm in Washington township, where he died in 1874. His wife survived him many years, her death occurring March 4, 1907. Six children were born to this estimable couple: George, Mary, Clara, Dayton, Elien and William L. The two last named are twins.

While the elder Randenbush was a farmer in his later life, he learned the trade of a blacksmith in his young manhood and worked at this trade for several years. He was a Republican, but never held any public office. He and his wife were members of the Evangelical church.

William Randenbush was reared on his father's farm in Allen and Adams counties. He attended the public schools of his districts and secured a good English education. He learned what it meant to be a farmer and the busy life he led assisting his father in the cultivation of his farm prepared him for the labor of a like kind he was destined to do on his own estate. When he reached his majority he started out for himself. He worked in various sections of the county as a hired helper for several years and out of his monthly earnings he saved money. He

was frugal and of a saving nature and it was not long before he had accumulated enough money to invest in a farm for himself.

In 1885 he was married to Miss Della Reynolds, a daughter of Elisha and Sarah (Roe) Reynolds. Her parents were among the older residents of Adams county and her father was born in that county. He is a plasterer by trade and followed that business for many years. He is still living in Decatur. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Randenbush—Rolla E. and Alma L. Both children live with their parents.

Mr. Randenbush is the owner of one hundred and six acres of land. He secured his present property in 1902. It was partially improved when he purchased it, but he has added many improvements since it came into his possession. He has almost all of his place under cultivation and it is well drained and equipped with buildings and fences. He raises a good quality of stock and hogs. He is a Republican so far as his politics are concerned, and has served as a trustee of his home township, Blue Creek. Other than this he has not held office. He takes an active interest in county and township affairs, but devotes most of his time to the cultivation of his farm. He is a successful farmer and his crops are usually excellent and disposed of at a profit.

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 THOMAS H. BALTZELL.

Thomas H. Baltzell, who is numbered among Adams county's successful farmers and stock breeders, is a native of this county, having been born in Blue Creek township on December 20, 1856. He is a son of



John and Rebecca J. (Ruby) Baltzell. John Baltzell was born in Ohio and in an early day came to Adams county, locating on a farm in Blue Creek township. For a few years he followed blacksmithing and also bought and sold timber, and followed other occupations. He was the father of six children, namely: Thomas H., subject of this sketch; Theresa, Belle, Emma, Dayton and Amanda. In politics he was a Democrat, though he never held public office. He died in 1880, his wife dying while the subject of this sketch was quite young.

Thomas H. Baltzell received a common school education and has practically given his entire attention to farming and kindred pursuits. He obtained his present farm in a rough and unimproved condition, but by dint of persistent and strenuous personal endeavor he has converted it into one of the choicest farms in his county. He is the owner of two hundred and sixty acres of land, about two hundred and forty acres of which are under the plow, and devotes a large share of his time to the breeding of thoroughbred Shropshire sheep and Berkshire hogs, in which enterprise he has been very successful. He has also given some attention to public works, having contracted for several large ditches in the county, all of which he successfully completed.

On September 22, 1882, Mr. Baltzell was united in marriage with Miss Emma J. Andrews, daughter of T. H. and Sarah (Little) Andrews, the former of whom was a native of Ohio and came to Indiana in an early day, where he followed farming the remainder of his life. They were the parents of six children, namely: Marion, Anna, Emma, Morton, Martha A. and Emma, who is now deceased. To the subject and his wife have

been born nine children, namely: Vaughn, Walter T., Theresa, Ruth, Electa, John, Dent, Victor and Crystal. Mr. Baltzell is a Democrat and takes an active interest in all public matters of his county.

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#### DANIEL WELDY.

In a time that is now recalled and remembered by few men living in Adams county today Daniel Weldy began life in the northeastern part of Indiana. He lives in the same section of the state today, and as he looks back over the flight of years he sees remarkable changes and in each can point to the work he has accomplished in developing his county and community. He is one of the remarkable characters of his section of the state. He is essentially a product of pioneer days. His personality is rugged and wholesome, and his part in life has been played with fearlessness and honesty. He is one of three survivors of a family of twelve children born to his parents. His birth occurred in Fairfield county, Ohio, on October 3, 1822. His parents were Peter and Susanna (Huddle) Weldy. His father was a native of Pennsylvania and his mother of Virginia. His father was a farmer who braved the Ohio wilderness in the days soon after the war for independence and made a home in the trackless forests. He lived in the state of his adoption until his death in 1877.

Daniel Weldy came to Adams county in 1845. He secured land in Kirkland township when that section of the county was in a wild state. The eighty acres of land he purchased was in the woods and the hand of man had done nothing to make them pro-



ductive. However, Daniel faced his future without faltering. He hewed logs and built a rude cabin and began to clear the land. At the time wild game abounded in the forests, and many birds and animals fell prey to his unerring rifle. He was a keen sportsman and his skill as a hunter was one of the points of his younger years in the state. Once established in his new home he began to contribute his full share to the development of the county. He was an active, wide-awake man and knew what it meant to form a new country. The necessities of life were obtainable, but something more than the mere necessities were what the pioneer citizens had come for. Education was a necessity and he realized the great advantages that would come to future generations through this medium. As trustee of Kirkland township he erected the first log schoolhouse in that township and in his long and useful life he was foremost in promoting educational facilities. He served his fellow citizens of Adams county and of his own township in a number of public capacities. He was a trusted public servant. He was a trustee of Kirkland township for fifteen years, a justice of the peace in the same township for eleven years, a member of the county commissioners for six years and a supervisor for a long term. During his incumbency of these offices he built school houses, pikes, and in many other ways contributed substantially to the improvement and development of the county. During all of these years he continued to live on his original farm. In all he spent fifty-seven years on his farm, and brought it to the very acme of fertility. He built comfortable and substantial buildings, drained the land thor-

oughly and has made of it one of the most valuable farms in the entire county.

Mr. Weldy was married to Miss Elizabeth Beery, a daughter of Joseph and Barbara (Miller) Beery. His wife's parents lived in Fairfield county, Ohio, and died there. Eleven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Weldy. These are: Christian, Seth, William, Barbara, Sarah, Mary, Abraham, Rachael, Ellen, Daniel and Eli.

In 1900 Mr. Weldy moved to Decatur and built a fine home on First street, where he still resides. He was at one time one of the largest land owners in Adams county, possessing more than eight hundred acres, located in three townships. He sold this land later. As a farmer he was a successful man. He raised much valuable stock, making a specialty of Berkshire and Poland China hogs and general purpose horses. He has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for more than forty years, becoming a member of this fraternity in 1863.

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#### JAMES WAGNER.

Among the present residents of Adams county who can claim to be in reality old residents is James Wagner. Less than half of the last century had been told when he came to Indiana. It is true that he was but a small lad when he came, but that does not invalidate the claim that he was one of the pioneers and is still one of the oldest settlers of this county. He was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, near the town of Lancaster, November 10, 1834. His parents were John N. and Elizabeth (La Clear) Wagner. Both



were born in France and migrated to America in 1834. They lived for the first five years after their arrival in this country in Fairfield county, Ohio, and then came to Indiana. In 1845 the elder Wagner purchased land in Adams county, and this land is in possession of James, his son, today.

Indiana land was not an attractive proposition to the pioneers of the early decades of the nineteenth century when viewed from the standpoint of physical beauty. The land was a wilderness infested with wild beasts, and the pioneers had a serious problem confronting them. The land secured by John Wagner was not better than any other. It was covered with timber and altogether unimproved. However, he erected the customary log cabin and began to create a farm. His labors were hard and he did not live to see his land the fine tract it is today. He died two years after reaching Adams county, leaving a widow and two boys. The sons were little fellows at the time of their father's death, but they were determined to help their mother and did all they could to improve the place. As they grew to manhood they added from time to time the necessary improvements and erected better buildings than those of their early days. Fences were stretched along the fields and the necessary tiling was laid and ditches constructed to drain the area that was swampy or otherwise too moist for cultivation. The place, which consisted of one hundred and twenty acres, was gradually brought under cultivation and today all is in fine shape. Eight acres of timber land are preserved because of the fine quality of the timber on it.

In 1855 James Wagner was married to Lydia L. Martz, a daughter of Henry and

Catherine (Lydic) Martz. Her father was a native of Maryland and her mother was born in Bedford county, Pennsylvania. They came to Indiana and settled in the Adams county wilderness in 1838. They bought land in Monroe township and lived there until their deaths. Mr. Martz died in 1870 and his wife survived him twelve years and died in 1883. Thirteen children came to bless the union of James Wagner and Lydia Martz. Of these children nine are still living. Those living are: Mary, now Mrs. Andrews, of Columbus, Ohio; Elizabeth, now Mrs. Middleton, resides in Arkansas; Louisa, now Mrs. Hunter, of Decatur; Nicholas, a farmer in Washington township; Ella, now Mrs. Estell, of Cincinnati, Ohio; Eva, now Mrs. Dimond, of Hartford, Connecticut; Angie, now Mrs. Peterson, residing on the home farm; Leonard, residing in Fort Wayne; Jesse, residing in Fort Wayne. Those dead are: Emily, Rena, Frank and Ida.

The entire life of Mr. Wagner has been spent on the family homestead. He has grown up with his township and has witnessed and taken part in many changes that have come about. He is a public-spirited man and enjoys the esteem and fullest confidence of his fellow men. He has served his neighbors in public capacities several years and has been a supervisor. He is an enthusiastic member of the Horse Thief Detective Association and other bodies devoted to the improvement and protection of the district. He votes an independent ticket, favoring the man rather than the party. With the members of his family he is a religious man and a supporter of churches. His home is pleasant and most comfortable.



## HERMAN W. SELLEMEYER.

Herman W. Sellemeyer is a native of Adams county, having been born in Preble township July 14, 1859. He was the fifth in order of birth of a family of six children born to his parents, Ernst and Christina (Oeting) Sellemeyer. His father was born in Germany in 1812 and died in 1891. His mother is still living with one of her sons and has reached the advanced age of eighty-nine years. The children of the elder Sellemeyer who are living are: Louise, William, who operates the homestead; Frederick, a resident of Decatur; H. W., the subject of this sketch, and August, a lumberman. The boyhood home of Mr. Sellemeyer was on his father's farm. He attended the schools of the district and picked up as complete and satisfactory an education as the times and conditions permitted. In the summer months he worked on his father's farm and learned the lessons that agriculture teaches. He was an industrious boy and mastered the principles that he applied to his credit and financial success later in his life.

The marriage of Mr. Sellemeyer and Miss Savilla Kohler was celebrated April 17, 1884. The bride was a daughter of John P. and Mary Ann (Steiner) Kohler. Her father was a native of Switzerland, from which country he came to the United States early in the last century. Mrs. Sellemeyer was one of a family of eleven children born to her parents. Of this large family Peter and Mrs. Sellemeyer are living. William, John, Philip, Celestina, Calvin, Mary, Josephine, Daniel and Edward are dead. John Kohler after coming to America located for a time in the east. Later he removed to Wayne county, Ohio, where he lived and

farmed for about five years. In 1858 he disposed of his Ohio place and removed with his family to Indiana. He purchased land in French township, Adams county, and continued to farm. In addition to his work on the farm he followed his trades of mason and plasterer and added to his income each year through the medium of the work he did for various farmers of the township. His wife lived on the Indiana homestead and was a faithful and able helpmate to her husband until her demise. She died in 1890. After the death of his wife Mr. Kohler lived with his daughter and Mr. Sellemeyer until his own death, March 9, 1900. He was one of the most highly respected men of the township and his life had been of great benefit to the community in which he lived.

Mr. and Mrs. Sellemeyer are the parents of three children, all of whom are living. The eldest, Emma, is one of the best-known educators of Adams county. She is a woman of much initiative and has had a most successful career as a teacher. At present she is teaching in the primary grades of the public schools at Decatur. A second daughter, Matilda, is also a teacher and is at present one of the teachers of the Preble school in Preble township. Agnes, the youngest daughter, is attending the schools of her home district. In addition to his three daughters Mr. Sellemeyer has given a home and a parent's consideration and affection to Hulda Bauer.

The estate owned by Mr. Sellemeyer consists of seventy-five acres, all well improved and at a high stage of fertility and productiveness. He has practically made all of the improvements on his place without outside aid. He has lived on it continuously for twenty-one years. Two years of his life



he spent working in a saw mill in Decatur before coming to his present farm. He takes an interested part in the affairs of his community. He is a member of the Democratic party, but has never held or aspired to public office. He and his wife are members of the German Reformed church at Decatur and are earnest supporters of this denomination.

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### GEORGE ZEHR.

George Zehr, an enterprising and successful farmer of Wabash township, Adams county, Indiana, is a native of Germany, where he was born on November 11, 1842, and is a son of Jacob and — (Steinman) Zehr. These parents were agriculturists and never left the fatherland.

George Zehr obtained a good education in the public schools of his native land and in 1866, in order to better his financial interests, emigrated to America and located in Wayne county, Ohio, where he lived for two years, and then removed to Adams county, where he spent a year working at the carpenter trade. Subsequently he located in McLain county, Illinois, and also spent three years in Taswell and Livingston counties, Illinois. In 1872 he returned to Adams county and bought a farm of ninety-two acres, located in section 19, Wabash township, which at that time was densely covered with timber excepting a tract of about ten acres. For a number of years their home was in a log cabin, but in 1887 this was replaced by a splendid two-story frame residence, followed two years later by the erection of a large barn, a large part of the carpenter work on both buildings having been done by

Mr. Zehr. Today he owns as good a farm as can be found in Adams county, having put upon it many substantial and permanent improvements. In addition to agriculture he gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock, in which he has been successful.

In 1872 Mr. Zehr married Miss Lydia Roth, daughter of Christian and Mary (Hirschy) Roth, the father a native of France and the mother of Switzerland. They came to America separately many years ago and settled in Adams county, Indiana, where they subsequently resided until death. Mrs. Zehr was born in French township, Adams county, and was here reared and received her education. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Zehr have been born ten children, namely: Christian, David, Jacob, Mary and Sarah (twins), Rosa, Enos, Simeon, William and Lillie, now deceased. The family are members of the Mennonite church and take an active interest in everything that tends to the upbuilding of the community.

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### DANIEL BEELER.

Daniel Beeler was born in Butler county, Ohio, near the present city of Hamilton in 1854. He is the son of William and Margaret (Burcaw) Beeler. His father was a native of the Keystone State, where he was born in 1817. His mother was born in Hamilton in 1822. William Beeler came from Pennsylvania to Ohio when a young man and followed his trade of carpenter for some time. He purchased land and added farming to his calling. After a residence of some years in Ohio he removed to Indiana



and purchased land in Wabash township, Adams county. This land he cultivated for a number of years and then he disposed of it and purchased a farm in Jefferson township. His wife died February 6, 1900, and his death occurred in June, 1905. He was an esteemed man and left a record that showed him to be an exemplary citizen.

Daniel Beeler followed the fortunes of his father for the years succeeding his birth. He was educated in the common schools of the day and learned the art of agriculture. There was nothing about his early life that made it differ materially from the lives of the average boys of his time. He worked hard and his pleasures were the rude pastimes of his pioneer neighborhood. After reaching his majority Daniel Beeler married Miss Rachael Hilleary, a daughter of Enos and Rachael (Rickner) Hilleary. Her father was a native of Virginia and her mother of Licking county, Ohio. Mr. Hilleary was a carpenter and followed this work in addition to agriculture. He spent his life in Ohio, never coming to Indiana, and died in that former state in about 1876. His wife died three years before his own death occurred. After his marriage Mr. Beeler devoted all of his attention to agriculture. He improved his farm from time to time. He constructed ditches and laid tiling as it became necessary and so reduced the greater part of his homestead to cultivation. As the needs of his farm and its increased productiveness presented themselves, he erected better and larger buildings and now has his original estate equipped with a fine home, substantial barn and other buildings. His fences are strong and kept in excellent repair, and altogether his estate is one of the best improved and most attractive in Adams

county. He owns a total of one hundred and sixty-seven acres in this and Jay county, Indiana, and almost the whole of these two farms are under cultivation. Mr. Beeler conducts a general farming business. He rotates his crops with judgment and applies modern methods in tilling the soil. In addition to his general farming business he raises much stock. His breeds of cattle, horses, sheep and hogs are of a high standard and are sold at profitable prices.

In matters apart from business he is a man wide awake. He takes an interest in public affairs and in all matters affecting the general good. He is a member of the Prohibition party and gives this organization his support, but he has never been a candidate for political office. He is an esteemed citizen and with his wife supports the United Brethren church. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Beeler: Eva J., the wife of James Armstrong, a farmer of Washington township; Della, the wife of Wilson Hollingsworth, and Samuel E. and May G., living with their parents.

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#### CHARLES ARMSTRONG.

Charles Armstrong was born April 20, 1856, in Adams county, Indiana. He is the son of Stephen and Miriam (Nelson) Armstrong. His father was born in New London county, Connecticut, almost within hearing of the waves of Long Island Sound. The elder Armstrong came to Indiana in 1852 and settled on the farm that is the present home of his son Charles. This tract is located in Wabash township and on it the elder Armstrong followed general farming



and live stock raising. He had a family of ten children, seven of whom are still living. He died in 1885. His wife, the mother of the subject of this brief sketch, is still living at the home of her son and has reached the advanced age of seventy-two years. His mother was a native of Fairfield county, Ohio, and came to Indiana when three years of age with her parents. When they reached their land in this township they found Indians living on it.

The Armstrong brothers are the owners of three hundred and forty-eighty acres of farm land in Adams county. All of this land is under cultivation and the brothers follow a general farming business, at which they have been uniformly successful. In addition to raising crops that are profitable the brothers raise much stock. Their strains of shorthorn cattle, Duroc and Poland China hogs and horses are among the best in this section of the state. They take especial pride in their breeds of stock, and are continually improving the strains. The greater part of the work of clearing the original place this family occupied in Adams county fell upon Charles. His father had the misfortune to be an invalid and partially incapacitated for manual labor. Young Charles, as a result, went to work in the fields of his father's farm almost as soon as he was tall enough to grasp the handles of a plow. He worked earnestly and faithfully and much of the fertility and productiveness of the place today is due to his labors and faithful attention to the management of the farm.

Mr. Armstrong is one of the most highly respected men of his community. He is a man who is alive to the needs of his township, and is one of the most earnest in working for these needs. In politics he is a Dem-

ocrat, but in county and township affairs is guided in his voting by the qualifications of the man for the office rather than any party dictum. His farm is well improved and is one of the best in the neighborhood. He has the credit for all the improvements, and can say that it indicates the work of an intelligent and consistent worker. He is not a member of any lodge. The entire family of Armstrongs were Christian people, members of the Presbyterian and Methodist Episcopal church. Mrs. Armstrong, mother of our subject, has lived longer in this neighborhood than anyone else living. Their only neighbors were Indians. The first year they lived here all their cattle were killed by wolves. They endured many hardships and for the first few years lived on wild game.

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#### HENRY MILLER.

It is said that there was a time during the residence of Henry Miller in Adams county when he knew personally every man in his home township. It is certain today that there is no better known man, or for that matter one more highly esteemed than Henry Miller within the confines of the community in which he has spent his life. He was born in Licking county, Ohio, December 29, 1838. His parents were Isaac and Sarah (Knepper) Miller. His father was born in Virginia and was the son of Peter Miller. His mother was born in Pennsylvania. They came to Ohio about the same time and after their marriage lived in Licking county until their deaths. The early life of Henry Miller was spent on his parents' homestead in



Ohio. He obtained a fair education in the schools of his neighborhood and in 1859 came to Indiana. He purchased a farm in Wabash township, which he still owns. When he bought his land it was heavily wooded and had to be cleared before it could be made productive. He labored at the task of clearing the land, and when a portion was cleared he returned to Ohio. After spending two years in Ohio he came back to Wabash township. He resumed the work of clearing his tract of one hundred and twenty-five acres and in time accomplished this. However, he permitted thirteen acres to remain in timber and pasturage. The farm is today one of the best and most attractive in the township. The residence on it and the barns are in excellent shape and are thoroughly modern. The fencing is strong and ample, and Mr. Miller has laid about fifteen hundred rods of tiling. In every respect the farm is productive and profitable and has been brought to a high state of fertility and cultivation.

The marriage of Mr. Miller and Miss Naomi Nelson was celebrated in 1860. Before her death Mrs. Miller bore her husband seven children: Emma, Mary, William, Franklin, Carrie, James and Isaac, who died in infancy. Following the death of his first wife Mr. Miller contracted another marriage in 1872. His bride this time was Miss Martha Boehm, a daughter of Barnett and Sarah (Huddle) Boehm. His wife's parents came to Indiana from Virginia and settled on a farm in Wabash township, Adams county. Later they moved to Jay county, where they lived until their deaths. As the result of this marriage eight children were born: Katie O., John A., Howard, Tilden, Barney, Nellie, Vernon and Goldie.

Mr. Miller's life has been a busy one, filled with energetic work. He was employed at times during fifteen years of his life in Adams county as a carpenter and helped in the construction of many of the buildings in the county. He has brought his farm to a model basis, and he enjoys a comfortable competence. In addition to tilling his acres he raises stock. His farm is well provided with good grades of shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs and these he sells at excellent prices. He is a man who takes an interested part in the things that are going on about him. He is an active worker for all measures that mean the improvement of his neighborhood, and although giving his complete allegiance to no party has served ten years as a trustee of Wabash township. He affiliates with no lodge, but is an active and consistent member of the Disciples' church. He is a respected citizen and a good neighbor, and his advice and counsel are frequently sought by his fellows.

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#### J. L. LOVE.

J. L. Love was born in Wayne county, Indiana, May 21, 1850. His parents were among the earlier settlers of Wayne county, coming to Indiana in 1830. John Love, the father of J. L., was a native of North Carolina and his mother, who was Harriett Scott, was born in Virginia. The boyhood of J. L. Love was spent near the village of Williamsburg on a farm. He was one of a family of eleven children, but three of whom survive. His education was obtained in the district schools and his life was not marked by incidents other than are encountered by



the average boy who was a son of pioneer parents. He worked on his father's farm and in addition learned the business of a carpenter. When he grew to manhood he decided to make a start for himself. His father died in Wayne county in 1873 and the following year his son was married to Rachel Baldwin, a daughter of Thomas and Diadema (Tigle) Baldwin. Like the father of Mr. Love, his wife's father was a native of North Carolina. Her mother was born in Wayne county, but the family lived in Randolph county, of which section of Indiana they were old settlers. Following his marriage to Miss Baldwin, Mr. Love decided to move to Adams county. He did this and purchased a farm of sixty acres, all but five of which are now under cultivation. This farm has been cultivated and improved by Mr. Love since he came into possession of it in 1886, and is a valuable piece of property.

After reaching Adams county he turned his attention to carpenter work. He developed this business until it became a source of great profit. He took contracts for the erection of buildings and became one of the most successful and best known builders of the county. Among the structures that stand as monuments to his ability are several school buildings in various parts of Adams county. In addition to these buildings he has planned and erected many large barns on various farms of the county. His work in all particulars has given the utmost satisfaction and has been of a high order.

Mr. and Mrs. Love have become the parents of seven children: Clayton and Alfred, living in Randolph county; John, an oil well driller of Geneva; Orlie, who lost his life in a railroad accident; Mary, married and liv-

ing in Ceylon; Nora, married and living in Lafayette, and Maud, married and living near Geneva. Mr. Love is a member of the Republican party and an enthusiastic worker in its interests. He has not aspired to office but has ever had the good of his party at heart. He is an earnest and esteemed member of the Berne Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and with his family worships with the Friends congregation.

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### LEWIS LONG.

A few years following the close of the war for American Independence a man who had followed the fortunes of the Continental arms under General Washington as a soldier left his home in eastern Pennsylvania and traveled to Ohio. His object was to establish a new home in the Northwest Territory. This soldier of Washington was James Long and he settled in Warren county, Ohio. He made a home and cleared a farm and in the due course of time became the grandfather of the subject of this sketch. James Lang was accompanied by a boy, his son, and this boy, Robert Long, was the father of Lewis. Robert Long was born in 1787 and lived with his father on the Ohio farm until he grew up. He decided to come to Indiana, which was then a Mecca for adventurous pioneers, and did come in 1816. He had followed his trade of cabinet-making in Franklin, Ohio, but believed that he would find greater opportunities in the new country to the westward. When he reached Union county the pioneer found that the land was covered with heavy timber and was full of wild game. He moved into a customary log cabin and proceeded to clear the land.



In time this was accomplished. About 1812 Robert Long was married to Miss Mary Kyle. Ten children were born of this union. They were: Sarah P., William, James, Robert K., David, Samuel, Elizabeth, Mary, Lewis and Martha. From this it will be seen that Lewis was the ninth child born to his parents. His boyhood was spent on the farm and he obtained a very meager education in the schools of the neighborhood. His father became a prosperous farmer and purchased other land in the state. Among these was a tract in Adams county that had been government school land. Robert Long lived a number of years in Union county and saw the county develop and grow. He improved his land and at his death, which occurred July 8, 1855, was the owner of one of the best and most highly improved tracts in the county. His wife survived him a number of years and her death occurred in 1871. She had moved in 1857 to Clermont county, Ohio.

It was to the Adams county land owned by his father that Lewis Long removed in 1862. He was married May 29th of that year and brought his bride to Adams county. The land was rough and uncleared and the task of bringing it under cultivation was a huge undertaking. However, by industry and close attention he succeeded in clearing the greater portion of the land and in making it productive. His wife, who was Miss Mary Blair, a daughter of Charles and Catherine (Lang) Blair, was an able assistant to her husband and was a fine type of a hardy, resourceful pioneer woman. She was born in Ireland, but came to this country when young. Her parents never left Ireland and are buried there. Mr. and Mrs. Long are the parents of eight children, seven of whom

are living. Charles, the eldest of the family, died some years ago and George B., William, Eva, Russell, Alonzo, Daisy and Leona are living.

Mr. Long is the owner today of a fine farm of one hundred and thirty-five acres. The land is well cleared and highly improved. The buildings are modern and adequate. The farm is well fenced and admirably drained. The owner follows general farming and his crops are large and profitable. He raises stock and his cattle and Shropshire sheep and Poland China hogs are among the best of their breed in the county. He raises bronze turkeys and these domesticated birds are raised on the land where wild turkeys and other game were shot in the owner's early days. In addition to his farm work Mr. Long is an expert carpenter and has followed this trade for more than fifty years. He is a progressive man and one who is generally esteemed. He served for seven years as a justice of the peace and was a member of the Grange of his neighborhood when that body was in existence. His family worship at the Methodist Episcopal church and give this denomination their hearty and generous support. The subject was raised a Presbyterian, but he never affiliated with any church. He is a Democrat.

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#### JOHN BROWN.

Abraham Brown, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, and the first of his immediate family to come to this country, was a native of Scotland and emigrated to America and settled in Pennsylvania. He



was an industrious, thrifty man and his successful life was an inspiration to his descendants. He had a son also named Abraham, who became the father of John Brown. Abraham married Mary Reed in Pennsylvania and moved with her to Ohio, where he entered land from the government. He followed the calling of a farmer and lived in Ohio until his death in 1863. His wife died the same year. He was survived by five of his family of ten children. John Brown was born in Van Wert county, Ohio, November 23, 1853. He spent his youth on his father's farm and assisted in the labors incident to the operation and management of the farm. In 1870 he came to Indiana and settled on one hundred and five acres of land, which he purchased in Wabash township, Adams county. This land under his management and development has come to be a very valuable tract, and is still the home property of Mr. Brown. He improved his land and soon had it at a very profitable stage of cultivation. In addition to general farming he devoted his attention to the raising of stock for shipment to the markets. This work he has continued and has built up a business in shipping cattle, hogs and sheep that is one of the largest and most important and profitable in northeastern Indiana. As time wore on Mr. Brown added to his real estate holdings in the township until he has today four hundred and fifty acres of fine land all in one piece. This is situated about one and one half miles from Geneva and is one of the best improved in the entire county. All the improvements on the land were put there by Mr. Brown. A large part of his farm is under cultivation and the crops that are grown on the land are fed to the cattle and

hogs that are raised. These grades of cattle and hogs are common grades, but under the experienced eye and management of Mr. Brown become excellent for marketing and are sold at the highest market prices in a number of localities. Mr. Brown sells all of his stock on foot and ships much of it to distant points.

The estate owned by Mr. Brown is one of the finest in the county. He has erected a fine residence and large and commodious stock barns and sheds. The improvements that have been made are of the very best and in the operation of the farm the latest machinery and most improved and modern methods are employed. The place is well fenced and excellently drained.

March 31, 1876, Mr. Brown married Miss Nettie Martin, a daughter of William and Caroline (Fitzsimmons) Martin. Her parents were residents of Pennsylvania originally, but later came to Ohio and thence to Indiana. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Brown. These children are: Nora, the wife of John Love, an oil man; Hattie, one of twins born, now the wife of Wesley Dunboodie, who is a farmer employed by Mr. Brown; Emma C., Harry, one of the twins, and the husband of Blanche Michaels, and Harvey, still at home.

Mr. Brown is one of the most highly respected men of his community. He is interested in all movements for the improvement of the township and county and is a ready contributor to such movements. He is a Republican and votes with this party on all subjects. Although he has never aspired to or sought a public office, he served for five years as a township trustee. He is not a member of any lodge.



## PETER J. BAUMGARTNER.

Although brought up on a farm on which he grew to manhood, Peter J. Baumgartner forsook the farm and engaged in a mercantile pursuit which he continues today. He is the owner of one of the largest and most complete and profitable hardware stores in northeastern Indiana. He is of Swiss parentage. His father and mother, Peter and Fannie (Basinger) Baumgartner, were among the early pioneers of Adams county. The father was born in Switzerland and the mother in France. When they came to the United States they hurried to the west and settled in the woods. The land they secured was heavily timbered and wholly without improvements. It was the home of Indians and was full of wild game, such as turkeys, deer and wolves. They lived for a time in Wayne county, Ohio, but removed to Adams county in 1842, where they commenced farming in French township. Peter J. Baumgartner was born November 5, 1853, on the French township farm. He spent his boyhood on the farm and secured his education in the township schools. He remained with his father until he reached his majority, and then decided to take up a mercantile life. He was employed for five years following his departure from the home farm as a carpenter and then opened a hardware business in Berne. This business was a small one at its start, but there was a vast amount of pluck behind it, and a determination on the part of the owner to make it successful in all respects. He continued his business for a few years and then engaged as a clerk in the store of L. A. Brickley & Son. However, he resumed his hardware business in 1888 and enlarged it at different

times until it reached its present capacity and volume.

Mr. Baumgartner's father died in 1885 and the same year his son was married to Miss Bertha L. Saurer, a daughter of John and Marian (Tschandrey) Saurer. His wife's parents came to this country from Switzerland and were among the older inhabitants of Adams county. Their farm was originally located in a wilderness and under their management and development became in time very valuable. Mr. and Mrs. Baumgartner became the parents of eight children. Four are still living: Homer H., Grover C., Ilma E., and Carl. Those dead are: Elroy P., Mahala M., Howard and one that died unnamed in infancy.

Since he resumed his hardware business in 1888 it has prospered and developed until today it yields a handsome profit. The store building is admirably adapted to its purpose and a complete line of hardware and implements is carried. Mr. Baumgartner is an aggressive and wide-awake business man who appreciates the value of modern methods and conducts his business accordingly. He is a public-spirited citizen and a man who is interested in all movements for the improvement of Berne and Adams county. He takes a leading part in such matters and contributes his support to them generously. He is a Democrat in politics and is a staunch supporter of his party in his section of the state. He has never aspired to public office but works in harmony with the members of his party. He has accumulated considerable property and is interested in several enterprises. One of his most valued possessions is a summer home at Odin, near Petoskey, Michigan. It is at this place that Mr. Baumgartner spends his summers and



he is a keen lover of out of door life and activities. He is an esteemed member of the Reformed church and contributes generously to its support.

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### CHRISTIAN BURGHALTER.

Tales of the opportunities that awaited young men in the United States came to the ears of Christian Burghalter in his native village in Switzerland and he was inflamed with a desire to go to the new republic and make his fortune. He was born in the Swiss village February 5, 1833, and grew to manhood there. He had little money and was poor, but he made up in determination what he lacked in wealth. He succeeded in borrowing enough money to pay his passage to this country and started out. When he landed in this country his funds were about exhausted, but he had sufficient money to carry him to the Swiss community of Wayne county, Ohio. He was a carpenter by trade and followed this employment in his early days in Ohio. Finally he acquired enough money to purchase some land and started as a farmer. His father and mother, Barnhardt and Emily (Worst).Burghalter, came to this country in 1852. In the year 1859 Christian Burghalter was married. He chose for his wife Mary Hartman, a daughter of Michael Hartman, of Wayne county, Ohio. During the early days of her husband on his farm Mrs. Burghalter proved an able assistant and a faithful wife. The marriage has been blessed by eight children, six of whom are living. These children are: Emma, Amanda, Millie, Daniel, Sarah and Ida. Eli and Leda E. are dead.

As a farmer Mr. Burghalter has been a successful and progressive man. His original place was not large and was uninviting. However, he cleared it and got it under cultivation and he made his farming profitable. He added from time to time improvements and fenced his place. He laid tiling and ditched the land where draining was necessary and he erected suitable buildings. He was engaged in cheese making for four years, but he devoted the greater portion of his time and energies to his farm work and to the cultivation of the soil. He added other tracts to his original purchase and now owns four hundred acres of good land, three hundred of which are under cultivation. He finds profit in raising stock for the market and has a number of fine Holsteins and some excellent Poland China and Duroc hogs on his place. He employs modern methods in administering the affairs and business of his estate, and in other ways demonstrates the fact that he is a thoroughly wide-awake man. Some years ago he erected a fine brick residence and a large barn. These buildings are among the best and finest in the county. His prosperity today is in strange contrast with his needy condition when he came to Indiana. He delights in telling of his early days and of the time when he hauled his produce forty-eight miles to find a market for it in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Burghalter is a public-spirited man. He takes a keen interest in all matters pertaining to the betterment of the community and has been active in many movements looking toward this end. He is an advocate of good roads and was instrumental in securing the construction of some of the present county pikes. In politics he is a Democrat, but he is not an aggressive partisan. He has



not aspired to public office, but served a number of years as a supervisor. He is a member of the Reformed church and gives this denomination his support. He and his family are highly esteemed by all who know them, and his home is one of the centers of social interest and activity of the district in which it is situated.

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### LEVI A. SPRUNGER.

Levi A. Sprunger is counted among the substantial and successful business men of Adams county. He was born in Monroe township, Adams county, November 1, 1863, and is a son of that revered veteran of Adams county finance, Abraham A. Sprunger. His father and mother were two of the substantial and hardy Swiss people who migrated to America in an early day and settled in northeastern Indiana. The elder Sprunger was a farmer and stock shipper and to him Berne is indebted for its strong financial institution, the Bank of Berne. Mr. Abraham Sprunger was instrumental in founding that institution and was its president continuously from the day its doors were first thrown open to the farmers of Adams county to his death. He was a large stockholder in the bank and was represented in a number of Berne's leading industries.

Levi was a member of a family of thirteen children, eight of whom are still living. As a boy and young man he worked on his father's farm and secured his early education in the winter term schools of his neighborhood. When he reached his majority he turned his back on the farm and began business as a clerk in a mercantile establishment

in Berne. He was employed in this manner for some time and then severed his connection with the store and interested himself in the lumber business. He operated and managed a lumber business, including a saw and planing mill, for the succeeding five years. He built up a successful enterprise and a large business. After the close of the five years' period he disposed of his mill interests and engaged in the mercantile business. He purchased his present business and has conducted it since. He began his present business in 1892 and has developed it to its present satisfactory proportions. His store is one of the most attractive and best equipped in Berne and he commands a large trade. His methods are those of a wide-awake, progressive business man and he possesses a large share of business sagacity. His methods are such that recommends him to his patrons and his store is a trading center for the entire section of the county.

Mr. Sprunger is interested in a number of industries of Berne. He is a stockholder and a director of the Bank of Berne, which institution his father founded. He is a director and stockholder in the Berne Lumber Company and is connected with the Berne Milling Company. He was the manager of this latter concern for five years and did much to place it on the firm footing it enjoys today. He is a public-spirited man and a valuable and useful citizen. He is a leader in municipal affairs and gives his hearty and generous support to all movements that are destined to elevate the general public. In politics he is a Democrat, but is in no sense a seeker of preferment or a partisan worker. He has served on the school board and is a patron and firm friend of education. With his family he is a member of the Men-



nonite church and contributes to the support of this denomination.

In 1887 he was united in marriage to Miss Matilda Baumgartner, a daughter of Abraham and Caroline (Ellenberger) Baumgartner. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Sprunger. These are: Alina, Grover, Lydia, Harry and Leona.

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#### DAVID BIXLER.

David Bixler has the distinction of being the pioneer jeweler of Berne. He opened the first store of its kind in this section of Adams county in 1872 in his father's home in French township. He began his trade with a relative who had been in the same line of business in Canada. Possessing a natural fondness for mechanics, he proved an intelligent apprentice and is today one of the most skilled men in his business in north-eastern Indiana. He was born in French township, Adams county, May 29, 1854. His parents were John and Maria (Basinger) Bixler. The father was born in Wayne county, Ohio, in 1828 and came to Indiana in 1853. The elder Bixler purchased eighty acres and cultivated this tract and improved it until 1893, when he moved to Berne and lived a retired life. His death occurred March 15, 1905. His wife is still living with her son, the subject of this sketch.

David Bixler lived on his father's farm during his youth and early manhood. His youth differed in no respect from that of the other boys of his community. He attended the schools of his neighborhood and secured as good an education as was possible under

the conditions. At an early age he showed an aptitude for mechanics and began learning the watchmaker's and jeweler's trade under his relative. He made rapid progress and set up a small establishment at his father's home. He repaired the watches of the farmers of his neighborhood and as his fame as an accomplished workman grew he was patronized by many from a distance. He enlarged his little business and added a stock of jewelry to his equipment as a watchmaker. He continued to conduct his business at the home farm until 1880, when he removed to Berne and established himself in business there. His store was the first of its kind opened in Berne. Today it is one of the best equipped in the county. Mr. Bixler is a skilled optician, being a graduate, as well as a jeweler, and he enjoys a large and constantly increasing patronage. Of an inventive turn of mind, Mr. Bixler has invented and made a number of the more delicate tools he uses in his work. He has built two fine regulators and a balance that will respond to the two-hundredth part of a grain. He has two sons, Frank and Noah, who are also of their father's inventive turn. The former of these is an assistant in his father's establishment and the other is studying the same trade.

Mr. Bixler was married in 1875 to Miss Anna Luginbill, a daughter of Peter and Barbara (Steiner) Luginbill. Her parents were natives of Switzerland and came to Adams county at an early date. They settled on a farm and were successful tillers of the soil. Eight children came to bless the union of Mr. and Mrs. Bixler. These children are: Clara H., the wife of Dr. Amos Reusser; Mary A., the wife of T. M. Huffman, connected with the telephone com-



pany; Franklin G., Noah A., a student at Toronto, Canada; Laura H., in Chicago; Emma M., Esther E. and Erwin D., at home.

Mr. Bixler is considered one of the best citizens of Berne. He is a thoroughly modern and progressive man. In the sense of possessing a competence he has proved a successful business man, but he has not neglected his civic duties in accumulating his possessions. He has always taken an active and aggressive part in municipal and county affairs, and served for fifteen years as treasurer of Berne. He is a Democrat in politics and is a staunch adherent of this party. He owns real estate in Berne, a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres near Lisbon, North Dakota, and is interested in several financial enterprises.

There is no family more highly esteemed than his own in the whole of Adams county. He has led an exemplary life and has contributed his full share to the happiness and welfare of his fellow men. He is a consistent member of the Mennonite church and with his family gives his support to the aims and ambitions of this denomination.

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### JULIUS C. SCHUG.

Julius C. Schug is an example of progressive men that it is a good thing for a community to claim as a resident. He is a leader in all things that are for the benefit of Berne and is in every way an exemplary citizen. He was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, December 20, 1858, and is a son of Karl and Catherine (Roush) Schug. His parents were natives of Germany and came to Indiana from Ohio at an early date. Their

son Julius was educated in the schools of Adams county, Indiana, whither the family removed in 1862. He experienced a hard struggle when a youth, but he possessed thrift and industry and gained for himself a competence early in life. When he grew to man's estate Julius worked for a time at the trade of carpentering. Following this employment, he engaged in the sale of sewing machines and farm implements. He sold in various parts of Indiana and met with success. His work attracted the attention of the McCormick Harvester Company and they engaged him to represent the firm in this state with headquarters at Indianapolis. He accepted the proposition made him and in 1886, 1887 and 1888 was employed by the company as traveling salesman.

In 1887 Mr. Schug purchased a half interest in the Schug Brothers' Hardware Store in Berne. Since that time he has been identified with this line of business in Berne. The business grew and twelve years later the firm erected the present fine store property. This building is the finest of its kind in Berne and is sixty-six by one hundred and twenty feet, two-story and basement. The display rooms of this store are large and conveniently appointed. A complete line of hardware, builders' materials, farm implements and machinery and vehicles is carried. Their stock is one of the largest and best in this section of the state and a large force of men are employed attending to the large trade they control. In addition to his hardware business Mr. Schug is interested in a number of Berne enterprises and industries. He is a stockholder in both of the Berne banks and is president of the People's State Bank. He is interested financially in the Berne Manufacturing Company at Berne



and is one of its organizers, and has since been its president; was secretary of the Berne Stave and Heading Company before that plant was destroyed by fire.

Mr. Schug was married in 1890 to Miss Nanny Burghalter, daughter of Christopher and ——— Burghalter, who came to Carroll county, Indiana, at an early date, where they were early settlers. Mrs. Schug died about a year after her marriage, July 21, 1891. Mr. Schug married again to Miss Emma Frances Kelly, a daughter of Samuel F. and Elizabeth (Deo) Kelly. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Schug: Velma T., Catherine E., Walter C. and an infant daughter.

If one characteristic rather than another might be said to be the keynote to a man's character in the case of Mr. Schug it would be his firm integrity and public spirit. He is an active promoter of the welfare of his native city and co-operates heartily in all movements looking toward the advancement of the city's interests. He has the esteem and confidence of all who know him and is reckoned among the most progressive men of his section of the state. In politics he is an adherent of the Democratic party, but is not a man who aspires to public office.

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#### CHRISTIAN G. EGLY.

Christian G. Egly, who is conducting a large business in hay and grain at Berne and who is also numbered among the most progressive and up-to-date citizens of this thriving county, is a native of Adams county, Indiana, having been born in Hartford township on the 10th of April, 1864. He is

a son of Henry and Catherine (Goldsmith) Egly, the former a native of Baden, Germany, and the latter of Alsace, France. The father was born April 5, 1824, and the mother June 15, 1827. They were the parents of eight children, namely: Jacob, Magdalene, Henry J., Samuel, Joseph, Abraham, Christian G. and Catherine. The parents of these children came to the United States in 1837 and located in Butler county, Ohio, where they remained until 1849, when they came to Adams county and located in a woods in Hartford township. The forest was so dense it was almost impossible to erect even the log cabin which they did, but by dint of much labor a comfortable home was established, where they lived until 1865, when a frame house was erected. Henry Egly successfully followed farming and was also engaged as a preacher of the Defenseless Mennonite church for forty years. He was a man of the strictest integrity and highest sense of honor and commanded the absolute respect of his community. He died in 1890 and his wife in February, 1905.

Christian Egly was educated in the common schools of Hartford township, but his education ceased at the age of sixteen, when he went to work on a farm, at which labor he was engaged until 1898, when he came to Berne and engaged in his present business as a dealer in grain and hay. He is associated in business with C. A. Augsburg, but to the subject of this sketch is attributed the management of the business.

In 1886 Mr. Egly married Miss Anna Schenbeck, daughter of Daniel and Anna (Klopfenstein) Schenbeck, residents of Holmes county, Ohio. Her father was born in Holmes county, Ohio, and her mother's birth occurred February 12, 1834, in Ger-



many. To the subject and his wife have been born three children, namely: Lillian M. Henry D., who is attending school at Berne, Indiana, and Catherine A. Lillian M. took a four years' course at a college in Bluffton, Ohio, and later took a musical course at Findlay, Ohio. In politics Mr. Egly is a staunch Republican, though he has never held public office. Religiously he and his wife are members of the Mennonite church, of which they are faithful and active followers.

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#### RICHARD S. WILSON, M. D.

To Dr. Wilson belongs the distinction of being one of the foremost surgeons of north-eastern Indiana and his reputation as a skilled operator has gained him a wide patronage in his own and neighboring counties. He was born June 30, 1856, in Ross county, Ohio. He is a son of George C. and Eliza A. (Wood) Wilson. His father was born in Ross county in 1835 and is the son of John C. Wilson, a soldier, who received a grant of land in Ohio as a reward for the faithful performance of his military duties. The paternal grandfather of Dr. Wilson was the son of the direct ancestor of the family in this country. He came to Virginia from England at a very early day and the grandfather of Dr. Wilson was born in that state. Dr. Wilson's father lived on his Ross county farm until 1883, when he moved to Van Wert county, where he is still living.

Dr. Wilson spent his youth and early manhood on his father's farms. He received a good education in the Ohio county schools and later supplemented this preliminary education with a classical course at Taylor Uni-

versity at Fort Wayne. He completed the course at this institution and was graduated "cum laude" with the class of 1884. By this time he had decided to adopt the medical profession for his life work and he entered the medical school at Fort Wayne after his graduation from Taylor University. He pursued his studies in this medical school and received his degree in four years. Following his graduation from the medical college he spent two years in post-graduate work and in hospitals. He was connected with the St. Joseph's Hospital at Fort Wayne and was a student under Dr. C. B. Stemen, a celebrated surgeon of Fort Wayne. He established his first office after completing his hospital work in Scott, Van Wert county, Ohio, where his father was living. He practiced in Ohio until 1898, when he removed to Indiana and settled in Berne. He has built up a large practice and he has been successful in a number of very delicate and critical operations. His successes have gained a wide repute for him and he has become the leading surgeon of his vicinity.

In 1879 Dr. Wilson was married to Miss Elizabeth Eutsler. His wife died in 1886 and was survived by three children. These are: Edward, a farmer in Scott, Van Wert county, Ohio; William, a railroad engineer, and Minnie, married and a resident of Scott, Van Wert county, Ohio. Two years after the death of his first wife Dr. Wilson married again. His wife this time was Miss Victoria Click. She died a few years after the marriage and bore her husband a daughter, Myrtle, a trained nurse, connected with the Cleveland, Ohio, City Hospital. Dr. Wilson was married for the third time in 1904 to Miss Flossie Dudgeon.



Dr. Wilson has been a busy man. His profession has demanded the major part of his time and attention, but he has found time for studying. He took up the law and completed its study and was admitted to practice in the Adams county courts. However, he has not practiced law. He is a man who keeps fully abreast with his profession. He is a member of and keeps in close touch with the national, state and county medical organizations. He reads extensively and is informed of all the progress, discoveries and developments of his profession. He is a broad-gauge man and is alive to the movements that are for the benefit of Berne. He is public spirited and a hearty colaborer with his fellow townsmen in all matters that are for the general good.

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#### PHILIP SCHUG.

Several members of the family bearing the name of the subject of this sketch have achieved success and prominence in north-eastern Indiana. In Berne several are living at this time and are successful and respected business men. Among this number is Philip Schug. He was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, May 30, 1861. His parents were Karl and Catherine (Roush) Schug. They were natives of Germany and came to the United States at an early time, settling in Ohio, where they lived until 1864. In this year the elder Schug came to Indiana and settled on a farm in French township, Adams county. Philip Schug was a small boy when his parents brought him to Indiana, and he has spent all of his subsequent life in this state. Philip was one of

a family of eight children that were left fatherless soon after the family came to Indiana. The early life of the boy was a hard one. It meant an uncompromising struggle for existence in a new country and against overwhelming odds. However, the mother and children were industrious and at length firmly established themselves. Philip attended the common schools of the neighborhood and obtained a fair English education. He worked on the family farm until he reached his twenty-third year. He came to Berne and established himself in the implement business. He also handled and sold sewing machines. His venture was a success and he increased his business and prospered. He continued in this line for a number of years and then he disposed of the business and went into the insurance business. He represented a number of strong and popular fire insurance companies and was rewarded with a fair degree of success. He gave up his insurance business after a few years and entered the employ of a local firm of hardware merchants. He was connected with this concern for three years and then engaged in the sewing machine business. He sold insurance later for a short period and then purchased his present retail shoe business. This purchase was consummated in 1905. He secured his interest in the shoe business known under the firm name of Ryf & Schug by purchasing the interest held by Samuel Schindler. The store occupied by this concern is one of the handsomest and best appointed in Berne and the annual business is large. A full line of shoes is carried and represents an investment of approximately ten thousand dollars. A repair shop is operated in connection with the retail business.

In 1884 Mr. Schug married Anna Strik-



er, a daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth Striker. Her father was born in Germany and her mother in Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Schug are the parents of four children. The children are: Otto F., who died July 8, 1907, being killed by a train, aged twenty-two years; Cora P., Jesse A., and Everett J.

Besides being one of the aggressive and substantial business men of Berne, Mr. Schug is one of the leading citizens. He has taken an active part in public affairs all his life and served as one of the earlier marshals of the town. He was a member of the town board for a period of five years and was twice a candidate for the office of county auditor. He was defeated but the majorities secured against him were not large. He is a Democrat and takes an active and intelligent interest in the affairs of his party in Adams county. He is a member of Berne Lodge, No. 398, Knights of Pythias. He owns considerable town property and lives in a comfortable home. He and his family are among the most highly respected people of the community.

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#### ERNEST FRANZ, M. D.

It is justly said that the medical profession of northeastern Indiana has among it some physicians of note. These men have made places for themselves in the confidence of their fellows and are highly esteemed both as physicians and citizens. Prominent among the number is Dr. Ernest Franz, with whom this sketch is concerned. He is a native of Switzerland, having been born in Bubendorf, canton of Basel, in that

republic, April 14, 1865. He is a son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Schaad) Franz and came to this country with his parents in 1879. He lived with his father and mother in various sections of the country until he grew to manhood. His early education was secured in the schools of his native village and this he added to after reaching America.

When his parents landed here they went to New Martinsville, West Virginia. His father was a cheesemaker and followed this trade in West Virginia for a year. The family then moved to Ohio and again back to West Virginia. After a year of residence in this state a third trip was made. This time the family went to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and after a year to New Glarus, one of the greatest cheese-making towns in the country. Another year found the family in Adams county, Indiana, where the father is still living. The elder Franz followed his trade until 1894, when he retired and lives in his home about one and one half miles east of Berne. To Daniel and Elizabeth Franz five children were born, of whom four are living. These children were named: Ernest, Jacob, deceased; Julia, the wife of Peter E. Habegger; Emil and Otto. Emil is a practicing attorney of Berne and Otto is in the rural mail service as a carrier.

Dr. Franz assisted his father in the cheesemaking until he grew to manhood. He decided to take up the study of medicine, meaning to adopt it as a profession. November 14, 1887, he began his studies in the office of Dr. Peter A. Sprunger, one of the older physicians of Berne. Dr. Franz was associated with Dr. Sprunger until 1890, when his mother died. He then entered the Hahnemannian Medical College at Chicago and was graduated from this institution



March 23, 1893. During his first summer vacation he assisted in the office of Dr. Sprunger and the second summer he was connected with the office of Dr. Neuenchwander. Following his graduation he returned to Berne and began the active practice of his profession. He was a successful practitioner from the start and has built up a fine and profitable practice. He is a man who believes in keeping clear of rust and in not permitting himself to drift or to fall behind the discoveries or advancement made in his profession. He is an earnest reader of professional literature and is a member of the state, county and national medical associations. He attends the annual conventions of his own school and is an important member of his associations.

The marriage of Dr. Franz and Miss Lea Neuenchwander occurred March 9, 1890. His wife is a daughter of Christian and Anna (Lehman) Neuenchwander. Like her husband's parents, her own were natives of Switzerland and came to the United States about the middle of the last century. Nine children have been born to Dr. and Mrs. Franz. These are all living at home and are: Anna E., Franklin, Ernestine E., Elfriede E., Gerhard E., Irlene E., Ilma E., Agnes E. and Flora E.

Dr. Franz is a progressive citizen and takes an interest in the affairs of his adopted city. He is a leader in movements destined to promote the general good or to advance the interests of Berne. He is a member of the Mennonite church and with his family contributes to the support of this denomination. He cannot be said to be a public man. His profession keeps him busy, and he has not time to engage in politics. However, he is keenly alive to what is happening in coun-

ty, state and national politics, and has well founded, accurate opinions on measures of this nature.

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#### P. A. MACKLIN.

P. A. Macklin is a farmer of Wabash township, Adams county, and is one of the successful and esteemed men of his section. He is a native of Indiana and was born in Bear Creek township, Jay county, July 7, 1858. His parents were Philip and Mahala (Cole) Macklin. They were natives of Ohio, his father being born in Fairfield county and his mother in Franklin county. They were farmers and came from Ohio to Indiana years ago and settled in Jay county, where the father died October 30, 1898. The mother died October 1, 1893. Their son, P. A. Macklin, was reared on the family homestead in Jay county. His boyhood was not unlike that of any other boys who were reared on the farms of the period. He attended the sessions of the district schools during the winter months and at other times of the year assisted his father in the work of cultivating the farm. He secured as good a general education as was possible at the time and became expert in farm cultivation and management. After he grew to manhood he engaged in work independent of his family. He was variously employed for some years and then decided to move to another part of the state. In 1880 he came to Adams county and purchased land in Wabash township. This is a tract of seventy-seven acres and was but partially cleared. He addressed himself to the work of clearing



all of his land and improving it, and after some time found himself in possession of a good farm, well cleared and improved to a point of profitable productiveness. The old buildings he first used on the place were replaced with new and modern ones, and in many ways the entire estate was transformed.

Two years before his removal from Jay county to Adams county Mr. Macklin was married to Miss Mary Siberry, a daughter of John and Sarah (Antles) Siberry. His wife's parents were natives of Ohio and came to Jay county at an early date. Her father died in 1862, but her mother is still living at Bryant, Jay county, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Macklin have become the parents of eight children. These are: Bertha, the wife of Bertis Fifer, a farmer; Philip, Troy, Hazel, Haskel, Israel, deceased; Orena and Mark. Five of these children are living at their parents' home.

Mr. Macklin is one of the best known men in his township. He is a progressive farmer and believes in modern methods and modern machinery. He cultivates his farm in an approved manner and makes it a paying proposition. His crops are satisfactory, and he markets much of his crop each year at a profit. He raises Duroc hogs and his breed of these animals is one of the best in the county. He is a member of the Geneva Masonic lodge and is respected and esteemed. He is not a public man in the sense that he is a politician. However, as a Democrat he has well-grounded opinions on matters of general and local political interest.

The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Pleasant Grove church. He has served as trustee and assessor. He has five producing oil wells.

### JACOB A. HABEGGER.

Jacob A. Habegger, the subject of this sketch, has done much to improve the breeds of horses in Adams county. His efforts have met with acknowledgment and reward, and today the value and quality of horses owned by Adams county farmers is very high. He was born in Switzerland September 9, 1870. He is the son of Abraham and Lena (Moser) Habegger. His parents came to the United States when he was but five years of age. They settled in Adams county, and here the youth of Mr. Habegger was spent. His father owned and operated a good farm in Monroe township, and this homestead of one hundred acres is still in his possession. He had twelve children, nine of whom are still living.

Mr. J. A. Habegger was reared on his father's farm and was educated in the schools of Monroe township. He spent his time on the farm until he was grown and assisted in improving and cultivating the land. He continued to farm until 1901, when he engaged in the livery business at Berne. A good feeding barn had long been needed in Berne. The farmers and residents of the town realized this, but the attempts to conduct one had failed repeatedly until Mr. Habegger opened his present establishment under the firm name of J. A. Habegger & Company. From the beginning of the enterprise it was a financial success. The management and methods of Mr. Habegger were such that guaranteed the success of the business, and much of the credit for its success can be rightly given to him. The building which the business occupies is large and admirably adapted to the feeding and livery business. It is equipped in a most



modern and convenient manner, and is one of the finest establishments of its kind in northeastern Indiana.

Much of Mr. Habegger's time is devoted to breeding fine horses. Some time ago he imported four Belgian stallions of a very fine strain and in addition he owns a highly bred Percheron Norman stallion.

The marriage of Mr. Habegger and Miss Lavina Neuenschwander, a daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Stauffer) Neuenschwander, was celebrated in 1896. His wife's parents were natives of Adams county, where their daughter was born. Mr. and Mrs. Habegger have an interesting family of six children. These children are: Clarence, Albert, Della, Alma, Wilbert and Edison. His home is a fine cement block residence and is one of the handsomest and most attractive in Bernc.

In politics Mr. Habegger is a Democrat, but he has never aspired to office or sought preferment at the hands of his party. He is a well-balanced and active business man and is generally esteemed. He and the members of his family are communicants of the Menonite church, to which they give their help and constant support. He owns about eight acres in his home place.

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#### VERNON L. SNOW.

Vernon L. Snow is a type of man who has achieved a comfortable living and accumulated much of the world's goods through his own unaided efforts. He is the only survivor of his father's family and was born in Jay county, Indiana, March 26, 1859. His father was Dr. J. B. Snow, a practicing

physician all of his life, a native of Pennsylvania. His mother was Eliza J. Lyon. After his marriage Dr. Snow moved to Jay county, later Randolph, and later came to Adams county. His wife died in 1864 and his own death occurred in 1876. His son, Vernon L. Snow, did not follow in his father's footsteps and take up medicine as a profession. He was raised in this county and attended the county schools. However, he decided to adopt agriculture as his life work, and to this pursuit he has since devoted himself with all of his energies. The present farm of Mr. Snow consists of eighty acres bordering on the corporation limits of Geneva. It is a fine tract of land and is one of the best improved in the district where it is located. Mr. Snow is a progressive man and believes thoroughly in the advantages of modern methods and modern machinery. He adopts these methods and devices in operating his farm and his crops each year are among the largest and best raised on any similar tract of land in Adams county. He has made all of the improvements that are on his place and his residence, barns and other necessary buildings are substantial and in every respect admirably adapted to the purposes for which they were erected. His land is well fenced and drained and in all respects is a handsome and valuable estate.

In 1880 Mr. Snow married Miss Mary C. Vance, a daughter of Marshall and Arabella (Diftenbaugh) Vance. His wife's parents were among the early arrivals in Indiana. They came to this state from Ohio, where they were reared, and settled in Adams county on a farm still in the family's possession. Her mother's people were natives of Maryland and came west at a very



early date in the last century. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Snow: Jessie, deceased; Grace and Bertha. The latter children are living at home.

Mr. Snow has been an active and busy man all of his life. He has devoted the greater portion of his time and attention to the cultivation of his farm, but as an exemplary citizen he has taken a live interest in the affairs of the county. He co-operates with other residents of the county in all movements that have as their object the betterment of the county and his advice and counsel is frequently sought on matters of importance. He is a Republican so far as his political affiliations are concerned and supports this party in national questions. However, he reserves the right to vote independently on matters affecting the county and is to be found on the side of the candidate whom he considers best fitted for the office regardless of party lines. He is not a member of any fraternal organization. He is a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church and with his family gives his moral and financial support to this denomination. His home is one of the pleasanter in the county and his family is highly esteemed. In business he is looked upon as a successful man, and in 1900 he had his fortunes bettered by the finding of oil on his place. He now has four producing wells.

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#### EMIL FRANZ.

There are many residents of Adams county, particularly in the vicinity of Berne, who are either natives or descended from natives of Switzerland. This section of the county

was practically settled by Swiss people, and the Swiss names are frequently heard. Among the residents of Berne who came from the little republic perched among the Alps is Emil Franz. He was born in sight of the beautiful Alps, March 29, 1869. He came to the United States with his parents, Daniel and Elizabeth (Schaad) Franz, when a lad of ten years. The family first lived in Monroe county, Ohio, then removed to Winnebago county, Wisconsin, and in 1883 came to Indiana and settled on a farm in Monroe township, Adams county. The elder Franz took up his trade of cheese making in his new home, and for forty years followed this employment. The combined work of farming and cheese making was followed by Daniel Franz until 1896, when he retired from active business and is now living on a small farm. He had a family of five children, all of whom are living.

Emil Franz received his early education in the schools of his native village in Switzerland. When he came with his parents to this country he studied the language and picked up a smattering of an English education. He was an industrious boy and assisted in the work of cheese making. He lived at his father's home until he grew to manhood. He was studious and conceived a liking for law, which profession he determined to make his life work. He read such law books as he could get and finally secured a broad and comprehensive knowledge of the law. He was variously employed in his early manhood and took an active part in politics. In 1894 he was elected town marshal and served in this capacity for four years. He discharged the duties of his office with ability and to the entire satisfaction of the public he served. He completed



his preparatory law studies in 1900 and that year was admitted to practice in the Adams county courts. Following his admission to practice he established an office and has since devoted much of his time to his profession. In addition to his law business Mr. Franz conducted a fire insurance business until 1905. He was the local representative of a number of the older and more substantial companies, and made this branch of his business profitable. In the year mentioned he gave up his fire insurance work and engaged in life insurance work. He has also been a notary public for eight years and his practice is among the more prominent and profitable in the county.

In the course of his busy life he has found time to establish a home, and was married to Miss Katie Lehman, a daughter of Abraham and Mary A. (Sprunger) Lehman. His wife's parents formerly lived in Wayne county, Ohio, where the daughter was born, but they now reside in Adams county. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Franz: Bertha E., Rosa E., Elma E., Daniel E. and Viola E. The family are members of the Mennonite church and to this religious institution Mr. Franz gives his support. He is looked upon as a public-spirited man, and is an active worker in all things that have the betterment and uplifting of the community as an object.

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#### REUBEN SPRUNGER, V. S.

Dr. Reuben Sprunger, V. S., is a young man and has been engaged in his profession but a few years. Still in a short period of active practice of his profession as a vet-

erinarian he has achieved much prominence and established himself as an able and conscientious member of his profession. He was born in Monroe township October 27, 1875. His father was one of the pioneer physicians of Adams county, and the name Peter A. Sprunger became a household word in the homes of many of the older residents of the county. A native of Switzerland, from which so many came to Adams county, Dr. Sprunger came to Indiana when a mere youth. He began the study of medicine in about the year 1876, studying with Dr. Daniel Neuenschwander, a pioneer physician. In a few years he was actively engaged in his profession, and his buggy or horse were a familiar sight along the county roads. He built up a large practice and was almost continuously on the road. At times he would fall asleep from sheer physical exhaustion, and his faithful horse would take him safely to his home. He continued to practice until his sudden death in November, 1895.

It will be seen that his son Reuben comes naturally by his desire to practice medicine. As a youth Reuben Sprunger attended the county schools and later spent one year in the Berne schools. By this time he had made up his mind to study veterinary surgery and so he journeyed to Toronto, Ontario, where he studied for a year. The following year he entered the veterinary college at Indianapolis and graduated from this institution in 1903. He returned to Berne and began the practice of his profession.

Dr. Sprunger was married to Miss Laura Fuhrman, a daughter of Henry and Mary (Beck) Fuhrman, February 24, 1906. He is a successful man and is one of a type of progressive business men who are a distinct



benefit to a community. His practice is constantly increasing, and although he has been in business in Berne but a short time he has become the proprietor of a fine business. He is wide-awake to all matters that have a reasonable certainty of benefiting Berne and Adams county. He takes an active part in such projects and gives them his hearty cooperation. Politically he is a member of the Democratic party. He is an enthusiastic party worker. His religious affiliations are with the Evangelical church.

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#### CHARLES H. SCHENK, M. D.

Adams county numbers among its citizens members of the medical profession who have attained prominence and note among the leading physicians of the state. Of the number none stands higher than Dr. C. H. Schenk. This physician, whose career is briefly outlined in this sketch, is an able man and has reached an enviable position in the ranks of his fellow practitioners. He is a native Hoosier and was born in Jay county October 30, 1870. He is a son of G. F. and Christina (Ruckweidt) Schenk. Both of his parents were born in Wurtemberg, Germany, his father in 1832 and his mother in 1835. They came to the United States in early life and were married in Cincinnati, Ohio. They located first in Kentucky in 1862 and then came to Indiana, selecting Jay county as their home. They secured land and took up the work of cultivating the soil. As the years passed they became one of the most successful and progressive farmer families in their section of the state, and added additional land to their holdings.

Finally they found themselves in possession of three hundred acres, which they still own and on which was their home until the death of Mrs. Schenk in 1902. Since that time Mr. Schenk has traveled much for his health and spends a part of each year with Dr. Schenk.

It was on this farm that eight children born to the elder Schenks lived and were reared. Of this family six boys are living. Two daughters are deceased. Dr. C. H. Schenk was one of this family of children and received his early education in the schools of Jay county. He was an industrious youth and an apt student. He was also an able and earnest assistant to his father in cultivating the homestead. After he completed his course of study in the primary schools of Jay county he attended the Portland normal school. He was a close student and gained knowledge with ease and rapidity. After finishing his work in the normal school he decided to take up medicine as a profession. To this end he matriculated in the Physio Medical College at Indianapolis and studied at this institution for four years. He was graduated with the class of 1894 and returned to his home for a short time. He entered on the active practice of his profession at Oakville, Delaware county, where he remained for two years. Circumstances shaped themselves so that he made up his mind to give up his office in Oakville and to remove to Berne. He did this and formed a partnership for the practicing of medicine with Dr. W. F. Schenk. This arrangement lasted for about a year when Dr. W. F. Schenk was compelled to abandon his active work. Later, however, he established himself in practice at New Corydon, Indiana. With the withdrawal



of Dr. W. F. Schenk from the partnership Dr. C. H. Schenk took over the entire business and has continued to practice in Berne. He now enjoys a fine practice and is considered one of the leading and able members of his profession in his section of the state. Dr. Schenk is a broad-gauge man in all respects. He is a public-spirited citizen and takes a live part in matters that affect the prosperity of Berne. He is a member of the Democratic party and an active worker. He has never asked for public office but has served as the health officer of Berne and as coroner of Adams county.

In 1895 Dr. Schenk was married to Miss Elizabeth C. Atkinson. His wife is a daughter of J. R. and Margaret (Theurer) Atkinson. Her parents came to Indiana from Wayne county, Ohio, and are residents of Jay county. Dr. and Mrs. Schenk are the parents of one daughter, Agnes, attending the Berne schools. Dr. Schenk is a member of Geneva Lodge, No. 621, A. F. & A. M., and of the Berne Lodge, No. 398, Knights of Pythias, and is a keen sportsman. He spends a month or more of each year in the Michigan woods.

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#### AMOS HIRSCHY.

When but a boy of eleven years of age Philip Hirschy left his home in Switzerland and in company with his mother came across the Atlantic to find a home in the new republic. The boy grew to manhood and prospered and in time married. Amos Hirschy is the son of this Swiss emigrant and was born in Wabash township in Adams county, Indiana, September 25, 1870. His

parents were Philip and Mary (Richer) Hirschy. After reaching this country the elder Hirschy lived in Ohio until he attained his majority when he came westward and settled in Indiana. He purchased land one mile south of Berne, where his son was born, and remained on the farm until his death in 1899. He was a successful farmer and at his death was the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of fine land, all well improved. He was survived by a family of nine children, all of whom are still living.

Amos Hirschy grew up on his father's farm and attended the schools of the district, where he obtained his early education. When three years of age he passed through an illness which left him physically disabled for manual labor. He attended common schools and later entered the Tri-State Normal College at Angola and took a business course. He completed this course in 1890 and then engaged in commercial pursuits. He was assistant postmaster at Berne over two years, then took a position with the Bank of Berne, with which financial institution he was connected in various capacities for eleven years, finally serving as teller. His connection with the bank gave him a wide acquaintance throughout the county and he developed into one of the best known and most highly respected men of the county. His dealings with the customers of the bank were uniformly courteous and when he resigned his position to engage in other business his absence from the institution was regretted by many.

After severing his connection with the bank Mr. Hirschy engaged in the insurance business in Berne. He formed a partnership with Joseph D. Winteregg and established an office. This business he has built up from



a modest beginning until it is one of the largest and most substantial and profitable of its kind in northeastern Indiana. The partnership represents a number of the older and stronger insurance companies of the country, and the volume of business done annually is constantly increasing. The firm enjoys the confidence of the business men of Berne and the residents of the county, and a large part of the insurance business of the county is transacted through the offices of this concern.

Mr. Hirschy was united in marriage with Miss Emma Schenbeck in 1892. His wife is a daughter of John J. and Barbara Schenbeck. Her parents came to Indiana from Pennsylvania, where they were born, and settled on a farm in Wabash township within three and one-half miles of Berne. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hirschy. These are: Gertrude, Irvin Arbor and Willard S. The children are attending the Berne schools and live with their parents.

Mr. Hirschy is one of the most progressive citizens of Berne. He is a man who takes an active part in municipal affairs and is foremost in all movements looking toward the improvement of the community in which he lives. He is a member of the Democratic party in his county and is an earnest party worker. He served seven years as town clerk of Berne and discharged the duties and responsibilities of his office in a manner that was highly satisfactory to his constituents, and demonstrated the wisdom of their course when they elected him to the office. He and the members of his family are supporters of the Mennonite church and are active in the work of this denomination in Adams county. His home is one of the

most attractive in Berne, being thoroughly modern, and is one of the pleasantest in the town.

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### SAMUEL EGLY.

Samuel Egly was born in Hartford township, Adams county, Indiana, April 6, 1857. He is the son of Henry and Catherine (Goldsmith) Egly. His father was born in Germany and after coming to the United States settled in Butler county, Ohio. He took up the occupation of farming and was a prosperous man. In time he believed that Indiana offered greater opportunities for successful and profitable farming and in 1846 he removed to the Hoosier state. He purchased land in Hartford township, Adams county. This was a tract of one hundred and sixty acres, heavily covered with timber. He built a log cabin to serve as a temporary home for his family and began clearing his farm. The land gave promise of being exceedingly fertile and he labored hard for several years. In this time he succeeded in clearing a large portion and bringing it under productive and profitable cultivation. He erected several other log buildings and replaced them with better and more modern structures as the years wore on. In 1865 he erected a fine, comfortable residence, which is still the home building on the farm. During his residence on this farm eight children were born to himself and wife. Of these children seven are still living. He lived a most exemplary life and for a number of years was a preacher and later a bishop of the Mennonite church. He died in 1892.

Samuel Egly lived on his father's estate and assisted in its cultivation during his



youth and young manhood. He was educated in the schools of his neighborhood and obtained as good an education as was possible in that district. He was married to Miss Fanny Schindler, a daughter of Christian and Barbara (Leichty) Schindler. Her father was born in France. Her mother was a native of Ohio. To this union five children have been born: Albert, employed in a bank in Grabil, Allen county; Katie E., at home; Adam, who assists in operating his father's business; William and Rachael, both at home.

Mr. Egly is the owner and operator of a flour mill in the town of Geneva. His mill is equipped with the most modern machinery and he does a large business. His products have a wide popularity and find a ready sale in the markets of the northern part of the state. In 1901 he became connected with the Berne Grain and Hay Company, but later sold out his interests. But before engaging in the milling business or connecting himself with the grain and hay company he operated his farm, to which he still devotes some of his time and attention. Now, however, he has given up the active work and management of his farm, which is located in Hartford township, and consists of eighty acres of excellent land, and rents the property.

In every respect Mr. Egly is a model citizen. He takes an active interest in all things and movements that are for the advancement of the material prosperity of his town and county and is a wide-awake man in all particulars. He is an adherent of the Democratic party and although he has not been an aspirant for party or public preferment, is high in the councils of his party in his district. With his wife and family he worships

at the Mennonite church and gives his moral and material support to the affairs and projects of this denomination.

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### CLARK J. LUTZ.

Clark J. Lutz, a leading member of the bar of Adams county, where he has resided a number of years, was born in Williamsport, Allen county, Indiana, on the 14th of March, 1863. His parents, Samuel and Lucinda Lutz, were natives of Starke county, Ohio.

When the subject was a young man of sixteen years and after the completion of his common school education he formed a partnership with his brother, Jacob S. Lutz, and engaged in the mercantile and drug business in Williamsport. They were successful in this line, in which they continued until 1882, when the subject came to Decatur and in the following year engaged in the real estate business in partnership with the late J. F. France. A year later Mr. Lutz took up the study of law in the office of France & Merryman and in 1885 was admitted to the bar and entered upon the active practice of his profession the following year. His course has been honorable and consistent from the outstart and he now ranks as one of the ablest lawyers in the Adams county bar, being held in high esteem not only by his fellow practitioners, but also by the citizens of the community. Mr. Lutz has a fine residence in the outskirts of Decatur.

On the 14th of October, 1885, the subject married Miss Anna M. Lewis, who was born in Zanesville, Ohio, being the daughter of Dr. J. V. Lewis. To them one daughter has been born, Miss Jean B. Lutz.



## AMOS REUSSER, M. D.

Among the members of the medical profession of Adams county Dr. Amos Reusser occupies a high position. He is a man who inspires confidence, and as this is a pre-eminent requirement of the successful physician, his success is not a source of wonder or remark. He was born in Berne December 21, 1869. His father was one of the first druggists of Berne and one of its leading business men. He was born in Canton, Ohio, and grew to manhood in that city. Later he removed to Hancock county in the same state, and at a still later date moved to Iowa. Leaving Iowa, he returned to Indiana and took up his residence in Berne. He was engaged in the saw-mill business until 1871, when he opened a drug store. Dr. Reusser received his early education in the Berne schools and later took a classical course for two years at the Tri-State Normal School at Angola. After finishing this course he taught school for three years. Casting about for a profession other than that of an educator, he decided to take up medicine. Accordingly he entered the Homeopathic Medical College at Chicago and pursued his studies in that institution for three years. During his summer vacations he read in the office of Dr. Ernest Franz, whom he selected as his practicing preceptor. In March, 1897, he completed his course in the medical school and was graduated and returned to Berne and commenced active practice of his profession.

One year before his graduation from the Chicago school Dr. Reusser was united in marriage to Miss Clara Bixler, a daughter of David and Anna (Luginbill) Bixler. Three daughters have been born to Dr. and

Mrs. Reusser: Frances, Helen and Laura.

Since his establishment in Berne Dr. Reusser has come to be recognized as one of the leading members of his school of medicine of northern Indiana. He is a progressive man and is in complete harmony with the idea that a professional man to be a successful man must keep abreast with the developments of his profession. Dr. Reusser does this and is posted on the newest methods and discoveries in the realm of medicine and surgery. But his interest in life and its activities is not limited by his interest in his profession. His progressive spirit finds much for it to do in connection with the business and social affairs of his fellow man. He is, therefore, one of the public-spirited men of Berne and a mover in all things that are designed to improve or uplift the community. His business connections are varied and he is interested in a number of different lines.

His political affiliations are with the Republican party. However, like other men, he reserves the right to vote for the man best fitted for the particular county office rather than the party candidate. On national issues he votes with his party. With his wife and the members of his family he is a consistent and faithful member of the Menonite church.

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 NATHAN B. SHEPHERD.

One of the successful business men who have contributed much to the financial development of his section of Indiana is Nathan B. Shepherd, a successful and esteemed resident of Geneva, Adams county. He is



engaged in the grain business as a member of the Berne Grain and Hay Company. He was born on a farm occupied by his father in Adams county that had been in the family since the grandfather of Nathan—William Shepherd—entered the land from the government. Nathan Shepherd's father was Edward Shepherd, who married Lucy A. Buckingham. He was a native of Franklin county, Ohio, where he was born in 1826. The elder Shepherd was a son of William and Olevia (Emory) Shepherd, natives of Virginia. After a residence of some years in Ohio Edward Shepherd and his parents removed to Adams county in 1836 and settled on a farm. Here William Shepherd died in 1863. His wife died in 1856. Edward Shepherd and his wife had nine children, five of whom are still living: Emery, Margaret E., Nathan B., Martha A. and Morton G.

Nathan B. Shepherd spent his early life on his father's farm and grew to manhood there. In 1877 he started out for himself and engaged in the grain business with J. D. and O. W. Hale at his present location in Geneva as an employe. He continued in this business until 1898, when he was appointed postmaster of Geneva. This office he filled with credit and discharged all of its duties and obligations with intelligence and to the satisfaction of the citizens of his native town. In 1901 he engaged in his present business. Under his able management and attention this business has grown until it is one of the most important and largest of its kind in the county. He has of recent years enlarged the scope of his business and includes in his grain business dealing in hay, coal, cement and other similar products. He is a mem-

ber of the Berne Grain and Hay Company. This concern was organized in 1901 and stock in it is held by a number of farmers and dealers of Adams county. It has been developed from a comparatively small concern to a large business and the annual business done is gratifying to those who are interested in the company and who have been instrumental in promoting its prosperity.

In 1879 Mr. Shepherd married Miss Sarah C. Conner. His wife is a daughter of William and Catherine (Farber) Conner, natives of Jay county, Indiana, where her father was a carpenter and joiner. Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd are the parents of four children, all boys. Earl is employed in the railway mail service, William is in a railway office at Fort Wayne and Charles and Clarence are in school at their home.

Mr. Shepherd has been a consistent voter of the Republican ticket and gives that party organization his loyal support. He served for a time as a member of the board of trustees. He is a member of the Masonic and Odd Fellows fraternities and is enthusiastic in the interests and work of these bodies. In religious matters he and his family support the Methodist church. His grandfather had the distinction of being the first member of this faith in Adams county and the first services of this denomination in the county were held at the grandfather's home and in his log cabin the first church was organized.

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#### LEW HOLTHOUSE.

Lew Holthouse, an up-to-date and successful liveryman at Decatur, Adams county, Indiana, is a native of the county in which



he now resides, having been born on the 6th day of July, 1882. He is a son of John B. and Mary (Gast) Holthouse, the former also a native of Adams county and the latter born in Louisville, Kentucky. John and Mary Holthouse were the parents of six children, all of whom are living, namely: Lew, the subject of this sketch; Clarence, May, Frances, Félix and Catherine. By a second marriage John Holthouse had four children, viz.: Jesse, John, Margaret and Hugh. The subject's paternal grandfather, Bernard Holthouse, was a native of Germany, but in an early day came to this locality and engaged in farming, which pursuit he followed during the remainder of his life. His son, father of the subject, then took up the work, which he followed until young manhood, when he came to Decatur and engaged in the drug business, which he has always followed. He is now the senior member of the firm known as the Holthouse Drug Company, of which he was the founder. The subject's mother died December 21, 1896.

The subject of this sketch received a common school education and received two terms of instruction in the military college at Rensselaer, Indiana, subsequently graduating at the International Business College at Fort Wayne. After this he was employed as bookkeeper at the Old Adams County Bank for two years, after which he engaged in the horse business, buying and shipping horses from all over the west. In 1902 he engaged in the livery business, which he has since followed successfully, being now considered one of the leading concerns of this character here. In politics he is a staunch Democrat and religiously is affiliated with the Catholic church. Fraternally he belongs to the Knights of Columbus, Benevolent and Pro-

· tective Order of Elks and the Eagles at Fort Wayne.

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### J. H. HARDISON.

J. H. Hardison, the gentleman about whose career this brief sketch is concerned, is one of the men who have developed and made profitable the northeastern Indiana oil field. He is a resident of Geneva, Adams county, and is one of the substantial and esteemed men of his community. He was born in the state of Maine, February 5, 1841. He is the son of Ivory and Dorcas (Abbott) Hardison. His father was a farmer in that eastern state and spent his life in cultivating the soil. He died in Maine. His son was reared on his father's place and secured his education in the schools of his neighborhood. When he was still a young man the stories that reached him of the fortunes to be made in the oil fields of the country attracted him. He was one of a family of eleven children, six of whom are still living, and his services were not needed at his home. Accordingly in his twenty-second year he went west to Pennsylvania and began business in the oil fields of that state. His efforts were successful and he continued to operate in Pennsylvania for the following twenty-two years. In 1883 he went to Kansas, in which state he remained for six years. He was variously interested for an interval of a few years and in 1892 came to Indiana. After reaching this state he decided to locate in Geneva, Adams county. In 1892 he entered into partnership with C. P. Collins and J. R. Leonard. These men later added Harry Heasley and J. H. Evans and formed the Superior Oil Company. In



the year of its organization the company was incorporated under the laws of Indiana and its original capitalization was \$300,000.

In 1876 Mr. Hardison was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Brooking. His wife is a daughter of John Brooking, who was a sea captain. She was born in Newfoundland, where her father's home was located and where he lived. Two children have come to bless the union of Mr. and Mrs. Hardison: Bertha A., now the wife of H. O. Butler, engaged in the oil business at Geneva, and a son, Wallace B., living at his father's home.

Mr. Hardison is a man who takes an interest in public affairs, and has contributed to the development of his adopted home. He is a member of the Republican party, but has not held public office. His fraternal affiliations are represented by the Masons, of which he is a member, having attained the thirty-second degree, and by membership in the Salina (Kansas) Lodge, No. 28, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He owns considerable property in Geneva.

Wallace L. Hardison, a younger brother of the subject of this sketch, lived for some time in Los Angeles, where he owned the Los Angeles Herald. He built this paper up to a very high standard and invested more than three hundred thousand dollars in it. He still lives in California. A nephew, C. P. Collins, is president of the largest oil producing company in the Indian Territory. Another brother of the subject of these lines, Harvey Hardison, was killed in a tunnel while exploring for oil by an explosion in 1890.

The Superior Oil Company, of Geneva, is a prosperous concern and of it Mr. Hardison is the vice president. The other officers

are: C. P. Collins, president; J. R. Leonard, treasurer, and Harry Heasley, secretary. The directors are: C. P. Collins, J. H. Hardison, J. R. Leonard, Harry Heasley and J. H. Evans.

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#### CHARLES STAVART NIBLICK.

Contemporary financiers of Indiana have a large amount of responsibility and a great trust imposed on them. The banks of the state, whether national or state institutions, are managing and conducting vast enterprises and a full share of the responsibility and integrity of these enterprises falls on the banks of the northeastern section of the state. The growth of the commercial importance of the state has developed men of unusual strength of character and financial ability and among them, occupying a trusted and honored place, is Charles Stavart Niblick, president of the Old Adams County Bank of Decatur.

Mr. Niblick was born in Decatur October 19, 1866. He is a member of a family that has been aggressively and prominently connected with the development of Adams county and long identified with its banking interests. He is a son of Jesse Niblick, who was a pioneer banker and merchant of Decatur, and who attained a high standing in the commercial life of his community. His father began his business life in a modest and small way. He conducted a small store for a number of years and later engaged in partnership in a general store that grew to large proportions. He also was instrumental in founding and organizing the Old Adams County Bank and was its president after its



organization. He continued to act as president of the bank for a number of years and then resigned to devote his attention to his growing store. He was succeeded in the presidency of the bank by David Studabaker, but retained his place on the bank's directorate and was chosen vice president of the institution.

Charles S. Niblick was educated in the schools of Decatur and grew to manhood there. March 15, 1881, he entered the bank of which his father was the head in the capacity of a clerk. He had gained some commercial experience during the school vacations by clerking in his father's store. He filled various positions in the bank's employ for several years and was made assistant cashier. He learned the duties of a cashier under the able instruction of R. K. Allison, and when that gentleman resigned as cashier of the bank to engage in the lumber business Charles S. Niblick succeeded him. He assumed his duties as cashier of the bank November 12, 1906.

During the time he had been associated in the bank with others a number of changes had taken place. David Studabaker, who was elected president of the bank to succeed Jesse Niblick, was in turn succeeded by William H. Niblick, August 1, 1894. December 26, 1906, Mr. R. K. Allison resigned his position as president of the bank, to which office he had been elected after his resignation as cashier in November of the same year, and Charles S. Niblick was selected as his successor. This position he is still holding and in addition takes an active part in the management of the bank's affairs. On Mr. Niblick's elevation to the presidency of the bank he was succeeded as cashier by E. N. Ehinger.

During the years previous to and during the connection of Mr. Niblick with this bank it has grown to be one of the most important financial institutions in the northern section of the state. Its present capitalization is one hundred and twenty thousand dollars and its surplus is in excess of twenty thousand dollars. It is managed and conducted along the most conservative lines. The stock is held closely and a majority of it is in possession of the Niblick and Studabaker families.

In addition to his interest in the Adams County Bank Mr. Niblick is interested in a number of financial enterprises of the county. He is a stockholder and director in the bank of Wren, Ohio; a director of the German Building, Loan and Savings Association of Decatur, and a member of the Decatur Commercial Club. He is an active citizen and is interested in all movements to improve the city of Decatur and to advance its commercial interests. Although he is an adherent of the Democratic party, he is not in any sense a politician. He is essentially a business man, but finds enjoyment in his membership in the Knights of Columbus; also a charter member of No. 993, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, of which he is treasurer, and it is no detraction from his standing as a financier to say that he enjoys a game of baseball and is an enthusiastic "fan."

Mr. Niblick was married to Miss Minnie Waldron, of Niagara Falls, New York, January 8, 1889. For a short time before her marriage Miss Waldron was a resident of Decatur. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Niblick. These children form a delightful family. They are: Naomi, Stewart, James, Charlotte and Margaret.



Mrs. Niblick is a cultured woman and was educated in the best schools of Niagara Falls and Buffalo. She takes an active part in the intellectual life of Decatur and is a member of the city's literary clubs. Both Mr. and Mrs. Niblick are members of Saint Mary's Roman Catholic church and are devout and consistent Christians. Their home is one of the most attractive in Decatur and is a center of much social life and reflects an environment of culture and refinement.

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### JOHN NIBLICK.

John Niblick, with whose career this sketch is concerned, is one of the substantial business men of Adams county and one of the best known throughout northeastern Indiana. He was born in Adams county and has spent his life in that county. His connection with the business life of the county and particularly with the business life of Decatur and Berne, have left indelible impresses on the development and success of the locality. He was born in Decatur, January 8, 1853. His birth occurred in a house that occupied the site of the present Journal office. From his thirteenth year he has been engaged in business and has had an active career. He engaged in the general mercantile business at Decatur in 1866 and began to learn a business of which he has made a distinct success. The story of the development of the mercantile establishment in Decatur bearing his name is the story of the development of the business life of John Niblick.

This business was established in Decatur in 1840 by J. D. Nuttman. Mr. Nuttman conducted it for seventeen years and then

sold his interests to his brother, John Nuttman, and John Crawford. The business was then conducted under the firm name of Nuttman & Crawford until 1866, when Jesse Niblick purchased the interest held by Mr. Nuttman. Again the firm name was changed, and this time became Niblick & Crawford. In 1874 Frank Crawford, a son of John Crawford, and John Niblick, a son of Jesse Niblick, were taken into the partnership and the firm continued to do business under the new name of Niblick, Crawford & Sons. Another change came about in 1888, when both of the Crawfords retired from the partnership and the Niblicks secured the entire business. This necessitated another change in the name of the firm and Jesse Niblick & Son appeared on the sign above the store. This last partnership arrangement was continued until the death of Jesse Niblick, October 6, 1895. The business was operated by John and William H. Niblick as executors of their father's estate until 1897, when the business was incorporated as Niblick & Company. John was chosen president of the company formed in this manner to operate the business and he is serving the company in that capacity today. Since the incorporation two of the original stockholders and partners in the business have died. These are Charles P. Ehinger, who was manager of the store from its incorporation, and William H. Niblick. Mr. Niblick was secretary of the company and president of the bank. The deceased partners were succeeded by Daniel M. Niblick, who is the manager of the store and secretary of the company.

Niblick & Company represents the largest enterprise of its kind in Adams county. The store carries a large and varied stock of dry goods, notions, carpets, rugs, curtains,



queensware, groceries and the like, and the annual volume of business done exceeds one hundred thousand dollars. A force of twelve people is constantly employed and John and Daniel Niblick give their personal attention to the operation and management of the growing business. The store building is owned by the Jesse Niblick estate and was erected by Jesse Niblick in 1876 at an original cost of twelve thousand dollars. This includes the cost of the bank building adjoining. The store has approximately seventy-five thousand square feet of floor space and is a building admirably adapted to the display and sale of goods.

Mr. Niblick is an active business man. He is interested in a number of Decatur enterprises and is considered an able financier. He is a director of the Old Adams County Bank and has taken an active part in the management of its affairs and contributed largely to its growth into a sound and substantial financial institution. For a time, from 1890 to 1896, he managed a grain business in Decatur and made it a successful enterprise. He is a man who believes in doing thoroughly that which he undertakes to advance the interests of his city. He is in the van of movements to build up the city and to increase its commercial significance. He is public spirited and a firm friend of education. He served for a number of years as a member of the Decatur school board and has always taken a keen and active interest in the educational progress of the city.

May 18, 1876, Mr. Niblick was married to Miss Mary J. Studabaker, a daughter of Judge David S. Studabaker. She is an accomplished and highly educated woman and is a graduate of the Glendale Female College in the class of '75. Mrs. Niblick is

prominent in the social life of Decatur. She is interested in movements started by women and is active in local and state women's club work. She is president of the Eighth District Federation of Women's Clubs and has been instrumental in bringing peace out of chaos when the women's club life of Indiana was threatened by dissensions and factional disagreements. With her husband and family, she is an earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which denomination and its work both Mr. and Mrs. Niblick take leading and active parts. Mr. Niblick has been an officer of the Decatur church for many years and was secretary of the board for twenty-one years. In addition he is a delegate to the conferences of the church.

The home life of Mr. and Mrs. Niblick is most attractive. Their home is one of the social centers of Decatur and is characterized by refinement and culture. They are the parents of a number of most interesting children. These children are: Hattie, the wife of A. D. Suttles, a principal in one of the Decatur schools; Josephine, the wife of O. P. Edwards, of Leipsic, Ohio, where he is interested in a brokerage stone business and a bank; Burton S., a student at the Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware, Ohio, and Helen, attending the Decatur high schools.

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#### C. LEE WALTERS.

C. Lee Walters, an able and prominent attorney of Adams county, although still a young man has had a most active and varied business career since he passed from his youth to young manhood. He was born



January 10, 1869. His parents, William M. and Martha A. (Drummond) Walters, were long residents of Adams county. William Walters was a native of Pennsylvania and came to Adams county when a boy of thirteen. He was educated in the common schools of the county and began teaching school when still young. He gained much popularity as a teacher and after a few years was chosen county superintendent of schools. He served in this capacity from 1875 to 1879. In this latter year he removed to Clay county, Nebraska, where he resumed teaching. In a short time he was elected county treasurer of Clay county. He is a Democrat and has always been active in politics. He removed to Thomas county and was elected probate judge. After serving two terms he retired from active life. Martha A. Walters, the wife of William Walters, is a daughter of Robert Drummond, a native of Ohio, and one of the pioneers of Adams county. Her father came to Indiana at an early date and settled on a farm in Root township, where he became a prominent farmer and cultivated a large tract of land. He raised a large family and lived in Adams county until his death at his home in 1875. His sons settled in Adams county. The death of Mrs. Walters occurred in Ohio and she is survived by two children, C. L. Walters and a daughter, Alice, the wife of William Tuohy, who lives with her husband in Gladwin county, Michigan.

The boyhood of Clement Lee Walters was spent in Decatur. He was educated in the common schools of the county, completing the regular course. He attended the normal schools at Angola and Valparaiso and Blackburn University at Carlinville, Illinois. When he was twenty years of age he began

teaching and taught continuously for eight years. He taught in all the grades of the common schools and was selected as assistant principal of the Decatur high school, in which city he taught five years in the grades and high school. In the intervals between his school duties he read law and passing the bar examinations, he was admitted to practice in the Adams county courts.

Following the conclusion of his teaching period he engaged in the boot and shoe business. He continued in this business and in the general merchandise business until 1903, and then formed a partnership with Mr. John E. Kern to conduct a real estate business. This business was established in connection with a general mercantile business at Midland, Michigan, and it was in successful operation under the direction of these two men for three years. Mr. Walters then decided to take up his profession of law and to devote all of his attention to it. Accordingly he returned to Decatur and in September, 1906, he established his office. During the comparatively short time he has been engaged in practicing law he has built up a good practice and has gained much prominence. He is a man who, like his father, takes an active interest in politics. However, unlike his father, he is an adherent of the Republican party. He is an active and able worker for his party and has received honor at the hands of his fellow Republicans. He has served as chairman of his party organization in Adams county and was appointed a deputy internal revenue collector for the northeastern district of Indiana. He held this office for a year and then resigned.

He has been selected a number of times to represent his party at county and state conventions, and has proved an efficient worker



for his party's interests and an able and wise counselor. He is still actively engaged in politics, but in business devotes himself exclusively to the practice of his profession.

The marriage of Mr. Walters and Miss Grace E. McConnehey was solemnized in 1896. Three children have been born to these parents: Robert K., Helen and Dorothy. Mr. and Mrs. Walters are devout members of the Methodist church and are among the most highly respected residents of their community. Both are educated people and their home is one of the most delightful in Decatur. Their social position in the community is exceptional and their home is the center of much of the social gayety of the city.

Mr. Walters is a thirty-second-degree Mason, being a member of the Bay City, Michigan, consistory; Elf Khurafeh temple of the Mystic Shrine at Saginaw, Michigan. Both Mr. and Mrs. Walters are members of the Order of the Eastern Star.

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#### MATTHIAS KIRSCH.

Among the leading financiers of Adams county and the men who are contributing to the sustained commercial growth and development of this section of northeastern Indiana properly may be numbered Matthias Kirsch, the vice president of the Old Adams County Bank. He was born in the university town of Heidelberg, on the banks of the German Rhine, August 17, 1856. He is a son of Christopher and Catherine (Stern) Kirsch. His parents grew to maturity and were married in the quaint German college town and Christopher Kirsch was a mer-

chant there for a number of years. After a few years of successful business in Heidelberg he decided to migrate to America and seek his fortune in the United States. Accordingly he sold his business interests in Germany and embarked with his family for New York. The journey across the Atlantic was made in safety and without incident and the family reached Indiana in 1867. Christopher Kirsch purchased a tract of new land in Preble township, Adams county, and settled on it. It was unimproved, but after a few years of industry and frugality he found himself in possession of a good farm, well cleared and improved and affording a comfortable income. He continued to live on his farm until a few years before his death, which occurred about the year 1899. His wife survived him several years and died in 1902. Both he and his wife were members of the German Reformed church and he was a successful farmer and accumulated considerable property. He was eminently respected and enjoyed the esteem and confidence of all who knew him and were associated with him in a business and social way.

Of a family of eight children born to this estimable couple and consisting of Barbara, Matthias, Peter (deceased), Peter (living), Catherine (deceased), Catherine (living), John (deceased) and John (living), it will be seen that Matthias was the second in point of birth. He was eleven years of age when his parents decided to forsake their home along the Rhine and migrate to the United States. His youth was, accordingly, spent in the fatherland and he was educated in the parochial schools of his neighborhood. After coming to Adams county he attended the common schools of his district and se-



cured as good an English education as the circumstances and his environment warranted. In addition to his studies he assisted in the work of clearing and cultivating his father's farm and in time became a skilled agriculturist. He continued to live on the home estate and to assist in its cultivation and management until 1875, when he removed to Belmont, Illinois, and engaged in the mercantile business in that city. He spent the following twelve years in Illinois and in 1887 he returned to Indiana and settled in Decatur. He engaged in the lumber business after returning to Adams county, the firm name being Fritzingler & Kirsch. This partnership arrangement continued for the next two years, when Mr. Fritzingler sold his interest to A. H. Sellemeyer and the firm then became known under the name of Kirsch & Sellemeyer. This business is continued today. In addition to his lumber business Mr. Kirsch is interested in other commercial enterprises of Adams county. He is a stockholder in the Old Adams County Bank and in 1906 was elected vice president of this strong financial institution. He takes more than a passive interest in the affairs of the bank and is active to an extent in its management.

The marriage of Mr. Kirsch and Miss Amanda Langenbacher occurred in 1878. Mrs. Kirsch is a native of Preble township, Adams county, and is a daughter of Matthias and Harriet Langenbacher, who were early settlers of Adams county. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Kirsch: Della, the wife of Frederick Reppert, one of the best known auctioneers of Adams county, and Otto L. and Harold, both at home with their parents.

Mr. Kirsch is one of the most highly es-

teemed men of his city and community and a man whose advice is often sought on matters of importance. He is a shrewd and successful business man and one who takes an active part in furthering the interests of Decatur and Adams county. He is a director in the following companies: The Cement Roof and Block Company, Furnace Company, the Packing Company and the Automobile Works. In politics he is a Democrat and consistently votes the ticket of this party and works for its success. With his wife and the members of his family, he is a member of the German Reformed church and accords this denomination his hearty and generous support.

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#### DANIEL M. NIBLICK.

Daniel M. Niblick is a member of the younger generation of a family that has for many years been intimately connected with the commercial development and the industrial history of Adams county. His father and grandfather gained prominent places in the financial world of northeastern Indiana, and the success and present prestige of existing financial institutions can be attributed directly to their efforts and to their sagacity.

Daniel Niblick was born at the old family homestead in Decatur, Adams county, January 10, 1870. He spent his early life at his parents' home, where his mother is still living, and was educated in the Decatur schools. He was an earnest student and gained the esteem of his fellow students and his instructors. After finishing his studies in the Decatur schools he decided to take up a commercial life. Accordingly he entered



the store of Niblick & Company as a clerk. In this move he laid the foundation of a successful career. The store of Niblick & Company has become an institution in Adams county. It has had a career of many years of successful business, having grown to be the most important general merchandise establishment in the county. It was founded years ago by Jesse Niblick, father of the subject of this sketch, and has been in the family since. When Daniel Niblick entered the store, February 1, 1887, he was seventeen years of age. He learned the business conducted by the store in a most thorough manner. He began at the bottom and familiarized himself with all the many details of the business. He progressed rapidly and March 3, 1897, ten years after he entered the store, he became a stockholder.

Since the death of Mr. Charles P. Ehinger, August 18, 1902, he has been manager of the enterprise and succeeded his brother, William H. Niblick, as secretary of the company operating the store.

June 20, 1894, Mr. Niblick was united in marriage to Miss Minnie D. Eiting, who had been an employe of the store for four years previous to her marriage. She was a native of Minster, Ohio. A family of four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Niblick. Three of these children are living with their parents. They are: Omar John, Mildred and Harold. Velma, a daughter, died in childhood.

Mr. Niblick is a successful business man. He is a type of progressive merchant, and under his management the store of Niblick & Company has increased its business materially. It is a large establishment and is housed in an excellent and commodious building. It controls a large proportion of

the trade of Decatur and Adams county and is managed and operated along the most modern lines of merchandising, as its standing in the financial circles of northeastern Indiana is exceptional. In addition to his exacting responsibilities in connection with the store Mr. Niblick takes an interested and active part in the affairs of the county and his home city. He is a leader in movements designed to increase the commercial importance of Decatur and Adams county, and gives all such movements his hearty and liberal support. He is a Democrat in politics, but is not an aspirant for public office. With his wife and the members of his family, he is a member of the Saint Mary's Roman Catholic church and gives this church his earnest and liberal support.

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#### WILLIAM H. NIBLICK.

For more than a half century the name of Niblick has been closely identified with the commercial growth and development of Adams county. It was members of this family who individually contributed much to the financial development of the county, and who were largely instrumental in bringing it before the rest of the state because of its commercial prominence and industrial significance. Among the strong men of this family who aided in no mean way to promote the interests of Decatur and Adams county none stands out more prominently, although now in memory, than William H. Niblick. In all matters of public need or public work he was ever to be found in the van, and he is remembered today as an aggressive, intelligent, clean-lived and honest financier and citizen.



William H. Niblick was born in Decatur March 19, 1855. He was the son of Jesse and Catherine (Close) Niblick. His parents were among the earlier settlers in the county and his father was a man of many affairs and a progressive business man. Jesse Niblick amassed a handsome fortune through his own unaided efforts and left an indelible impress upon the community in which he lived. He spent his entire life in commercial pursuits and founded the business conducted by Niblick & Company in Decatur. He began business in Decatur in a modest way, but he was a man of large abilities and he developed his properties until they assumed considerable proportions. Perhaps the most important event of his business career was the establishment of the Adams County Bank. Together with J. D. Nuttman, he recognized the need of a bank in Decatur to take care of the increasing business the development of Adams county as a farming community brought about. Accordingly he established a private bank with his partner in the mercantile business and this bank afterwards became the State Bank, still in successful operation in Decatur. Jesse Niblick was the first president of this bank and remained closely identified with its management and control, dictating many of its policies until his death.

The boyhood and youth of William H. Niblick were spent in Decatur. He was educated in the schools of his home city and after completing his studies entered the county auditor's office as a deputy. This was during the tenure of office of Seymour Worden as auditor. He served in the office of the county auditor until the organization of the bank by his father and Mr. Nuttman. Then he gave up his public office and became

the cashier of the new bank. He held the position of cashier under a number of different presidents of the bank until it was reorganized under the state laws of Indiana. This reorganization of the Adams County Bank was effected in 1894 and consonant with the reorganization he was elected president of the institution. He continued as president of the bank until his death, November 7, 1906. Under his direction the bank grew and expanded and its business was greatly increased. He was a conservative business man and he applied his principles of conservatism to his conduct of the bank's affairs. During his tenure of office a number of financial storms shook the country and many banks and concerns went to the wall. But the storms and buffetings did not disturb the course of the Adams County Bank. It withstood all shocks and emerged stronger and more confident after each fresh assault. Much of the credit for establishing the sound financial institution the bank represents today is directly due to Mr. Niblick.

But the claims that may be made for revering the name of William H. Niblick do not rest alone on his reputation and career as a careful and discerning financier. He was, above all, a good citizen. Keenly alive to the interests of his city and county, he was ever to be found in the front rank of those who were endeavoring to advance the moral, social and intellectual, as well as the commercial, interests of his community. He was a patron of education and enlightenment, and took much interest in these things. He co-operated loyally and generously in all movements that looked toward the betterment of his city, and was active in administering its affairs. He was a member



of the Decatur city council, and in other ways demonstrated that he had the welfare of his city at heart at all times.

The marriage of Mr. Niblick and Miss Christina Miller was solemnized in Decatur, November 7, 1883. Mrs. Niblick is a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Meibers) Miller and was born in Decatur, October 6, 1860. Her parents were natives of Germany and came to Indiana and settled in Adams county at an early date. They lived in Decatur until their deaths some years ago. They were the parents of five children, three sons and two daughters. Of this family Mrs. Niblick was the fourth in order of birth. In addition to his widow Mr. Niblick is survived by a son, Jesse George Niblick, the only child born to Mr. and Mrs. Niblick.

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#### DAVID E. STUDABAKER.

David E. Studabaker, one of the large land owners and stock growers of Adams county, is the son and youngest child of the Hon. David Studabaker, whose name is indelibly written in the history of the development of Adams county and who has left a lasting impress on the entire northeastern section of the state. The son of this illustrious father was born on the parental farm in Adams county, near the city of Decatur, July 16, 1871. He is one of a family of six children born to David and Harriet (Evans) Studabaker. He spent his youth on his father's farm and was educated in the schools of his neighborhood and in Decatur. After completing his preliminary education in the common schools he studied for a time in the Howe grammar school at Lima, Indi-

ana, and later at the Kenyon Military School at Gambier, Ohio. After he left this latter school he entered the employ of the Niblick & Company store at Decatur and worked for this mercantile establishment for one year. He then entered the Adams County Bank as a bookkeeper and served that financial institution in this capacity for six and one half years. Following the severance of his relations with the bank he engaged in the fire insurance business in Decatur. He represented the farmer department of the Home Insurance Company of New York in Adams, Allen, Wells and Jay counties for two years and was successful in conducting the affairs and business of his employing company in these counties. After giving up the fire insurance business he went to Fort Wayne and secured employment with M. S. and W. J. Vesey, the well known florists. While in the employ of these men he was assistant rose-grower and remained in the employ of the Veseys for one and one half years. At the outbreak of the Spanish-American war Mr. Studabaker enlisted in the newly organized Battery E, Light Artillery, and served with this command during the term of its service. The battery saw no active service and did not leave the country. When the battery was mustered out of service he returned to Fort Wayne, but soon went to Decatur and engaged as a bookkeeper with the Adams County Bank. He remained with the bank for three years, and then retired to his father's farm in Washington township and assisted in its management. After his father's death, May 3, 1904, Mr. Studabaker succeeded to the ownership of the farm and has since been actively engaged in its management.

This farm consists of seven hundred and



forty acres of fine land. It is improved and has been brought to a high point of productiveness and cultivation. In fact, it is one of the finest as well as one of the largest estates in the county. The land is fertile and well drained and fenced and the buildings, including the residence and barns, are modern, large and admirably adapted to meet the purposes to which they are put.

The marriage of Mr. Studabaker and Miss Lucy A. Beane occurred at Goshen, Indiana, November 25, 1891. Mrs. Studabaker is a daughter of the late William A. and Sarah E. (Mercer) Beane, of Goshen, Indiana. The former was editor and proprietor of the Goshen Democrat. One child, a son, David B. Studabaker, has been born of the union, October 5, 1892.

Mr. Studabaker is one of the most extensive farmers and stock-raisers of Adams county. He makes a specialty of registered Duroc-Jersey swine and of fine grades of cattle. His strains of hogs and cattle are numbered among the best in the county. He is enthusiastic in fraternal matters and is a member of the Elks Lodge, No. 993, of Decatur, of which he has been secretary and is now esteemed lecturing knight; Decatur Lodge, No. 167, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and of Odd Fellows Encampment, No. 214.

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#### PETER KIRSCH.

When Peter Kirsch, the subject of this brief sketch, reached America he was a small boy of five years of age. He came to Adams county with his parents after the arrival of the family in the United States, and has been a resident of Indiana since. He was born in

Heidelberg, Germany, March 22, 1863. His parents were Christopher and Catherine (Stern) Kirsch, and were both natives of the German university town, where Christopher Kirsch followed the occupation of a merchant. He concluded, however, that the fortunes of himself and family would be bettered by emigrating to the western republic and accordingly, in 1868, he came to this country. After reaching Indiana he purchased a tract of land in Preble township, Adams county, and followed the occupation of farming until 1895, when he removed to Decatur, where he lived until his death in 1899. His wife survived him a number of years and followed him to the grave in 1902. This estimable couple became the parents of eight children, five of whom are still living.

Of this family of eight children Peter Kirsch is the third in order of birth. His boyhood was spent on his father's farm in Adams county. He attended the winter sessions of the schools of his immediate neighborhood and secured a good common school education. During the milder months of each year he assisted his father in the work of clearing, improving and cultivating his farm and learned the lessons of thrift and frugality that he applied so successfully in his after life. He stayed with his parents on the home farm until he grew to manhood and was a dutiful son and an industrious young man. After reaching his maturity he decided to adopt some other line of work than farming. Accordingly, in 1882, he went to Decatur and learned the carpenter's trade. He worked at this trade for several years and in a number of different places after leaving the home farm, and in 1893 he engaged in the planing mill business. He erected a modern, well equipped mill in De-



atur and has operated this mill since engaging in this business. His venture proved a successful one from its start. His business grew under his careful management, and from time to time he was compelled to enlarge his plant as the increasing business made demands on the mill that necessitated increasing its capacity. For three years he engaged in the manufacture of washing machines in addition to his planing mill business, but after this period he abandoned the manufacturing business and devoted all of his time and attention to the operation of his mill. A general line of work is done at the mill.

The marriage of Mr. Kirsch and Miss Sophia Mutschler was solemnized July 3, 1891. Mrs. Kirsch was born in Heidelberg, Baden, Germany, and is a daughter of Frederick and Susanna Mutschler. Her father lived and died in his German home. Following his death his widow came to the United States with two children in the latter part of the eighties. Mr. and Mrs. Kirsch are the parents of two children—Lydia and Leo.

As a citizen Mr. Kirsch has proved a valuable member of Adams county society. He is a man who takes an active interest in the affairs of his home city and county and co-operated in a hearty manner in all movements for the betterment of his community. He has served his fellow citizens in public capacities and was a member of the Decatur city council for two years. In other ways he has shown his public spirit, and he has been intimately identified with the city's recent growth and development. He conducts his business along conservative lines and has made of it one of the most successful and substantial enterprises of the county. With

his wife and the members of his family, he is a member of the German Reformed church, and he gives his hearty and generous support to this denomination and its aims and charities. In politics he is a Democrat and he has been an active worker for the interests of his party in his section of the state.

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### JAY RUGG.

No story of the development of the city of Decatur, Indiana, would be complete or adequate without a sketch of the life and connection with the city's growth of Jay Rugg. Identified with the lives and energies of the hardy pioneers who blazed the way through the wildernesses of the new western country and founded new commercial and social centers, the name of Jay Rugg must ever remain a part of the history of the settlement and development of northeastern Indiana. He was the son of Samuel L. Rugg, who was one of the first settlers in this particular section of the state, and the city of Decatur was originally platted by Samuel Rugg, in connection with his brother-in-law, on August 27, 1809. To Samuel Rugg still another distinction attaches. He was the first paid superintendent of public instruction of the state of Indiana. Throughout his useful and active career in the new state he held several public offices and discharged the duties of each with admirable fidelity and with a high order of intelligence. He was elected on a number of occasions to county offices and held the office of county clerk for eighteen years. His close attention to his arduous duties and his business interests caused his health to fail. He



finally decided to try a milder climate and in search of renewed vigor traveled to the southland. He spent some time in the cities of the states south of Mason's and Dixon's line, but did not receive the benefit he had anticipated. In the end he died at Huntsville, Alabama, well advanced in years.

Jay Rugg, the son of Samuel, with whom this article is concerned, was born in Decatur, Indiana, April 4, 1849. He was educated in Decatur and Fort Wayne and at the outbreak of the Civil war answered the President's call for volunteers and hurried to the front. For three years he followed the varying fortunes of his country's flag through the trials and hardships of actual battle and camp life, and at the end of his service received an honorable discharge. Following the expiration of his term of enlistment and the close of the war Mr. Rugg returned to Decatur and took up once more the pursuits of a life of peace. During the years immediately following his return from the front he engaged in several lines of business, among them that of brickmaking. In the latter years of his life he engaged in farming, and he was thus engaged when his death occurred at his farm in Root township, November 1, 1896.

Mr. Rugg was married in Decatur June 20, 1876, to Mrs. Catherine (Rowley) Smith, a daughter of Tilmon and Elizabeth Rowley. She was born in Clark county, Ohio, October 26, 1836. Before her marriage to Mr. Rugg Mrs. Smith was the widow of Franklin B. Smith, who died on his farm in Root township when forty years of age. She had four children by her first marriage, who lived to attain maturity. These are: William R., Eliza J., the wife of W. L. Schaffer, of Allen county; Martin  
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L. and Hannah M., the wife of James T. Dailey. Four other children by this first marriage are dead. They were: Alice, the wife of Davis Dailey, who died in her twenty-eighth year; Sidney S., who died in Adams county at the age of twenty-one; Elizabeth, who died at the age of five years, and Ora, who died when seven years of age.

Mr. and Mrs. Jay Rugg are the parents of two children, one of whom died in infancy. The other, Gertrude, is the wife of Robert M. Cashen, of St. Louis, Missouri.

Both Mr. Rugg and his wife, who survives him, early identified themselves with the Methodist Episcopal church of Decatur. Their influence was ever on the side of progression and right and they were respected and admired by the entire community as a model and exemplary couple. Mrs. Rugg still enjoys a ripe old age and lives quietly and contentedly on Ninth street in Decatur. She is loved by all whose good fortune it has been to know and come in contact with her excellent and Christian influence.

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#### PAUL G. HOOPER.

The Adams county bar has been distinguished almost from its earliest days by men of brains and extraordinary ability. Names that have become famous in the legal profession of the state first were heard in the court rooms of this county. However, the production of able lawyers has not ceased, and the present members of the bar of Adams county are gaining merited distinction. Prominent among these is Paul G. Hooper, an attorney of Decatur. He was born in Root township, Adams county, No-



ember 24, 1859. He was the only son of Ezekiel and Almira (Gosline) Hooper. His father was a soldier in the war of 1812, and settled in Root township in 1834 on land he entered from the government. He lived on this land and cultivated it until his death in 1871. He was one of the men who took part in the organization of Adams county and was commissioned one of the judges of the first court held in the county. He was an earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Almira Hooper was born in Athens county, Ohio.

The youth of Paul G. Hooper was spent on his father's farm. He secured his elementary education in the county schools and the lessons of a farmer's life while assisting his father to cultivate the home farm. He also attended for several terms the schools at Monmouth and Decatur. He decided to adopt the law as a life profession and in 1876 he entered upon the study of law in the office of the Hon. James R. Bobo, a half-brother. He pursued his studies energetically and with close attention and steadfast application to his work, he was admitted to the bar of Adams county in 1879. About this time he became associated with the Adams County Union as editor and proprietor, and took an active part in the management and policy of this paper.

He maintained his connection with this paper for one year and then formed a partnership with the late John T. France. This partnership arrangement was continued until 1881, when Mr. Hooper withdrew and became connected with the Hon. D. D. Heller. For nine years Mr. Hooper was associated with Mr. Heller.

Mr. Hooper is esteemed as one of the best citizens of Decatur and is a leading spirit in

all movements that have for their object the advancement of the city and of Adams county. He is a Republican in politics, and an active worker in the interests of his party. Latterly he has been associated with the Decatur Journal, and his influence is doing much to build this property up to a substantial basis. He devotes the greater part of his time to the practice of his profession and has attained an enviable position among the members of the bar of his state. He is also president of the Decatur Abstract and Loan Company, one of the flourishing financial institutions of the city.

His marriage to Miss Charity Harrod, of Hoagland, Allen county, occurred Christmas day, 1879. His wife was born in Allen county and is a daughter of Morgan and Samantha (Beem) Harrod.

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#### JAMES T. MERRYMAN.

If Charles Wesley Merryman, the father of the subject of whom this sketch directly concerns itself, had left no other legacy to his children than the example of his sterling life and the memory of his strong character they would have been richly provided for. He was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, July 2, 1827. His parents were Zachariah and Mary Merryman, of Scotch-English ancestry, and possessed the hardy characteristics of these races. They were born near the city of Baltimore, Maryland, their ancestors having settled in that territory in the seventeenth century. Charles W. Merryman was left an orphan at the age of ten years and from that time was dependent upon his own efforts. He secured a good common school



education and in 1836 came to Indiana, settling in Adams county. When he was out of employment he read and studied, and in this manner constantly added to his store of knowledge. When he was twenty years of age he began teaching and continued in this work until the outbreak of the Civil war. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company H of the Eighty-ninth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served with this command until the close of the war. He took part in many battles with the army to which his regiment was attached and won merited commendation for gallantry. He was present at the memorable battles of Bull's Run, Chancellorsville, Nashville and others, and was finally discharged from the federal service at Nashville, Tennessee. Some years before he enlisted he was married in Adams county to Miss Mary Ann Archbold, the wedding occurring October 18, 1848, and after his discharge he returned to his family and took up his work of farming. His wife was a native of Ohio and a daughter of Thomas and Malinda Archbold, of Irish-German descent. She came to Indiana with her parents in 1835. They became the parents of six children, viz: Jonathan, Zachariah, Susie, James T., Eliza J., who died in July, 1878, when twenty-six years of age, and Henry L., who died June 5, 1884, a short time after he graduated from the Valparaiso Normal School.

James T. Merryman is the third in order of birth of his father's children. He was born in Washington township, Adams county, Indiana, October 1, 1854, and received an excellent common school education in the district schools and attended two years' preparatory school under Professor Wright, who was a graduate of Yale University.

When sixteen years of age he began teaching and followed this work during the winter seasons until he reached his majority. In 1876 he was deputized clerk of the Adams circuit court by Byron H. Dent, the incumbent, and served three years. He then served a term as deputy sheriff under the Hon. Henry Krick. In 1880 he entered the employ of the Adams County Bank as a bookkeeper. In the meantime he had taken up the study of the law and after a year's service with the bank was admitted to practice in the Adams circuit court. The city of Decatur was incorporated in 1882 and Mr. Merryman was elected the first mayor of the city. He served one term. In 1881 he took up the active practice of his profession. He first formed a partnership with Edgar N. Wicks, and this relation existed until April, 1883, when he entered into partnership with the Hon. John T. France. This relation continued for one year, when they joined in the practice of the law with the Hon. William J. Vesey, who at the expiration of one year withdrew from the firm, moving to Fort Wayne, Indiana, when the former partnership of Mr. France and Mr. Merryman was renewed, and from the beginning of this partnership the firm took a prominent part in the legal affairs of the county. The ability of the partners soon won for them a large clientage and their standing at the Adams county bar became exceptional and enviable. Business increased with each year and produced a handsome income. After the dissolution of this partnership in June, 1898, Mr. Merryman, in 1903, associated with him Jesse C. Sutton, Esq. In November, 1906, Mr. Merryman was elected judge of the Twenty-sixth judicial circuit, which position he still holds. He is a member of the State



Bar Association and a member of the bar of the supreme court of the state and of the circuit court of the United States. He has attained a high rank among the attorneys and judges of the state and his accomplishments have won unusual recognition for him as a jurist.

Judge Merryman was married August 29, 1878, to Miss Louisa P. Albers, a daughter of August L. and Eve C. Albers. She was born in Willshire, Ohio, and when four years of age came with her parents to the city of Decatur, where she attended the schools and secured an excellent common school education. Judge and Mrs. Merryman are the parents of five children, namely: Matie June, Iona Dale, Charles August, Frances Mildred and Robert Albers. The second mentioned child died September 15, 1884, when three years of age. Aside from the position he occupies in the political life of Adams county, Judge Merryman is accounted one of the leading citizens of the county and one of the most progressive men of northeastern Indiana. He takes a live and active interest and part in all movements that are designed to better Adams county and his immediate community and is a hearty worker for all causes that are uplifting. Fraternally he is a member of Decatur Lodge, No. 571, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and of Saint Mary's Lodge, No. 167, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and of the Order of Elks. Both Judge and Mrs. Merryman are consistent and valued members of the First Methodist Episcopal church of Decatur and are numbered among the most highly esteemed people of the city. Their home is one of culture and refinement and around it centers much of the social and intellectual life of the city. What-

ever measure of success Judge Merryman may have obtained, he attributes chiefly to his wife and mother.

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#### HON. DANIEL D. HELLER.

As an educator, a public official and a jurist the Hon. Daniel D. Heller has risen to a high place among his fellow residents of Decatur and Adams county. He was born in Harrison county, Ohio, March 29, 1839. He is a son of Henry B. and Mary A. (Weyandt) Heller. Both of his parents were natives of Pennsylvania, being born in Green county of that state. They moved westward at an early date with the westward tide of immigration and finally settled in Harrison county, Ohio. They purchased land and their occupation became that of tillers of the soil. They were frugal and industrious, and through care and economy amassed enough of the world's goods to insure them a competence in their declining years. The mother died in May, 1874, when fifty-seven years of age, and her husband survived her seven years, dying in September, 1881, at the age of sixty-four years. They were an estimable couple and were highly respected by all whose privilege it was to know them and to be associated with them.

Daniel D. Heller was reared on his father's Harrison county farm. He assisted in the improvement, cultivation and management of the farm and learned the practical lessons of a farmer's life that he applied to such excellent advantage in his after years. He attended the common schools of his immediate neighborhood and secured as good a



preliminary education as was possible under the circumstances and in the environment in which he lived. Proving of a studious disposition, it was decided that he should have further advantages. Accordingly, he entered the New Hagerstown Academy, in Carroll county, Ohio. He pursued his studies in this institution and made excellent progress until he completed his prescribed course.

After graduating from the academy at the age of twenty, he engaged in teaching. He taught several winter terms in Ohio counties and spent his summers reading law, which profession he had decided to adopt. He followed his study of law in the offices of Stambaugh & Bartleson, in New Philadelphia, Ohio, and was admitted to the state bar of Ohio at Carrollton in 1863. In August of that year he launched himself on his career as a lawyer by establishing an office at Millersburg, Ohio. He practiced law in Millersburg for the following four years, until 1867, and then decided to remove to Indiana. He did so and settled in Decatur. During the earlier years of his practice in Decatur he was associated with several different firms.

In 1872 Mr. Heller again took up his work as an educator and was appointed school examiner for Adams county. He served in this capacity for one year and when the new law creating the office of county superintendent of schools became operative he was appointed the superintendent of Adams county schools. Through this appointment he became the first to hold this important and exacting office in Adams county. For the following eighteen months Mr. Heller served as county superintendent, and many reforms of great benefit were

brought about during his administration of the school affairs of the county. After he had held the office eighteen months he resigned to give his whole attention to his profession.

In March, 1881, he formed a partnership for the practice of law with Paul G. Hooper. The firm became known and was conducted under the name of Heller & Hooper and was continued under this name for the following eight years.

Additional honors came to him in 1885, when he was elected mayor of Decatur. He served one term of two years and in 1888 was elected judge of the Twenty-sixth judicial district. He assumed this office in November, 1889, and was re-elected to it in the fall of 1894. He served as judge of the district courts continuously until November 24, 1901. He was succeeded by Judge Erwin. Following the close of his term as judge of the Twenty-sixth district he formed a partnership for the practice of law with his son, H. B. Heller. This partnership is still in existence and the junior partner is the present prosecuting attorney of the district. The firm is known as D. D. Heller & Son.

The marriage of Judge Heller and Miss Anna J. Corbus occurred July 15, 1869. His wife is a native of Millersburg, Ohio, and a daughter of John and Mary (Armstrong) Corbus. Judge and Mrs. Heller are the parents of four children. These children are: Mary, the wife of the Hon. John W. Tyndall; John H., manager of the Decatur Democrat; Henry B., prosecuting attorney of Adams county, and Bertha C., teacher in the public schools at Alexandria, Indiana.

Judge Heller is an affable, genial gentleman and is one of the most highly respected citizens of Adams county. He enjoys the

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complete confidence and respect of his associates and of all who know him. He is a man who is active in advancing the interests of Decatur and Adams county and is prominent in all movements directed toward this end. He is a staunch Democrat and an active party worker. In the councils of his party he has always held a high place and his efforts have proved signal in bringing about victory. He has lived an active and useful life and stands today as an example of high-minded citizenship and of sterling character and worth.

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#### HENRY B. HELLER.

Henry B. Heller, the present prosecuting attorney of Adams county, is the son of the Hon. Daniel D. Heller, whose biography appears elsewhere in this work. He was born in Decatur, October 3, 1875. As stated above, his father is the Hon. Daniel D. Heller and his mother is Anna J. (Corbus) Heller. She is a daughter of John and Mary (Armstrong) Corbus, and was born in Millersburg, Ohio. Judge Heller is also a native of Ohio, being born in Harrison county.

The boyhood of Henry B. Heller was spent in Decatur. He received his preliminary education in the public schools of his home city and then studied in the high school. After his graduation he took up the study of law in the office of Mann & Beatty. He spent two years studying under the direction of the members of this firm and then entered the Indiana Law School at Indianapolis, where he graduated with the class of 1897, and then returned to Decatur. He was connected with several offices after returning to Decatur and was admitted to

practice in the courts of Adams county in September, 1897, and March 1, 1902, he entered into partnership with his father, whose term as judge of the Twenty-sixth district had expired some time before. This partnership exists today. Recently he was elected prosecuting attorney of Adams county and he discharges the onerous and important duties of this office with intelligence and fearlessness. He is a young man who takes a live interest in the affairs of his city and county and is among the prominent men of the younger generation in his vicinity. He is a man who is in hearty sympathy with all educational movements and is secretary of the public library board, a member of the Masonic fraternity and other social and business organizations.

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#### JUDSON W. TEEPLE.

Judson W. Teeple, one of the prominent members of the Adams county bar, is a son of John E. and Catherine (Smith) Teeple. His father was born in Morrow county, Ohio, January 22, 1831, and his mother was a native of Saint Mary's township, Adams county. His parents were married in Adams county at an early date and became the parents of seven children, of whom Judson W. Teeple was the second in order of birth. He was born on the family estate in Saint Mary's township, October 29, 1856. He spent his boyhood on his father's homestead and received a preliminary education in the common schools of the neighborhood. He assisted in the farm work while he was attending the common schools. At the age of seventeen he had progressed so far in his



studies that he was given a school, and his career as a school teacher dates from that event. He spent the following fifteen years teaching school in various counties of the northeastern section of the state and in the bordering Ohio counties, and during the years he was teaching he also attended school and read law. When he was twenty years of age his father "gave him his time" and he went west and taught school in Kansas and Missouri. While in these western states he took advantage of the opportunity to increase his own education and studied in the normal school at Hutchinson, Kansas. In all he spent three years in the states west of the Mississippi river.

He found that he was fitted for the law and decided to take up the practice of that profession. However, he realized that before he could do this he must study. Accordingly he addressed himself to the work of mastering the law and during his teaching days he studied. He made rapid progress, and when he returned to Indiana he entered the office of Peterson & Huffman, with which firm he read for two years. He took and passed the bar examinations and was admitted to practice in the summer of 1883. The same year he formed a partnership for the practice of law with Shaffer Peterson. This partnership arrangement lasted for one year and was dissolved when Mr. Peterson was appointed postmaster of Decatur. With this event the sign, "Peterson & Teeple," disappeared from the office in Decatur. Since his admission to the bar Mr. Teeple has continued to practice law with more than the usual amount of success and he has developed into an able and a scholarly advocate. However, he has not been a member of another law partnership.

Mr. Teeple has taken an active interest in the politics of his county since he began the practice of law. In 1884 he was elected president of the Lincoln League of Adams county, and served in that capacity for four years. He was a member of the Republican executive county committee of Adams county for a number of years, and in 1898 was chosen the chairman of this important political body. He served as chairman for four years and was one of the men who brought about Republican successes in Adams county during his incumbency of the office of chairman. He was elected a justice of the peace of Saint Mary's township for a term of four years, but he resigned this office after filling it for two years. He has served as a member of the Decatur city council for four years and has proved himself an able and a valuable "city father."

At one time he was a candidate for election to the state legislature on the Republican ticket, but he was defeated by his Democratic opponent by a very small majority. In 1900 he received the nomination for circuit judge of Adams county.

His marriage to Miss Maggie A. Zeigler, a native of Center county, Pennsylvania, occurred in Wayne county, Indiana, May 28, 1885. His wife is a daughter of Peter and Leah (Ruhl) Zeigler. Her mother died while on a visit to her daughter, Mrs. Teeple, and after his wife's death Mr. Zeigler removed to Decatur and made his home with his daughter. He spent the last ten years of his life with her. Mr. and Mrs. Teeple are the parents of three children, of whom a son, Ray Z. Teeple, is living. They are highly respected and their home is one of the centers of culture and refinement in Decatur.



## MAYNARD A. FRISINGER.

Maynard A. Frisinger is a member of the younger generation of successful men of Adams county, but although comparatively young in years, he has attained an enviable prominence among his fellow men. He is a native of Adams county and was born in Saint Mary's township, December 22, 1883. He is a son of John M. and Mary (Peterson) Frisinger. His father is a native of Adams county and his mother was born in Saint Mary's township. The elder Frisingers became the parents of seven children, six of whom are living. These children living are: Maynard A., Fannie, Fremont, Mary, Ruth and Richard. From this list it will be seen that Maynard is the eldest of his parents' living children.

The early life of Maynard Frisinger was spent at his father's home. He received an excellent education in the common schools of Decatur and then supplemented this preliminary education with a thorough course in the Decatur high school. He graduated from this institution in 1902. Following his graduation from the high school he began at once his business life. He secured a position as a clerk in the Decatur postoffice and served in this capacity under Albert Brittson for the following four years. During his career as a clerk in the Decatur postoffice he became familiar with all of the various departments of the work of the office. He made many friends during his employment under the administration of Mr. Brittson and when he aspired to succeed his chief and assume the executive charge of the office he found many supporters, who earnestly and eagerly pleaded his claims for consideration. At the expiration of the term of

office of Mr. Brittson he was selected as his successor and assumed his duties as postmaster of Decatur July 1, 1906. Since his incumbency he has shown himself to be a painstaking and efficient official and has won merited commendation.

Mr. Frisinger is a public-spirited man and takes an active interest in the affairs of Decatur. He is an enthusiastic member of his party and is an earnest worker for its success in his city, county and district. He is a member of the Decatur Lodge of Elks and of the Order of Ben-Hur.

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 NORVAL BLACKBURN.

Farming, the work of a soldier, the publication of newspapers and years spent in public office all contributed to make up the busy life of Norval Blackburn. In each of these varied callings he distinguished himself and left behind him a name revered by all who knew him. He was born on a farm in Holmes county, Ohio, January 16, 1843. His father was Thomas K. Blackburn and his mother was Anna Blackburn. Both parents were sturdy people, who played their parts in reclaiming a wilderness and in making it productive and pleasant. His parents came from Stark county, Ohio, to Adams county, Indiana, in 1858 and settled on a farm near the present city of Decatur. The father of Norval was a farmer by occupation all his life and died at Goodland, Indiana, when upward of seventy years of age. His mother lived to the ripe age of eighty-four and died at Fort Wayne. Of a family of fourteen children that were born to his parents Norval was the fifth in order of



their birth. He was seven years of age when his parents forsook their Ohio home and made a new home in this state. His early years were spent on the parental farm and he gained his education in the schools of his district. As he grew he took an active part in the management and operation of his father's farm, and remained a helper of his father until his twentieth year. At this time the war spirit was flooding the entire country and Norval was caught in its current. In September, 1863, he enlisted in the Eleventh Indiana Cavalry as a member of Troop C, which regiment was brigaded with the famous One-hundred-and-twenty-sixth Indiana Volunteer Infantry. A short time after joining his troop he was promoted from the ranks to a second lieutenantcy, and a short time afterward was again promoted to command his troop as its captain. With his regiment he took part in a number of important engagements and battles of the war and was present at the battle of Nashville. He was mustered out of the service with his troop September 19, 1865.

After leaving the service he returned to his home in Adams county and engaged in the saw-mill business. He continued in this employment for about nine years and was successful. In 1874 he was chosen a deputy sheriff of Adams county and served in this capacity faithfully and well for four years. In 1878 he was elected clerk of the Adams county circuit court and held this important office until 1883. At the conclusion of his service as court clerk he purchased a half interest in the Decatur Democrat and in February of the following year he became sole proprietor of this publication and also founded the Daily Democrat. He published his paper with uniform success for the en-

uing twelve years. Failing health caused him to retire from the active management of his newspaper property, and in 1896 he disposed of it. While owner of the Democrat he was appointed postmaster of Decatur by President Cleveland and served in this capacity from 1885 to 1889. However, the newspaper business had still a firm hold on him, and in 1899 he founded the Weekly News, a Democratic paper, which paper he conducted in the interests of the taxpayers of Adams county until his death, which occurred January 15, 1901.

Mr. Blackburn was married at Decatur August 21, 1869, to Miss Sarah J. Stoops, who was born in Monongahela county, West Virginia, May 2, 1843. She was a daughter of James and Mary (Smalley) Stoops, who came to Adams county from their West Virginia home in October, 1852. For a time Mr. Stoops lived on a farm in Adams county, but later removed to Decatur, where he engaged in the harness and saddlery business. Both parents died in Decatur, the father at the advanced age of eighty and the mother at seventy-two. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Blackburn, two of whom, Nellie M. and Hattie, the wife of Scott Bockover, are living. The two other children died while still young.

Mr. Blackburn was one of the strong men of the community in which he lived. His death was mourned by a large circle of friends, and these unite in declaring that his life was spent in the betterment of his fellows. He was a member of the Samuel Henry Post, Grand Army of the Republic; a Royal Arch Mason and a Democrat all his life. Both Mr. and Mrs. Blackburn united with the Methodist Episcopal church and both early took an active part in church



work. Few men achieve the degree of prominence in life and active affairs that fell to the lot of Mr. Blackburn, and few have gone to their final reward with greater certainty that it will be a reward honestly and fairly won.

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### BENJAMIN W. SHOLTY.

Benjamin W. Sholty, one of the leading practicing attorneys of Adams county and a man respected for his intellectual and professional attainments, was born in Stark county, Ohio, March 12, 1846. He is the son of Henry J. and Sarah (Weimer) Sholty. His parents lived in Ohio for some years following their marriage and then migrated to Noble county, Indiana. They purchased land in Noble county and they were residents of this county until 1865. The mother died in Noble county at the age of fifty-three. Mr. Sholty survived his wife several years and died in Huntington county, aged fifty-six. Three children survive this estimable couple: Serena, the wife of Reuben McFarren; Benjamin W., the subject of this brief sketch, and Frank O., who now resides in Cooks, Montana.

Ten years of the life of Benjamin W. Sholty had passed before his parents moved to Indiana. He received his early education in the schools of Stark county, Ohio, and supplemented this later in the schools of Noble county, Indiana, after his parents came there. He lived on the home farm in this latter county until his sixteenth year, when he went to Roanoke and entered the schools there. While in the Roanoke schools he was seized with a desire to enter the army and

fight for the Union cause. Accordingly he enlisted in June, 1864, in Company I, of the One-hundred-and-thirty-eighth Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He served for the following four months and then was honorably discharged. After leaving the army he returned to Roanoke and resumed his studies in the schools at that place. He remained at Roanoke until 1871.

About this time he engaged in the drug business at Roanoke with his father. This business was conducted by father and son for about two years and was a successful venture. However, after the expiration of the two years it was discontinued and in 1873 Benjamin W. Sholty came to Decatur and engaged in the drug business. He entered the employ of T. T. Dorwin and remained in his employ for the following eight years. He then purchased a drug business of his own and conducted it for several years, finally disposing of his interest in 1881. At this time he received the appointment to the postmastership of Decatur and held this position for about two years, when he resigned. His conduct of the office was entirely satisfactory and he made an able and efficient official. For the next five years following his resignation from the postmastership of Decatur he engaged in the lumber business. After this period he was engaged in the fire insurance business and then took up the study of law. He pursued his studies with diligence and was admitted to the bar of Adams county in 1896. He has since practiced this profession and has gained a favorable prominence in it.

November 15, 1877, Mr. Sholty was united in marriage to Miss Nellie Vincent. His wife is a native of West Virginia, being born at Point Pleasant, in that state, Sep-



tember 27, 1856. She is a daughter of Charles G. and Martha R. (Wood) Vincent. Her parents died in New Orleans and had four children, of whom Mrs. Sholty is the eldest. Mr. and Mrs. Sholty have one daughter, Mabel.

Mr. Sholty is one of the respected citizens of Decatur. He is a man who takes a live interest in the affairs of his home city, and is active in movements to increase its development and commercial prosperity. He is a member of Sam Henry Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and is an enthusiastic member of the Masonic fraternity. Both Mr. Sholty and his wife are members of the Eastern Star.

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#### HELEN M. (BOBO) BLOSSOM.

Helen M. (Bobo) Blossom is a daughter of Townsend Guarnier Bobo and Almira (Gorseline) Bobo. Both of her parents were natives of Ohio. They came to Adams county, Indiana, from Athens county, Ohio, and settled in Root township. Her father died with cholera in Illinois when about forty years of age. The family lived in a number of places and the mother died in Decatur at the advanced age of eighty-one years. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Bobo and Mrs. Blossom was the third child born. Her birth occurred in Root township, Adams county, May 14, 1842, eleven years before her father's death. Mrs. Bobo was married for the second time to Ezekiel Hooper, a pioneer of Adams county. A sketch of this family may be found incorporated in the sketch of Paul G. Hooper elsewhere in this volume. Following her

mother's marriage to Mr. Hooper Mrs. Blossom made her home with her mother and stepfather until her own marriage to Ira A. Blossom. Previous to her marriage Mrs. Blossom taught school for five years in various sections of Adams and Allen counties. She was early recognized as an accomplished educator and the youth of the two counties where she taught were especially fortunate that they were privileged to begin their studies under her able tutelage. She was married April 1, 1866, in Root township. Her husband was born on his father's farm in Adams county in 1840. He was the son of Benjamin F. and Mary (Hushaw) Blossom, who were numbered among that band of adventurous spirits who came into the wild country of Indiana in the pioneer days and helped to make the state habitable and productive. Strength is given to the elder Blossom's claim to distinction as a pioneer by the recorded fact that he served as a member of the first grand jury ever assembled in Adams county.

Ira Blossom was reared on his father's farm in Adams county and lived the same life that scores of farmers' sons did during that period. He secured the rudiments of an education in the district schools that were available and later in life supplemented this early education by faithful and intelligent reading. The serious life of the farmer claimed his whole time and energies until the breaking out of the Civil war. He listened to his country's call for volunteers and answered it in October, 1861, by enlisting as a member of Company C, Forty-seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He was an able and intelligent soldier, and after serving a short time in the ranks of his company was promoted successively to the second lieutenant



ancy and then the first lieutenantcy of his company. At a later date he was again promoted to the captaincy of his company and commanded it until the close of the war. He rendered distinguished services in the field and took part in some of the hottest campaigns and actions of the entire war. Following the close of the war Mr. Blossom returned to his home in Adams county and resumed the peaceful pursuit of farming. He was an accomplished agriculturist and under his management and direction his farm continued to improve and to become more and more productive. He erected model buildings, including a comfortable home and barns and other needful buildings. His property came to be pointed out as one of the model properties of its kind in the entire country. Mr. Blossom continued to operate his farm until about the year 1882, when he removed to Decatur, which city he made his home until his death, August 6, 1893. He was a lifelong Republican and was ever loyal to his party and to its principles and ambitions. He subscribed to the Presbyterian faith and was an active and earnest member of that church. At one time he was a candidate for sheriff of his county and was defeated by but a small margin. He took the keenest interest in all public questions and was ever joined with those who stood for progress. He was a charter member of Sam Henry Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and was at one time its commanding officer.

Mr. and Mrs. Blossom had born to them eight children, three of whom are still living. These are: Jessie O., Edith M., the wife of Auselm Bremerkamp, and Richard I. A daughter, Florence, died when twenty-three years of age and the others died in infancy.

Mrs. Blossom has taken an active part in the life of her home city. She manifests a live interest in educational affairs and is a member of the Historical and Shakespeare clubs. In addition she is interested in the cause of temperance and served as secretary of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union for fifteen years.

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### JOHN C. MORAN.

The Celtic race has contributed much to the development of the republic in which we live. All sections of the country claim among their strong men Irishmen of ability and intelligence. Decatur and Adams county are no exceptions to this rule, and among the Celts in Decatur none is more esteemed or more highly respected for personal and business attainments than John C. Moran. Mr. Moran is a native son of Adams county and was born in Jefferson township, February 15, 1870. His parents, Thomas and Anna (Fahey) Moran, were born in County Galway, Ireland, and emigrated to America in 1865. They settled first in Preble county, Ohio, and later came to Indiana and purchased a farm in Jefferson township, Adams county. It was on this farm that John C. Moran first saw the light of day. The mother died on the home farm, May 27, 1887. There were nine children. Winnefred married Joseph Fosty, and died in April, 1906; Mary, wife of P. K. Kinney; Anna, widow of T. F. Golden; John C., James J., Bridget, wife of James Kinney; Maggie, Patrick and Marcus.

John C. Moran was the eldest son and the fourth child in order of birth of his parents' family of nine children. He was reared on



his father's farm and spent his boyhood there. He received his preliminary education in the schools of his neighborhood and later supplemented this schooling with courses of study at the Ohio Normal University at Ada, Ohio, the normal school at Portland, Indiana, and the normal school at Valparaiso, Indiana. He was an industrious student and made excellent progress in his studies at the various institutions he attended. Early in his school career he decided to adopt the law as his profession. To this end he read law in the office of R. H. Hartford at Portland while he was a student in the normal school. An incident of his school life was teaching school for several winter terms between the sessions he spent in the various normal schools. After the completion of his studies in law and literature Mr. Moran was admitted to practice law at the bar of Adams county, and in 1897 he opened his first office for the practice of law at Berne, Adams county. He remained in Berne for the next three years and gained enviable prominence in his profession. He was a candidate for the office of county prosecuting attorney while living in Berne and was elected by a handsome majority. His election occurred in 1900 and necessitated his removal to Decatur, the county seat. He removed to Decatur and served through his first term of two years with credit and distinction. He was renominated by his party for the office a second time and again elected. Again in 1904 his party chose him as its candidate for the office of county prosecutor and for the third time he was swept to victory at the polls. In all he served as prosecutor of Adams county six years and one and one half months. During the incumbency of his office he discharged all of its

duties and obligations with intelligence, fearlessness and marked ability. He tried numbers of important cases and in each he displayed a profound knowledge of the law and skill as an attorney. His chief concern was the interest of the public he served, and he retired from office with the plaudits of the members of all political parties and the esteem of his fellows.

Mr. Moran was married in Decatur, September 23, 1901, to Miss Rosella Yager. His wife was born in French township, Adams county, and is a daughter of Charles and Magdelene (Beitler) Yager, both of whom are dead. Mr. and Mrs. Moran are the parents of one child, a daughter, Margaret. Since he gave up the office of prosecuting attorney Mr. Moran has been engaged in practicing law in partnership with Shaffer Peterson, the firm being known as Peterson & Moran. Mr. and Mrs. Moran are esteemed members of St. Mary's Catholic church and are among the most earnest and generous supporters of the aims and charities of this denomination and church. He is active in municipal matters and takes a keen interest in all things that have as their object the promotion of the commercial and social welfare of Decatur and Adams county. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Elks and the Red Men and is an active worker in all of these organizations.

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#### JOHN F. LACHOT.

Among the men of the present generation that have achieved prominence in the section of the state in which they reside is John F. Lachot, whose home is at Decatur.



Indiana. Although still a comparatively young man, Mr. Lachot has gained enviable prominence among his business and social associates and is counted among the substantial men of the community in which he lives. He was born at Mount Eaton, Wayne county, Ohio, June 9, 1860. He comes of Swiss stock, his father having been Amil Lachot and his mother Zeline (Grosjean) Lachot, natives of the canton of Berne. The parents of the subject of this sketch emigrated to this country and made a home for themselves in Wayne county, Ohio. The father fought through a portion of the Civil war and died in 1862 of injuries received in battle. His wife followed him to the grave a year later. The couple had five children, of whom John F. was the fourth in order of birth.

When John was eight years of age he came to Indiana and made his home with an uncle, Henry Michaud, in French township, Adams county. He continued to live with his uncle until he reached his majority. In his youth he attended the common schools of the neighborhood and gained the rudiments of his education. When he reached his twenty-first year he came to Berne and secured employment in a livery stable, in which line of work he continued for two years. He then took employment in a tile factory near Berne, but after a year gave up his place and began clerking in a drug store. This business appealed to him and he continued in it as clerk and proprietor of a store for ten years. During these years he was chosen marshal of the village of Berne and was the first marshal the village had. In addition to this he was a member of the village school board for three years. Following his

withdrawal from the drug business he operated the Cottage Hotel for a year and then entered the employ of the Brooks Oil Company as a traveling salesman. He was connected with this firm for twelve years. It was while in the employ of the oil company that he became a candidate for the office of treasurer of Adams county on the Democratic ticket. He was elected to this important county office in November, 1904, and assumed the duties of his new office in June, 1906. He has ever been a man of pronounced public spirit and has taken an active and aggressive part in all movements that had for their objects the betterment of local and state conditions.

The religious phase of life has always had a strong attraction for Mr. Lachot. He has taken an active part in the church work of his village and community, and with the members of his immediate family is a member of the Evangelical church. He has been prominently interested in Sunday-school work and has been superintendent and teacher of the Sunday-school of the church at Berne. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias.

He was married in Berne on June 9, 1885, to Miss Martha A. Everhart, who is a native of Blue Creek township, the daughter of John and Martha Everhart, and was born December 28, 1866. Her parents were among the old settlers of Blue Creek township, her grandfather being Kalida Jacobs, one of the pioneers of that section of the state. Mr. and Mrs. Lachot are the parents of six children, five of them now living. They are: Herbert, Lilah, Dwight, Dewey and Noble. Ruby, the eldest child, died when three months of age.



## DAVID LAMAN.

With the exception of the years spent amid the stirring scenes and incidents of war, the life of David Laman, with whom this sketch is concerned, has been laid along the lines of a peaceful agriculturist. Born and reared to manhood on a farm, he knew no harsher note than the lowing of kine nor more deadly implements than those of husbandry until he answered his country's call for men to preserve the integrity of the Union. He was born on a farm in Fairfield county, Ohio, August 30, 1836. His father was Jacob Laman, a sturdy farmer and respected citizen of the time, and his mother was Catherine (Ensminger) Laman. A few years after the birth of David his parents moved from Fairfield county to Allen county, in the same state. They settled on a farm in Allen county, where they died after living useful, exemplary lives. David was the fourth in a family of ten children and remained on the Allen county farm until he reached manhood. His life was such as was incident of pioneer farms of that period of the state's development. He attended the country schools and worked on his father's farm. He was studious and ambitious and gained a satisfactory education and a thorough knowledge of farm work. When President Lincoln issued his call for volunteers to fight the armies of the southern states young David was seized with the martial spirit and was among those who presented themselves to meet their country's need. He chose the cavalry branch of army service and enlisted in McLaughlin's squadron of Ohio Volunteer Cavalry. From his advent at the front with his command his career was a most exciting one. His squadron par-

ticipated in countless skirmishes and many important battles. The arena of war, so far as his detachment was concerned, was placed in the southwestern section of the country, and the battles in which he fought were those of this portion of the country. He was engaged in the siege of Atlanta, and while this long engagement was in progress he was taken prisoner by the southern troops. After he was captured he was confined in several southern prisons. He experienced the horrors of the prisons at Andersonville, Charleston and Florence, South Carolina, and for nine months suffered the agonies that were the daily incidents of the unfortunate Union prisoners in these prisons. He was finally paroled at the close of hostilities and returning from the war, settled in Allen county, Ohio. He resumed farming and continued to live on his Allen county farm until 1870, when he came to Adams county, Indiana. He purchased a farm in Kirkland township, in that county, which he conducted for about five years. At the expiration of this time he sold his Kirkland township farm and bought land in Root township, which he tilled until 1892. Tiring of the hard work of a farmer's life, he rented his Root township farm and removed with his family to Decatur.

Mr. Laman was married in Allen county, Ohio, December 2, 1858, to Miss Sarah Welch, who was born in Delaware county, Ohio, January 26, 1843. Her father was Jackson Welch and her mother was Mary Ann (Point) Welch. Her father died in Delaware county, Ohio, and her mother, who survived him some years, died in Allen county, Ohio. Mrs. Laman was the eldest of two children and had a brother, who enlisted for the Civil war and died while in the



army. Mr. and Mrs. Laman have had four children. Mary E. is the wife of John S. Bowers; William, who died at the age of twenty-nine years; Samuel J. and Hala Cathering, the wife of Wilson Lee.

Mr. Laman is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and is a Republican in politics. He has never sought political office, but has been a man who kept in close touch with the progress of political events and movements. Both Mr. Laman and his wife are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church and have been professing Christians for about fifty years. He is looked upon as one of the strong men of his community and has not alone the respect, but also the confidence of all those whose privilege it is to know him. He can have the satisfaction of looking back on a life well spent and with the conviction that he has at all times done his full duty as it was manifested to him.

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### JOHN W. McKEAN.

It was in the stern surroundings of a pioneer farm where one day's efforts meant the next day's bread and where earnestness, courage and grit were the only qualities that spelled and made for success that John W. McKean laid the foundations that support the life of retirement and ease that he enjoys today. Those who have not striven to claim a farm from a wilderness cannot have an adequate idea of what a struggle it is. So, perhaps, it is not easy to grasp the full significance of the antagonistic conditions against which many men of northeastern Indiana have labored. But success came to

many, and among the number John McKean gained a generous measure. He was born in the village of Bethlehem, Stark county, Ohio, February 17, 1843. His father, Thomas J. McKean, was a practicing physician. His mother was Mary (Hendricks) McKean. His early life was spent in his native village and in Carroll county, where his parents lived. His father continued to live in Ohio until a short time before his death, in his eighty-eighth year, which occurred at the home of one of his sons in Michigan. His mother died in Carroll county, Ohio, in 1848. John was the fourth of a family of six children and continued to live in Ohio until the beginning of the Civil war. At that time he enlisted, in May, 1864, in the One Hundred and Fifty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry and served with this regiment until the term of his enlistment expired four months later. He then returned to Allen county, Ohio, from which county he had enlisted and resumed farming, which occupation had engaged him during the years previous to his war service. He operated his Ohio farm until the year 1872, when he removed to Adams county, Indiana. For the following three years he tilled a farm, which he rented, and then he purchased a farm of forty acres in Kirkland township. He remained in possession of this farm for two years and then sold it and purchased two farms comprising one hundred and sixty acres. All of this purchased land, with the exception of seven acres, was heavily timbered and the work of clearing and improving this tract was a serious undertaking. Persistence has ever been a prominent characteristic of Mr. McKean, and he kept at his arduous task of improving his farm until he had the greater portion of it under cultiva-



tion. As the years sped by he cleared more land and finally his farm became one of the most fertile and productive tracts in his section of the county. Modern buildings were added from time to time as necessity arose, and today this farm that was carved from among the trees of a primeval forest is one of the finest in Adams county. The entire credit for accomplishing all of this justly rests with Mr. McKean. He continued to operate his farm and to raise ample and profitable crops until 1900, when he retired from active work and took up his residence in Decatur.

Mr. McKean was married in Allen county, Ohio, January 14, 1864, to Miss Lydia Stalter, who was born in Allen county, November 19, 1842. She was a daughter of Christian and Catherine (Huddel) Stalter. Her father was a native of Pennsylvania and both her parents died in Allen county, where they are buried. Mrs. McKean was the fifth child of a family of ten children. Mr. and Mrs. McKean also have been the parents of ten children. Of this number George E., John W., Charles, Thomas J., William F., James T. and Homer S. are living. Catherine A., who was the wife of Ephraim Bolinger, died in her twenty-second year; Emmy F., who was the wife of Joseph Russell, died in Washington township, aged twenty-three years, and Terisa, who died in infancy, were the remaining children.

Mr. McKean has lived a useful and complete life. He is a man who has taken an active and aggressive interest in all movements that were destined to better his fellows. His life has been characterized by a high order of public spiritedness and he has contributed generously to the development of his county in economic and social ways.

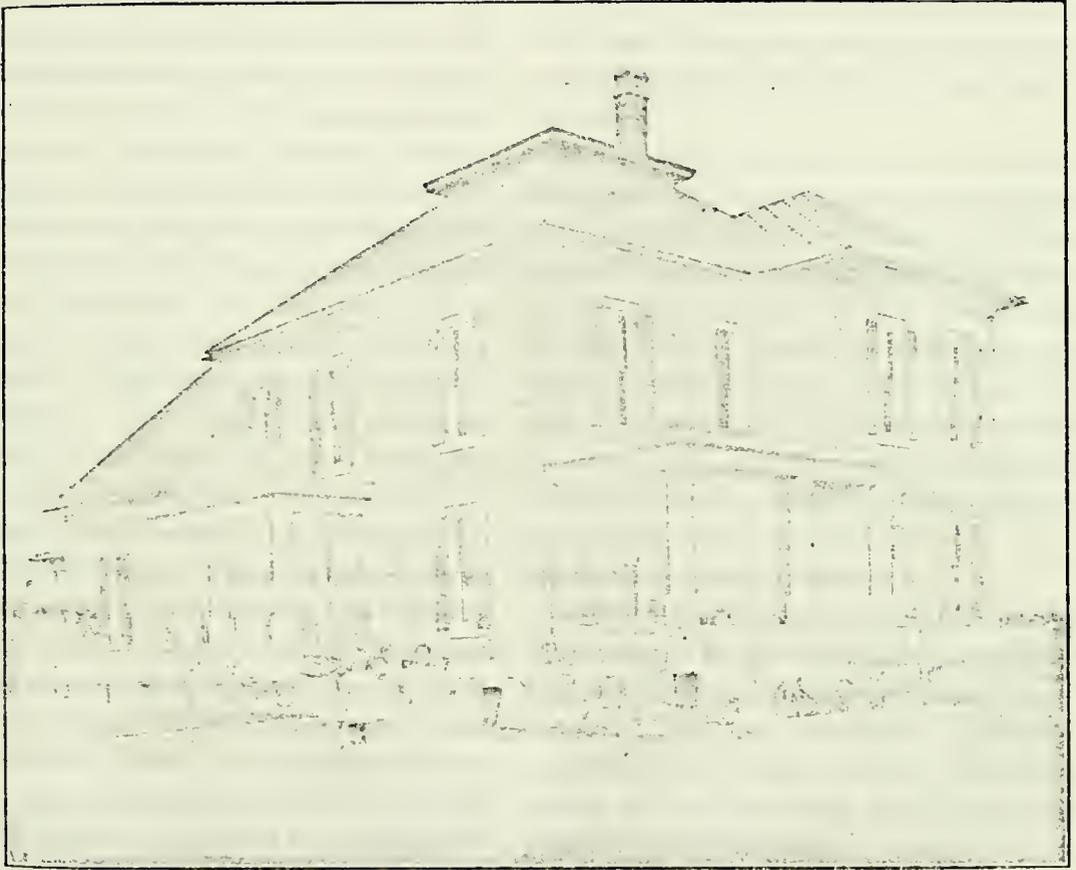
He is a Democrat in politics and although history does not record that he aspired to office, his voice has been heard in his party councils and his words have carried much weight. He and his wife have taken an intelligent part in the activities of the religious side of life. Both have long been affiliated with the Brethren of Christ, and for fifteen or twenty years Mr. McKean preached the doctrines held by those of this faith. He has been heard in many churches throughout the state. Now, as the shadows of his exemplary life are lengthening he rests after labors well performed. He has the esteem of all who know him and his life might well serve as a model for the youth of the growing generation. The wife of Mr. McKean died in April of 1907.

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#### LOUIES KLEINE.

A more than usual degree of prominence and success has fallen to the share of Louies Kleine, the subject of this sketch. He was born in Preble township, Adams county, and has resided in the same township all of his life. His parents were born in Germany of a sturdy line and came when young to America. They were John F. Kleine (John F. Kleine had one brother come to America, but no trace of him is known) and Henrietta (Speckmann) Kleine and they were married in Fort Wayne, November 12, 1850. After their marriage they removed to Adams county and settled on a farm in Preble township. With the exception of a year spent in Iowa they lived in Preble township until their deaths. Both reached a ripe age, the father being sixty-six years of age when he died and the mother





LOUIES KLEINE'S RESIDENCE.

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was seventy-two. They were the parents of seven children: Lisette, wife of Henry Gerke; Louisa, wife of Henry Stellhorn (she is deceased); Sophia, wife of H. F. Scheimann; Fred, and Minnie, wife of Henry Gallmeier, and Louies.

Louies Kleine was born on his father's Preble township farm, March 12, 1866. He spent his boyhood on the family estate and received his education in the common schools of the neighborhood. He was reared a farmer and received an excellent practical education in agriculture from his father. He has continued as a farmer all his life. April 25, 1897, Mr. Kleine was married to Miss Minnie Doehrmann, who was also born in Preble township, April 6, 1873. She is a daughter of Conrad and Louisa (Reese) Doehrmann. Her father was a native of Adams county and was born in Preble township. Her mother was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana. After his marriage Mr. Doehrmann made a home for his bride in Preble township, and they are still residents of that section of Adams county. They are the parents of eleven children, nine of whom are still living. These children are: Minnie, William, Henry, Ernst, Louisa, Conrad, Fred, Adolph and Lydia. Mrs. Kleine lived with her parents on the old home place until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Kleine are the parents of four children: Gustav, born September 17, 1898; Louies, born September 3, 1899; Ella, born October 7, 1901, and Hermann, born November 7, 1904.

Louies Kleine is one of the leading men of this community. He is a successful farmer and has a country place that is a model of its kind. He owns one hundred and sixty acres of fine land and has brought it to a high stage of cultivation. His land is all well

improved. His residence is a substantial home and his barns and outbuildings are excellent. His place is carefully tiled and drained and his fences are among the best in the township. A thorough believer in modern methods and modern machinery as aids to the cultivation of the soil, he has added these latter to his farm equipment and uses the former in applying his skill. His crops are generous and are satisfactory and highly profitable.

He is a man who takes an active part in the affairs of his neighborhood and county. He is a Democrat and has been active in furthering the interests of his party. He is an earnest party worker and was recently rewarded for his faithful service by being elected township trustee. His election occurred in 1904 and he assumed the duties in January, 1906, and continues to discharge them with credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of his constituents and fellow residents of Preble township.

Mr. and Mrs. Kleine are members of the Lutheran church and accord this denomination and church their generous and hearty support. They are interested in charitable movements and projects and are numbered among the best and most highly respected people of the community.

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#### HON. HENRY DIRKSON.

Henry Dirkson was born in Brooklyn, New York, October 25, 1837. He is the son of German emigrants to the United States and is a man possessing many of the sterling characteristics that made the newcomers from the fatherland such valuable



citizens of the new republic. His father was Egge Dirkson and his mother was Johanna (Aurante) Dirkson. His parents were married in Germany and came to America in 1832. The elder Dirkson settled in New York city, but after living in the metropolis for a short time crossed the river and settled in Brooklyn. He was a shoemaker and plied his trade in Brooklyn for some time. He was attracted to New Jersey and moved into that state, settling on a farm near Morristown. He lived in New Jersey for the following nine years and then decided to move west. He chose Indiana as the scene of his future labors and settled on the homestead farm in Preble township, Adams county. His wife died in her sixty-third year, but he lived until he reached the advanced age of eighty-two. He was the father of four children, three of whom reached maturity. John, a son, died in Root township at sixty; Anna, the wife of Henry Schroader, of Allen county, and Henry, the subject of this sketch, are still living.

There was nothing in the early life of Henry Dirkson that was unusual. He came to Indiana with his parents when they removed from New Jersey. At the time of this removal he was ten years of age and lived with his parents in Allen county for two years before the farm in Preble township was purchased. As a boy he lived on the family farm and attended the winter sessions of the schools of the district. He received a common school education and from his father learned the art and lessons of husbandry. He became a proficient farmer, and by the time he reached manhood was accounted one of the expert agriculturists in the county. He conducted and managed his father's farm during the latter years of his

life, and at his father's death succeeded to its ownership.

Mr. Dirkson was married to Miss Lusetta Aumann November 19, 1863. His wife is a daughter of William and Mary (Hoyer) Aumann, and was born in Allen county July 28, 1844. Her parents were both natives of Germany. They were married in Germany and came to this country and settled in Allen county, Indiana. Later they removed to Adams county and established themselves on the farm in 1849, where their daughter was reared. Her father continued to reside on his Adams county farm until his death at sixty-three years of age. His wife lived until she was seventy-eight. Ten children were born to them, of which number nine grew to man and womanhood. These were: Louisa, Minnie, Hannah (deceased), Lusetta, Augusta, Mary, Eliza, Emily and William. Mr. and Mrs. Dirkson are the parents of four children: Edward W., Anna, the wife of Henry Scheimann, of Preble township; Louisa, the wife of William Kolin, of Preble township, and Mary, the wife of Otto Ebel, of the same township. Another child, Emma, died when two years old.

Among the citizens of Adams county and Preble township none takes a livelier interest in the affairs of the county than Mr. Dirkson. He is in every way a progressive man. His farm comprises one hundred and seventy acres of land and is a fine property, well improved, and is operated along lines of the most approved modernity. His buildings are ample and substantially built and his crops are always among the largest and most profitable of all raised in the county. He carries into all of his business affairs the same energy and intelligence he



shows in his management of his farm property. He is an active politician and a member of the Democrat party. He is an earnest party worker and served for five years as township trustee. Following the expiration of his last term in this office he was selected to represent his county in the state legislature and was a member of the lower house of that body for two terms. He has been elected a justice of the peace several times, but did not qualify for that office. His career as a citizen and a public servant has been a memorable one and such that he can look back upon with pride, confident in the belief that he has discharged his duties and responsibilities well and served his constituents faithfully and honestly.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Dirkson are faithful and generous members of the congregation of St. John's Lutheran church of Preble township. When this church was organized and the present structure built Mr. Dirkson was a director and he has continued to take a prominent part in its affairs.

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#### REV. HENRY C. JAUS.

During the incumbency of the pulpit by the Rev. Henry C. Jaus of St. John's German Lutheran church, in Preble township, Adams county, this flourishing organization has greatly increased in membership and in strength. The church was organized in the early days of Adams county, the date being 1845, and is one of the oldest in north-eastern Indiana. Mr. Jaus was born at Hamburg, Carver county, Minnesota, January 21, 1865. He is a son of pioneer German parents, Martin and Catherine (Beck)

Jaus, who came from their native country at an exceedingly early date and settled in what was then a frontier state. Before they settled in Minnesota they lived a short time in Canada, but believing the advantages possessed by "the states" greater than those presented by the Dominion, migrated across the border. The elder Jaus was a farmer and cultivated his estate in Carver county until his death at the ripe age of sixty-six years. His wife died at the age of sixty-three, some time after her husband's death. They were the parents of nine children: Simon, Martin, Anna, John, Martha, Mary, Henry C., George and Gottlieb.

Henry Jaus lived on his father's farm during his boyhood and experienced the life of a boy in the pioneer period. He secured his elementary education in the common schools of Carver county and attended a parochial school at Hamburg. Finishing his course in the parochial school, he decided to enter the ministry of the German Lutheran church, of which denomination his parents were staunch members. Accordingly he went to Springfield, Illinois, and entered the Concordia Theological Seminary at that city. He pursued his studies in theology at this institution for five years and then was graduated "cum laude" in the spring of 1892.

He was a careful and earnest student at the seminary and he took high rank among his fellow students. At the conclusion of his course he was well prepared to assume the duties of a pastor of a congregation. His first charge after his graduation was at Tipton, Indiana. He went to that city and served as pastor of the church there for six years. He then received a call from Allen county. There were many members of the Lutheran denomination in Allen county and



numbers in Washington township, but there was no church. Mr. Jaus was called for the purpose of organizing a congregation and launching a church. He was successful in this new field of labor, and organized the Bethlehem church and continued to serve it as pastor for the following six years. During his pastorate the church thrived and members were added to it from time to time until it became an important religious body of the community. At the end of this period he was called to the pulpit of St. John's church in Preble township.

In accepting the call extended by the Preble township church Mr. Jaus found himself, in 1905, at the head of an aggressive and progressive church body. The building that was erected in 1873 was a substantial edifice and adapted to the needs of the congregation. In addition to the church building a handsome parsonage awaited him and a fine parochial school building that had been recently built at a cost of seven thousand dollars. The combined value of the real estate held by the church, including a teachers' home and twenty acres of land, was in the neighborhood of fifty thousand dollars.

The church to which he had come was one that was hallowed by tradition. Since its organization by Henry Wyneken, more than a half century ago, it had been served by men whose names became famous throughout the county. Its former pastors had built the church up to its present standard, and no mean task confronted the new pastor to maintain these high standards of leadership and to further foster the growth of the church. The pastors since the organization of the church were: The Rev. Husmann, the Rev. Fritze, the Rev. W. Kolb, the Rev. Philip Wanibsganss, the Rev. Traub, the

Rev. H. F. C. Evers, the Rev. R. A. Bischoff and the Rev. C. F. W. Hüge. Of the list but two are living at the present time. Under the charge of Mr. Jaus, however, the church has developed and has grown in membership. The present number of communicants is four hundred and fifty-eight and the parochial school has a large number of pupils.

Mr. Jaus was married at Springfield, Illinois, October 13, 1892, to Miss Anna Paul, of Springfield, Illinois. She was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, May 24, 1867, and is the daughter of Henry and Sophia Paul. Her parents died in Springfield. Mr. and Mrs. Jaus are the parents of two children: Latto and Clara. They are among the most highly respected people of the county and are a force for good in their community.

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#### HENRY GALLMEIER.

Henry Gallmeier is the direct descendant of pioneer parents, who left their homes in Germany to find a new field for their labors in what was then a new country. The father, Conrad Gallmeier, was a sturdy product of the fatherland and the unbroken wilds of northeastern Indiana presented no terrors to him. He was determined to make a home for himself and to bring to a productive state the farm he was destined to carve from the primeval forest. At the time Conrad arrived in this country a fine sturdy German girl also came. This girl was Christina Kraft. She came alone to the United States and married Conrad Gallmeier and was an admirable wife for a pioneer. They both came to the United States in 1841 and im-



mediately pushed on to Indiana. They secured land in Preble township and lived in that township until their deaths. The wife lived until she was seventy-five years of age and the husband until he was ninety-nine. Nine children were born to this estimable couple, eight of whom lived to reach maturity. These children were: Frederick, Conrad (deceased), William (deceased), Wilhelmina, the wife of Andrew Fuhrman; Louise, the wife of William Rodenbeck; Augusta, the wife of Andrew Droege, of Allen county, and Henry, the subject of this sketch.

Henry Gallmeier was reared on his father's farm and passed through the usual experiences of a boy of the pioneer period. The life was necessarily rough and there were few pleasures and little beside the actual necessities of life. But the sturdy nature of the pioneer had been transmitted to him from his parents and he easily adapted himself to his life.

He received a common school education in the rude cabin school houses of the neighborhood and in the intervals between school sessions helped his father to improve and cultivate the homestead. He always has lived on the homestead farm and now owns it. It is a tract of one hundred and twenty acres.

Mr. Gallmeier was married August 25, 1897, to Miss Minnie Kleine. His wife was born in Preble township, June 18, 1863. She is a daughter of John F. and Henrietta (Speckman) Kleine. Her parents were born in Germany and were brought to this country in their youth by their parents. They were married October 12, 1850, in Fort Wayne and soon after removed to Preble township, where they lived, with the exception of a year spent in Iowa, till their

deaths. Mr. Kleine died at the age of sixty-six and his wife lived to be seventy-two. They were the parents of seven children, four of whom are living: Mrs. Gallmeier, Lisette, the wife of Henry Gerke, of Allen county; Sophia, the wife of Frederick Scheimann, of Preble township, and Louisa. Mr. and Mrs. Gallmeier are the parents of one child, a daughter, Ida, born May 10, 1899.

Under the management of Mr. Gallmeier his farm has been developed into one of the best in the county. To see it today would convince the observer that modern methods and up-to-date management are in use. The crops are large and rotated with judgment and the output of the farm is sold each year at a handsome profit. The early rude buildings have been replaced with modern ones. The house is comfortable and attractive and the barns and other buildings ample and well constructed. Mr. and Mrs. Gallmeier are among the most highly respected people of their community. They both are faithful and consistent members of St. John's German Lutheran church and they give their hearty support and co-operation to that denomination.

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#### WILLIAM AUMANN.

Born on the farm on which he still lives, May 3, 1856, William Aumann has seen many changes brought about in Adams county, and many faces come and go. Through all the changes he has lived a strong life and has gained for himself a high place in the regard and confidence of his fellows. His father was a native of Ger-



many, who came to America about the middle of the last century and settled with his wife in Allen county, Indiana. The father was also named William Aumann and the mother was Mary (Homeyer) Aumann. They were married in Germany and soon after this event in their lives came to the United States. They began farming in Allen county in about 1849, but became dissatisfied and removed to Root township, Adams county. They purchased land in this township and lived on their farm until their deaths. Both reached ripe ages, the husband being sixty-three and the wife seventy-eight when death claimed them. These worthy people were the parents of ten children, nine of whom lived to grow up. These were: Louisa, Minnie, Hannah (deceased at twenty-one), Augusta and Lizzette (twins), Elizabeth (deceased), Eliza, Emily and William.

William Aumann was reared on his father's farm and attended the common schools of the neighborhood when a youth. When he was eleven years of age he attended the German Lutheran parochial schools in Will county, Illinois, but with the exception of this period he has not lived outside of the township. He learned the lessons of agriculture under the tutelage of his father, and he has followed the agricultural business during his whole life.

June 17, 1880, he was married in St. John's Lutheran church to Miss Sophia Dirkson, who was born in Preble township, January 6, 1860. She was a daughter of John and Christina (Droege) Dirkson. They were both natives of Germany and reference is made to her father in the sketch of Henry Dirkson appearing on another page in this volume. They were suc-

cessful farmers of Adams county and lived in Root township. Mr. Dirkson died at the age of sixty-three and his wife at the age of seventy-seven. They were the parents of five children, who grew up: Sophia, Henry, Eliza, Christina and Charles. To Mr. and Mrs. Aumann four sons have been born and these children are still living. They are: Henry, Martin, William and Edmund.

Mr. Aumann owns his father's homestead in Adams county. It is a fine tract of some sixty acres and is at a high point of cultivation. In addition to this tract he owns two hundred and fifty-six acres in Root township. His land in Adams county is among the more valuable tracts. His buildings are thoroughly modern and well adapted to their uses. His stock is of a good grade and his crops each year are satisfactory and profitable. So far as the world's goods may represent the measure of a man's success, he is a successful man, who has lived prudently and with an eye to the future. He is a patron of education and believes in good schools. For a time he was a school director. He has always taken a keen and intelligent interest in township affairs, is a stockholder in the Fort Wayne & Springfield Interurban Railroad and has contributed his full share to the advancement of his neighborhood. Mr. Aumann and the members of his family are numbered among the faithful and consistent members of St. John's German Lutheran church. He has been active in the affairs of this church and has held various offices in the church. He is one of the denomination's firmest adherents and accords a liberal support to its aims and projects. He is in no sense a public man and is not active in politics. However, he combines the qualities a man must possess in



order to be a good citizen and a man of mark and respect in his community.

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### JOHN RUPRIGHT.

Usually it is the use of a pat phrase to speak of a citizen of a community as "a leading citizen." In fact, the phrase is greatly abused. But in the cases of some men the expression is justly applied. This is the case with John Rupright. He is not only a respected and successful citizen of Adams county, but he is also one of its leading citizens in all that the phrase implies. He was born in Lehigh county, Pennsylvania, January 23, 1825. He is the son of George and Susanna (Schaffer) Rupright. His father was born in Lehigh county and his mother in Berks county on what is now a portion of the land covered by the city of Reading. Some few years after their marriage George and Susanna Rupright came to Mahoning county, Ohio, and after a short residence in Ohio came to Adams county, Indiana, in 1856. They settled on a farm in Preble township, where they lived until their deaths. Mr. Rupright died in his eighty-second year, in 1879, and his wife died the same year at the advanced age of eighty-three. They were the parents of six children: Abby, Jeremiah, Sarah, John, Mary and William. John, the subject of this short sketch, was the fourth of his father's family in order of birth, and is the only survivor. He was between four and five years of age when his parents removed to Ohio, and he grew to manhood in that state. Early in life he learned the carpenter's trade and worked at this trade in Ohio. He secured a fair education in the district

schools of Mahoning county and was an earnest and considerate son. He found plenty of work in Mahoning and Trumbull counties in those early days and he was a successful carpenter and a good workman.

In 1846 he was married in Trumbull county to Miss Elizabeth Daugherty. The wedding was solemnized on September 30th of that year. His bride was a daughter of John and Isabella (Campbell) Daugherty and was born in Mahoning county, April 7, 1827. Her parents were both natives of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania. They died in Trumbull county, Ohio, Mrs. Daugherty in the spring of 1844, at the age of forty-five and her husband lived until 1856, when he died at the age of sixty-five. They were the parents of nine children: John, Sarah, Mary, Campbell, Elizabeth, Ellen, Jane, Martha and Hannah.

Mr. and Mrs. Rupright continued to live in Trumbull county until the month of October, 1852, when Mr. Rupright then removed to Indiana with his wife and two children. He drove all of the way from Trumbull county in a two-horse wagon and settled in section 21 of Preble township, Adams county. He purchased eighty acres of land some time before and he made his home on this land. It was wild and unimproved, but that circumstance offered no terrors to the pioneers. It was not many days before a log cabin home was erected and this was the family dwelling for the succeeding ten years. He worked industriously at clearing his land and while doing this he secured work at his trade of carpenter at intervals that added materially to the income the family depended on. He combined farming and carpentering successfully for thirty years and became an expert at both trades.



As the years passed he prospered and in ten years after settling on his farm replaced the log cabin home and the other rough buildings with modern and comfortable ones. He fenced, cleared, ditched and otherwise improved his original holdings until his farm became highly productive.

From time to time he added other tracts to his original purchase and in the end was the owner of two hundred and ninety-two acres of land all under cultivation and forming one of the most valuable and profitable estates in the entire county. In addition to his regular work of cultivating his acres he engaged in the breeding, buying and selling of stock. This branch of his business he made profitable and he became known as one of the largest shippers of stock in his neighborhood.

Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Rupright as the years went by. These children are still living and are: William H., the president of the bank at Ossian, Indiana; Granville Wentz, a farmer of Preble township; Mary Alice, the wife of Alex White, of Wells county; Elizabeth, the wife of Samuel Kreigh, of Wells county; Susanna, the wife of John Rex, of Decatur; Matilda Jane, the wife of Felix Summers, of Wells county, and Ida, the wife of Sylvester Mills, of Wells county.

Mr. Rupright has held a number of important public offices. He was a deputy land appraiser in 1874-5, and a trustee of Preble township for eight years. He was appointed by the county commissioners as county assessor and served from 1873 to 1874. Later, from 1880 to 1886, he served as a member of the board of county commissioners. He has always taken an active interest in all things for the betterment of his county and

township, and through a busy life has done much to promote the growth and advancement of Adams county. Although not a member of any church, he has given the churches of Adams and Wells counties his support and financial aid. He is now living a retired life, conscious of having played his part in the world's affairs to his credit and lasting satisfaction.

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#### REV. JOHN H. KLAUSING.

John H. Klausung, a clergyman of Adams county, has attained a high place in the affections and confidence of the people of the county, not only of his own denomination and church, but of other churches as well. He is the pastor of St. Paul's German Lutheran church in Preble township and of Zion's Lutheran church of Decatur. He was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, November 9, 1867. He is a son of Charles Klausung, who died at Glenmore, Ohio, at seventy years of age. John Klausung was the seventh in order of birth in his father's family of eight children. He was reared in Cincinnati, where his parents lived some years following his birth. He gained his early education in the schools of Cincinnati and then entered Concordia College, at Fort Wayne. He studied in this institution six years. It was here that he began the foundations of his study preparatory for the ministry, to which profession he was destined. He was a careful and faithful student at Concordia College and after finishing his course entered the Concordia Theological Seminary at St. Louis, from which institution he was graduated three years later, in 1890. He began



at once the preaching of the gospel and his first charge was at Onawa, Iowa. He remained in charge of the German Lutheran church at Onawa for a year and then was given and accepted a call to the pastorate of the church of his denomination at Glenmore, Van Wert county, Ohio. This field gave him a wider range for his work and for his ambitions, and he was a faithful teacher of the Bible to his congregation at Glenmore for eight and one half years. Under his pastorate the church grew and prospered to a gratifying extent.

In January, 1900, he was called to the pulpit of St. Paul's church in Preble township, Adams county, Indiana, and he removed with his family to this new charge. He at once began a vigorous campaign to build up this church and was rewarded. He appreciated the need of a German Lutheran church in Decatur, there being many members of this faith in the city, and in 1902 he organized Zion's congregation and established a church. He is the pastor of this church in connection with his duties at St. Paul's church. Rev. Klausung was married in Cincinnati, September 3, 1890, to Miss Emma Berghegger, who was born in that city. He and his wife have become the parents of seven children: Walter, Carl, Florentina, John, George, Lydia and Lorna. The eldest of these children, Walter, is studying for the ministry and is a student at Concordia College, at Fort Wayne.

Both the Rev. Mr. Klausung and his wife are splendid types of Christians. He is devoted to his pastoral work and is ably assisted by his wife. Under his charge his church has grown and progressed financially. The congregation numbers four

hundred and twenty-five souls and an excellent parochial school is maintained by the church.

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#### REV. CHRISTIAN B. PREUSS.

The thriving congregation of the German Lutheran (Zion) church in Preble township, Adams county, is peculiarly fortunate in having so accomplished and able a pastor as the Rev. Christian B. Preuss. During the incumbency of the pulpit of Zion church by this clergyman the church has prospered to a most satisfactory degree. Rev. Preuss was born August 18, 1861, in the province of Brandenburg, Germany. He is a son of Christian F. and Mary (Schoenemann) Preuss. They were born and married in Germany and emigrated to the United States soon after the birth of their son Christian. After reaching this country the emigrants pushed west and settled on a farm in Shawano county, Wisconsin. When they reached their farm in this state their son was but three years of age. They lived on this farm until death ended their useful lives. Christian was the eldest of a family of six children. He lived on his father's farm and attended the Lutheran parochial school of his district. Later he entered the common schools of Shawano county and at seventeen decided to take up the studies that lead to a ministerial calling. He was encouraged in this resolve by his pious parents and the same year entered the Concordia Theological Seminary at Springfield, Illinois. He remained in this institution for several years and was graduated with the class of '85. His career in the seminary was



an exemplary one. He was a close and careful student and an intelligent observer. He got more out of his courses than the average student does and he was a source of pleasure to his professors, as well as to his fellow students. His work was an inspiration and served as a model for others.

His first charge after his graduation was at Avilla, Noble county, Indiana. He served the Avilla Lutheran congregation for about eight years and was then called to the pastorate of Zion Lutheran church in Preble township. During his incumbency of the pulpit of the Avilla Lutheran church he served also as pastor of the churches at Auburn and at Garrett. He began his duties with Zion's church October, 1893. This religious body is one of the oldest in northeastern Indiana. It was founded by members of the faith, who became pioneers in early times, and the church has been in existence since early in the nineteenth century. Since its organization the church has had many pastors and among them some of the most notable preachers of the gospel in the northeastern section of the state. It is a strong church body and its membership is about six hundred. In addition to and in connection with the church a parochial school is conducted, and this school numbers about seventy-five pupils. Rev. Preuss has proven a strong pastor. He is a man of firm and strong convictions. He is uncompromising and a fearless preacher and doer of the word. As a man he is esteemed by all who know him. He is a force for good in his community, and as a citizen he is exemplary.

Rev. Preuss was married at Avilla, Indiana, May 11, 1886, to Miss Emma Sodtmann, a native of Avilla, and the daughter of Fred and Margaret (Berkes) Sodtmann.

Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Preuss are the parents of ten children, nine of whom are living. These are: Martha, Emma, Paul, Esther, Mary, Walter, Martin, Arnold and Theodore. Benjamin, a son, died in infancy.

In 1902 the present church edifice was built. It is a brick structure, built at a cost of fifteen thousand dollars and is thus one of the best in the county.

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### ROBERT CASE.

Among the men of Magley, Adams county, who have been of actual service to their fellow townsmen and who have achieved a fair degree of success is Robert Case, the present postmaster. He is a native of Bluffton, Indiana, and was born in that city January 8, 1856. His father was Almon Case and his mother was Mindwell (Hayes) Case. Both of his parents were among the early settlers of northeastern Indiana. They lived during the latter years of their lives in Wells county, where they died and are buried. Their son, Robert Case, was one of a family of eight children born to Almon Case and his wife. All of the children lived to reach maturity. Robert was the youngest of the family. His father had the distinction of erecting the first house built in Bluffton and also of keeping the first tavern in that city. The last ten years of his life he spent on his Wells county farm, engaged in agricultural pursuits.

Robert Case was reared in Bluffton. He spent his boyhood in that city and was educated in the common schools. After completing his elementary education he entered Notre Dame University at South Bend for a course of study. Finishing his work at the





W. H. TEEPLE.



university, he decided to return to his home and engage in farming. He did this and was a cultivator of the soil from 1875 until 1884. In this latter year he gave up his farming and removed to Magley, where he engaged in the general mercantile business. He has continued this business in Magley with the exception of the year 1895 since he established it. In the year 1895-96 he engaged in the shoe and drug business with Adam Gilliom, but re-entered the general merchandise business at the close of this partnership arrangement.

Since he opened his Magley store he has done a profitable business. His stock is suitable to the needs of his patronage, which is constantly growing. He is a judicious buyer and knows the needs and the preferences of the residents of Magley and of the farmers of his vicinity. He devotes all of his energies to the store he operates and has made it a paying proposition.

August 14, 1875, Mr. Case was married to Miss Sarah Arnold, who was born in Kirkland township, September 14, 1859. She is a daughter of August and Augusta (Jahn) Arnold, who were among the first settlers of Adams county. Mr. and Mrs. Case are the parents of seven children. Of this number Edward died in infancy. The living children are: Mindwell, George, Ralph, Irvin, Almon and Harold.

Mr. Case is one of the substantial men of his community and takes a lively interest in the affairs of his township. He is in the van of all movements destined to increase the welfare of the township and advance the commercial and industrial interests of Adams county. He has taken an active part in local politics and has served as postmaster of Magley continuously since locating in

that village with the exception of the years he resided in Decatur. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, which he joined in 1877, and is a liberal supporter of the churches of his neighborhood.

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#### WILLIAM H. TEEPLE.

For a quarter of a century the name of William H. Teeple has been known throughout northeastern Indiana as an educator. For this period he taught school in Adams county and in Van Wert county, Ohio, and gained for himself a name as an able educator and a patient, capable instructor of youth. He was born in Saint Mary's township, Adams county, January 26, 1855. He is the son of John E. Teeple, who is still living, and his mother was Miss Catherine Smith. His father was born in Morrow county, Ohio, January 22, 1831. His mother was born in Saint Mary's township, January 1, 1835. After their marriage they settled in Saint Mary's township, where they continued to reside. Seven children came to bless their union: William H., Judson W., Sarah J., the wife of the Rev. J. E. Stoops; Zachariah T., Martha E., the wife of James L. Gay; Mary A., the wife of Jason L. Moser, and Benjamin B.

William H. Teeple was the eldest of his father's children. He was reared on the family homestead in Saint Mary's township. His early education was secured in the district schools of his neighborhood and he completed his school work at Northwestern Ohio Normal. He assisted his father in the improvement, clearing and cultivation of the homestead. He decided early in life to



adopt the profession of teaching and he labored to fit himself for this calling. After he had completed his preliminary work he began teaching in 1873. He continued to teach in Adams county, Indiana, and in Van Wert county, Ohio, for a quarter of a century, and in this time taught thirty terms of school. He gave up his work as a teacher in 1901 and took up that of farming. In his long career as a teacher he gained a most favorable reputation as an educator and he was one of the best and most popular of his district.

He was married in Saint Mary's township, December 16, 1877, to Miss Rosetta Gulick, who was born in Saint Mary's township March 3, 1855. She is a daughter of Amos and Elizabeth (Acker) Gulick. Her father was born in Loudoun county, Virginia, February 29, 1824, and her mother was born in New York state, September 6, 1829. Her parents came to Adams county, where her father died January 20, 1888, and her mother September 11, 1896. They were the parents of seven children: Catherine E., who was the wife of Joseph W. Smith, and died October 31, 1874, in the twenty-eighth year of her age; Samuel, Rosetta, Eldora, who died in April, 1866, in her ninth year; James W., who died aged seven; Iva A., who was the wife of Willis Wagers, and died July 16, 1903, in her thirty-eighth year, and Amos W.

Mrs. William H. Teeple was reared on her father's farm and attended the schools of her home township. She was a teacher for four years preceding her marriage. Seven children, six of whom are still living, have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Teeple. The living children are: William G., John A., Mamie P., Benjamin W., Anna A. and Don O. Jason D. died February 20, 1898, when he

was three years of age. The two older sons are students at the Tri-State Normal at Angola, Indiana.

Mr. Teeple is one of the successful farmers of his district of the county. He is the owner of a fine estate of one hundred and seventy-five acres and has cleared sixty acres of this tract himself. The land is all highly improved and is at a high stage of cultivation. His home and other buildings are well adapted to their uses. He rotates his crops with excellent judgment and they are uniformly profitable and of a high grade. He is a man who takes an active and aggressive interest in the affairs of his county and attributes his success to his motto: "Honesty, Industry, Economy." In politics he is a Republican and is trustee of Saint Mary's township. He was a candidate for county superintendent of schools in 1879.

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#### JOHN C. GRANDSTAFF, M. D.

One of the younger members of the medical profession in Adams county who is making a name for himself is Dr. John C. Grandstaff. This gentleman resides in Preble and has taken a leading place among the successful men of his county. He is a native of Adams county and was born in Monmouth, Root township, August 20, 1872. He is a son of Lemuel and Catherine (Dutcher) Grandstaff. His father came from Muskingum county, Ohio, to Allen county, Indiana. After a short residence in Allen county he removed to Adams county, where he married and still resides. Our subject's mother, with her family, came from Ross county, Ohio, to Adams county. They are the parents of six children, of whom Dr. Grandstaff is the third in order of birth.



Dr. Grandstaff was reared at his father's home and secured his earlier education in the Monmouth schools. Finishing this preliminary educational work, he entered the normal school at Marion, Indiana. He then taught school in Root township for five years. Following this period he decided to take up the study of medicine. He entered the office of Dr. J. L. Smith at Hoagland, Allen county. He made creditable progress and then entered the Eclectic Medical College at Cincinnati. He graduated from this institution with the class of '99 and returned to Hoagland. For some time he practiced medicine in Hoagland with Dr. Smith, his old preceptor, and then decided to remove to Preble, Adams county. He made this change in 1901 and has since practiced in this latter place.

Dr. Grandstaff was married in 1896 to Miss Lillie Fleming at Decatur and took his bride to Cincinnati. She died March 8, 1897, and left a son, Curtis H. Dr. Grandstaff was married for the second time to Miss Ethel S. Mann, who was born in Root township, and is the daughter of Joseph E. and Lucy (Kiess) Mann. Two children have been born of this second union: Francis M. and Floyd L.

Dr. Grandstaff is considered one of the substantial citizens of his county. He is a progressive man and is one who believes that the price of success so far as his profession is concerned lies in keeping thoroughly abreast of all changes and in touch with new developments and discoveries. To this end he is a careful and consistent reader and through association with the members of his school and through the meetings of his association is continually adding to his large store of medical knowledge and experience.

He is a conservative physician and is one who enjoys the entire confidence of his community. He has taken an active interest in the politics of his neighborhood and has worked for the interests of his party. At the election in the fall of 1906 he was a candidate for the office of coroner of Adams county and was elected by a handsome majority. He still serves in this capacity.

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#### HON. JOHN W. VIZARD, M. D.

The name of the Hon. John W. Vizard is held in high esteem in Adams county, both as a practicing physician who has gained the confidence of his clients and as a legislator of marked ability, whose first consideration has been the interests of his constituency. Dr. Vizard was born in Monroe township, Allen county, November 10, 1869. He is a son of William and Elizabeth (Ratlidge) Vizard. His father was a farmer of Allen county and lived until his death on his farm. His death occurred in 1901, at the age of sixty-six and he had the distinction of living continuously on his farm for forty-five years. His mother was the daughter of Moses and Catherine Ratledge and was the second white child born in Monroe township. They had ten children, of whom Dr. Vizard was the fifth in order of birth.

Dr. Vizard was reared on his father's farm and received a preliminary education in the common schools of his neighborhood. Early in his school life he showed a peculiar aptitude for study and after finishing his early education he attended schools at Fort Wayne, the Middlepoint Normal School at Middlepoint, Ohio, and the Holbrook Na-



tional Normal School at Lebanon, Ohio. It was while attending this latter institution that he decided to adopt medicine as his profession. Accordingly, after his classical course was completed, he matriculated in the medical department of the same school. He was a careful and earnest student and was graduated in medicine from the Lebanon school August 12, 1892. After he had graduated and was admitted to practice he established himself in an office at Dixon, Ohio. He continued to practice his profession at Dixon for six months and then removed to Pleasant Mills, in Adams county, Indiana. He opened his office in Pleasant Mills in April, 1893. His career as a practicing physician has been a most successful one. He attracted a large patronage almost from the beginning of his practice, and this clientage has grown until it is one of the largest and most profitable in his community.

Politics have always held a live interest for Dr. Vizard. Soon after establishing himself in Pleasant Mills he began to take an active part in the politics of his county. He is a Democrat and has taken an important part in the political struggles of his section of the state under the banner of this party. His efforts and work were rewarded in November, 1904, when he was elected to the state legislature on the Democratic ticket. He showed himself an able representative and took a leading part in the deliberations of the state's law-making body in the session of 1905. So well and satisfactorily did he do his work that he was re-elected to the legislature for the session of 1907. The records of that memorable and stormy session show that Dr. Vizard bore himself gallantly and that his voice and vote were ever to be

found on the side of the measures that were for the people's interests, as opposed to the interests of corporations or "special interests." His service in the legislature was with distinction at both sessions and gave added reason for the high respect in which he is held.

On May 14, 1896, Dr. Vizard was married to Miss Myrtle M. Acker, a daughter of Norman and Loretta Acker. She was born in Adams county and was always a resident of Saint Mary's township. Her parents were among the oldest settlers in the township. Three children have been born to Dr. and Mrs. Vizard. These children are: Paris D., Ruth M. and Gordon A. Mrs. Vizard is an active member of the Baptist church.

As a physician Dr. Vizard ranks very high in his profession. He is a progressive and an aggressive man. He realizes that to be a successful physician means to keep abreast with the changes, developments and discoveries in his profession. This he does by careful reading and by keeping in close touch with the leaders of medical thought. His equipment is most admirable and he deserves the distinction he enjoys of being one of the best and most accomplished physicians of northeastern Indiana. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge, No. 65, at Decatur.

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#### CHARLES W. YAGER.

Charles W. Yager is one of the prosperous and progressive merchants of Pleasant Mills, Adams county. He has been engaged in business in that place for a number of



years and has established himself and business on a firm basis. He is a native son of Adams county and was born in Preble township, August 5, 1866. He is a son of Jacob and Mary J. Yager, who were among the early settlers of Preble township. In 1872, when Charles was a lad of six years, his parents removed from Preble township and settled in Saint Mary's township. In 1896 his father removed to Decatur, where he made his home until his death in August, 1904, at the age of thirty-eight years. Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Yager were the parents of five children, four of whom are living. These are: Charles W., the subject of this sketch; Lydia A., the wife of Samuel Shamp; Phoebe V., the wife of Samuel Hite. A daughter, Ida, died when three years of age.

The childhood and youth of Charles Yager were spent on his father's farm in Saint Mary's township. He attended the schools of his neighborhood and the schools of Pleasant Mills, where he received a good English education. He learned the business of farming and when he reached manhood he was considered one of the most expert farmers of his section of the county.

He was a faithful worker and a dutiful son and did much to improve his father's estate and to bring it to a high stage of cultivation and productiveness. He continued in the occupation of farming until 1895, when he went to Pleasant Mills and engaged in the mercantile business.

In the winter of 1888 Mr. Yager was married to Miss Kannie Steele. The wedding occurred December 12, 1888. Mrs. Yager was a daughter of Samuel and Polly Steele and was born in Kirkland township, Adams county, and died in Pleasant Mills

December 13, 1893. One child, a son, Milton, was born of this union.

Five years after the death of his first wife Mr. Yager married again. This time he chose as his bride Miss Grace N. Ayres, a daughter of Nathan and Sarah Ayres. The wedding was solemnized Christmas day, 1899. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Yager. These are: Mildred, born October 7, 1900, and Mary G., born October 14, 1902.

Mr. Yager is one of the successful business men of Pleasant Mills. His store is a model of its kind and controls a large share of the trade of his immediate neighborhood. He is a wide-awake, progressive man and is esteemed by his associates. He takes a lively interest in the affairs of his town and county and is foremost in movements designed to increase the prosperity and commercial significance of his town. He has served his fellow residents of Saint Mary's township in public office and was a trustee of the township at one time and discharged the duties of this important office faithfully and well. He is an active member of the Knights of Pythias and is a man who lives in every way a consistent, exemplary life.

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#### ALPHEUS N. ACKER.

The father of Alpheus N. Acker was Norman Acker, a native of New York state, and his mother was Loretta Carter, a native of Virginia. They were among the early settlers of Saint Mary's township and established themselves on a farm near Pleasant Mills. His father lived on the homestead until his death in June, 1900, at the age of



sixty-four. The pioneer couple had six children: Annis, the wife of Charles F. W. Bartling; Alpheus N., Orpha, the wife of H. A. Worden; Austin F., Eva, who was the wife of Dr. J. W. Vizard, and who died at Pleasant Mills, November, 1894, and Myrtle, the wife of Dr. J. M. Vizard.

Alpheus N. Acker was born on his father's farm in Saint Mary's township, October 4, 1859, and spent his boyhood on the parental estate and received his earlier education in the schools of the township. After completing his education he engaged in school teaching and taught from 1876 to 1880. In this latter year he decided to give up his work as an educator of the youth of the township and to embark in some mercantile pursuit. He established himself in the mercantile and general store business at Pleasant Mills, and the business was known under the firm name of N. Acker & Son. This business venture was a success from its inception and the trade the store controlled grew to large proportions. A line of general wares was carried and the patronage of the farmers of the neighborhood was given to the enterprise. Mr. Acker continued in this business until 1895, when he disposed of his interest in the store.

The year before he disposed of his interest in the mercantile business at Pleasant Mills he built the elevator at that place. In 1895 he assumed the management of the business of the elevator and also the management of the Farmers' Grain Company, in which latter concern he owns a half interest. Under his management both enterprises have become substantial investments and are on a certain and paying basis.

Mr. Acker was married in June, 1885, to Miss Edna A. Faust. His wife is a daugh-

ter of James and Elizabeth (Gard) Faust. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Acker. Of these two are dead: Olin R., who died when eighteen months of age, and an infant son, who died unnamed. The living children are: Nackie E., James N., Charles C. and Neva F.

In matters that have to do with the commercial, political and social interests of Adams county Mr. Acker takes a lively and intelligent interest. He is in every sense a progressive man and is active in those movements that are destined to increase the prosperity and fair repute of his community. He is interested in politics and has served his fellow residents of Saint Mary's township in the capacity of assessor for seven years. There is no better example of what a citizen should be than that furnished by him. He is fearless in expressing opinions that he knows are honest, and he is in every sense a good neighbor.

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#### EDWIN W. FRANCE.

Edwin W. France is the son of a distinguished father. The latter, William Henry France, was one of the oldest, best known and most highly respected residents of Saint Mary's township, Adams county. His mother was Phoebe A. (Mathewson) France. This couple migrated to Indiana and settled in Adams county early in 1850. Throughout his life William Henry France was one of the leading men of the county. He was a progressive man and in many respects was far in advance of his contemporaries. He cultivated a farm and served his fellow residents of Adams county in public capacities faithfully and well. For eight years he was the superintendent of the



Adams county infirmary and he administered the affairs of this institution to the entire satisfaction of the men who selected him for the place. He was also twice elected county auditor, discharging the important and exacting duties of this high office through the greater part of two terms with a keen honesty and with care and conservatism. He died before the expiration of his second term as auditor, his death occurring July 25, 1895, in the fifty-fifth year of his age, and was generally mourned as an exemplary citizen and a faithful and painstaking public servant. His wife survived him until 1903, in June of which year she died, and was fifty-eight years of age. This worthy and respected couple had six children, of whom Edwin W. France was the eldest. He was born on his father's place in Saint Mary's township, May 25, 1861, and spent his boyhood on his father's farm and assisted in the cultivation of his father's estate, securing his education in the schools of his neighborhood. After he grew to manhood he continued to cultivate the soil and was a successful farmer for several years.

After a few years spent in farming he decided to engage in the mercantile business, and in line with this determination he formed a partnership with C. W. Yager. A store was opened at Pleasant Mills by these gentlemen and it soon became a fixture and a necessity in the commercial life of the district. After four years in this business, during which time the store was placed on a profitable basis, Mr. France decided to return to farming, and, accordingly, sold his interest in the Pleasant Mills store and returned to his farm, which he cultivated until 1904, and then re-entered the mercantile business field. He engaged this time in the

hardware business and this still retains his interest and attention.

May 4, 1882, Mr. France was united in marriage to Miss Maggie Yager, a daughter of Jacob and Mary Yager, who were early settlers in Preble township, and who removed to Saint Mary's township in 1872. Mrs. France's birth occurred in Preble township, January 16, 1863.

Mr. France is a man who is greatly interested in the affairs of his county and township, is essentially public spirited and is a man who exercises good judgment and acts upon principle. He has been active politically and has served as county truant officer. In addition to this public service he served as constable for a term of two years. In both of these offices he acquitted himself with rare credit and gained the confidence and respect of his fellows. He owns forty acres of good land and his farm, although it is small, is one of the best in the township, it being well improved, equipped with good buildings, profitable and attractive. With his wife he is a consistent member of the Baptist church and gives his liberal support and hearty co-operation to this church and denomination. He is highly respected and is one of the most esteemed men of the community in which he resides.

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#### JOSIAH L. CHRONISTER.

Josiah L. Chronister is numbered among the highly successful farmers of Adams county. He was born in Saint Mary's township, Adams county, April 25, 1856. He is a son of Conrad and Catherine (Lenhart) Chronister. His father was a native of



Pennsylvania and his mother of Ohio. After the marriage of his parents in the latter state they removed to Indiana in 1840 and, deciding to locate in the northeastern part of the state, they settled on a farm in Adams county, Saint Mary's township, that is still in the family. The elder Chronisters lived on their homestead, which they had brought to a high state of cultivation, until their deaths. Conrad Chronister died in his seventy-seventh year, October 8, 1906.

Their son, Josiah, was the third in order of birth of a family of eleven children. He was reared on his father's farm and took part in clearing it and later in its cultivation, attending the schools of the neighborhood and obtaining as good an education as the time and opportunities afforded. He was an industrious boy and a dutiful son and assumed his full share of the responsibilities incident to the management and improvement of the home farm. In time he became an expert farmer and was acknowledged one of the best in his line in the entire county.

January 4, 1883, he was married to Miss Ida Merrill. Six children have been born of this union: Ada, the wife of William Gyer; Clarence, Bessie and Milton are living. Two died in infancy. Mrs. Ida Chronister died in 1897 and Mr. Chronister was married again in 1901. His bride this time was Miss Ida Ayres, who was born in Adams county, December 9, 1860. One child, Rufus, has been born of this marriage.

Mr. Chronister is one of the substantial men of his community. He is not only a progressive and up-to-date farmer, who has made his business a success, but he is also a man who is alive to his responsibilities so far as his fellow men are concerned. He owns forty acres of his father's

original farm and has it well improved and highly productive. His residence and farm buildings are comfortable, attractive and models of their kind, and his place is well drained and fenced. He has served his fellow residents of Saint Mary's township in public offices, being a supervisor for a number of years, and was a member of the advisory board for eight years. He is a good neighbor and an exemplary citizen. With his wife, he is a member of the United Brethren church and he gives this denomination his earnest and liberal support. His first wife was also a member of this church.

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#### JOSEPH W. SMITH.

Joseph W. Smith was born in Washington township, Adams county, Indiana, December 7, 1843. He is the son of Zacharias and Susanna (McClellan) Smith. His father was born in Virginia and his mother in Pennsylvania. His parents were married in Fayette county, Ohio, where they settled at an early date, and then came to Indiana in 1833, settling on a farm in Washington township, Adams county. They lived on this farm in Washington township for about twelve years and then moved to a farm in Saint Mary's township. Shortly after coming to Saint Mary's township Zacharias Smith met an accidental death in his thirty-seventh year by drowning. His wife continued to reside on the homestead until 1861, when she made her home with her children. She died in Saint Mary's township at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Jane Acker, in her seventy-eighth year.

Mr. and Mrs. Zacharias Smith were the parents of nine children, of whom Joseph



W. Smith was the youngest. He lived on the homestead after his father's death and assisted in its cultivation until his eighteenth year. In the meantime he had secured as good an education as the district schools afforded. When he was eighteen years of age he decided to make a place for himself and accordingly he left his home. He worked at various forms of employment until August, 1862. At this time the Civil war was drawing on all parts of the north for volunteers and the various calls for soldiers had been made by President Lincoln. Young Smith was attacked by the war fever and he decided to get into the fray. Accordingly he enlisted in Company I, Eighty-ninth Indiana Volunteers, and was soon at the front with his regiment as a part of the Army of the Cumberland. Almost from the start of his campaigning he was under fire. At the engagement fought at Mumfordsville, Kentucky, he was taken prisoner by the Confederate forces. He was held but a short time and then paroled. Soon after receiving his parole he was exchanged and he rejoined his regiment and served to the close of the war. He served his country with gallantry and distinction and after the close of the war received an honorable discharge. When his regiment was disbanded he returned to Adams county and resumed his work of farming.

The marriage of Mr. Smith and Miss Catherine Gulick was celebrated in Saint Mary's township in February, 1866. His wife was a daughter of Amos and Elizabeth (Acker) Gulick, who were among the earliest settlers of Adams county. Mr. and Mrs. Smith became the parents of five children, four of whom lived to maturity. One child

died in infancy. Those living are: Annie, the wife of Albert Chronister; Maryette, the wife of J. A. Hendricks; Samuel W. and Amos Z. Mrs. Smith died in Saint Mary's township in her twenty-ninth year, in September, 1873, and her husband took a second wife. His second marriage was contracted with Mrs. Adeline (Acker) Britton, the widow of David Britton, who died in Saint Mary's in 1872. The Smith-Britton wedding was celebrated April 15, 1876. By her first marriage Mrs. Smith was the mother of two children—Albert and William Floyd. She was born in Saint Mary's township, February 25, 1848, and is a daughter of Samuel and Catherine (Kiser) Acker, who were among the pioneers of Adams county. They were the parents of seven children, of whom Mrs. Smith is the youngest. She was reared and educated in Saint Mary's township and has lived there all of her life. Mr. and Mrs. Smith had by their marriage six children: Marion, Nora D., Mintie, who died when fourteen years of age; Faye, Rose and Carl.

Mr. Smith is the owner of one hundred and eighty-four acres of productive farm land. His estate is all under cultivation and is highly improved. His buildings are in excellent condition and are large and comfortable. As a whole, his farm ranks among the best in the county, and is one of the most attractive. He is interested in public affairs and takes an active part in those affecting his township and county. He has served as township trustee for seven years. His wife is an active and honored member of the Presbyterian church and takes much interest in the charities and work of this denomination.



## JOHN D. NIDLINGER.

John D. Nidlinger, who conducts a fine farm and occupies an enviable position as a progressive and successful citizen in Union township, Adams county, Indiana, was born in Root township, this county, on March 27, 1861, and is the son of Nathan and Jane (Walters) Nidlinger, natives of Pennsylvania. They were not married, however, until they came to Adams county, their union occurring on the 23d of December, 1847. They immediately settled in Root township, where they resided until their deaths. They were the parents of seven children: George, Sarah, the wife of Charles Baker; Rachael, the wife of Lafayette Baker; Mary, who died at the age of three years; Elizabeth, the wife of J. D. Stultz; John D. and Elijah H. The father of these children died January 3, 1894, at the age of seventy-six years, and his wife died January 25, 1890, at the age of sixty-six.

The subject of this sketch was reared in Root township and educated in the common schools. During his early years he was inured to the labors incident to farm life, to which he has given his attention during the subsequent years. In about 1881 Mr. Nidlinger settled in Union township on his present place, which he has since successfully conducted. In connection with farming he has also given considerable attention to stock buying and breeding, and has been successful in all lines. His farm, comprising, as it does, one hundred and forty-five acres, is well improved in every respect and is considered one of the most valuable pieces of agricultural property in the township. He

has erected a number of good buildings and keeps the place up to a high standard.

On December 15, 1881, Mr. Nidlinger was married to Miss Louisa J. Kline, daughter of William and Nancy E. (Mumma) Kline, who was born in Root township, this county, on May 23, 1861. To this union were born five children, namely: Elva M., the wife of Jacob D. Barkly; Earl W., Irene, Ruth, and Hugh. Mr. Nidlinger has held the office of township trustee for over four years and was at one time president of the Great Northern Indiana Fair for two years. He is now president of the State Fair Association, and has always taken an active interest in the agricultural affairs of the state.

Mr. Nidlinger is identified with the Democratic party and religiously is affiliated with the United Brethren church, in the activities of which he takes a prominent part.

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 JOHN H. MUMMA.

John H. Mumma, in whom the interest of this sketch centers, is a progressive and successful farmer of Union township, Adams county. He was born near Canal Dover, Tuscarawas county, Ohio, November 26, 1837. He is a son of Christian and Rebecca (Snyder) Mumma. His father was born in Ohio and his mother was a native of Maryland. His parents were married in Ohio and lived there some years following the occupation of farmers. In 1851 they disposed of their property in Tuscarawas county and journeyed to Indiana. They settled in Root township, Adams county.



where they purchased a tract of land. The family continued to reside in this section of Adams county until 1861, when Christian Mumma disposed of his land and purchased another tract in Union township. He continued to live on this latter place until his death in February, 1865. His widow survives him and has attained a ripe old age. He died at the age of fifty-two. This couple became the parents of nine children, four sons and five daughters. Of this family of children John H. Mumma is the eldest.

When his parents moved to Indiana from Ohio John Mumma was about fourteen years of age. He spent his boyhood on his father's farms in Indiana and Ohio and secured a good education in the common schools of his neighborhood and for some years taught school. As he grew he assisted his father in the management and cultivation of the home farms and became in time a skilled agriculturist. He lived on his father's estate until he reached manhood and married. He left his father's home in February, 1859, and settled on a place in Union township and began life independently. He lived on his Union township farm until December, 1864, when he responded to a call for volunteers and enlisted in Company I, Twelfth Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He served with this command for about four months and then was mustered out of the federal service. Following this event he returned to his farm and took up the work of its cultivation where the war had interrupted it. He has since lived on his farm. It is a fertile tract of ninety acres, well located and under a high state of productivity. It was comparatively rough and unimproved when he settled on it, but during

the years that have followed his settlement he has made many changes and many improvements. He has drained the farm and fenced it and erected a comfortable residence and outbuildings of a commodious and substantial nature. His place is operated along modern lines and is one of the really attractive and profitable farms of its neighborhood.

The marriage of Mr. Mumma and Miss Catherine Lower was solemnized in February, 1859. She was a daughter of William and Catherine Lower, who settled in Union township, Adams county, in 1852. Mrs. John Mumma died June 12, 1895. Mr. and Mrs. Mumma became the parents of the following children: Wesley W., Marietta, the deceased wife of William Harden; John L. (deceased), Mary F. (deceased), Charles S. and Milton L. Mrs. Mumma was an exemplary wife and mother and an earnest member of the United Brethren church, to which denomination her husband and surviving children give their hearty and generous support.

Mr. Mumma is a man who takes an active and intelligent part in the affairs of his county and township. He is a man who believes in keeping in touch with the trend of events and is well informed on the subjects of the day. He is one who co-operates heartily in all plans for the improvement and betterment of his community, and his support in such matters can be confidently counted upon. He is numbered among the substantial citizens of Union township and his counsel and advice are valued and frequently sought. He is a Republican in politics and in 1890 was the census enumerator for Union township.



## WILLIAM KLINE.

William Kline, a successful farmer of Union township, Adams county, who is leading a retired life after a busy one spent in cultivating his fine estate, was born in Root township, Adams county, March 25, 1840. He is a son of Jacob and Barbara (Robinson) Kline, who were born in Pennsylvania. After the marriage of his parents they emigrated to Ohio and settled on a farm in Tuscarawas county, where they lived until about the year 1837, when they moved further west into Indiana. They settled on a tract of land they purchased in Root township. They were among the earlier settlers to invade the northeastern Indiana wilderness. When they arrived the country was still in a wild state and there were few settlers. The land was heavily timbered and much work had to be done before it could be made productive. However, each was possessed with the indomitable spirit of the pioneer and the future outlook held no terrors. They matched themselves against the problem that confronted them and in a few years had their land cleared, improved and under cultivation. They both lived on their Root township farm until their deaths. Mrs. Kline died at the age of sixty-seven and her husband survived until he reached the advanced age of eighty-one. They were the parents of seven children, five sons and two daughters. The latter died in infancy. The sons surviving are: William, George B. and Jonas. Two sons, Robert and John R., are deceased. Of this family William Kline was the fourth in order of birth.

There was nothing out of the ordinary in the youth of the subject of this sketch to

contrast with the life of the average boy who was raised on a farm at that time. He spent his youth on his father's farm and when he became old enough assisted in the cultivation of the farm. He received a fair education in the schools of his neighborhood and applied himself diligently to his studies. He continued to live on his father's farm after his marriage and then, after the lapse of a year, removed to his present place in Union township. In September, 1864, he enlisted in Company I, Fifty-first Indiana Volunteers, and served until the close of the war. He was present in the engagements fought by his command at Franklin, Columbia, Tennessee, Duck River and Nashville. After his discharge he returned to his home in Union township and resumed the peaceful pursuit of agriculture.

The marriage of Mr. Kline and Miss Nancy E. Mumma occurred August 5, 1860. His wife is a daughter of John and Catherine (Snyder) Mumma and was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, June 23, 1840. Her father was a native of Pennsylvania and her mother was born in Maryland. They came to Adams county from Ohio in 1853 and settled in Root township. They purchased a farm and cultivated it until their deaths, which occurred in Root township. Mr. Mumma died at the age of sixty-eight and his wife lived to be eighty-one years of age. They were the parents of four children: Solomon, Eliza J., Nancy E. and Emily C. Mr. and Mrs. Kline are the parents of five children: Louisa J., the wife of J. D. Nideling; Emma F., the wife of Elijah Nideling; Franklin E. married Ora Conkleton; Elmer A., married Lulu M. Nelson, and Bertha A., the wife of L. C. Miller.



Mr. Kline has led a busy and useful life. He is the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres of fertile land that is highly improved and is under profitable cultivation. He takes an active interest in all matters affecting his county and township and is a staunch adherent of the Republican party. He is a member of William Henry Link post of the Grand Army of the Republic and is prominent in affairs affecting this organization in his county. He, with his wife and the members of his family are members of the United Brethren church and he is a generous and consistent contributor to the aims and charities of this religious body. He is highly esteemed and is ranked as one of the most substantial citizens of his district.

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#### JOHN H. BLAKEY.

John H. Blakey, who has spent his entire life in Union township, Adams county, Indiana, where he is now successfully following agricultural pursuits, was born in this township on February 17, 1855. His parents were Christian F. and Louisa (Fhalsing) Blakey, natives of Prussia. Christian Blakey came to Adams county, Indiana, in 1836 and was married here in 1850. This couple resided here during the remainder of their lives, the father dying at the age of seventy-eight years and the mother at the early age of twenty-three. They were the parents of three children: Mary L., the wife of H. F. Reinking; Sophia, the wife of William Holle; John H., the subject. After the death of his first wife Mr. Blakey married Miss Mary Rupp and to this union were born the following children: Christian,

who died in childhood; Eliza, who died at the age of twenty-four years; Charles, Fred (deceased), Martin, Theodore, Edward C., Matilda, the wife of Adam Bentz, and Otto.

John H. Blakey was reared on his father's farm and during his youth obtained a fair education in the common schools. He early gave attention to the labors of the farm, assisting his father in clearing and cultivating the land, and has always been considered among Union township's practical men. He owns two hundred and twenty acres of as good land as can be found in the township and gives his every effort to maintain it at a high standard.

On September 29, 1878, in Union township, Mr. Blakey married Miss Amelia Thieme, who was born in Fort Wayne on May 23, 1857, the daughter of Godfrey and Amelia (Roscher) Thieme, who emigrated to this country from Saxony, Germany, locating in Union township, where they died at the respective ages of seventy and sixty-seven years. To the subject and his wife have been born eleven children: Julia A., the wife of Frank Kirbach; Arthur C., Adelia, who died at the age of eight years; Amelia, John, Christian, Clara, Louise, Lydia, Rosa, who died at the age of two years, and Henry. Mr. Blakey takes a deep interest in local public affairs and has always voted with the Democratic party. He and his wife are members of the German Lutheran church and are highly respected in the community.

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#### JOHN A. BARKLEY.

John A. Barkley, the present trustee of Union township, Adams county, is a successful farmer and a safe man, is the opinion



of his fellow residents of the township, in whose hands to place their political interests. He was born in Union township, August 2, 1859. He is a son of Elias and Mary (Clem) Barkley. His parents were born in Ohio and came to Adams county among the older settlers. They secured a tract of land in Union township and followed the occupation of farmers. Elias Barkley died July 7, 1904. He was the father of seven children, of which number John Barkley was the second in order of birth.

The subject of this sketch was reared on his father's farm in Union township and attended the common schools of his immediate neighborhood and received as good an English education as was possible in the community in which he lived during the period of his youth, and as he grew to manhood assisted his father in the management and cultivation of his farm. Under the wise instruction of his father he developed into a manly youth and in time became an expert farmer. With the exception of five years he has spent his entire life in Adams county and on a farm in Union township.

He was married March 18, 1885, to Miss Laura L. Wass. His wife was born in Carroll county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Wesley I. B. Wass and Elizabeth (Pottorf) Wass. Her paternal grandfather, Samuel Wass, was a native of England and was among the older settlers in northeastern Indiana. The entire married life of Mr. and Mrs. Barkley has been spent on their home farm in Union township and they have become the parents of five children. These children are all living and are: May A., wife of Orville Wherry, and resides in Allen county, Indiana; L. Madge, Irene Merle, Lester W. and Nellie G.

Mr. Barkley is the owner of a fine farm of sixty acres in Union township, on which he makes his home. His land is among the most fertile in the township and he has brought it to a high state of productiveness and profit. He is a believer in modern methods and modern machinery in farm operation and he applies these beliefs in his work. He rotates his crops with judgment and the result is that his crops are uniformly large and satisfactory. From time to time he has added improvements to his estate and it is thoroughly drained, strongly fenced and equipped with a fine home residence and substantial farm buildings. He takes an active part in all township and county affairs and in 1904 was elected to serve his fellow residents of Union township in the important capacity of township trustee. This office he is still holding. He is in all respects an exemplary citizen and a successful man. With his wife and the members of his family he worships with the United Brethren denomination and gives the church of this denomination in his neighborhood his earnest, generous and hearty support.

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#### WESLEY I. B. WASS.

Wesley W. I. Wass was born in Carroll county, Ohio, March 18, 1837. His parents were Samuel and Phoebe (Ward) Wass, both natives of England, where they were married. They came to America in an early day and settled on a farm in Carroll county. After a number of years' residence in Ohio they decided to remove to Indiana, and accordingly purchased land in Adams county and settled upon it. Their



tract was situated in Union township and here they made their home for about ten years. Samuel Wass died in Monroeville, Allen county, at the age of eighty-three years and his wife survived him several years, finally passing away in Decatur at the advanced age of ninety-three years. They became the parents of nine children, of whom Wesley Wass was the youngest.

The youth of Mr. Wass was spent on his father's farm in Carroll county. He attended the sessions of the schools of his immediate neighborhood and secured as good an education as was possible under the circumstances. He assisted his father in the cultivation of the home farm and lived on it until he grew up and was married. Two years after his marriage, in May, 1864, he enlisted in Company K, One Hundred and Fifty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served with this command in Virginia and Maryland until his period of enlistment expired in September of the same year. He received an honorable discharge and returned to his home in Carroll county. In the spring of the following year he decided to remove to Indiana and did so, settling on the farm in Union township, where he still resides.

The marriage of Mr. Wass and Miss Elizabeth Pottorf occurred in Carroll county, Ohio, May 2, 1862. His wife was born in Carroll county and was a daughter of Jacob S. and Hannah (Gilmore) Pottorf. Mr. and Mrs. Wass became the parents of six children: Luella, the wife of Judge R. K. Erwin; Laura, the wife of John A. Barkley; Dwight, a farmer in Union township, Mary, the wife of Curtis Reynolds; Alice is at home, and one son died in infancy. Mrs. Wass died in Union

township in her thirty-fifth year. Mr. Wass took for his second wife Caroline Wagner, a native of Germany. They became the parents of two children: Daisy, the wife of Frank Crates, and Maud, the wife of Harley Baker.

Mr. Wass is a fine type of a successful farmer. His life has been an active one and he has made the most of all of the opportunities that presented themselves to him. He is the owner of one hundred and seventy-five acres of excellent land, all of which is improved and under cultivation. His estate is large and one of the most profitable in the township. His buildings are large and comfortable and his crops each year are disposed of at a handsome profit. He takes an interest in the affairs of the township and county in which he lives, and in earlier years was an active worker for all measures that were destined to increase the material prosperity of his neighborhood.

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#### HERMAN F. REINKING.

Herman F. Reinking, who owns a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Union township, Adams county, Indiana, was born in Preble township, this county, on the 9th of August, 1849. His parents were Conrad and Mary Christianer Reinking, natives of Germany. They emigrated to this country and were married here, after which they located in Preble township, where they lived until their deaths, the father dying at the age of seventy-eight years and the mother at the age of seventy-one. They were the parents of nine children: Herman, Henry, Ernest, William



F., Martin, Frederick (deceased), Carl, Louisa (deceased) and Gustaff.

The subject of this sketch received his education in the common schools and remained on his father's farm in Preble township until eighteen years of age, when he started out in life by himself. For some years he worked at different occupations and learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed for about four years. He then engaged in farming in Union township and has since consecutively followed this occupation, with the exception of one year spent at the carpenter's trade in Indianapolis. As before stated, he owns one hundred and twenty acres of land, all under the plow and highly improved, with good buildings, substantial fences and other accessories of an up-to-date farm. He is methodical in his work and gives proper attention to the rotation of crops and other things which contribute to successful agriculture.

On April 20, 1873, Mr. Reinking was married to Miss Mary L. Blakey, who was born in Union township, Adams county, Indiana, on November 14, 1851, the daughter of Christian F. and Louisa (Fhalsing) Reinking, natives of Prussia. These parents emigrated here in an early day and were married in 1850. They both died here, the father at the age of seventy-eight and the mother at the age of twenty-three. The father afterward married Miss Maria Rupp, who died in this township at the age of sixty-five years. To the first union were born three children: Mary L., Sophia and John H. To the subject and his wife have been born nine children: Adeline, the wife of William Bosecker; Ida, Gerhard, Charlotte, Maria, Herman and three who died in infancy. Mr. Reinking takes a healthy in-

terest in township affairs and religiously, and his wife are members of the Emanuel German Lutheran church. Mr. Reinking is a Democrat.

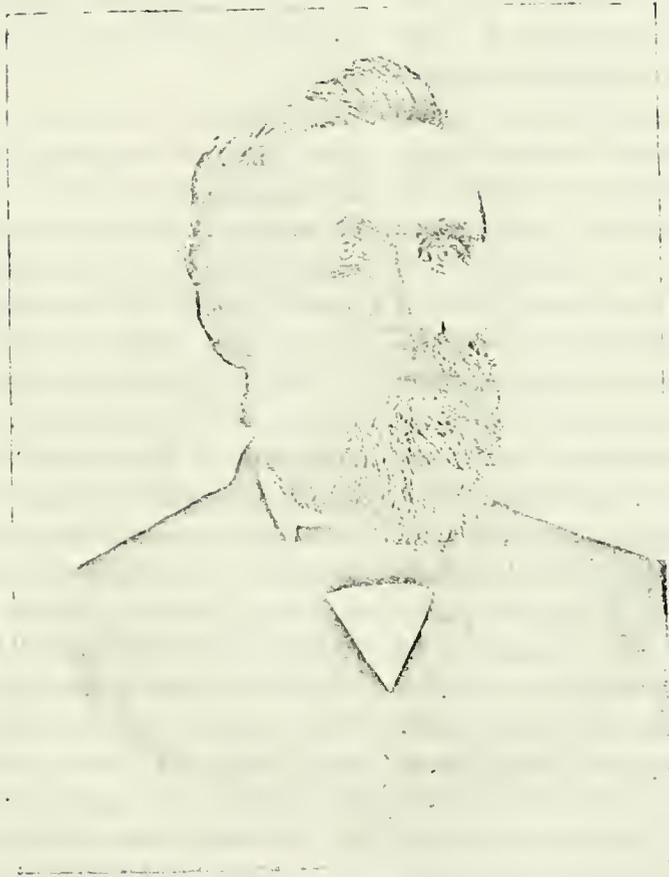
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#### REV. GOTTLIEB BAUER.

Among the clergymen of northeastern Indiana who are powers for good in their respective communities is the Rev. Gottlieb Bauer. He is a young man and one who is an aggressive and intelligent worker in his sacred calling. His place among his people is an important one and he enjoys their entire confidence and their love and esteem. He is the son of a clergyman and was born in Allen county, Indiana, November 17, 1869. His father is the Rev. Heinrich Bauer and his mother was Sophia Koenigmann before her marriage. The Rev. Heinrich Bauer was born in Bavaria, Germany, and spent his boyhood there. After coming to America he settled in Indiana and married his wife, who is a native of Preble township, Adams county. His parents have resided in Decatur since 1905. They are the parents of eight children, of which number our subject is the fifth in order of birth.

The youth of Gottlieb Bauer was spent in Allen county. He attended the schools and received a good preliminary education. In youth he was destined for the ministry, and after completing his common school education he went to Springfield, Illinois, and entered the Concordia College Theological Seminary at that city. Before he went to college, however, he removed with his parents to Grand Haven, Michigan, where his father held a pastorate for ten years. Later





CHRISTIAN SCHAMERLOH.



He lived in southern Indiana and still later in Goodland, Indiana. While he was attending the seminary and college at Springfield, Illinois, he became an earnest and industrious student. He stood high in his classes and attained much proficiency in theological knowledge. He completed the full course prescribed by Concordia College and was graduated from that institution with the class of '96.

Following his graduation from the theological seminary he began the active work of the ministry. His first charge was at Goodland, Indiana, and he continued to preach at that place until 1905, when he was called to take charge of the Emanuel Lutheran church in Union township. This church is among the most flourishing religious institutions of Adams county. The present church building was erected in 1892 at a cost of approximately five thousand dollars. Its congregation numbers in excess of three hundred and twenty-five people. In connection with the church a parochial school is conducted, and like the church, the school is in a most satisfactory condition and has an attendance of about seventy pupils. During the pastorate of the Rev. Mr. Bauer Emanuel Lutheran church has grown and expanded and is today one of the most important religious bodies of the county, both in numbers and in financial standing.

The marriage of the Rev. Mr. Bauer to Miss Elizabeth Walter was celebrated at Goodland, Indiana, September 24, 1898. Mrs. Bauer was born in Goodland, Indiana, September 18, 1879. She is a daughter of August and Rieke Walter. Three children have come to bless the union of the Rev. and Mrs. Bauer. These children are: Esther, Hermann and Arnold.

### CHRISTIAN SCHAMERLOH.

When he was a young man twenty years of age Christian Schamerloh left his home in the Fatherland and emigrated to the republic on the western shore of the Atlantic. He was born in Germany, February 15, 1831, and landed in the United States in 1851. He came directly west after he disembarked and located in Fort Wayne. He remained in that city until the spring of 1852, when he went to Indianapolis, believing that his chances were greater for success in the larger place. He followed various pursuits in Indianapolis and other central Indiana cities for the next six years, and in 1858 returned to northeastern Indiana. During the years he worked in central Indiana he saved money and prospered. He was of a frugal and thrifty disposition and made all of his savings count toward a competence for after life. With the money he had saved he purchased a tract of seventy-five acres in Adams county and settled down to the life of a tiller of the soil. The land he purchased was wild and unimproved. However, its wild state did not discourage him. He was accustomed to hard toil and the prospect of clearing his farm was not one that he feared to face. He saw farther than the limits of the timbered and marshy acres he purchased—he looked ahead and saw a farm productive and profitable and a home that was comfortable and attractive. With this vista spread before him he went eagerly to work to clear his tract and after the lapse of a few years he found himself in possession of a good farm that had been brought to a high state of fertility and cultivation. Although his early life on his Indiana farm was a hard one and comprised much arduous toil, he has



the satisfaction today of viewing his broad acres complacently and in knowing that he has accomplished all by himself.

But the mere possession of land does not constitute a home. This idea presented itself to Mr. Schamerloh, and accordingly he decided to marry. He chose for his bride Catherine Kirkenberg and after their marriage installed her as the mistress of his home. During their life together nine children came to bless their union. Of this number five lived to reach maturity. These were William, Henry, Sophia, who was the wife of Frederick Bohnke, and who died in Decatur in May, 1895; Caroline, who became the wife of Theodore Thieme, and Anna. Mrs. Christian Schamerloh died in Union township in her thirty-second year. Some years after the death of his first wife Mr. Schamerloh married again. His bride this time was Miss Amelia Berger, who was born in Fort Wayne. Two children were born of this second union, of whom one, Beata, is surviving. She is the wife of Arthur Blakey. Mrs. Amelia Schamerloh died at her home in Union township, January 25, 1906.

Mr. Schamerloh is counted among the most highly respected men of his township. He has taken an interest, although not an active part, in the affairs of his township and county and has contributed to all the movements that were destined to increase the prosperity of his community. His life has been an active and useful one and in the evening of his days he is now enjoying the plentiful fruits of his earlier labors and efforts. He takes an interest in the religious matters of his neighborhood, and is an honored and consistent member of the Emanuel Lutheran church.

## EDGAR S. MOSES.

None among the present men owning and operating farms in Union township, Adams county, is better known, more highly respected or has contributed more to the material welfare of his community than has Edgar S. Moses, the subject of this sketch. He was born in Root township, Adams county, April 22, 1856. His parents were Samuel and Eliza (Hunter) Moses. Samuel Moses was born in Shade township, Somerset county, Pennsylvania, February 21, 1825. When he was seven years of age his parents left Pennsylvania and journeyed to Ohio. They settled on a farm in Carroll county, where their son, Samuel, was reared. He was educated in the common schools of his neighborhood and learned the life of a tiller of the soil. He grew to manhood on his father's farm and was married November 20, 1845, to Miss Eliza Hunter. His wife was born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, in 1824, and when still a young girl removed with her parents to Carroll county, Ohio. She was the daughter of James and Jane (Cochran) Hunter. James Hunter was born in Ireland and the ancestors of Jane Cochran came originally from Switzerland.

Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Moses decided to emigrate to Indiana. He settled in Adams county in 1853 with his wife and four children on a farm a short distance south of the present Alpha Methodist Episcopal church in Root township. He lived on this farm for the next four years, when Mr. Moses sold it and purchased forty acres in section 23, Root township. This farm was partially improved when he purchased it and from time to time



he added to its improvements until it became a valuable and profitable piece of farm property. He continued to live on his Root township farm until his death, which occurred May 5, 1891, when he was sixty-six years of age. His wife survived him four years and died December 20, 1895, at the age of sixty-six years. Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Moses were the parents of a family of seven children, of whom two died in infancy. Those that reached maturity were named: Rebecca J., the wife of Abraham Farrey; John S., James C., Clara C., the wife of Michael B. Knouse, and Edgar S.

Of his father's family of seven children Edgar S. Moses was the youngest. He was reared on his father's farm in Root township and obtained his preliminary education in the common schools of his immediate neighborhood. After he had completed the courses offered in the common schools he supplemented the education thus gained by two years' study at Wabash College at Crawfordsville, Indiana. His progress in Wabash College was satisfactory and he made the most of his opportunities. After leaving college he returned to Adams county and taught school during the winter months for several terms. However, his chief concern was farming and he assisted his father in the management and cultivation of the home estate. Under the tutelage of his father he became a skillful farmer and learned the lessons he applied so admirably to his profit in after life.

Mr. Moses was married April 8, 1888, in Saint Mary's township, Adams county, to Miss Margaret A. Dailey. His wife was born in Saint Mary's township, July 11, 1858. She was reared in this township and received her preliminary education in the

township schools. After she completed this stage of her education she studied in the normal college at Valparaiso, Indiana, and graduated from this educational institution. Following her graduation she taught school in Adams county for six years before her marriage to Mr. Moses. She is a patron of education and is prominent in educational circles of her neighborhood.

Mrs. Edgar Moses is a daughter of James T. and Mary (Johnson) Dailey. Her father was born in Maryland and came with his parents to Ohio when a youth. He was reared in Athens county, Ohio, and grew to manhood in that county. Mary (Johnson) Dailey was born in Hardin county, Ohio, September 22, 1822. She was a daughter of James and Mary (Frazier) Johnson. James Johnson was born in Cork, Ireland, and died in Athens county, Ohio. His wife was a native of Maryland and also died in Athens county, Ohio, at the advanced age of ninety-two years. When Mary Johnson was fifteen years of age she came to Van Wert county with her parents and lived with them on their farm until her marriage to James T. Dailey. Soon after this event the Daileys removed to Indiana and settled in Saint Mary's township, Adams county, on a tract of eighty acres of land which James Dailey entered from the government. He prospered and became one of the largest landholders in the township. At the time of his death, which occurred in 1864, he was the owner of six hundred acres of fine land. His widow survived him a number of years and followed him to the grave December 6, 1885. Both Mr. and Mrs. James Dailey died on the farm he entered from the government. The following named children were born of the union of Mr. and Mrs.



James Dailey; Nimrod, Davis, Mary, the wife of Benjamin Jones; Joseph J., Amy, the wife of John C. Cowen; Emily C., the wife of J. C. Moses; Samantha V., who was the wife of Charles Gage and who died in Saint Mary's township; Margaret A., the wife of the subject of this sketch; James T. and E. W.

Following the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Moses they lived for two years on a farm in St. Mary's township and two years later he purchased his present farm in Union township. This estate he has greatly improved since it came into his possession and it is today one of the finest and most productive farms in the township. He employs modern methods and machinery in its operation and his crops are annually large and profitable. One child, a daughter, Gertrude E., has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Moses. She is an exceedingly talented young woman and has created an enviable place for herself in the musical world of the country. In her youth she displayed an unusual musical talent and her parents have done much to develop it and have given their daughter exceptional opportunities to pursue musical studies. She was a pupil for several years at the American Conservatory of Music at Chicago, and graduated from that institution when but eighteen years of age, receiving a gold medal in recognition of her remarkable accomplishments. After the completion of the regular course at the conservatory she took post-graduate work and again graduated from the higher departments with distinction. Her second graduation was accomplished when she was but twenty years of age. She is now an instructor in the piano department of the music department of the Yankton College at Yankton, South

Dakota, which position she has held for three years.

Some years ago Mr. and Mrs. Moses took a little girl into their family to rear. This little girl, Mary Gage, was left an orphan at the time of her mother's death, and was but seventeen months of age when she was taken by Mr. and Mrs. Moses. Although she has not been adopted by her foster parents she has been reared by them as though she was their own child. She is a daughter of Samantha V. Gage, who was the wife of Charles Gage and a sister of Mrs. Edgar Moses.

Mr. Moses is one of the prominent men of his township and county. For many years he served as the chairman of the Adams county institutes, and he is the present chairman of these bodies. With his wife he is a member of the Presbyterian church and has been exceedingly active in the affairs of this denomination. He has been an elder of his home church since 1889 and a representative of the congregation to the general assembly which met at Saratoga, New York, in 1894. In addition he has represented his congregation at various church assemblies in this state. In politics he is an ardent Republican and a faithful worker in the interests of this party. His work and interest have not been confined to his immediate vicinity, for he has been a representative of his fellow residents of Union township in district and state assemblies. He is greatly esteemed by all whose privilege it has been to know him and to be associated with him in business, political and social affairs and is counted among the strong men of the community in which he lives. Mr. Moses owns a one-half interest in the Earnsberger Bros. & Moses winter vegetable green house at De-



catgur, one of the largest of its kind in the state.

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### CHARLES C. MILLER.

Charles C. Miller, the subject of this brief sketch, is a native of Pennsylvania. He was born in Lawrence county, that state, April 14, 1859. He is a son of Jacob and Mary (Reinhard) Miller. His father was born in Germany and came to this country when young, and his mother was born in Pennsylvania. His father died in Pennsylvania and after his death his widow married James G. Miller. Charles Miller was the only child born to his mother as the result of her first marriage. He spent the first sixteen years of his life in Pennsylvania. There were no incidents in his younger life that marked it apart from the lives of the average boys of the time and community. He was educated in the schools of his neighborhood and played his part in the cultivation of his father's place. When he was sixteen years of age he came to Van Wert county, Ohio, and remained in this county for the following five years. Then he removed to Adams county, Indiana, and with the exception of one year spent in Saint Mary's township has spent his entire life in Union township, where he resides.

After he reached Indiana he engaged in farming and has followed this occupation steadily since that time. He spent his life for a number of years in preparing for his present competency. He was an intelligent and progressive man and early saw the advantages of applying modern methods to his work and to using his brain as well as his hands. In time he was able to purchase land

for himself, and increased his holdings as the years passed until today he is the owner of a fine farm of ninety acres, all under cultivation, and ranking among the more valuable and productive farms of his section of Adams county.

The marriage of Mr. Miller and Miss Theresa Springer was solemnized in Decatur, July 30, 1882. His wife is a native of Adams county, being born in Saint Mary's township, June 13, 1863. She is a daughter of Samuel and Pernetta (Pring) Springer. Both of her parents were born in Ohio and spent their youth in that state. After their marriage they removed to Indiana and were among the earlier settlers of Adams county. They purchased land in Saint Mary's township. Her father lived on and cultivated his farm in Saint Mary's township until his death, at the age of sixty-two. They became the parents of eight children, of whom Mrs. Miller was the fourth in order of birth. Mr. and Mrs. Miller are the parents of four children. These children are: Francis A., Clarence N., Myla M. and Lewis C. Both Mr. and Mrs. Miller are esteemed and faithful members of the Evangelical church of their neighborhood.

In addition to being numbered among the successful farmers of his township, Mr. Miller is considered one of the best citizens of the township. He is a progressive man and keeps in touch with the great movements of the country. He is a man well informed on public questions, and in matters that affect more particularly his own county and township his counsel is frequently sought. He is a good citizen and discharges the duties of his citizenship with judgment and fearlessness. In politics he is a Republican but has never aspired to public office.



## C. H. C. GROTE.

Ask almost any man you meet along the roads of Union township, Adams county, whether he knows Mr. C. H. C. Grote and he will hesitate a moment and then ask: "Do you mean 'Henry' Grote?" While Mr. Grote is known on the tax books of his county as "C. H. C. Grote," among his intimates and the men of the county who grew to manhood with him he is called Henry Grote. But as the poet asked, "What is in a name?" Mr. Grote's individuality is strong enough to show distinctly through any mere appellation, and whether he is called by one designation or the other he is admired and esteemed. He is a native son of Adams county, and was born and reared on the farm on which he still resides and which through the course of years has come into his possession. He was born February 26, 1853, on the family homestead in Union township and is the son of Charles and Caroline (Kukeberger) Grote. Both of his parents were born in Germany and came to the United States in their youth. They settled with their respective families in Adams county and were reared in that section of Indiana. After both grew to maturity they were married and continued to live in Adams county. When Charles Grote attained maturity he purchased a tract of eighty acres in Union township. This land was still in a wild state and necessitated clearing and much similar labor before it could be made productive. However, he worked industriously and at the time of his death his farm was cleared and improved and a profitable property. His death occurred June 27, 1878, in the fifty-fifth year of his age. He and his wife became the parents of ten children, of whom nine are

still living. These children are: C. H. C., Sophia, the widow of Israel Lee; Caroline, the wife of Frederick Beuckner; Louisa, the wife of William Dittmer; Minnie, Mary, the wife of Frederick Reinking; Charles, Frederick and Hermann. One son died in infancy.

Of this large family of children born to his parents, C. H. C. Grote was the eldest. He spent his boyhood on his father's farm in Union township and received as good a common school education as the schools of his immediate neighborhood made possible. He attended the winter terms of the schools of the district in which he lived, and when he became old enough he assisted his father in the cultivation and management of the family homestead. He became a skilled farmer under the tutelage of his father and he applied the lesson he learned on the home farm to excellent advantage after he had grown to manhood.

The marriage of Mr. Grote and Miss Elizabeth Schoenstedt was solemnized June 27, 1886. His wife is a native of Ohio, being born in Hancock county of that state, March 19, 1857. She is a daughter of Frederick and Agnes (Tecamp) Schoenstedt. Mr. and Mrs. Grote have become the parents of two children: Esther A. and Roland F.

After he grew to manhood and started in life for himself Mr. Grote purchased the family homestead of eighty acres and has continued to live on it and cultivate it. After a few years he purchased an additional forty acres adjoining his farm and now owns one hundred and twenty acres, about eighty of which are under cultivation. He is a modern farmer in all that the term implies and his estate is among the most valuable and best equipped in the township. He rotates



his crops with judgment and finds that each year they prove more profitable. He is a man who takes a live interest in the economic and political affairs of his township and county and is a prominent figure in all movements that are designed to advance the industrial and social welfare of his community. With his wife he gives his allegiance in religious matters to the Emanuel Lutheran church and is a consistent and generous supporter of this church and its aims.

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#### FREDERICK F. FRECH.

Frederick F. Frech was born in Rhine, Bavaria, Germany, December 14, 1836. He is a son of the Rev. Frederick Frech, who was born in Germany, November 29, 1809. His mother was Elizabeth (Schaff) Frech, a native of Wagenheim, Germany, in which city she was born June 14, 1815. Frederick Frech was a minister in Germany and some time after his marriage decided to come to America. He made his plans accordingly, and severing the home ties that bound him and his wife to the Fatherland started on the then perilous journey across the western ocean. The journey was made in 1839 in a sailing vessel and required thirty-six days. The little family landed in New York in safety and without untoward incident. They had decided to push on westward to Ohio, but found when their ship touched port that they would be delayed because the Erie canal was frozen over between Troy and Buffalo and was impassable for boats. However, with the opening of canal navigation in the spring he started for Ohio and reached this then frontier state. He was a clergy-

man of the Evangelical Association and preached the doctrines of this denomination in a number of places after reaching Ohio. Finally he settled in Eagle township, Hancock county, and followed farming in connection with his work as a minister of the gospel. He continued to preach in Ohio until he was retired on the superannuated list in about the year 1870. He lived on his farm in Hancock county from 1851 to November 28, 1885, the date of his death. After his death his widow continued to live on the Hancock county farm until her death, March 17, 1907, at the advanced age of ninety-two years. This estimable couple became the parents of five children, three sons and two daughters. One of their sons died in Germany in his infancy.

Frederick F. Frech was the eldest of his parents' children. He was about three years of age when his parents decided to emigrate to the United States. At the time his parents settled in Hancock county, Ohio, he was fourteen years old. He was educated in the common schools of Hancock county and grew to manhood on his father's farm. When the call for volunteers to serve one hundred days was issued at the beginning of the Civil war he enlisted in Company H, One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He served four months with this command. Again, May 4, 1864, he enlisted in Company A, Forty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served throughout the remainder of the war, being finally discharged from the government's service at Washington, D. C. While a member of this latter regiment he was with Sherman's army on its famous march to the sea and was a participant in the hard-fought engagements of Fort McAllister and Bentonville, North Carolina.



After he was discharged he returned to his home in Hancock county, Ohio, and lived there until 1871.

Mr. Frech was married in Hancock county, December 3, 1867, to Miss Mary A. Graham. His wife was born in Hancock county, August 16, 1839, and is a daughter of George W. and Catherine (Crael) Graham. Both of her parents were natives of Ohio, her father being born in Madison county and her mother in Starke county. Her father died when forty-six years of age and her mother lived in Hancock county until she reached the age of seventy-three. Mrs. Frech was the eldest child of a family of nine born to her parents. She was reared in Hancock county and received her education there. Mr. and Mrs. Frech are the parents of two children: Nellie, the wife of Frank McIntosh, and Alice, the wife of Henry Funk. One son and one daughter born to Mr. and Mrs. Frech died in their infancy, and another son, Frederick, was accidentally drowned by falling into a cistern when he was seven years of age.

Mr. Frech has led a busy and useful life. He is a successful farmer and has added to his original purchase of one hundred and sixty acres in Union township from time to time until he is now possessor of a fine tract of two hundred acres. He is a modern farmer in all that the term implies and through his intelligence, industry and thrift has developed an exceedingly fine country property. His farm is very fertile and is highly improved. The draining and fencing are good and the buildings are wholly adequate to the purposes for which they were erected. He is a man of much public spirit and has always taken an active part in the affairs of his county and township. He has served his

fellow residents of the township in the important office of township trustee and as a justice of the peace. Mr. Frech is a member of the Evangelical Association, but both he and his wife are supporters of the Clark Chapel of the Methodist Episcopal church and worship with the members of this denomination. He is a member of the Sam Henry post of the Grand Army of the Republic at Decatur.

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#### ANDREAS FREDERICK THIEME.

Andreas F. Thieme was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, August 30, 1865. He is a son of Godfrey and Amelia (Reusher) Thieme. Both of his parents were born in Saxony, Germany, and spent their youth in that province of the fatherland. After they grew to maturity they migrated to the United States and were married at Fort Wayne, Indiana. They lived for a time in Fort Wayne, where our subject was born, and in 1867 removed from Fort Wayne to Adams county. They settled on a tract of land in Union township, Adams county, and they lived on and cultivated this tract until their deaths. Mrs. Godfrey Thieme died at the age of sixty-five years and her husband lived until he attained the ripe age of seventy-one. They became the parents of eight children, of whom Andreas F. Thieme was the sixth in order of birth.

Andreas F. Thieme was one and one-half years of age when his parents left Fort Wayne and settled in Union township. He was reared on the farm his father purchased and secured a common school education in the schools of the neighborhood. He was an



industrious youth and improved his opportunities, meager as they were. He attended the winter terms of the schools of his district and as other boys of his neighborhood and day assisted in tilling his father's farm in the summer months as soon as he became old enough to apply himself to this labor. His early life was not an easy one and was filled with hardships and trials. However, his sturdy nature surmounted all obstacles, and he laid the foundation for his future life and success while he worked on his father's estate.

The marriage of Mr. Thieme and Miss Wilhelmena Kruekeberg was solemnized in Union township, September 15, 1889. His wife is a native of Adams county and was born in Preble township. Soon after her birth her parents settled on a farm in Union township and Mrs. Thieme grew to womanhood in this latter section of Adams county. Mr. and Mrs. Thieme have become the parents of seven children. These children are: Hugo, Walter, Sene, Amos, Ernst, Max and Glenn.

It is no exaggeration to say that Mr. Thieme is numbered among the prosperous and substantial men of Union township. He is the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, all of which is under cultivation. He has improved his land and has brought it to the highest point of productivity. His land is well drained, fenced and otherwise improved, and the buildings he has erected upon it are substantial and well adapted to the purposes to which they are put. He is a progressive man and believes in applying modern methods and modern machinery to the cultivation of his estate. He has always taken an active part in township affairs and served his fellow residents

of Union township for ten years in the important office of constable of the township. Both Mr. and Mrs. Thieme are earnest and consistent members of the Emanuel Lutheran church and both accord their hearty and generous support to the aims and charities of this denomination.

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#### FREDERICK THIEME.

Prosperity and a comfortable degree of competence has come to Frederick Thieme, one of the best known farmers of Union township, Adams county, and he can say with justice to himself that whatever measure of success he has achieved has come through his individual efforts. He had no unusual opportunities when a youth and young man, and his life has been marked by hard work. However, he is possessed with an indomitable spirit that knows no such thing as failure, and his fixed purpose through his life has been to make every effort and hour count for its utmost. He was born in Union township, Adams county, October 1, 1858. He is the son of Andrew and Christina (Kruckeberger) Thieme. Both of his parents were natives of Germany. They spent their youth in the fatherland, and after coming to the United States were married in Union township, Adams county. The father purchased land in Union township and followed the occupation of farming. He was successful and carved a fine estate out of practically wild land. He continued to live on his Union township farm until 1878, when he removed to Thayer county, Nebraska, where he died in 1906, in the seventy-fourth year of his age. Six children came



to bless the union of this estimable couple, and of these children Frederick Thieme was the eldest.

The youth of Frederick Thieme was spent on his father's farm in Union township. There was nothing about his boyhood days spent on the home farm to distinguish them from the days of hosts of other boys of his time and locality. He passed through the winter terms of the neighborhood schools and from the time he was old enough assisted his father in the cultivation of his farm. He was a dutiful son and did what he could to lighten the burdens of his parents. He learned the wholesome lessons to be learned on a farm and in time became a skilled farmer. He did not have the advantages in educational matters that are offered the average boy reared on a northeastern Indiana farm today, but he made the most of such opportunities as presented themselves to him. He learned the meaning of industry and thrift early in his life and he applied his knowledge later in life to his profit and satisfaction.

The marriage of Frederick Thieme and Miss Sophia Holla occurred in Root township and after this marriage the couple set up a home for themselves, where he now resides. Mrs. Thieme bore her husband one son, Andrew. She died nine months after their marriage. Mr. Thieme was married again some time after his wife's death. This time he was united to Miss Sophia Kruckerberger. Eight children were born of this second marriage. These children are: Martin, Richard, Clara, Charles, Paulina, Fred, Sophia and Seymour.

Mr. Thieme is one of the most highly respected men of his community. He is a progressive citizen and takes an active interest

in all matters pertaining to his county and township. He is an advocate of improvement and is a hearty supporter of all movements for the advancement of the industrial, educational and social interests of his section of Adams county. He is the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres and has improved it and brought it to a high state of productiveness. His land is well drained and fenced and his buildings, recently erected, are substantial and well adapted to the purposes for which they were designed. With his wife and the members of his family he is a member of the Lutheran church and lends his hearty and generous support to this denomination.

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#### FERDINAND BLEEKE.

Ferdinand Bleeke, an enterprising and successful farmer of Union township, Adams county, Indiana, was born February 23, 1872. He is the son of Frederick and Mary Bleeke, the father a native of Prussia and the mother of Pennsylvania. The father was brought to America at the age of ten years and here married and settled in Adams county, where he lived during the remainder of his life, his death occurring in his seventy-eighth year and that of his wife at the age of fifty-seven.

Of their ten children the subject of this sketch was the youngest in order of birth and he was reared on his father's farm, receiving his education in the parochial schools of the township. He has always followed farming, in which he has achieved more than ordinary success, and is now the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land, on



which he has erected a number of neat buildings, and which is considered in its entirety one of the best farms of the township. Mr. Bleeke gives his undivided attention to his farming interests and has achieved commendable success.

In Union township, on October 29, 1896, Mr. Bleeke married Miss Matilda Kolde-  
wey, who was born in Union township on November 19, 1874, daughter of Lewis and Sophia (Tiemann) Koldewey, both natives of Germany, and who were among the early settlers of Union township. Here the father died at the age of seventy-one. Of their ten children Mrs. Bleeke was the seventh child in order of birth. To the subject and his wife have been born five children: Hedwig, Edgar, Marie and Alton, and a baby, Norma. Mr. and Mrs. Bleeke are members of the Emanuel Lutheran church, of which Mr. Bleeke is one of the trustees. He is a man of many fine personal qualities and enjoys the warm regard and esteem of all who know him.

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#### WILLIAM F. BLEEKE.

William F. Bleeke, who successfully operates a fine farm of two hundred acres in Union township, Adams county, Indiana, was born in this township on the 13th of April, 1855. His parents were Frederick and Mary (Bievelheimer) Bleeke, the former a native of Prussia and the latter of Pennsylvania. The father came to America at the age of ten years and subsequently married in Adams county, his parents being among the early settlers of Union township, where they both died. Frederick Bleeke died

at the age of seventy-eight and his wife at the age of fifty-six. They were the parents of ten children, nine of whom lived to maturity: William F., Louisa, the wife of William F. Reiniking; Caroline, the wife of John A. Ehrman; Christine, the wife of Henry Bischoff; Edward C., Helena, the wife of Frank Lankenau; Mary, the wife of George Runge; Sophia, the wife of Herman Jaebker; Ferdinand, and a daughter who died in infancy.

The subject of this sketch was reared in Union township and educated in the parochial schools. Under his father's instructions he early learned the rudiments of agriculture and by dint of persistent application and steady toil he has developed into one of the leading agriculturists of the township. The farm is well improved with a full set of buildings and the place is in every respect well kept up.

Mr. Bleeke was married in Root township, on the 25th of September, 1881, to Miss Louisa Holle, who was born in Root township on the 5th of March, 1860, the daughter of Henry and Louise (Kettler) Holle, natives of Germany, in which country they were married and emigrated to America in about 1857, settling in Root township, where they both died, the father at the age of seventy-seven and the mother at the age of eighty-two. They were the parents of six children: William, Fred, Adam, who died in infancy; Louise, Sophia, the wife of Fred Thieme, and Emma, the wife of Martin Bleeke. Mr. and Mrs. Bleeke are the parents of ten children, namely: Gustave, Emma, the wife of Herman Heuer; Bertha, Amanda, Hulda, William, Adolph, Frederick R., Richard, Louise and Herman, who died at the age of seventeen months. Mr.



Bleeke and family are members of the Emanuel Lutheran church and occupy a highly respected position in that part of the township in which they live.

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### JACOB KOOS.

Jacob Koos, a farmer of Union township, Adams county, Indiana, was born on a farm in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, on April 13, 1859, and is the son of John and Catherine (Burkhard) Koos, natives of Baden, Germany, both of whom came to the United States when small children: After their marriage this couple located in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, where they lived until October, 1864, when they removed to Adams county, Indiana, and settled in Saint Mary's township, where they lived until their deaths. The father died June 29, 1885, at the age of sixty-three years, and his widow survived but a little over a year, dying in August of the following year, at the age of sixty-three. They were the parents of nine children, six of whom are still living: Philip, Margaret, wife of Albert Shell; George, Maria, Rebecca, wife of Daniel Jackson, and Jacob. Caroline, who married George Meyers; John, who was a farmer in Saint Mary's township, and one who died in infancy are deceased.

Jacob Koos, next to the youngest of the family, was five years old when the family came to Adams county, and was reared in Saint Mary's township, where he also received his education. He remained under the parental roof until 1883, when he located on a farm in Union township, on which he now resides. The place comprises eighty

acres, which are maintained at the highest standard of excellence, and the tract has been improved by the erection of several substantial and commodious farm buildings. Mr. Koos has consistently devoted his entire attention to farming and has thus been able to achieve a distinctive success in this line.

On March 22, 1883, Mr. Koos married Elizabeth Emeline Steele, a native of Washington township, Adams county, Indiana, who was born June 23, 1862, the daughter of Washington and Polly (Zimmerman) Steele, both natives of Ohio. These parents settled in Washington township, where the mother is still living. The father died July 20, 1900, at the age of sixty-nine years. They were the parents of four children, of whom the subject's wife was the youngest: Mary Frances, wife of Lewis Swartz; Eli W. and John D. Mrs. Koos was reared in her native township and there received her education. Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Koos are the parents of four children: Alice E., Washington F., who died at the age of thirteen months; Harvey W. and Essie P. Mr. and Mrs. Koos are members of the Evangelical church. In politics Mr. Koos is a Republican.

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### THEODORE BLEEKE.

Theodore Bleeke, who resides on section 16, Union township, and successfully follows farming, was born in this township on June 16, 1869, and is the son of Christian F. and Maria (Rupp) Bleeke, both of whom are now deceased, the father dying at the age of seventy-eight and the mother when sixty-five years old. Of their large family the subject was one of the youngest members



and was reared under the parental roof. He has always followed farming and is the owner of a splendid farm of one hundred and twenty acres, upon which are erected a good set of farm buildings and other accessories which go to make up a complete farm.

Mr. Bleeke was married in Union township to Miss Hedric Schindler, who was born in Saxony, Germany, on the 20th of March, 1880, the daughter of William and Augusta Schindler, and to this union have been born three children: Erich, Gerhard and Reinhold. Mr. Bleeke possesses many fine personal qualities, is honest and upright in his dealings with his fellow men and enjoys the warm regard of all who know him. Mr. and Mrs. Bleeke are members of the Lutheran church.

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### HENRY EITING.

Among the successful farmers of Washington township, Adams county, none stands higher than Henry Eiting. He is a man who has achieved independence and has been accorded distinction through his own efforts. He was born in Germany in 1849. His parents were Casper and Margaret (Scheerer) Eiting. Soon after his marriage Casper Eiting decided to seek his fortune in the new land on the western side of the Atlantic. He made his preparations to remove to the United States, and in 1853 he came. He located on a farm near the present city of Decatur. When he entered his land Decatur was a straggling hamlet of a few houses and gave not a hint of its present size and commercial importance. Mr. Eiting labored on his new farm for a year and then sent for

his wife and family. They reached Indiana in 1854 when Henry was a chubby lad of five years. The father moved from one place to another for a few years, and then settled on the land that is now known as the "old Eiting farm." He died in 1901. His wife died in 1872. He had four children, but one of whom, the subject of this sketch, is living. The children were Henry, Cornelius, John and one who died in infancy unnamed. Casper Eiting was a Democrat and while he took an interest in the affairs of his county, he never aspired to or held office. He was an active man and cleared much land and assisted in the labor of building roads. He did much to improve Washington township and was in all respects a valuable citizen.

Henry Eiting was the eldest of his father's family. He was educated in the schools of his neighborhood and obtained as good an education as was possible in that district at the early day he studied. He learned the lessons a farmer must acquire in order to be successful and he assisted his father in the farm work on the homestead as soon as he was old enough to do so. He remained on the homestead until his twenty-sixth year, assisting in the management and cultivation of the farm. His life since leaving his father's farm has been an exceedingly busy and active one. He was engaged in the grocery business in Decatur for eight years and after he closed out his interests in this business he bought grain for Hale & Company, of Decatur, for four years. He was also engaged in the timber business for six years. However, he returned to farming and developed a large estate.

He was married to Miss Catherine Meyers, a daughter of Bernard and Elizabeth (Christcamp) Meyers. The wedding was



celebrated in 1875. Mrs. Eiting is one of a family of five children born to her parents. These children are: Bernard, Mary, Catherine, Elizabeth and Christian. Mr. and Mrs. Eiting became the parents of six children, four of whom are living: The living children are: Bernard, Frances, Clara and Mary. Christina, the eldest child born, is dead, and another died in infancy unnamed.

Mr. Eiting is one of the most prosperous and successful farmers of Adams county. He owns a fine tract of two hundred and thirty-five acres in Washington township, all of which, with the exception of thirty acres, is under cultivation. He has cleared, ditched and fenced his land and made of it a valuable property. The buildings on the farm are good and are admirably suited to their purposes. The farm lies adjoining the Decatur city line and this increases its value. In addition to improving his own farm, Mr. Eiting has improved a farm for his son.

He is a valuable citizen and has served his fellow citizens of Washington township in public office. He was city councilman of Decatur for two years and served as one of the early marshals of Decatur. He is a Democrat in politics and takes an active part in party work. He is a man who takes a deep interest in religious matters and with his wife and children is a devout and consistent member of the Catholic church.

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#### JOHN HALL (Deceased).

Few boys, even in the rigorous and strenuous days of the pioneer period of Indiana, had more real difficulties to contend with or faced a more serious life problem than fell

to the lot of John Hall, who died June 7, 1907. His early life was a struggle for life itself, and the fact that he forced success from antagonistic conditions reflects but the more credit upon him. He was born in Morgan county, Ohio, in 1830, and was the eldest of his parents' children. When still young his parents removed to Adams county, reaching Indiana in 1844. A year later his father died and his mother found that she was left with several children and a practically uncleared tract of land. The situation was desperate indeed for the little family. John was the eldest, but he was little more than a mere youth. But on him devolved the larger measure of the family's responsibility. He realized that if success was to come to his family it would come only through the hardest kind of work. He began to win success. For years the struggle was almost hopeless. The family at times had to endure many hardships. But the faithful mother and the industrious son and other children ate their meager fare of corn bread and hoped and strove for better things. Years succeeded each other rapidly and the family toiled incessantly. In the end the place was cleared and all of the acres brought under cultivation. Improvements that made the farm more valuable were added from time to time and new and better buildings were erected when necessity arose or when prosperity made them possible. The surrounding country that at the time of his father's death afforded no nearer neighbors than those living five miles distant is now thickly inhabited, and among the farms that exist today, that reclaimed by John Hall is one of the finest.

When comfort was assured his mother and her family, John Hall began to think of



making a home for himself. He wooed and won Mary Ann Burgess, to whom he was married July 2, 1862. Mrs. Hall is a daughter of Henson and Catherine (Hains) Burgess. Her father was a native of Maryland and her mother of Ohio. Both parents came to Adams county in about the year 1844 and settled on a farm in Hartford township. Mr. and Mrs. Hall have been the parents of seven children, five of whom are still living. These are: Clara, Edward, Samuel, Catherine and Ellen. William and May are deceased.

Despite his active and hard life, Mr. Hall has found time for many things. He is a Democrat in politics, and has served for two years as a county supervisor. He has lived a consistent life on his mother's old farm, and he and his family are respected and esteemed by all who have come in contact with them.

The family are members of the Christian church. Hanson Burgess, father of Mrs. Hall, died in June of the present year (1907).

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#### HENRY LANKENAU.

It was by but a narrow margin that Henry Lankenau missed being born a citizen of the country he served gallantly throughout its war to preserve its integrity, and of a portion of which country he has been all of his busy mature life an honored and useful citizen. Had the stork tarried but a year he would have first opened his eyes under the stars and stripes. However, it was to be otherwise, and the German empire was the scene of his birth. Frank and Catherine (Meislain) Lankenau were natives of Germany. The father was a shipbuilder by

trade and followed this calling in his native city of Bremen. He became dissatisfied with the conditions that surrounded him in Bremen, and decided to migrate to the United States. He did this in 1844. September 19, 1843, about a year before the family migration, Henry Lankenau was born.

His father and mother set sail from Bremen for the infant republic on the western side of the Atlantic and landed at New Orleans. The elder Lankenau sought work at his trade in the Louisiana capital but was unsuccessful and made up his mind to journey northward. He followed the course of the Mississippi river northward and finally found his way to Indiana. He settled in Fort Wayne. He worked at boat building in Fort Wayne in connection with carpenter work for a number of years, and when the Wabash Railroad opened its shops in that city he secured employment in the shops. He continued in the employment of the Wabash Railroad Company for a long time and died in Fort Wayne in his sixty-fifth year. His wife survived him a number of years, dying when seventy-nine years of age.

Of a family of eight children born to this estimable couple, Henry Lankenau was the eldest. His youth was spent at his father's home in Fort Wayne and he received his education in the common schools of that city. He was an industrious and dutiful son and improved all the opportunities to better his condition educationally that presented themselves. When the war broke out and men were hurrying to enlist in defense of the Union he was among the first. Early in the summer of 1862 he enlisted in Company D of the Fifth Indiana Cavalry. Soon after he joined his command it was sent to the front. During the months that followed he



saw much active service, and was a gallant participant in a number of battles and lesser engagements. During the siege of Atlanta by the Federal troops he was taken prisoner and sent to Andersonville. He endured the hardships and horrors of this Confederate prison for months and was eventually removed with other Union soldiers to Millen, Georgia. Later he was sent to Florence, South Carolina, and a few months after being incarcerated in the South Carolina prison was sent to Wilmington, North Carolina. Some months of additional misery were spent in the seaport prison before he was paroled and forwarded to Camp Chase, Ohio. He was kept at Camp Chase for a short time and then discharged from the service of the government.

Broken in health and showing the results of the many hardships he had endured in defense of a principle, he returned to Indiana and resumed his residence in Fort Wayne. When he had sufficiently recuperated his health he secured employment in a printing office and followed this employment for a few years. He was then chosen a deputy sheriff and two or three years filled the duties of this important office acceptably and efficiently. He decided to take up the profession of teaching, and in 1875 he went to Van Wert county, Ohio. The four years that followed he taught in the schools of this Ohio county and then returned to Indiana and settled in Adams county. He was appointed teacher of St. John's parochial school in Preble township, and filled this office for twenty-one years. In this time he came to be one of the most efficient and best known educators of northeastern Indiana and many of the men of prominence in the township today owe their introduction to the world of letters to

the kindly and intelligent instruction given them by Mr. Lankenau. His success as an educator in Preble township secured for him a call to other fields, which he eventually accepted. After the close of his long service as the teacher of St. John's school he made up his mind to engage in other pursuits for a time. Following this idea he removed to Decatur and entered the mercantile business. He was employed as a clerk for five years and then returned to his teaching. In 1905 he engaged as the teacher of Zion's parochial school and occupies today the position of principal of this institution.

The marriage of Mr. Lankenau and Miss Catherine Schumm was solemnized in Fort Wayne, July 18, 1867. His wife is a native of Van Wert county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Jacob and Hannah Schumm. Eleven children have come to bless this union. These children are: Frank, Ada, the wife of Louis Schust; Clara, Louise, Flora, the wife of Herman Gerke; Adolph, Oscar, Alma, the wife of Glenn Seip; Enno and Herbert. The parents and children are respected members of the English Lutheran church and are among the most highly esteemed people of their community. Mr. Lankenau is a public-spirited man and an adherent of the Democratic party, but has never sought public office.

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#### PETER ROTH.

Europe has contributed in a large measure the sturdy families who settled and made productive the central western section of this country. The names that are known in the hamlets and villages of many European



countries are familiar names in the new world. Strong, vigorous young people severed their home ties and boldly took up the search for a new home and a new beginning in what was to them an alien land. They soon became a fixed and valuable part of their adopted country's social and economic system, and the vast majority of them prospered. A son of such parents is Peter Roth. His father was Jacob P. Roth and his mother was Magdalena (Schmugle) Roth. Both parents were natives of France and crossed the ocean to this country and settled in French township, Adams county, Indiana, in 1849. The elder Roth was a farmer and tilled his farm in French township until his death in 1866. He and his wife were the parents of fourteen children, three of whom are still living. Peter Roth was born in France and came to America in 1853, four years after his parents. His birth occurred in 1833, and so he was nineteen years of age when he reached this country. In 1860 he married Lydia Horn, a daughter of Christ Horn, who, with his wife, was born in Switzerland. They emigrated to America and settled in Stark county, Ohio, where they followed the calling of farmers.

After coming to this country Peter Roth spent one summer in Wayne county, Ohio. He then moved westward to Indiana and bought eighty acres of land in Hartford township. He cleared and improved this land and after his marriage he erected a log cabin and began his earnest life. His life following his settlement on his land was a hard struggle. The days were filled with the hardest kind of manual labor, but he was persistent, and in the end succeeded in getting the better of his antagonistic conditions and found himself in possession of a fine

and highly productive farm. Previous to his marriage he worked for other people and cleared something like a hundred acres for them. Today he is in possession of one hundred and twenty acres of fine land. He has replaced the rude log cabin of his earlier days with a fine, modern brick residence and a large and commodious barn. His land is well drained and fenced and his annual crops are ample and are among the best raised in this particular section of the state. His land lies in the Indiana oil belt and six wells have been put down on his property. From these wells he derives the profit from the sale of every sixth barrel of oil pumped, and enjoys a handsome income from this source. He has been a conservative man all his life and has not taken an interest in politics, having never voted.

To him and his wife have been born ten children, seven of whom are still living. His living children are: Christian, Rossanna, Jonathan, David, Mary, Sarah and Noah. Of the family Barbara, Catherine and Levi are dead. He and his wife are highly respected and are counted among the best people of their community. He is a member of the Mission church and takes an interest in all of the things that center about the work and purpose of this church.

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#### MOSES AUGSBURGER.

One of the most progressive and successful farmers of Adams county and a man who has come to be admired and esteemed by his neighbors and associates for many valuable characteristics is Moses Augsburger. He springs from hardy German parentage and the lessons that his forebears learned in the



fatherland have come down through the intervening generations to him. In his life he has profited by them and is a living instance of the beneficial effects of a fine heredity. Moses Augsburgur was born on a farm in French township, Adams county, Indiana, September 26, 1865. He is the son of Christian and Barbara (Liechty) Augsburgur, concerning whom an extended narrative appears in the sketch of John C. Augsburgur elsewhere in this volume. It is sufficient for the purpose of this sketch to say that they were honest, Godfearing people who believed in the gospel of work, and early taught this gospel to their children. The parents of Mr. Augsburgur owned and conducted a farm in French township and it was on this farm that their son was reared. His life was directly in line with the lives of hundreds of other farmer boys of the period, and he worked on his father's farm and attended the schools of his vicinity during his earlier years. Early in his career as a farmer he showed that he was destined to grow into a conservative and able manager. His work was intelligently directed, and he soon gained an expert knowledge of agriculture. He continued to live on his father's estate until the year 1890.

In this year occurred the marriage of Mr. Augsburgur to Miss Anna Steiner, a daughter of Peter C. and Fannie (Stauffer) Steiner. Peter Steiner was a native of Wayne county, Ohio, as was his wife, and they moved to Adams county, Indiana, the elder Steiner coming with his parents in 1839, and the girl who later became his wife coming with her parents a year following. The children of the pioneer couples were married in Adams county in 1853 in Monroe township and a year later moved to Hartford town-

ship, where the husband purchased a farm. The young people settled on this tract of land. The country was rough and the new farm was almost all covered with timber. The work of clearing the land was an arduous effort, but in the end the land was cleared and made productive. As time went on Mr. Steiner improved his land more and more, and it is now one that speaks volumes for the industry of its owner, and is one of the show places of the county. Since his marriage to Miss Steiner Moses Augsburgur has managed and conducted his father-in-law's place and contributed much toward its high state of cultivation. His idea of farming is one that calls for general as opposed to specialty farming, and he raises such crops on the land he manages as the climate and section of the state makes it best adapted for. In addition he believes in keeping good stock, and his cattle, sheep and swine are of standard grades and all valuable.

Mr. Augsburgur is a man who takes a lively interest in the affairs of his county and state. In politics he is a Democrat and in 1904 was elected a township trustee by the members of his party. He assumed the duties of his office January 1, 1905, and continues to discharge them with ability and discrimination. To Mr. and Mrs. Augsburgur have been born two children: Menno and Willis.

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#### WILLIAM HALL.

To one who today views the smiling acres of the fine farms that dot Adams county in the northeastern part of Indiana it seems



a far cry to the days when this section of the state abounded in wild animals and still wilder men. The contemplation of existing conditions gives no hint of the hardships and the labor endured by the men and women who transformed a forbidding wilderness into a region productive and safe to live in. Still it is a fact that the pioneers did transform a wilderness and many are living on productive farms today whose fathers' axes hewed away the forests and whose rude plowshares first turned the virgin soil. Among the sons of pioneer parents is William Hall, with whose career this sketch is concerned. He was born in 1843 in Perry county, Ohio. He was the son of Samuel and Margaret (Brown) Hall. His father was a native of the Buckeye state and his mother of Maryland. One year after the birth of William his parents journeyed to Indiana and settled in Hartford township, Adams county. The father entered one hundred acres from the government. He was a carpenter by trade and worked at this trade in connection with his farming for one year after coming to Indiana, when he died, leaving a widow and six children, of whom William was the youngest. The death of her husband brought Mrs. Hall face to face with a serious problem. She was alone with her children, but was determined to keep her little family together. The older children set to work to clear the hundred-acre farm and place it under cultivation. They worked earnestly and with a determination to make every hour count. In the end their efforts were crowned with a large measure of success and they found themselves in possession of a fine farm, well cultivated and improved and substantially appointed. Three of these children are still living. They are:

Elizabeth, Margaret and William. The three who are dead were: John, Mary and Nathan. For a time the grandfather of this family, Nathan Hall, lived in Indiana, to which state he came from his home in Ohio. But later he returned to Ohio, where he died at the remarkable age of one hundred and six years.

But the interest in this sketch centers about the youngest member of this plucky family. William was a rugged, sturdy youth who contributed even in his youth to the labor of the farm. He obtained a meager education in the schools of the district and worked as hard as did any of his brothers and sisters. When he grew to manhood he was married in 1869 to Miss Melissa French, a daughter of Joseph and Eliza (Beach) French. His wife's father was a native of New York and her mother of Maryland. They moved to Adams county in 1835 and settled on land that Mr. French's father had entered from the government some time before. This property contained some four hundred acres and was located in French township, which was named after the grandfather of Mrs. Hall, who was the first white settler in that township. Joseph French cleared some of the land he entered before his death and after his death his children completed the work he had left unfinished. The great grandfather of Mrs. Hall was an Englishman who came to the United States at an early day and settled in what subsequently became New York state.

Following his marriage to Melissa French William Hall purchased eighty acres of land in Hartford township. All of this land was under timber. He built a log cabin which he made his home and proceeded to clear the land. After a few years of the hardest and



most attentive sort of labor he cleared his land and had it all under cultivation. The years that followed rewarded his efforts. His crops were generous and he sold the products of his husbandry at a good profit. He built a comfortable house and added modern buildings to his farm's equipment as they became necessary. However, he did not destroy the original log cabin home. This structure he allowed to stand and it is today a relic of the early days on the farm and by contrast a monument to his ingenuity and thrift.

Mr. Hall is a man who is wide awake all of the time. He has taken an active part in the affairs of his county. He has served his fellow men in public office, being elected in 1885 to the important office of township trustee. This office he held for five years and three months. His political convictions are those of the Democratic party. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hall. These are Rachel, Elizabeth and Chester. The son lives with his parents. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hall are highly respected members of their community and are received into the best social circles of their neighborhood. Mrs. Hall and children are members of the Baptist church.

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#### LAFAYETTE RAPE.

Lafayette Rape was born in Darke county, Ohio, February 7, 1845. He is the son of Lewis and Mariah (Cummings) Rape. His father was a native of Virginia, in which state he was born in 1798. His mother came from New Jersey. On both his father's and mother's sides he is descended from Revolu-

tionary stock. His paternal grandfather was born in France and was a soldier in the force that accompanied the Marquis de Lafayette to fight with the Continentals against Great Britain in the war for independence. His grandfather was a gallant and valiant soldier who settled in Virginia after peace had been declared and made a home for himself in the infant republic. He married in Virginia and then moved west to Ohio. He secured a tract of land in Preble county in 1806 and cultivated this land until his death in 1838. Lewis Rape, the son of the Revolutionary soldier, was also active in his country's defense. He fought in the frontier wars with the Indian tribes of Ohio and Indiana and served six months in the war of 1812. He lived in Preble county until his marriage, when he bought land in Darke county. He lived continuously on this farm from 1836 until his death in 1854. His wife survived until 1882 and died at the home of her son, Lafayette Rape.

The son, Lafayette, was reared on his father's Darke county farm. He obtained a meager education in the poor schools of the time and district, and worked on his father's farm until he grew up. He was an industrious youth and proved an able assistant to his father in clearing his land and in bringing it to a comparative state of cultivation. He lived in Ohio until 1872, when he crossed over into Indiana and settled in Adams county.

When the Civil war plunged the country into strife Mr. Rape answered one of the first calls for volunteers and in 1861 enlisted in the Army of West Virginia. His active service began in 1862 and in an early engagement he was wounded in the arm and breast. The succeeding three months he was



confined by his wound in a hospital. When he was discharged from the hospital he rejoined his regiment at Richmond, Kentucky. However, in March of the same year, he was compelled to return to the hospital and remained there until November, 1863, when he was transferred to the veteran reserve corps, with which he remained until his final discharge in October, 1864. Following his discharge he returned to Ohio, and from there came to Indiana. In 1876 Mr. Rape married Miss Sarah Buckey, a daughter of George and Melinda (Kelly) Buckey, both natives of Shelby county, Ohio. The ancestors of Mrs. Rape came from Virginia, and her father was a tanner and farmer. Eleven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Rape. These are: Lewis, Perry, Benjamin Franklin, Nellie M., Jesse C., Elmer F., Grace M., Blanche, Bessie M., Charles and Gilbert L. Lewis served with distinction in the Spanish-American war and was a member of Company B, One Hundred and Sixtieth Indiana Volunteer Infantry. Jesse enlisted in the navy and is serving aboard the battleship New Jersey. Benjamin is living in Oklahoma and Elmer is at home.

The Rape homestead consists of one hundred and seventy-five acres, one hundred of which are cleared and cultivated. The remainder is devoted partially to pasturage and is under timber. Mr. Rape has applied himself industriously since he established his home in Indiana and with the assistance of his sons has made an excellent and highly productive farm out of his tract. He follows a general farming business and in addition raises stock. He is a man who appreciates the value of modern methods, and his farm is conducted along the most improved lines of modern agriculture. His stock is uni-

formly of a good grade and commands a high price in the markets where it is offered for sale.

Mr. Rape is one of the progressive men of his community. He has been active in the affairs of his township and county and has filled several important public offices. He is a Republican in his political affiliation and was elected a trustee of the township. This office he filled with ability and faithfulness for six years and has also served a four-year term as postmaster of Geneva. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is a consistent and honored member of the Friends church, and with his wife and family lends his moral and financial support to the denomination he adheres to.

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#### JOHN SIMISON.

To the parents of John Simison—Robert and Rebecca (David) Simison—belong the distinction of being the first white couple to be married in Wells county, Indiana. This marriage was solemnized in 1836. In fact, the union of this hardy pioneer couple antedated the organization of the county, so the marriage took place in what subsequently became Wells county. There being no constituted authorities in the immediate neighborhood of their home when the time came for the marriage, the young people were forced to send all the way to the village of Fort Wayne for a "squire" to perform the ceremony. For a short time following their marriage the young people went to the home of Peter Studebaker, in Adams county, but soon moved to the land in Adams county



which he had secured from the government before his marriage. Robert Simison was born in Recovery, Mercer county, Ohio, and his wife was a native of Tennessee. They settled on their new tract of land and devoted themselves to the work of clearing it and making it productive. The farm consisted of one hundred and twenty acres and the work of clearing it was a huge task. However, the elder Simison was a man of industry and progressive spirit and he stayed at his labor until he had completed the clearing of the farm. The times were hard and the country was thinly settled. An idea of the primitive conditions that existed may be gathered when it is stated that the nearest mill at which grain could be ground was that located at Richmond. To this place the elder Simison was compelled to haul his grain, the roads lying through the forests, and he was forced to hew a path for his yoke of oxen to follow. The journey to Richmond was a tiresome and hazardous one, and at certain seasons of the year required more than a week to make the round trip. The father of Robert Simison was a soldier in the war of 1812 and served with distinction throughout that second struggle with the mother country.

John Simison lived with his father and assisted him in his labors on the parental farm until he was twenty-five years of age. As a youth he attended the rude schools of his neighborhood and secured a meager education. His training was of a substantial nature and eminently fitted him to meet the rough conditions of his early days. In 1872 he was married to Miss Sarah Chrisman, the daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Moore) Chrisman. His wife's parents came to Indiana from Ohio and were origin-

ally natives of Pickaway county, Ohio. They came by wagon to Adams county, Indiana, in 1868 and settled on a farm in Hartford township, Adams county. For three years after his marriage John Simison was employed in a store. At the end of this period of employment he moved with his wife to a farm northwest of the present village of Linn Grove. He cleared his farm and brought it to a stage of excellent cultivation. He was a capable farmer and knew the advantages of modern methods. His farm was equipped with a substantial home and necessary outbuildings and was well fenced and drained. He continued to live on and operate his farm until about two years ago, when he rented it and moved to Linn Grove, where he erected a comfortable house and is living a retired and restful life. But one child was born to Mr. and Mrs. Simison and this child died when very young. He is a respected member of the community in which he resides and has taken an active part in the progressive movements of his county. He is a Democrat in politics and both he and his wife are esteemed and active members of the Baptist church.

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#### SAMUEL FUHRMAN.

Samuel Fuhrman, a successful and popular representative of the agricultural industry in Adams county, was born in Root township, this county, on February 12, 1862. He is the son of Charles H. and Caroline (Hellswarth) Fuhrman, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Mercer county, Ohio. The paternal grandparents were Christ and Barbara (Young) Fuhrman, who



came to America in 1831 and settled in Starke county, Ohio, where they bought a farm, on which they lived until 1837, when they came to Indiana by ox team and entered three hundred and twenty acres of government land in Preble township, Adams county. Here they erected a small log cabin, in which they lived the remainder of their lives. They were financially successful through life and at the time of Mr. Fuhrman's death he was the owner of considerable real estate. He was a member of the Evangelical Association, as was also his wife, and they were well liked and esteemed by all those who knew them. Christian died in 1880 and his wife died some years previous. They were the parents of eight children: Philip, Jacob, Christ, Charles, Henry C., Mary and Sophia, all deceased except Henry C.

Charles Fuhrman was a mere child when he accompanied his parents to America. He was given the advantages of a good education and upon attaining manhood chose agricultural pursuits as his vocation. He met with abundant success in his calling, possessing at his death nearly three hundred acres of splendid land. He was the father of nine children: Margaret, the wife of Henry Rappert, a resident of Oklahoma; Joseph, deceased; Sophia, now Mrs. Hudnett; Samuel and John, who are twins; Mary, the wife of Noah Lock; Sarah, the wife of Frank Jackson; Clara, the wife of George Bailey; Louisa, the wife of Web Foreman, a resident of Logansport. The parents were members of the Evangelical church.

The subject of this sketch received the advantages of a fair common school education, and as he was of studious and regular habits he acquired a fair mental equipment

for his future efforts. He is now the owner of one hundred and seventy-eight acres of excellent land, which is devoted to the raising of the various products best adapted to the soil and climate, while good buildings, fences, tiling, etc., indicate the energy and thrift of the owner. In connection with general farming he devotes some of his time and attention to the raising of live stock, dealing to some extent in Hereford cattle.

In 1888 Mr. Fuhrman was united in marriage to Miss Drusilla Dutcher, who was born in Root township, Adams county, Indiana, the daughter of Almon and Brady (Wise) Dutcher. To them were born six children: Milton, Joseph, Beulah, Esther, Morris and Lois. Religiously the Fuhrman family are members of the Evangelical church. In politics Mr. Fuhrman votes the Republican ticket, while fraternally he is a member of the Order of Red Men, Tribe 203, at Decatur, Indiana.

Almon Dutcher was born in Benton county, Ohio. He died in 1903 and was the son of Samuel and Catherine Dutcher. He was a soldier of the Fifty-first Indiana Regiment and experienced many of the privations and hardships of army life. His faith religiously was that of the Lutheran church and he merited the respect and admiration of his fellow citizens.

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#### JAMES C. PATTERSON.

James C. Patterson, who occupies the responsible position of manager of the express business at Decatur, is a native of this city, where he was born on September 19, 1855. Mr. Patterson received a good education in the common schools and for eight years was



an employe of the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad as ticket agent at Winchester. He afterward became assistant cashier of the Old Adams County Bank, which position he retained for two years, and later was secretary of the Eagle Manufacturing Company, subsequently becoming manager of the Western Union Telegraph Company. He is a man of many fine parts and enjoys the absolute confidence and esteem of all who know him. In politics Mr. Patterson is an adherent of the Democratic party, and though not a seeker for public office, he was elected city clerk, which responsible position he held satisfactorily for two years, and also served as deputy postmaster of Decatur under President Cleveland. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge, No. 65, and religiously he is a member of the Presbyterian church.

In 1880 he married Miss Lydia Irvin, the daughter of Sylvester O. and Sarah Irvin. Mr. Irvin has been for a number of years proprietor of the Irvin House at Winchester, where he has lived during the past seventy-five years. To the subject and his wife have been born three children: Fred I., a graduate of the Indianapolis Dental College, now located at Terre Haute, Indiana; Marie, now deputy auditor of Adams county, Indiana, and J. Bruce, a student.

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#### COAT COOK.

Coat Cook, a substantial farmer of Root township, was born in Medina county, Ohio, on February 12, 1841, and is the son of Frederick and Margaret (Shafer) Cook, natives of Germany, who came to America

early in life. They were farming folk of Medina county, Ohio, until about 1857, when drove by ox teams to Adams county, Indiana, and settled on a wild tract of land, now known as the Henry Creek farm. Here they lived until their deaths. They were the parents of eight children: Frederick, Christopher, William, Christina, Caroline, Catherine, Anna and Coat.

The subject of this sketch was a lad of ten years when he came with his parents to Adams county, Indiana. He was educated in the common schools of his locality and assisted his father in the operation of the home farm until twenty-eight years of age, when he started out in life on his own account, purchasing his present farm of one hundred and twenty-one acres. This land was only partially improved at the time, but by dint of hard toil and perseverance he has established himself a beautiful home, consisting of a ten-room brick house, which is up-to-date and modern in every respect.

In 1868 Mr. Cook chose as his life companion Miss Mary Bartling, who was born in Clermont county, Ohio, in 1846, the daughter of William and Christina Bartling, the former dying in 1870 and the latter some years later. William Bartling followed the miller's trade in Decatur for a number of years, and was the father of eleven children: John, Christina, Louisa, Maria, Mary, Charles, Caroline, George Henry, Emma, James Albert and William. Mr. and Mrs. Cook are the parents of six children: William, who is living with his parents; Ida, the wife of Lemuel Fisher; Charles, who is living at home; Aurora, the wife of Harlow Mann; David and Edith, who also live at home. The entire Cook family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are



held in high regard in the community which has been their home for so many years. Mr. Cook for many years supported the Democratic party, but of late has been more independent and has endorsed the Prohibition party. He served as administrator of his father's estate.

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#### ADAMSON ROSS WOLFE.

Adamson Ross Wolfe was born in Ashland county, Ohio, December 19, 1847. He is a son of Sylvester and Hannah G. (Gladden) Wolfe. Sylvester Wolfe was born September 24, 1817, and when one and one-half years of age was brought by his parents to Richland county, Ohio. He lived on his father's farm in this county until he grew to manhood and married. His wife was Hannah Gladden, who was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, and when an infant was taken by her parents to Ashland county. She grew to maturity in this county. The marriage of Sylvester Wolfe and Hannah Gladden was solemnized in Ashland county, September 8, 1842. They lived for ten years after their marriage in Ohio and then removed to Indiana, settling in Root township. They purchased a piece of unimproved land and the father erected a log cabin in the woods as a home for his family. However, as the years passed the farm was cleared and the log cabin home replaced with a much finer and more comfortable residence. His place consisted of one hundred and sixty acres, and in time became a very valuable property. This couple continued to live on their farm after coming to Indiana, and both died on it. Mrs. Wolfe died June 1, 1896, and her

husband survived until March 1, 1904. Both were members of the Baptist church and Mr. Wolfe was a staunch Democrat all through his life. They became the parents of the following children: Margaret, Sarah, Adamson Ross, Isaac (deceased), Oliver C., Martha E., Laura A. (deceased), Ida I. and Mary E. The five eldest of these children were born in Ashland county, Ohio, and the remaining children were born on the family home in Root township.

The subject of this sketch was but five years of age when his parents removed from Ashland county, Ohio, to Adams county, Indiana. He spent his youth on his father's farm and attended the sessions of the schools of his neighborhood. In these schools he secured as good a common school education as the times and circumstances made possible. He assisted his father in the work of cultivating the home farm as soon as he was old enough to do farm work, and he remained on the home farm until his twenty-fourth year, when he was married.

The marriage of Adamson Ross Wolfe and Miss Sarah Catherine Cline was solemnized in Root township in 1870. Mrs. Wolfe is a daughter of George and Elizabeth (McConnehey) Cline and was born in Adams county. Her parents, who were early settlers in this section of Indiana, are both dead. For the first year after his marriage Mr. Wolfe lived on a place that he rented. However, after a year he purchased the place he now occupies. This is a tract of eighty acres, and when it came into the possession of Mr. Wolfe was unimproved. However, its rough condition presented no terrors for him and he set to work to clear and make it productive. As the years succeeded one another he found himself in possession of more



and more cleared land, and eventually he cleared, drained and otherwise improved the entire estate. He fenced the land and erected a comfortable home and other necessary farm buildings. During the years since their marriage one child, a son, Albert Marion Wolfe, came to bless the union. This son is married to Miss Jenny Murphy and lives on his father's farm. He and his wife are the parents of two children, twins, one of whom, Marie Jennie, is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Wolfe are consistent church members. He united with the Baptist church and his wife is a member of the United Brethren denomination.

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### JONAS CLINE.

Jonas Cline, who successfully operates a splendid farm in Root township, Adams county, Indiana, was born in the township in which he now resides on September 6, 1845, and is the son of Jacob and Barbara (Robinson) Cline, natives of Pennsylvania. In 1836 they came to Adams county, Indiana, and settled in Root township, where they entered one hundred and sixty acres of government land in section 14, this being their home until their respective deaths. Jacob Cline died August 22, 1889, and his wife died June 30, 1873. They were good Christian people and were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. They were the parents of seven children: Robert and John R., who are deceased; William and George B., residents of Union township, this county; Jonas, our subject, and Catherine. Jacob Cline was a Republican in politics.

The subject of this sketch was given a

common school education and during his youth learned thoroughly the methods of agriculture, so that upon attaining mature years he was well equipped to take up the work on his own account. In 1873 he bought forty acres of excellent land in Root township, on which he resided for a period of eighteen years, when he sold this and bought his present farm of eighty acres in section 16, Root township. Here he carries on general farming, meeting with a success commensurate with the labor bestowed.

In 1873 Mr. Cline was married to Miss Nancy Rice, who was born in Root township, this county, the daughter of Benjamin and Mary (Pillars) Rice, the former of Culpeper county, Virginia, and the latter of Carroll county, Ohio. They were early settlers of this county, coming here in 1836 and taking up government land. They are both now deceased. Benjamin Rice was twice married and was the father of ten children: William, Mary, Elizabeth, Rachel, Benjamin, John B., James M., Millard F., Nancy A. and David M.

The subject and his wife have one child, Mary, who is the wife of Charles Magley, and they operate the home farm. In November, 1863, Mr. Cline enlisted in Company H, Eighty-ninth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and participated in the following battles: Pleasant Hill, Louisiana; Tupelo, Mississippi; Yellow Bayou, Louisiana; battle of Fort Deruss, and a number of skirmishes. The subject and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and their lives are in harmony with the Christian profession. Politically Mr. Cline is an earnest Republican. Mr. Magley has had charge of the farm since 1900 and under his management many



improvements have been made. He erected a barn and remodeled the house and laid considerable tile.

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### LEWIS L. LEWTON.

Lewis L. Lewton, one of the most successful farmers and best known men of Adams county, was born in Adams county, Indiana, November 12, 1841. He is the son of Perry and Mary (Leamaster) Lewton. Both of his parents were natives of Carroll county, Ohio. They were married in Ohio and shortly after this event came to Indiana. Perry Lewton was one of the pioneer school and singing teachers of northeastern Indiana. After coming to Adams county he settled in Decatur and taught school in that place until his death, September 22, 1843. Mary Leamaster was the daughter of John and Nancy (Baxter) Leamaster. They were among the earliest settlers in Adams county. Both were born and reared in Ohio and were married in that state in 1811. They settled in Root township after coming to Adams county, and remained in that township until their deaths. Mr. and Mrs. Perry Lewton became the parents of three children: Nancy Ellen, Lewis and Perry A. Of these children Lewis alone survives. After the death of Perry Lewton his widow returned to her parents' home and lived there for a short time. She was married for the second time to Zedekiah Brown, by whom she had one child, a son, James B. Brown, who is now dead. Both of the parents of Lewis Lewton were members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Perry Lewton was a staunch Democrat all of his life.

Following the death of his father and the second marriage of his mother, Lewis Lewton made his home with his stepfather. He attended the common schools of his immediate neighborhood and secured as good an education as was possible under the circumstances. He lived with his stepfather until he was old enough to make his own living independently, and during the next years worked out as a farm hand at various places in the township. He continued in this employment until the outbreak of the Civil war. He was among the first in Root township to catch the war infection, and enlisted in Company K of the Eighty-ninth Indiana Volunteer Infantry. His regiment was hurried to the front and he saw much real service with it. He was present at the engagements fought at Tupelo, Mississippi, during the Red River expedition; at Pleasant Hill, Tennessee; Yellow Bayou, Louisiana; the siege of Nashville, Fort Blackley and many lesser engagements and skirmishes. He was taken prisoner by the Confederates but was paroled soon after his capture. He served with gallantry until the close of the war and was finally mustered out of the Federal service with an honorable discharge.

After the close of the war he returned to Indiana and was married to Miss Sarah J. Robison, a native of Adams county and a daughter of James and Elizabeth Robison. Two children were born of this union: Mary E., the wife of William Frank, of Decatur, Indiana, and Lewis Chester, who is dead. Mrs. Lewton died August 15, 1870, and Mr. Lewton contracted a second marriage a few years after her death. This time he married Mary C. Robison, a sister of his first wife, and six children have been born to the couple: Cary D., the present auditor of



Adams county; Amos, a farmer of Root township; Ada, the wife of Philip Schieferstine; Hattie, deceased; Edgar, living in Fort Wayne, and Daisy, who is living at home with her father. The second wife of Mr. Lewton died September 8, 1900.

Mr. Lewton is the owner of an excellent farm of ninety acres in Root township, and all of his land is excellently situated. He has lived on this place since 1870 and has improved it until it is one of the most valuable and productive tracts in the township. His buildings are comfortable, and altogether his place is one of the attractive ones in its neighborhood. He has always been a man who has taken an active part in the affairs of his community and he has played a prominent part in Adams county politics. He is a member of the Democratic party and an earnest worker for the success of this party. His brother, Perry, was the sheriff of Adams county at the time of his death, and the county commissioners appointed Mr. Lewton to serve the remaining nine months of his brother's term. This he did to the satisfaction of the members of both political parties. He is an enthusiastic member of the Grand Army of the Republic and a member of Sam Henry post at Decatur.

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### SAMUEL D. KUNKLE.

Samuel D. Kunkle, a pioneer farmer of Root township, Adams county, Indiana, was born in York county, Pennsylvania, August 25, 1820, and is the son of Michael and Catherine (Sentz) Kunkle, both also natives of Pennsylvania, but of German extraction. They came to Richland county, Ohio,

in about 1825, where Mr. Kunkle purchased a tract of unimproved land and through his efforts and well directed energies the same was soon transformed into a splendid piece of real estate. Here his death occurred about 1850. They were the parents of nine children, namely: Eliza, Mary, Matilda, Dianna, Lydia, Rebecca, Nancy, Michael (deceased), and Samuel D. Michael and Catherine Kunkle were members of the Lutheran church and their lives were ever in harmony with the faith which they thus professed.

The subject of this sketch received his education in the old subscription schools of that day, and eagerly improved all the opportunities in that line that came to him. He lived on his father's farm until twenty-six years of age, when he came to Indiana by way of wagon and bought eighty acres of land in Root township, Adams county, which was in the state of primitive wildness. He built a rude log cabin, where he lived for about sixteen years, subsequently trading his farm for another consisting of one hundred and sixty-two acres in Root township, and on which he now resides. He has erected many substantial farm buildings and the land is under a splendid state of cultivation, yielding rich returns to the owner.

On June 9, 1846, Mr. Kunkle married Miss Martha Dorwin, the daughter of Calvin T. and Fanny (Bell) Dorwin, natives of New York state, but who came to Indiana in 1845 and are now deceased. To the subject and his wife have been born six children: Willie, who died in infancy; Fanny, the wife of Robert S. Peterson; Dora, the wife of Alexander R. Bell; Effie, who died in infancy; Florence L., the wife of Alton De Vilviss, and Calvin, who married Sarah



Pillars. Mrs. Kunkle died February 6, 1902, aged seventy-seven years.

Mr. Kunkle is a member of the English Lutheran church and takes a deep interest in its welfare. Politically he is a Republican and served as assessor of Root township for eight years. Mr. Kunkle started upon his career as an independent factor at the bottom of the ladder and by his earnest labor and unabating perseverance is now able to spend the remainder of his life in retirement, having sold his farm to his son Calvin. Calvin D. Kunkle was born March 19, 1863. He was reared a farmer and April 17, 1883, married Sarah A. Pillars, daughter of Sampson and Mary J. Pillars. She was born in Root township. They have one son, Sherman P., and one daughter, Florence L. Calvin D. Kunkle has resided all his years on the homestead and in 1900 became its owner.

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#### CHARLES E. BULTEMEIER.

Charles E. Bultemeier, a successful farmer of Root township, was born in Root township, Adams county, Indiana, January 22, 1853. He is the son of Conrad and Louisa (Miland) Bultemeier. His parents were born in Prussia, Germany, and after their marriage came to the United States and settled in Preble township, Adams county. After a few years' residence in this latter township they removed to Root township. They purchased land and cultivated their farm until the husband's death. Before settling in Root township Conrad Bultemeier worked on the Wabash & Erie canal. He was a careful and frugal man and saved his money. In time he accumulated enough to invest in

farm land and purchased his Root township tract. He added from time to time to his original purchase and at his death was the owner of seven hundred acres of fine land. This land became divided among his children and every acre of it is still in the family. Both Conrad Bultemeier and his wife were highly respected residents of Root township and members of the Lutheran church. They became the parents of the following children: Louis, Charles E., Ferdinand, Fred, Wilhelmina, Louise and Liz-zetta.

Of this large family Charles E. Bultemeier was the second in order of birth. He was reared on his father's farm in Root township and was educated in the common schools of the neighborhood. He was an industrious youth and made the most of all of the opportunities that presented themselves. In the months when he was not engaged in the schools he assisted his father in the improving and cultivation of his farm. He learned the wholesome lessons to be learned on a farm and he applied these lessons to excellent advantage in the years of his after life. When his father died the farm was divided among the children and Charles secured his share. He was married in 1877 to Miss Dora Horstmeyer, who was born in Adams county and was the daughter of Frederick and Louise Horstmeyer. She bore her husband twelve children, of whom six grew up and are living: August F., Clara L., Eliza L., Charles H., William L. and Lena S. Her death occurred on the family farm in 1906. She was a consistent and honored member of the St. John's Lutheran church.

Mr. Bultemeier is the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and eighty acres. The land



is excellently located and is very fertile. All of the land is cleared and the improvements that have been made on it from time to time rank with the best in the entire township. The farm is well drained and fenced and the buildings are substantial and comfortable. Altogether the place is one of the most attractive and valuable in the section of Adams county where it is situated. Mr. Bultemeier is a public-spirited man and takes a live and active part in all movements that are designed to advance the social and commercial prosperity of his community. He is highly respected and is a member of the St. John's Lutheran church.

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#### ISAAC BROWN.

Isaac Brown can trace his ancestry back to a lieutenant who fought in the war for American independence. This ancestor was Adam Brown, his great grandfather. Since the days of the great grandfather the family has lived in the middle west. Isaac was born in Wayne county, Ohio, August 16, 1847. He is a son of John and Mariah (Sager) Brown and his grandfather was John Brown. His parents were both natives of Ohio. They were married in this latter state and lived on a farm in their native county until 1852, when they came across the state line into Indiana. After reaching Adams county John Brown purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land. He cleared this land and made it productive before his death, which occurred December 24, 1902, when he was eighty-five years of age. His wife died June 3, 1899, at the age of seventy-eight years. He was a Democrat in politics

and both John and his wife were members of the Presbyterian church. They were the parents of sixteen children: Martha, Joseph, Abraham, Benjamin, Isaac, Sarah Jane, William, Christian, Mary Ann, Drusilla, Amanda, Adam, John, Reuben, Clarissa and Victoria.

Isaac Brown was about five years of age when his parents left Ohio and came to Indiana. He spent his youth until his eighteenth year on his father's farm. He was educated in the common schools of his immediate neighborhood, and from the time he was old enough he assisted in the improvement and cultivation of the home farm. In addition to learning the lessons of agriculture, he learned the trade of a carpenter. After leaving his home he worked at this trade in various localities until the year 1871. In this year he returned to the home farm and engaged in its management and cultivation. He operated the home farm for a few years and then purchased a farm in Root township, Adams county. He lived on this farm in Root township for eleven years and then removed to his present place in the same township in 1893. He has lived on his present farm for fourteen years.

Mr. Brown has been married twice. His first wife was Miss Cassandra Hawn, a native of Union county, Ohio. Her marriage to Mr. Brown occurred in 1869 and she died in 1891. She bore her husband one child, a son, Samuel Elton Brown. This son married Edna Peoples, and he and his wife have become the parents of five children. The second marriage of Isaac Brown occurred in 1893. This time he was united to Mrs. Mary Ellen (Aber) Hauk, the widow of William Hauk. She is the daughter of Samuel and Mary Aber, who are numbered



among the older settlers of Adams county. They are both dead. One child, a son, Carl Aber Brown, has been born of this second marriage.

The parents of the present Mrs. Brown, Samuel and Mary (Rice) Aber, as stated above, are among the old settlers of north-eastern Indiana. He was a native of Ohio and his wife was born in Culpeper county, Virginia. They came to Adams county in 1842 and died in that county. They were the parents of five children: Sarah Jane, David James, William G., John Ferguson and Mary Ellen. The father was a Democrat and served as a justice of the peace for a number of years and as a township trustee.

Mr. Brown is the owner of a fine farm of fifty-nine acres in Root township. The land is well improved and is profitable and the buildings and other equipments are substantial. In addition to his farm he is the proprietor of the Decatur Creamery at Decatur and has made this a profitable business and one largely patronized. He is a man who takes an active part in the affairs of his community, and is a leader in all movements for the betterment of the condition of his township. He has served as a trustee of Root township, being elected in 1887 and serving seven years, and in other ways demonstrated his public spirit. With his wife he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and gives this denomination his hearty and generous support.

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#### ALBERT S. KINDEL.

Albert S. Kindel, who successfully operates a splendid farm of one hundred and twenty acres in French township, Adams

county, Indiana, is a native of the Old Dominion state, having been born December 6, 1850. His parents were Isaac and Delilah (Tappy) Kindel, both also natives of Virginia. The paternal grandfather, Reuben Kindel, was a native of Germany. Isaac Kindel came to Indiana in an early day, locating in Hartford township, Adams county, where he made a small clearing in the midst of the woods and erected a rude log cabin, which still stands and in which he resided until his death in 1890. His wife died the month following. He was the owner of eighty acres of land and traded forty acres of this for property in Lynn Grove, Hartford township, where his death occurred. He was the father of twelve children, six of whom are still living.

The subject of this sketch after completing a good, practical common school education entered upon the active duties of life as an agriculturist, which sturdy occupation he has since followed. He owns one hundred and twenty acres of land in French township and forty in Hartford township, comprising the old home place, nearly all of which is under the plow and improved. Mr. Kindel carries on a miscellaneous line of farming, giving attention to all the crops common to this locality, and also gives some attention to Poland China and Duroc hogs. He has lived on his present place since 1890 and has made many substantial improvements, including a fine brick house, which is fitted with hot and cold water, furnace heat, and is modern in every respect. In politics the subject is a staunch Democrat, and though deeply interested in the success of his party he has never cared for the honors of public office. Religiously he is a member of the Christian church.



In 1885 Mr. Kindel married Miss Sarah Miller, daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth Miller, and to this union have been born three children, namely: Bessie, Guy and Claud J.

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#### CHRISTIAN MOESCHBERGER.

Christian Moeschberger, an esteemed and respected citizen and successful farmer of French township, Adams county, Indiana, was born on July 11, 1843, and is the son of John and Margaret (Soures) Moeschberger, natives of Canton Berne, Switzerland. They came to America in 1836 and at once settled in French township in the midst of the woods. Much strenuous labor was involved in the clearing of this tract of land and making it fit for cultivation, but time told the story and in due season Mr. Moeschberger found himself the possessor of a splendid and productive farm. His parents are both deceased, the mother having died in 1884.

The subject of this sketch secured such an education as was found in the common schools of the locality, and assisted his parents in the cultivation of the farm. He worked at the carpenter's trade for some seven years, but in the main has devoted his attention to agriculture. He is the owner of two hundred and forty acres of land, of which one hundred and ninety are under the plow and in a high state of cultivation. The farm also contains some excellent timber, which is in itself of considerable value. In addition to general farming Mr. Moeschberger carries on live stock operations, breeding and raising grade cattle and Poland China hogs. He has erected a splendid set of farm

buildings, including a fine eight-room brick house, modern in every respect, and also a large and commodious barn, which he erected in 1877. In politics Mr. Moeschberger votes consistently with the Democratic party, and he is now supervisor of his township and a member of the advisory board. Religiously his membership is with the German Reformed church at Newville, Indiana, one and one-half miles from his home.

In 1872 the subject married Miss Mary Buhler, daughter of Abraham and Magdalena (Sonter) Buhler, natives of Germany and early settlers of Adams county. To this union have been born fifteen children, namely: Levi, John, Sarah, Louisa, Albert, Nathaniel, Lottie, Pearl, Delphi, Lulu, Emma, Tillie, Martha, Della and Herman, the last five of whom are deceased. Mr. Moeschberger's wife died about six years ago.

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#### CHRISTIAN J. GERBER.

Christian J. Gerber, than whom no resident of French township, Adams county, stands higher, is a native of Canton Berne, Switzerland, where he was born in 1828. He received a good education in his native land and in 1853 emigrated to America, locating first in Wayne county, Ohio, but one year later came to Wabash township, Adams county, Indiana. For some years he followed carpentering and also farmed to some extent, eventually giving his sole attention to the latter pursuit. He is now the owner of three hundred and sixty acres of highly improved land, one hundred of which lies in Hartford township. During his active years he gave personal attention to every



detail of his farm, while for the past fifteen years he has lived a practically retired life on his French township farm of two hundred and sixty acres, which he purchased in 1897. His place is highly improved and has upon it a number of substantial farm buildings and other accessories.

August 16, 1864, Mr. Gerber was united in marriage with Miss Fanny Spichiger, daughter of John and Fanny (Burkhalter) Spichiger. To them were born five children: Elizabeth, Aldena, Christian, Benjamin and John. Mr. Gerber is a staunch Democrat in politics, though not an aspirant for honor in the way of public office. Religiously he and his family are members of the Reformed church. Benjamin Gerber, who now lives on the home farm, carries on general farming and also gives some attention to the raising of Holstein cattle and Chester White hogs, in which line he has been successful. He married Miss Isabella Schwartz, daughter of Edward and Mariah (Suter) Schwartz, natives of Harrison township, Wells county, Indiana. Mrs. Christian J. Gerber died March 23, 1899. Christian, one of the sons, was killed November 13, 1896, by being thrown from a wagon.

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#### CHRISTIAN P. HIRSCHY.

Christian P. Hirschy, who deserves honorable mention in this volume because of the straightforward and progressive life he has led in the county in which he now resides, was born in Adams county, Indiana, on September 15, 1864. He is the son of Philip and Mary (Richer) Hirschy. The father was born in Switzerland in 1824 and the

mother in France. In 1835 they came to America, locating in Stark county, Ohio, where he followed the trade of carpentering. In 1847 he came to Adams county, Indiana, driving overland with a team of oxen, his course lying by the canal to Fort Wayne and thence south to Wabash township, this county. He located south of Berne, where he followed farming successfully until his death, in 1899.

Christian Hirschy received his education in the schools of Adams county and under his father's instructions early learned the secrets of husbandry. With his brother Joel he operates two hundred and seventeen acres of splendid land, all of which is under the plow excepting forty acres of pasture and woodland. Here general farming is carried on, embracing also the raising of live stock, principally Duroc hogs and shorthorn cattle. The farm is well equipped and in a highly productive condition, Mr. Hirschy giving special attention to the proper rotation of crops and other features which go to the successful prosecution of his calling. On the farm are two dwelling houses and other improvements which add to the general appearance of the place. In politics Mr. Hirschy is a staunch supporter of the Democratic party, and in religion is a member of the Mission church at Berne.

On June 10, 1894, he married Miss Louise Felber, daughter of Jacob and Magdalena (Moser) Felber, natives of Germany, though early settlers in Adams county. They were the parents of seven children: Melvin, Clarence, Tillman, Arminda, Ernie and Marion and Magdalena, twins. Mr. Hirschy is public-spirited in the broadest sense of the word, giving his earnest support to every measure calculated to advance the interests of the



community, and is enjoying the regard and esteem of all with whom he comes in contact.

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### HENRY A. MORROW.

Henry A. Morrow, one of French township's leading citizens and enterprising farmers, is a native of Adams county, having been born on the 26th of February, 1844. His parents were Daniel and Clarissa (Haughton) Morrow, the former of whom was a native of New York state. He came to Adams county in an early day and settled in a woods in Hartford township, where he erected a rude log cabin and commenced the task of creating a farm in the midst of the wilderness. He was a skilled workman and assisted in the construction of John Studebaker's log cabin, the first house in Bluffton, Wells county, and which was in the early days kept as a general store, one of the first commercial enterprises in Bluffton. His death occurred in 1893 and his wife died two years later. They were the parents of eight children: Elosia, Adelia, Eugene, Auzretta, Henry A., Ellen, Courtney and Melvina, who died in infancy. Daniel Morrow was a staunch Democrat in politics and served as assessor of Hartford township for many years. He was a member of the Universalist church.

Henry A. Morrow received his education in the common schools of Adams county and was early inured to the strenuous labors incident to farm life, which occupation he has followed throughout his life. He is the owner of forty acres of splendid land, all under a high state of cultivation and well improved with commodious and substantial

farm buildings. He also gives some attention to the raising of live stock, specializing on shorthorn cattle and Duroc hogs. He has been successful in every line of his profession and stands deservedly high among his fellow citizens. Religiously he affiliates with the Christian church.

In 1873 he married Miss Emaline Hoffman, daughter of Lineal and Polly Ann (Kindle) Hoffman, natives of Virginia, who emigrated to Indiana in an early day and settled in Hartford township, Adams county. To the subject and his wife have been born five children: Ernest, a carpenter living in Indianapolis; Bertha, the wife of Neal Kyle, of Chicago, Illinois; Frank, who is living in Muncie; Eugene and Charles.

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### EDWARD D. ENGELER.

Edward D. Engeler, who owns and conducts the largest general department store in Berne, Adams county, Indiana, is a native of the old Hoosier state, having been born in Wells county on the 18th of November, 1876. He is the son of Frederick and Rosana (Beeverstein) Engeler, natives respectively of Berne, Switzerland, and Wayne county, Ohio. The father, after coming to the United States in 1846, first located in Wells county, Indiana, but two years later, allured by the promises of certain wealth in the golden west, went to California, where his promises were to some extent realized, as he acquired a controlling interest in one of the splendid mines of that country. He died in 1899 and his widow now makes her home in Bluffton, Wells county.

In 1891 the subject of this sketch having



secured a good common school education came to Berne and established himself in his present business. He was successful from the outstart and is now, as has been stated before, the owner of the largest department store in that town. So extensive did his business become that he found it necessary to erect a building suited to his requirements and he is now the owner of a splendid two-story building forty-four by ninety feet in dimensions. He carries a large and comprehensive line of the various articles usually found in an up-to-date department store and keeps a large force of clerks to fill the wants of the public. Prior to entering upon this business he filled a clerkship at Bluffton for four years and was thus well equipped to manage his present business. Mr. Engeler was also identified with other local concerns, being assistant cashier and director of the People's State Bank at Berne and also vice president and director of the Berne Manufacturing Company, one of the progressive and successful concerns of this city. Mr. Engeler is a staunch Democrat in politics, though he never takes an active interest in public affairs. His religious affiliation is with the Presbyterian church at Bluffton.

In 1903 Mr. Engeler married Miss Hazel Karns, daughter of Samuel and Georgia Karns, and to them has been born one child, Gordon F.

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#### ALBERT N. SPRUNGER.

Albert N. Sprunger, who leads an eminently active and useful life and who has attained a position of relative distinction in the community in which his interests are al-

lied, was born in Monroe township, Adams county, Indiana, May 22, 1875. The subject of this sketch was reared under the parental roof and was early taught the science of agriculture. He was also given advantage of attendance at the public schools, so that upon attaining mature years he was well qualified to take up life's labors for himself. At the age of twenty-one he was employed in his brother's store, where he remained for two and a half years, when he purchased a one-fifth interest in the Berne Milling Company, and was made manager of the concern. This is an up-to-date mill and elevator combined, its equipment in the way of machinery being first-class in every respect. Mr. Sprunger is manager of this business. He has been reasonably successful in all of his undertakings and is now the owner of a splendid lot in the city of Berne. Politically he votes independent, while in religion he is identified with the Mennonite church. Mr. Sprunger is a public-spirited citizen and is highly esteemed in both business and social circles.

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#### JOHN ROHRER.

John Rohrer, who has aided materially in the developing of the resources of this section and ever represented the best order of citizenship, was born in Canton Berne, Switzerland, June 6, 1870. He is a son of John C. and Rosana (Dantz) Rohrer. The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood days on the family homestead, receiving a good education in the schools of Switzerland, and at the age of thirteen entered high school. After coming to Adams county he devoted some time to the carpenter trade and spent



eight months in Chicago. In 1893 he was employed as an apprentice with the Berne Milling Company and in compensation for his faithful services and steadfastness has been promoted to head miller, in which capacity he has served for the last seven years. He has traveled considerably, visiting other large milling institutions, and with the aid of various points of knowledge gained has built up a flourishing local trade in addition to his shipping interests. The concern is owned by stockholders, the subject having been a member for seven years. He is the possessor of several pieces of splendid property on Water street, Berne, on which have been erected tasty and substantial buildings. He is president of the Cement Block Artificial Stone Company, which under his efficient management has continued to grow in importance until it is now considered one of the leading concerns of the kind.

In 1896 Mr. Rohrer was married to Miss Emily A. Welty, daughter of Christian and Elizabeth (Zurcher) Welty, natives of Wayne county, Ohio, and Switzerland. Mr. and Mrs. Rohrer are the parents of four children: Sylvian B., Freida E., Florence M. and Karl H. Mr. Rohrer is independent in his attitude toward politics, and religiously he belongs to the Mennonite church. Mr. Rohrer is a faithful performer of his duties and few men in his locality retain a higher degree of public confidence and esteem.

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#### DANIEL BREWSTER.

Daniel Brewster, an energetic and persevering man whose industry and thrift have placed him among the substantial citizens of

Adams county, was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, September 13, 1845, and is the son of Jackson and Mary (Martin) Brewster, the former a native of Fayette county, Pennsylvania, also. They were the parents of thirteen children, seven of whom reached maturity. Jackson Brewster came to Adams county in 1860 and located on a piece of land which was densely covered with timber. He at once erected a rude cabin and then settled himself to the task of clearing and rendering the ground fit for cultivation, which he successfully accomplished. In connection with agricultural pursuits he was also employed on a boat on the Ohio river prior to his coming to Indiana. When he came here wild game of all kinds was plentiful and he often saw this game in close proximity to his log cabin, while some of the meat supplied for the family was secured by means of his trusty rifle or shotgun. He died about 1894 and his wife about 1896. The subject of this sketch passed his youthful years in much the same manner as did the average farmer boy of the locality and period, having been reared to manhood on the old homestead. When he and his father came to Jefferson township only seventy-five families lived there, of which number only one man is still living, Jacob Ryan, aged eighty-four years. Mr. Brewster is the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of land in Jefferson township and his improvements in the way of buildings, fences, etc., rank with the best in the neighborhood. In connection with his farming interests he ran a threshing machine for thirty-three years, in which business he exerted every effort to please the public. In 1864 he enlisted in the Eightieth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and



served until the close of the war, participating in the Hood and Johnston campaign. The subject has been twice married, his first wife being Sarah A. Fetters. They were the parents of six children: Philip, Charles, Caroline, Emma, died in 1898, and Lucinda, died June 10, 1907, and Frank. Hattie, Fred, Edna and Gusta are of the second marriage. Mr. Brewster's second marriage was with Miss Loverda Bebout, daughter of Joshua and Elizabeth (Fisher) Bebout, both natives of Pennsylvania. They are the parents of four living children, as seen above. Mr. Brewster is a staunch Republican, and has been honored by election to offices of trust and responsibility, having served as justice of the peace four years, supervisor nine years and constable four years. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Grand Army of the Republic at Geneva, Indiana, and also the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Berne. His religious faith is that of the Evangelist church. The subject has attained success by hard work and is well entitled to the prosperity which is now his. At present he is residing on the old farm, where by honest toil and endeavor he worked his way to independence.

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### JOHN P. STEINER.

John P. Steiner, a very highly respected and influential citizen of this county, was born in Hartford township, Adams county, Indiana, on December 31, 1860. He is the son of Peter C. and Fanny (Stauffer) Steiner, both natives of Wayne county, Ohio. Peter Steiner came to Adams county in an

early day and located in Monroe township, subsequently removing to Hartford township, where he lived during the remainder of his life. At the time of his death he was the owner of one hundred acres of valuable land, which yielded abundant returns for the labor bestowed upon it. Unto these parents were born eight children, namely: Christian, David, John P. Rosana, Sarah, Amos, Anna and Mary, the last named being deceased. The paternal grandfather was Christian Steiner, who was born in Canton Berne, Switzerland, and came to Ohio in an early day, where he spent his last years, his death occurring in 18—.

John P. Steiner was enabled to attend the common schools during his youthful years and proved an earnest and faithful student. His estate comprises one hundred and thirty-four acres, of which ninety-five are under the plow, giving rich returns for the labors expended. Mr. Steiner also gives some attention to the raising of live stock and has some fine specimens of Red Polled cattle and Duroc hogs. He has made many improvements upon his place and the well tilled fields and good buildings indicate a careful and painstaking husbandman.

The subject has been twice married, his first companion being Miss Sarah A. French, daughter of Lot and Mary (Darst) French, natives of Miami county, Ohio. Unto this first union were born three children: Fanny, Fred and one who died in infancy unnamed. Mr. Steiner's second marriage was to Miss Lydia French, sister to his first wife, and they are the parents of three children: Mary (deceased), June and Clinton. Mr. Steiner's political association is with the Democratic party and he has been honored by election to township trustee, which office he has held



for nine months. Religiously his belief is in harmony with the creed of the Christian church.

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### FRANK HISEY.

Coming of a sturdy stock, for whom the wilderness of a new country had no terrors, and endowed with the qualities that make for ultimate success, Frank Hisey came into this world well equipped with the resources of heredity that mean much in future life. He is the son of John and Barbara E. (Snyder) Hisey. His father was a native of Virginia, from which state he came to Ohio with his parents, locating in Licking county. At this time he was about six years of age. His mother was born in Licking county, Ohio, January 13, 1834. The father of the subject of this sketch lived in Licking county until 1850. When he grew to manhood he learned and followed the trade of a blacksmith. In 1850 he made the overland journey on horseback to Indiana and traveled to Fort Wayne. The government land office was at that time located at Fort Wayne and John Hisey entered two hundred and forty acres of land in Jefferson township, Adams county. He sought out his new property and spent some time in improving it. Then he returned to Ohio and brought his family to Indiana. He settled on his new farm, but the heavily timbered acres presented a serious proposition to the young farmer. He was confronted with a mammoth task, that of clearing the large tract. However, he addressed himself to the work with a will and after a time had some of it cleared and improved and under cultivation. It was slow work, to be sure, but his energy was not abated and he

worked with a determination to carve a homestead from the wilderness. In the end he had it nearly all under the plow and well fenced. Children came in time to bless his days, and he and his wife became the parents of five, all of whom are still living. These children are: Sarah, Frank, Alice, Dora and Ella. He lived on his farm until his death, which occurred March 2, 1898. His children lived with him at the old home during their early lives and assisted in the work of clearing the homestead. They were dutiful and they appreciated the blessing they had received in having a father possessing such sterling characteristics. He was an active and aggressive man and took an active and leading part in all matters that were aimed to promote the public good and general welfare. He was a Democrat in politics.

Frank Hisey, his son, was married in 1882 to Mary J. Lowery, the daughter of Joseph P. and Margaret (McCord) Lowery, who came to Indiana from Montgomery county, Ohio. Mr. Hisey has been a farmer all his life and has proved a successful one. He attended the schools of his district, as did his brothers and sisters, and obtained as good an education as these schools afforded. He was taught the lessons of industry and thrift that were a part of the daily life of farm boys of the period, and these lessons he has applied to his advantage. He and his wife have become the parents of eleven children, all of whom are living and with one exception residents of their father's farm. A daughter, Cora, is married. The other children are: Stella, Mary, Alma, John, Anna, Elmer, Frederick, Velma, Opal and Thurman. Mr. Hisey lives on forty acres of the original homestead. He has come into possession of



this tract and conducts a general farming business. His farm is at a high stage of cultivation and most admirably improved. The home and other buildings that are situated on it are modern and convenient, and the fencing and similar improvements are satisfactory.

Mr. Hisey is one of the strong men of his community. He takes an active and personal interest in the affairs of his county. He has been honored by his fellows by being elected to political office, and, like his father, has served as township assessor and trustee. His father was also for a time justice of the peace. Mr. Hisey is esteemed by all who know him and his wisdom is appealed to frequently in matters of vital importance to his associates.

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### JONAS NEUENSCHWANDER.

Among the enterprising and successful agriculturists of French township, Adams county, Indiana, none stands higher in public esteem than he whose name heads this sketch. He is a native of the township in which he now resides, having been born on the 15th of January, 1860. He is the son of Christian and Barbara (Gerber) Neuenschwander. These parents were both natives of Canton Berne, Switzerland, where the father was born on December 10, 1812. They emigrated to the United States in 1840 and settled in Wayne county, Ohio, where they farmed for two years, and then located in Wells county, Indiana, where they engaged in agricultural pursuits. Two years later they came to the present homestead in French township, which was at that time lo-

cated in a dense wilderness. They at once proceeded to clear and cultivate a small tract of land, which was increased in extent year by year until finally it was considered one of the best farms of the locality. They were the parents of fifteen children, namely: John, Jacob, Benjamin, Cleophas, Elizabeth, Jonas, Rachel, Fannie (deceased), Annie, Daniel, Jeff, Aldin, Emma, Mary and Lydia, the last two of whom are deceased. In 1898 Christian Neuenschwander sold his farm and moved to Bluffton, Ohio, where he made his home with his son-in-law, John Burkholder. He died November 30, 1905, at the home of his son Cleophas. He was a public-spirited man and commanded the universal confidence and esteem of all good people.

The subject of this sketch received a good common school education and was reared to the life of a farmer, which pursuit he has followed throughout his life. His work has been methodical and he has exhibited marked judgment in matters pertaining to successful agriculture and is considered one of the leading farmers of his locality. His present farm embraces one hundred and twenty acres of land, nearly all of which is under the plow and in a productive condition. He has resided on his present place five years and among the substantial improvements thereon may be noted a large and splendid residence and a commodious barn. Combined with a general line of farming Mr. Neuenschwander also gives some attention to live stock raising, principally hogs and shorthorn cattle. He takes a deep interest in public affairs and is an adherent of the Democratic party. His ability has been recognized by his fellow citizens, who elected him trustee of French township,



in which office he served for seven years, and also served as county treasurer for four years.

In 1888 the subject married Miss Maggie Bischoff, daughter of John and Elizabeth Bischoff, both natives of Canton Berne, Switzerland, the father having been killed while acting as a guide to a party of English lords among the mountains of Switzerland, his death being caused by an avalanche of snow and ice. They were the parents of four children: Grover W., Fanny, Homer and Martin. Christian Neuenschwander was married twice. His first wife was Barbara Roth, and two children, John and Jacob, were born to this union. His second wife was Barbara Garber.

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#### E. D. McCOLLUM.

E. D. McCollum is a native of the state of Indiana and has lived in this state all his life except the time he spent fighting his country's battles in the struggle to preserve the Union. He is a farmer of the progressive type, and has followed agricultural pursuits to the exclusion of other kinds of business. He was born in Jay county, Indiana, in 1843. He is the son of Daniel and Eliza Ann Davis, natives of Ohio, who came to Indiana with the earlier bands of immigrants who sought new homes in the new state. In 1841 his parents arrived in Jay county and commenced to clear and improve the land they secured. They lived in this county and developed their land to a satisfactory stage of productivity for the succeeding fourteen years, when they removed to Minnesota. However, they were not pleased with the

prospects in the northwestern territory and in 1861 returned to Indiana. They purchased a farm in Jay county and remained on it for one year, when they again went west, this time to Iowa. Two years of Iowa life sufficed them. They longed for the fields and scenes of Indiana, and in 1863 they moved back to this state, buying land in Wells county. Later the elder McCollum operated a sawmill and finally removed to the village of Geneva, where he and his wife lived until their deaths. Both parents lived exemplary lives and both were among those who had the very highest respect and esteem of all who knew them or came in contact with them in the ordinary course of business and social life.

E. D. McCollum was born of these worthy parents in Jay county in a time when life meant a strenuous existence to the makers of a new state. His early life was spent on his father's farm, where he learned the lessons that meant much in his later life. He attended the schools of his immediate district and secured such educational advantages as the meager conditions of his time and section afforded. When large enough he assisted his father in the operation of the farm and when his parents went to Minnesota he accompanied them. He continued to live with his parents until the beginning of the Civil war, when he enlisted in Company K, of the Eighty-ninth Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He served throughout the war and was a good and faithful soldier. He saw much active campaigning and with the armies of the southwest fought in a number of important engagements. He fought in the battle at Mumfordsville and Tupelo, Mississippi; at Meridian in the same state, and at Nashville. He was in the Red River ex-



pedition and saw almost continual fighting and skirmishing. Although he saw much actual battle, he escaped without injuries of any kind. At times his clothing was pierced with bullets, but he escaped unharmed. When the war closed Mr. McCollum returned to Indiana and purchased a farm. He cleared portions of this and reduced it to cultivation. He was industrious and painstaking and in a short time found that his farm was proving profitable.

In 1867 Mr. McCollum was married to Miss Catherine Fritz, a daughter of George W. and Virginia Fritz, who were natives of Fairfield county, Ohio. This couple became the parents of eight children, seven of whom are still living. Those living are: Warren F., Lola A., Oakley, Otis, Kemp Counselor, Lizzie, Ora Marie and Leland. Charles Wilson, another child, is dead.

Today Mr. McCollum is pointed out as one of the successful farmers of his neighborhood. His farm consists of one hundred and seventy acres, all of which, with the exception of fifty acres which is timbered, has been improved and is extremely productive. He does general farming and his crops each year are excellent and satisfactory. He has erected a fine and comfortable home on his place, and his barn and outbuildings are modern and well adapted to meet the demands of the farm. He is a Republican in politics and served a term of four years as a justice of the peace. One of his daughters is one of the two women mail carriers of the county. He is a broad-minded man and tolerant of the opinions of others. He is public spirited and takes a lively and intelligent interest in the affairs of his county and state. He is respected and esteemed.

### J. A. BUCKMASTER.

There is in all probability no better known educator in Adams county than J. A. Buckmaster, the subject of this sketch. He has been identified prominently with the educational movements and developments of this county for the past twelve years and has made a place for himself among the leaders of thought in his district. He was born in Jefferson township, Adams county, April 4, 1874. He is a son of David and Sarah (Hutchinson) Buckmaster. His father was born in Holmes county, Ohio, and was married in that state. He migrated to Indiana and brought his young wife with him. He made the long trip in 1852 and settled on a farm which he cultivated. J. A. Buckmaster, his son, was one of a family of five children, four of whom are still living. He was reared on his father's farm in Jefferson township and received his preliminary education in the common schools of the neighborhood. After completing his course in the common schools he taught in Jefferson township for two years. He aspired to a better education and following the completion of his second year as a teacher he entered the Tri-State Normal College at Angola, Indiana. After completing his course in this institution, where he did good work and secured high standards, he returned to his home in Jefferson township. He at once resumed his work as a teacher and has since continued in it. He began teaching when but nineteen years of age and served as an educator for more than twelve years.

He was placed on the Republican county ticket in 1898 for clerk against his consent, which resulted in defeat, but led all Repub-



lican candidates in the number of votes he received. In 1904 he was the Republican candidate for trustee of Jefferson township and was again defeated and without dismissing school during the campaign reduced a Democratic majority of eighty-three votes to a Democratic majority of seven. He owns and lives on a farm of forty acres in Jefferson township, also owns one-third interest in a string of oil tools with Mr. J. L. Yancy and D. H. Rumpke.

When the Jefferson Township Telephone Company was organized a few years ago it was the second mutual company in this part of the county. Mr. Buckmaster was elected its president for the first year and at the end of that term was re-elected for the next year. He has since held the office of secretary for the company two years. This company is now one of the largest, if not the largest, in the county. It has many miles of lines and about one hundred phones.

During this time he has proved himself an able and efficient educator and to his patience and efforts many youths of Jefferson township owe their introduction to the world of culture and intellectual attainments. He is a teacher who takes a keen interest in the progress of his profession and keeps abreast of its progression. He is interested in various associations and attends sessions of the state meeting and of county institutes. He has also frequently taught vocal music.

He was married in 1898 to Miss Harriet A. Brewster, a daughter of Daniel and Loverda (Bebout) Brewster. His wife's father is a native of Pennsylvania and came to Indiana in an early day. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Buckmaster: Angelo T., Claudie B., Lois L. and Verlyn

G. Mr. Buckmaster is a Republican and has always voted the ticket of this party. He is in no sense a public man and has not aspired to public office. However, he keeps in touch with public changes and events and is well informed upon most political subjects. He and the members of his family attend the Evangelical church. Fraternally Mr. Buckmaster is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is the present teacher of the school of District No. 2, of Wabash township, and the school at the last session numbered seventy-three pupils.

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#### WILLIS FRANK JOHNSON.

Among the practical and successful farmers of Jefferson township, Adams county, Indiana, none command a higher degree of popular esteem and respect than he whose name heads this sketch. He is a native of the township in which he now resides, having been born on the 1st day of October, 1867. He is the son of James and Christina (Byers) Johnson. The father was born in Pennsylvania on January 20, 1820, and died in June, 1893. The mother was born in Hamburg, Germany, in 1832, dying in January, 1892. They came to Adams county in 1843, entering government land, which now comprises the subject's farm, on which they lived until their deaths. The father was a hard worker and exercised great judgment in the improvement of his farm, so that at the time of his death it was a valuable piece of real estate.

Willis Frank Johnson attended the township schools in his youth and secured a good practical education. Upon attaining maturity



years he took up the labors of the farm, which he has since successfully conducted, and has proved himself one of the really progressive farmers of the locality. All but fifteen acres of this ninety-acre farm are under the plow and are devoted to the production of a general line of crops, such as are common to this locality. In addition to a general line of farming, he gives some attention to the breeding and raising of stock. In politics he is a Republican, while his religious affiliation is with the United Brethren church.

In 1892 Mr. Johnson married Miss Lena Myers, daughter of Henry and Barbara (Shank) Myers, the former an early settler of this county and one of the well-known early millers. To the subject's marriage have been born eight children: Ivan; Oro, deceased; Dorá; Hobert, deceased; Lula; Lola, deceased; Herbert and Minnie.

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#### BARTLY BURK.

One day in the early decades of the last century a wagon laden with the household effects of a pioneer family made its dusty way across the northeastern boundary of what is now the state of Indiana and toiled onward in the new state, finally coming to the end of its tiresome and hazardous journey in Wabash township, Jay county. The wagon was driven by Bartly Burk, who with his wife and several children had left their former home in Ohio to seek a new one in Indiana. The father was a native of Ohio and was born in that state in the year 1818; the mother, also a native of Ohio, was born two years later than her husband. Reach-

ing this state, the elder Burk purchased one hundred acres of land and began to reduce it to cultivation. There followed days of the hardest kind of labor, but the spirit of the men who made the new west was in him and he conquered all difficulties. Before he had finished clearing his entire purchase he disposed of twenty acres. The remaining eighty acres he soon had improved and all under cultivation. He lived on his Indiana farm until his death. He was a strong personality. He took much interest in state and national politics and was a staunch Whig until the organization of the Republican party, after which event he voted the Republican ticket whenever called upon to exercise his right of franchise.

Bartly Burk, the son of this rugged pioneer, was born on the old farm in Wabash township, October 11, 1858. He was a member of a family of nine children, eight of whom are still living. His early life was spent on his father's farm, where he worked and learned to develop the qualities that make for strong manhood. His education would be considered meager when measured with the educational standards of today, but for the time and environment was the best to be had. He profited by it and got out of his "schooling" all that it was possible for him to do. In 1881 Mr. Burk was married to Miss Christiana Kelly, the daughter of Jonathan and Esther (Champer) Kelly. Her parents were originally from Carroll county, Ohio, where her father was born, February 14, 1823. Her mother was born January 23, 1823. In 1850 her parents moved to Jefferson township, Adams county, Indiana, where her father settled eighty acres of timber land. This he cleared and finally brought to a high stage of cultiva-



tion. Mr. and Mrs. Burk are the parents of four children, all of whom are living. These children are: Otis, a teacher; Lola May, Minnie Pearl and Vilas.

Mr. Burk is the owner of a fine farm and one that is producing a steady income for its owner. His land is rich and his crops are large and remunerative. The buildings on his farm are ample and modern. He is in every way a respected citizen and a man whose judgment is deferred to in events of more than ordinary importance. He is a Republican in politics and is one of the strong men of his party in the section of the state in which he lives.

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#### MARTIN BOBNMOYER.

Ohio, the state lying directly to the eastward of Indiana, has furnished many people who have contributed to the growth and fame of the Hoosier commonwealth. The hardy folk from the seaboard states have made their way across the Pennsylvania mountains, paused a while in Ohio and then either themselves or their descendants have pushed on to Indiana. Among these children of pioneer parents who pushed on to Indiana is Martin Bobnmoyer. His parents, George and Lydia (Henninger) Bobnmoyer, were natives of Pennsylvania. They migrated to Ohio and settled in Butler county, where Martin was born, November 25, 1836. Later his parents moved to Mercer county, where they lived until their deaths. They were the parents of a large family and had fourteen children, nine of whom are still living. These children are: Lucie, Polly, Sarah, Martin, George, Mary

and Susan. Those dead are: Sophia, Henry, Julia Ann, Frederick, Jacob and Lydia.

The subject of this sketch was married in 1868 to Millie Hilleary, the daughter of Enos and Rachael (Rickner) Hilleary. She was one of a family of ten children, of whom the others were: Tillman, Harriet Jane, Sylvester, an infant now dead, Nellie Ann, Nathaniel (deceased), Sarah Lavina (deceased), Rachael, Maniel and Manda. At the beginning of the Civil war Mr. Bobnmoyer enlisted in Company I of the Seventeenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry and served three months with this command. He again enlisted in the Seventy-first Ohio Infantry and served for two years with this regiment. He again entered the service in the same regiment and company and saw busy times until he was finally mustered out of the government service at San Antonio, Texas, in 1866. War proved to be a serious business with Mr. Bobnmoyer and he saw much active service. He was engaged with his command in several of the larger battles of the war and fought at the battle of Shiloh, through the Atlanta campaign, at Franklin, Tennessee, and at Nashville, Tennessee.

Returning to his home in Mercer county, Ohio, after his discharge at San Antonio, he resumed his work of farming and continued to operate the farm his father had tilled until 1877. In this year he came overland by wagon to Adams county, Indiana, where he settled in the woods. He soon purchased forty acres and at once started to clear the heavily timbered land and to force it to a state of productivity. Years of unceasing toil followed his advent into Indiana and many struggles he and his wife had. But to their hardy natures there was no such word



as fail and in the end they met every difficulty and carved from the forbidding country a farm that today is as fine as any in its vicinity. The rude home that sheltered the newcomers to the strange land has been replaced by a handsome building and a barn and modern outbuildings are evidences of the thrift and energy of the sturdy farmer and attractive structures. The whole farm is well improved and Mr. Bobnmoyer makes a specialty of bee culture. Two children were born to this couple—George Enos, who lives at home and is married, and Henry Nathaniel, who is dead.

Mr. Bobnmoyer is a man of sound judgment and is a good neighbor and exemplary citizen. He votes the Democratic ticket, as did his father and as does his son, and is an esteemed member of the Christian church. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic at Geneva and a member of the Horse Thief Detective Association of Adams county.

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#### W. V. BUCKMASTER.

Among the men of the present generation who have won success and achieved note as tillers of the soil and who have meanwhile kept before them the fact that they owed something to the welfare of their fellow men must be mentioned the name of W. V. Buckmaster. He was born in Adams county, Indiana, November 22, 1865. He was the sturdy son of sturdy parents, who braved the western wilds and created a home for themselves under most unpromising conditions through their own efforts. David Buckmaster, the father of the subject of this sketch, was a native of Holmes county,

Ohio, and married Sarah Hutchinson, who was born in Wayne county of the same state. David migrated to Indiana and brought his young wife with him. He made the long trip to Adams county in 1852 and settled on a tract of land which he cultivated with some degree of success. His son, with whom this sketch is concerned, was one of a family of five children, four of whom still survive. Mr. Buckmaster was married in 1889 to Miss Elizabeth Thatcher, daughter of Hilman Thatcher. Mrs. Buckmaster's parents came originally from New Jersey. Her father was a stone mason and he followed his trade until his advancing years compelled his retirement from active business. Mr. and Mrs. Buckmaster are the parents of four children—Mabel, Leland, Marie and W. V., Jr.—all of whom live with their parents.

The tract of land on which this family make their home is a fine tract eighty acres in extent. Almost all of the farm is under cultivation and about half of the cultivated area was cleared by the labor of Mr. Buckmaster. There are eight hundred rods of tiling on the farm, and it is by this means thoroughly drained. In addition the farm is well ditched and fenced and as it is furnished with ample and adequate buildings, including a model and comfortable home, it is one of the most productive and valuable properties of its kind in the county. A portion of his land is under lease to an oil producing company, but thus far no wells have been drilled.

But Mr. Buckmaster has found time to interest himself in matters affecting directly the public good. He has been a consistent and a persistent worker in the cause of good roads, a supporter of the movement to install rural telephone lines that would bring



farmers in close touch with the outside world and with each other, and in many other ways demonstrated his public spirit and his earnest desire to do all that he might to contribute to the general good of his fellows and associates. He appreciates the advantages offered by culture and for six years taught school in his home township of Jefferson. He works in harmony with the members of the Democratic party of his county and has served as a township trustee, which office of trust and responsibility he discharged to his own and neighbors' entire satisfaction. He belongs to the Order of Ben-Hur and affiliates with the lodges at Geneva and Decatur.

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#### MALCOLM ALONZO RIPLEY.

Malcolm Alonzo Ripley, who owns and operates a well-cultivated and highly productive farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Blue Creek township, Adams county, Indiana, was born in Mercer county, Ohio, on the 19th of December, 1866, and is the son of John F. and Elizabeth M. (Edwards) Ripley, both also natives of Ohio. The father, who was born in Tuscarawas county, operated a saw mill after his removal to Mercer county. His death occurred on the 14th of February, 1876, and his wife died on the 4th day of July, 1886. Five children were born to this union: M. A., the subject of this sketch; Wildas, Benford, Giles and Ethel, the last named being deceased.

The subject of this sketch received his education in the common schools of Adams county and was reared to the life of a farm-

er, which pursuit he has consistently followed since. His farm is all under cultivation excepting seven acres of timber land and he gives practical and careful attention to every detail of the work. The farm bears many evidences of the owner's practical judgment, possessing splendid fences and large and commodious buildings. Aside from farming he also gives attention to the raising of Duroc hogs and a good grade of cattle.

In politics Mr. Ripley assumes an independent attitude, refusing to be bound by party dictates. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Willshire, Ohio.

On April 11, 1893, the subject married Miss Lillie Hopf, a daughter of Michael and Sarah (Kline) Hopf, natives of Germany and Tuscarawas county, Ohio, who after marriage settled in Mercer county, Ohio, where they followed farming. To the subject and his wife have been born five children: Earl, Forest, Fay, Leland and Dorothy. Mr. Ripley takes an active interest in the public affairs of his community and is regarded as one of the leading and successful citizens.

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#### WILLIAM C. CAMPBELL.

William C. Campbell, a leading and progressive citizen of Blue Creek township, Adams county, Indiana, is a native of the locality in which he now resides, having been born April 30, 1851. He is a son of George and Rebecca (Gilpin) Campbell, the father a native of Maryland and the mother of Pennsylvania. They accompanied their re-



spective parents to Ohio in an early day and located in Tuscarawas county, where they were subsequently married. In 1840 these parents came to Adams county, locating in Blue Creek township, making a settlement in the dense woods which then covered that region. Here their best labors were given to the clearing of a space sufficiently large to farm and the erection of a rude log cabin, which is characteristic of the early settlements of that day. In due time a comfortable home was created and in the course of years a considerable tract of land was cleared of timber and a splendid farm evolved. In addition to farming the senior Mr. Campbell followed carpentering and shoemaking, having learned the latter trade when a young man. George Campbell died in 1878 and his widow is still living, making her home with the subject of this sketch. These parents had eight children: Atha; Sarah, deceased; William C.; George; Henry C., deceased; Elijah; Rosa, deceased; Cynthia.

William C. Campbell received such an education as was obtainable in the schools of his day and gave early attention to the practical work of the farm. He is now the owner of sixty acres of land, all of which has been cleared and is now under the plow, the place being splendidly improved, with a full set of commodious and substantial buildings. A general line of farming is conducted and in connection some attention is given to the raising of shorthorn cattle and dairying, in which he is successful. Shropshire sheep and Chester White hogs also claim some attention, and in all of these varied lines Mr. Campbell has been successful to a marked degree. He takes a deep interest in all of the public affairs of the community and in

his religious affiliation is identified with the Methodist Episcopal church.

In 1874 he was married to Miss Clara Blossom, the daughter of Benjamin and Mrs. (Ball) Blossom. The father was a native of Maryland and upon his emigrating west in an early day he settled in Van Wert county, Ohio, subsequently coming to Washington township, Adams county, Indiana, where he lived a number of years, and then removed to Decatur, until his death. To Mr. and Mrs. Campbell have been born eight children: Iva, deceased; Grace, who is married and living in Linden, Illinois; Sylvester, who resides on a farm in this township; Milo, who is a resident of Gas City, Indiana; Lloyd, who is attending the State Normal school; Ermine, who resides with her sister at Linden, Illinois; Effie, deceased; and True, at home.

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#### JOHN P. BAKER.

Among the progressive farmers of Jefferson township is John P. Baker. Mr. Baker was born in Jefferson township, Adams county, Indiana, on February 19, 1880, and is the son of William C. and Phoebe (Gehm) Baker. These parents were natives of the old Buckeye State and came to Adams county in an early day, settling in the woods of Jefferson township, where Mr. Baker applied himself to the clearing of a tract of land and the prosecution of agricultural pursuits. To William and Phoebe Baker were born ten children: Otto, Daniel, Emma, John P., Katie, Jacob, Christenia, Laura, Marion and Noah. The father of these children was a staunch Democrat but never held public office.



John P. Baker, upon receiving a common school education, entered actively upon the duties of farm life, to which he has applied himself during the subsequent years. His father, William C., owns three hundred and ninety-two acres of splendid land lying mostly in Jefferson township, this county. This large tract of land is handled in such a manner as to bring the best results and Mr. Baker has just reason to be proud of the success which comes to him in his chosen calling. He raises numbers of sheep and hogs and is considered one of Adams county's leading citizens. He is a staunch Democrat in politics and takes a healthy interest in local public affairs, his influence always being given to the upbuilding of his community. Religiously John P. is identified with the United Brethren church.

On January 23, 1907, Mr. Baker was married to Miss Edna Landfair, daughter of Frank and Emma (Kuhn) Landfair, natives of Black Creek township, Mercer county, Ohio.

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#### ANDREW J. PORTER.

Andrew J. Porter, who occupies and cultivates a splendid farm of forty acres in Blue Creek township, Adams county, Indiana, was born in Licking county, Ohio, on June 8, 1848. He is the son of William and Margaret (Hoskinson) Porter, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Licking county, Ohio. The father was a farmer and came to Ohio with his father, Matthew Porter, a native of Pennsylvania, but of Irish descent, his great-grandfather Porter having come from the north of Ire-

land some time prior to the Revolutionary war and settling in the above named state. William Porter lived in Ohio until 1864, when he came to Adams county, settling near Chattanooga, and followed farming until his death on September 15, 1871. His wife died on the 25th of August, 1858. Unto the subject's parents were born twelve children, of whom four are now living, namely: Rebecca, Andrew J., Rachael and John R.

The subject of this sketch attended the common schools of his locality and during vacation periods labored on the farm until twenty years old, when he determined upon a legal career and to this end he studied law in the office of Colonel I. N. Alexander and was admitted to the bar in 1873. He practiced law at Van Wert, Ohio, for ten years and in 1878 was chosen mayor of that city and re-elected two years later. In October, 1880, he was elected prosecuting attorney of the county and in consequence resigned his mayoralty. In 1883 he came to Blue Creek township, Adams county, and for a few years lived on his father's farm, subsequently buying the farm which he now occupies.

It is a splendid piece of land and is given a most careful attention by Mr. Porter, who has not had cause to regret his change of occupation. In politics he gives a staunch support to the Democratic party and fraternally is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Van Wert, Ohio, and the Knights of Pythias at Berne.

In 1874 Mr. Porter married Miss Parthena Shaffer, daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth (Garver) Shaffer, the former a native of Preble county, Ohio, who came to Adams county in 1850, locating in Blue Creek township, where he followed farming and carpentering. To the subject and his



wife have been born five children, of whom three are living: William S., who married Susie Calderwood and resides in Dayton, Ohio, where he occupies a position as photographer for the cash register company; Frances and Giles, who are at home.

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#### JACOB C. NEUENSCHWANDER.

Jacob C. Neuenschwander, who successfully cultivates a fine farm of eighty acres in Monroe township, Adams county, Indiana, was born in Putnam county, Ohio, on July 19, 1848. He is a son of Christian P. and Anna (Lehman) Neuenschwander, natives of Switzerland, who came to Ohio in 1845, and after four years' residence there, removed to Iowa. Subsequently they came to Adams county, Indiana, where they remained until their deaths, the father dying in 1887 and the mother in 1889. They were the parents of fourteen children, of whom the following are still living: Katie, Fanny, Adeline, Elizabeth, Leah, Jacob C., David and Christ.

The subject of this sketch received his early training in the common schools of Monroe township, where he learned the secrets of successful husbandry, which occupation has been his life work until recently. He cleared his entire tract of land, placed upon it many permanent and substantial buildings. On December 14, 1905, Mr. Neuenschwander removed to Berne, renting the farm to his son-in-law, who now successfully operates the same. Prior to the improvement of the farm mentioned Mr. Neuenschwander cleared and improved another farm, which he disposed of when removing to the last named place.

In 1872 the subject married Miss Elizabeth Stauffer, the daughter of Christian and Fanny (Habbager) Stauffer, natives of Switzerland, and to this union have been born twelve children: Anna, who is married and living on the old home farm; Adam, who is a carpenter in Monroe township; Lovina, who lives in Berne; Emanuel and David, who reside with their parents; Theressa, who is living in Ohio; Andrew, who is at home, and five who died in infancy. For many years Mr. Neuenschwander cast his vote for the Democratic party, but recently has given his allegiance to the Prohibition party. He is a member of the Mennonite church and takes an active interest in all things tending to upbuild the best interests of the community.

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#### JACOB WULLIMANN.

Jacob Wullimann, who is numbered among French township's successful farmers and progressive citizens, was born in Canton Berne, Switzerland, on December 21, 1840. He is the son of Clemenz and Elizabeth (Habbeger) Wullimann, who came from their native land to the United States in 1852, settling first in Putnam county, Ohio. A short time later, however, they removed to Adams county, Indiana, settling in the midst of a woods in French township. Here a rude log cabin was erected, in which the family resided for thirty-five years, and here they endured all the privations and hardships which characterized the first settlements, being compelled to haul produce to Fort Wayne with oxen and sleds, and it is related that it was necessary to take axes with



them in order to cut their way through the woods. These parents had seven children: Mary, deceased; Jacob; Lizzie; Edward, deceased; Lena, deceased, and Anna, who became the wife of David Soldner, of Monroe township. The parents of these children died in 1892.

Jacob Wullimann received such an education as was found in the primitive schools of the early days and was inured to the strenuous labor incident to farm life. He always has followed farming as an occupation and has been successful to a satisfactory degree, possessing now a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, of which one hundred and thirty are under the plow, the balance being pasture and woodland. In addition to general farming Mr. Wullimann also gives some attention to the raising of live stock, principally Hereford cattle and O. I. C. hogs. He has made many substantial and permanent improvements on the place, including a fine house and commodious barn. As an evidence of Mr. Wullimann's progressive spirit it may be stated that he was one of the first men in this locality to place drain tile on his farm. He soon proved the value of this and others followed his example. The country was wild when he first came here and much wild game, including many deer, was plentiful. He has always voted the Republican ticket, though never held office. Religiously he is a member of the Mennonite church.

In 1868 Mr. Wullimann married Miss Katheryn Neuenschwander, daughter of Christian and Anna (Lehman) Neuenschwander, who came to this country in 1845, settling first in Wayne county, Ohio. Subsequently they went to Iowa, but eventually came east again and located in Monroe

township, where they followed farming during the remainder of their lives. To the subject and his wife have been born twelve children: Noah, living near Berne; William, who resides at home and follows the trade of carpentering; Edward, Adeline and Jacob, deceased; Anna, David, Mennis, Lydia and Melita, who are at home; Bernhard, who is deceased.

Clemenz Wullimann's first wife, mother of subject, died and Clemenz married the second time to Elizabeth Liechty, who died the same day Clemenz died, and both were buried in the same grave, in 1892.

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#### SAMUEL LEHMAN.

Samuel Lehman, who after many years of strenuous and unremitting labor as a successful farmer of this county, is now living a retired life in his comfortable and beautiful home in Berne, was born in Wayne county, Ohio, on the 9th of June, 1841, and is the son of Christian and Magdalena (Giger) Lehman. The father was born in Switzerland on January 15, 1805, and the mother in Canton Berne, Switzerland, on August 2, 1802. They were farmers, living in the mountainous region of that country, and after their marriage came to Wayne county, Ohio, in 1840, settling on a farm which they operated until their deaths, the father dying April 30, 1883, and the mother June 5, 1872. They were the parents of three children: John A., who for many years followed farming at Wooster, Wayne county, Ohio, but is now retired; Christian A., deceased, who also followed farming in Wayne county, Ohio; and the subject of this



sketch. The paternal grandfather, Christian Lehman, who was a successful farmer in his native land, never came to the United States.

Samuel Lehman received his early education in a rude log cabin and it is an interesting fact that the cabin in which he learned his first lessons is still standing on the old home farm in Wayne county, Ohio. In 1867 Mr. Lehman came to Adams county, settling in Wabash township, where he remained during the summer, and then purchased a farm in Monroe township. He followed carpentering for two years, subsequently settling on his farm, where he lived for thirty-five years, when on December 22, 1903, he came to Berne and has since here resided. During the last fifteen years, in connection with his farming, he also successfully conducted an undertaking business. He is the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of splendid land, well improved with many permanent and substantial buildings. In Berne Mr. Lehman erected a beautiful and commodious brick house on Lehman street, which thoroughfare was named in honor of his family. He votes independently and though not an aspirant for public office, he has served two terms as supervisor of Monroe township. Religiously he is a member of the Mennonite church. Mr. Lehman has taken an active interest in the local history of the Berne settlement, of which he has a complete and authentic record, containing the births and deaths of six hundred families, the only record of the kind in the community.

The subject has been twice married, the first time in 1865 to Miss Elizabeth Oberly, who was born November 4, 1844, the daughter of Peter and Susana (Von Can-

dle) Oberly, farming folk of Wayne county, Ohio. To this union was born one child: Josephine, who died at the age of three months. Mrs. Elizabeth Lehman died December 10, 1866, and on October 31, 1867, Mr. Lehman married Elizabeth Sprunger, daughter of Abraham B. and Elizabeth (Zuercher) Sprunger, natives of the same locality in Switzerland from whence came the subject's family. The Sprunger family came to America July 6, 1854, settling first in Wayne county, Ohio, but three months later came to Adams county, Indiana, settling, on the 4th of October, on a farm in the woods in Monroe township. Abraham B. Sprunger, who was born October 7, 1819, died August 2, 1896, and his wife, who was born August 12, 1813, died August 16, 1887. To the subject's last union have been born eleven children: William R., a farmer living in Phoenix, Arizona; Caroline R., who is living in Berne; Emma, who resides in Blue Creek township, this county; Daniel J., deceased; Solomon A., of Fort Wayne; Helena M., who is living in Berne; Noah M., of Monroe township; Enos W. and Leonhard, who live in Berne; Matilda E., who resides at home, but is now attending a mission Bible school in Fort Wayne, and Wilbert H., at home.

The subject served for eighteen years as trustee of the Mennonite church. He was appointed in 1879 and served until 1897.

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#### DAVID SCHINDLER.

David Schindler, who for over a third of a century has owned and operated a splendid farm in French township, Adams county, Indiana, and who, during all these years, has



lived an honorable and upright life among his fellow citizens, was born in French township on November 19, 1849. He is the son of John and Catherine (Moser) Schindler, the former of whom was born in Germany, but came to the United States at an early date. He first worked as a farm hand in New York state for eight years for one man and then came to Wayne county, Ohio, where he farmed again until his removal to Adams county in 1846. He first settled in French township, which was at that time in a very unsettled condition. He here cleared and improved a fine farm, which he operated up to the time of his death. He was the father of seven children: Jacob, John, Christ, deceased; Peter, Catherine, David, Sarah.

The subject of this sketch received his education in the schools of his locality and was early inured to the life of a farmer. He is the owner of eighty acres of fine land, on which are raised all the crops common to this latitude and also gives some attention to the breeding and raising of Poland China and Duroc hogs.

January 7, 1872, Mr. Schindler was married to Miss Catherine Schlatter, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Augusberger) Schlatter, who came here in an early day and settled in French township, where they followed farming. Both are now deceased. Catharina Schindler died December 19, 1876, aged fifty-six years, two months and sixteen days. John S. died August 12, 1877, aged eighty-two years. Joseph Schlatter died September 3, 1872, aged fifty-four years, eleven months and four days. Elizabeth S. died December 15, 1897, aged eighty-three years, nine months and ten days.

To the subject and his wife have been

born twelve children, whose names, with the years of their birth, are as follows: Noah, who was born in 1872; Lizzie, 1874; Cassie, 1875; Elmer, 1877; Joseph, 1878; John, 1880; Samuel, 1882; Menno, 1884; Simon, 1886; Ella, 1889; Edwin, 1891; Selena, 1894. The family are members of the Missionary church and occupy a high position in the community.

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### ELIAS HIRSCHY.

Elias Hirschy, who is numbered among Wabash township's most successful agriculturists and stock breeders, is a native of this county, having been born on the 22d of August, 1859. He is the son of Philip and Mary (Richer) Hirschy, natives, respectively, of Switzerland and France. The father was born in 1824 and at the age of twelve years decided that his future hopes laid in America. Putting his convictions into practice, he at once emigrated and located first in Starke county, Ohio, where he lived for twelve years and followed his trade of carpentering. Locating in Wabash township, Adams county, in 1847, he at once entered upon the task of creating a farm out of the dense wilderness which then covered that region, and in this effort was successful to the highest degree, being numbered among the most progressive farmers of the community. He died October 12, 1899, and his wife died December 6, 1893.

The subject of this sketch obtained a good education in the common schools of his native township and upon attaining mature years entered actively upon the life to which he had been inured, that of a farmer. He



is the owner of eighty acres of as good land as can be found in the township, all under the plow excepting twelve acres of pasture and woodland, and here he carries on general farming, also giving some attention to the breeding of live stock.

In politics Mr. Hirschy assumes an independent attitude, voting independently. Though not ambitious for public office, he served as school director for three years. He attends the Mission church at Berne.

Mr. Hirschy has been twice married, the first time to Miss Magdalena Stuckey, daughter of Jacob and Barbara (Gerig) Stuckey, natives of Switzerland, who came to Adams county, Indiana, in an early day. The father is now deceased and the mother resides in Berne at the age of seventy-seven. To this union have been born three children: Matilda, Norman and Meta. Mr. Hirschy's second marital union was with Miss Katie Lehman, daughter of Christ and Anna (Springer) Lehman, early settlers of this county, and to this union were born two children: Selma and Ida. The children all reside at home and received a good education in the public schools of the township.

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#### MARTIN L. SMITH.

Martin L. Smith, who resides on a well-improved farm in Wabash township, Adams county, Indiana, is a native of the locality in which he now lives and was born November 6, 1859. He is a son of Franklin and Catherine (Rawley) Smith, residents, respectively, of Pennsylvania and Virginia, who came to Indiana in an early day, and such was the roughness of the country at

that time that it was necessary for them to cut a road through the woods. To them were born nine children: Elizabeth, deceased; William R.; John, deceased; one who died in infancy; Sidney, deceased; Martin, the subject; Eliza J.; Alice, deceased, and Hannah. After the father of these children married they moved to Root township, where he remained a short time, eventually going elsewhere, but before his death returned to Root township and died there in 1871. His wife is still living in Decatur. After her first husband's death she became the wife of J. Rugg, of Decatur, now deceased.

The subject of this sketch received a good practical education in the common schools and early took up the pursuit of farming under the able tutorship of his father. He has been eminently successful as an agriculturist, due to the sound judgment exercised by him in the rotation of his crops and other features which contribute to successful agriculture. He owns one hundred and nine acres of land, on which he has resided since 1887, and to which he has devoted his entire time. He carries on general farming and gives some attention to the breeding and raising of Poland China hogs and Shropshire sheep. Mr. Smith has erected all of the present buildings on the farm and has also constructed the splendid fences and well-built ditches which now characterize the place. In politics he is a Democrat and has served two terms on the advisory board of the township. He is a member of the Evangelical church. In 1881 he married Miss Isabella Kern, daughter of Philip B. and Mary (Luckey) Kern, early settlers of Union township. To this union were born six children, namely: Philip, Hannah,



Clayton, Orvie, Gertrude and Leslie, all at home.

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### MARION L. OLIVER.

Marion L. Oliver, manager of the Monroe Grain, Hay and Milling Company, Monroe, Adams county, Indiana, is a native of the state of Ohio, having been born at Greenville, Darke county, on October 8, 1864. He is the son of Silas and Mary (North) Oliver. The father was also a native of Darke county, Ohio, as was his wife, and they came to Adams county with their family in 1873, settling in Monroe township, where they resided until their deaths. He was a Democrat in politics and himself and wife were members of the United Brethren church.

Marion L. Oliver received his education in the common schools of Adams county and under his father's able instructions was early taught the secrets of successful husbandry. He followed agricultural pursuits consistently and successfully until 1892, when he came to Monroe and accepted a position as manager for J. D. Hale, of Decatur, owner of a grain elevator at Monroe. He continued in this line of business until 1907. He is also an extensive dealer in hay, buying and shipping large quantities. For ten years of this time Mr. Oliver was associated in business with J. D. Hale, of Decatur, Indiana, and subsequently with the Carroll Elevator Company, successors to Mr. Hale. At the elevator Mr. Oliver purchased or stored more grain in a single day than any other elevator in the county, amounting at times to nearly ten thousand bushels. In 1907 the Monroe Grain, Hay and Milling Company was organized and

Mr. Oliver is its manager. He takes an active interest in general business affairs and is considered among Monroe's leading and progressive citizens. He is a staunch Democrat in politics and he is now serving as town clerk of Monroe.

In 1886 Mr. Oliver married Miss Ellen Wistner, daughter of W. A. and Adeline (La Master) Wistner, natives of Washington township, Adams county, Indiana, and descended of earliest settlers. To this union have been born three children, namely: Chauncey, Homer W. and Edward F. Homer is receiving a good education, now attending the normal school at Marion, Indiana.

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### WILLIAM A. BOWMAN.

William A. Bowman is a native of Adams county, Indiana, and was born in French township, July 14, 1860. He is a son of Gideon and Aline (Sautbine) Bowman. His father was born in Pennsylvania and removed to Indiana, settling in French township in a very early day. He followed the occupation of a farmer all his life and died in French township on his homestead in 1898. Mr. and Mrs. Gideon Bowman were the parents of six children. These children were named as follows: Isaac, Angeline, deceased; William A., Elizabeth, Loretta and Nettie. Gideon Bowman was one of the older settlers of French township and was an ardent Democrat during his life. He was also a member of the Christian church.

Of his father's family of six children William A. Bowman was the third in order of birth and the second son born. He was reared on his father's farm in French town-



ship and attended the schools of his neighborhood. In these schools he secured as good a common school education as was possible at that time in his district and he improved all of his opportunities. During the months when there was no session of the district school he assisted his father in the cultivation of his farm and became an expert agriculturist. October 23, 1887, he was united in marriage to Miss Abbie Studabaker, born in Wells county, November 28, 1861, and a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Abram Studabaker. Her father was born in Ohio and her mother, who was Miss Louisa Dewitt before her marriage, was born in New York. Mr. and Mrs. Bowman have become the parents of nine children. Of this number eight are living. Those living are: Earl, Edward J., Bessie, Charles, Russell, Lloyd, Edith and Viola. A daughter, Pearl, is deceased.

After his marriage Mr. Bowman continued to live on the old homestead for several years. In 1901 he purchased his present tract of ninety acres in Washington township and has since resided on it. Since his farm came into his possession he has made many improvements on it. He has ditched it thoroughly and laid in excess of eight hundred dollars' worth of tiling. The entire place is under cultivation with the exception of about three acres, which are covered with a good quality of timber. The buildings on the farm are substantial and the entire place is a fine property. Mr. Bowman is a progressive farmer and applies modern methods to the cultivation of his estate.

Although he is an earnest member of the Democratic party and works for the interest of this party, it cannot be said that he is in

any sense a public man. He has never held public office nor aspired to hold any office of this nature. He is affiliated with no fraternal bodies, but he and his wife are consistent and generous members of the Methodist Episcopal church of his neighborhood. He is highly esteemed and counted among the strong men of his community.

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#### REUBEN BEERY.

Reuben Beery, who for more than a quarter of a century has resided on and cultivated a splendid farm in Kirkland township, Adams county, Indiana, and who is popular among the community's leading citizens, was born in this county in 1848, the 10th of January being his natal day. His parents were Eli and Hester (Blossom) Beery, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania and in young manhood came to Fairfield county, Ohio, and here followed farming until the time of his death, which occurred in 1883. At the time of coming here, in 1838, but few white settlers inhabited the county and the land was densely covered with timber, which gave little promise of the magnificent farms which now characterize this locality. To Eli and Hester Beery were born fourteen children, of whom six are still living. The subject's mother died in 1902.

Reuben Beery received his education in the common schools of this county and his entire life has been devoted to farming. Twenty-five years ago he obtained possession of his present farm, which consists of eighty acres of valuable and well-cultivated land, which he has been instrumental in



transforming from its original state to its present condition. Many substantial and convenient buildings have been erected and in many respects his farm is considered one of the best in the county.

In 1871 Mr. Beery was married to Miss Elizabeth Steele, daughter of Joseph and Mrs. Steele, both natives of Pennsylvania, who came to Adams county, Indiana, in an early day and settled in Kirkland township, where they followed farming. To the subject and his wife have been born ten children, namely: Flora, the wife of George Bright, Kirkland township; Rona, the wife of Oran Shaffer; James married Anna Kieffer and is a harness-maker at Hoagland, Indiana; Maggie and Edith are at home; Jesse married Jessie Springer and resides in this township; Clyde resides in Kirkland township; Mabel and Virgil are at home, and Ada is deceased. Politically Mr. Beery votes the Prohibition ticket, while his religious affiliation is with the Brethren of Christ church. In the fullest sense of the word Mr. Beery is a self-made man and commands the unstinted respect of his fellow citizens.

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#### CHRISTIAN BEERY.

It would be difficult to find a finer country estate in the whole of Adams county than that owned by Christ Beery in Washington township. This farm is one that is pointed out as among the model estates of the township and reflects much credit on its owner. He was born in Washington township, of Adams county, November 8, 1850. He is a son of Eli and Hester (Blosser) Beery.

His father and mother had a family of fourteen children, of whom the following survive: Melinda, Martin, Reuben, Christ, John and Daniel W. Eli Beery was born in Pennsylvania and came to Ohio and thence to Indiana. His wife was born in Ohio and after their marriage they settled in Washington township in 1849. At the time the elder Beery and his wife reached northeastern Indiana much of the township was wild land. They were compelled to clear the tract they settled on before it could be made productive. The woods abounded in many kinds of wild game and Eli Beery shot deer, turkeys and other game on the site of the pleasant acres of today. He erected a log cabin and this was the family home for some years. Later he erected a frame dwelling along more modern lines and still later this dwelling gave way to a substantial brick house that is still standing.

The youth and young manhood of Christ Beery was spent on his father's farm. He was educated in the rude schools of his boyhood day and secured as complete a common school education as was possible under the circumstances. When he became old enough he assisted in the work of cultivating the home farm and in time became a proficient tiller of the soil. In 1886 he was married to Miss Martha Burkhead, a daughter of John and Ann Burkhead, who were among the first settlers in Washington township.

The father of Mrs. Beery is dead, but her mother is still living in Washington township. The father of Mr. Beery died in 1879 and his mother in 1901. Mr. and Mrs. Beery have become the parents of two children: Frederick D. and Georgia Irene, both of whom are living with their parents



on the home farm. Although farming has been the principal occupation of Mr. Beery, he lived for a time in Decatur. However, the liking for a farm life became too strong to be denied and he returned to his present place in 1903. His farm is a fine one of one hundred acres, eighty of which are under cultivation. It is one of the most valuable in the neighborhood and easily worth one hundred and ten dollars an acre. It is all improved. The ditches are well placed and the fencing and buildings are substantial and modern. The farm crops are rotated with excellent judgment and are profitable. In addition to a general farming business Mr. Beery carries on stock raising. He deals largely in stock for the market and with his brother has bought and sold horses all over the country. As the recent panic that affected the horse market Mr. Beery and his brother lost upwards of thirty-two thousand dollars. Mr. Beery is in every sense a successful man. He is a successful farmer and stock dealer. He is well respected in the community where he resides.

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### JAMES McCUNE.

James McCune, one of the successful farmers of Monroe township and a representative citizen of Adams county, was born in Rush county, Indiana, August 3, 1840. He is a son of John and Mary (Aspy) McCune. His father was a native of Kentucky and was born in that state in 1812. His mother was born in Holmes county, Ohio, in 1811. The boyhood of John McCune was spent in Kentucky. When still a youth he removed with his father and his

family to Fayette county, Indiana. He was educated in the schools of Fayette county and lived on his father's farm in this section of the state until he grew to manhood. Following the death of his father John McCune removed with his wife to Hancock county, Indiana. He lived in this county and in Rush county for a short time and then returned to Fayette county. He purchased a farm in this latter county, which is now included in the corporation limits of the city of Connersville. He lived on this Fayette county farm until 1844, when he sold it and removed to Adams county, Indiana. After reaching northeastern Indiana he bought a farm in section 26 of Monroe township, Adams county, and operated this farm until his death in 1873. John McCune took an active part in the affairs of his community. In his early life he was a Whig and after the launching of the Republican party as the successor of the Whig party he affiliated with that organization. He was a member of the Monroe township board of trustees when the membership consisted of three to a township. He was not affiliated with any fraternal organization and was a staunch and generous member of the Christian church. He and his wife became the parents of twelve children, six of whom are still living. Mrs. John McCune survived her husband one year and died on the family homestead in Monroe township in 1874.

Their son, James McCune, was reared on his father's farms in Fayette and Adams counties. He was educated in the common schools of these two counties and secured as liberal an education as was possible under the circumstances. He learned the lessons of a farmer's life and applied these lessons



to advantage in his after life. At the outbreak of the Civil war he answered one of the first calls for volunteers to preserve the Union and enlisted in Company I of the Eighty-ninth Indiana Volunteer Infantry. Soon after his enlistment his regiment was attached to the Army of the Tennessee and he saw much real warfare. He participated with distinction in the engagements fought at Tupelo, Mississippi; Mumfordsville, Kentucky; Yellow Bayou, Louisiana; Franklin, Tennessee; the two days' siege of Nashville and at Fort Blackley, Alabama. He was twice taken prisoner by the Confederates and was severely wounded in the arm at the engagement fought at Tupelo, Mississippi. He served with his regiment until the close of the war in 1865 and was mustered out of the Federal service with an honorable discharge. He then returned to Adams county and resumed his life as a tiller of the soil.

The marriage of Mr. McCune and Miss Emeline Baker was solemnized in Adams county in 1860. His wife is a native of Indiana and a daughter of Jesse and Lydia (Vance) Baker. Her parents were among the older settlers in northeastern Indiana and came to Adams county in 1857. He purchased a farm in this county, which he cultivated until his death. Her parents had seven children, all of whom are still living. Mr. and Mrs. McCune are the parents of three children. These children are: John, Cynthia and Martin.

Mr. McCune is the owner of a fine tract of one hundred and twenty acres of land in Monroe township, on which he makes his home. All of his farm is under cultivation with the exception of twelve acres, which he allows to remain in timber. He has been

a farmer all of his life and has conducted his present farm since he returned from the Civil war. His farm is well improved and thoroughly ditched and drained. The land is very fertile and his crops each year are large and profitable. He has substantial fences about his property and the buildings on it are large and well adapted to the purposes to which they are put. He has done much carpenter work in connection with his farming and erected the buildings on his estate himself. He is in a very broad sense a successful man. He takes a live and intelligent interest in the affairs of his county and township, and has served his fellow residents in the important offices of township trustee, justice of the peace and as a member of the school board. He was a justice of the peace for Monroe township for fourteen years and discharged the duties of this exacting office with fearlessness and excellent judgment. He is a Republican in politics, as was his father before him, and his voice is frequently heard in the councils of his party in his community. With the members of his family he gives his support to the Christian church and is a faithful member of this denomination. He is a member of the Masonic Lodge, No. 512, of Decatur, of the local Grange Lodge, the F. M. B. A. and of the Grand Army of the Republic.

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#### FRANK ARNOLD.

Late in the first half of the last century the parents of Frank Arnold, around whom the interest in this sketch centers, journeyed from their home in Germany and settled in Indiana. They were August and Augusta



(Jann) Arnold and were born and married in Hanover, Saxony, Germany. Their son, Frank Arnold, was born in Hanover, November 14, 1840, and was nine years of age when his parents settled on a farm in Wells county, Indiana, in 1849. They lived in Wells county about eighteen months then sold their farm and removed to Adams county. Land was purchased in Kirkland township. August Arnold lived about ten years in Adams county and died aged forty-five years. His wife survived until 1902, when she died.

The years that immediately followed the removal of the Arnold family from Germany were filled with arduous toil. Their land in Adams county was rough and demanded that much labor be expended before it could be made productive. However, the difficulties were overcome and the land in time became profitable. The youth of Frank Arnold after coming to the United States was spent on his father's farm. He secured a meager education in the log cabin school of his immediate neighborhood and progressed satisfactorily in his studies. During the milder months of the year he assisted his father in clearing and improving his farm and was a dutiful and industrious son. He was the eldest of his parents' family of six children and naturally more responsibilities fell on him than upon the others. His father's family consisted of the following children: Frank, Melina, Charles, deceased; William, Lewis and Allie, deceased.

When the Civil war was engaging the entire country in a fearful struggle Frank Arnold answered a call for volunteers to help preserve the Union. He enlisted in Company C, One Hundred and Forty-second In-

diana Volunteer Infantry, and served with this command until he was mustered out of the service in 1865. His regiment was attached to the Army of the Tennessee and he saw much actual warfare. After his discharge he returned to Indiana and purchasing a tract of land in Kirkland township, in Adams county, took up the life of a farmer where the demands of war had interrupted it. Two years after the close of the war, in 1867, Mr. Arnold was married to Miss Susanna Berger. His wife was a native of Massillon, Ohio, and a daughter of Nicholas Berger, who, with his wife, were among the older settlers in Adams county. She is a member of a family of six children born to her parents. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Arnold. These children are: Albert, William, Charles, Sarah, Rosa and Edward. All live in Adams county.

Measured by a number of standards, Mr. Arnold is a successful man. Since he began living in Kirkland township he has engaged in a general farming business. He owns a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres, all of which is under cultivation, and raises Durham cattle and a good brand of swine. He appreciates the value of modern methods and applies them in the cultivation of his estate. All of his land is well ditched and drained and the fencing and buildings are substantial and suitable. In addition to his general farming business he operated a saw mill for about ten years and a threshing machine business for about eight years. All of his ventures have proved eminently successful and profitable. He is a man who takes an active interest in the affairs of his township and county and has served a term of two years in the important office of town-



ship supervisor. He is affiliated with the Republican party and is active in the work of this party in his section of Adams county. With his wife he is a member of the German Reformed church.

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#### CATHOLIC NELSON TYNDALL.

O. N. Tyndall, one of the best-known farmers of Blue Creek township, was an educator before he adopted the life of a farmer. In this latter calling he gained distinction and was also one of the most popular teachers of his city. He was born in Blue Creek township of Adams county, April 21, 1863. He is a son of John C. and Rachael (Wagers) Tyndall. His father was a native of Crawford county, Ohio, and his mother was born in Van Wert county of the same state. His father and mother came to Adams county in 1852 and settled on a farm that was practically in the woods. They cleared their estate and farmed it for a number of years. Late in life John C. Tyndall practiced law and gained an enviable reputation as a member of this profession. His wife died in 1867 and he survived her until 1885. John and Rachael Tyndall became the parents of six children: Eliza J., William J., Mary C., J. W., of Decatur; O. N. and Nancy, who died in infancy. After the death of his first wife John Tyndall was married for the second time to Miss Athia A. Campbell. Ten children were born of this union. These were named: Alice J., Lizzie, Joseph, deceased; George M., James T., Margaret, Belle, Perry, Maude and Esther.

was spent on his father's farm in Blue Creek township. He received his preliminary education in the common schools of his neighborhood and progressed satisfactorily. He decided to adopt the profession of teaching and accordingly after he completed his common school education he entered the normal college at Valparaiso, Indiana. He spent four years in this educational institution and graduated from it in 1885. After his graduation he returned to Decatur and began teaching. He taught through successive grades of the Decatur schools, and was the first principal of the west ward school of Decatur. In all he taught twenty-one years. He resided in Decatur for ten years and while he was city engineer put down the first crushed stone street in that city. Following the close of his work as a teacher Mr. Tyndall removed to a farm in Blue Creek township, which he had previously purchased. He has been living on his farm for the last ten years, although he has been the owner of it for twenty-two years.

He was married in 1890 to Miss Anna M. Wechter, a daughter of Jacob and Mary (Clancy) Wechter. Mr. and Mrs. Tyndall are the parents of one child, a daughter, Frances, who is living at home keeping house for her father.

The farm owned and operated by Mr. Tyndall is a fine place of eighty acres. It is well improved and all but ten acres are under cultivation. He carries on a general farming business and is a successful man. He raises a mixed breed of swine and disposes of them at a profit. When he purchased his farm only about half of it was improved and cleared. He has improved and cleared the remainder and has it now at a high stage of profitable cultivation. It

The youth of the subject of this sketch



is excellently drained and fenced and the farm buildings are adequate and commodious. Mr. Tyndall is a Democrat in politics and has served in public capacities with much credit to himself. He was deputy county surveyor for six years and has served his fellow residents of Blue Creek township in other valuable manners. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity and attends the Methodist Episcopal church.

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#### SYLVESTER C. TINKHAM.

Sylvester C. Tinkham is a native of Adams county and was born in Blue Creek township, July 12, 1858. He is a son of Dennison and Margaret (Scoles) Tinkham. His father was born in Vermont and came to Ohio with his parents and located near Columbus. His father was a farmer. Mary Tinkham was the daughter of early settlers in Ohio and was born in Knox county. After his marriage in Ohio Dennison Tinkham removed to Indiana with his wife. He settled in Adams county in 1834. The county was almost all wild land at this time and game and Indians were common. The elder Tinkham shot deer, wolves and bears on the site of his present property. The nearest trading point was Fort Wayne, and Dennison Tinkham hauled his produce to this city to find a market. In time he succeeded in clearing his farm and in making it one of the best and most valuable in Blue Creek township. His wife is since dead, but he is still living in Blue Creek township at the advanced age of ninety-three years. Mr. and Mrs. Dennison Tinkham became the parents of ten children, seven of whom are

still living. These children are: J. W., Lorenzo, William, Francis, Sylvester C., Rebecca and Elizabeth.

The youth of the subject of this sketch was spent on his father's farm in Blue Creek township. He attended the sessions of the rude schools of the neighborhood and secured as complete an education as was possible under the circumstances. He was an industrious youth and a dutiful son. He learned the wholesome lessons to be learned on a farm and applied these lessons to his profit in his after life. He lived on his father's farm and assisted in its cultivation until he grew to manhood.

Mr. Tinkham was married in 1894 to Miss Phoebe Murray. His wife is a native of Adams county and a daughter of Horatio Murray, who was among the oldest settlers in the northeastern section of Indiana. Her parents lived in St. Mary's township for many years, where they followed the occupation of farming, and then removed to Decatur. Mr. and Mrs. Tinkham are the parents of three children. The eldest of this family, Floyd, died some years ago. Alta G. and Dewitt are still living at home with their parents.

The present farm owned and occupied by Mr. Tinkham is a fine tract of one hundred and fifty-seven acres. He came into possession of it about thirteen years ago and has resided on it continuously since. Of the total acreage one hundred and thirty acres are under cultivation. The land is exceedingly fertile and it has been improved until it is a valuable and profitable property. The land is well drained and substantially fenced and the buildings are attractive and comfortable. A general farming business is carried on by Mr. Tinkham and he raises



some good breeds of swine. Mr. Tinkham is a man of much public spirit. He takes a live and intelligent interest in all matters affecting the prosperity and welfare of his home township and is a leader in movements for the advancement of the commercial and industrial growth of the county. He is not affiliated with any fraternal body, but with his wife is an ardent and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is active in the work of this church and contributes generously to its support.

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#### CHRISTIAN E. STUCKEY.

Christian E. Stuckey, one of the prosperous farmers of Monroe township, Adams county, is of Swiss descent on his father's side. He was born in French township, Adams county, January 8, 1867. He is a son of Christian and Elizabeth (Christner) Stuckey. His father was born in the canton of Berne, Switzerland, where he grew to manhood. He emigrated to the United States and located in French township of Adams county in 1858. He purchased land and followed farming during his residence in this township. He was married in Adams county and reared his children there. He died on his home farm in 1875. His wife is still living in Berne. This estimable couple became the parents of two children: Christian E. and Frederick. The latter is living on a farm in Mercer county, Ohio.

The youth of the subject of this sketch was spent on his father's farm. He secured his early education in the common schools of his neighborhood and was brought up to the life of a tiller of the soil. He was an in-

dustrious youth and made the most of such opportunities as presented themselves to him. He followed farming in his later youth and assisted his father, in the work of clearing, improving and cultivating his farm. He stayed on his father's farm until he reached his manhood. For a few years after this event he worked in various parts of the county and purchased his present farm located within two miles of Berne in 1900. During the interval between leaving his father's home and his purchase of his present farm he engaged in the threshing business and the saw mill business. He followed threshing for fifteen years and did much work of this kind in Adams county and the adjoining Ohio county of Mercer. He also ran his saw mill for ten years.

Mr. Stuckey is now living on his farm. It is a tract of fine land, comprising eighty acres, sixty of which he has under cultivation. The land is exceedingly fertile and valuable and the crops it produces each year are large and profitable. Since he came into possession of his farm Mr. Stuckey has greatly improved it. He has it thoroughly drained and well fenced, and the residence of brick is as handsome and comfortable a home as any in the entire township. Recently a new barn was erected on the place. In addition to his general farming business he raises a good breed of Poland China swine.

He was married in 1888 to Miss Caroline Baker, a daughter of Jacob and Caroline (Bolenback) Baker. His wife is a native of Mercer county, Ohio, and her mother still resides in Mercer county, Ohio. Her father is deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Stuckey are the parents of the following children: Walter J., studying for the ministry of the



Reformed church at Franklin, Wisconsin; Homer, Stella, Lulu, Irene and Leslie. The latter children are at home with their parents.

The Democratic party claims the political allegiance of Mr. Stuckey. He has been active in the political affairs of his township and has served as a trustee for five years. He is not affiliated with any fraternal body and with his family supports the German Reformed church.

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### CHRISTIAN C. BEER.

Christian C. Beer is a native of Adams county, being born in that section of Indiana, August 30, 1866. He is one of the most highly esteemed and best known men of his township. He is a son of Christian and Barbara (Dubach) Beer. His parents were born in Germany and emigrated to the United States and settled in Adams county when the county was but thinly settled. After reaching the United States they lived a few years in Ohio and followed the occupation of farming. However, they believed their fortunes would be bettered by removing to Indiana, and accordingly they came to this state. The father of the subject of this sketch followed farming all of his life in this country and in time he possessed a good farm, which he has cleared and improved. He is now living in Berne. His wife died in 1898. He and his wife became the parents of a family of eleven children and of this large family eight are still living.

The youth of Christian C. Beer was spent on his father's farm in Monroe township. He was educated in the common

schools of the neighborhood, and was an apt and diligent pupil. He spent the winter months in the school and during the milder months of the year assisted his father in improving and cultivating his farm. He contributed his share to the work on the home farm from the time he was old enough to do any farm work. He was a dutiful son and took many of the cares and burdens of the farm from the shoulders of his parents. He lived on the home place until he grew to manhood.

The marriage of Christian Beer and Miss Sarah Ellenberger was solemnized in Adams county in 1888. Mrs. Beer is a daughter of Henry and Katie (Baumgartner) Ellenberger. Her father was a native of Adams county and with his wife settled in Monroe township among the first settlers to enter this section of the county. His wife's parents are still living in Berne. Mr. and Mrs. Beer have become the parents of twelve children: Harvey, Lavina, Caroline, Della, Lillie Ruffina, Dora, Ermine, Roselle, Jesse, Edna and Elmer.

Mr. Beer has lived on his present place, which is located three miles north of Berne, for the last fourteen years. It is a good farm of eighty acres, seventy of which are under cultivation. The place is well improved and is a very productive estate. The land has been much improved since it came into the possession of the present owner, and he has added much tiling and bettered the buildings and fencing. His home is a fine brick residence that is a model of its kind, and his outbuildings are good and commodious. Recently he erected a large new barn on his place. In addition to a general farming business he is a buyer of stock and



buys for Elmer Johnson, of Decatur. He has bought horses for the last four years and has been uniformly successful. He is a member of the Democratic party, but of no fraternal bodies. He gives his allegiance and support to the Reformed church of his neighborhood and is in all respects a model citizen. He is highly esteemed and has hosts of friends and acquaintances, who have entire confidence in his judgment and who admire his abilities.

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### JOHN J. SOLDNER.

John J. Soldner is a native of Wabash township, Adams county, Indiana, and was born August 28, 1854. He is a son of John and Maria (Stauffer) Soldner. His father was born in Strasburg, Alsace-Lorraine, France. This province has since been ceded to the German empire as the forfeit of the defeat in the Franco-German war. He was born in 1815. He served with distinction in the French army for seven years and emigrated to the United States in 1845. After reaching this country he resided for five years in Orrville, Ohio, and was variously employed during his residence in the Buckeye state. At the expiration of his five years' residence in Ohio he came to Indiana and purchased a farm in Wabash township of Adams county. The land he secured was wild and unimproved, but he set to work to clear it and make it profitable. As the years passed he brought more and more acres under cultivation and finally cleared the entire tract. His farm is situated three miles southwest of Berne and consists of one hundred and seventy-nine acres. He resided

continuously on his farm for forty-five years and then removed to Berne, where he spent the remaining ten years of his life. He died in Berne, November 29, 1906.

The boyhood of John Soldner was spent on his father's farm in Wabash township. He was educated in the schools of his immediate neighborhood and secured as thorough an education as the times and circumstances warranted. He was an industrious boy and a dutiful and considerate son and he made the most of each of his meager opportunities. When he was not attending the sessions of the district schools he assisted his father in the cultivation of his farm. He learned the wholesome lessons to be learned on a farm and applied the lessons thus learned to his profit in his after years. He continued to live on his father's estate until he reached manhood. After his marriage he lived on other places until 1881, when he purchased his present farm of eighty acres.

Mr. Soldner was married in 1876 to Miss Catherine Huser. Her father was born in Adams county November 6, 1853. Her grandfather, Philip Huser, came to Indiana and settled in French township of Adams county when the land was infested by Indians and when they were the neighbors and associates of the white settlers. She was the second child born to her parents, who are the father and mother of nine children. She was reared on her father's farm in French township and was educated in the township schools. Mr. and Mrs. Soldner are the parents of seven children, three of whom are still living. These children were named: Sarah A., deceased; Prudence E., Matilda, deceased; Aldina, deceased; John C., Ivy, William H., deceased, and Noah N.



When Mr. Soldner purchased his tract of land in Monroe township it was unimproved. He cleared it as the years passed and added the necessary improvements. He thoroughly drained the land and ditched and tilled it and erected fences and a dwelling. This dwelling is substantial and he added a large and modern barn to the farm's equipment recently. His land is exceedingly fertile and at a high state of productiveness. He carries on a general farming business and in addition raises much stock. His breeds of cattle and Poland China swine are among the best in the township. He is a man who is wide awake and takes an active interest in the affairs of his county and township. He has served his fellow residents of the township in the important offices of road supervisor, assessor, as which he served five years, and trustee, serving in this latter office from 1900 to 1904. He is a member of the Democratic party and active in party councils and work. He had charge of the building of the six miles of road known as the C. E. Bolinger pike. With his wife and the members of his family he is a member of the Mennonite church at Berne and gives this denomination and church his hearty and generous support. He is known to his associates as a sound and substantial man and his advice is frequently sought on matters of great importance to the community in which he resides.

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#### JOHN S. McCLAIN.

John S. McClain is numbered among the most successful men and most prosperous farmers of Monroe township, Adams coun-

ty. He is a native of Ohio, being born in Licking county of that state, November 4, 1841. He is a son of John and Mary (Stephenson) McClain. His father was born in Pennsylvania in 1808, and his mother was born in Ohio in 1811. When John McClain, the father of the subject of this sketch, was still a young boy he removed with his father, Arthur McClain, and his mother to Ohio. The family first located in Richland county, but after a few years removed to Knox county. Following the death in this latter county of Arthur McClain his son John removed to Licking county. About this time he married Mary Stephenson and lived in Licking county on a farm until 1852, when he removed to Indiana. When John McClain came to Indiana he settled in Adams county. He took up farming in Monroe township. He settled a tract of wild land and after some years of arduous toil succeeded in clearing the greater portion of it and in bringing it under cultivation. His first wife died before he came to Indiana, in April, 1848, and he married again. By his first marriage he had seven children: Anna, Arthur, Margaret J., John S., Cynthia E., William and a child that died unnamed in infancy. His second wife was Maria E. Sousalin and she became the mother of three children. These children are: Mary L., Caroline L. and Newton H. John McClain lived on his farm until his death, February 27, 1894.

The youth of John S. McClain was spent on his father's farm in Monroe township. He attended the winter sessions of the schools of his neighborhood and secured as good an education as was possible under the circumstances. He assisted in the cultivation of his father's estate until he reached



his majority. At the time of this event the country was ringing with calls to arms in defense of the Union. The fever of war got in the veins of young McClain and he hurried to the defense of his country's flag. He enlisted in Company I, Eighty-ninth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, which regiment was attached to the Sixteenth Army Corps, and he saw nearly three years of service. His command took part in many fierce engagements and was present at the battles of Mumfordsville, Fort Derusse, Pleasant Hill and Yellow Bayou, Louisiana; Tupelo, Mississippi; Nashville, Tennessee, and Fort Blakley, Alabama. He was finally mustered out of the Federal service with his regiment in 1865.

After the close of the war Mr. McClain returned to his home in Monroe township and remained there for some years, managing and cultivating the family homestead. With the exception of a year spent in the hardware business at Berne, Adams county, and one year spent in Iowa and Nebraska, he has always resided in Adams county and operated the family's original farm, a part of which he now owns. He has always followed farming, the only interruptions to this pursuit being the time he spent in Berne and in the west and two terms when he taught school in Monroe township. His present estate is a fine farm of eighty acres in section 26 of Monroe township. It is most admirably located and is very fertile. The tract was originally entered by the father of the present owner from the government in 1839, although the original owner did not remove to it until 1852. The original patent deed to the land is in the possession of Mr. John S. McClain. He is a public-spirited man and takes a live inter-

est in the affairs of his township. He votes the Republican ticket, but has not held or aspired to public office. He is a progressive man and believes in applying modern methods and ideas to the cultivation of his farm, and his crops are always profitable.

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#### NEWTON H. McCLAIN.

Newton H. McClain was born in Adams county, Indiana, December 4, 1857. He is a son of John and Maria (Souslin) McClain. His father was born in Licking county, Ohio, November 4, 1841, and his mother was a native of Indiana. He was the youngest of his father's children by his second marriage and grew to manhood on his father's farm in Monroe township. He was educated in the schools of his neighborhood and learned the wholesome lessons a life on a farm teaches. As a young man he assisted his father in the cultivation of his farm and when he grew to maturity engaged in farming for himself.

In 1884 Mr. McClain was united in marriage to Miss Sylvia E. Harris, who was born in Knox county, Ohio, and who came to Indiana and settled in Adams county with her parents in 1864. She is a daughter of Thomas P. and Eliza (Poterfield) Harris. After her parents came to Adams county they followed the occupation of farmers for a short time. Her father opened a store in Berne and did a general merchandizing business for the farmers of the neighborhood during the year 1871. This store was the first opened and operated in Berne. It was established before the railroad had entered the little village. He conducted his general store for one year and



then returned to his farm. After residing six years on his farm he went to Decatur, where he was employed in a store for two years. Returning to his farm, he spent the next six years in its cultivation and then removed to Henry county, Indiana, where he lived until his death in 1905. He and his wife became the parents of a family of six children, all of whom are still living.

Mr. and Mrs. McClain are the parents of five children. These children are: Melda M., Eva J., the wife of Edward W. Tumbelson; Nora G., attending school; Paul H., also attending school, and Luella.

Mr. McClain is the owner of one hundred and forty-seven and three-quarters acres of excellent land. Almost all of the land is under profitable cultivation. He allows sixteen acres to remain in timber and pasture land and cultivates the rest. He is a progressive man and one who appreciates the benefits of modern methods and ideas. He employs these methods and ideas in the cultivation of his tract and has made of it one of the most attractive in the township, as well as one of the most valuable. He raises cattle and swine for the market and his strains of cattle and Duroc swine are among the best in the township. In addition he raises a fine breed of Norman and Belgian horses. His crops are always large and he feeds the greater part of the products of his farm to his stock. His place is well improved and thoroughly drained. He has laid in all about sixteen hundred rods of tiling and has fenced his entire property. He is a member of the Republican party, but has never sought or held public office. He is a member of the Berne Lodge, No. 298, Knights of Pythias, and of the Methodist Episcopal church.

### JOHN P. BECKER.

There is a ringing note of perseverance and indomitable courage about the life of John P. Becker that marks it apart from many lives that have been contemporary with it. The man himself is as fine an example of courage and determination as could be met in all northeastern Indiana, and his achievements show that there is but little that cannot be accomplished if a will is behind efforts made toward success. Although Mr. Becker is now one of the prosperous and successful farmers of Adams county, he was twenty-five years of age before he had ever split a stick of wood or harnessed a horse. He was born in Schaffhausen, Kreis, Saarlouis, Prussia, Germany, August 30, 1839. He is a son of Morris and Anna (Tanner) Becker. His parents lived and died in the fatherland. John spent his youth and young manhood with his parents in his quaint native German village. He was educated in the public schools. When fifteen years old he commenced work in the coal mines one thousand feet below the surface of the earth, and was variously employed, and served three years as a soldier in the German army until he reached his twenty-fourth year. At this time he decided to emigrate to America. Accordingly he severed the ties that bound him to the fatherland and setting his face toward the sinking sun, sought his fortune in a strange land, among strange people. He landed in the United States in 1865 and pushed westward to Ohio. His first stopping place was in Stark county, but after a short residence in this county he came on to Summit county, Ohio. Here he resided, following the occupation of a farmer until 1878, when he



moved to Indiana and settled in Adams county. He purchased land in Washington township within three miles of Decatur. This land was covered with a heavy growth of timber and had been owned by fourteen different people before it came into his possession.

It is doubtful if there was a more uninviting piece of land in the entire county than that purchased by John Becker when it came into his possession. Fourteen owners had tried to make it productive and had failed. They in turn gave it up and sought more favorable locations. This was anything but an encouraging prospect for a young man who had worked almost all of his life in the coal mines of his native land and had had but a comparatively few years of practical farming experience. However, it is just here that the indomitable will of John Becker asserted itself. He viewed his land and realized that a titanic work lay before him before it could be made productive and profitable. But he knew that it could be made productive and profitable if sufficient labor and energy were devoted to the task. He also realized that he possessed the determination and the energy to conquer this difficult proposition and he set to work to do it. The admirable state of his farm today, with its broad acres, well cleared and yielding excellent crops, attest in large and convincing measure the industry and perseverance of John Becker.

In the same year in which he came to the United States Mr. Becker was married to Miss Mary Luxenburger. She was also born in Germany and is a daughter of Michael and Katherine (Rupp) Luxenburger. They died in Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Becker have become the parents of twelve

children. All of these children are living with the exception of a son, William, who died in his infancy. Those living are: Katie, Anna, John, Morris, Maggie, Matthias, Mary, Joseph, Frank Tiny and Frederick.

The farm that is now owned and operated by Mr. Becker consists of one hundred and thirty-one acres. Of this amount one hundred and twenty acres are cleared and under cultivation. The remaining ten acres are in timber and pasturage. In addition to a general farming business Mr. Becker raises a good quality of Duroc swine and cattle. He raises cattle and swine for the market and feeds the greater share of his farm products to his stock. He has his place well fenced and drained and the buildings he has erected are comfortable. In politics he is a Democrat and has served as a township supervisor. He is a member of the Roman Catholic church and a consistent supporter of this faith.

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#### JACOB RICHARD GRABER.

There is, in all probability, no man among the residents of Adams county who can lay any claim more justly for consideration at the hands of his fellow residents of the county than can J. R. Graber. He is a man and citizen who has been before his fellows for many years in public capacities and has won admiration and esteem for his fearlessness of purpose and his honesty of life. He was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, January 6, 1849. He is a son of Jacob R. and Hannah (Richard) Graber. His father was born in France in 1818 and came to the United States with his parents



when nine years of age. His parents settled for a time in New York and then removed to Lancaster county. The grandfather of the subject of this sketch was Daniel Graber, who lived in France and who died there when a comparatively young man. His grandfather on his mother's side was Jacob Richard, of Wittenberg-Stukard, Germany. He was a millwright by trade and lived to the unusual age of one hundred and three. His wife was more remarkable as an example of longevity. She lived until she was one hundred and seven years old. His mother's family came to this country in 1800 and settled in Pennsylvania. Later they removed to Stark county, Ohio.

When the subject of this sketch was nine years of age his parents left Pennsylvania and removed to Indiana. They settled on a farm bordering the St. Joe river eleven miles north of the present site of the city of Fort Wayne. They secured their land in 1858 and improved it as the years passed. His father followed farming and was a successful man. He was a devout member of the Mennonite church and was a preacher of this denomination for forty-eight years.

J. R. Graber spent his boyhood on his father's farm in Allen county. He received as good an education as was possible in the country schools of the period. He learned the lessons of a farmer's life on his father's homestead and became in time a successful and resourceful tiller of the soil. In 1871 he purchased a tract of land in French township, Adams county, and commenced to till the soil on his own responsibility. He improved his land and under his efficient direction and able management it became one of the finest estates in the county. He improved it and erected suitable and con-

modious buildings. He lived on this tract until he was selected to manage and conduct the county poor farm. This place he took charge of December 8, 1895. The Adams county poor farm is a large tract containing two hundred and seventy acres. When Mr. Graber became superintendent of the farm he set to work to make it a model establishment of its kind in the state. The building of the house or infirmary cost thirty-three thousand and sixty-six dollars, but is worth much more than this today. Under the able management of Mr. Graber the county farm has been materially improved. He has devoted all of his time and attention to his work and has discharged his obligations to the citizens of Adams county with intelligence and to their entire satisfaction.

The marriage of Mr. Graber and Miss Lydia Schlather was solemnized in 1871. On September 10th of that year he purchased his farm containing one hundred and twenty-two and one-half acres situated in French township. His wife is a daughter of Joseph and Lizzie (Augsburger) Schlather. Her father was born in France and came as a youth to this country. He first lived in Pennsylvania and later removed to Ohio. He came among the earlier settlers to Indiana. Mrs. Graber was born in Adams county, January 7, 1849. Five children have come to bless this union: Joseph, living in French township; Lucy, the wife of Ephraim Hirschy, a farmer of Beaver county, Oklahoma; Albert, connected with the Schaffer Hardware Company of Decatur, and who taught school for five years before his marriage; Lizzie and John H., both at home with their parents. The mother of Mr. Graber is still



living in excellent health in Daviess county, Indiana.

Mr. Graber is in all sense a successful man. He has earned what he has of the world's goods by his own efforts and can look back on a career full of benefit to his fellow men with satisfaction. He is highly esteemed and whether as a citizen or as an official he has always lived an exemplary life. He and his wife are esteemed members of the Mennonite church and contribute generously and heartily to the aims and objects of this denomination.

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### JESSE W. STONEBURNER.

It is a difficult matter to look over the fine, productive farms of northeastern Indiana today and note their high state of cultivation and modern, comfortable homes and then to realize that within the memory of men still living these farms were nothing else than a part of an unbroken primeval forest. It is just as difficult for the men of today to grasp the meaning of the toil and hardships the men who transformed the forest-clad acres went through. Yet the pioneer families that labored and fought adverse conditions to reclaim the smiling farms their descendants inhabit today contended with forests, swamps and other opposing conditions. Jesse W. Stoneburner is a son of such pioneer parents, who, although they came to northeastern Indiana after the first rush of settlers, made their farms out of heavily timbered tracts. He was born in Hocking county, Ohio, February 9, 1850. His parents were Israel and Catherine (Weldy) Stoneburner, both na-

tives of Ohio. His father was born in Perry county, February 1, 1826, and his mother in Hocking county on November 7, two years later. They were married August 27, 1846, and lived on an eighty-acre farm in Hocking county until 1860, when they moved to Adams county, Indiana, where the elder Stoneburner purchased a tract of one hundred acres for one thousand seven hundred dollars, but fifteen acres of which were partly cleared. There was a hewed log house and log stable on this tract, and this was the first home of the family in Indiana. Like other pioneers, the family was confronted with the labor of clearing their farm and making it productive. Hard work resulted in bringing the entire farm under cultivation and in time substantial barns and outbuildings, and a comfortable residence was erected, and Israel Stoneburner lived on this Washington township farm for more than thirty-five years. He then moved to Decatur, where he lived a retired life until his death, May 26, 1903. He conducted a general farming business and developed into a successful farmer. His crops were rotated with care and he tilled his farm in a highly intelligent manner. He was a staunch adherent of the Democratic party and a member of the German Baptist church. His wife was an estimable woman. Nine children were born to this estimable couple. With the exception of one child all grew to maturity. The children are: Elizabeth, Jesse W., Abraham, Mary Ann, Joseph W., Matilda, Margaret A. and John B. Elizabeth, Levi and Matilda are deceased.

Jesse W. spent his boyhood on his father's farm, where he assisted in clearing the land. He attended the winter terms of the schools of his district and picked up as good an edu-



cation in the English branches as was possible under the conditions that then existed. When he attained his majority he decided to start out for himself. He worked for three years as a farm hand for various men of his section of the country and when twenty-four years of age purchased eighty acres of land in section 15 of Kirkland township. This land he tilled in a modern and rational manner and had it soon in a satisfactory condition. In 1874 he married Miss Sarah R. Kistler, a daughter of Stephen and Mary (Bowman) Kistler. His wife's parents were natives of Trumbull county, Ohio. The finely improved farm owned by Jesse W. Stoneburner was not a finely improved farm when he secured it. In fact, the land was timbered and in a rough state. To bring it under cultivation he labored hard.

In time, however, he cleared his land and drained it and laid tiling through it until it became one of the model estates of its kind in the county. He is not a man who is contented with half measures. He must have the best, produce the best crops possible, and this spirit spurred him on to more and more improvements. He built a handsome and comfortable residence, large barn and other necessary outbuildings and made his farm one of the show places of the neighborhood. In 1903 he purchased an additional eighty acres in section 27 of the same township, and this farm, under his son's management, is also highly productive and well improved.

During his active life Mr. Stoneburner has taken an interested part in the affairs of his township. He is a Democrat so far as his political affiliations are concerned. When a young man he was an active worker

in the interests of his party and was elected a justice of the peace, which office he held for four years. Later he was elected township assessor, and held this important and exacting office until 1894. He and the members of his family give their support to the German Baptist church and he is an elder of the local congregation. The Stoneburner family is one of the most highly respected in Adams county. To Mr. and Mrs. Stoneburner ten children were born: Amos, Viola, Mary C., Victoria, Floyd, Miles W. and Alice, a twin, are living. Stephen L., Ida L. and Willis W., the other twin, are dead.

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#### WILLIAM BERGER.

Farming has constituted the life work of William Berger, the subject of this sketch, and by devoting himself and his entire energies to this one line of employment he has achieved a degree of success that is a distinctive credit to himself. He is the son of Nicholas and Susanna (Smith) Berger. His parents were natives of Switzerland and came to the United States in about the year 1847. They made their first home in the western republic in Stark county, Ohio, where William was born, April 18, 1851. Two years after the birth of their son the elder Bergers removed from Ohio to Indiana. They settled on property at Vera Cruz, Wells county, Indiana. For the following sixteen years the family continued to live at this place and then moved to Adams county. On reaching this county Nicholas Berger purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Kirkland township. This land was in practically a wild state,



there being no improvements of any practical nature. The years immediately succeeding the arrival of the Bergers in Adams county were filled with the most arduous toil. The land that had been purchased was uncleared and the work of making it habitable and sustaining was a great task. However, the wills of the members of the family were strong and each contributed what he could to the labor that became necessary. As in the cases of many similar families, whose efforts toward making new homes in the new country were earnestly and intelligently directed, reward came to the Bergers. It was comparatively but a short time before the land was cleared and the crops following each other with regularity and profit. Naturally this brought funds to the family treasury and the necessities of life were thenceforth guaranteed. Desirous of owning more land and being of a speculative mind, Mr. Berger purchased an additional one hundred and sixty acres in another part of the township and still later bought forty-three acres adjoining his original purchase of one hundred and twenty acres. At the time he purchased these last acres his original farm was in a highly improved state. The entire estate was well drained with many rods of tiling, ditches had been cut wherever necessary and the residence and barn together with other buildings for housing stock and storing farm products were of the most modern and most practical types. Mr. Berger lived on his homestead until his death in 1896 and before he closed his eyes on worldly things he had the pleasure of owning one of the most magnificent estates in Adams county. His wife died in 1870.

William Berger, the son of this industrious pioneer, was raised in a most whole-

some environment. To be sure, he knew what hard work meant, but he also knew that honest toil cannot fail of its reward. This fact was brought home to him in the contemplation of his father's career. His early life was spent on his father's farm, where he assisted in the cultivation of the large tract. His school days were all contained within two weeks. He lived on his father's estate until his marriage, which occurred to Miss Emaline Billman, September 18, 1879. His wife was the daughter of Henry and Mary (Zimmerman) Billman. Her father was born on a farm in Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania, in 1830, and her mother in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, April 28, 1831. This couple came to Adams county in 1855 and settled on a farm of eighty acres in Kirkland township. Some time afterward Mr. Billman purchased an additional one hundred and twenty acres abutting on his first purchase, and with his wife lived on this farm until 1880, which year their deaths occurred. Mr. Billman died February 25th and his wife passed away November 9th.

Soon after his marriage William Berger rented land and farmed it for about four years. This was a tract of eighty acres in section 9 of Kirkland township, and was his first home after leaving his father's farm. In 1882 he bought a tract of the same area in the same township and in 1883 moved to it. The land was rough and the house was of mud and the stable of logs. But to his hardy spirit this condition meant nothing that was discouraging. He knew how to develop land and to make it productive, and soon had erected a fine home and barn and brought his land to a high stage of fertility and productiveness. Later he added an-



other eighty acres and now owns the entire tract of one hundred and sixty acres.

Mr. and Mrs. Berger are the parents of four children, all of whom are living. These children are: Catherine A., Elizabeth M., Mary E. and Sarah J. Mr. Berger is one of the most highly respected men in his community, and one whose advice is frequently sought. He is not a party man as far as politics are concerned, but exercises a right to vote independently. In view of this he is to be found on the side of the man who, in his opinion, is best qualified to serve the people. He and his family are members of the German Baptist church and accord this denomination their hearty and substantial support.

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### JACOB BORNE.

Jacob Borne is a good type of the successful member of the second generation of German families, the fathers and mothers of which came from the fatherland to make new homes in the western republic. He was born in Germany June 27, 1850, and came with his parents to this country when less than two years old. His father was Jacob Borne and his mother was Mary E. (Sherry) Borne. They were examples of a hardy German line of ancestors, who had tilled the soil for generations. Believing that the new land offered greater opportunities for them and for their children, they severed their home ties and turning their backs on traditions centuries old, made their way across the Atlantic and settled on a farm in Preble township, Adams county, Indiana. This farm consisted of forty acres covered with timber. The elder Borne

was a painstaking and industrious farmer and it was not long before he had his farm cleared, improved and under cultivation. Being of a speculative turn of mind, he believed that others would want farms soon and he bought other tracts. These he sold from time to time at a profit and for several years engaged in the business of buying and selling farms as well as directing the work of cultivating his own. He was a successful general farmer and his crops were satisfactory. He farmed until his death about the year 1898 and left a patrimony that meant a comfortable future life for his widow and family. His wife lived until 1905. Jacob Borne, the elder, was a strong supporter of the principles of Democracy and took an interest in the affairs of his party in his district. He was a member of the German Reformed church until his death. He was survived by six children out of a family of ten. The children born to him were named Jacob, Henry, deceased; Sophia, Lasetta, deceased; Adam, deceased; Christ, Mary, Louise, Daniel, deceased, and Susanna.

Jacob Borne, the subject of this sketch, was the eldest of this family of children. He was an industrious young man and assisted his father in the work on the farm and did his share toward building up the fortunes of the family. In his youth he secured a fair education in the district schools of Preble township and supplemented this learning with the practical lessons he secured on his father's farm. When he grew to manhood he married Mina E. Bottlemeyer, a daughter of Henry and Mary S. (Henschen) Bottlemeyer. The wedding was solemnized August 17, 1876. His wife's father and mother were natives of



Germany, who came to this country early in the last century. For a time they lived in New York state and then came west to Fort Wayne, Indiana. They lived in this city for several years and then moved to Adams county, where they secured a farm in Preble township. This farm they improved and it is still their home.

Following his marriage Jacob Borne settled on his father's farm, the management of which had been turned over to him. He made many greater improvements on it as time passed and brought it up to a high state of productiveness. He was a thorough believer in modern methods and he used these in prosecuting his agricultural labors. His tenacity of purpose surmounted all obstacles and he gained a competence. He took an interested part in the affairs of his section of the state and as a member of the Democratic party served his fellow residents of Adams county as a supervisor for a number of years. He is a member of the German Reformed church and gives this organization his financial as well as his moral support. His home is one of the pleasantest in the township, and both he and his wife are among the most highly esteemed people of the district. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Borne. Those living are: Mary A., Minnie S., John H. and Rudolph W. Those dead are: August C., Emma S. and an infant that died unnamed.

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#### JAMES A. STEEL.

At an age when the average boy of today is either engaged in his school work or at least still living under the care and gentle

influences of his home James A. Steel was striking out for himself and beginning a career of independence that has brought him success as measured by the commercial standards of the world and gained for him the esteem and confidence of his fellows. He was born in Kirkland township, Adams county, Indiana, August 1, 1850. He was the son of Samuel Steel, concerning whom mention is made in the sketch of David Steel on another page of this volume. His father died before James had grown to be a very big boy, and the youngster started from his home at sixteen years of age to carve his own way. For the following four years he worked at various kinds of employment and at twenty years of age went into the saw mill business for himself at Peterson. He followed this business for the next three years and then sold out and purchased one half of the original estate of his father. This was a tract of eighty acres and he lived on it and farmed it.

In September, 1872, he married Miss Victoria LeBrun, a daughter of August and Mary (Bainey) LeBrun. She was a model wife and descended from resourceful people. Her parents were natives of France and came to this country in 1842. Her father was born in 1818 and her mother in 1816. After reaching this country her parents lived for a time in New York. They were attracted by the reports that came to them from Indiana and decided to venture west and establish themselves in the new state. Accordingly they came to Indiana and purchased eighty acres of land in Kirkland township. This farm they cleared and improved and later sold it and bought other land south of Decatur. This tract was their home until the death of August Le-



Brun, when his widow disposed of the estate and removed to Decatur, where she made her home with her son until her death at ninety years, December 24, 1906.

The farm that James Steel first purchased was not a very inviting place. There were only about twenty-five acres cleared and there was much of it under water and very swampy. Nothing daunted by these conditions and the absence of any improvements, he tackled his hard proposition and conquered it. He was a skillful farmer and a practical man and in time cleared other acres and reclaimed the portion of the farm that was submerged by a system of ditching and tiling. Each year found him in more independent circumstances, and the latter years have brought him complete independence. His farm today is highly improved and is a fine example of what may be achieved through perseverance and honest effort. The residence occupied by Mr. Steel and his family is of modern and most convenient type and his barns and outbuildings are well calculated to meet the purposes for which they were designed. Although this farm is not one of the largest in the township, it takes exceedingly high rank in the matters of productiveness and fertility.

During the years Mr. and Mrs. Steel struggled to make their home in the wilderness eight children came to bless their union. Of these seven are still living. The names of these children are: Mary S., Cora M., Rosa B., George C., Bessie A., wife of Homer Andrews; Celia F. and Earl E. Ezra died some years ago. All of the living children are at home with the exception of Rosa, who is married to Melvin Welker.

The mother of these children, who was

born August 6, 1848, died at the home of her husband, February 7, 1905.

However, Mr. Steel has found time for other business than that of farming. Eight years ago he took up the business of cement and stone work and has done work of this kind all over the county. He has done much work for the Standard Oil Company. He is a Democrat so far as politics are concerned, but it cannot be said that he is an active partisan. He and his family are numbered among the most highly respected people of the county, and he takes a live interest in all things that are slated to improve the condition of his county and state. March 23, 1907, Mr. Steel was married a second time, when Mary M. Merryman became his wife. She is a native of Adams county, being a daughter of Zachariah Merryman.

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#### EZRA E. ZIMMERMAN.

Among the men of Adams county who are gaining reputations as breeders of fine stock that of Ezra E. Zimmerman takes a prominent place. He is making a success of this business and combines it profitably with the regular business of farming. He was born in Kirkland township, Adams county, March 23, 1864. His father was Peter Zimmerman, a native of Berks county, Pennsylvania, where he was born in 1836, and his mother was a native of Adams county. As early as 1856 his father came to Adams county and purchased eighty acres of land in Kirkland township. At other times he added to this original purchase un-



til he owned a total of two hundred acres. When purchased almost all of this land was in a wild state and had to be cleared before it could be cultivated. Some time after he reached Adams county he followed his trade of carpentering, varying this work with that of clearing his homestead. In time he had his land cleared and under a good stage of cultivation. He died in 1880, leaving a widow and eight children, of whom Ezra was the eldest. Upon the death of his father much of the responsibilities and operation of the farm fell to this young man. He discharged his obligations faithfully and well, and added many improvements to the place that had not been made during his father's life.

When he was twenty-two years of age he decided to branch out for himself. In the fall of the year in which he reached this decision he married Miss Eliza Pierce, a daughter of Reuben and Elizabeth (Showalter) Pierce. His wife's father came to Indiana from New Hampshire by the way of Virginia. He was born in New Hampshire in 1821 and he married in West Virginia Miss Showalter, who was born in 1824. After marriage they moved to Curryville, Indiana, in 1879, where Mr. Pierce was engaged in the mercantile business and in addition operated a saw mill. His death occurred in 1903 and that of his wife in 1900.

The farm that was purchased by Ezra Zimmerman in 1886 was unimproved and covered with heavy timber. He began clearing the land and after some time succeeded in bringing his land under cultivation and in removing all of the timber that encumbered it. He fenced his land and drained and ditched it. He erected a com-

fortable and attractive residence and other buildings and made of the farm one of the neatest and most productive places in the county. To his energy and ingenuity all of his success is directly attributable. What he has accomplished and gained in the matter of the world's wealth he gained through his own unaided efforts and made his competency through excellent management and foresight.

As noted above throughout his career as a farmer he has been an admirer of fine stock. In line with this fancy he has added the raising of stock to his work as a farmer. During the last eight years he has been a feeder of cattle and hogs for the market and his products demand the top price wherever they are exposed for sale. His annual shipments are about three to five cars. In connection with the stock-raising business on his own estate he owns another farm in the county in partnership with his brother. On this farm the brothers are feeding and shipping stock for the market.

Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Zimmerman. These are: James R. and Charles F. James, although but eighteen years of age, has taught two terms in the county schools and is a fine, ambitious youth. Mr. Zimmerman is one of the progressive men of his district. He takes an active part in the advancement of his county and is considered one of the substantial men of the community in which he lives. He votes the Democratic ticket, but is not an aggressive politician, discharging his duties as a citizen, but taking no active part in the work of his political fellows. He and his wife are members of the German Baptist church and are active in the affairs and interests of this denomination. Both



are among the most highly esteemed people of the county.

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### WILLIAM F. FULK.

One of the larger estates of Adams county that is not only a source of profit to its owner, but also an ornament to the county is that owned by William F. Fulk. The estate comprises an area of two hundred and forty acres and is one of the most valuable in the county. It is one of the farms that were made from the wilderness, and its present condition of fertility and productiveness is attributable to the energy and toil of its owner. William Fulk was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, in 1841. He is the son of Jacob and Susan (Kale) Fulk, both natives of Ohio. The elder Fulk was born on a farm in Trumbull county and his wife was also the child of farmer parents. In 1838 the couple were married and lived and died in Ohio. In addition to farming the husband worked at intervals at the trade of carpentering.

His son, the subject of this sketch, came to Indiana in 1865. His early life had been spent on the farm where he was born and he was educated in the schools of the neighborhood. He had no more advantages in educational or other lines than the average boy of the district and period, but he learned from his sturdy parents the lessons of self-denial and frugality that were such potent factors in advancing the fortunes of the early settlers of the central western states. After reaching Indiana he bought one hundred and sixty acres in section 35 of Kirkland township. This land was heavily tim-

bered and it was necessary to clear it before it could become valuable. During the three succeeding winters after his original trip to this state he chopped away the trees and cleared the underbrush away. He spent his winters in Indiana and returned to Ohio in the spring, where he worked on his father's farm. The trips to Ohio were made on foot almost all of the way, Mr. Fulk being compelled to walk from Adams county to Fort Wayne or Van Wert, Ohio. Finally, in 1868, he settled permanently in Kirkland township and discontinued his trips to Ohio. The Indiana farm was not, when he settled on it, what might be said to be an attractive place. It was partly cleared, to be sure, owing to the toil of three winters, but it was far from being in an improved or highly productive state. However, the proposition confronting him had few terrors for him. He went to work manfully and with a determination to make his farm as good as any in his section of the county. It was not many years before he had his original tract of one hundred and sixty acres cleared, improved, drained and fitted with substantial buildings. Its cultivation after this period was a pleasure and the farm soon was the source of a comfortable and ample income. It was at about the time that he got his first purchase of land under cultivation that he began adding to its area. From time to time he made other purchases of land and finally found himself in possession of the large tract he owns today. As stated, this consists of two hundred and forty acres.

In the same year in which he took his permanent abode in Adams county Mr. Fulk married Miss Emma Sovine, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sovine. Her father was a native of France and her mother,



whose maiden name was Shaffter, was born in the Swiss republic. Both of Mrs. Fulk's parents came to this country in the early years of the nineteenth century and settled in Kirkland township, where they purchased land and followed farming. They were eminently successful and accumulated a handsome property.

In the years following their marriage six children came to bless the Fulk home, of whom three are still living. The children were named: William Edward, John H., Peter L., Charles. Two infants died unnamed.

Mr. Fulk is numbered among the most successful men of Adams county. He possesses a rugged dignity that recommends him to all who know him, and his integrity is of a very high order. He is a man who is alive to all matters that make for the advancement of the interests of his community, and is in the van of such movements that are for the betterment of his own and neighbors' condition. He is a Democrat, but seldom takes any active part in political matters.

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#### WILLIAM ZIMMERMAN.

William Zimmerman, one of the better known farmers of Adams county, is the son of sturdy parents, who followed agricultural pursuits all of their lives. His youth was spent on a farm and he admits that the life of a successful farmer holds greater charm for him than any other. He is qualified to speak, for he devoted some of the years of his life to general business and then returned to a farm life. He was born in Kirkland township on May 13, 1863.

His parents were Jonathan and Elizabeth (Blosser) Zimmerman. His father was born in Pennsylvania in 1837 and his mother was a native of Ohio, where she was born in 1840. His parents were married in 1862.

Jonathan Zimmerman came to Indiana and settled in Kirkland township in about the year 1853. Associated with his brother Peter he purchased eighty acres of land in section 14, on which he lived for a short time. This tract he sold and purchased another farm in section 12. This land was in a wild state and had no improvements of any nature. He cleared this land and improved it to a certain point when his death occurred. William Zimmerman, the subject of this sketch, was his only child. William Zimmerman was reared on his father's farm and assisted in its clearing and cultivation during the latter years of his father's life. He was educated in the Kirkland township schools and was known as a bright and ambitious boy. After completing his school work he devoted himself to the labor of improving his paternal estate. This was hard work, but the young man was a determined sort and worked zealously and continuously. He was a devoted son and of great help to his father. In 1885 he married Eliza McWhirter, a daughter of George and Catherine (McConaughy) McWhirter. His wife's parents were Irish and came to this country in an early day to make a new home. They lived for a few years in Ohio after reaching America. Then they came to Indiana and settled in Adams county. Later they moved to Decatur and then to Peterson, Kirkland township, where they still reside.

The two years immediately following his marriage Mr. Zimmerman lived on and op-



erated his father's farm. He decided to enter on a commercial career and established himself in business at Peterson. In this place he operated a store for six years. After the expiration of this period he sold this business and returned to his home place in section 12. On his father's death the farm came into his possession and he engaged in the active improvement of it. He has proved to be a successful farmer. His crops are always profitable and he conducts his place along the best of modern lines. His place is all under cultivation and his residence, barns and other buildings are of a suitable and commodious character. He has fenced and drained his farm and made of it a model estate.

Mr. Zimmerman is a progressive, wide-awake citizen. He is interested in all matters that have a local or state significance. He is a careful reader and keeps informed on current events. In spite of his busy agricultural life he takes an active part in the politics of his township and was elected about eleven years ago a justice of the peace on the Democratic ticket. He held this office for eight years and so well did he discharge his obligations as a public servant he was chosen a township assessor, which office he still holds. He is active in all matters having as their objects the improvement of his county and is a clear-headed, intelligent citizen. He is a member of the Baptist church of his neighborhood.

The home circle of the Zimmermans consists of the father, mother and two children. These latter are: Bessie B., born in 1886, and John, born in 1889. The family is highly respected and its social position is one of the best in the county.

### LEWIS GOLDNER.

The life and career of Lewis Goldner is an example of what a boy may accomplish with no other capital than a determination to make his way in the world and to succeed. He was born in Carbon county, Pennsylvania, on November 8, 1841. He is the son of Tobias and Susan (Fritzinger) Goldner. His father and mother were natives of Pennsylvania, where the former died about 1850, being survived by his wife for about twenty-two years. At the age of sixteen years Lewis left his home and started to win success. He had received some education and training as a carpenter, and to this employment he turned his attention. He traveled west until he reached West Salem, Medina county, Ohio. At this place he secured work at his trade and followed this occupation for about six years. Stories of the opportunities for young men the new state of Indiana offered reached him. He pondered over the advisability of coming to Indiana. In the end he decided to make the move and started out. He reached Adams county and settled in Kirkland township. He continued to follow his trade as a carpenter until his marriage. This event occurred January 28, 1866. His bride was Miss Mary A. Broadsword, a daughter of George P. and Elizabeth (Schafer) Broadsword, of Medina county, Ohio. Lewis met the girl who became his bride during his residence in West Salem, and after settling in Indiana and establishing himself he returned for her. She came of a line of agricultural people.

After his marriage Mr. Goldner bought a tract of eighty acres of land in Kirkland township and took up farming as his life



pursuit. He erected a log cabin on his land and began the arduous task of clearing it. He lived on this tract for about five years and in that time cleared and cultivated about twenty acres. This he improved to some extent. He then sold his land and bought the tract of ninety-eight acres on which he now resides. This latter tract was located in section 1 of Kirkland township and was partially cleared. The remainder of the land promised to be very productive when cleared and Mr. Goldner set to work to improve it. He was an earnest and consistent worker and an intelligent farmer. He appreciated the value of modern methods and applied them in clearing his land. In the course of a few years he had his land cleared and improved to a great extent. He laid tile drains where necessary and erected strong fences. The old buildings that were on the farm he replaced with newer and more modern structures. In time these gave way to still other buildings. Today his residence is one of the most attractive and modern in the township. His barns are modern and suited to their purpose. His outbuildings are well built and in every way substantial.

Mr. and Mrs. Goldner are the parents of ten children, all of whom, with the exception of a daughter—Susie—are living. These children are: Rosetta, William J., Edward A., Elias E., Alfred F., Cora A., Catherine P., Dallas, B. E. and Emelie S. The family is one that enjoys an excellent social position and is esteemed by all who know its members. The mother is an estimable woman and the children are a credit to their parents. Mr. Goldner is a good citizen and although not taking an aggressive part in township affairs, gives his support and assistance to all movements designed to

improve the condition or circumstances of his fellow citizens. He does not take an active part in partisan politics. He votes the Democratic ticket and is in all respects a worthy citizen. He is a member of the Lutheran church and with his family supports this denomination.

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#### GEORGE M. T. HOUCK.

While the course of life pursued by George M. T. Houck has been aggressive and active, it cannot be said that his life thus far has not been of benefit to his kind. He stands as a man that has done well and his example is as potent and as valuable to his fellows as any accomplishments of men who have been thrust prominently in the glare of publicity. He was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, July 19, 1849. His father was Henry and his mother Nancy (Cronk) Houck. Both of his parents were born in Ohio and lived on a good farm in Jackson township, Mahoning county, and in 1853 moved to Indiana. They bought land in Kirkland township, Adams county. This land was barren of improvements and without a dwelling of any kind. However, Henry Houck was a man of resources and he was not daunted by the stern prospect that he faced. He erected a log cabin and log barn and began seriously to make a farm. He labored hard for several years and before his death he was the owner of a good farm, wholly cleared of timber and underbrush growths. The land was underlaid by a system of tiling that thoroughly drained it and the fences were strongly built. The log cabin home was replaced with a com-



portable residence and the barn and out-buildings were in keeping with the needs and changed condition of the productive farm.

George Houck was about four years of age when he came to Indiana with his parents. So his youth was practically all spent on the Indiana farm. Like other youngsters of the period and locality, he attended the district schools during the winter terms and when old enough he assisted his father in the cultivation of the home farm. He picked up a fair education and was a rational, well-reared boy. The family farm was situated in section 26 of Kirkland township and consisted of eighty acres. George was the eldest of a family of seven children and as he grew a portion of the responsibilities connected with managing and cultivating the farm fell upon him. Of his father's family of seven children three are living. These are: George, Alice L. and Effie. Those dead were named: Curtis, Mary, Rosa and Anna.

After reaching manhood George was married on January 21, 1872, to Miss Mary D. Cline, a daughter of Jacob and Mary (Kepple) Cline. Her parents were born in Pennsylvania and lived for several years in Trumbull county, Ohio. They were farmers and in the year 1843 removed to Indiana, settling in Kirkland township of Adams county. The father purchased two hundred and forty acres of land in section 34. He improved a portion of this tract and sold the remainder. Following his marriage Mr. Houck bought a tract of eighty acres in section 34 of Kirkland township and established a home for himself and his bride. He improved this land and brought it to a high state of fertility and cultivation. Some time later he sold twenty acres, but still owns the

rest of the original purchase. He has erected a fine home, modern in every respect, and his barns and other necessary farm buildings are well adapted to the uses to which they are put. His place is well fenced and thoroughly drained by tiling. He follows mixed farming and his crops are satisfactory and bring a high price in the markets.

The home life of Mr. and Mrs. Houck is one of the pleasantest features of this union. They are the parents of eleven children, six of whom are still living. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Houck are: Teresa, born February 22, 1873, and since deceased; Martha F., born December 21, 1874, deceased; Anna A., born September 2, 1876, deceased; Mary M., born January 29, 1878; Charles H., born March 19, 1879; Hattie E., born September 21, 1881; Lillie M., born October 29, 1883; Bessie J., born May 25, 1886; Rolla M., born September 7, 1888; Clayton A., born October 18, 1893, and Olga E., born October 12, 1895. The family is well esteemed and occupies a favorable and enviable social position in the community.

Mr. Houck has served his fellow residents of Adams county in public office for a number of years. He is a Democrat so far as politics are concerned and held the office of justice of the peace for eleven years. In addition to holding this office he has also been a supervisor of his township and assessor four years. He is an honored member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and has been affiliated with this organization for more than twenty years. His lodge is the Decatur Lodge, No. 167. He and the members of his family are affiliated with the Christian Union church and to this



religious body he gives both his moral and financial support.

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### EDWARD A. KIRCHNER.

Left fatherless in his native village in Saxony, Germany, at the age of fourteen and a son of parents but moderately blessed with a share of the world's goods, the future seemed to hold very little that was either promising or attractive to Edward A. Kirchner. He is the son of Martin and Dorathy (Gollerch) Kirchner, and was born May 2, 1839. Edward was fourteen years of age when his father died. Seven years previous to this sad event in his life his mother passed away. Relatives took care of the children of this couple and gave them homes for a short time. The boy Edward continued his studies in the village schools for the following eight years and then, in company with his brothers and sisters, came to the United States. Even today a trip across the Atlantic made by children is a serious undertaking. It was much more serious and called for much more courage in 1854, the year the Kirchner children came, in a sailing vessel and the trip required six weeks. However, they made the journey in safety and comfort and landed in New York without incident.

Leaving his brothers and sisters in the care of others in the metropolis, Edward Kirchner pushed on westward. He journeyed through Pennsylvania and Ohio to Indiana, finally settling in Wells county. He went to work as a farm hand for a family in this county and remained with them until he was twenty-two years of age. He was

industrious, saving and frugal and saved the money he received for his services. In all he found himself in possession of three hundred dollars, and with this sum he purchased a tract of land. His first payment was not sufficient to cover the entire cost of the land, and he worked for a number of years following at various kinds of employment for different people and paid each year more on the purchase price of his land. This property is located in section 2, Kirkland township.

His ambition was to make a home for himself, and when he found that he had practically paid for his land, he began planning to make a home on it. On January 18, 1871, he married Miss Elizabeth Benter, a daughter of Frederick and Laura (Reel) Benter. His wife's parents were natives of Germany and came to America at an early date. They settled in Adams township, Allen county, Indiana, and bought land near the city of Fort Wayne. They followed farming and in time their estate became productive and reached a high plane of cultivation.

His serious life as a farmer began with the marriage of Mr. Kirchner. He devoted himself to the work of improving and clearing his farm, and after a few years he could look about him and find that he was in possession of a valuable property. As the years went on he replaced the rude structures that had served their purposes as a home and farm buildings with others. He erected a fine residence, modern in many particulars and commodious and comfortable; a substantial barn and other outbuildings. His original purchase of land was a tract containing sixty-six acres. To this he later added a second tract of fifty acres which ad-



joined his first place. These combined tracts now form a country estate that is well tilled and drained, and one of the most valuable and attractive in the entire county.

To Mr. and Mrs. Kirchner have been born seven children, all of whom are living. These are: Frederick, living in Alabama; William, Charles, Gustie, Emma, Lena, Catherine. Mr. Kirchner is a member of the Republican party in his district and takes an interest in the political and commercial affairs of his community. He has voted the Republican ticket since Cleveland's first candidacy. With the members of his family he is an adherent of the Lutheran denomination and to this church he gives his support. He is esteemed as an honest man and faithful friend, and he is one of the substantial and highly respected men of the county.

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#### W. D. HOFFMAN.

W. D. Hoffman was born in Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania, on February 15, 1842. He is the son of Steven and Polly (Daubenspeck) Hoffman. His father was a native of Northampton county, Pennsylvania, where he was born February 14, 1810, and his mother was born at West Penn, Schuylkill county, July 7, 1820. An interesting account of the father and grandfather of the subject of this sketch will be found in the sketch devoted to James D. Hoffman, to be found on another page of this volume. The early life of Mr. Hoffman was spent on his father's estate in Ohio, where he grew to manhood. He was educated in neighboring schools and learned the life of a tiller of the soil. In 1862 he came to Adams county,

Indiana, and in 1862 bought one hundred and twenty acres of land in Kirkland township. This tract was practically in its primeval state and was heavily covered with timber. He built a rude log cabin on his land and set to work to clear and improve it. After a short time, however, he disposed of this tract and purchased another of like area where he still resides.

In 1862 the marriage of W. D. Hoffman and Miss Catherine Zimmerman was consummated. His wife is a daughter of Moses and Rachael (Fry) Zimmerman, both of whom were born in Pennsylvania. While Mrs. Hoffman was still a child her father died and her mother contracted another marriage and moved with her husband to Indiana, locating in Adams county. This was in 1855, and the new home was established in Kirkland township. Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman lived on their farm for three years after their marriage and worked hard to clear it and make its cultivation profitable. In 1865 Mr. Hoffman enlisted in Company F, One Hundred and Forty-seventh Indiana Infantry, and served from February of that year until his discharge at Indianapolis. While in the army Mr. Hoffman went to Harper's Ferry, then up the valley to Charlestown, thence to Summit Point and returned to Harper's Ferry. The command moved again to Maryland Heights and again returned to Harper's Ferry before being ordered to Indianapolis to be mustered out. After receiving his discharge he returned to his family and farm and resumed his work of cultivating the soil. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman, all of whom are living. The children are: Rachael, Sarah, William Franklin, Matilda, Maliza, Hattie, Letta and Harvey Merton.



By dint of hard work and close attention to business Mr. Hoffman has developed a good farm. It is well tilled and ditched and is highly productive. The family residence is an attractive and commodious building and the barns and similar buildings are eminently designed for the purposes for which they are erected. Mr. Hoffman is a Democrat in politics and has been honored several times by the members of his party. He served as a justice of the peace for a number of years and in 1900 was elected a trustee, which office he filled admirably for four years. He is a member of the Sam Henry post of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the German Reformed church. He is a good citizen in every respect. He enjoys the high regard of his fellow men of Adams county and his success is of the variety that has won through his own unaided efforts.

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#### WILLIAM B. WELDY.

The gentleman whose name heads this mention was born in Kirkland township, Adams county, Indiana, November 12, 1850. He is the son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Beery) Weldy. Both parents were natives of Ohio, his father being born in Fairfield county. Reference to the life of the father of the subject of this sketch will be found under the sketch of Daniel Weldy on another page. It cannot be said that the events and incidents of W. B. Weldy's youth differed materially from those of the average farm boy's life. His youth was spent on his father's farm and he probably had his share of joys and disappointments. He attended the schools of the district and secured as good

an education as was possible in his neighborhood. He assisted in cultivating his father's farm and there lived until he grew to manhood.

April 5, 1877, Mr. Weldy married Elizabeth E. Hartman, a daughter of John and Caroline (Steel) Hartman. Mrs. Weldy's father was a native of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, where he was born in 1792. Her mother was born in Bedford county of the same state in 1828. Mrs. Hartman came to Indiana with her parents in 1848 and with them settled in Adams county, where they bought and cleared a farm of considerable area. The following year John Hartman came to Indiana and settled in Adams county. The next year he was married and began living on his farm of three hundred and twenty acres, which he had entered from the government some time previously. He devoted himself to farming and was successful. He lived on his large tract until his death in 1870 and left an estate that was well cleared and improved, on which his widow still resides.

To Mr. and Mrs. Weldy have been born four children, two of whom are living at their parents' home. They are: Oscar D. and Mabel E. Eva E. and Stella C., other children, are deceased. The Weldy farm is a large tract of two hundred and thirty-four acres and is in an admirable state of improvement and cultivation. However, the owner permits fifty acres to remain in timber. This timber he is preserving for future use. His home residence is a fine structure, modern and convenient in every particular, and his barn and other buildings are models of their kind. He can say with entire justice that what he possesses he secured through his own unaided efforts, and he has



more of the world's goods than most men can claim. He is an excellent manager and his crops are uniformly profitable. He takes an interest in his surroundings and has served as a supervisor. He votes the Republican ticket and with the members of his family affiliates with the church of the Brethren in Christ.

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### LEVI AUGSBURGER.

Success in unusual measure has come to Levi Augsburger, one of the best known and most esteemed men of Adams county. He was born in French township of the county in which he now resides in 1859. Although still a man in the prime of his life, so far as his ambitions and energies are concerned, he has seen many changes in his county and has made his way to his comfortable position of today only through hard work and facing adverse circumstances. He is the son of John and Marie (Wenger) Augsburger. His father was born in Lycoming county, central Pennsylvania, April 19, 1819. His mother was born in Switzerland near Basel, December 31, 1821. The paternal grandfather of Levi Augsburger, John Augsburger, was born in Berne, Switzerland, December 16, 1783. He came to America when a young man and married here. The mother of the subject of this sketch came to America with her mother in 1834 and removed to Adams county in 1842 and married John Augsburger December 2, 1845. To this union were born eight children, seven of whom—Lydia, born October 13, 1846; John, born May 15, 1848; David, born May 23, 1850; Elizabeth, born December 22,

1853; Levi, born March 18, 1859; Mary, born May 12, 1862, and Sarah, born October 31, 1867—are still living. Jacob, born February 2, 1857, died October 10, 1901.

John Augsburger left his home in French township in 1862 and settled on a farm of one hundred and eighty-five acres in Hartford township. The land was heavily timbered and without a dwelling. The elder Augsburger erected a frame residence eighteen by thirty-six feet and one and one half stories in height, which still stands on the farm. This structure was weather-boarded with walnut boards and was a substantial building. It was on this farm that Levi grew to manhood. In his youth he assisted, in company with his brothers, to clear the large tract of land his father had purchased. He was a dutiful son and was eager to do what he could to improve the fortunes of his family. He obtained his education by attending the schools of his section in the winter months, and there secured a smattering of the rudiments of knowledge. However, by careful reading and judicious choice of books he has acquired much in his later life.

In 1890 the marriage of Levi Augsburger and Miss Emma Hochstettler was solemnized. The bride was a daughter of Samuel and Christina (Burlingcourt) Hochstettler. Her father was a native of Wayne county, Ohio, and resides in Allen county, Indiana, where his daughter was born. Levi began life for himself after reaching his majority and for some time was variously employed. He was of a saving and frugal nature and at the time of his marriage had saved a considerable sum of money. This he invested in forty acres of good land in section 2 of Hartford township and erected a com-



fortable house, to which he took his bride. However, his wedded life was of short duration, as his wife died soon after her marriage. Since that time his sisters have kept house for him.

Mr. Augsburgur's business career has been a successful one and continues to be such. In addition to conducting a general farming business he operates a stone quarry on his place. He has a fine quality of building stone on his farm, and in 1900 installed a stone crushing plant at a cost of five thousand dollars. He has excavated an area of about two acres, and in the winter months this forms a valuable ice pond, being fed by pure spring water. This pond in summer is a fine sand pit, furnishing building sand of a high grade that is also adapted to the manufacture of cement building blocks. Another enterprise that Mr. Augsburgur is engaged in is the building of stone roads. He recently finished a road near his home and takes contracts for the construction of highway improvements of this nature. He is an admirable citizen and takes an interest in all things that have the improvement of his county as their object. He is interested in the political questions of the day and votes the Democratic ticket. In religious faith he leans to the Mennonite denomination and gives this church his hearty and substantial support.

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### JAMES T. NIBLICK.

James T. Niblick is one of the successful farmers of Adams county. His farm, although not so large as numbers of others, is kept at a high standard of productiveness and is among the admirable properties of

the northeastern portion of Indiana. The owner was born in Wells county, Indiana, February 20, 1850. His parents were among the earlier arrivals in Indiana from the eastern states. His father was a native of Ohio and was born in that state, February 10, 1824. His mother was born in Pennsylvania March 22, 1830. The elder Niblick came to Indiana with his parents when he was about five or six years of age. His parents settled in Washington township, Adams county, where our subject lived on the parental estate until he reached manhood, and then married and purchased three hundred and twenty acres of uncleared land in Kirkland township. His marriage occurred April 19, 1849, to Miss Catherine Hartman. To this union were born ten children, all with the exception of two, now living. Those living are: James T., the subject of this sketch; Susan, Bruce, Jennie, Margaret, George, Harvey and Belle. Those dead are: Mary Ellen and Jesse.

September 19, 1873, Mr. Niblick married Mary D. Lee, a daughter of William and Eve (Misner) Lee. His wife's parents were natives of Ohio and Pennsylvania, respectively. The former was born in 1833 and the latter in 1836. They came soon after their marriage to Wabash county, Indiana, which county they have made their home ever since. To this couple were born seven children: Margret E., Mary D., the wife of the subject of this sketch; Henry P., Martha A., Jasper C. and Clifford are living. The following children are dead: Sarah J. and Rosanna.

Mr. Niblick's farm consists of fifty-five acres, all under cultivation. He is a progressive farmer, who knows the value of modern methods and good management, and



through the application of this knowledge has brought his farm to a highly remunerative basis. It is well improved and has a fine residence and buildings. The estate is well fenced, drained and cleared and reflects much credit on the owner, who alone is responsible for its unusual fertility and attractiveness. Mr. Niblick is a conservative man and although he has the welfare of his neighbors and fellow residents of his county at heart, is not aggressive. He is interested in political questions, but cannot be considered a public man. He votes the Republican ticket, but has not aspired to office. He and his family, which numbers two children—Jesse M., married and living in Huntington county, Indiana, and Harry F. Mr. Niblick and family are members of the Methodist church.

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#### JOHN B. ZEHR.

Among the men who aided in the transformation of northeastern Indiana from a wilderness inhabited by wild animals and roving bands of Indians to one of the garden states of the Union contributed by Stark county, Ohio, is John B. Zehr, the subject of this sketch. Like so many that came to this state from Ohio, he had early inculcated in his mind those qualities that insure ultimate success and give the courage necessary to face and conquer a forbidding territory. He was born June 26, 1842, and is the son of John and Catherine (Baughman) Zehr. His parents were born in Strasburg, Germany, and came to this country the year their son was born. Choosing Ohio as the state for their future home, they settled in Stark county and operated a farm in that

county until 1868, when they sold their farm and moved to Indiana. The elder Zehr bought a tract of forty acres one half a mile west of what is now the village of Linn Grove, in Hartford township. He farmed this tract until 1875, when he sold it and moved to his son's farm, where he and his wife lived until their death in 1890 and 1892, respectively.

John B. Zehr lived on his father's farm until he grew to manhood. He worked hard at clearing the parental homestead and secured a meager education in the district schools. When he attained his majority he purchased a timbered tract of eighty acres in section 24 of Hartford township. The following year, 1869, after purchasing this eighty-acre tract, he was married to Miss Mary Beck, the daughter of Christ and Magdelene (Jordy) Beck. His wife's parents were natives of Germany, but later in life moved to France, where both died when their daughter was but five years of age.

The motherless little girl had relatives in America, who made arrangements for her to come to them, and despite her tender age, she made the long journey across the Atlantic and to Wayne county, Ohio, alone. She resided in Wayne county for some years and then came to Adams county, Indiana.

Following his marriage Mr. Zehr erected a log cabin on his eighty-acre farm and began the work of making it profitable. He was blessed with a good wife, who aided him in his arduous toil, and together they cleared the farm and gradually brought it under cultivation. As time passed the farm became more and more productive. The log cabin was replaced by a convenient and comfortable residence of modern build and the log barn and other buildings gave way to a



modern barn and to other modern buildings. Fences were stretched along the fields and drains and other improvements constructed. In the course of years oil was discovered on the Zehr farm and eight productive wells were put down. These contribute to his income in a substantial way. However, the advent of unusual prosperity has not changed the life course of Mr. Zehr or made of him anything other than a successful farmer. He still tills the soil and his crops each year are abundant and well varied and distributed. He does general farming, but appreciating the value of good stock, has a quantity of such on his place.

To Mr. and Mrs. Zehr have been born four children, two of whom are still living and reside with their parents. These children are: Josephine and Catherine. A third child died in infancy. The fourth child, Henry, was an ambitious youth. He studied in the schools of his native district and developed a tendency to be studious. In this he was encouraged, and from the district schools he went to Bluffton when still young and studied in the schools of that place. Graduating from these schools with honors, he went to New York city and took a course in theology. He decided to become a missionary in a foreign field, and after completing his theological course sailed January 3, 1902, for China. He was engaged in missionary work in China for the succeeding twenty-three months, during which time he mastered the difficult Chinese language. He died in China during an epidemic of smallpox and ended in most untimely fashion a career that promised much for the missionary cause in the field he had entered.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Zehr are living quietly on the farm they carved from a wilderness in the enjoyment of a comfortable and respected old age. They have ever taken an active interest in all movements that have made for the uplifting and betterment of their community and are esteemed by all who know them. Mr. Zehr takes slight interest in politics and has never voted. He and his family are consistent and appreciative members of the Mission church.

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#### JOHN J. LIECHTY.

The records of Wayne county, Ohio, will show that in the early days of that commonwealth a number of families bearing the name of Liechty came from France and settled in that county. Numbered among these French families was that of Jacob and Catherine (Wenger) Liechty. The husband was a native of France and his wife was born in that section of the Swiss republic that borders on France. Jacob operated a farm in Wayne county for a number of years after his arrival in that part of Ohio and was then attracted by reports he heard of the richness of the land in the new state to the west of Ohio. He was influenced by these reports and decided to travel westward and locate in Indiana. This he did, and in 1842 brought his family to Adams county and settled on a farm in French township. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres, all of which were covered by a dense growth of timber and in no way improved. He built a log cabin, as did so many pioneer farmers, and established a home. He had learned the



meaning of hard work on his place in Ohio and the forest-clad tract presented no new terrors to him. He began the work of clearing his farm. Days of the hardest kind of toil followed, but his spirit was determined and in time he succeeded in clearing all of his land and bringing it to a point where its cultivation was profitable. He was a man who took an active part in the affairs of his township and at one time served his fellow residents of Adams county in the capacity of a supervisor. He was a Democrat and an adherent of the Amish faith.

John J. Liechty was born in Wayne county, Ohio, in 1840, two years before his father came to Indiana. His boyhood was spent on his father's farm. He attended the poor schools of his neighborhood and obtained as good an education as the circumstances would permit. He grew to young manhood and assisted his father in clearing the family farm and learned the principles of successful agriculture. In 1865 he married Catherine Liechty, a daughter of John and Barbara Liechty, who were among those who came to this country from France. Mrs. Liechty's parents reached this country in 1855 and lived for five years in Wayne county, Ohio, before pushing westward to Indiana. After coming to this state they bought a farm of eighty acres in Monroe township, Adams county, and were rewarded by seeing their farm cleared, dotted with substantial buildings and highly productive before death called them. After his marriage John Liechty purchased eighty acres of land in Hartford township, to which tract he moved and erected a log cabin. His land was timbered and he faced the labor of clearing it. However, he had performed similar labor on his father's farm, and under his sturdy

blows the farm, acre by acre, became clear. From time to time he added such improvements as were necessary, replaced the rude log cabin with a modern and handsome residence and erected a substantial and commodious barn and other outbuildings. He devoted his time to general farming. The result of his efforts is that today he owns one of the most productive farms in his township and has it well improved and fitted with the necessary buildings and the like conducive to highly profitable farming.

Eight children have come to bless the union of Mr. and Mrs. Liechty. These children are: Amos, Emil, John, Christ, William, Anna, Barbara and Catherine. All are living and William and Catherine reside at the family homestead. Mr. Liechty is one of the progressive men of his section of the state. He is keenly alive to the needs of his community and does all within his power to promote its general prosperity. Originally he was a Democrat in political faith, but four years ago he determined to give his support to the Republican party, which he now does. He is an exemplary citizen and is respected for his consistent and wholesome life. With his wife and the members of his family he gives his religious support to the Mennonite church.

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#### NOAH RUNYON.

Noah Runyon was born in Champaign county, Ohio, in the year 1838. He is the son of John and Mary (Price) Runyon, who were natives of Virginia, he of Rockingham county. The elder Runyons removed from Virginia to Ohio in 1833 and conducted the



Champaign county farm for eight years. They became dissatisfied with their Ohio farm and prospects and decided to try their fortunes farther west. Accordingly they packed their household effects and migrated to Indiana, settling in Adams county. They began their residence in Indiana in 1841 in Hartford township. The husband entered land and was compelled to cut a road through the dense forest a distance of five miles in order to reach his land. He lived with his family in a wagon on the new tract for nine weeks, at the end of which time he had built a rude cabin of logs. At this time there was a large village of Indians near the farm, but there is nothing to show that the red men and the Runyons lived in anything but the greatest harmony. He began the labor of clearing his property and after a few years succeeded in getting it into a good condition. As the years succeeded each other his crops were large and satisfactory and his receipts were large.

Noah Runyon grew to manhood on his father's farm. He devoted his time to agriculture and gathered such rudiments of knowledge as was possible in the poor schools of the district where he lived. But what he lacked in mere book lore he accounted for in mastering the lessons of practical farming. He worked on his father's farm and much of the responsibility of administering its affairs fell upon his shoulders. In 1859 he married Margaret, a daughter of David and Hannah (Pine) Hoffman. Her parents came to Adams county in 1846 and commenced farming a tract of land in Hartford township. Noah Runyon bought a farm of forty acres in 1868 and built a log cabin on it. It was unimproved land and covered with much tim-

ber. He cleared this land and later purchased an additional forty acres adjoining his own place. This latter tract was partially cleared. After the usual laborious effort experienced by farmers of his section and period, he cleared all of his eighty acres and today it is one of the finest and most productive farms of the entire county. Five children, four of whom are living, came to bless the union of Mr. and Mrs. Runyon. Those living are: Mary, Catherine, Albert, Ida and Alice. Each of these children are married. A son, Benjamin H., is dead.

Mr. Runyon and his wife live in a comfortable home on their farm and are spending their declining days in comfort and comparative ease. He has ever taken an interest in public questions, but has not been in any sense a public man. He is a Democrat in the matter of political faith and at one time was a constable of his township for eight years. He is a member of the Christian church and takes an active part in the work of this organization. He and his wife are much esteemed and their home is one where old-fashioned and hearty hospitality may be found.

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#### NOAH MOSSER.

The young man about whom this sketch centers, for he is still a young man, is descended from hardy pioneer stock. His parents were among those who braved a wilderness and its difficulties and dangers and made a home for themselves and for their children. Noah Mosser was born on the parental farm in Hartford township, Adams county, in 1883. He is the son of Solomon and Elizabeth (Schlatter) Mosser, the for-



mer of whom was born March 20, 1843, in Wayne county, Ohio, and came to Indiana in 1854.

His father's parents were Abraham and Catherine (Eicher) Mosser, natives of Germany and France. Abraham Mosser was born in 1793 and his wife in 1800. Solomon Mosser grew to manhood in Indiana and received a most meager education. He had few advantages and only such as the poor schools of his district afforded. He was married early. To the elder Mosser and his wife have been born fifteen children, and with the exception of six, all are living. Those living are: Joseph, Catherine, Lydia, Solomon, John, Ellen, Christian, Noah and Menno; those dead were named: Mary, David, Fannie, Abraham, Rebecca and Levi.

In contrast to the hard boyhood of his father was the youth of his son Noah. He was reared on his father's good farm and enjoyed the pleasant companionship of his brothers and sisters and the kindly care of his devoted parents. He secured an excellent education in the good schools of his district and learned under the skillful tutelage of his father the lessons of a farmer's life. He progressed in this quest and became an accomplished farmer. He is a good manager and in things dealing with modern scientific farm management he is proficient.

He was married April 29, 1905, to Miss Rosina Zehr, a daughter of George and Lydia (Roth) Zehr. His wife's father was a native of the fatherland, where he was born in 1842. Her mother is a native of Adams county, and was born in French township in 1866. Noah Mosser has succeeded to the entire management of his father's farm and there resides. He is a progressive young farmer and is highly

esteemed. He takes a becoming and active interest in public affairs and has done whatever came to him in promoting the general prosperity and good repute of his township and county. He, like most young men of today, is interested in politics and gives his support and vote to the Democratic party.

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#### DAVID MESHBERGER.

Men of sagacity and business ability are the rule rather than the exception among the descendants of the pioneers of northeastern Indiana. Many fine types may be found in Adams and adjoining counties, but none among the number apparently has achieved greater success or is more highly esteemed by his fellows than David Meshberger. He is the son of Jacob and Rosie (Rieffe) Meshberger, both natives of Berne, Switzerland, where the father was born in 1823. Jacob Meshberger emigrated to America when seventeen years of age and settled in Ohio, where he lived for a few years and then came to Adams county, Indiana. The son, David, was born in French township, Adams county, in 1852. He spent his youth on his father's farm and attended the schools of his home township and developed into a successful and intelligent farmer. In 1877 he married Jane Heller, a daughter of George and Eliza (Gentis) Heller, who came to Indiana from Clark county, Ohio. The Heller and Gentis families were among the first settlers to brave the wilderness of Indiana. Members of these families came into the Indiana territory at a very early date when the Indians and wild beasts vied with them for the possession of the soil, and



when the life of a pioneer family was continually fraught with dangers from both sources. Levi Heller, the paternal grandfather of the present Mrs. Meshberger, came to Indiana and settled in Wells county. Her grandparent on her mother's side, John Gentis, also came among the first to Indiana and lived until he was ninety-seven years of age, his death occurring only recently.

After his marriage to Miss Heller David Meshberger bought a farm of forty acres in Adams county, half of which was cleared. He erected a three-room frame dwelling and made a home for himself and his bride. He devoted himself to the task of clearing his timbered acres, and in time had the whole estate under profitable cultivation. He followed general farming and his crops each year were successfully marketed at a profit. As demand arose he increased the capacity of his farm buildings and in 1889 purchased an additional tract of eighty-five acres of land west of the river adjoining the village of Linn Grove. He has made his home on this tract since its purchase and has erected a fine home and commodious barns and out-buildings. From time to time he increased his farm holdings until today he is in possession of something like four hundred acres of the best and most highly improved land to be found anywhere in Adams county.

In addition to his land and farming enterprises Mr. Meshberger owns and conducts a large stone business. He owns and operates a stone quarry which has been in his possession since he was about twenty-two years of age. The demand for his stone for building and road purposes is constant and ever-increasing, and he practically furnishes all the stone used in his part of the state for many miles' radius.

Eleven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Meshberger, of whom eight are living. Those who are living are: Cora, Lillie, Amelia, Rufus, Catherine, Harry, Effie and Oscar. Lena and Emma died in infancy and Noah later in his life. The Meshberger family is one of the most popular in Adams county. The home is noted for its hospitality and the social life of the district centers about it. Mr. Meshberger is an active and substantial man and a leader in his community. He is a Democrat.

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### JOHN HUFFMAN.

Like many other venturesome spirits of the early decades of the last century, the parents of John Huffman forsook their Ohio farm and home and sought a new home in the then new territory of Indiana. These parents, David and Hannah (Pine) Huffman, natives of Pennsylvania, and married in Ohio in 1832, made the hazardous journey in a wagon drawn by oxen and reached Hartford township, Adams county, October 4, 1844. John Huffman, then about eleven years of age, he having been born November 3, 1833, in Coshocton county, Ohio, made the journey with them. The day following the arrival of the Huffmans in Indiana was a memorable one for them. Neighbors gave them a hearty welcome and joined in a log-rolling, and before the sun set had erected a cabin, which the Huffmans occupied as their home the next day. Thus their advent to Adams county was met with kindness and with helpfulness. The country was extremely wild and game abounded. The elder Huffman was a keen hunter and a good shot and the family's larder was well supplied



with game. The Huffman farm was covered with timber and years of the hardest kind of labor ensued before the farm was cleared and made productive. In the end this was accomplished. John was reared to manhood on his father's farm and in addition to assisting with the work incidental to pioneer farming, attended the winter sessions of the district school, in which he obtained a fair education. He was among the most popular youths of the neighborhood and took part in all of the rude pastimes of his part of the county. On August 15, 1858, he was married to Miss Mary J. Runyon, a daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Nicholas) Runyon. His wife's parents were natives of Virginia, in which state they were born in 1819 and 1820, respectively.

Shortly after his marriage John Huffman purchased forty acres of wood land in Adams county. This tract had a log cabin, built some time before, as a portion of its equipment, and this was the honeymoon home of the young people. John was an industrious young man and commenced to clear his homestead. He attended strictly to this business and after an interval found himself in possession of a cleared, well improved farm that compared favorably with any other similar tract in his township. About the time he succeeded in clearing his original purchase and erecting suitable buildings for his home and to house his stock he bought an additional thirty acres. This was, like the first tract, wooded and demanded clearing. In time it was cleared and improved with drains, fencing and additional necessary buildings, and today the entire estate, which is on the main pike road in section 15, is one of the model establishments of its kind in Adams county.

In the course of the years they have been married five children came to bless the Huffman home. Three are still living and are: Iantha, who is married and living in Chicago; Lenora, living at her father's home, and Edward, a farmer of Wells county. Molly and Alberta are dead. Lenora was long an educator of the youth of Adams county and taught school for twenty-two years. In this time she has a record of never losing a day because of her own illness.

Mr. Huffman is of the progressive type and is much interested in matters affecting his county's growth and development. He takes an interest in politics and adheres to the Democratic faith, but has not been a candidate for political office. He and his family are consistent members of the Baptist church and give their moral and financial support to the aims and objects of this denomination. The Huffman home is one of the pleasantest in the county and has ever been noted for its hospitality.

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#### PETER J. LIECHTY.

It was a fortunate thing for Peter J. Liechty that his early life was blessed by a mother of a hardy, self-reliant and thrifty type. The influence of this good woman made a strong factor in molding the character of her son and was an inspiration to a fatherless boy. Mrs. Liechty made the long and perilous voyage with her young son to America, and in the years that followed her arrival in the western republic she made a home for herself and boy. Peter was the son of Catherine Liechty, the mother mentioned above. He was born in France in



1833. Believing that greater opportunities were offered for her boy in the new world, she decided to come to the United States. Accordingly she made her preparations and in 1844, when Peter was eleven years of age, she crossed the Atlantic. Reaching this country, the mother and son made their way to Wayne county, Ohio, where they lived for the following nine years. Young Peter attended the Wayne county schools and received as good an education as was possible in the Ohio schools of that day. He was an industrious lad and helped his mother in every way. When he was twenty he and his mother decided that Indiana offered still better prospects. Accordingly they made the tiresome overland journey to Indiana. They arrived in this state in 1854 and Mrs. Liechty purchased eighty acres of timbered land in Hartford township, Adams county. The land was rough and resembled an almost impenetrable forest when the Liechtys reached it. Nothing daunted, however, they began the work of making their farm habitable and productive. This was a big task, but the boy and his mother had faced a new world and a new life among entire strangers some years before and they did not anticipate failure in this newer venture. It was not long before a log cabin, which is still standing on the farm, was erected and a home established. The son was industrious and worked with a will at clearing the land. One by one the mighty trees fell beneath the blows of his ringing ax and as acre after acre was cleared of brush and stumps it was plowed and planted. Time rewarded his industry and it was not long before the eighty acres were insuring a comfortable living.

About the time and in the same year that the Liechtys reached Adams county a young

girl reached Adams county with her immigrant parents. This girl was Mary Ann Mosser, and she was destined to become the wife of Peter Liechty. The girl's parents were Joseph and Nancy (Schunk) Mosser, who came over into Indiana from Ohio and settled in Hartford township. The father was a native of Germany and the mother of Pennsylvania. This family prospered as did so many in the pioneer days and their children grew to mature years. In the year 1863 Peter Liechty and Mary Ann Mosser were married and began living on the Liechty farm. The advent into the household of Peter's bride took some of the care and responsibilities from the shoulders of Mrs. Liechty, and materially lightened the burdens of life. Peter continued to improve his farm as the years wore on, and soon replaced the rude cabin home with a modern and comfortable residence that is one of the most attractive in the section of the county where he resides. His crops from year to year were satisfactory and drains, tiling and strong, good fences appeared on his farm. He erected adequate barns and other necessary outbuildings, and today his farm is ranked among the best and most productive in his neighborhood. When the Indiana oil field was developed wells were put down on the Liechty farm and from these Peter derives a handsome income in royalties. In addition his place is provided with natural gas.

Mr. and Mrs. Liechty have become the parents of eight children, seven of whom are still living. These seven children are: Daniel, Catherine, Susan, Mary, John, Anna and Jonas, and David, who died in childhood. While Mr. Liechty is a wide-awake and progressive man, his ener-



gies are devoted to his business of farming. He takes an interest in the affairs of state and of his immediate section of the county, but is in no sense a public man. He is an adherent of the Democratic party and his religious affiliation is with the Memnonite church.

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#### DAVID H. MILLER.

Native Yankee and Irish blood mingle in the veins of David H. Miller, about whom this sketch is concerned. His father was a native of Darke county, Ohio, to which his parents came at an early day. His mother was born in Ireland. His father and mother, Daniel and Elizabeth (Dougherty) Miller, came to Hartford township, Indiana, where David was born in 1840. The elder Millers settled on land in Indiana in 1839, where Daniel had previously entered one hundred and sixty acres. This land was rough and heavily timbered, and some years of hard work were spent before the fields were cleared of stumps and brought to a state of cultivation. At the time of his death, however, the original tract was cleared and a fine, comfortable home had been erected on the farm, as had been barns and other necessary buildings. The father of David was a man who took a lively interest in all things that made for the betterment of his neighbors, and while not a politician in any meaning of the word, held the office of township trustee for several years. He was a lifelong Democrat.

The early years of the life of the subject of this sketch were spent on his father's farm. He contributed his labor to the work of clearing the farm and toiled in the fields.

His education was secured during the winter months in the meager schools of the district in which he lived, and he learned the lessons of integrity and perserevance that was a portion of all farmers' boys. In 1866 he was united in marriage to Miss Azuretta Morrow, daughter of Daniel and Claricy (Haughton) Morrow. Both of her parents were natives of Madison county, New York, and came to Indiana with the tide of immigrants that sought new homes in the western country in the opening decades of the last century. In 1840 they settled in Hartford township, Adams county, and cleared a farm. The years that followed found them growing more and more successful, and at the time of their daughter's marriage they were comfortably off. Following his marriage to Miss Morrow Mr. Miller bought forty acres of land in section 9 of Hartford township. This land was covered with a heavy growth of timber and had to be cleared before it could be productive. He was not daunted by the prospect of much hard work and built a small frame, which is still standing, and directed all of his energies to making his farm pay. In time he succeeded in clearing all of his land and bringing it to a high state of profit. He replaced his original house with a handsome residence, and necessary farm buildings were erected from time to time. He purchased additional land and now owns eighty acres.

To Mr. Miller and his estimable wife has been born one child, a daughter, who is the wife of a Mr. Sowers and resides near her father's farm. Mr. Miller is a man who takes an active part in his township and county affairs. He is keenly alive to all the needs of his county and can always be found on the side of progression and improvement.



He is esteemed and admired and enjoys an enviable reputation among his fellows.

Mr. Miller votes the Democratic ticket on state and national affairs, but is independent on local affairs.

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#### BADGELEY ANDERSON.

Farming and its kindred interests have ever claimed the major interest of Badgeley Anderson, with whom this sketch is concerned, although for a time his life was cast along commercial lines far apart from the dictates of husbandry. However, while he was engaged in other pursuits his mind continually reverted to the allurements of farm life, and in the end he succumbed and took up agriculture as the one serious object of his life. He was born in Essex county, New Jersey, in 1828. He was the son of Robert and Nancy (Moore) Anderson. His parents came from sturdy stock, and in 1836 decided to seek their fortunes in the newer country of the boundless west. Accordingly, in the year named they made the hazardous overland journey to Indiana, settling in Randolph county. The father, Robert Anderson, engaged in farming until his violent death twenty-five years later. In 1852 the subject of this sketch moved to Adams county and purchased forty acres of land. The same year he was married to Elizabeth C. Hall, the daughter of Samuel and Margaret (Brown) Hall, reference to which family is made in connection with the sketch of William Hall, to be found elsewhere in this volume. His wife's home was in Hartford township. The spring following his marriage Mr. Anderson removed to Bluff-

ton and engaged in the manufacture of brick for the Studabaker firm of that place. He continued in the employ of this firm for six months or longer. However, the call of the moist, newly turned earth springing from the plowshare and the lowing of cattle was continually in his dreams. He gave up his present work and severed his connection with the Bluffton concern and turned his face toward his farm in Hartford township. Reaching this farm, he began the hard work of making it tillable and productive. Days and months of weary effort were expended, but each succeeding day found more of promise for the future than its predecessor, and this was the spring of courage from which he drank. Comparatively speaking, it was not long until his original forty acres were cleared and made productive. At this point his ambition received an added impetus and he decided to enlarge his holdings of farm lands. Accordingly he purchased other land until he found himself in possession of two hundred acres of fine farming land, all developed to a high state of productivity. Later, when purchasers for some of his holdings presented themselves, he disposed of some of his land at advantageous prices, retaining but eighty acres, which he owns and cultivates today.

Throughout the length and breadth of northeastern Indiana it would not be possible to find better land or better conditions than exist on the farm occupied and tilled by Badgeley Anderson. He appreciated the meaning of modern methods and modern machinery to the successful farmer early in his career and has brought these aids of science to supplement his own intelligence and industry. Today his farm is pointed



out by his neighbors as a model of its kind. Its comfortable house and barns and out-buildings, all the work of his own hands, are well adapted to their several purposes and serve to reflect the judgment and progressiveness of their owner. To Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have been born nine children, four of whom—Martha, Nancy, Henry and Newton—are dead, and five—Elmira, William L., Elroy, Lissie and John—are living.

Mr. Anderson has found time during his busy life to engage in the betterment of his immediate community. He has found interest in the movements advanced for the benefit of his county and state and has served his fellows in responsible political positions. He was an able supervisor for several terms and has been high in the councils of the Democratic party. He is a man who is esteemed by all who know him for who is esteemed by all who know him for his sterling qualities of heart and mind, and his career in this section of the state is one that is distinguished by honesty of purpose and by a desire to merit the best opinions of all with whom he may be associated.

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#### ALEXANDER BOLDS.

Alexander Bolds was born August 10, 1830, in Medina county, Ohio. He is the son of Philander and Claricy (Davis) Bolds. Both of his parents were natives of New York and his father died in that state. In the year 1836 the mother of Alexander Bolds came from Ohio to Indiana and settled in what is now the village of Geneva. She later returned to Ohio, where she died. The son, Alexander, about whom this sketch is written, grew to young manhood in Indiana.

He lived the usual life of a farmer boy. His education was obtained in the schools of his section of the county and was meager. On August 14, 1856, he married Leah Pontius, a daughter of John and Julia Ann (Crites) Pontius. This couple came to Indiana and settled in Adams county in 1854. They secured a farm in Hartford township. This land was a large tract that John Pontius had entered some time before. The work of clearing the land was a formidable one and both John Pontius and his wife died within two years after coming to the county.

Soon after his marriage Alexander Bolds purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 28. He erected a log cabin and so made a home for his bride. Like other young farmers of the place and time, his work for the first was the clearing of his land.

When the calls for volunteers came Alexander Bolds answered, and in September, 1862, enlisted in Company H, Fifty-first Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He was with his command through a long campaign in the southwestern section of the arena of war and took part in the battles of Chattanooga, Pulaski, Franklin, Columbia and followed Hood's famous retreat. At the battle of Nashville he was severely wounded and lost his left arm. He served to the end of the war and was finally mustered out of the service at Indianapolis, October, 1865. He returned to his home and farm after being mustered out of the service and took up his life as a tiller of the soil. In the course of time he added to his land holdings and his farm today consists of one hundred and ninety acres.

To Mr. and Mrs. Bolds have been born four children, all of whom are living. These



children are: Daniel P., who is married and lives at Indianapolis; George W., married and living in Jay county; Rufina, now Mrs. Lindsey, and Ottis, living in Hartford township. Mrs. Bolds died May 12, 1907. The life of Mr. Bolds has been a busy one. In the main he has devoted his time and energies to agriculture, but has at times attended to other considerations. In 1876 he was elected township trustee on the Democratic ticket, but found the work uncongenial and gave up his position after serving one term. Prior to this he served as a supervisor for several years. Generally speaking, he has always voted the Democratic ticket, but has never voted outside of Adams county. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and takes an active interest in the affairs of this denomination in his immediate neighborhood. To him belongs the added distinction of having attended the first school house built in Adams county. This building was erected in Wabash township. It was built by Peter Studabaker, William Vance and Sam Summers.

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#### OTTIS O. JUDAY.

Ottis O. Juday was born at Geneva, Indiana, June 16, 1872. He was the first child born in this place. His father, Andrew J. Juday, went to the front during the Civil war, serving under the banner of the Forty-seventh Indiana Infantry. He established the first store in Geneva, thus, with his wife, Lucinda E., becoming pioneers of the community. Mr. Juday traces ancestry back to the eastern states, the grandfather having emigrated from Pennsylvania and the

grandmother, like many another of our worthy people, came from Virginia.

Mr. Juday, after completing the grammar school course at Geneva, attended the Richmond high school. Following this he furthered his educational training by taking a thorough business course, also at Richmond. He then joined his father in the grocery business in 1892.

After following the trade of a grocer for a time Mr. Juday foresaw the opportunities and possibilities in the crude oil and gas fields and soon entered this arena as a contractor and producer. As was to be expected, he made a success in this fruitful line, evidences of his ability being afforded by the fact that he has been made manager of four different concerns since beginning the work.

Mr. Juday has always been a loyal Republican in politics. He is not an aspirant for public office, but was persuaded to accept the nomination for justice of the peace and was elected November 8, 1904, in a township which is over one hundred and fifty Democratic.

He has been willing to do his part in promoting the public welfare, having assisted in organizing the Geneva Telephone Company, of which he is now vice president. He takes an active interest in the lodge work of the town, being a member of the Knights of Pythias, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Knights of the Maccabees and Sons of Veterans. He is not only a member of the United Brethren church, but is one of the trustees, and is at present acting also as the church secretary.

December 8, 1896, Mr. Juday was married to Cora Gertrude Lewis, of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Mr. Roosevelt cannot



charge Mr. and Mrs. Juday with contributing toward the race suicide, for they have a neat little family to their credit. They are: Ruth G., Robert L., Mary L. and Elizabeth E. Nothing more, it seems, would be needed to make up a well rounded and useful citizen.

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### SAMUEL FETTERS.

Samuel Feters, the subject of this sketch, was born in Stark county, Ohio, May 30, 1847, and is of French and German parentage. He emigrated to Indiana and settled on a hundred-and-sixty-acre tract of land in section 21, Jefferson township, Adams county. At that time the country was new and undeveloped, being full of wild game of many kinds. During the winters of 1852 and 1853 he attended his first term of school in a school house situated in the southeast corner of section 28, in Jefferson township, known as the Kinney settlement. The house was built of logs and had a large fireplace at one end and a clapboard roof, which was held in place by weight poles; it had a puncheon floor and benches made of split logs, dressed on one side, with poles for legs. Mr. Feters attended a short winter term of school each year until 1863, when he volunteered as a Union soldier and was assigned to Company E, One Hundred and Fifty-fifth Indiana Regiment Volunteer Infantry. His company was a part of the Ninth Army Corps, third division Army of the Potomac, whose commander was William T. Sherman. The subject had two brothers in the service—Philip Feters, who enlisted in the

Eleventh Indiana Battery, at Fort Wayne, known as the "Sundamester" Battery, and at the battle of Chichamauga was wounded and received his discharge in 1864, and William Feters, who enlisted in the Eighty-ninth Indiana Regiment, Company K, which was recruited in Adams county. He was captured at Munfordsville, Kentucky, and paroled, subsequently dying of measles in 1865. At the close of the war in 1865 Samuel Feters returned to the home farm, which he rented, and on which he labored for several years at chopping wood, making rails and clearing the land of the heavy timber, which was everywhere to be seen. In the fall of 1872 he built a log cabin on the eighty-acre tract he now owns and has since resided there. In 1875 he was elected justice of the peace of the township and so satisfactorily did he discharge the duties of this office that he was re-elected for a second term. In 1886 he was nominated by the Democratic party of his township as candidate for township trustee and was elected by a good majority. At the expiration of his term he was re-elected and was considered a man well deserving of the honor bestowed upon him. Mr. Feters' period of office as township trustee marked several important improvements of great public utility. He erected the first brick school house ever built in the township in 1887 at Buckmastus, and while serving as school officer never, to his knowledge, selected a lazy or inefficient teacher. His stewardship as township trustee was so well received by the voters and residents of the township that in 1894 he was nominated for county commissioner for the third district of Adams county and was elected by a large majority. At the expiration of his term of



office he was re-elected. During his service as county commissioner he was always careful of the people's money, being certain that it was properly expended and accounted for by those to whom it was intrusted. He was always foremost in the improvement and construction of turnpikes and gravel roads, many miles of which were built during his term of office. In 1899 he was chosen justice of the peace, which office he is now filling with much credit to his constituents. Mr. Fetters is perhaps the heaviest man in Adams county today, weighing three hundred and forty pounds.

On July 30, 1871, the subject was united in marriage with Miss Lavina C. Woodward, who was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, on March 3, 1854, and came with her parents to Adams county in 1863. To this union have been born seven children, two of whom are deceased. The five living are named as follows: Frank R., Charles M., James S., Emma C. and Grover E., all of whom reside in Indiana.

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#### DAVID EDWARD SMITH.

David Edward Smith, an honored member of the legal profession of Adams county, was born in Mercer county, Ohio, on December 20, 1867. He was less than one year old when the family came to Indiana and has resided in Adams county ever since. He attended the district schools and was later graduated from the Decatur high school and completed his school work with a two-years' course in the Indiana University at Bloomington. After leaving the university he further prosecuted his law studies in

the office of Van Vorhis & Spencer, and in January, 1892, was admitted to the bar of Adams county. He at once became a member of the law firm of Schurger, Reed & Smith, which continued until 1898, when Mr. Reed removed to Fort Wayne, and the firm has since been Schurger & Smith, and the volume of legal business transacted by this firm is second to none in the county. Mr. Smith is an active worker in the ranks of the Democratic party, serving as a delegate to county, district and state conventions, where he makes some splendid stump speeches, and his advice is continually sought in the councils of his party. He has served four years as prosecuting attorney. Fraternally Mr. Smith is a thirty-second-degree Mason and Knight Templar, being past master of Decatur Lodge, No. 571, Free and Accepted Masons, and past exalted ruler of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

On March 27, 1897, Mr. Smith was united in marriage with Miss Ethel Hale, the daughter of John D. Hale, and to this union have been born four children: Byard H., Ramona, Dorathy and Gretchen.

The paternal grandparents were Robert and Mariah (Drake) Smith, natives of England, and who were the parents of two children. Upon emigrating to the United States they first located in Columbiana county, Ohio, subsequently removing to Piqua, where Mrs. Smith's death occurred. The husband then removed to Sidney, Ohio, and here died at the advanced age of eighty-two years. They had four children, all of whom attained their majority, married and reared families, namely: Ann, who was twice married, first to John O. Wiley and second to James Clarkson; she resides at Piqua, Ohio; John E., who resides



at Decatur; Mary, who married Charles Clarkson, and died in Illinois; James Harrison, who is the father of our subject.

James Harrison Smith was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, on October 5, 1844, and was reared on a farm and removed with his family to the western part of the state. At Sidney, Ohio, in August, 1861, he enlisted and was mustered into service as private in Company K, Twentieth Ohio Regiment, and so served until July, 1865. He participated in the battles at Shiloh, Corinth, Vicksburg and in the numerous engagements encountered while with Sherman on his march to the sea. While at Raymond, near Vicksburg, he was wounded and was taken prisoner and confined in Libby prison. After being mustered out of service he returned to Sidney, Ohio, and was united in marriage with Miss Hettie Smythe. In 1868 he removed to Adams county, where for a number of years he worked in saw mills and factories, and finally settled at Decatur, where for eighteen years he served as justice of the peace. He is past commander of Sam Henry Post, No. 63, Grand Army of the Republic. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have two children—David E., whose name introduces this sketch, and Eva G., the wife of Dorsey Hoagland.

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#### ELI MEYER.

Eli Meyer, the present sheriff of Adams county, is an example of what a man can accomplish through his own efforts by persistency and intelligence. He has risen to an important public office and can look back on a career in business that is wholly untar-

nished. He is of Swiss descent and possesses those qualities of heart and mind that make for success and are prominent characteristics of those venturesome immigrants from the little Alpine republic. He was born in French township, Adams county, March 8, 1869. He is a son of Abraham and Mary (Klopferstine) Meyer. His paternal grandfather was Peter Meyer, a native of a village near Bern, Switzerland, who came to America with his wife and family in 1835. He settled in French township when Abraham Meyer was but twelve years of age and followed the occupation of a farmer until his death. Abraham Meyer was reared in French township and married in Adams county. He is still living, but his wife died on the family estate in French township in May, 1888. Abraham Meyer continued to live on his French township farm after his wife's death until about the year 1903, when he removed to Decatur.

Of a family of eleven children, consisting of five sons and six daughters, born to Abraham and Mary Meyer, Eli Meyer was the youngest son and the tenth child in order of birth. He was reared on his father's farm and received a good English education in the common schools of his neighborhood. He lived with his father and assisted in the cultivation and management of the family estate until he was twenty-two years of age. He then decided to leave home and went to Vera Cruz, in Wells county, and engaged in the manufacture of hoops. He continued in this business in Vera Cruz for about three years and then sold out his interests in the hoop manufacturing business and went to Messick, Michigan, and engaged in the saw mill business. He remained in Michigan for the following two years and then re-



turned to Adams county. After his return to Indiana he entered the mercantile business at Berne and operated a store for four years. At the expiration of this period he sold out his interests in Berne and removed to Decatur. He connected himself with a livery business after settling in Decatur and conducted this business for the next six years. Still another change was made, and after selling his interests in the livery business he entered the furniture and undertaking business in partnership with two other gentlemen. This firm conducts business in Decatur today and is known under the name of Ball, Meyer & Presdorf. After settling in Decatur Mr. Meyer began to take an active part in politics. He identified himself with the Democratic party of Adams county and became very active in its affairs. In 1906 he was the Democratic nominee for the office of sheriff of Adams county and in November of the same year was elected to the office by a comfortable majority. He is still serving in this capacity to the entire satisfaction of his party and his fellow residents of Adams county.

Mr. Meyer was married in Decatur January 1, 1895, to Miss Florence Wood. His wife is a daughter of Emanuel and Jane (Elzey) Wood. Both parents of Mrs. Meyer are natives of Ohio and settled in Adams county at early dates. Mrs. Meyer is the fourth child in order of birth of her parents' family, which consisted of seven children—two sons and five daughters. She was born on her father's place March 28, 1864. She spent her girlhood in Decatur and was educated in the public schools of that place, graduating from the Decatur high school. Mr. and Mrs. Meyer are the parents of three daughters: Gladys, Naomi and Helen.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Meyer are numbered among the substantial people of their community. They are active in charitable movements and are consistent and worthy members of their church. Mr. Meyer is a member of the Knights of Pythias and Modern Woodmen. He is a man who is alive to the interests of his city and county and is found allied with the men who are working for the advancement of Decatur and Adams county's commercial, industrial and social advancement.

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#### WILLIAM MILLER.

William Miller, the subject of this sketch, was born October 10, 1837, in West Penn township, Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania. He is the son of Samuel and Polly (Zimmerman) Miller, both of whom were born in Pennsylvania. Samuel Miller was a carpenter and followed this trade in the east until 1859. In this latter year the Miller family removed from Pennsylvania and settled on a farm in Sandusky county, Ohio. After coming to Ohio Samuel Miller cultivated his farm until his death. He and his wife both lived to the advanced ages of seventy-eight. William Miller was one of a family of eleven children that were born to his parents. His early life was spent on his father's place in Pennsylvania. He received a good English education in the schools of West Penn township and learned the trade of carpentering. He was twenty-two years of age when his parents came to Ohio. He continued to live in Ohio until 1881, when he removed to Indiana and made his home in Decatur, Adams county.



After reaching Decatur he cast about for an investment for the money he had accumulated during his days in Pennsylvania and Ohio. There were numerous opportunities in Indiana and some were attractive propositions. However, decision was reached in the end, and he established a saw mill. At the day he settled in Adams county there was much standing timber in the county. This had to be cut before the land in some sections could be transformed into farms and be made productive for agricultural purposes. From this land and this standing timber he derived the logs that meant business for his mill. From the start of this enterprise it was a financial success and netted a handsome profit to its owner. Mr. Miller continued to run his saw mill and to operate his business in connection with it for about three years. He then disposed of his mill and business to P. W. Smith. He purchased a farm from William Reider consisting of one hundred and twenty-six acres, located in Washington township, and he has devoted his time and careful attention to its development and cultivation. He has one hundred and twelve acres of his tract under cultivation. From time to time he has added improvements to his place and has made of it one of the most profitable and attractive in the township. He has the land well drained and ditched, the fencing is substantial and modern and the buildings are well adapted to the purposes for which they were erected. His crops are large and are of a uniformly high quality. There are sixteen hundred rods of tile on the farm.

The marriage of Mr. Miller and Miss Wilhelmina Gnepper was solemnized in 1863. His wife is a daughter of Frantz and Matilda Wilhelmina (Albright) Gnepper.

They were born in Germany and are counted among the old settlers of Adams county. They lived first in Fremont, Ohio, after coming to this country and finally settled in Adams county in 1859. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Miller. Of this number two sons survive: Lewis, living with his parents, and Fred E., a member of the educational department of Chicago. Mr. Miller is a progressive citizen and takes much interest in the affairs of his county and township. In politics he is a Democrat and an earnest worker for his party. He has been chosen commissioner twice and is serving his second term in this office at the present time. He is a successful farmer and one of the best known stock men of the county. He makes a specialty of Poland China swine and shorthorn cattle. He is a member of the Lutheran church and with his family contributes in a hearty manner to all the objects and enterprises of this congregation.

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#### DAVIDSON MATTAX.

It may be said with entire justice that in many cases when the term "a self-made man" is used it is a misnomer and one designed to flatter the one to whom it is applied. However, there are men who deserve to be so styled because of their personal efforts in establishing themselves on a basis of sound financial integrity and social worth without assistance from their associates or from their progenitors. This is the case with Davidson Mattax. He is in the broadest sense of the term a self-made man, and to him alone belongs the credit for the success he has achieved and the enviable



and high place he has made for himself among his fellow men. Davidson Mattax is today one of the most highly respected men in his community and is esteemed by all who know him and have been associated with him. He was born in Knox county, Ohio, May 25, 1840. He is the son of Louis and Ann (Stephenson) Mattax. His father was a native of Green county, Pennsylvania, and spent his boyhood and youth in that state. When he became of age he came west to Ohio and settled in Knox county. He was a cooper by trade and followed this line of employment in his young manhood. In 1840 he removed to Adams county, Indiana, with his family and entered land in Monroe township. He followed farming after coming to Adams county and continued to live on his homestead near Berne until his death. He and his wife became the parents of five children: Labon, living in Monroe township; William L., living in Blue Creek township; Davidson, the subject of this sketch; Mary E. the widow of John Eley, a farmer of Monroe township, and Ruth, the deceased wife of Benjamin Burket.

Davidson Mattax was the third in order of birth of his parents' family. He was very young when his parents settled in Adams county and spent his youth on his father's farm in this county. He was educated in the schools of his neighborhood and secured as good an English education as the times and local conditions warranted. When he was not attending the sessions of the district schools he assisted his father in the cultivation of the home farm and became in time a skilled agriculturist. After reaching manhood he engaged in business for himself. He spent ten years in the saw milling business, five of which he lived in Missouri. During

this period he suffered the loss of his mill by fire. After ending his time in the milling business he settled on his farm in Blue Creek township, on which he now resides, and devoted his entire time and attention to the management and cultivation of this farm.

Mr. Mattax was twice married. His first marriage occurred February 24, 1870, and his bride was Miss Eliza Cleland. She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Cleland, who are natives of Ohio, and large farmers of Crawford county. Following the death of his first wife Mr. Mattax again married. This time he was united to Miss Malinda Wolf. His second wedding occurred October 1, 1885. His present wife is a daughter of John and Catherine (Spangler) Wolf. They were natives of Fairfield county, Ohio, and came to Indiana many years ago. They settled in Blue Creek township in 1882 and died in that township. Mr. and Mrs. Mattax have no children.

The farm of which Mr. Mattax is the owner is one of the most attractive in the township. It consists of one hundred and twenty acres and is very fertile. With the exception of twenty acres the entire estate is under profitable cultivation and is admirably improved in all respects. In connection with his farming Mr. Mattax raises some stock.

During his busy life Mr. Mattax has been able to devote some of his time to benefiting the community in which he resides. He has always been prominent in township affairs and an active worker for the interests and advancement of his community. He is an ardent Democrat in politics and was elected a township trustee in 1899. He served with admirable ability in this important office for four years and is at present president of the



township advisory board. During his term as trustee his best friends in the township were the members of the Republican party of the township. He is an advocate of good roads and has helped in the building of the roads of the township in which he resides. He is a successful man and is interested in a number of financial enterprises besides being a stockholder in the Farmers' and Merchants' State Bank of Willshire, Ohio.

Mr. Mattax is an earnest Christian and God-fearing man and believes in keeping the Sabbath day holy.

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#### ROBERT D. PATTERSON.

Few men among those who have contributed to the development of northeastern Indiana are destined to or have left a more indelible imprint on the growth of that section of Indiana than will history show has been the result of the life of Robert D. Patterson, the subject of this sketch. The present commercial, industrial and social life of Adams county reflect the man and are better for his having lived and toiled within the confines of the county. He was born at Saint Mary's, Ohio, October 31, 1838. His father was James Patterson and his mother was Eliza (Peterson) Patterson. Both of his parents were natives of Saint Mary's and came to Adams county, Indiana, in the spring of 1839. The fact that they arrived in this state at the early date noted makes them pioneers of the rugged country to which they migrated. Reaching Indiana, the elder Pattersons chose to make their home in Decatur, where the father engaged for a time in several lines of business, finally set-

ting on what is since known as the old Patterson farm. This tract is now included within the city limits of Decatur and was tilled by the elder Patterson until his death at the age of sixty-six years. His wife survived him some years and died at the advanced age of seventy-nine. The couple were the parents of seven children, of whom Robert D. Patterson was the eldest.

Robert was not more than a year old when his parents removed to Adams county from their former home in Ohio. Consequently he has known no other state and is to all intents a native of the Hoosier commonwealth. His early life was spent on his father's farm, where he learned the lessons of thrift and self-reliance that equipped him for his independent struggle with the world. He was educated in the schools his immediate section of the state afforded and secured the best education the times and opportunities placed in his environment afforded. While still a young man, after finishing his school work, he learned the trade of stone-cutter and followed this trade for several years, from 1859 to 1862. In this latter year the country was sounding with the call to arms to repel the invading hosts of the southland, and young Patterson was among the first to volunteer his services to meet his country's need. He enlisted in Company H of the Eighty-ninth Indiana Volunteer Infantry and served with this command until the close of the war. He was a model and intelligent soldier and was promoted from sergeant of his company to first sergeant, six months before the close of the Rebellion he was promoted to captain and commanded the company with which he had marched to the front as a simple private. After the close of hostilities Patterson returned to De-



atur and began to forget the stirring events of his martial career in the peaceful pursuits of a quiet town.

Casting about for some business in which to expend his energies, he decided to engage in the milling business. To this end he purchased an established property and commenced to grind flour, corn and similiar farm products for the farmers of his neighborhood. In this venture he was singularly successful and he operated his mill and business until 1905, when he retired and sold his mill holdings. But Mr. Patterson found time during his busy life to engage in matters pertaining to the public weal. He was signally honored several times by his friends and associates by being chosen to offices of political preferment. In the fall of the year 1880, he was elected treasurer of Adams county and assumed the duties of his office in September of the following year. He was again elected to this office and served two terms with distinction and credit to himself and to the men who had chosen him. He has been a Democrat in politics all his life and is still one of the stanchest adherents of his party in the entire state. He has also been several times chosen a member of the school board of Decatur and has shown wisdom and judgment in discharging the duties of this important office. In fact, he is a man who has taken an active part in all things that made for the welfare of his community.

Mr. Patterson was married to Miss Sophia Beery, a native of Adams county, in October, 1869. His family has consisted of his wife and seven children: Jennie, the wife of Nelson K. Todd; Eva, the wife of D. French Quinn; Harry, who died in infancy; Harriet, the wife of George Morris; Eliza-

beth, wife of Charles Myers; Vera, the wife of Frederick Bell, and Glenn M., who died at the age of nineteen months. The religious convictions of Mr. Patterson are cast with the Presbyterian faith and he has been a member of this church and a trustee for many years. He affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in his twenty-first year. He is now awaiting the final summons at his home in Decatur, satisfied that he has made much of his life and with the certain assurance that his life and efforts have been of benefit to his fellows and that he is held in high esteem by all who know of his sterling qualities, his honesty and his fairness to all mankind.

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#### DR. MARIE L. HOLLOWAY.

It has been but within the last two decades that the professions have been thrown open to women and since they have been admitted to an equality with men in the pursuits attendant on active professional life. This statement is peculiarly true of the medical profession; and today the woman physician is a familiar and a welcomed addition to the professional life of almost every community in the land. No profession brings its practitioner closer to the real lives of others than the medical profession, and it is one to which women are especially adapted. Of course, there have been the venturesome spirits who have been the pioneers, so far as women are concerned, in the practice of the medical profession, and among them in this state Dr. Marie L. Holloway ranks high indeed. Dr. Holloway was born near Mansfield, Ohio, March 26, 1836. Her father was



John Kennedy and her mother Maria (Lorimer) Kennedy. Her father was a native of Pennsylvania and her mother was born in Ohio of Scotch-Irish parentage. The father died in Marion county, Ohio, in 1851, in his fifty-sixth year. He was a man who was prominent in the community in which he lived and was active in promoting the interests of the Democratic party, to which he belonged, during his mature years. He was honored a number of times by the members of his party and was a candidate for the state legislature at the time of his death. His wife survived his death a number of years, finally passing away in 1889, when in her seventy-eighth year. This estimable couple were the parents of nine children, of which Dr. Holloway was the third in order of birth.

Dr. Holloway's life until her ninth year was spent in Richland county, Ohio, when her parents removed to Marion county, Ohio. It was in this latter county that she grew to young womanhood. She attended the common schools of her neighborhood and was known as an earnest student. She was an apt pupil and mastered readily the subjects her homely opportunities afforded. At fifteen she took up the work of teaching and she filled various engagements of this nature to her own credit and the advantage of her pupils for the succeeding five years. At the expiration of this period she married Dr. A. G. Holloway, the wedding taking place in May of the year 1855. Following his marriage her husband, who had been practicing medicine in Marion county, engaged in the work of his profession in several places, finally coming to Decatur in 1877. In this city he continued in the practice of his profession until his death, which occurred November 4, 1904, at which time

he was seventy-six years of age. He was an esteemed member of his community and had served with distinction through the Civil war. He was first assistant surgeon of the One Hundred and Fifty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry and later served in the same capacity with another command. For some time he served as a member of the United States Pension Board and as a Republican took an active part in the political struggles of his section of the state. Dr. and Mrs. Holloway were the parents of three children. These are: Addie E., the wife of Charles Hoxie; George H. and Bertha A., the wife of W. E. Winch.

After settling in Decatur Dr. Marie L. Holloway took up the study of medicine with her husband. She read with him for some time and then entered the school at Keokuk, the Keokuk College of Physicians and Surgeons. After some work in the Iowa institution she entered the Indiana Medical College and graduated with the class of 1887, at which time she was fifty-one years of age. Dr. Holloway immediately took up the serious practice of her chosen profession. For about one and one half years she practiced in Fort Wayne and then returned to her home at Decatur. Her success in her home town was assured from the beginning, and as the years succeeded one another she increased her clientele. Today Dr. Holloway enjoys a large circle of patrons and is counted an honored member of the medical profession.

However, Dr. Holloway's interests have not been bounded by the immediate horizon of her professional life. She is a woman who sees much of interest and much calling for endeavor in every-day life. Believing this, she has been active in many lines. Nat-



urally she is interested in the progress of her profession in her adopted state and is a member of the State Medical Society and Secretary of the Adams County Medical Society. In addition she professes a strong interest in the Prohibition movement, and is closely associated with its interests in Indiana. She is identified with the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and an ardent supporter of its organization in her home city and county. She is a member of and an active worker in the Christian church of her city and has been a professing and active and sincere Christian throughout her long life. The social and educational movements arising in Decatur have found her a ready and intelligent supporter. She is a member of the Ladies' Historical Reading Club and of the Ladies' Shakespeare Club. She is also a member of the Ladies of the Maccabees of the World. Few women have filled their lives with the degree of usefulness to their fellows as has Dr. Holloway. She is universally esteemed and beloved.

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#### HARRY O. GROVE.

The fame of the products of the Cottonwood Stock Farm have carried the name of Harry O. Grove into practically every community of the state of Indiana and to many points in neighboring states. However, the present prosperity and comfort of the proprietor of this fine business and estate does not mean that it was achieved without effort. On the contrary, to reach the present comfortable estate he enjoys the owner of it labored long and arduously and suffered

many disappointments before success in large measure came to crown his efforts. Born in Perry county, Ohio, on July 15, 1865, he learned from his farmer parents the lessons of industry and frugality that he has applied so earnestly in his later life. He is the son of Hiram and Leah (Boyer) Grove, both natives of Ohio, where they lived until 1894, when they came to Geneva, Adams county, Indiana, where they still reside. He grew to manhood on his father's farm, and in 1889 was united in marriage to Ida M. Rohr, a daughter of Joshua and Louise (Koester) Rohr. Mr. Rohr is a native of Darke county, Ohio, where he was born, and his wife came to this country from Germany. Following his marriage in Ohio Mr. Grove lived with his wife in that state for several years. Several children were born on the Ohio homestead. About seven years ago he removed to Indiana with his family and settled on a farm of eighty acres in French township, Adams county, that his father-in-law had secured some time previously. This farm he operated for a few years. Then he purchased eighty acres for his own use. This tract was not far distant from the one he originally farmed in this county, which was southwest of Geneva, in Wabash township. It was situated in the Lob district, and was covered by a heavy growth of timber. An idea of its wild character may be gained when it is said that in order to reach the tract it was necessary for Mr. Grove and an assistant to chop away the underbrush and timber during four days to clear a road to a corner of the farm. Reaching his tract, he erected a temporary residence made of timber and boards he sawed from the trees he chopped down. This structure was a most primitive affair and



while the family lived in one portion another part was used to house his stock. It was in this barnlike home that two of his children were born. With this uninviting prospect and under these decidedly adverse economic conditions Mr. Grove made his start independently in Indiana. He was practically without a cent, but was possessed of an indomitable will and a determination to make every effort count toward his future success.

In a few years he succeeded in clearing all of his eighty acres and in bringing it under cultivation. He improved it with tiling and fencing and erected a substantial home and good barns and outbuildings.

In addition to a general farming business Mr. Grove devotes much of his time and attention to the breeding of fancy hogs and chickens and turkeys. His breed of pure Chester White swine and White Wyandottes and White Holland turkeys have gained him enviable prominence as a stock specialist. He is extremely careful what hogs and birds he puts upon the market and his productions are in demand in many places. He takes an active interest in stock and poultry exhibitions and was among the promoters of and is superintendent of the Adams County Fair Association. In addition he was a promoter and director of the poultry exhibition held recently at Decatur.

Despite the active, busy life in connection with his enterprises Mr. Grove finds time to interest himself in matters of general interest to his fellow citizens of Adams county. He has dipped slightly into local politics under the banner of Democracy and in 1904 was elected an assessor. He is keenly alive to all movements that are in line with county and township improvements, and his advice

is sought many times on many subjects. His fraternal affiliation is with the Berne Lodge, Knights of Pythias, and his own and family's religious connection is with the Lutheran church, to which the heartiest support is given.

To Mr. and Mrs. Grove seven children have been born, all of whom are still living. These children are: Ralph H., Edith L., Elmer E., Gladys N., Merrill C., Kenneth J. and Helen I., the baby.

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### JOHN SCHURGER.

John Schurger, senior member of the well known firm of Schurger & Smith, lawyers and abstracters, at Decatur, Indiana, was born in Seneca county, Ohio, on March 11, 1838. His parents were George A. and Margerette (Rapp) Schurger, the former born in Bavaria, Germany, and the latter in New Bavaria, Germany. These parents emigrated to America, respectively, in 1828 and 1832 and were subsequently married at Tiffin, Ohio. Here the father entered government land in Seneca county and remained there during the remainder of his life, dying at the age of fifty-two. His widow subsequently came to Decatur, Indiana, and spent her last days with her son, the subject of this sketch, her death occurring in 1884, at the age of seventy-nine years. This worthy couple had nine children, six of whom lived to years of maturity and three who died in infancy.

The subject of this sketch, who was the second child in order of birth, was reared on his father's farm in Seneca county, Ohio, and received his education in the common



schools of that locality. After the death of his father he took practical charge of the family and remained on the old homestead until twenty-four years of age, in which year he was married. He continued to farm in his native county about two years and in the fall of 1862 came to Adams county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Saint Mary's township, which he sold one year later and purchased forty acres in Root township, near Decatur, where he has since resided. During the nine years after settling in his present home he followed the butcher business, owning the first regular meat market in the town of Decatur. He was elected recorder of Adams county for a four-years' term and so satisfactorily did he perform his duties that he was re-elected to the office, thus holding it for a total period of eight years. Upon the expiration of his term of office he engaged in the abstract business, making the first abstracts that were ever made in Adams county. Subsequently he formed a partnership with William H. Reed in the abstract and law business, and they continued together for several years. Eventually David E. Smith was admitted to the firm, which was then known as Schurger, Reed & Smith, and they continued together for three years, at the end of which time Mr. Reed withdrew and the firm has since been known as Schurger & Smith. Both of these gentlemen are highly qualified for the business to which they have applied themselves and have been eminently successful in their line. Mr. Schurger is considered among the leading and progressive citizens of Decatur and commands the unqualified respect of all with whom he is thrown in contact.

In Seneca county, Ohio, on April 29, 1860, Mr. Schurger married Miss Agatha

Fischer, who was born in Baden, Germany, accompanying her parents to America in September, 1850. To this union were born eight children: Catherine, the wife of John Schurger; Rosa, who is overseer in the Indian Orphan Asylum at Assinins, Michigan, and is known as Sister M. Isidore; Albert; Magdalene, the wife of Elmer Rohr; Anthony; Christena; Louisa, the wife of Frank Kurber, and Fred. Mr. and Mrs. Schurger and their children are members of the Saint Mary's Catholic church at Decatur and Mr. Schurger is a member of the Catholic Benevolent Legion.

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#### DAVID STEEL.

A scene shifting from the peaceful life of a boy on a pioneer farm through the stirring events of a titanic struggle and back again to the arts of peace is one through which many men of northeastern Indiana lived. Such also was the scene that made the life of David Steel anything but commonplace. He was born on a farm in Kirkland township, Adams county, Indiana, in 1840. His parents, Samuel and Susan (Worley) Steel, had settled the farm three years before the birth of David. This pioneer couple reached Indiana in 1837, where the husband entered one hundred and sixty acres of government land. All of this tract was uninviting and heavily timbered. But the pioneer built a log cabin for a temporary home and set earnestly to work to clear and improve his land. At the time he moved to his farm there were but two houses between the farm and Decatur, which fact gives some idea of the wildness of the county and the thinly settled



aspect it presented. After some years of toil he succeeded in clearing about fifty acres and in erecting a frame dwelling, and in the year Buchanan was chosen President he died. He and his wife had a family of nine children, six of whom are still living. These are: George W., David, Nancy A., James A., Robert N. and Martha J. The three children dead were: Mary E., Joseph and Samuel. Following the death of the father of this family George and David assumed the management and direction of the farm. In a short time they cleared an additional fifty acres and brought the cleared area to a fine state of productiveness.

At this juncture the war cloud passed over the country. David was caught up in the tide that hastened to answer to President Lincoln's call for volunteers. He enlisted in Company I of the Eighty-ninth Indiana Infantry. Almost from the beginning of his service he saw actual fighting. He took part in many of the battles of the southwest and numerous skirmishes that did not amount to general engagements. His first engagement was on a Sunday morning at Munfordsville, Kentucky, and two days later he was taken prisoner. He was paroled and returned to his home. However, at the expiration of his thirty-days' stay at home he was found in the ranks again doing picket duty at Memphis, Tennessee. For the following year he was stationed at Fort Pickering, during which time he was in a number of brushes with the enemy. He then went down the Mississippi river and fought all the way to Meridian, Mississippi. He was in the battle of Pleasant Hills, fought on the Marchville prairie, at Wild Oak, and was a member of the expedition into Missouri. He was taken sick in this state and

invalided to Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, where he remained until the close of the war.

Again the scene shifted. With the close of the war there was nothing for a soldier to do, and his need for weapons was at an end. Like many others, David Steel returned to his home to take up the thread of his peaceful life where the advent of the war had severed it. He stayed at his old home for about two years and then purchased a third interest in the saw mill operated and owned by Hower & Baker. He operated this mill for about a year and then sold his interest. At this time he was married to Mrs. Mary E. Hixon, who was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, in July, 1844. The marriage was solemnized December 24, 1868. With his wife he moved to the farm in section 1, Kirkland township, where he still resides. He completed the clearing of his place and improved it until it became one of the best farms in the district. He erected a modern and comfortable house and adequate farm buildings, including a large barn. Mr. and Mrs. Steel became the parents of nine children, five of whom are still living. These are: Willard S., Lauretta E., Millard N., Charles F., Walter E. Of the family Ethel A., Cinderella M., Lewis V. and Bessie B. are dead.

Mr. Steel is one of the prominent men of his community. He has taken a more than active part in the affairs of the county and has promoted its interests on all occasions. He circulated the first road petition in the county and succeeded in putting it through. A fine road built of stone, twelve miles long, was built as the result of his efforts, and in recognition of his services his neighbors presented him with a magnificent gold watch.



He served the county as a trustee and his township as constable for certain periods. He is a member of the Decatur Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His interest in political questions is alive, and he votes the Democratic ticket. He is not a communicant of any church, but he contributes liberally to the needs and charities of all denominations. His life has ever been a most exemplary one and the entire esteem of his neighbors and associates is extended to him.

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### JOHN D. HALE.

John D. Hale was born at Bluffton, Wells county, Indiana, December 27, 1842. He is a son of Bowen and Mary A. (Deam) Hale, of Scotch and German parentage. He spent his early life with his parents at their home at Bluffton and attended the common schools. When he was fourteen years of age his parents moved from Bluffton to a farm in the vicinity of that place. John continued his studies in the common schools of the neighborhood and helped as he could to cultivate the home farm. The call for volunteers came in his twentieth year, and he answered it. He enlisted in Company B of the One Hundred and First Indiana Volunteer Infantry and was appointed a corporal of the company commanded by Captain Peter Studabaker. Soon after his enlistment his regiment was made a part of the Army of the Cumberland and John Hale saw much active service in this command. He took a gallant part in all of the battles the Army of the Cumberland fought until November 25, 1863, when he was severely wounded at the battle of Missionary Ridge.

He was confined in a hospital until the following February, and then rejoined his regiment at Marietta, Georgia. Almost immediately after rejoining his regiment he was under fire. He was in the desperate engagement at Peach Tree Creek, the siege of Atlanta and at Jonesboro. When General W. T. Sherman began his famous march from Atlanta to the sea John Hale was one of the soldiers who followed their victorious and illustrious leader. He took part in all of the engagements fought during the famous march through Georgia and he bore himself with bravery and gallantry. After the war ended he took part with the other members of his regiment in the historic review of the victorious Federal troops by President Lincoln at Washington in October, 1865.

After he was discharged from the army he returned to his father's farm in Wells county. He engaged in the cultivation of the farm during the spring and summer months and taught school in the winter months. In October, 1867, he gave up farm work and teaching and engaged in the dry goods business with A. Deam in Bluffton. This partnership was continued until 1872 and then dissolved. Following the dissolution Mr. Hale went to Geneva and engaged in business with his brother, S. W. Hale. This firm did business under the name of S. W. Hale & Company and became prominent in the grain trade. Both brothers were popular men in the county and their enterprise was a pronounced success from its start. The business grew and proved a profitable venture. When the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railway Company took over the original holdings of the old Fort Wayne & Richmond Railway Company in March, 1872, Mr. Hale was appointed station and



freight agent of the road at Geneva. He held this position and discharged its duties with faithfulness and care until 1876, when he resigned. In 1882 he was elected clerk of the Adams county circuit court and was re-elected in 1886. After leaving the clerk's office in 1890 he built and operated elevators along the lines of the Erie and Clover Leaf railroads.

The marriage of Mr. Hale and Miss Caroline Holmes was solemnized September 8, 1869. She was born in Hartford township and was engaged in teaching in the schools at Camden, Schuyler county, Illinois, at the time of her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Hale are the parents of five children: Ethelyn, Olive L., Sarah B., Genevieve and Lucile.

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#### HON. HENRY KRICK.

Hon. Henry Krick, around whom this sketch centers, was born near Reading, Berks county, Pennsylvania, October 24, 1845. His father was one of the earlier settlers of Pennsylvania, Berks county, and his mother, Elizabeth (Schlegel) Krick, was a native of Berks county. Both of his parents died in Berks county and are buried there. To this hardy pioneer couple were born six children, of which Henry Krick was the eldest. He was born on the family homestead in Berks county and lived at his boyhood home until 1865. His youth was spent in agricultural pursuits, in which, before his manhood, he gained proficiency. In the year 1865 he decided to move west and began seeking a favorable locality in which to settle. He finally decided on the state of Indiana and in January of the same year he

came to Adams county. He was engaged in various kinds of employment for some time and then learned the tinner's trade, at which he worked for four years in Decatur. After the four years in the tinner's trade he embarked in the produce business, which business he followed until 1882. In this latter interval he was elected sheriff of Adams county and served the county in this capacity faithfully and intelligently for two terms, being re-elected after the completion of his first term of office. In 1882 he saw the advantages offered by the business of manufacturing brick and established a plant for brick making. From the start this venture was successful and Mr. Krick devoted his entire time and attention to the business of manufacturing brick for the succeeding ten years. In 1892 he enlarged his plant and embraced in his business the manufacture of tile. About this time the firm was reorganized and became known as Krick, Tyndall & Co., under which name the business is still conducted. The business has grown with remarkable consistency and the annual output has grown to more than a million brick and large quantities of tile.

The success that has attended the business ventures of Mr. Krick has been pronounced and has attracted the attention of his associates. He has long been considered a conservative and careful business man and in 1898 his friends in his county decided that he was a proper man to represent their interests in the state legislature. Accordingly he was nominated as a candidate for the office and elected on the Democratic ticket. He served with distinction one term in the state's legislative body and discharged the duties he had taken upon himself with rare judgment and to the entire satisfaction of



his constituents. Politics, as appealing to the betterment of the community in which he lives, and in which his business interests are centered, have held an interest for Mr. Krick. He has been active in party affairs and has served in various capacities. He served for a time as a member of the Decatur city council. In addition to his political offices Mr. Krick has been connected with a number of public enterprises that have been brought forward in his city. He was a member of the directorate of the gas company while that concern was in existence and has been closely identified with other business ventures.

Mr. Krick was married at Decatur, June 19, 1874, to Miss Sarah Mangold, a native of Fairfield county, Ohio. She is a daughter of Abraham and Catherine Mangold, who came to Adams county from Ohio in 1864. Mrs. Krick's parents both died in Preble township, Adams county. To the subject of this sketch and his wife have been born six sons and six daughters, nine children of whom are living. Nellie, a former teacher, is the wife of J. R. Parish, of Franklin, Ind. The others are: Frank J., George M., Des-sie, Catherine, the wife of Dallas Butler, a deputy sheriff of Adams county; Mary Agnes, S. Josephine, Virgil M. and Walter J.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Krick are active and esteemed members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Decatur and Mr. Krick has been a trustee of this religious institution for many years. He is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he was first elected to membership in 1869. Few men of his section of the state have gained such prominence as has fallen to the lot of Mr. Krick, and it may be said without fear of contradiction that none is more re-

spected or more trusted than is the Hon. Henry Krick.

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#### CHARLES DORWIN PORTER.

Charles Dorwin Porter, cashier of the State Bank at Geneva, which responsible position he has held since 1893, was born on April 3, 1851, at Decatur, Indiana, and is the son of John Pomeroy and Elizabeth (Dorwin) Porter. The father was a leading physician and surgeon in his day and commanded the universal respect of not only his professional colleagues, but of the public generally.

The subject received a good education in the public schools and in 1868, at the age of seventeen years, he engaged in the drug business, which he continued until 1893. In that year he assisted in the organization of the State Bank at Geneva and upon the selection of the officials he was elected cashier. The State Bank of Geneva is one of the solid institutions and holds high rank in its line. Mr. Porter has won for himself a splendid reputation as a financier and has done much to not only uphold the credit of the institution with which he is connected, but also to advance the commercial interests of the locality. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, Knights of Pythias and Sons of Veterans.

In April, 1886, Mr. Porter married Miss Gene Stratton and to them has been born one child, Jeanette.

Mrs. Porter possesses considerable literary talent and is the author and illustrator of "The Song of the Cardinal" and "What I Have Done with Birds," published by the Bobbs-Merrill Company of Indianapolis.



Among the latest of her productions is a book entitled "Freckles," issued from the press of Doubleday, Page & Co., of New York. It is a splendid story and has a wide circulation.

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### GRANVILL W. RUPRIGHT.

Granvill W. Rupright, about whom the interest of this brief sketch centers, is the son of John Rupright, one of the oldest and most respected living pioneers of Adams county. John Rupright was born in Lehigh county, Pennsylvania, in 1825 and came to Indiana in 1852. He settled in Preble township, where he lives today, and became a successful farmer and an example of good citizenship. Granvill Rupright was born on his father's homestead near Lords-town, Trumbull county, Ohio, where his parents lived before coming to Indiana. His birth occurred September 25, 1851. He was the second in point of birth in a family of seven children and was about two years of age when his father brought his family to Indiana. John Rupright was married in Ohio, September 30, 1846, to Miss Elizabeth Daugherty, a daughter of John and Isabella (Campbell) Daugherty. Granvill was reared on his father's farm in Preble township and his youthful life and experiences were in line with those of many other youngsters of the section and period. He was educated in the schools of his neighborhood and attended the common school of District 4 of the township. He grew to manhood on his father's estate and learned the lessons of a farmer's life. He was an industrious young man and soon demon-

strated that he was able to take full charge of the management of his father's large farm and that he could cope with all of the responsibilities incident to the conduct of a large estate. In 1873 John Rupright retired from active business and delegated the care of many of his interests to his son Granvill. Included in these responsibilities was the management and cultivation of the home farm. Granvill took hold of this new work and conducted the farm to the satisfaction of his father and to his own credit.

The marriage of Mr. Rupright and Miss Mary F. Short was celebrated January 2, 1873, shortly before he assumed the management of the home estate. His wife is a daughter of Richard and Rebecca (Comer) Short and was born in Roanoke, Indiana, January 3, 1854. Her father was a native of Virginia, where his ancestors had resided for many years. He lived in a number of sections of the state and finally died in Decatur at the age of seventy-three. Her mother died at Antwerp, Ohio, in her forty-first year. Mrs. Rupright was one of a family of three children born to her parents. The other children were: William B. and Minnie M. Mr. and Mrs. Granvill Rupright are the parents of nine children: William J., Lillie G., the wife of John Kreigh, a Wells county farmer; —————, the wife of George Ehrett, of Wells county; John F.; Ivy, the wife of Joseph Archbold, of Wells county; Edward E., Forrest A., George R. and Melville O.

Mr. Rupright, since his father's retirement, has devoted his entire time and attention to the management of the large farm. He is a progressive man and appreciates the full value of modern methods and modern machinery. He cultivates the farm under



the most approved ideas and he has brought it to a stage where it is one of the most productive and profitable estates in the county. His home and other buildings are fine and admirably adapted to their several uses, and he keeps all the various buildings at a high point of service utility. He is a man who is actively interested in the affairs of his township and county and is accounted one of its most valuable citizens. His interest in education is keen and he has served as a member of the township school board for sixteen years. In addition to this, he was a justice of the peace for eight years and filled this office with credit and with exemplary fairness.

He served his fellow residents of the township as a trustee for four years, and in other ways showed his interest in their welfare. His record as a public officer is one that reflects credit on his judgment and ability. His business interests are varied and he has been president of the Ossian Co-Operative Company since its organization in 1905. He is treasurer of the Echo Wind and Tornado Insurance Company and secretary and treasurer of the Preble Township Telephone Company. He is also president of the Ossian Live Stock Insurance Company. He is an earnest worker of the United Brethren church and a trustee of that organization. His fraternal affiliations are with the Knights of Pythias Lodge, No. 343.

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### JESSE NIBLICK.

Inseparably connected with the history of Decatur and Adams county is the name of Jesse Niblick. Through a long and useful life devoted to business, but untainted by

selfishness, Jesse Niblick rose from humble beginnings to be the leading financier of his section of the state and a man who did more, perhaps, than any other for the development and commercial interests of Decatur. He was born in Carroll county, Ohio, August 12, 1826. His parents were James and Anna (Carter) Niblick. His father was born in Ireland, January 19, 1803, and coming to this country as a youth, was reared in New York city and in Tuscarawas county, Ohio. He was a cooper by trade. In November, 1836, he settled on a farm in Washington township, Adams county. He removed in 1869 to Warrensburg, Missouri, where he died at the age of sixty-nine. His wife was of Maryland parentage and a descendant of a long line of English ancestors. She was reared in Carroll county and was married in that county. She died near Decatur August 12, 1838. Of the eight children born to Mr. and Mrs. James Niblick four are living. These are: Jesse, Robert, a farmer; Adaline, wife of James Daily, of Wells county, and Mary Jane.

Jesse Niblick was ten years of age when his parents came to Adams county. He learned the shoemaker's trade. In 1846 he opened a boot and shoe store. This business he conducted with profit for several years. In 1851, October 16, he was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Closs, a daughter of John and Catherine (Longandiffer) Closs. His wife was born in Germany and came to this country in her girlhood, settling in Indiana. To her father is ascribed the credit of being the first tavern keeper in Decatur. When the family came to this country it originally settled at Maumee, Ohio, in 1836. The removal to Decatur was in January of the following year. Mr. Closs



opened a tavern that stood on the corner now occupied by the bank and store of Niblick & Company. This tavern was well known in its day and was a favorite stopping place for travelers of the period. The founder of the business died in 1874, at the advanced age of seventy-four years. His wife survived him a few years and lived to be eighty-six.

To Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Niblick were born eight children, of whom seven are living. These children were: William, who was president of the Adams County Bank at the time of his death; John, the senior member of the firm of Niblick & Company; James K.; Mary; Amelia; Charles, president of the bank, and Daniel, a member of the firm of Niblick & Company.

Mr. Niblick continued in the shoe business until 1866, when he associated himself with John Crawford in the general merchandise business in Decatur. The firm became Niblick & Crawford and later Niblick, Crawford & Sons, a son of each partner being added to the firm. In 1871 Jesse Niblick, in company with J. D. Nuttman, established a bank under the partnership name of Niblick & Nuttman, bankers. Later R. B. Allison and David Studabaker became associated in the banking business and the institution was organized as a state bank. Mr. Niblick was a director and the first president of the bank and was succeeded in this office by R. B. Allison, although he retained his membership on the board of directors and was elected vice president. He had other business interests and was a director of the Eagle Manufacturing Company of Decatur.

The mercantile business with which Mr. Niblick was identified was conducted for a number of years under the firm name of

Niblick, Crawford & Sons and then the Messrs. Crawford severed their connection with the partnership and the business was taken over by Mr. Niblick and his son. This brought about another change in the firm name, and this time it became Jesse Niblick & Son. He continued in his mercantile business until his death, October 6, 1895. The death of Mr. Niblick came as a distinct shock to the community in which he lived. He was one of the prominent business men of his community and one of its most respected and esteemed citizens. His funeral was the largest and most imposing ever held in Decatur. The pall-bearers who bore the body of the aged financier to its last resting place were his old business associates: R. B. Allison, David Studabaker, deceased; John Meibers, deceased; John Shane, deceased; Conrad Brake and Ezra Lister, deceased. These men had been associated with Mr. Niblick in various enterprises covering a period of more than a half century. The interment was at Saint Joseph's cemetery.

In addition to being an active business man Mr. Niblick was a public-spirited citizen. He was an active mover in all things destined to promote the general welfare of his community and was continually aiding in increasing its commercial importance. In politics he was a Democrat and served a number of times in a public capacity. He was trustee of Washington township and in 1865 he was elected county treasurer and re-elected in 1867. He served for many years as a village trustee and in its council. He was a member of Saint Mary's Catholic church. He was a Democrat in politics. He left an estate of large proportions.



## DAVID WERLING.

Among the numbers of Germans who came to this county in the early decades of the nineteenth century were Andrew Werling and his wife, who were natives of Byron. They reached New York after a voyage across the Atlantic that was devoid of incident and pushed west. They settled for a time in Ohio, in Pomeroy county of which state David Werling was born in 1842. His parents lived for a time in Cincinnati and then made the trip to Fort Wayne, Indiana, by canal boat, a tedious method of travel, but one of the few available in that day. Arriving in Indiana, the Werlings looked about for a suitable tract of land and finally purchased eighty acres in Preble township, Adams county. This land was unimproved and covered with timber with the exception of twenty acres. The lives of members of the family that ensued were characteristic of the home-making period of the new state. The older people toiled to clear the land and to bring it under cultivation. In time this was accomplished and the rude home and other buildings gave way to a modern residence, comfortable and commodious, and to modern barns and other necessary buildings. David grew to manhood on his father's farm. He obtained a meager education in such schools as existed in his neighborhood and developed into a sturdy, capable man. He assisted his father until the latter's death in 1895 and in all things was a dutiful son. Many of the improvements made on the paternal estate were his work.

In 1864 David was united in marriage with Miss Augusta Bley, a daughter of Adam and Rosa (Sebert) Bley. Like the elder Werlings, the elder Bleys were Ger-

mans, who came to this country in an early day and settled in Preble township. They were farmers and raised their children to a farmer's life. After his marriage David Werling settled on a tract of land he had purchased some time before. This land was uncleared and the ensuing years were devoted to its improvement. He was an industrious and intelligent farmer and allowed nothing to interfere with his chosen work. He adopted modern methods and applied them skillfully, so that in a few years his place was cleared, improved and profitable. He lived on this original tract of land and farmed it until 1905. In this year he moved across the road from his old place and purchased sixty acres of finely improved land. On this farm he has a fine residence that is one of the most complete and attractive in the entire county. His barns are new and modern and his entire country place is at an advanced stage of fertility. In addition to his farming business he has found time to branch out in other lines of business. He operates a saw mill on his present property and a tile factory. These businesses he makes highly profitable. His career has taught him the lessons of business sagacity and he applies these lessons to the best of advantage. His enterprises are healthy ones and show balances on the profit side of the ledger with the close of each year of business.

Mr. Werling is a man who is public spirited. He is in the van of all movements that are designed to improve the community where he lives. He was largely instrumental in inducing the Standard Oil Company to locate a plant on its Preble township location and his efforts cost him much time and money before the plant was definitely secured. However, since its erection it has



proved a source of profit and income to himself and to many of his fellow residents of Preble township.

To Mr. and Mrs. Werling there were born five children: Mary, August, Albert, Charles and Verona. The mother died in 1898.

Mr. Werling again married in 1900 to Ida Sebert, by whom he has two children—Raymond and Vera. Mr. Werling has been a lifelong Democrat and served twelve years as supervisor and is now serving his second term as county commissioner. The family are stanch members of the German Lutheran church.

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#### HON. S. W. HALE.

Few men of any community have managed to crowd into their life span more years of aggressive and useful activity than has the Hon. S. W. Hale. His life thus far has exceeded the allotted three score and ten years, and more than a half century of years of it has been spent in close and intimate touch with affairs of business and with matters directly affecting the welfare of the Indiana commonwealth. The cares of business, the responsibilities of those elected to legislative assemblies and the hardships and duties of the soldier have all been incidents of this busy life, about which this sketch centers. And it may be said without fear of contradiction that cares have been assumed, responsibilities met and duties discharged in every instance with devotion and intelligence.

Mr. Hale was born in Bluffton, Indiana, September 18, 1844. His father was Bowen Hale, a native of Kentucky, in which state he was born in 1801. His mother was Mary

A. Deam, a native of Ohio. Bowen Hale went to Green county, Ohio, with his parents at an early age and spent his youth on a farm in that Ohio county. As he grew he learned the trade of a chairmaker and a painter and followed these trades for some time. When he grew to manhood he left his father's farm and worked at his trades along the Mississippi river, working in a number of river towns. Later he engaged in mercantile pursuits in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and then removed to what became Wells county. After the organization of the county he moved to the village of Bluffton, where he held a number of important public offices. He was postmaster and clerk of the county court after its organization. He lived in Bluffton until his death, which occurred in 1887. He was a man who took a keen interest in public affairs and served in one capacity or another continuously for sixteen years. Seven children were born to Mr. Hale as the result of his union with Miss Deam, and all of these are living. The children are: J. D., engaged in the grain and coal business in Decatur, where he served as clerk of the county court for four years; S. W., the subject of this sketch; James P., a graduate of the State University, and a practicing attorney at Bluffton; Emma, the wife of Andrew Van Emon, a Wells county farmer; Jane, the wife of Daniel Markley, a Wells county farmer; Mary, who owns the old home place, and Bowen, living at Spokane, Washington. The elder Hale was a Democrat throughout his life and a member of the Masonic fraternity.

The opportunities that came to S. W. Hale were greater than those that fell to the lot of a majority of the boys of his time. He received an excellent education in the Bluff-



ton schools and graduated from the high school of that place with high standing. After the completion of his education he lived in Bluffton until 1864, when he enlisted for service in the Civil war. He became a member of Company E, One Hundred and Fifty-third Indiana Infantry, which regiment was attached to the Army of Tennessee. He served with his command during the remainder of the war and was discharged with an honorable record for faithfulness and efficiency. He returned to his home after his regiment was mustered out of service in 1865. Four years after his return from the war he was married to Miss Phoebe C. McFadden, a daughter of John and Catherine (Daugherty) McFadden. His wife's parents were natives of Ohio, where she was born, and came to Indiana in 1852, settling on a farm in Wells county. Her father served as county auditor for eight years. For some time after his marriage Mr. Hale engaged in the grain and produce business at Bluffton. He disposed of this business and moved with his family to Geneva, Adams county, where he has since resided excepting four years he lived at Portland, Indiana.

He established himself in business and his enterprise was among the first of its kind launched in Geneva.

It was after he had established his residence at Geneva that his public career began. He was from the first one who believed in doing things for the general good of a community. He had little patience with mere theorists. His gospel was that of work and accomplishment. He took an immediate interest in furthering the educational facilities of his adopted village and was a member of the school board for eighteen years of con-

tinuous service. In time his fellow townsmen began searching for a man to represent the county in the upper house of the state's legislative body. The name of Mr. Hale was offered and it was seen at once that he possessed just the characteristics that would make a safe and sane representative. He was nominated by the Democratic party in his district and was elected in 1886 with but little opposition. His services during his first term as a state senator were distinguished and he was re-elected for a second term. Again he distinguished himself. But his public usefulness was not circumscribed by his terms as a member of the state senate. He served as a member of the board of trustees of the Eastern Indiana Hospital for the Insane for twelve years and as a member of the board of trustees of the State epileptic village near Newcastle, and is still serving. He is interested in many commercial enterprises and his business life has been characterized with acumen and progressiveness. He is now a stockholder in and the vice president of the Bank of Geneva. Finding time to take some delight in the more peaceful occupation of tilling the soil, he owns and superintends a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, on which are located several productive oil wells.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hale have been born six children. These are: William, assistant cashier of the bank at Geneva, and married to Miss Nellie Clawson; this couple have three children: Helen, Mary and William; Frank, living at Geneva; Stella, deceased; Clara, married J. A. Anderson, a druggist of Geneva, and Fred, who married Anna Schaffer, and operates a farm in Wabash township. Mr. Hale has found time to enjoy some social intercourse with his fellows



and is a member of the Masonic fraternity, which he joined in 1867; of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and of the Grand Army of the Republic. Mrs. Hale died August 17, 1906.

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### J. K. NIBLICK.

Numbered among the successful business men of Adams county is James K. Niblick. He has gained a place for himself as a business man that is enviable and is a member of a family that has long been intimately associated with the commercial growth and development of Decatur and Adams county. Mr. Niblick was born in Decatur, January 14, 1859. He is a son of Jesse and Catherine (Closs) Niblick. His father was one of the older financiers of Adams county and a man who was a strong factor in the industrial life of the county during his life. He was interested in a number of enterprises. He founded with J. D. Nuttman the Old Adams County Bank, since became the strongest institution of its kind in the county, and the business of Niblick & Company, the leading mercantile establishment of Decatur. Jesse Niblick was one of the wealthiest and most highly respected residents of Decatur at the time of his death, October 6, 1895, and his name continues to be an Adams county synonym for integrity and progressiveness.

His son, James K. Niblick, was reared in Decatur. In his boyhood he attended the schools of his home city and grew to manhood there. With the exception of a few months spent on his farm in Union township, he has resided continuously in Decatur. After completing his course in the Decatur

schools he, in 1872, entered the mercantile field. He engaged in the capacity of a clerk in the dry goods store operated by his father, and was connected with this store until the death of his father in 1895. Two years after his father's death he severed his connection with Niblick & Company and engaged in the grocery business in Decatur. He conducted his grocery business for three years and then sold out his interest in it. His next business venture was in the line of agricultural implements, and he sold this line for the succeeding three years after abandoning the grocery business. At the expiration of the three years he removed to his farm in Union township and operated his farm. However, the quiet life on his farm was not, seemingly, aggressive enough for his ambitious and active nature, and he returned to Decatur and assumed the management of the elevator owned by the Niblick estate. This elevator was purchased originally by Jesse Niblick from David Studabaker in 1877 and was operated by the elder Niblick until his death. It became a successful business venture and a valuable property.

May 9, 1882, Mr. Niblick was united in marriage with Miss Aurelia Spuller. The wedding was solemnized in Saint Mary's Roman Catholic church and was a distinct social event. Mrs. Niblick is a daughter of George and Fannie (Welter) Spuller and was born in Union township, Adams county. Her father was a gallant soldier during the Civil war and died in 1865 as the result of disease contracted while in the service of his country. Her mother died in Union township in 1869. Mr. and Mrs. Niblick are the parents of four children, three of whom are living. Those living are: May C., Charles X. and Verena. Frederick, the third child



born to Mr. and Mrs. Niblick, died when three years of age. Mr. Niblick is in every way an exemplary citizen. He is a man who takes much interest in the affairs of his county and city and does much to promote its welfare and prosperity. Measured by commercial standards, he is a successful man and owns a fine farm of one hundred and forty acres in Union township and other realty. With the members of his family he is a consistent member of Saint Mary's church and accords his hearty support to the aims and charities of this denomination.

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#### REMINISCENT.

That the author of Snow's History of Adams County has been a continuous resident of Adams county, Indiana, for more than forty-six years and the editor hereof, B. F. Bowen, of Indianapolis, Indiana, believes that a brief sketch of the author of Snow's History of Adams County would be a fitting recognition of his labors, hereto appends such a sketch as he is able to secure from personal inquiries and from the sketches of Mr. Snow as have appeared from time to time in the various papers and periodicals:

On the 17th day of June, 1854, in the pioneer village of Portland, in Jay county, Indiana, a "Hoosier" boy was born. When but five years old he removed with his parents, Dr. Barton B. Snow and Rebecca H. Snow, to their new home in southern Adams county near the banks of the Wabash river. That boy was John Fletcher Snow, the subject of this sketch. Here he grew to manhood, attending the short terms of school until his eighteenth year, at which time he entered

college. The death of his parents within the next three years greatly interfered with his plans and expectations. Instead of completing his course, he taught and attended normal schools for further preparation of the work as teacher. It was not until 1883 that he received his B. S. degree, and in June of this same year he was chosen county superintendent of the Adams county public schools, succeeding himself in numerous re-elections. He filled this position with great success and much to the credit of his county in teachers' institutes and state teachers' associations. From the American School Board Journal of April, 1892, the following is taken:

"The subject of this sketch, John F. Snow, was born in Portland, Indiana, June 17, 1854. His mother, Rebecca H. McDonald, was of Scotch-Irish parentage. Barton B. Snow, M. D., his father, was a descendant of Puritan residents of Boston, Massachusetts. He received his first ideas of education from his mother, who was a teacher. His early years were devoted to agricultural pursuits and attendance at the district schools until the age of eighteen, at which time he entered Ridgeville College. Ill health and the death of his parents greatly retarded his educational progress. After ten years devoted to the work of student and teacher in various grades, from the district schools to the normal and high school, he attained the degree of Bachelor of Science. In 1883 he was elected county superintendent of schools and as a member of the Indiana County Superintendents' Association served on various educational committees, and in 1890 was chosen president of the association. Being possessed of ample energy and indomitable will power, his undertakings are



usually crowned with a merited degree of success.

From the campaign edition of the Indiana State Sentinel, edited by Gilbert Shanklin, in 1898, the following is taken:

"In the joint senatorial district composed of Adams and Allen counties, in 1898, John F. Snow was a candidate. He received the entire vote of his county and the bulk of the country vote of Allen. No one questioned his capacity to make an efficient representative. However, the Fort Wayne Democracy placed the senatorial credit to another. Until the present time he has never aspired to an elective office, though a good campaigner and active Democratic worker. He served in 1896 as chairman of the Adams county Democratic central committee and contributed his efforts toward placing the Democratic majority in his county nearly four hundred higher than it had ever been before."

From the Geneva Herald of February 11, 1898, the following is taken:

"At the age of six years J. F. Snow came with his parents to the garden lands of Adams county on the southern banks of the Wabash river. There the love of natural primitive scenery, the huge oak forests, the gigantic walnut timber and hundreds of bushels of hickory nuts that lined the bottom lands, the myriads of squirrels and thousands of the finest fish that ever tempted a Hoosier lad in his youth were those the Wabash country offered up just for the asking. As this lad grew up the woodman's ax was placed in his hands, the lumber mills were located, the first railroad in the county was built and put in operation. Ten miles of bridges and culverts were furnished upon contract by the mills upon which he worked

while yet in his teens. Large tracts of land were cleared and prepared for the plow, manhood grew apace, the dinner horn took the place of the steam whistle of the mill, the clearing and the new farm was a reality. The district school of three months' term; the verdant youth as a scholar now sets in motion the machinery that leads on to knowledge. In 1875, at the death of his father, Dr. Barton B. Snow, he was thrown entirely upon his own resources to make a living and get an education at one and the same time.

"Being of Puritanic stock, he has a supreme hatred for cowards, hypocrites and imposters of every type, and with nearly a spirit of devotion regards the friend of his friends. Though reared by Methodist parents, a Beecher or a Talmage are his ideal divines, as a Jackson and a Washington are his ideal statesmen and patriots. In politics he has long since exercised and advocated the cause of Democracy, has taken part in congressional and state conventions and always labored for the advancement of the principles of the Democratic party. His addresses in institutes and educational associations have won for him a host of acquaintances and friends, who shall be delighted to know of his ultimate success in his new field of labor. As opportunity would permit within the past years he has devoted his attention to a study of the law, and in the fall of 1897 he formed a partnership with Hon. C. J. Lutz, of Decatur, Indiana, and became a member of the law firm of Lutz & Snow. He now requests the privilege of representing the counties of Allen and Adams as joint state senator in the coming session of the Indiana general assembly. Being an able campaigner, strength would be added to the ticket by his nomination to the position he seeks."



From various sources we learn that Mr. Snow is a careful, painstaking attorney, whose court papers are of a kind that will stand repeated attacks without serious results; that he is an industrious student and continuous worker, never to be found idle; that as a friend he can be trusted and depended upon to the limit; that he is an Odd Fellow, a Royal Arch Mason, a Democrat and a conservative citizen of the Andrew Jackson type; that he is an able political campaigner and an interesting platform orator.

On the 25th day of August, 1881, J. F. Snow and Miss Sadie Alice Hoskinson were married. To them were born two sons, Edwin Earl and Horace Hamilton, both of whom are living at this time in Decatur. Edwin Earl was married on the 15th day of April, 1906, to Miss Myrtle Miller in Anderson, Indiana. The parents of Mrs. Sadie A. Snow on the paternal side were from near Parkersburg, Virginia, and were of Scotch-Irish descent. Her paternal grandmother's parents were slave-owners before the war of 1812, of which her grandfather was a soldier. Her maternal grandparents came from Vermont and settled near Newark, in Licking county, Ohio, in the early 'thirties, her parents removing to Indiana in 1865.

J. F. Snow's paternal grandparents were of English descent, as will be seen from this bit of history, taken from an early history of Plymouth: "We find that Nicholas, Anthony and William Snow came over from England. The former two brought families; the latter was an apprentice and settled in Doxbury. Anthony was first at Plymouth, then in 1642 at Marshfield. Nicholas, who came in the 'Ann' in 1623, had a share in the division of the land at Plymouth, settled in

Eastham." At the close of the Revolutionary war several families of Snows settled in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, near the town of Chester. A James Snow there married an Irish girl by the name of Eleanor Tate. These were the parents of Barton B. Snow, the father of the subject of this sketch. They came westward to Defiance, Ohio, in 1833 and in 1837 removed to Jackson township, Jay county, Indiana, since which time there have been frequent "Snow squalls" in northeastern Indiana.

The sons of J. F. and Sadie A. Snow are practical printers and newspaper men. They were once known as the youngest publishers in the United States—their career beginning when they were children, eight and twelve years of age, in the publication of the Star-News.

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#### ADAM J. SMITH.

Enterprise and pluck are the factors that have been most potent in insuring and making possible the enviable commercial standing of Adam J. Smith in the community in which he lives. Today he is properly rated among the business men of Adams county who have attained more than an ordinary degree of success, and this has been brought about almost wholly through his own efforts. He was born in Whitley county, Indiana, near the village of Churubusco, February 20, 1857. He is a son of Henry and Catherine (Lepple) Smith. Both of his parents were born in Bavaria, Germany, and were married in their native village in that country in 1830. Following their marriage the elder Smiths continued to reside in Germany until 1843, when they emigrated to the



United States. They made their first home in the new land in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, where they resided until 1856. In this year they decided to move to Indiana, and selected the northeastern portion of the state as a place of residence. They settled on a practically wild tract of land in Whitley county, Indiana, and worked to improve and cultivate their farm and lived on it until 1886, when they went to Churubusco to reside. Mr. Smith did not long survive the removal to Churubusco and died after a three months' residence at the advanced age of eighty-five years. His widow survived him until 1901, dying at the age of eighty-eight years. It is not remarkable that these people reached the advanced ages they did, as both families are noted for longevity. The maternal grandmother of Adam J. Smith reached the age of a hundred and two years and other members of the family died when very old. Henry and Catherine Smith were the parents of seven children: William, Henry, Jacob, John, Philip W., Catherine, the wife of James Roach; Adam J. Jacob Smith died in infancy. They were among the most highly esteemed people of their community and consistent members of the Lutheran church.

Adam J. Smith, about whose life this sketch centers, was the youngest of his father's family. He was always of an aggressive and conservative disposition. His boyhood years were spent on his father's farm in Whitley county, Indiana, where he learned the practical value of his minutes and hours, out with the dawn of morning and always at work, each day gave a good account of itself when the year's balances were footed up. In this county in the country schools he received his preliminary educa-

tion. At about the age of eighteen years he began his studies at the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso, became thoroughly fitted for the work of teacher and at the age of twenty-one years secured employment in the public schools of his home county and successfully taught for three years. In 1881 he was employed by a school supply house as salesman and continued in this work with good success for a period of two years. Though in this business he made a high salary, its transient nature was not to his liking and he resigned the position and took employment as foreman of the lumber mills at Williams and Monmouth, owned and operated by Colter & Company, of which his brother, Philip W. Smith, was then a member. He served in this capacity for about a year and a half, when he resigned his position and with a capital of about \$500 started in business for himself at Decatur--the hardwood lumber business.

He was very successful in this undertaking and in 1886 formed a partnership with Alexander R. Bell under the firm name of Smith & Bell, which soon enlarged the business, built a saw mill at Decatur and steadily extended their territory of operations to several states. This firm has been in operation now more than twenty years and is one of the most extensive of its kind in northeastern Indiana. Its principal industry was and has been the manufacturing and sale of hardwood lumber. In 1906 this firm disposed of its milling interests and at this time devotes its entire attention to the purchase and sale of lumber in the states of Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Missouri, its business annually running near the three hundred thousand dollar mark. Besides Mr. Smith's lumbering interests he is a stockholder in



the telephone company, the furnace factory, the Smith & Uhlman Stock Company for the breeding of Hereford cattle, of which company he is the senior member, which company is operated on one of Mr. Smith's stock farms near Decatur, and is also a stockholder in the First National Bank of Decatur.

Mr. Smith has held many positions of honor and trust at the hands of his constituents, though never giving any especial attention to politics. He was for four years a member of the Decatur city council, served on the Decatur school board as secretary and treasurer for three years. He has for some years served as one of the trustees of the First Methodist church at Decatur, of which he and his family are devoted members. Not especially a lodge man, but he is a member of the Kekionga Lodge, No. 65, Knights of Pythias, of Decatur.

On the 5th day of June, 1884, Adam J. Smith was married to Miss Alwillda Fonner, a daughter of John A. and Elizabeth (Pillars) Fonner, who were early residents of Root township, Adams county. Mrs. Smith's mother was a daughter of Benjamin and Sarah Pillars, who came to Adams county in 1839 from the eastern states. Her father, John A. Fonner, came in 1841 and settled near the old Piqua road, just below Decatur. These pioneer residents accumulated a large amount of property, were hard-working people and were held in high esteem by their associates and acquaintances.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith are the parents of one child, a daughter, Miss Edith Fonner Smith, who was born in Decatur on the 15th day of April, 1885. She was educated in the Decatur city schools, from which she graduated in 1903. She has a great fondness for

music, being a fine musician. Her parents gave her a musical education befitting her inclinations and station in society by a thorough course at the Barr Conservatory of Music at Cincinnati, Ohio.

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#### SAMUEL S. ACKER.

Samuel S. Acker, a member of the well known firm of Acker & Teeple, dealers in clothing, gents' furnishing goods and shoes, at Geneva, Adams county, Indiana, was born in Saint Mary's township, this county, on December 24, 1870. He is descended from early Adams county pioneers. The paternal grandfather having come from New York state located in this county in 1839 and here spent his remaining years. The subject's father, Irwin Acker, was born near Rochester, New York, and was less than one year old when the family made the long and perilous journey to Adams county. He was reared to the life of a farmer, which calling he followed throughout life, and married Miss Jane Smith, a daughter of Zachariah Smith, also a pioneer of the county. After his marriage Irwin Acker continued farming on the old homestead, of which he subsequently became the owner, and here he remained until acquiring a competency, when he retired from active labor and removed to Decatur, where he has resided during the past two decades. He is the father of seven children, of whom the two eldest died in infancy. The five who are living are as follows: Levi W., an employe of the railroad company at Saint Louis, Missouri; Dora, the wife of Charles M. Myers, of Preble township; Samuel S.; Eva I., for twelve years a



teacher in the primary schools at Decatur, and Minta, who resides with her parents.

The subject of this sketch was reared on the paternal homestead and attended the common schools during his youth, subsequently attending the business department of the Kentucky University, from which he graduated with the class of 1894. He then engaged in teaching school in Hartford City. In 1895 he engaged in the restaurant business in Hartford City, but two years later returned to the home farm and conducted the same for three years. He then clerked in a department store at Decatur and in 1903 became a member of the firm of Acker, Elgey & Vance, which firm established a general clothing and gents' furnishing business at Decatur. One year later Mr. Acker disposed of his interest in the firm and moved to Geneva,

where he purchased an interest in his present business, forming the firm of Acker & Teeple. The members of this firm are well known and the enterprise has a reputation for fair dealing on a sound business basis. The business has increased year by year and is now considered among the solid commercial enterprises of Geneva.

In May, 1895, Mr. Acker married Miss Frances W. Triplett, of Scott county, Kentucky, and to this union have been born four children: Doris L., Sanford I., Samuel S. and Caroline T.

Mr. and Mrs. Acker are members of the Christian church and fraternally the subject is identified with the Knights of Pythias, Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America, in which order he has a three-thousand-dollar life insurance policy.

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